VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac Valley Audubon Society

Volume 27, Issue 4 December 2008

Eidolon Land Transfer Completed

The West Virginia chapter of The Nature Conservancy has now completed the transfer of two parcels of land within the Eidolon Nature Preserve to PVAS.

The deed that conveys the land to PVAS was executed on November 3 and filed in Morgan County on November 10.

This clears the way for work to begin on facilities to support educational programming at Eidolon.

One of the parcels that now belongs to PVAS is 1.4 acres in size. It is located near the preserve entrance and will be developed to include a parking area and school bus turnaround.

The other parcel is about 7 acres and includes the old stone cottage near the preserve's ridgeline. Here, we plan to restore the cottage so it can provide shelter for educational programming and develop a satellite parking area and turnaround. Over time, we also hope to construct an open education pavilion at this site.

PVAS has funds in hand to complete the main parking area and turnaround, and this is the work we will undertake first. This work will begin in early December, weather permitting. If we can raise an additional $3,000 or so we will also undertake much needed repairs to the preserve road over the coming winter.

The restoration of the cottage is currently scheduled for next summer.

The satellite parking area and pavilion will be completed later as funds become available.

The Eidolon preserve, a 354-acre property on Sideling Hill in Morgan County, was bequeathed to the Conservancy in 2006 by its longtime owner, Marguerite Zapoleon. In the fall of that year, PVAS signed an agreement with the Conservancy to co-manage the property.

The preserve was formally opened to the public in May 2007.

Watch for PVAS Annual Appeal

PVAS will launch its annual fundraising appeal on December 1.

Please watch your mailbox at that time for an appeal letter and an accompanying annual report that will provide an overview of our activities over the past 12 months.

Thanks in advance for whatever support you can provide to PVAS this year!

Fourth School Signs Up for Expanded Fourth Grade Program

In the October issue of *Valley Views*, we reported that we'd begun pilot testing an expanded version of our Watershed Education Initiative school program, and that three schools had signed up to participate.

Now, a fourth school, Mill Creek Intermediate, in Berkeley County, is also participating.

This brings the total number of students enrolled in this expanded program to more than 500.

The Watershed Education Initiative is designed to help fourth graders understand the importance of protecting water resources, which are one of our area's most pressing environmental issues.

Traditionally, this program has included 10 hours of instruction and activities over 16 weeks during the late winter and spring. The expanded version will allow students to explore water resource protection issues in more depth by providing 18 hours of instruction and activities over the entire school year.

See *Fourth Grade Program*, Page 2

Wine Tasting and Strawbale House Tour

The event on November 15 was a true success in every way. About 100 people attended the event which raised more than $7,000 with the support of sponsors, members, and friends. Attendees enjoyed hammer dulcimer music by Jody Mitchell, wine tasting by Grapes and Grains Gourmet of Shepherdstown, tours of the strawbale home of Kristin Alexander and Jeff Feldman, and delicious food and beverages provided by volunteers. Guests also participated in a sealed bid silent auction including a birding basket, traveler's basket, green goods basket, gourmet basket, and wine lover's basket. The silent auction alone raised over $800.

See *Strawbale Tour*, Page 2

President's Perch



Hello, everyone:

As is noted elsewhere in this newsletter, we're launching our annual fundraising appeal on December 1.

We know this isn't an easy time to be asking for funds. We, too, are very worried about the economy.

But the fact remains that we really depend on your contributions.

So it's our job to make the best case we can for your support, and that's what we've tried to do in our appeal letter and in the annual report that will accompany it.

Please keep an eye out for this mailing and take time to read it if you can. If you have any questions about it, don't hesitate to contact me or our Executive Director, Kristin Alexander.

And please remember that no matter how much you give to PVAS or how you give it, your contribution is greatly appreciated.

We couldn't provide all the services we provide without the help we receive from members and friends like you!

—Peter Smith

Fourth Grade Program (Continued from page 1)

PVAS will continue to offer its traditional, four-month fourth-grade program next February, and four schools are currently expected to participate in that program: Shepherdstown Elementary, North Jefferson Elementary, Orchard View Intermediate, and St. Joseph's.

The Warm Springs Intermediate School in Berkeley Springs may also participate; if so, this will be the first time PVAS has offered education programming in Morgan County!

The students enrolled in our new expanded Watershed Education Initiative have so far been introduced to their watershed address, learned about erosion and how planted buffer zones can help prevent erosion along rivers and streams, and have begun learning about stream water testing techniques.

In the next few weeks, students will continue to practice these tests and have the opportunity to videotape each other as they explain watersheds using the tabletop Enviroscape.

After Christmas, the emphasis of the program will begin to focus on ways that the students themselves can positively impact local watersheds including reducing the amount of garbage they produce each day.

This year long program also includes opportunities for students to participate in service-learning. All the students have been keeping Watershed Journals where they can record notes and writing assignments related to the program.

Writing prompts have included themes like "If I were a tree," "My life as a seed in a pot," and "My favorite season." Some students have had their essays posted online and if you'd like to see them, go to www.volunteerwvblog.net.

Strawbale Tour (Continued from page 1)

The event was covered by Winchester TV 3 and The Martinsburg Journal.

Because of the success of the event, the positive feedback, and interest in green homes; PVAS is considering making this an annual event at other green homes in the region.

A heart-felt thank you goes to the organizing committee for their time, creativity, and generosity: Jane Vanderhook, Alice Barkus, Susan Brookreson, Gretchen Meadows, and Deb Patthoff.

Thank you to our Wine Tasting and Strawbale House Tour Sponsors:

Panelwrights
Manufacturers of Structural Insulated Panels
Shenandoah Junction, WV

Tradewinds Floors
Charles Town, WV

Earth Choice Products
Shepherdstown, WV

Grapes and Grains Gourmet
Shepherdstown, WV

And for the donated items and support from:

Butler's Farm Market
Martinsburg, WV

Good Natured
A green general store in Martinsburg, WV

Mike and Deb Luska
Shepherdstown Coffee and Candlery

Panhandle Pottery
Martinsburg, WV

Tuscan Sun
Martinsburg, WV

Other School Programs Also Flourishing

Our school programs for the other K-6 grades, most of which involve trips to the Yankauer preserve, continued to flourish this fall.

Beginning in September, programs were offered to first, second and third graders from Ranson Elementary School and Burke Street, Tuscarora and Berkeley Heights elementary schools in Martinsburg. We also presented our third grade program to five classes at Rosemont Elementary School in Martinsburg who were unable to travel to Yankauer. In addition, PVAS participated in the PEP program at Camp Frame for all fifth graders at Potomack Intermediate School—which served 240 students in 2 days!

A custom program was developed for LD middle schoolers from Admiral Richard Byrd Middle School in Winchester who visited Yankauer in early November.

In all, we reached 757 students from 13 schools through these various programs, thanks to Ellen Murphy, our Youth Education Director, and our faithful PVAS volunteers.

Special thanks to volunteers Susan Brookreson, Joy Pardue, Susan DiMarino, Debbie Crouse, Nancy Kirschbaum, Caitlin McIntyre, Laurel Ady, Hannah Lloyd, Clark Dixon, and Wanda Miller, who made all the programs possible. Without the help of these wonderful people, none of our Yankauer-related school programs would be possible!

PVAS Gets Grant to Develop "Wee Naturalists" Program

The Two Rivers Giving Circle has awarded PVAS a $2,125 grant to initiate a new "Wee Naturalists" program for preschoolers and their parents.

The new program is an outgrowth of the summer camp sessions for preschoolers PVAS has been offering for the past two years. Those camp sessions have proven so popular, we've decided to offer the same kind of programming on an ongoing basis during the rest of the year.

The new program series will be called "Wee Naturalists" and will allow children and parents to explore the preserve and the changes that occur there through the seasons with guidance of a PVAS instructor.

Adult/child teams will come to the preserve on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. For the first half-hour they'll be invited to explore and familiarize themselves with the site on their own. Then the guided portion of the program will take place from 10-11a.m. Pre-registration will be required to keep group sizes small (ten children, ten adults).

There will be a small fee ($5 per session) charged for participation.

The Two Rivers Giving Circle grant will cover the start-up costs of this new program, which is being developed by an environmental education specialist with a specialty in early childhood education.

The program will be offered starting early next year. Keep an eye on the PVAS website for registration materials. For further information contact Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739 or ellen.l.murphy@comcast.net.

The purpose of the Wee Naturalists program will be to provide opportunities for children to have positive experiences in nature and for loving adults to share their own love of nature with the child.

PVAS has found, and research supports, that many parents are not comfortable exploring nature with their children because they feel they don't "know enough" or because of safety concerns.

The Wee Naturalists program will provide a nurturing environment for both children and adults to explore nature together safely and with a knowledgeable guide. This will help build adults' confidence to the point where they can frequently share nature with their children on their own.

The Two Rivers Giving Circle, which was established this year, comprises a group of donors who are focused on gifting funds to worthy conservation and preservation non-profits in eastern West Virginia.

It is hosted by the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation.

Reminder...No "Valley Views" in January

Please remember that there is no January issue of *Valley Views*. The next issue will be the February issue.

For late breaking announcements please check the PVAS website regularly, keep and eye on your email, and see your local paper for changes and new announcements.

Calendar:

Dec 6.... Christmas Parade in Shepherdstown
Dec 10.. PVAS Monthly Meeting
Dec 12.. Potomac Valley Nature Photographers
Dec 14.. Jefferson County Christmas Bird count
Jan 3..... Berkeley & Morgan county Christmas Bird Count.
Jan 14... PVAS Monthly Meeting
Jan 23... Potomac Valley Nature Photographers' Annual Potluck
Feb 11. PVAS Monthly Meeting

PVAS Develops New Nature Explorer Teacher Kits

Last year, with a $2,000 grant from the Nora Roberts Foundation, we developed a series of Nature Explorer Backpacks designed to help children explore the natural world on their own (see November 2007 *Valley Views*).

The backpacks contain a variety of books, field guides, supplies and activity ideas. They've been distributed to area libraries, and children can check them out and use them in company with an adult.

This year, with another $2,000 grant from the Foundation, we've developed new Nature Explorer Teacher Kits that are similar in concept to the backpacks but designed to be used by school and library instructors (the kits contain enough materials and supplies for an entire classroom of children).

So far, we have two kinds of kits: one that focuses on birds and another on insects.

Like the backpacks, the kits were designed and put together by Suzi Taylor, of Sharpsburg, Maryland, who's a veteran PVAS camp director and who has a degree in environmental education.

Starting early in 2009, the kits will be housed at Shepherdstown Public Library and be available not only to area teachers and librarians but to teachers and librarians throughout West Virginia through interlibrary loan.

The Nora Roberts Foundation has also given us an additional $5,000 grant this fall to continue to expand the Nature Explorer Backpack program and to grow our summer camp program. We're very grateful for this foundation's continuing support!

Chestnut Expert Speaks at Cacapon State Park

PVAS sponsored a talk by Kathy Marmet, of the American Chestnut Foundation, at Cacapon State Park on November 16.

Kathy discussed the current status of the Foundation's long-standing effort to reintroduce American chestnut trees to the forests of the eastern U.S.

For more information about the Foundation's work, see its website at www.acf.org.

The session was scheduled too late to be previewed in the November issue of *Valley Views*.

Homeschooler's Guide to Project FeederWatch

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has just released its newly revised, FREE ***Homeschooler's Guide to Project FeederWatch***.

For more than 20 years, Project FeederWatch has been an easy, fun way for children to learn about birds and strengthen their skills in observation, identification, research, computation, writing, creativity, and more. FeederWatchers keep track of the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders through the winter and report what they see to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

The ***Homeschooler's Guide to Project FeederWatch*** will guide you through bird-related activities that promote learning across many disciplines, including science, math, history, and the arts. Examples of these activities include:

- **Natural history**: Observe and research a bird's behavior and life cycle
- **Math:** Calculate average seed consumption rate and graph data
- **Writing:** Keep a nature journal to write stories and poetry
- **Geography:** Research the geographic ranges of birds
- **Art:** Keep a feeder-bird sketch book or create a papier mache mask

To download the ***Homeschooler's Guide to Project FeederWatch,*** visit www.FeederWatch.org and click on the "Education/Home School" button. You'll be able to download the PDF in low (2.2MB) or high (6.7MB) resolutions.

You may choose to use the free guide as a stand-alone resource, or sign up for Project FeederWatch to submit the data you gather. If you would like to be a project participant, the signup fee is $12 for members of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, $15 for non-members. There are discounts for group participation.

If you have any questions, please let us know how we can help by emailing feederwatch@cornell.edu.

Many Thanks to the 2008 Birdseed Crew...



It takes a lot of people and effort to get our birdseed orders processed and delivered: It begins with Wayne Braunstein helping get the order form updated, printed and folded into *Valley Views*. Next John and Nancy Ostrowski review the orders and put them into a computer data base (that John wrote) so that we have consolidated totals for each delivery point. Our PVAS Treasurer, Lex Miller, gets a stack of checks to process. And at long last delivery day comes with a crew of volunteers to help get the birdseed to you. These volunteers include the staff and owners of Gower's in Williamsport and Ranson, plus our PVAS people: Kathryn Henry, Al Davis, Carol Wood, Gail Teska, Georgia Jeppesen, Skylar Benedict, Susan Jones, Jean Neely, and Leigh Jenkins. A special thanks is in order for Hunter Hardware in Berkeley Springs, who again allowed us to use their warehouse as our birdseed delivery location.

Many thanks to everyone from your Birdseed Coordinator, Diana Mullis, and from PVAS.

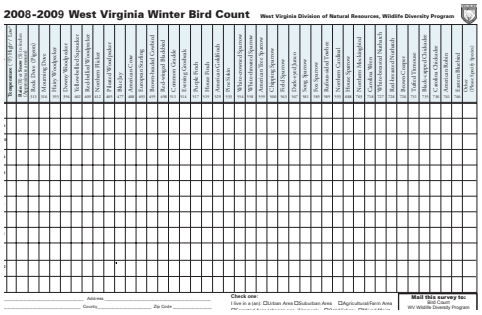
Give the Gift of Membership!

This holiday season, give the gift of a PVAS membership. Help keep your loved ones informed of upcoming events, give them first "dibs" on this year's summer camp registration, and support PVAS' mission at the same time. Just clip out the membership form on page 7 of this newsletter and send it in on behalf of the recipient.

WV Backyard Bird Count Underway

The 20th Annual West Virginia Backyard Bird Count kicked off on the weekend of November 1 & 2. Don't worry if you would like to participate but you didn't get started at the kick off. Part of the Wildlife Diversity Program, this bird count lasts 12 weeks and you can begin your own observations now and still add to the relevant data. The data is used by West Virginia Division of Natural Resources to determine the distribution of wintering birds in West Virginia.

The count is easy to conduct, great fun for the entire family, and requires recording only one observation per weekend; but it allows observers to record the greatest number of a species seen at one time when multiple observations are made in a weekend.


2008-2009 West Virginia Winter Bird Count

For forms visit www.wvdnr.govWildlife/WinterBirdCount.shtm. If you have questions, contact Rob Tallman at (304) 637-0245 or email rtallman@wvdnr.gov.

Sign Up Now for Christmas Bird Counts

PVAS has set December 14 and January 3 as the dates for its annual Eastern Panhandle Christmas Bird Counts. The December 14 count will focus on Jefferson County. The January 5 count will focus on Berkeley and Morgan counties.

These local-area counts are part of a Christmas Bird Count that has been conducted throughout the western hemisphere every year since 1900 under the auspices of the National Audubon Society.

The purpose is to monitor the status and distribution of early-winter bird populations.

The data collected from this volunteer-based effort have been folded into what is now the longest-running database in ornithology, representing over 100 years of continuous information. This database is used to help spot trends in bird populations, which in turn can help identify shifts in environmental conditions.

Currently, over 50,000 volunteers across the Americas participate in each year's count.

Both experienced and novice birders are welcome to join in this season's Eastern Panhandle counts. Novice volunteers will be teamed with those who have more experience.

To register and/or obtain more information, contact Nancy Kirschbaum at 304-876-6881 or nancyk500@comcast.net.

Upcoming Programs Will Explore Avian Flu and "Night Sounds"

Our December meeting will feature a presentation about Avian Influenza.

The speaker will be Dr. Mark Abdy, a veterinarian and pathologist who has been researching and tracking Avian Influenza outbreaks. Dr. Abdy is also Vice President of the Washington County Bird Club.

The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on December 10 at the National Conservation Training Center. It will be held in Room 105 of the Center's Instructional East Building.

Our January speaker will be Kevin Dodge, Professor of Wildlife and Biology at western Maryland's Garrett College, and Director of the college's Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology program.

The topic of his talk will be "Night Sounds," and he will demonstrate and discuss the nocturnal sounds typically heard in the Appalachian mountains.

This meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at NCTC, in Room 151 of the Instructional West building.

Reminder: Eidolon Hunting and Hiking Schedule for December

If you're planning to visit the Eidolon Nature Preserve in early December, please remember that the firearm season for deer continues through December 13 and keep the following rules in mind:

- Eidolon's trails will be closed to hikers on Saturday December 6 and Saturday December 13.
- In accordance with state law, no hunting will be permitted on Sundays.
- On all other days during the firearm season for deer, the trails will be open to hikers from 10 am until 3 pm only.
- Hunters must be licensed by the state and follow all applicable state laws and regulations.
- For their part, hikers should exercise appropriate caution at all times during hunting season and wear at least one item of blaze orange clothing.

Full details can be found on the PVAS website.

November Polar Bear Talk Postponed

Our November meeting at the National Conservation Training Center did not focus on polar bears because our planned speaker, Carolyn Rushizky, fell ill.

Instead, fisheries biologist Sandy Burk gave a lively and interesting presentation about the resurgence of fish populations in the Potomac River.

And we also heard from Ellie Didden, a Shepherdstown sixth-grader, about her experience last summer at the Hog Island Audubon camp in Maine.

We will try to reschedule Carolyn's talk to a later date.

Master Naturalist Program Wraps Up Second Year

PVAS's Potomac Valley Master Naturalist (PVMN) program wrapped up its second year with an annual meeting on November 8 at the National Conservation Training Center.

The event included a breakfast gathering and certification ceremony. More than 30 members, families, and friends attended.

Certification was awarded to:

Members of the 2008 class – Debbie Crouse, Barry Cutler, Marika Cutler, Charles Sullivan, Gail Testa, Eldon Winston, and Virginia Winston.

Members of the 2007 class who weren't able to finish all their course work that year – Susan Brookreson, Carol DelColle, Angie Faulkner, Don Henry, Kathryn Henry, Leigh Jenkins, Joy Pardue, Carol Wood, and Barry Zeigler.

Individuals who were certified in 2007 received re-certifications – Wanda Miller, Marcyanna Millet, Ellen Murphy, Nancy Little, Diane Sylvester, Suzi Taylor, and Mary Youngblood.

Individuals who were certified by the state of West Virginia at the time that PVAS's Master Naturalist program was established in 2006 also received certifications – Clark Dixon, Ora Dixon, and Cheryl Jennings.



Clark Dixon, who co-chairs the PVMN Coordinating Committee, thanked NCTC and Cacapon State Park for hosting PVMN classes for a second successful year. He also expressed gratitude to the program's participants, instructors, and Coordinating Committee, and thanked PVAS and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources for their continuing support.

PVAS's Master Naturalist program will offer its third year of instruction beginning in April of 2009. Watch upcoming issues of *Valley Views* and the PVAS website for details about the course schedule and application information.

Also in 2009, PVAS's Master Naturalist program will be the host organization for the fifth annual meeting of the Alliance of Natural Resources Outreach & Service Programs. The meeting will be held at NCTC in the fall.

Database Advice Sought

Like most growing organizations, PVAS has outgrown its current database system. Do you have database expertise or know someone who does? PVAS is seeking pro-bono advice on the best system to meet our needs to manage data for membership, donors, newsletter distribution, camp participants, and other items. If you would like to share your expertise, please contact Kristin Alexander at 304-676-3397 or PVASmail@aol.com. Thank you!

Midnight Regulations May Hurt Environmental Progress

On September 9, New York Times reported that the outgoing Bush administration was engaging in the tradition of adopting Midnight (the three months between Election Day and Inauguration Day) Regulations in its waning days. The practice of enacting last minute regulation and making appointments dates back to John Adams and has been used by virtually every sitting president since.

What makes the use of this practice different as applied by the current administration is the pointedness of the attack on environmental regulation and the rush to enact regulation that has not always been thoroughly argued in open forum. For examples, see the OMB Watch list at right.

If enacted under due process, midnight regulations take a great deal of time and effort to reverse. In fact, the process is akin to setting regulations anew. Regulations enacted in the last 60 days of the term are much easier to set aside.

With this in mind, the Bush Administration adopted a policy of enacting changes before November 1. According to a story posted on Politico.com on November 11, http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1108/15530.html, "It could take Obama years to undo climate rules finalized more than 60 days before he takes office — the advantage the White House sought by getting them done by Nov. 1. But that strategy doesn't account for the Congressional Review Act of 1996. The law contains a clause determining that any regulation finalized within 60 legislative days of congressional adjournment is considered to have been legally finalized on the 15th legislative day of the new Congress, likely sometime in February. Congress then has 60 days to review it and reverse it with a joint resolution that can't be filibustered in the Senate. In other words, any regulation finalized in the last half-year of the Bush administration could be wiped out with a simple party-line vote in the Democrat-controlled Congress."

According to Politico.com, "Congress last used the CRA in 2001 to overturn a Clinton administration rule that set new requirements for ergonomic work spaces. Targets of the CRA [this time] may include a rule to allow federal agencies to determine on their own whether their policies will threaten endangered species, rather than requiring them to go through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for approval. Regulations opening land in the West to oil shale development and mountaintop removal could also be on the block."

For all of us that are interested and concerned it is necessary to make our feelings known to our congressional representatives as the new regulations are published and considered. To ensure our representatives' act responsibly will require comments on specific regulations, not broadside complaints about the administration's actions.

To do that requires that we all stay attuned to the new regulations. One of the best ways to stay up-to-date and informed is through monitoring the proposed changes. There are numerous blogs and environmental watch groups like EarthJustice and our own Audubon Alerts. A comprehensive source for all proposed regulatory change is OMB Watch at http://ombwatch.org/.

OMB Watch List - Environment

Rule Description	Status
Office of Surface Mining (Interior) — The rule would allow mining companies to dump the waste (i.e. excess rock and dirt) from mountaintop mining into rivers and streams.	Final rule sent to OMB Sept. 22.
Department of the Interior — The rule would alter implementation of the Endangered Species Act by allowing federal land-use managers to approve projects like infrastructure creation, minerals extraction, or logging without consulting federal habitat managers and biological health experts responsible for species protection. Currently, consultation is required.	Final rule sent to OMB Nov. 13.
Environmental Protection Agency — The rule would ease current restrictions that make it difficult for power plants to operate near national parks and wilderness areas.	Final rule sent to OMB Oct. 30.
Environmental Protection Agency — Under the rule, concentrated animal feeding operations, i.e. factory farms, could allow farm runoff to pollute waterways without a permit. The rule circumvents the Clean Water Act, instead allowing for self-regulation.	Final rule announced by EPA Oct. 31. (Final rule)
Environmental Protection Agency — The rule would change EPA's New Source Review program, which requires new facilities or renovating facilities to install better pollution control technology, by subjecting fewer facilities to its requirements.	Final rule has not been sent to OMB.
Environmental Protection Agency — The rule would exempt factory farms from reporting air pollution emissions from animal waste.	Final rule sent to OMB Oct. 24.
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Department of Commerce) — The rule would transfer the responsibility for examining the environmental impacts of federal ocean management decisions from federal employees to advisory groups that represent regional fishing interests. The rule would also make it more difficult for the public to participate in the environmental assessment process required by the National Environmental Policy Act.	Final rule sent to OMB Nov. 4.
Environmental Protection Agency — The rule would reclassify thousands of tons of hazardous waste as fuel, allowing it to be burned instead of sensitively disposed of. The emissions generated by burning the waste would be more toxic than emissions from burning fossil fuels. The chemical industry is advocating for more categories of waste to be reclassified.	Final rule sent to OMB June 26.
Bureau of Land Management (Interior) — Capitalizing on a recent decision by Congress to let the ban on oil shale development to expire, the BLM rule would open 2 million acres of western land to leasing. Environmentalists say oil shale development, which involves extracting liquid oil from solid rock by heating it, increases greenhouse gas emissions and requires intensive water use.	Final rule published by BLM Nov. 18. Effective date: Jan. 17, 2009 (Final rule)

Volunteers Needed for Eidolon Trail Work

After the deer-hunting season concludes on December 13, we'll be scheduling trail-work days at the Eidolon Nature Preserve.

The exact schedule will, of course, be subject to the kind of winter weather we have this year. But when conditions permit, groups of volunteers will be organized to help clear the trails of accumulated deadfalls, and to provide more clearly defined tracks for the more undeveloped trails.

Anyone with an interest and a strong back is welcome to join in. Individuals who have chain saws and are proficient in their use will be especially welcome.

To volunteer or find out more contact Tim Murphy at 304-876-8133 or timurph@comcast.net or Joe Gentile at 304-258-3197.

Nature Photographers

Potomac Valley Nature Photographers will have their annual competition on December 12 at 7 p.m. at the National Conservation Training Center. Members will be able to vote on the best photograph from an advanced photographer and the best photo by a beginner/intermediate photographer. The rules are posted at the website: www.potomacvalleynaturephotographers.org. Entries should be brought that evening and picked up at the end of the night. Winners will be presented with ribbons.

The group will then have their annual potluck at the Men's Club in Shepherdstown on January 23 at 6:30 p.m. to celebrate the group's 3rd anniversary. Please let Donna Hershberger know to expect you by e-mailing her at donna@natureimagesandsounds.com. PVMN will provide the main dish, drinks, cups, plates and cutlery, and guests are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Remember United Way/CFC Fund Drives

Here's a final reminder that the annual fundraising campaigns of the United Way of the Eastern Panhandle and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) will continue through December 15.

PVAS receives funding from United Way and CFC each year and encourages its members to give to these organizations if they wish.

CFC is the mechanism for federal employees to contribute to their local United Way. If you would like to designate PVAS as the recipient of all or part of your CFC contribution you can do so simply by entering PVAS's CFC number (29061) on the CFC form that you file with your employing agency.

North American Bluebird Society Selling Video "Bluebird Basics"

The NABS store front has a sale on the Stokes "Bluebird Basics" tape. You can order at there website, www.nabluebird-society.org/education1.htm. This is a great video for your own use or to show for Bluebird talks. It makes a wonderful gift for Bluebird friends. Regularly priced at $16, they are available for $8 as a post-nesting season sale. The videos will be sold on a first come, basis.



JOIN PVAS TODAY!

We now offer two kinds of memberships:

1. PVAS Local Membership

Here's what you get:

- Access to a wide variety of PVAS programs and events for adults and children.
- Discounts for selected chapter activities, like children's summer camps.
- A subscription to PVAS's newsletter and e-mail alerts about events and programs of special interest.
- ALL your dues stay here to support local PVAS efforts!

To become a local member: Enclose a check for $20 ($15 for seniors and students). Please make check out to "PVAS." This fee covers membership for everyone in your household for one year.

2. Dual Membership with National Audubon

You get all the benefits of PVAS membership plus membership in the National Audubon Society, which includes a subscription to *Audubon* magazine. If you select this option, almost all of your dues will go to National Audubon. To obtain a dual membership, enclose a check for $20 if you are joining NAS for the first time or $35 to renew an existing NAS membership ($15 in either case for seniors and students). Make check out to "National Audubon Society."

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip code: _____

Phone (optional): _____

E-mail: (optional): _____

Membership Type (check one):

PVAS Local Membership ____
(For PVAS local membership, check the box following if you do NOT want PVAS to share your contact information with National Audubon: ___)

Dual Membership with National Audubon ____

I'd like to get *Valley Views* by e-mail___ US mail ___ (check one)

.....(Audubon chapter code Y54; source code 79N7)

Clip and mail this form to:
Membership Chair, PVAS
PO Box 578
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Thank you for your support!

RED DOT ALERT

If 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 Dual membership or Local membership.

Potomac Valley Audubon Society
P O Box 578
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
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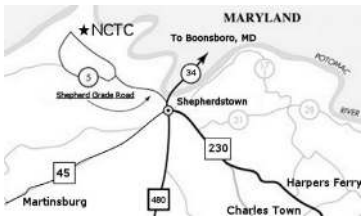
http://www.potomacaudubon.org

DATED MATERIALS

A proud partner of the United Way of the Eastern Panhandle and the Combined Federal Campaign.

MAIL TO:

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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 Widlife 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 Wednesday 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

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