

VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac
Valley
Audubon
Society

Volume 30, Issue 7

April 2012

We're Still Seeking Annual Appeal Contributions

As this is being written in mid March, 164 of you have contributed \$31,647 to our current annual fundraising appeal.

This dollar total is a new record. When last year's annual appeal ended, \$31,596 had been contributed.

Thanks to all of you who have given so far.

But we're not done yet. This year's annual appeal ends on April 1. Since you'll likely get this newsletter a few days before that date—and since we're not going to turn away contributions that come in a few days after that—there's still time for you to make a contribution if you wish to do so.

And we still need your help. Consumer prices rose about 3 percent over the last 12 months, according to the U.S. Labor Department. That means we need to raise another \$897 just to keep the actual spending power of this year's annual appeal revenues at last year's levels. And, obviously, it would help us a lot if we could do better than that.

Remember that your annual appeal contributions are essential to our program efforts. Many of our programs are free. For those that do involve fees, we can never charge participants—especially children—enough to cover all our expenses. Your support makes up the difference!

To contribute, just send a check made out to "PVAS" to PVAS, PO Box 578, Shepherdstown, WV 25443.

PVAS Reception Set for June 23

Bob and Tia McMillian have graciously offered to host a fundraising reception for PVAS at their beautiful modern home on Terrapin Neck the evening of Saturday, June 23.

The reception will be held from 4:00-7:00 p.m. It will be held mostly outside, on the lawn and patio. A first-floor art gallery featuring a collection of West Virginia art will be open for viewing.

Food and beverages will be served, and musical entertainment will provide background.

Dress will be casual.

The event is open to PVAS members and friends, and all proceeds will be used to support the Society's education programs for children.

Tickets to the event will be required, and space will be limited. To request an invitation, contact Jane Vanderhook at janehook@frontiernet.net or 304-876-6993.

See *June Reception*, Page 3

A Note from Kristin Alexander, Executive Director

Dear members and friends,

As some of you know, my husband Jeff and I are expecting our first child in early May. I'll be decreasing my hours with PVAS in April and then am planning to take maternity leave May 1 – July 31. I'll then be back part time in August to resume my position with PVAS and likely returning full-time in January of 2013.

PVAS will be in excellent hands in my absence. Ellen Murphy, our Director of Youth Programs, will be taking over for me during my leave, and Suzi Taylor (Wee Naturalist instructor, past camp director, etc...) is taking over many of the day-to-day instructional responsibilities for Ellen including some of the summer camp sessions.

There will still be some gaps to fill, so you may hear Ellen and Board members ask for help from volunteers even more than usual. If you are able to fill in and help PVAS in my absence, I know Ellen, Suzi, the Board, and PVAS as an organization will be grateful, as will I!

While I'm on leave, please contact Ellen Murphy for all youth and adult education matters. PVAS President Peter Smith has generously offered to cover other administrative matters. Between the two of them, they'll be able to get you whatever you need and will keep the PVAS wheels spinning smoothly.

Thank you for all of your support, and I look forward to introducing you to PVAS' youngest member very soon!

Sincerely,



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



Hello everyone:

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll find a message from our Executive Director, Kristin Alexander, announcing that she and her husband Jeff Feldman are expecting their first child in May.

Obviously, this is a big event for Kristin and Jeff and we wish them all the best.

It's a big event for PVAS, too.

Kristin has been with us since 2001, serving initially as our first and only paid employee (Director of the Yankauer Nature Preserve) and then—since 2007—as Executive Director. She's played a major role in PVAS's evolution over those years, and she plays a major role in the organization's operations today. She's gained a tremendous amount of institutional knowledge and has made many friends and established many professional contacts throughout the community.

So it's not going to be easy to fill her shoes while she's on leave.

But we'll give it our best shot.

As Kristin has noted, Ellen Murphy, our very capable Director of Youth Programs, will be filling in on the administrative side and Suzi Taylor, who's been involved with our children's programs for years, will be helping to keep those programs running.

We know that both of them will do an excellent job.

Board members will be pitching in, too. Jane Vanderhook is keeping track of sponsorships for our upcoming Race for the Birds and she'll be coordinating our June fundraising event as well. Don Briggs will be tracking grants and helping to continue our involvement with the City's of Ranson's new Flowing Springs Park project. I'll be assisting with administrative duties and other matters as need be. And so on.

What can you do as a PVAS member? Be supportive of Ellen and Suzi. Let us know ASAP if you think we're forgetting something we should be doing. And if we happen to ask you to lend us a hand with some specific task please do help if you possibly can.

—Peter Smith

Nursery Open House Will Again Benefit PVAS

The Winston Gardens Native Plant Nursery has again pledged to donate 15 percent of the proceeds from its upcoming spring Open House Plant Sale to PVAS.

The donation will be used to support our new Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve.

The Open House will be held the weekend of April 28 and 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day.

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

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 spring it is offering 40 different species for sale. These range from popular favorites like Sugar Maples and Redbuds to hard-to-find species like Fringe Tree, Witch Hazel, and Black Haw Viburnum.



Black Haw Viburnum from Winston Gardens

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.

Wildflower Festival Set for April 14

PVAS will hold its annual spring Wildflower Festival on Saturday, April 14 at the Yankauer Nature Preserve.

The festival, which is held to coincide with the peak of the spring wildflower season, will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine.

It will include guided wildflower walks through the preserve for advanced and beginner/families, children's activities, and refreshments.

Guided walks will leave the pavilion on the hour, though visitors are welcome to explore the trails on their own as well.

Admission to all these events will be free and everyone is welcome.

For the fifth year in a row, the festival will also include a special Poetry Walk component—poems that focus on spring themes will be posted all along the preserve's Kingfisher trail where the majority of wildflowers are found.



*Craggy Toothwart
photo by Laura Rau*

Mid- to late April is traditionally the best time to view early spring wildflowers at the preserve. Some of the wildflowers on display should include bloodroot, spring beauties, Dutchman's breeches, and rue anemone.

The trails at Yankauer are primitive, so wear sturdy walking shoes. Please leave pets at home and leave the wildflowers for all to enjoy.

For more information contact PVAS at 304-676-3397 or pvas-mail@aol.com.

Poems Sought for Wildflower Festival

PVAS is once again asking local poets to submit poems that will be displayed as part of our annual Wildflower Festival (see Festival story).

Those who wish to submit poems are encouraged to do so by sending them via email to Shepherdstown's Four Seasons Bookstore at 4seasons@citlink.net. Poems may also be dropped off at the store on German Street in person or sent by regular mail to Poetry Walk, c/o PVAS, PO Box 578, Shepherdstown, WV 25443.

The deadline for submissions is 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 6. For more information contact PVAS at 304-676-3397 or pvasmail@aol.com.

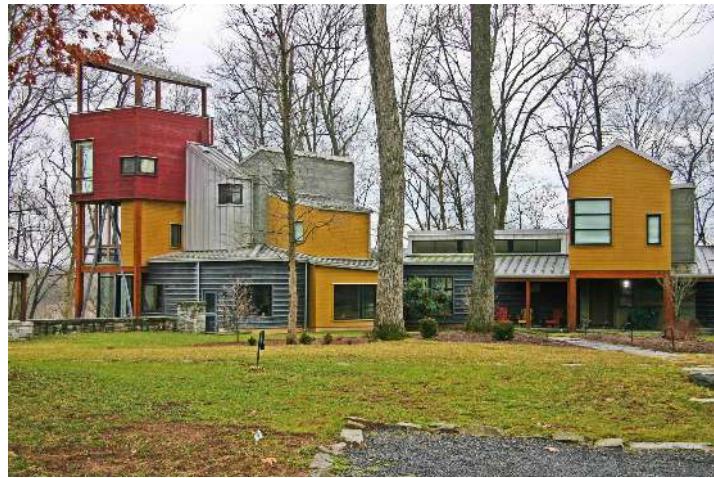
June Reception (continued from page 1)

Basic tickets are \$45 per person. Those who pay \$150 for two people will be recognized as Donors, those who pay \$250 for two will be recognized as Patrons, and those who pay \$500 or more for two will be recognized as Supporters.

Ticket costs will be tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

To reserve tickets, please call 304-676-3397 or e-mail pvasmail@aol.com and provide your name, address, phone number and number of tickets desired.

The McMillan's house was built in 1997 by former West Virginia Governor Gaston Caperton.



Featured in many architectural publications, it is spectacularly sited along the Potomac River. Its striking contemporary design incorporates local traditions, materials, and practices. Local masons used native stone, local framers and carpenters used state-grown oak and cherry, and a combination of metal and wood siding evokes local building techniques. The house has three main sections, including the art gallery, and an observation tower that overlooks the river. The landscaping was done by Spaulding Landscaping.

School Program Update

PVAS' spring Watershed programs are finishing up with field trips to the Cacapon River, Flowing Springs Run, and Mill Creek. It is through these field experiences that fourth graders put together everything they have learned in the program. They test the water for temperature, pH, and dissolved oxygen, look for macroinvertebrate

critters, assess the surrounding area for signs of erosion, and do other activities that help them understand the importance of clean rivers and streams. Many thanks go to all volunteers who have helped with one of these programs.

Our new "Bugs and Beasties!" preschool program, which is being funded by the Two Rivers Giving Circle, has gotten off to a terrific start, bringing nature into preschool classrooms through a series of half-hour programs. This pilot program introduces preschoolers to everything from mammals to insects and to patterns in nature by using hands-on activities, stories, and costumes in an age appropriate way. In addition, PVAS will be presenting this program as an example of how to get children outside at an early age to the Foundations of Early Childhood Education class at Shepherd University in late March.

Teachers have also begun reserving spots for spring field trips to Yankauer Nature Preserve, including schools from Washington County, Maryland. Schools interested in visiting Yankauer should contact Ellen Murphy at pvasprograms@gmail.com.

Spend a Week in the Woods at Camp!

What child wouldn't be interested in spending a week in the woods... and in the company of the coolest people on Earth—camp counselors! Registration for Audubon Discovery Camp's sessions is open, but don't wait too long to decide what your camper will attend, because camp sessions fill quickly!



Sessions at Yankauer Preserve include something in nature for every age! The first sessions in late May and early June feature beginning nature explorations for preschoolers and their parents. When traditional camp begins on June 11, sessions each week will include *Nature Detectives; Hop, Slither, Sneak!*; and our signature theme, *Camp Survivor*. Two sessions at the Peter Burr Farm in Bardane (*The Simple Life* and *Nature Detectives*) will encourage campers to explore either the historic farm or the wetlands that borders the property.

Special weeks for middle schoolers emphasize *Wild Wings* (including an afternoon of caving), *Into the Wild* (an overnight hike on the Appalachian Trail), *Life on the Frontier* (with a trip to Old Bedford Village in Pennsylvania), or *Adventure Challenge* (with ropes courses and rock climbing.) Most of these weeks will be held at FLOC's Outdoor Education Center off Mission Road, past Shannondale.

Online registrations for sessions is easy! A link at the www.PotomacAudubon.org/discovercamp will take you directly to the registration portal. A credit card is needed to complete registrations. The base price for most sessions is \$150 per camper, but fees range from \$50 up to \$300 for the teen high adventure sessions. Scholarship applications are also online and must be postmarked by April 6.

If you have questions about camp or the registration process, send Ellen Murphy an email at pvasprograms@gmail.com or call 304-676-8739.

Summer Camp Scholarships Still Available

Families have until April 6, 2012, to apply for PVAS scholarships at a variety of summer nature camps, so act now! Scholarships are available for eligible young people within the PVAS membership area – the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia and Washington County, Maryland.

Camps, locations, ages, and dates are as follows:

- **Audubon Discovery Day Camp:** our own local camp at Yankauer Nature Preserve, at Peter Burr Farm Site, and at For Love of Children Outdoor Education Center; preschool to grade 12; week-long sessions May 29 to July 20, 2012.
- **Oglebay Institute Junior Nature Camp:** at Dallas Pike, WV (near Wheeling); ages 10-15; July 22 - 28 or July 29 – August 4, 2012.
- **Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies:** at Capon Bridge, WV; ages 11-15; June 24 - July 7; July 10 – 24; or July 31 – August 13, 2012.
- **Mountain Adventures Camp:** at Mountain Institute, Spruce Knob, WV; ages 12-17; June 17 - 23, June 24 – 30, July 1 - 7, or July 8 – 14, 2012.
- **West Virginia State Conservation Camp:** at Camp Caesar, Webster County, WV; Campers must be 14 years old by January 2012 and not past 18 on June 1; June 11 - 16, 2012.
- **Trout Unlimited Conservation & Fishing Camp:** at Syria, Virginia (next to Shenandoah National Park), grades 8 through 11; June 24 – June 29, 2012.
- **Student Climate & Conservation Congress (SC3):** at the National Conservation and Training Center (NCTC), Shepherdstown, WV; ages 15 – 18; June 24 – 29, 2012.
- **Nature Photography Camp:** at Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV; grades 9-12 (ages 14-18); June 25 - 29, 2012.

Please check our web site at www.potomacaudubon.org for updates or additional opportunities as they become available. The Web site gives more details about individual camps, scholarship application forms, and links to the camps' web sites with lots more exciting information and camp descriptions! You may also contact scholarship coordinator Kathryn Henry at 304-876-6681, or dhenry@myexcel.com.

Camp scholarships are supported by our fall bird seed sale and by additional community sources that fund scholarships to our own day camp program at the Yankauer Nature Preserve and other local sites. Many thanks to these loyal supporters of our summer camping programs!

Register Now for Teen Photo Camp!

PVAS is now accepting applications for its innovative nature photography day camp for area high school students.

Now in its sixth year, the camp will be held June 25-29 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day. It will include four days of field

and lab training on the Shepherd University campus and a one-day field trip to nearby natural areas.

Campers will have full access to computers and photo editing software in the computer lab at the University's Center for Contemporary Arts. They will also have the use of Nikon Digital SLR cameras that have been provided by Nikon, Inc.

Campers will not only learn about the fundamentals of digital nature photography and image editing from expert instructors, they will also have an opportunity to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the natural world.

Enrollment is very limited, so campers receive very intensive, hands-on instruction.

The cost for the entire week is only \$150.

Participating students must be entering grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 in the fall of 2012 (or be of equivalent age).

The camp will be led by Dr. Bruce F. Field, of Hagerstown, an excellent nature photographer. Members of PVAS's Potomac Valley Nature Photographers will also be on hand throughout the week to help mentor and coach participants and will teach specialty topics.

For more information and an application, please go to the PVAS website or contact Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739 or pvasprograms@gmail.com.

PVAS Offering Scholarship to NCTC Student Conservation Congress

PVAS is pleased to announce that we're partnering with the Friends of the National Conservation Training Center to offer at least one partial scholarship to this summer's Student Climate and Conservation Congress (SC3) at NCTC.

Now in its fourth year, the Congress is sponsored by NCTC and the Green Schools Alliance.

It is aimed at empowering outstanding student environmental leaders with the skills, knowledge, and tools to address natural resource conservation challenges and better serve their schools and communities. It is regarded as the nation's most prestigious week-long youth conservation leadership program.

About 120 high school students from around the nation are expected to participate.

Speakers this year include filmmakers, writers, scientists, photo-journalists, and activists, including environmentalist author Barry Lopez as the keynote speaker. Each day will also include time for outdoor programs, walkabouts, river hikes, campfire stories, stargazing, and time to appreciate nature.



Anna at Bloody Lane

The Congress will begin on Sunday, June 24, and end on Friday, June 29.

PVAS will provide at least one \$300 scholarship that will be available to a deserving high school student who lives in the PVAS service area (Berkeley, Jefferson, Morgan, and Washington Counties). The family of the scholarship recipient will have to provide another \$300 to cover the full cost of participation in the Congress.

The total \$600 cost will include overnight accommodations and all meals at NCTC, and all programs and activities including a canoeing adventure.

If extra funds become available, PVAS may offer a second scholarship.

To apply for a scholarship and/or get more information, please contact Ellen Murphy at pvasprograms@gmail.com or 304-676-8739.

For more information about the Congress, go to its website at www.greenschoolsalliance.org/students/student-climate-conservation-congress-sc3.

Don't Forget April 1 Egg Hunt

If you haven't done so already, there may still be time to sign up for our fifth annual Spring Egg Hunt for children.

The event will be held from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 1, at the Yankauer Nature Preserve.

To check on availability, go to the PVAS website at www.potomacaudubon.org. If space is still available, you can register there.

The fee is \$5 per child.

This is always a great, family-oriented event. Parents should plan to go with their children as they walk on the preserve's trails looking for eggs colored to resemble real eggs of wild birds.

For more information, contact Ellen Murphy, PVAS's Director of Youth Programs, at 304-676-8739 or pvasprograms@gmail.com.

Wee Naturalists Program Continues in April

There's still time to sign up for our April Wee Naturalists program sessions.

The sessions will be held at our Yankauer Nature Preserve on April 25 and 26, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. each day.

The theme of both sessions will be: "What Do April Showers Bring?" Participating children will explore the preserve's trails, looking for changes in nature brought about by spring rains.

PVAS's Wee Naturalists program is designed to provide regular opportunities for children ages 3-5 to explore nature together safely under the guidance of an experienced PVAS instructor. At each session, children must be accompanied by a parent, grandparent, other adult relative, or guardian.

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

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

Easy on-line registration is available on our new website at www.potomacaudubon.org. The fee is \$5 per child/adult team per session.

For more information, contact Ms. Taylor at 301-432-1908 or tomandsuzi506@cs.com.

There's Still Time To Sign Up For "Race for the Birds"

There's still time to sign up to participate in our 11th Annual Race for the Birds.

The event will be held the morning of April 21 at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) near Shepherdstown.



As before, the Race for the Birds will include two professionally timed races—one 4.9 miles long and another 7.7 miles long.

There will also be a self-timed 2-mile community jog/walk for families and individuals who prefer a slower pace, and a 1-mile "Fun Run" for children under 10 years of age.

The two races will begin at 9:00 a.m. The jog/walk will begin shortly afterwards and the children's Fun Run will be held at about 10:45 a.m.

The children's Fun Run will be free. Fees for the other portions of the event will range from \$15 to \$25.

The 4.9- and 7.7-mile races will follow trails that wind through the forests and fields of the 538-acre NCTC campus.

The 2-mile jog/walk will follow a course that will be very user-friendly for families with small children, and trail-friendly baby joggers will be appropriate and encouraged.

To register, and for more information, go to the race website at www.raceforthebirds.org. Or contact the race directors, James and Suzy Munnis, at jmunnis@earthlink.net or 304-876-6784.

The trails on the NCTC campus are not normally open to the general public so this will be a good opportunity to visit and enjoy the facility's beautiful trail network.

All proceeds from the event will be used to support PVAS's programs for children, and all fees will be tax deductible.

There's Still Time to Register for Birding 101

As this is being written, there's still space available in this year's "Birding 101" course for beginning birders, which will be held during April.

This will be the 27th year we've offered this course.

It's taught by leading local bird experts, including Bob Dean and Matt Orsie.

It utilizes both evening classroom sessions and daytime field

trips. Participants learn everything from bird identification to birding techniques and resources to field etiquette.

It focuses on bird species that are found in the Eastern Panhandle area.

The evening classroom sessions will start on Thursday, April 5, and be held each of the following three Thursdays (April 12, 19, and 26). All of these sessions will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the National Conservation Training Center.

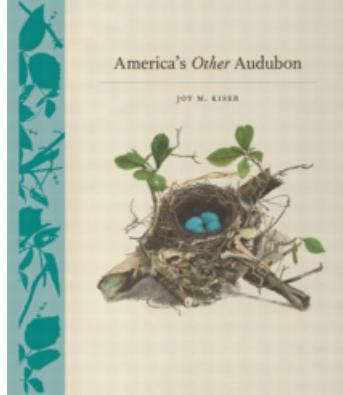
The field trips will be held at various locations around the Panhandle from roughly 7:00 a.m. to noon on the Saturdays following the Thursday evening sessions (April 7, 14, 21, and 28).

Tuition for the full course package of four classroom sessions and four field trips is only \$75.

Registration is required. Online registration, mailable registration forms and more information are available on the PVAS website at www.potomacaudubon.org. Or contact Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739 or pvaspromotions@comcast.net.

New Book: America's Other Audubon

A local author who gave a talk about an important but little-known nineteenth century volume of ornithological illustrations at PVAS's February 2009 meeting has now written a book on the same subject.



The author is Joy Kiser, of Charles Town, former librarian for the National Endowment for the Arts.

Joy's book is entitled *America's Other Audubon*. It chronicles the story of—and reproduces illustrations from—a mostly forgotten volume called *Illustrations of the Nests and Eggs of Birds of Ohio*.

Illustrations was initiated by a talented young amateur naturalist named Genevieve Jones, and then completed by her family after she died suddenly of Typhoid in 1879.

America's Other Audubon is being published by Princeton Architectural Press. The publication date is May 16.

One week before that, Joy invites everyone to a May 9 book-launch party in Washington, DC, that will be co-hosted by Princeton Architectural Press and the Smithsonian Institution Libraries.

The party will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the Baird Auditorium of the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History. It will include a 40-minute presentation about the book, Q&A, a book signing and reception. Admission will be free.

For more information about Joy's book, please go to a pre-publication website she has established, www.americasotheraudubon.com. Note that the site includes links for ordering copies online through the publisher, Amazon.com, and Barnes and Noble, and that Joy will receive a commission for every copy sold through her Amazon.com link.

Get Involved In Watershed Cleanups!

This is the time of year for watershed cleanup efforts.

PVAS encourages its members to pitch in and get involved whenever they can.

At all cleanup sites, expect moderate-to-difficult work. In addition, cleanup work usually involves walking on rocky/slippery terrain.

Trash bags, gloves and other equipment will be provided to all volunteers unless otherwise noted. Feel free to bring along your own gloves, rakes, or grabbers. Waterproof boots or waders may be helpful at some sites.

Other less strenuous volunteer jobs such as volunteer check-in and recording data are often also available.

In our area, most of cleanup efforts are coordinated through the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup and/or the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's "Make it Shine" program.

This year, the first two weeks of April have been targeted for scheduling cleanups.

As this is being written in mid-March, cleanup events are only just starting to be set for our area. These are listed below. For the most current information, watch the Alice Ferguson Foundation website at www.fergusonfoundation.org

Berkeley County, WV

April 14: Opequon Creek at Van Metre Ford Stone Bridge, Martinsburg. 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Sponsored by the Opequon Creek Project Team. Pre-registration required; contact Sandra Bernardi at sbernardi@frontier.com. Directions: From Interstate 81 Take Exit 13 East (King Street) 1.5 miles Left on Queen Street one block Right on Burke Street (CR36) Follow Burke through town and along the railroad tracks for 2.2 miles until you reach Stone Bridge. Parking lot is on the right before you cross the bridge.

Jefferson County, WV

April 14: Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Potomac Wayside. 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. No pre-registration required. Directions: Take Route 340 to the Tri-State Exxon station at the intersection with Route 671; park in the open lot adjacent to the station.

April 14: Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Potomac Street Extended. 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. No pre-registration required. Directions: Meet park staff or volunteers at Harpers Ferry historic train station lot. From there, group will move to clean up location. Please car pool as vehicle access to site is limited

Morgan County, WV

April 7: Sleepy Creek along Luther Michael Road, in the southern part of the county. 9:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association. No pre-registration required. Directions: From the intersection of Route 9 East and US 522 at the Sheetz station, take US 522 south 7.4 miles and turn left onto Luther Mi-

chael Road (State Road 38/8). Go past Creek Road (at 8/10 mile) and continue past Tabor Road (1.3 miles further). Stay on Luther Michael over the Sleepy Creek Bridge and pass Timber Ridge Rd (3/10 mile further). Go 5/10 mile and park in the Farnow driveway on the right. For more info contact Gale Foulds at 304 258-6155.

Washington County, MD

April 14: Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, MD. 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Sponsored by the National Park Service. Directions: Meet at the Battlefield Visitors Center on Route 65. For more info contact Debbie Cohen at debbie_cohen@nps.gov.

WV Legislature Passes Resolution on Resource Recovery Facilities!

Berkeley County Solid Waste Authority Press Release
March 10, 2012

On March 9, the West Virginia Senate joined the House of Delegates and passed House Concurrent Resolution 59. The purpose of the resolution is to express support for the improvement in the collection, processing, and consumption of recyclable materials throughout the State of West Virginia. The resolution noted that recycling creates jobs, conserves natural resources and has economic value. The resolution further expresses support to the West Virginia Public Service Commission and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to permit resource recovery facilities in the state as a means to increase the collection of recyclable materials and the utilization of solid waste as a resource rather than landfilling. HCR 59 was sponsored by Delegate Walter Duke and co-sponsored by 23 bi-partisan Delegates from across the State. The resolution enjoyed support in the Senate, led by Senator(s) John R. Unger and Jeff Kessler.

The resolution can be read at: http://www.legis.state.wv.us/Bill_Status/bills_text.cfm?billdoc=hcr59

Conservation Note: Saving Trees

Use the power of your shopping choices to conserve forests. Have you ever thought about how green the home tissue products you buy are? The percentage of recycled content in everyday items like paper towels, paper napkins, facial tissues and toilet paper varies widely, and according to the Natural Resources Defense Council, if every U.S. household replaced just one roll of non-recycled content paper towels with a 100 percent recycled content roll, more than half a million trees could be saved. Similar savings are possible with facial tissue, paper napkins and toilet paper. Look for products with a high percentage of recycled content, especially post-consumer material. Post-consumer fiber is material that has been used in an earlier product and diverted from the waste stream for re-use, preventing it from taking up landfill space or being incinerated.

Bleaching agents are another factor in the environmental impact of your paper products choices. Most of these products are bleached to improve their appearance, but chlorine-based bleaching agents create highly toxic by-products that can contribute to poor water and air quality. Look for products labeled totally chlorine free (TCF) or processed chlorine free (PCF). Check out the Natural Resource Defense Council's Shoppers Guide to Home Tissue Products, www.nrdc.org/land/forests/gtissue.asp,

for more information and handy brand comparison tables.

An even greener alternative is to replace some of your paper products with reusable cloth. Use a cloth dishtowel instead of a paper towel for non-toxic cleanup jobs and cloth napkins instead of paper – you will save money and trees.

New Window Tape Can Significantly Reduce Bird Collisions at Homes

Press Release: American Bird Conservancy

A new, translucent adhesive tape, which tests show can significantly reduce bird collisions with glass windows and doors, is now available to the public. The product is being sold by American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and production of ABC; BirdTape is made possible through the generous support of the Rusinow Family Foundation.

Birds can't see glass and don't understand the architectural cues, such as window frames, mullions, and handles, that alert people to the hazard. Experts estimate that up to one billion birds may die each year from resulting collisions. Unlike some sources of bird mortality that predominantly kill weaker individuals, there is no distinction among victims of glass. Because glass is equally dangerous for strong, healthy, breeding adults, it can have a particularly serious impact on populations. Studies have shown that even small windows can be dangerous to birds that are accustomed to flying through gaps between trees and shrubs.

To learn more about ABC Bird Tape, go to: www.abcbirdtape.org. ABC has produced a [video](#) that demonstrates how to install the bird tape.



*ABC's BirdTape being applied.
Photo: Steve Holmer, ABC*

Reminder for Landscape Gardening Conference

Potomac Valley Audubon Society has joined a variety of other area organizations in cosponsoring a landscape gardening conference that will be held at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia, on April 14.

This one-day conference is entitled "Tomorrow's Landscapes: More Birds, Butterflies, and Bees for YOUR Garden" is organized by the Piedmont/Blue Ridge Horticulture Society and Shenandoah University's Environmental Studies Department.

Experts will provide valuable advice on ways homeowners can improve birds and butterfly habitat with plant choices suited to the mid-Atlantic climate and soils.

Space will be limited and preregistration is required. The regis-

tration fee will be \$99, which includes lunch and drinks. For more information and to register, go to www.tomorrowslandscapes.org. If questions remain, contact Genie Cate at info@pbrhs.org or call 540-877-2002.

View from the Eagle's Nest

by Sandy Sagalkin

For some reason, I've been thinking about this year's Ruth Ann Dean Memorial Birdathon. It must be a sign that spring is coming. Spring is a great time for birders. We don't determine the arrival of spring by the spring equinox. Each of us has a favorite bird whose song signals for us that spring is here. For me, it's the Eastern Phoebe, whose horse song says its own name, "phee bee, phee bee," over and over again. Some birders have already posted hearing it, and I know I'll hear it before this article goes to print. The Eastern Phoebe is only one of over a hundred different species of birds that pass through the Eastern Panhandle on their northerly migration.

It certainly felt like spring day as I headed out to a PVAS birding outing at Murphy's Farm, which is part of Harpers Ferry National Park. I had seen Deb Hale's postings on the WVListServe and was impressed by the number of birds



Birders at Murphy's Farm-Shenandoah Overlook

bright yellow V-neck sweaters and melancholy songs, a dozen or more Northern Flickers flitting about, two Wild Turkeys sailed across the Shenandoah River as we watched a lone Horned Grebe diving in the river, and we ended the trip with a Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, and Turkey Vulture circling in front of us as if in mock aerial combat.

"Are you going to enter the Birdathon this year," I asked Deb. Last year Deb joined the Barn Swifts, the winning team with 118 species. "I hope to," she said. The Birdathon, now in its third year, will be the closing event of PVAS's celebration of International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). We PVASers like our birds so much that we plan to celebrate IMBD for 12 days.

The last two Birdathons the weather was crummy and felt anything but spring like. I was on team, "Sandpipers" with Birdmom, Bill Hale, and Jenny Eaton. We began at 4:30 a.m. at Birdmom's house, where we called in an Eastern Screech Owl. Then on to Sleepy Creek, which was shrouded in fog. That's not a good thing when you are trying to find warblers in the treetops; it made us rely on our ears. Then on to Stauffer's Marsh for a Virginia Rail and Merlin; Shannondale Springs Wildlife Management Area for White-eyed Vireos and other birds; the Shenandoah River; and finishing at dark somewhere along Rt. 9, finding the Great Horned Owl nest with baby GHOWs that Bob Dean reported seeing. We had a great day with 99 species.

I have made it sound like the Birdathon is a competition. It is not.



Eastern Meadowlark

While we nominally award titles for placing high in the Birdathon, it is really just a great opportunity to get together with friends or family and see how many birds you can observe in a day. We try for a personal or team "best." I'll be on team, Maryland Yellowthroats this year, birding in Washington County. Team entries can be friends that like to bird together, teams of spouses, and, for individuals that are just getting started, placement on other teams.

We also have a few birders who just like to spend the day sitting on their back porch doing a "Big Sit," that is, seeing how many birds they can observe from their back porch or other area delineated by a circle 50 feet in diameter. The rules for the Big Sit are very flexible and leave room for making it a party with a birding theme. For two years in a row, Jean Neely and her team, "Three Ol' Coots," came in number one in the Big Sit competition.

I hope I have persuaded some of you to enter the Birdathon, which you can do online from the PVAS website, www.potomacaudubon.org, or join us when we return to Murphy's Farm or some of the other birding venues we go to almost every week of the year.

Five Birding Trips Set For April

PVAS is sponsoring five local birding trips during April.

Possible species to be sighted on these trips include early spring migrants, including Blue Gray Gnatcatchers, swallows, House Wrens, and Brown Thrashers; possible early arriving warblers; and year-round birds such as Bald Eagles, Red-tailed and Red-Shouldered Hawks and Great Blue Herons.

All the trips are free and anyone with an interest is welcome to come along, regardless of their birding skills. But please note the pre-registration is necessarily in a couple of cases.

Binoculars will be available at all the trips, except the April 29 Eidiolon trip, for anyone who needs them.

For all the trips, everyone should wear sturdy walking shoes or boots, dress appropriately for the terrain and prevailing weather conditions, and bring along water and bug spray.

Trips may be cancelled in the event bad weather. Various trip details could also change depending on weather or recent bird sightings.

The specific dates, destinations and details are as follows:

Wednesday, April 4: C&O Canal bird walk at Harpers Ferry.

Participants should plan to meet at 8:00 a.m. outside John Brown's Fort, where Potomac and Shenandoah Streets cross in Harpers Ferry National Park. Parking is available along Potomac Street near the train station.

The walk will start at the Point, proceed over the footbridge and continue about two miles northwest along the C&O Canal towpath and back.

Deb Hale will lead this trip. For more information or to check on possible cancellation because of weather, contact her at debhale72@gmail.com or 304-535-1528

Saturday, April 14: Birding trip to the Shannondale Springs Wildlife Management Area in Jefferson County. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot in front of the Martin's Supermarket in the

Jefferson Crossroads shopping Center off Route 340 just east of Charles Town. The 1,361-acre Shannondale Springs property is managed by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources; it includes a mixture of forest, brush land and open fields covering rolling hills. The trip will involve walking about two miles over mostly level ground, although some hilly, uneven terrain will be encountered. For more info, contact Sandy Sagalkin at 240-291-6465 or monsansagalkin@myactv.net.

Wednesday, April 18: Birding trip to Altona Marsh west of Charles Town. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the parking lot in front of the Martin's Supermarket in the Jefferson Crossroads shopping Center off Route 340 in Charles Town. The Marsh is a seventy-acre marl wetland protected by The Nature Conservancy. It provides habitat for a wide variety of bird species and the terrain offers easy viewing. Trip will involve about two miles of level walking, some along a railroad track. Pre-registration is required. To pre-register, contact trip leader Sandy Sagalkin at monsansagalkin@myactv.net or 240-291-6465.

Saturday, April 28: The campus of the National Conservation Training Center outside Shepherdstown. Participants should plan to meet at 8:00 a.m. at the visitor's parking lot in front of the Center's Main Building. The Center's 538-acre campus is not normally open to the public, so this is a good opportunity to visit. The campus contains a mix of fields and forestland, and provides good habitat for a rich variety of bird species. This trip will involve walking about two miles over moderate terrain. Please note that because the Center is a federal facility, pre-registration is essential to enter the grounds. To pre-register, contact trip leader Sandy Sagalkin at the email address or phone number shown above no later than April 23.

Sunday, April 29: Bird walk at the Eidolon Nature Preserve in Morgan County. Join local birders Jon Boone and Janet Ardam for a walk that will offer opportunities to see a variety of migrating and year-round birds, including the rare Cerulean Warbler, before trees are in full foliage. Meet at the Preserve entrance at 6:30 a.m. For more info, contact the Nature Niche Store in Berkeley Springs at 394-258-0992 or natureniche@earthlink.net.

April Program Will Focus On School Science Project

Our April program at the National Conservation Training Center will focus on a grant-funded local school science project that is studying the feasibility of reintroducing Brook Trout into local streams.

The program will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, in Room 151 of the Instructional West Building.

Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

Brook Trout are West Virginia's only native trout. They no longer survive in the Eastern Panhandle because of degradation of habitat.

The local school Brook Trout project is being undertaken this spring by seventh graders at Jefferson County's Wildwood Middle School, under the guidance of science teacher Carolyn Thomas.

Ms. Thomas will explain how the project is providing students with a better understanding of a variety of subjects, including fish

biology, the importance of local natural resources, the multiple factors that influence water quality, and the role of technology in conducting and communicating research.

The project is being supported by a \$10,000 Toyota TAPESTRY grant.

Administered by the National Science Teachers Association, the Toyota TAPESTRY grant program is the largest K-12 science grant program of its kind in the U.S. It awards grants totaling more than \$500,000 annually for innovative classroom projects in the fields of environmental education, physical science, literacy and science education.

For more information about the Brook Trout project, go to the project website at <http://boe.jeff.k12.wv.us/trout>.

For more information about the Toyota TAPESTRY grant program go to www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry/.

Potomac Valley Nature Photographers

The Potomac Valley Nature Photographers are planning a "Wildflower Photo Safari" at NCTC for their April 27 meeting. To catch more daylight, they are meeting at 6pm at a large patch of bluebells along Captain Hendricks Drive. To find the group, check in at the guard station. Just beyond, turn right on Captain Hendricks Drive. Park at the Support Services Building (not along the road please!) and walk the remainder of the road which dead ends at the wildflower meadow. In case of rain, the meeting will be held in room 151IW at 6:00 p.m. and a video by renowned nature photographer DeWitt Jones will be shown.

Wings of Dreams Shop Helps PVAS Again

Shepherdstown's On the Wings of Dreams shop is once again donating proceeds from crystal sales to PVAS. This is the fifth year shop owner Laura Rau has set aside three cents from each crystal and mineral sold throughout the year to donate to the Society.

This year's donation of \$220 targets PVAS youth programs.

"Supporting PVAS gives us the opportunity to participate in both environmental and humanitarian efforts," Laura said. "The Society's work to protect and preserve wetlands and other sensitive natural environments are vital in this fast-growing area. PVAS also sponsors numerous programs to educate children about the environment, encouraging them to get out in nature and away from the computer or TV. It's an important investment in the future all around."



"A very special thank you is also in order for the many custom-

ers of the shop whose crystal purchases in 2011 contributed to the PVAS donation."

Laura recently attended the Tucson Gem Show, the largest gem and mineral show in the world, and has returned with many beautiful specimens that will contribute to next year's donation.

The shop is located at 139 West German Street. In addition to crystals, it offers a wide variety of sterling silver and natural stone jewelry; Native American jewelry, books and music; incense; sages, shells and prayer feathers; magical and ceremonial herbs; tools and statuary for practitioners of Buddhist, Hindu and Earth-Based spiritualties; essential oils; prayer flags and Tibetan and crystal singing bowls. Its website can be found at www.WingsOfDreamsShop.com.

Volunteer Help Needed



Volunteer Services

Newsletter

PVAS needs a new editor/publisher for the Valley Views newsletter. The current editor/publisher has, with the exception of a few publication years, been putting Valley Views out since 1993, and now it's time for some new blood and fresh ideas.

Anyone with experience in desktop publishing or an interest in print and graphics layout can master the essentials. Publication of the newsletter involves tasks that can be divided among a number of people so more than one person can share in the process. There are even some non-computer tasks for those with reluctance to jump into the technical side of things. Interested persons should contact Wayne Braunstein at wbraun@frontiernet.net to discuss this volunteer need.

Membership

We're looking for a person or persons to work on membership matters. Interested persons will work with membership data reports to generate renewal reminders and welcome letters for new members. Familiarity with word processing and mail merge operations is helpful but not critical. Interested persons should contact Wayne Braunstein at wbraun@frontiernet.net to discuss this volunteer need.

Experience Not Required

Many of the tasks do require access to a personal computer but being a computer geek is not a requirement. If you have know how to send and receive emails and have a word processing program on

your computer (and if you're comfortable with using it), you've got the basics covered.

For anyone interested in the newsletter, photo editing is not essential but if you know how to use a graphics program you'll be able to put it to good use. PVAS will provide a desktop publishing program for use in laying out the newsletter and the current editor will work with you to teach you the necessary techniques and tricks.

Getting a New iPad???

Tempted by the new iPad? If you find yourself with an "extra" iPad sitting around once the newest iPad is released, consider donating the old one to PVAS! With the new PVAS website on-line registrations, memberships and other administrative matters, AND PVAS' increased programs off-site, PVAS staff could definitely use access to e-mail and the website in remote locations. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution of your original iPad, we'd graciously accept. Thanks for considering this opportunity!

Master Naturalist Program Enters Sixth Year

PVAS's Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Program kicked off its sixth year of instruction March 17 and 18 with a full weekend of classes at Cacapon State Park. Classes will continue at various locations in the Eastern Panhandle into October. The accompanying photo shows this year's class members.



Potomac Valley Master Naturalist chapter has over 60 active members in the Eastern Panhandle area.

Remaining 2012 Master Course dates and locations are:

April 28, Shepherd University

May 19, TBA

June 23, NCTC

July 28, Cacapon State Park

August 11, NCTC

September 8, CraftWorks

October 6, Yankauer Nature Preserve

November/December, Annual Meeting

PVMN also sponsors Natural History Workshops which can be used by Certified Master Naturalists as recertification classroom hours, but are also open to the general public. These are posted at www.PotomacAudubon.org and registration for the spring classes is now available.

The co-chairs of this year's Program are Melanie Snyder, of Charles Town, and Susan Jones, of Berkeley Springs.

Calendar of Events

Details go to www.potomacaudubon.org

April 1, 2-3 pm:	Egg Hunt, Yankauer Preserve (Pre-registration required)
April 4, 8 am:	Bird walk, C&O Canal (Harpers Ferry)
April 5:	Birding 101 Kickoff (Pre-registration required)
April 11, 7 pm:	PVAS program, NCTC
April 14, 11 am-4pm:	Wildflower Festival at the Yankauer Nature Preserve
April 14, 8 am:	Birding trip, Shannondale Springs Wildlife Management Area
April 14:	Landscape Gardening Conference, Shenandoah University
April 18, 8 am:	Birding trip to Altona Marsh
April 21:	Annual "This Race is for the Birds!", NCTC
April 27, 6 pm:	Nature Photographers mtg., NCTC (wildflower photo shoot)
April 28, 8 am:	Birding trip, NCTC
April 29, 6:30 am:	Bird walk, Eidolon Preserve
May 2, 7 pm:	Joint NCTC/PVAS lecture at NCTC
May 5, 8 am:	Introduction to Birding at NCTC
May 5, 8 am:	Birding Through History, Antietam National Battlefield
May 5, 11 am:	Bald Eagle watch for parents and children (ages 6 and up), NCTC
May 6, 10 am:	Trillium walk at the Thompson Wildlife Management Area
May 6, 7 am:	Bird walk, C&O Canal (Shepherdstown area)
May 8, 8 am:	Bird walk, Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve
May 9, 7 pm:	PVAS program, NCTC
May 10 7 am:	Bird walk, Flowing Springs Park
May 12-13:	Third Annual Ruth Anne Dean Memorial Birdathon
May 25, 7 pm:	Potomac Valley Nature Photographers mtg., NCTC

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!



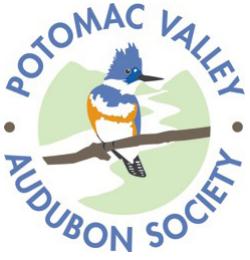
If you'd rather join the National Audubon Society:

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.



Potomac Valley Audubon Society
P O Box 578
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 30
Shepherdstown, WV

<http://www.potomacaudubon.org>

DATED MATERIALS



April 2012

Printed on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper

Volume 30, Issue 7



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 here 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.

PVAS Officers and Board Members

President:	Peter Smith 304 876-1139	pvsmit@frontiernet.net
Vice President:	Bob Reynolds	robert.reynolds40@gmail.com
Secretary:	Mina Goodrich	larrymina@peoplepc.com
Treasurer:	Lex Miller	pamandlex@frontiernet.net
Board Development:	Wayne Braunstein 304 728-7181	wbraun@frontiernet.net
Board Members-at-Large:	Don Briggs	1donaldbriggs@gmail.com
	Rob Hoxton	rholton@hoxtonfinancial.com
	Leigh Jenkins	jenkinsleigh@hotmail.com
	Georgia Jeppesen	georgia_jeppeisen@comcast.net
	Heather McSharry	heather_mcsharry@yahoo.com
	Jesse Morgan	jmorgan@a-zoneenvironmental.com
	Kathy Stolzenburg	kstolzenburg@gmail.com
	Jane Vanderhook.....	janehook@frontiernet.net

Ex Officio Board Members

Diana Mullis 304 267-3482.....dianamullis@aol.com

Emeritus Board Members

Jean Neely

jeaneely@comcast.net

Special Contacts

Executive Director: Kristin Alexander 304 676-3397

kaemail730@aol.com

Web Master: Kathy Bilton

kathy@fred.net

PVAS Wildlife Rescue Coord: Diana Mullis..... 304-267-3482