

VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac Valley Audubon Society

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Eidolon Cottage Restoration Finally Underway

The effort to restore the old stone cottage at the Eidolon Nature Preserve is now finally underway.

Originally envisioned as a relatively simple project, the restoration effort became much more complicated in late 2009 when an engineering assessment indicated the existing cottage walls might not safely support the weight of a new roof.



This meant the roof would have to be supported by a post and beam framework erected inside the cottage walls. This in turn meant lots (14 in all) of 2x2-foot holes would have to be cut through the cottage's concrete floor to provide proper footings for the posts.

Cutting the holes and constructing the footings promised to be a tricky, painstaking job and finding a contractor willing to do it has not been easy.

Jackhammers can't be used because vibrations from them would destabilize the cottage's stone walls. Masonry saws and drills can be used to start the holes, but much of the work has to be done the old-fashioned way, with hand-held chisels and sledgehammers.

Fortunately, Duane Householder, a Hedgesville contractor who is a Morgan County native, has agreed to tackle the job, and he and his son Josh started work in August. They hope to finish in September.

Once the footings are in, PVAS hopes to move forward next summer with construction of the post and beam framework and roof.

The goal is to get the cottage in shape to be used as a shelter and educational pavilion.

Eidolon's former owners, Louis and Marguerite Zapoleon, built the cottage in 1950-51.

They used the structure as a weekend retreat for more than a decade, and they intended to use it as their summer home when they retired.

However, the cottage was gutted by fire on July 6, 1962. Since Louis sadly had suffered a debilitating stroke shortly before, the Zapoleons never rebuilt it.

New Grants Received!

We are glad to report that we've received several grants over the summer to help offset the costs of some new programs.

First, we received \$1,500 from AHA (Arts and Humanities Alliance of Jefferson County) to support the new cultural history camp at Peter Burr Farm. The grant helped us purchase materials and supplies for many hands-on activities for the two weeks of camp held there including butter making, bread baking, candle making, weaving, and even making children's toys from the time period. The camp was a huge success, and we were grateful to have the support from AHA to help cover some of the expenses of this new program. Most of the supplies can be used in future years.

We also received \$5,156 from the WV DNR to develop some new school curricula and to pilot programs about WV wildlife and natural resources. These programs will be pilot tested through the 2011-12 school year at the schools themselves. We continue to hear from teachers that it is difficult for them to transport their students

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Harewood Event a Success

Thanks to the generosity of host Walter Washington and some wonderful volunteers, the fundraising event at Harewood raised over \$5,000 for PVAS' educational programs. Mr. Washington provided personal tours of the historic Washington family home just east of Charles Town. Volunteers Alice Barkus, Gretchen Meadows, Diana Mullis, Deb Patthoff, and Jane Vanderhook once again delighted and impressed all guests with their preparation of a variety of delicious foods. Christian Thomas and Wil Howard served hors d'oeuvres on trays like professionals while Daryl Bryarly graced guests by playing the hammered dulcimer. Bob Dean led a walk down to the marsh on the property to show the wetlands and farmland that Mr. Washington has preserved through farmland protection. Peter Fricke of the Farmland Protection Board and Grant Smith of the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle set up displays at the event to show the boundaries of the preserved area as well as all of the other preserved farmland in the region.

We can't thank our host, Mr. Washington, and all of the volunteers enough for all of their efforts to make the event such a success. We also are very grateful to the 70 guests and additional donors who generously contributed to the event.



Potomac Valley Audubon Society is people dedicated to preserving, restoring, and enjoying the natural world through education and action.



Hello everyone:

One of the best things about being involved with PVAS is the good people you get to know.

Kelly Smith (no relation), the longtime naturalist at Cacapon State Park, is a case in point.

When PVAS joined with The Nature Conservancy to co-manage the new Eidolon Nature Preserve in 2006, Kelly was one of the first local people we went to see.

We'd never met her but we'd heard of her work at the Park, and we hoped she could give us useful advice about the practicalities and politics of operating a nature preserve in Morgan County.

She did that and much, much more.

A lesser person in her position might have seen PVAS as a competitor and refused to help or even tried to undercut us.

But Kelly isn't that kind of person.

From Day One, she's gone out of her way to assist us in any way she could, and over the years she's done everything from arranging meeting space for us to assisting us with field trips and workshops to helping us develop the trails at Eidolon.

Now, sadly for us but in a positive move for her, she's left Cacapon State Park to become a superintendent at West Virginia's largest state park, Watoga State Park, in Pocahontas County. She started there on August 16.

We'll miss her but we wish her all the best in her new position. If you'd like to do the same (her new job happened very quickly and many of you may not have had a chance to see her before she left) her new mailing address is as follows: Watoga State Park, HC 82, Box 252, Marlinton, WV 24954.

—Peter Smith

New Grants (continued from page 1)

to the Yankauer Preserve, so these new programs will help us bring our educational programs to them.

Also for our school programs, The Eastern WV Community Foundation Frada Fine Fund provided a \$2,000 grant, and the Eastern WV Community Foundation Youth Grants Program has provided \$500. These two grants will provide funds for schools that will cover the costs of participating in PVAS programs—bus transportation or the program fees. Classrooms from Title 1 schools, schools that serve a high percentage of disadvantaged youth, are eligible to apply for these funds through PVAS. Our goal is to have our programs accessible to all students, and these grant funds will help us accomplish this goal.

Berkeley Heights Elementary School also received a grant of \$1,920 from the Eastern WV Community Foundation. This grant will allow PVAS to train their teachers in Environmental Education methods and strategies, and to be a resource for teachers and students throughout the year.

Annual Meeting and Elections

PVAS' annual meeting was held on June 11 at the Yankauer Nature Preserve. The end of the year was celebrated with a potluck, elections of new or returning board members, and recognition of volunteers who went above and beyond during the year.

After a delicious potluck supper, Peter Smith called the meeting to order to elect board members. Lex Miller was elected to serve his second term as Treasurer, and two new board members, Bob Reynolds and Heather McSharry, were elected to Vice President and Board-Member-at-Large respectively. Carolyn Thomas and Clark Dixon were recognized for their service on the board as they step down due to term limits.

Volunteers were also recognized for outstanding contributions over the last year for PVAS. The following volunteers were recognized: Alice Barkus, Kathy Bilton, Sandra Bloom, Molly Northrop Bloom, Dan Cogswell, Mark Cucuzella, Bob Dean, Clark Dixon, Joe Gentile, Bill Gregg, Kelly Heldreth, Wil Hershberger, Nan Johnson, Krystal Kennedy, Elliott Kirschbaum, Nancy Kirschbaum, Nancy Little, Gretchen Meadows, Wanda Miller, Diana Mullis, James Munnis, Suzi Munnis, Ellen Murphy, Tim Murphy, Matt Orsie, Deb Patthoff, Sandy Sagalkin, Michael Schwartz, Tom Shantz, Gary Sylvester, Diane Sylvester, Carolyn Thomas, Jane Vanderhook, Marie VanValkenburgh, Eldon Winston, Virginia Winston.

Skylar Benedict was also recognized for his outstanding contributions over the years from a camper to a camp counselor to an Eagle Scout. Skylar built three accessible benches for the Preserve's new accessible Cedar Loop as part of his Eagle Scout project. Skylar has grown up through PVAS programs and has spent countless hours at the Preserve. Skylar is going to Florida Atlantic's Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College.

Kitty and Ed Kelly were also recognized for their long-standing contributions over the years to PVAS before leaving the area. Both have contributed many hours of volunteer work for PVAS programs and events.

Finally, the PVAS Board surprised Executive Director Kristin Alexander with a cake and garden gift basket in recognition of her 10 years of working for PVAS. Kristin started working for PVAS in January of 2001 as PVAS' first employee. Her first task was to assess the community's interest in educational programs being offered at the Yankauer Preserve.

View from the Eagles Nest

By Sandy Sagalkin

During the summer birding doldrums, what better way to spend a weekend than at the beach? Not to swim, but to find shorebirds during the height of their migration south to their wintering grounds, some traveling as far as South America. At least that was the thought as 14 of us were led by Matt Orsie, local birding expert, on a shore expedition. We left on a Friday afternoon in 100+ degree weather to head for the Delaware shore. Our general goal was to check out the various birding "hotspots" for shorebirds, including Bombay Hook NWR.

Like most of the PVAS trips, our group had a mix of birding experience and expertise. Some were birding for the first time. Others included some of the PVAS birding stalwarts: Dave Myles,

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Barry Martz and Birdmom. Needless to say, we had enough spotting scopes along so that everyone had good looks at the birds.

The State of Delaware, in conjunction with the Delaware Audubon Society and the Delmarva Ornithological Society has published a Delaware Birding Trail map depicting the birding hotspots in the state. After checking into our hotel for the weekend in Dover, Delaware and having a quick dinner at the local Olive Garden across the street, we headed out to Bombay Hook for the last hour of daylight on Friday. That hour was enough to tell us we would have a good weekend viewing thousands upon thousands of shorebirds in various stages of plumage and molt.

The next morning, we met at our hotel at 6:30 a.m. for an early start. The plan was to start in the southern part of the state at Cape Henlopen State Park, and stop at various points along the way as we headed north back to Bombay Hook. Intermediate stops were to include Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, and the Dupont Nature Center at the Mispillion Harbor Reserve. The latter is famous as a stopover for the Red Knot migration, a threatened population of shorebirds that feeds on Horseshoe Crab eggs. Our final venture out was a Sunday morning stop at Taylor's Gut located near Woodland Beach.

All in all, we had 22 species of shorebirds and over 90 species total. We saw several Wilson's Storm Petrels, a pelagic bird, off Fowler's Beach. We also saw several Piping Plover, thousands of Semi-Palmated Sandpipers, and the last day, two Marbled Godwits. This remarkable bird is one of the largest shorebirds in North America, has a long, slightly upturned bill, and walked regally among the much smaller "Semis".

All PVAS trips are open to Society members and members of the public. We furnish binoculars for those who don't have their own. Our trip leaders and the more experienced birders that come on our trips are always friendly and more than willing to share their knowledge. So keep an eye open for PVAS birding trips. As we leave the fall, we will be focusing on the hawk migration with both local hawk watching trips (Washington Monument State Park) as well as out of area trips planned (Waggoner's Gap near Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and Cape May, New Jersey). In the winter, we will move back to the Shenandoah River and local ponds and lakes to watch for waterfowl. Then Spring migrants and back to shorebirds in the Summer. Please join us.

Camp Report 2011

Once again, Audubon Discovery Camp had another successful summer of day camp in two different places! A full six weeks was held at Yankauer Nature Preserve and two weeks were at the Peter Burr Farm near Kearneysville, West Virginia. Session at Yankauer included the ever popular *Camp Survivor* as well as *4 Legs, 6 Legs, More Legs, No Legs!* Camp activities there included butterfly chasing, hiking, building forts in the woods, crafts, games, and group challenges like scavenger hunts and blind hikes. Two hundred eighteen campers attended one or more sessions this summer.



Sada, Christian, Jack Kastens, Justin, Justin Gottlieb collect specimens

This year, for the first time, we tried an evening camp at Yankauer

called *The Deep, Dark Woods*. This session was held for 3 days from 5-10 p.m. and gave campers the chance to experience Yankauer from twilight into night. Stargazing was popular as was hiking the trails and building forts in the cooler evening hours. Families were invited to join in the Owl Prowl led by Bob Dean on the last night.

Our satellite site this summer was at the Peter Burr Farm where two sessions of *The Simple Life* gave campers and staff a taste of "old time living." Activities included spinning, natural dyeing, candle dipping, weaving on lap looms, learning to make fire with a flint and steel, making butter, baking bread, archeology with a created dig-site, games, and exploring the farm's garden. These sessions gave campers the chance to explore the environment in an historical setting and proved to be extremely popular.



Dr. Deborah Rochefort shows campers around a colonial garden

Special thanks go to the Jefferson County Landmarks Commission and Martin Burke for making this site available to our campers, as well as AHA (Arts and Humanities Alliance of Jefferson County) for helping to offset some of the costs for the camp.

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Youth Programs Begin Again in September

If school is beginning, PVAS is ready with programs for all class levels! Our watershed program continues in its tenth year and classes are scheduling visits to Yankauer Preserve, some with funding help from an Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation or Ecolab grant. Other schools are investigating on-going service project ideas for their students at Yankauer Preserve.

New programs are being introduced this year as well. West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is funding development of new, limited programs for Kindergarten, first, fourth, and fifth grades that will each last only an hour. Participating classes will use their schoolyard as an outdoor classroom rather than coming to Yankauer Preserve. (Rising transportation costs have forced some schools to limit field trips to any location.) The Kindergarten program, "Home is Where Your Habitat Is" focuses on wildlife conservation. The 1st grade program, called "Is It Living?," helps students learn the differences between living and non-living things. The 4th grade program addresses food chains and webs with "What's For Lunch?" and the 5th grade program tackles photosynthesis with "My Life as a Tree."

Other new programs this fall include a year-long, second grade program at St. Joseph's Parish School in Martinsburg called "Plants vs. Animals." The classes will spend part of the year learning about the differences between plants and animals, take a field trip to apply their new environmental knowledge, and complete a service project at the school.

A new collaboration at Berkeley-Heights Elementary School in Berkeley County involves providing teacher training and support to all the third grade classes. These classes are experimenting with new teaching resources through an "Innovation in Education" grant. They will use their outdoor classroom to learn about and compare West Virginia plants, animals, and habitats with those found in

supplemental texts like *Sarah, Plain and Tall*, and books about explorers such as Lewis and Clark. PVAS's part of this program, which is funded by the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation, also includes monthly video chats between PVAS staff, other natural resource folks, and the students.

All this and our existing programs will make this a busy fall for Ellen Murphy and volunteers! If you are interested in helping with any of the programs, would like further information, or want to schedule a program at Yankauer Preserve, contact her at pvasprograms@comcast.net or 304-676-8739.

Sign Up Now for Fall "Wee Naturalists" Sessions

The fall schedule for our "Wee Naturalists" program is now set.

The program is aimed at pre-school children ages 3-5. It is designed to provide regular opportunities for small children and loving adults to explore nature together safely under the guidance of an experienced PVAS instructor. Children must be accompanied by a parent, grandparent, other adult relative, or guardian.



All sessions are held at the Yankauer Nature Preserve. Each session will last from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and each will explore a different nature theme.

The first session will be held Wednesday, August 31. Entitled "Bugs, Bugs, Bugs!" it will focus on insects of the forest.

Thereafter, two sessions will be held each month through December. That schedule will be as follows: September 21 and 22, "Footsteps in the Forest"; October 19 and 20, "Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf"; November 16 and 17, "Nature's Art"; December 7 and 8, "Snowflakes and Snowbirds."

To ensure that everyone receives close, personal attention, enrollment will be limited and pre-registration is required.

Families may register for one, several, or all of the monthly sessions. The fee will be \$5 per child/adult team per session.

The program is led by Suzi Taylor, of Sharpsburg, Maryland, a veteran PVAS camp director who has a degree in environmental education.

Information and registration forms are available on the PVAS website. For more information, contact Ms. Taylor at 301-432-1908 or tomandsuzi506@cs.com.

The program was established in 2009 with support from the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation's Two Rivers Giving Circle.

Birdseed Sale Reminder

Please remember that PVAS's annual fall birdseed sale will get underway in October.

If you plan to buy seed from us this year, be sure to watch your October Valley Views for your Birdseed Order Form. Also keep an eye out for changes in the format of this year's sale.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Diana Mullis at DianaMullis@aol.com or 304-267-3482.

Nursery Open House Will Benefit PVAS

The Winston Gardens Native Plant Nursery has generously decided to do it again!

As it did with its Open House Plant Sale last spring, it will donate 15 percent of the proceeds from its upcoming fall Open House Plant Sale to PVAS.



Bottlebrush Buckeye

The donation will be used to support PVAS's land conservation efforts.

The nursery is located in northeastern Berkeley County, at 1121 Hollida Lane, one mile off Swan Pond Road.

Operated by noted area landscape designer Virginia Winston and her husband Eldon, it specializes in trees and shrubs that are native to this region.

This fall it is offering more 40 different species for sale. These range from popular favorites like Sugar Maples and Canadian Hemlock to hard-to-find species like Hornbeam, Spicebush, and Red and Bottlebrush Buckeye.

Prices range from \$25 to \$35. Plants are 1 to 5 feet high.

The Open House will be held the weekend of October 1 and 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day.

Light refreshments will be served and a door prize will be offered.

For directions and a full list of the plants available, go to the Nursery's website at www.winstongardens.com. Or call the Winstons at 304-267-6924.

Yankauer Concerts Continue Through September

PVAS is again offering a series of free outdoor concerts this summer at the Yankauer Nature Preserve.

Our Eighth Annual "Music in the Cedars" concert series began August 2 and will continue through September. The concerts are being held Tuesday evenings, with each one running from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The concerts are held rain or shine in the Preserve's covered pavilion. There is no fee and anyone is welcome to attend.

The schedule of the remaining concerts is as follows:

- August 30: The always-popular Rolling Coyotes will perform a blend of country-tinged folk with diverse instrumentation and vocals describing unique places, characters and themes.
- September 6: The Dilletantes, Jeff and Trudy Roth, will perform well-known acoustic folk songs with voice and guitar.
- September 13: Performers to be announced.
- September 20: Betty Jo, Scott, and T-Roy will perform favorite folksongs and new originals with stirring rhythmic depth, as Betty Jo's singing is accompanied by guitars and various hand drums.

- September 27: Steve Cifala. Close out the summer season with this dynamic performer who is influenced by Rhythm & Blues, Little Feat, and Eric Clapton.

Those who attend the concerts are welcome to bring their own picnic suppers, but the preserve does not have trash pickup so everyone is asked to carry out everything they bring in.

Picnic tables will be available in the pavilion on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendees may also bring their own chairs or picnic blankets for their comfort. Please leave pets at home.

For more information, contact Kristin Alexander at pvasmail@aol.com or 304-676-3397.

Berkeley Springs Birding Festival Set for September 16-18

The Fourth Annual Berkeley Springs Fall Birding Festival will be held in Berkeley Springs the weekend of September 16-18.

The festival is timed to coincide with the annual fall bird migration. It is aimed primarily at beginning birders and families with children but anyone is welcome to attend.

The festival will include Friday and Saturday evening programs at the Country Inn in Berkeley Springs, bird walks and workshops during the day Saturday, and a bird walk Sunday morning.



Most of these events will be free.

This year's featured presenter will be Sharon Stiteler, a Minnesota naturalist who authors the popular "Birdchick.com" blog.

Her blog has been recognized in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, and on NBC Nightly News. Her writing has appeared in *WildBird*, *Outdoor News*, and *Birding Business*.

Also participating will be Marcy Heacker, a forensic ornithologist at the Smithsonian Institution, and raptor biologist Liam McGranaghan.

PVAS is once again the festival's lead sponsor.

For more details watch the PVAS website.

Go Pond-hopping for Shorebirds!

PVAS is sponsoring two birding trips to local ponds in search of shorebirds on two successive upcoming Wednesdays: August 31 and September 7.

The trips will visit several ponds in Jefferson and/or Berkeley counties based on recent sightings posted on the West Virginia Birding Listserve, including a possible visit to Stauffer's Marsh in Back Creek Valley.

Both trips will be free and anyone with an interest is welcome to come along.

For both trips participants will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Martins Supermarket at the Jefferson Crossroads shopping

center off Route 340 just east of Charles Town.

Both trips will be approximately 3 hours long depending on the number of stops made.

They should provide opportunities to view a number of different species of shorebirds as well as other water-dependent species. We will also identify songbirds as we encounter them, or seek them out at other venues if any unusual species have been posted on the Birding Listserve.

This trip will mostly involve driving and viewing through binoculars and spotting scopes.

Participants should plan to wear comfortable clothing suitable for the weather at the time, and bring a hat for protection from the sun, rain gear, and water and sunscreen. Binoculars will be available for those who do not have any. Participants that have their own spotting scopes should bring them.

For further information, contact trip leader Sandy Sagalkin at monsansagalkin@myactv.net or 240-291-6465. In case of inclement weather, contact him to see if the trip is still on.

Various details of the trip could change depending on weather and recent bird sightings.

Dolly Sods Trip September 10

PVAS will sponsor a birding trip to the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area of Monongahela National Forest on September 10.

The trip is free and open to the public at all skill levels. But participants will be expected furnish their own transportation and arrange for their own accommodations.

Local birding expert Matt Orsie will lead the group. The trip will include looking for Fall Warblers (Matt says they are not "confusing") on Saturday morning. We will work up to the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO) where we will observe bird banding in progress. The banding station has operated annually since 1958 with a total capture of over 230,000 birds. The bulk of the captures are members of the wood warbler family, so there will be an opportunity to see many species up close.

After AFMO closes at noon we will have lunch together and then do some hawk watching from either the banding station or the Bear Rocks area at the north end of Dolly Sods.

Matt will probably be staying the night before at the Hermitage Inn in Petersburg, West Virginia (telephone 304-257-1711). Trip participants who also choose to stay in Petersburg should plan to meet up with Matt in the lobby of the Hermitage Inn at 6:00 a.m. For those wishing to stay elsewhere or drive to Dolly Sods that morning, we will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot for the South Prong Trail in Dolly Sods, along Fire Road 19.

Loaner binoculars will be available. Participants should bring along water and a lunch.

If you are interested or for further information, contact Matt at wv-birder@comcast.net or 304-261-5602.

Information about other accommodations in the area can be found at the following websites: www.canaanresort.com (Canaan Valley State Park Lodge); www.wvlogcabins.com (Log cabins at Cabins, WV); www.bbonline.com/wv/petersburg.html (B&Bs near Petersburg, WV).

Don't Miss September 10 Insect Walk

PVAS will offer an evening "insect walk" along the C&O Canal across from Shepherdstown on Saturday, September 10.

The walk will be led by local insect expert Wil Hershberger, who is coauthor of *The Songs of Insects*, a book and audio CD published by Houghton-Mifflin Company.

These walks are family-oriented events that are especially popular with young children. But anyone with an interest is welcome to participate. There is no fee.

However, space will be limited so those who would like to participate should make a reservation as soon as possible by contacting Kelly Wolf at kheldreth@hotmail.com or 304-229-6229.

The walking group will assemble at 6:30 p.m. in the large C&O Canal parking lot on Canal Road, three-tenths of a mile south of the Shepherdstown bridge.



From there, Hershberger will lead an exploration of fields and roadsides near the Canal. Insects likely to be encountered include tree crickets, several species of meadow katydids, one or two species of round-winged katydids, northern true katydids, oblong-wing katydids, and perhaps some bush katydids.

Those who wish to participate should bring a flashlight and be prepared to walk through high grass and weeds. Tucking pants legs into socks and spraying them with a DEET-based insect repellent is recommended.

The walk will not take place if it is raining.

Hershberger, who is well known to PVAS members, has been a naturalist all his life.

He has been photographing and recording the natural world for more than a decade and his work has been published in magazines, calendars, and books.

His recordings of birds, frogs and insects are archived at the Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

His website can be found at www.natureimagesandsounds.com.

Hedgesville Area Hawk Watch

PVAS will sponsor a hawk-watching trip with Bob Dean near Hedgesville on Saturday, September 24.

In early October 2010, Bob was sitting on his in-law's back deck when he noticed a raptor over North Mountain just to the west. Further inspection revealed a pair of redtails over the ridgeline. In the following two hours there were over 30 raptors of seven species observed including golden eagle and peregrine falcon.

Most birds will be seen at fairly long distances, so spotting scopes might be desirable along with binoculars. Loaner binoculars will be available for those who don't have their own.

There will be some seats available, but if you have a favorite folding chair include that along with your own snacks and drinks.

We'll meet at 11:00 a.m. at the Eagle Plaza parking lot just west of Hedgesville High School on Route 9. We will be done by 3:00 p.m., but may opt to stay longer if there is a large flight.

For more information or to reserve loaner binoculars, contact Bob at bobdean52@gmail.com or 304-671-4995.

South Mountain Hawk Watch

PVAS will sponsor a hawk-watching trip to Maryland's Washington Monument State Park on Wednesday, September 21.

Anyone with an interest is invited to participate.

The annual Broad-winged Hawk migration should be at or near its peak that week, and the Washington Monument State Park is one of the best sites in the mid-Atlantic for viewing hawks.

The Park's monument offers an excellent vantage point to watch these magnificent birds as they ride the thermals that sweep along the mountain's ridgeline.

Other species that may be seen include the Sharp-shinned Hawk, the Red-shouldered Hawk, the Red-tailed Hawk, the American Kestrel, and the Northern Harrier.

Local naturalist Dave Weesner will lead the trip and help identify the birds seen.

The Park is located four miles east of Boonsboro and 1.5 miles north of Alternate Route 40 on Monument Road.

Participants will gather at 9:00 a.m. in the Park's uppermost parking lot, just below the monument. From there, the group will walk the up to the monument at the summit. The trail is not long but it is rather rough and not suitable for anyone who needs assistance.

The length of the stay at the monument will depend on how the hawk flight is going. If conditions are good, the trip leaders may stay until early afternoon. Other participants can leave whenever they wish.

Participants should bring binoculars if they have them and dress appropriately for the weather.

No pre-registration is needed for this trip, and there is no trip fee. However, a fee is requested to enter the park grounds. The fee is \$2 for Maryland residents and \$3 for others.

Please note that the trip will be cancelled if it is raining because hawks do not fly in such conditions.

For more information about the trip contact Dave Weesner at 301-302-6376.

Sign Up Now for October Cape May Trip

PVAS is sponsoring a hawk-watching trip to Cape May, New Jersey, during the October 14-16 weekend.

This will be a great opportunity to see Peregrine Falcons, Merlins, American Kestrels, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Coopers Hawks, Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers and other species of hawks.

We will hit several hawk watching sites in the Cape May area, including the two hawk platforms at Cape May Point State Park, the "Meadows," Rea Farm and other areas.

Those who participate will also be able to take advantage of a rich menu of free educational opportunities offered by the Cape May Bird Observatory and the New Jersey Audubon Society. Their offerings include such events as a Mini-Hawk ID workshop for beginners, a Hawk-banding demonstration, a Monarch tagging demonstration, and bird walks that are open to the public.



Anyone with an interest is welcome to come along and there will be no fee. But participants will be expected furnish their own transportation and make their own hotel or motel reservations.

Hotel and motel reservations should be made now because Cape May is a very popular destination in October.

Sandy Sagalkin will be the trip leader, and he will be staying at Leith Hall, a B&B at Cape May (telephone 609-884-1934). The Cape May Bird Observatory website (www.birdcapemay.org) contains a list of hotels and motels which offer discounts to birders who are members of the Cape May Bird Observatory. If you are planning to come on the trip, it might pay to become a member, which you easily can do online. Cape May can be pricey and cheaper accommodations may be available at Wildwood, New Jersey.

Pre-registration by phone is required: contact Sandy Sagalkin at 240-291-6465. For more information, you can contact him by email at monsansagalkin@myactv.net.

Winners of 2011 Ruth Ann Dean Memorial Birdathon

PVAS is proud to announce the winners of the 2011 Ruth Ann Dean Memorial Birdathon. First Place goes to the Barn Swifts, led by Matt Orsie, with 118 species of birds. Team members included Carol Del-Colle and Deb Hale.

Second Place goes to the Tufted Turkeys led by Bob Dean. His team member was Stan Corwin-Roach. They identified 112 species.

Third Place goes to the Maryland Yellowthroats led by Dave Weesner. Team members included Pol Heiney and Melissa Wertz. They found 110 species. Dave's team also participated in the Maryland Ornithological Society's May count and all species were found in Washington County, Maryland.

Honorable Mention goes to the Bird Brains, led by Dave Myles. His teammate was Kim Myles. They found 100 species.

The Big Sit winner was Three 'Ol Coots led by Jean Neely. Her teammates were Susan Brookreson and Jane Vanderhook.

PVAS wants to congratulate the winners and all Birdathon participants for a great weekend.

Day of Caring Set for September 13

This year's Day of Caring will be held Tuesday, September 13.

As usual, the day's events will kick off with a 7:30 a.m. breakfast at War Memorial Park in Martinsburg.

This year PVAS is spearheading projects at TWO SITES from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.. You may join PVAS at the Yankauer Preserve to work on invasive removal (like ailanthus, autumn olive and stilt grass), clean up the butterfly garden, trim the trails and parking lot, and work on the accessible trail project. Lots of work AND fun to be had by all. We'll provide a delicious hot lunch (around 12) if you provide the labor!

You may also help PVAS this year at the new (future) Flowing Springs Park in Ranson, downstream from the Home Depot. We'll be installing an electric deer fence, planting some trees, removing invasives, and picking up some trash. We'll provide lunch for volunteers at this site as well!

After a hard day's work, enjoy dinner at the Clarion in Shepherdstown from 4:30-6:00 p.m. where you can celebrate a day of work for a good cause with fellow community members. To pre-register to help at Yankauer, contact Tim Murphy at 304-876-8133 or timurf@comcast.net. To pre-register to help at Flowing Springs Park, contact Kristin Alexander at 304-676-3397 or PVASmail@aol.com. Please pre-register to ensure enough food and a t-shirt.

United Way/CFC Fund Drives Coming Up

The annual fundraising campaigns of the United Way of the Eastern Panhandle and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) get underway this month.

Both campaigns will last into the winter.

PVAS receives funds from both agencies and encourages its members to give to their campaigns.

Because PVAS is an IRS-qualified non-profit agency, individuals who contribute to either United Way or CFC can designate all or part of those contributions to PVAS, if they wish.

To designate United Way contributions to PVAS, look for the section of the United Way contribution form that asks how you want your donation invested and indicate that you want to make a "Restricted Contribution" to "Potomac Valley Audubon Society, PO Box 578, Shepherdstown, WV."

To designate CFC contributions to PVAS, enter PVAS's CFC number (29061) on the CFC form that you file with your employing agency.

Please note that United Way and CFC deduct a percentage from all designated contributions to cover their administrative costs.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Alexander at pvasmail@aol.com or 304-676-3397.

September PVAS Program Will Focus on Wild Bees

The Potomac Valley Audubon Society's September program at the National Conservation Training Center will focus on wild bees.

The program will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 14, in Room 151 of the Instructional West Building.

Admission is free and anyone is welcome to attend.



The speaker will be University of Virginia bee expert T'ai Roulston, who is a Research Associate Professor at the University's Blandy Experimental Farm in Boyce, Virginia, and curator of the State Arboretum of Virginia.

His presentation will include information about the current status of domesticated honey bees but his emphasis will be on native bee populations, particularly those of this region.

Dr. Roulston holds a Ph.D. from Auburn University. His primary research area is plant-pollinator interactions. His other areas of interest include endangered species conservation, habitat fragmentation, and the impact of exotic species on native organisms.

Major Photographer Will Lead September 18 Photo Workshop

One of America's foremost photographers, Seth Resnick, will lead a daylong photography workshop at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown on Sunday, September 18.

The workshop is being organized by the Potomac Valley Nature Photographers, which is a PVAS group, and is sponsored by Canon USA.

It will be held in the Center's main auditorium from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Admission will be free and no pre-registration is required.

The workshop will be aimed at photographers of all skill levels. Its title will be "Seeing Color: Creating Dynamic and Saleable Images."

Participants will get expert advice on refining their creative vision and creating more effective and compelling images. They will also learn tips and tricks of the trade for processing and managing digital files.

One of the nation's most prolific corporate, editorial and stock photographers, Resnick was chosen as one of the 30 most influential photographers of the decade by Photo District News Magazine. His credits include over 2,500 publications worldwide and his clients constitute a virtual "Who's Who" of corporate America.

Resnick also is co-founder of D-65, a Miami-based firm that provides digital workflow workshops, webinars, one-on-one training, tech support, and consulting for photographers, studios, agencies, and corporate art departments.

He operates at the forefront of digital innovation, working with

Adobe, NEC, Canon, Xrite, Epson and others to help them formulate more useful products for photographers.

He is one of 78 photographers worldwide named as a Canon "Explorer of Light." He is a member of the prestigious "X-rite Colorati" program as well as an Alpha/Beta and feature consultant for Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom.

He has won numerous awards and speaks frequently to professional photography organizations and other groups.

For more information about Resnick and his firm, go to the D-65 website at www.d-65.com.

For information about the September 18 workshop email pvn-pexec@gmail.com.

Final 2011 Master Naturalist Workshop September 24

PVAS is offering its final Master Naturalist Workshop of the year on Saturday, September 24.

The workshop is currently full but names for a waiting list are being taken.

The topic will be "Fall Wildflowers." The workshop will include a short classroom session and then focus on exploring and identifying common wildflowers and plants around the NCTC campus.

The workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the National Conservation Training Center outside Shepherdstown.

The workshops, which provide expert instruction on specific natural history topics, count as elective courses for individuals enrolled in the Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Program.

However, the workshops are also open on a space-available basis to anyone who is interested. Enrollment for each workshop is limited to 20 persons.

See the PVAS webpage for details or contact Wanda Miller at 304-263-7320 or PVMN54@gmail.com or Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739 or pvasprograms@comcast.net.

The workshop carries a small fee of \$10 for Master Naturalist Program members and \$15 for nonmembers.

Morgan's Grove Market Helps PVAS

PVAS earned \$420 from selling strawberries at Shepherdstown's Morgan's Grove market the Saturday morning, June 11!

The Market donated the strawberries to PVAS, and PVAS got to keep all the proceeds.

Our thanks to Market organizer Peter Corum for his generosity.

The Market is located just south of Shepherdstown on Route 480 next to Morgan's Grove Park. It's open 9:00 a.m. to noon every Saturday from May through September.

Described as a "farmers market with a twist," it features not only local produce and foodstuffs from local growers and producers, but also works by local artists and crafters. Musical entertainment is pro-

vided and there are fun activities for children. Dogs are welcome.

For more information about the Market, go to its website (www.morgansgrovemarket.com) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/morgansgrovemarket).

Scholarship Campers Return from Adventures

The PVAS camp scholarship winners will have lots to tell us about their adventures when we see them at upcoming PVAS meetings. Ellie Coggins, 14, of Shepherdstown, went to the Mountain Adventures Summer Camp near Spruce Knob, eagerly looking forward to white-water rafting and star-gazing. Two campers attended the Oglebay Institute Junior Nature Camp near Wheeling. Ten-year-old Katerina Rushizky of Shepherdstown, who loves biking and canoeing, hoped to “handle snakes and bugs” as part of her camping experience. Madison Hinkle, 13, of Shenandoah Junction, planned to identify birds and stream organisms, and to enjoy making new friends. In addition, nearly 20 youngsters attended our own Audubon Discovery Camp on PVAS scholarships.

During negotiations with the PVAS scholarship committee the Mountain Institute offered us two-for-one tuition for two additional PVAS campers. Both candidates were previous PVAS scholarship winners: Hannah Davis (Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies, 2007) and Ellie Didden (Hog Island, Maine, 2008). PVAS thanks Mountain Institute for this very generous offer, enabling two young people with an obvious passion for the outdoors to attend the Mountain Adventures Camp for half tuition.

Our camp scholarship program is funded by the net proceeds from our annual bird seed sale. PVAS is deeply grateful to our loyal bird seed customers! We thank Berkeley Community Pride for donating funds to help several Berkeley County youngsters. And finally we say sincere ‘thanks’ to individual camp scholarship donors.

What’s Happening To All the Songbirds?

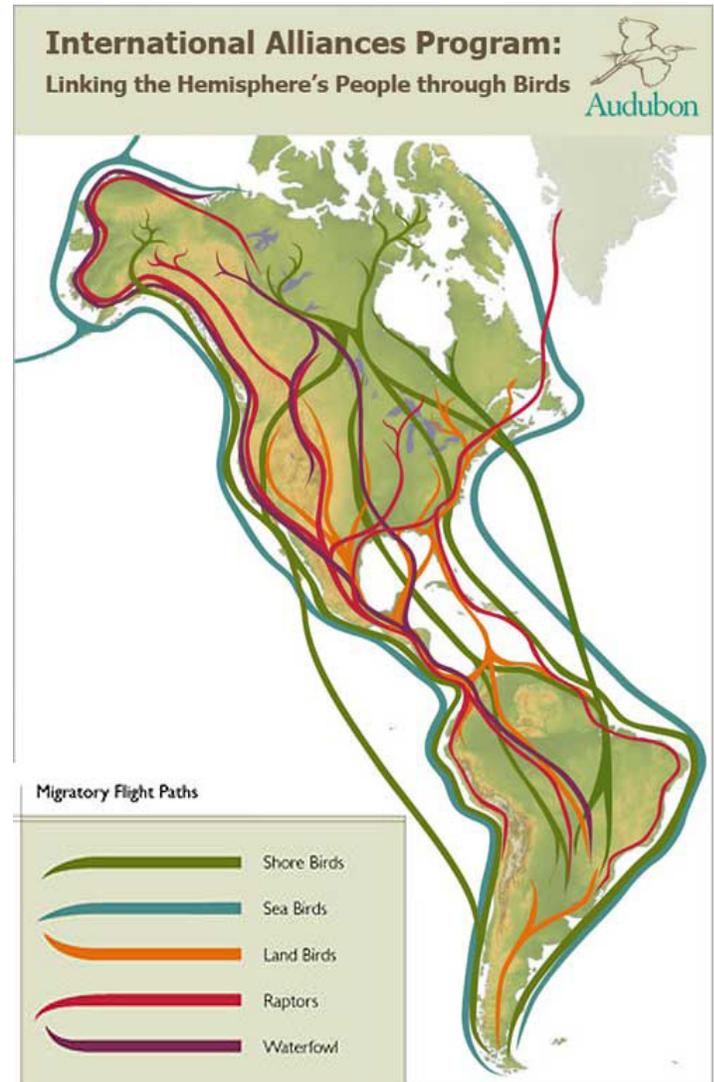
by Jean Neely

Back when I first moved to this area, there was an Eastern Meadowlark that showed up every spring just about a mile from my house. Every year he’d sit and sing that liquid song from the nearby telephone wire above the field. Unfortunately, he had chosen an active hayfield and every year the farmer had to cut it right in the middle of the nesting season. Now that bird is gone and his whole species is in decline. I just read that the Eastern Meadowlark’s numbers are down 73% since 1967.

And he’s not the only familiar bird that’s so affected. These creatures are migratory and spend half their time in the tropics—hence the term: Neotropical Migratory Birds. Each spring, millions of birds travel thousands of miles from Latin America and the Caribbean to their breeding grounds as far north as the Arctic. Months later, as the temperature drops and winter sets in, these migrants make the long trip back to warmer southern climates. These Neotropical migrants face increasing threats—habitat loss, human population pressures, invasive species, disease, and a changing climate.

Since its inception in 2002, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Con-

servation Act has provided millions of dollars for vital conservation efforts, including monitoring efforts, habitat restoration, education, and other projects in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean. But many essential conservation projects remain unfunded.



Right now, the Act is up for reauthorization in the Congress. With the drastic fiscal situation we are facing right now, it’s going to be tough to convince the Congress to do so.

If you’d like to help the Eastern Meadowlark—and the other birds you enjoy in your yard every summer, you can tell your Congressional delegation.

The National Audubon Society makes it easy for you: just go to their website (www.audubon.org) and click on “Help Save Our Migratory Birds” and below that “take action”. The rest is simple.

U.S. Duck Stamp Contest Coming to NCTC This Fall

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center has announced that it will be hosting the prestigious Federal Duck Stamp art contest on October 28 and 29.

This will be the first time in the 61-year history of the contest that it will be held in West Virginia, and NCTC is quite excited to be able to host the event. Further details will be announced later.

You and your families are invited to attend. You'll be able to view incredible artwork from artists around the country, meet a renowned decoy carver, and enjoy watching history being made as the winning art for next year's duck stamp is selected.

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or Duck Stamp, was established by an act of Congress in 1934, and the annual contest to select the next year's design was initiated in 1949.

Proceeds from sales of the stamps are used to purchase wetlands and associated upland habitats for inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Over the years this program has raised more than half-billion dollars to conserve over 5 million acres of crucial habitat.

For more information about the Duck Stamp program and the annual contest, go to www.fws.gov/duckstamps.

Gray Is Green

This is an update on a resource for the mature conservation minded among us. The National Senior Conservation Corps has formed a partnership with the Natural Resources Defense Council to offer a "green" clearinghouse for older adults to learn about and become involved in green living.



Our Work

Gray Is Green is the leading environmental education, advocacy, and action organization for older adults. America's greenest generations are calling for a cleaner, healthier future for everyone.

Gray Is Green (the National Senior Conservation Corps) is the "go to" organization for members of America's older generations who are interested in environmental sustainability. It serves as a clearinghouse for older adults interested in greening their lives, learning about sustainability, advocating for sound climate change policy, and serving as resources for younger people involved in sustainability.

The Gray Is Green Story:

In 2007, a group of retired professors from Yale University interested in environmental conservation decided to "green" their retirement home. As Dr. Robert Lane, Prof. Art Galston and others began to organize conservation resources, they were shocked to find there were none aimed at engaging older adults. Reasoning that their generation is in large part responsible for environmental degradation, and that seniors have significant political and financial leverage, the group decided to change that. They produced a set of tools to help other seniors address sustainability, including educational information, guides and suggested actions. They discovered that senior citizens are interested in effecting positive environmental change but often don't know how to do it.

The group launched a 501(c)(3) in 2008 to expand their work and perpetuate their gains, and The National Senior Conservation Corps was born. The group launched a website (www.grayisgreen.org) and began to create a network of members around the coun-

try. Members were encouraged to form local Green Teams, equip themselves with the NSCC's materials and enable change in their own communities.

Now, Gray Is Green is involved with older adults and communities across the country. In February 2011, it formed a partnership with the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#), one of the nation's largest and most experienced environmental advocacy organizations, to demonstrate the true potential of older Americans in creating a cleaner, healthier future for everyone.

PVAS Adopts an Updated Logo

Committee members working on updating the PVAS Web site became very aware to freshen up our original logo ad-had been color-modernized.



The original logo was adopted at a time that digital communications and the Internet were not even imagined. Needless to say, times and tastes have changed; and while our mission is still as relevant now as it was then, our logo needed a little facelift.

Approved by the board in August, we will begin phasing in the updated logo over the coming months.

Camp Report (continued from page 10)

Middle school-aged campers had more challenging sessions as well. Not only did a group journey to Echo Hill Outdoor School on the Eastern Shore of Maryland for *Ways of the Bay* to explore the Chesapeake Bay firsthand, but another group traveled to the For Love of Children (FLOC) Outdoor Education Center near Harpers Ferry for an overnight *Adventure Challenge*. This session included a day of Initiative Activities (low ropes) and the High Ropes Course, an overnight onsite, and a day of Rock Climbing.

Our summer camps would never be possible without volunteer supporters who donate a few hours or even a week or two (!) to make our programs successful. Many thanks to Susan Fluharty, Scott Fluharty, Sherri Cooper, Merilee Cunningham, Jen Janus, Bland Campbell, Wanda Miller, Clark Dixon, Woody Nackley, Bob Dean, Angie Cummings, Deborah Rocheford, Kristin Marino, Wayne Braunstein, and David Wilson for their time and commitment this summer. Some middle and high school students volunteered for one or more weeks as Junior Counselors where they assisted the senior staff and enjoyed the fun of camp. Thanks to Rebecca Phillips, Lydia McGilton, Lily Braithwaite, Miles Waldman, Emma Waldman, Hunter Bodwell, Jake Kemman, and Holly McKinney. Our staff this summer included Suzi Taylor, Christian Thomas, Robby Glenn, and Skylar Benedict (who "grew up" at camp and then returned in a leadership role.)

We'd also like to recognize and sincerely thank our generous intern sponsors, Henry and Faye Davenport and all donors to the Liz Neely Memorial Education Fund. Their generosity allows PVAS to attract excellent staff thanks to our ability to offer a competitive wage.

Potomac Valley Nature Writing Group 2011-2012 Season

The Potomac Valley Nature Writing Group was formed in early 2009 to promote the art and appreciation of nature writing. This genre of literature explores and celebrates the natural world and our relationships within it. PVNWG members meet monthly to honor a different author's work. We kick off its 2011-2012 season on September 25 with a discussion of Scott Wiedensaul's *Mountains of the Heart: A Natural History of the Appalachians*. Upcoming reads include Jane Goodall's *A Reason for Hope* (October), Barbara Hurd's *Entering the Stone* (November), and Barry Lopez's *Arctic Dreams* (December).

PVNWG welcomes new members who love reading, writing, and nature! Find out the meeting times and places, and read reviews and member blogs at <http://potomacvalleynaturewritinggroup.blogspot.com/> or email pvnaturewriters@gmail.com to request information.

Look for PVAS Display at Sharpsburg and Charles Town Heritage Days

PVAS will have displays at this year's Heritage Days celebrations in both Sharpsburg and Charles Town, which are both being held on Saturday 17.

If you attend either or both events, please stop by and say hello.

Calendar

- Sep 6: "Music in the Cedars" Concert, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Sep 7: Birding trip to local ponds, @8a.m.
- Sep 10: Birding trip to the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area
- Sep 10: Insect walk, @6:30 p.m.
- Sep 13: "Music in the Cedars" Concert, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Sep 14: PVAS General Meeting and Program, @ 7 p.m.
- Sep 16-18: Berkeley Springs Fall Birding Festival
- Sep 17: Sharpsburg Heritage Festival
- Sep 17: Charles Town Heritage Festival
- Sep 20: "Music in the Cedars" Concert, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Sep 21: Hawk-watching at Washington Monument State Park, @9 a.m.
- Sep 24: Hawk-watching along North Mountain in Hedgesville, @11 a.m.
- Sep 24: Naturalist Workshop—"Fall Wildflowers," 9 a.m.-noon
- Sep 27: "Music in the Cedars" Concert, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Oct 1 & 2: Winston Gardens Native Plant Nursery fall Open House
- Oct 8: "Growing Native" seed-collection event at Yankauer, 10 a.m.-noon
- Oct 8-9: Berkeley Springs Apple Butter Festival
- Oct 14-16: Hawk-watching trip to Cape May, NJ
- Oct 29: Field trip to the Patuxent Research Refuge, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

JOIN PVAS TODAY!

ALL of your dues will stay here to support local PVAS efforts and help us grow! And here's what you'll get:

- Access to a wide variety of PVAS programs and events for adults and children, including field trips, special events, workshops and courses, and environmental projects.
- A subscription to Valley Views, the PVAS newsletter
- E-mail alerts about events and programs of special interest
- Satisfaction of supporting conservation efforts, youth and adult nature education, individual and family recreation, and a wide array of programs in your community.

To become a local member, send in the form below and enclose a check for \$20 (\$15 for seniors and students). Make the check out to "PVAS." This fee covers membership for everyone in your household for one year.

Membership Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: ____ Zip code: _____
 Phone (optional): _____
 E-mail: _____

To save postage costs, PVAS regularly sends its newsletter by e-mail. You can be assured that we do not share email addresses with anyone. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by U.S. mail check here: ____.

Clip and mail this form to:

Membership Chair, PVAS
PO Box 578
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Thank you for your support!

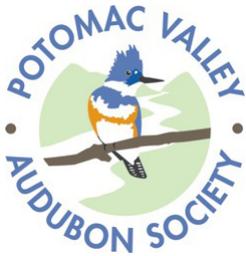


If you'd rather join the National Audubon Society:

Some people prefer National Audubon Society membership, which includes a subscription to the Society's Audubon magazine. To become a National member, go to the Society's website at www.audubon.org and click on "join." If you join National Audubon and reside in Berkeley, Jefferson or Morgan counties in West Virginia, or in Washington County Maryland, you will automatically become a member of PVAS and have access to our events, an e-mail copy of newsletter and e-mail alerts. However almost all of your dues payments will go to the National Audubon Society; only a small percentage will go to PVAS.

RED TEXT - DOT ALERT

If red text or a red dot appears on your mailing label, your membership may have expired and this could be your last issue of Valley Views. Take action to renew your Local membership. If you are a National Audubon Society member, the National Society will notify you directly when your membership is up for renewal.



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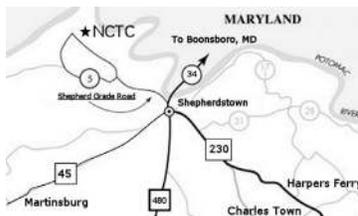


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The Potomac Valley Audubon Society meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through April, at the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), Shepherdstown, WV, in the Instructional West Building. Programs are free and open to the public. For additional information about PVAS or its programs and activities, please call any of the board members listed her or see <http://www.potomacaudubon.org>. PVAS serves the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia and neighboring Washington County, Maryland.

PVAS BOARD
 The PVAS Board meets every other month on the first Thursday of the month (Sept.-June). Meeting location will be announced prior to meetings. These meetings are open to all PVAS members.

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