Valley Views

Potomac Valley Audubon Society

Volume 24, Issue 7 April 2006

▼ *Check out the Field Trips & the Monthly Program* ▼

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

•Saturday, April 15, 7:15 am ***(note date in March Valley Views is incorrect)***

Join us for a walk from the parking lot for Harpers Ferry National Historical Park off Route 340 down to Harpers Ferry. We will leave by 7:30 and walk down from the NPS parking lot, botanizing and birding as we go. We'll walk into Harpers Ferry and take the park service shuttle back up the hill. With luck we should find some early migrants and residents. Experienced birders and novices are sure to enjoy this trip and hopefully there will be lots of good birds. Please dress appropriately – whatever the weather is going to be!

Wednesday Morning Walks in April

PVAS will conduct a series of weekly morning bird walks along the C&O Canal across from Shepherdstown during April. They'll be held rain or shine every Wednesday during the month from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. Anyone interested is welcome to participate.

Participants will meet by 8:00 am in the C&O Canal parking lot along Canal Road south of the new James Rumsey Bridge that connects Shepherdstown and Sharpsburg. (From MD route 34 just east of bridge, turn onto Canal Road by the red barn. Follow Canal Road about .5 mile to the parking lot on the left.) The walks will offer an opportunity to see migrating birds as well as resident and wintering woodpeckers, ducks, and sparrows. Some of the early returning migrants likely to be seen are Tree Swallows, Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Wood Thrushes, Yellow-throated Warblers, Palm Warblers, Black-and-white Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrushes, and Common Yellowthroats.

For more information, contact Nancy Kirschbaum at nancyk500@adelphia.net or 304-876-6881.

Searching for Feathered Butterflies

•Saturday, April 29th 7:15 am

Once again the Eastern Panhandle's super birder, Matt Orsie, has agreed to lead a field trip. Matt spends a lot of time finding birds in our local area so this is a great opportunity to join him as he takes us to places in Jefferson and Berkeley counties where we are likely to see both resident and newly arrived migrant birds. Matt is (**Field trips** cont'd from column 1) very knowledgeable and a terrific leader, and whether you are an experienced birder or a novice, you are sure to learn a lot. We will meet at the Martins parking lot, in the area of the Sherwin Williams store, on Route 340 in Charles Town.

Spring Ligi, Oriole Expert, to Speak

•Wednesday, April 12, 7:30 pm



USFWS

The April monthly meeting of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society will focus on the breeding behavior of Baltimore and Orchard Orioles.

Baltimore Orioles, in particular, are plentiful along waterways in the Eastern Panhandle area in the spring and summer.

The speaker, Spring Ligi, just completed a Master's thesis on the subject at the University of Maryland at Baltimore.

Ms. Ligi will also briefly review some of the other bird projects under way in the university's biological sciences laboratory.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 pm Wednesday, April 12, in the auditorium of the U.S. Geological Survey's Leetown Science Center, 11649 Leetown Road (County Route 1), Kearneysville.

Cape May, New Jersey in May

•Saturday and Sunday, May 13 and 14

PVAS' annual trip to Cape May, New Jersey for passerine migrants, shorebirds, horseshoe crabs, and more is scheduled for May 13 and 14. This is a great trip to one of North America's birding "hot spots." The arrangement is that you get there on your own by driving or car pooling (we're happy to help arrange a ride if you don't want to drive) and you make your own hotel reservations (again happy to provide information). We get together early on Saturday morning in Cape May and go on some birding excursions together. You are free to join in the scheduled trips or "do your own thing". Pre-registration is required by calling Ken or Patsy Hunter at 304-725-3936 or by email at phunter@npca.org.

May 20: Mark the date now for an Open House at Rolling Ridge Preserve in Eastern Jefferson County. Details in May Valley Views.



President's Perch

Hello Everyone! As this is being written Spring is popping out all over, and our warm-season feathered friends are arriving in bunches. I've got redwing blackbirds on my feeder and quite a flock of robins all over. If you would like some help checking out our Spring migrants, Nancy Kirschbaum is offering some midweek birding opportunities (see page 1) and Patsy and Ken Hunter have several field trips planned (page 1). Our Yankauer Nature Preserve is open every day and offers beautiful trails for hiking, birding and botanizing and will again host a Spring Wildflower Festival on April 22.

Our PVAS Birdseed Sale profits are providing Camp Scholarships again this year to several environmentally oriented camps in West Virignia. Be sure to encourage the young folks in your life to apply (see article page 3).

Board Restructuring. As promised in my last month's column, I want to fill everyone in on the Board Restructuring that some of us have spent a lot of time on for over a year now. It has become apparent, as the years have rolled along, that our Yankauer Nature Preserve is a focal point within PVAS that gives us the opportunity to demonstrate in many ways what we– the Potomac Valley Audubon Society– are about. The Preserve gives us the opportunity to provide environmental education to children and adults, to display environmental ethics, and also preserves a piece of habitat for wild things. With that in mind, our Board of Directors decided that we had to find a better way to organize ourselves—one that would integrate Yankauer more fully into PVAS, strengthen its management, and strengthen the management of all our other endeavors. We set up a Board Restructuring Committee to look into the organization of other Audubon Chapters with similar programs to see how they structured themselves, and to come back with a recommendation to the Board. The results of those efforts are reflected in the draft "New PVAS Board Structure at a Glance" document that is enclosed in this newsletter. The entire restructuring plan, which includes Board position descriptions and Committee descriptions and responsibilities, is on our website for your review and comment (www.potomacaudubon.org). If you would like a hard copy please contact me (Diana Mullis 304-267-3482 or dianamullis@aol.com).

The new structure creates an Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, & Past President) that will oversee and coordinate the day-to-day operations of PVAS, including Yankauer.

The new structure also establishes a new staff position of Executive Director who will have immediate responsibility for those day-to-day operations, again including Yankauer, in close consultation with the Executive Committee. (It is our expectation that our current Yankauer Director, Kristin Alexander, will take this post.)

The idea behind these structural changes is to free the full Board of Directors from routine matters so they can concentrate on big-picture policy issues. You will see that the new structure also establishes a new set of functional committees that will focus on everything from Education to Publicity to Land and Facilities Management. This committee lineup more accurately reflects our current activities and needs, and it is at this level that we hope much of the real work of PVAS will be done—and where much of the organization's real energy will reside.

We intend for these committees to be very active. Board members will serve on them but they will not necessarily chair them; instead, the committees will be made up largely of non-Board members and some or many of them may in fact be chaired by non-Board members. Our goal is to use the committees to recruit and engage individuals who want to help PVAS in various ways and to varying degrees but do not have the time or inclination to serve on the Board. The key word here will be "flexibility"—between the Board and the committees, there will now be a place for everyone who wants to be a part of PVAS.

This restructuring does not change anything that we do but it does change the way we are organized, and that change will require a vote by the Membership of PVAS. Here is the proposed timeline for moving toward that vote:

- The PVAS Board of Directors is now reviewing the Restructuring Plan, and will provide comments to the Board Restructuring Committee.
- By the time you receive this newsletter, the Board should have voted to accept a final version of the Plan.
- The Constitution and By-Laws will be rewritten to reflect the restructuring of the Board during April and May.
- The new Plan and amended Constitution and By-Laws will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in May, as will the new Board of Directors.

Board Nominations. Meanwhile, the Board earlier this year appointed the Board Restructuring Committee to serve as this year's Nominating Committee with the idea that we would begin to make a transition toward this new structure as we put together a list of nominations for this year's Board.

Here are the officer and board nominations so far:
Officers:

President	Peter Smith
Vice President	Nancy Kirschbaum
Secretary	Fiona Harrison
Treasurer	Jane Vanderhook

At Large Board Members (7 vacancies):
Wayne Braunstein, Susan Brookreson, Mina Goodrich

Note Two current Board members have another year left in their terms and will continue to serve on the Board in the coming year. They are: David Eldridge and Sharon Stephan. The positions that we have previously listed as "Special Contacts," such as Newsletter Editor, Web Master, and Wildlife Rescue Coordinator will continue to exist, but for organizational purposes they will be folded into appropriate committees.

If you are interested in serving as a Board Member, a committee member, or a committee Chair, please contact me or any of our current Board Members. If each of us contributes a little, it makes everyone's job easier AND increases PVAS' ability to serve our community. So let me know how you can help.

Diana Mullis, President, PVAS

Camp Scholarships Available

PVAS is eagerly looking ahead to the summer camp season! Please help us by passing along the news about our scholarships to any deserving young people that you know. The application deadline is April 15. Camp information is below. Let's go camping!!

•West Virginia State Conservation Camp, Camp Caesar, Webster County, WV; ages 14-17, **June 12-17, 2006**

•Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies, Capon Bridge, WV; ages 11-15, **June 25 – July 8, 2006**

•Mountain Institute Youth Ecology Camp, Spruce Knob, WV; ages 9-11, **July 30 – August 3, 2006**

•Audubon Discovery Day Camp, Yankauer Nature Preserve, Shepherdstown, WV; ages 6-12, **several sessions mid-June to late July**

To obtain more information and/or an application form, go to the PVAS web site, www.potomacaudubon.org or contact Kathryn Henry, 304-876-6681, dhenry@myexcel.com.

RED DOT ALERT



Please note that if a red dot is on your mailing label for this newsletter, your membership has expired and this may be the last PVAS newsletter that you receive. Please renew your

JOIN PVAS TODAY

When you join PVAS, you automatically become a member of the **National Audubon Society**. Your membership includes:

•One year (six issues) of award-winning **Audubon Magazine**
•Eight issues of **Valley Views**, PVAS's newsletter of field trips, programs, and local issues
•Advance notice of all PVAS events

Enclosed is my check for:
$20 Individual SPECIAL OFFER (1st time members only)
$35 Individual (renewal)
$15 Seniors and full-time students
Make checks payable to
National Audubon Society
Mail to:
Membership Chair, PVAS
P.O. Box 578
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Name_____
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News From Yankauer

April Wildflower Festival April 22



Sharon Stephan

Bulbs are starting to show some color! Our early spring wildflowers won't be far behind. Celebrate their colorful arrival at the Wildflower Festival at Yankauer on April 22 from 11-4. Enjoy guided walks, refreshments, children's activities, music, art and more! Volunteer opportunities are available. Contact Kristin if you're interested at 304-676-3397.

New Potomac Arts Festival Coordinators

PVAS is pleased to announce that Sandy Sponaugle, Mary Dubay and Jennifer Jensen will be coordinating the festival this year. Sandy founded Plantinum PR in 2002 and recently expanded the practice to include special events planning. The team has the perfect combination of public relations, event planning, and administrative experience with the arts and other realms that will help bring our second annual festival to the next level. The Second Annual Potomac Arts Festival will be held on Nov. 3-5, again in partnership with the American Conservation Film Festival and the National Conservation Training Center. Sandy and her team would love for you to get involved. She can be reached at artfestival@potomacaudubon.org or 304-876-8321.

"SNAPSHOT" from Potomac Valley Nature Photographers (PVNP)

This group continues to be popular. 72 people came to the second meeting on February 24th where a video about nature photographer Jim Brandenburg was shared. The group will continue to hold regular meetings on the fourth Friday of each month at NCTC. To stay informed, go to www.potomacvalleynaturephotographers.org and learn tips, look for upcoming events, workshops and field trips, and participate in the forum. ***Coming Up:*** At the March 24 meeting at 7 pm in the Byrd Auditorium, Jim Clark, nationally known nature photographer and recently retired from NCTC, will present a talk and slide presentation about "Capturing a Sense of Place." Details for the April meeting are being planned, so go to the website for information as we get closer.

Summer Camp Reunion and Open House



Sharon Stephan

Join Camp Director Danny Carter for a camp reunion/open house on April 9 from 12:00-2:00 pm at the Men's Club in Shepherdstown. Bring your family, friends and a potluck dish to share, enjoy some games, learn about this year's camp themes and dates, and reunite with camp friends! Contact Danny for more information at 304-283-9449 or 304-279-6106.

Summer Camp Calls Coming In

Families are already calling about summer camp at Yankauer. Weeks of camp will include June 19, June 26, July 10, July 17, and July 24, and will end with a family campout at the Preserve on July 28! On-line registration will be available on April 8th from our website: www.potomacaudubon.org.

Potomac Valley Audubon Society
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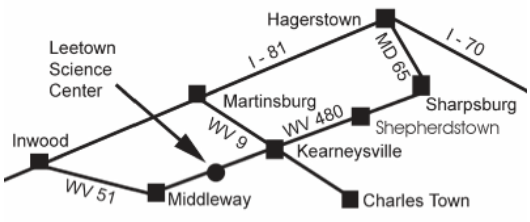
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DATED MATERIALS

A proud partner of the United Way of Berkeley and Morgan Counties, United Way of Jefferson County, and the Combined Federal Campaign.

MAIL TO:

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The Potomac Valley Audubon Society meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through April, in the auditorium at the USGS Leetown Science Center, Leetown/Kearneysville, WV. 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 here or see http://potomacaudubon.org. PVAS serves the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia and neighboring Washington County, Maryland.

PVAS BOARD

The PVAS Board meets the first Wednesday of the month (Sept.-June) at Shepherd College, Snyder Hall, Room 317, 7PM. These meetings are open to all PVAS members.

PVAS Officers and Board Members

President:	Diana Mullis 304-267-3482	dianamullis@aol.com
Vice President:	(Open position)	
Secretary	Fiona Harrison 304-724-7458	h_f_harrison@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Jane Vanderhook 304-876-6993	janehook@frontiernet.net
Conservation:	(Open position)	
Education:	(Open position)	
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Web Master:	Kathy Bilton	Kathy@fred.net
PVAS Wildlife Rescue Coord:	Diana Mullis	304-267-3482 & 304-724-4500(day)