VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac Valley Audubon Society

Volume 28, Issue 4 December 2009

Watch for PVAS Annual Appeal Mailing

PVAS will launch its annual fundraising appeal on December 1.

We know this isn't an easy time to be asking for funds. The overall health of the economy is still a great concern.

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.

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!

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

PVAS Gets Grant to Develop New Second Grade Program

The Two Rivers Giving Circle has awarded PVAS a $1,500 grant to help PVAS develop a new second grade school program that will not require field trips but instead rely on each school's grounds for outdoor nature study and exploration.

Currently, all of PVAS's school programs involve field trips, mostly to our Yankauer Nature Preserve in Berkeley County.

While we feel that trips to sites like the Yankauer Preserve will always be more instructive for children, we now need to offer optional programs that are entirely school-based because more and more schools are sharply restricting field trips to cut costs.

Based on feedback we've received from teachers, we believe this optional programming will be very popular.

We are currently seeking grant help to develop such programming for other K-6 grades.

The Two Rivers Giving Circle, which was established in 2008, 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.

Last year, the Circle supported the development of our popular new "Wee Naturalists" program.

PVAS Leads School Trips to New Park

Fourth and fifth grade classes from Ranson Elementary School took field trips to Ranson's new Flowing Springs Park on October 21 and 22 respectively.

They were the first school groups to visit the new park, which is still under development.

The trips were part of the students' participation in PVAS's Watershed Education Initiative program, which is being offered at the school this fall thanks to a grant from the City of Ranson.

The program is aimed at educating area youngsters about the importance of protecting water resources.

During the field trips, school staff, PVAS staff, and volunteers guided students through a variety of outdoor learning activities. Also participating was Sara Wuertenberg, of the Berkeley County Conservation District, who helped with a stream table demonstration.



The West Virginia Division of Forestry's Project CommuniTree provided t-shirts for all the fourth graders who participated.

The students caught and examined aquatic animals including

See *School Trip*, Page 5

President's Perch



Hello, everyone:

As is noted elsewhere in this newsletter, two of PVAS's most respected longtime members passed away within days of each other during October.

As a relative newcomer to the organization, I never had the opportunity to know Bill Hartgroves.

But fortunately I was able to work closely with Bill Belton on Eidolon Nature Preserve matters, starting early in 2006.

That was when we first began discussions in earnest with The Nature Conservancy about managing the Eidolon property; in fact, the first of those discussions was held in Bill's living room.

Here's what I wrote about Bill Belton in this column in November of 2006, after our management role at Eidolon had been finalized and announced:

> *Remember that PVAS's involvement in this exciting new venture is due almost entirely to the tireless efforts of longtime PVAS member and Board member emeritus Bill Belton. Bill, who has lived near the Eidolon property for decades, knew [Marguerite Zapoleon, the donor of the Eidolon property], and was aware of her intention to bequeath the property to The Nature Conservancy. He long ago recognized the opportunities for PVAS from that situation, and over the years he has worked assiduously to make sure that those opportunities were realized—in no small part by constantly prodding an often distracted and sometimes reluctant PVAS Board to keep focused on the project.*

Bill's Eidolon efforts didn't end there. He remained interested and active in the development of the preserve—and yes, kept on prodding—until just before his death.

I miss him. He was a great inspiration to me personally and to PVAS generally.

I'm told that Bill Hartgroves was also a great inspiration and also made many significant contributions to PVAS, particularly during its early years.

So individuals can and do make a difference.

—Peter Smith

Birdseed Sale Thank You —

Our sale went very this year with a total of about 24,000 pounds of birdseed sold. Many thanks to John & Nancy Ostrowski for organizing and computerizing all the orders and payments. Many thanks to Marvin & Judy Gower, John Bir, and all the staff at Gower's in Williamsport & Ranson ... it's a pleasure to work with all of you and the birdseed is great! Many thanks to Hunter Hardware in Berkeley Springs for letting us deliver seed from their warehouse, and thanks also to the Shepherd U. students who came to observe and help in Ranson: Rachel Holmes, Jeff Birdsall & Taylor. And many thanks to our delivery day helpers: Kathryn Henry & Al Davis (Williamsport), Bruni Haydl & Marilee Cunningham (Ranson), and Susan Jones & Barbara Herrman (Berkeley Springs). If you run into any snags with your order, call me: Diana Mullis at 304-267-3482 or email dianamullis@aol.com .

Green Home Reception a Success

On October 24, Martinsburg architects Matthew Grove and Lisa Dall'Olio hosted a Reception and Green Home Tour at their new home in Broomgrass—an organic farm community they've developed in Berkeley County near Gerrardstown. In addition to tours of the home, the event included organic wines and delicious hors d'oeuvres and sweets provided by talented and generous volunteers. A popular raffle was held – a feed trough containing straw, a scarecrow, bird seed, bird feeder, rake, pumpkins, mums and gourds. Nearly 60 people attended and others contributed to the cause, raising about $4000 for PVAS' educational programs.



A heart-felt thank you goes to Matthew Grove and Lisa Dall-Olio for opening their home for the event, and for giving several tours through the day. Thanks also go to Alice Barkus, Diana Mullis, and Jane Vanderhook for helping to plan the event. The event's food and wine was provided by volunteers Alice Barkus, Mina Goodrich, Wanda Miller, Diana Mullis, and Vicki Smith. We also appreciate the support of Grapes and Grains Gourmet and The Press Room.

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 encourages its members to support these organizations.

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

To designate United Way contributions to PVAS, look for the section of the United Way contribution form that says "Tell us how you would like United Way to invest your donation," enter the dollar amount you wish to designate to PVAS in the space next to the phrase "Restricted contribution," and write "Potomac Valley Audubon Society" in the line below that.

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

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

REMEMBERING BILL HARTGROVES—AN APPRECIATION

By Jean Neely

After the initial sadness of the news about Bill, I started to get a stream of memories flooding into my brain—a 'déjà vu moment'—all about those days back in the early '80s when we got this chapter started.

Bill was PVAS's "outings chair" on that first board back in 1982. And what outings he led! No sissy bird walks! We hiked, climbed and canoed our way to various hot spots he declared "unmissable". He was relentless, and we kidded him about his tattered shoes, his ancient car, and "mountain goat" tendencies, the latter keeping us breathless. Moreover, his wonderful and extensive knowledge of *Lepidoptera* was the way we all learned about butterflies on all trips.

Later, Bill became vice-president and then president. In things National Audubon, he was active in the then Audubon Council (there were 5 chapters at one point in WV), and in regional Mid-Atlantic conferences. He attended the National Audubon Convention in Bellingham, Washington in 1987.

In 1984, his enthusiasm for canoeing the Okefenokee Swamp was what drove him to organize and lead nine of us down there for a fairly difficult trip—in south Georgia. (I remember him promising we'd all see Pogo!) 'Gators, snakes, birds and lots and lots of dark water overhung with moss-draped trees, and imagined, if not real, water moccasins. The final touch was our 'glorious leader' getting lost—the high water had covered the takeout sign and some of us blithely paddled on a mile past it before realizing our mistake. (As I recall, it was Dotty and Lou Dittmar who found the right landing spot.)

He and wife Jean loved hosting the annual PVAS picnic, which generally began with a canoe trip on the Shenadoah River. We'd put in upstream a few miles and take out at his house. I still have some old photos of those trips, and I remember well Bill (in MY canoe) going thru some rapids BACKWARDS! We all feasted on potluck and favorite beverages for the rest of the day.

I also remember what a wonderful gardener he was. He knew plants cold. His glorious day lilies filled me with jealous longings, so one day he appeared at the house with plastic bags full of some of his prize stock, ready to go into the ground.

In a more recent project, Bill took on the restoration of the DNR property along the east side of the Shenandoah—Shannondale Springs. Restoration of the old buildings and acting as cheerleader for the site were the driving forces for several years of his life.

As I reflected on the rich life this man enjoyed and how he touched ours, I recall anecdotes related by other PVASers: For an Audubon Council meeting in Blackwater Falls State Park, he left behind the ham that Jean had carefully prepared for us, forcing him to buy a canned version in Davis.

We are the richer for the influence he had on our chapter, and the infectious enthusiasm he had for the natural world. How fortunate we were to be able to enjoy him and his generous friendship.

I know I'll miss him.

BILL BELTON, LONGTIME PVAS INTERNATIONAL CHAIR, DIES AT 95

Before Bill Belton came onto the Eastern Panhandle scene, he had the unique distinction of being the proverbial 'legend in his own time'. Not only had he pursued a long career in the Foreign Service of the U. S. State Department, he was a renowned neo-tropical ornithologist, recognized as a leading authority on the birds of Brazil. Bill's recordings of indigenous birds are at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Indeed, the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) manages "The William Belton Conservation Grants Program -- the oldest continuously running bird conservation grant program in the Western Hemisphere. The program helps local conservation groups and scientists by providing funds that make emerging conservation efforts, such as fieldwork and travel, possible, and by assisting with the development of conservation plans. Grants often involve local communities in implementing conservation and developing solutions.

We were lucky that Bill and Judy Belton built their retirement house in Great Cacapon and joined our Audubon chapter, where he became a force for our participation in international bird conservation. True, we were small, but we did have his list of contacts in many South American countries where we could send small grants for the purchase of binoculars, field guides, and other equipment to birders there.

During the 1992 NAS Convention in Estes Park, Colorado, Wil Hershberger and Bill worked very hard to help with the Chiapas Project. This bio-diverse area of southern Mexico has wonderful unspoiled habitat and, together with Seattle Audubon, PVAS became active in helping local conservationists to preserve it.

Here at home, however, Bill became our conscientious 'gadfly'. He pushed the PVAS board to develop the Yankauer Nature Preserve in partnership with The Nature Conservancy. Later, his crowning achievement was to pursue the same goal with TNC's Eidolon Nature Preserve in Morgan County. He was instrumental in persuading the board to adopt the same partnership with TNC, and today that is a reality.

Bill didn't live to see his most fervent desire for Eidolon come to fruition. It was his hope that the stone cottage be restored to a working building to serve as a centerpiece for activities at Eidolon and as a community resource in Morgan County. But just before his passing he was pleased to learn that public parking and road improvements inside the preserve were completed and Eidolon was that much closer to living up to its potential as an education and conservation gem in Morgan County. To his credit, Bill just wouldn't let the land go fallow.

Our friend has gone, but we revel in the realization that we helped some of his dreams come true.



January Program Will Look at Wintering Waterbirds

PVAS's next program at the National Conservation Training Center will be a January 13 presentation about "Populations and Conservation of Wintering Waterbirds in the Chesapeake Bay and Mid-Atlantic Coastal Waters."

The speaker will be a leading expert on the subject: migratory bird biologist Doug Forsell.

Doug has studied migratory birds for more than three decades, mostly with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

After earning a Master's Degree in Wildlife Management from California State University Humbolt, he spent ten years in Alaska primarily studying the at-sea distribution and abundance of marine birds. He spent four years as the refuge manager of five remote tropical Pacific islands where he studied breeding biology of tropical seabirds.

Since moving to the Fish and Wildlife Service's Chesapeake Bay Field Office in 1990, his major activities have been focused on interpretation of waterfowl population trends, surveys of waterbirds in offshore waters of the Chesapeake Bay, assessing the mortality of waterbirds in anchored gillnets, modeling diving duck distributions, and identifying threats to birds and their habitats and promoting their restoration.

He has also conducted aerial winter waterbird surveys to determine the distribution of waterbirds along the mid-Atlantic coast.

Wee Naturalist Program Continues

The very popular "Wee Naturalists" program for preschoolers will have its last programs in 2009 on December 16 at the Yankauer Preserve in Berkeley County and on the December 17 at Craftworks at Cool Spring, south of Charles Town. Space is still available at both locations. To register or learn more, contact Suzi Taylor at 301-432-1908.

The program will continue in 2010 at the Yankauer location, the third Wednesday of January, February, March and April. The time of the program will continue to be 9:30-11 am in 2010. The program is open to children ages 3 to 5. All participating children must be accompanied at each session by a parent, grandparent or other adult relative or guardian to explore the preserve together. The programs at CraftWorks in southern Jefferson County will likely resume later in the year.

As in the past, the program is aimed at providing regular opportunities for small children and loving adults to explore nature together safely under the guidance of an experienced PVAS instructor. All sessions are conducted whatever the weather, and use a hands-on discovery approach. To ensure that everyone receives close, personal attention, enrollment is limited to ten child/adult teams per session. (If demand warrants, a second session will be scheduled after the morning session again next year.)

Families may register for one, several, or all of the sessions but pre-registration is required. The fee will be $8 per child/adult team per session or $7/session if a child registers for three or more sessions. (A slight increase to support the program without grant funding.)

The Wee Naturalists program was initiated last January with start-up funding provided by a grant from the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation's Two Rivers Giving Circle.

Registration materials for the 2010 program series can be found at www.PotomacAudubon.org. For more information, contact the Wee Naturalist Director, Suzi Taylor, at 301-432-1908.

Sign Up Now for Christmas Bird Counts

PVAS has set December 19 and January 2 as the dates for this winter's annual Eastern Panhandle Christmas Bird Counts.

The December 19 count will focus on Jefferson County. The January 2 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.

All those who participate must register beforehand with PVAS.

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

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 12 and keep the following rules in mind:

- Eidolon's trails will be closed to hikers on Saturday December 5 and Saturday December 12.
- 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 a.m. until 3 p.m. 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.

School Trip (continued from page 1)

macro invertebrates, salamanders, and crayfish. Many students were seeing these creatures for the first time.

The fourth graders had a close look at a Great Blue Heron walking in the parks wetlands. The bird lifted off and flew over the group, much to their delight.

The students had been prepared for their field trips by a series of PVAS-led classroom lessons about watershed issues and aquatic habitats.

The students, teachers, and chaperones who participated in the field trips expressed enthusiasm for the new park.

Several parents commented that they themselves had grown up playing outside and exploring streams, but their children had not. The parents were glad to learn about the new natural park and said they appreciated having such a place nearby for their children to explore.

The park, which is approximately 30 acres in size, is located between Flowing Springs Road and Route 9, near the Potomac Towne Center shopping center.

It contains the spring that is the source of Flowing Springs Run and provides habitat for a rich variety of wildlife.

Ranson city officials say they want to preserve as many of the park's natural features as possible.

PVAS is part of an advisory group that is helping city officials develop the park, and has been conducting inventories of the property's flora and fauna.

TheCornellLab of Ornithology

What's That Bird Doing? Explore Bird Behavior with New Online Course

Students develop new skills with e-learning offering from Cornell
Ithaca, NY—Why does a Red-winged Blackbird flare its colorful wing patches? What does it mean when ducks bob their heads? Is the way a bird arranges its feathers significant?

Answering these questions gets to the heart of bird behavior, which is all about sex and survival. Anyone can explore fascinating patterns of bird behavior in a new five-week online course from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The goal of **"Investigating Behavior: Courtship and Rivalry in Birds"** is to help people learn how to observe and interpret some of the ways birds are communicating with their behavior. Some of those behaviors are literally a matter of life and death.

"The online course will make all my bird watching that much richer," said Phyllis K.of Washington state, one of the first students to go through the course

"It's not your typical text-heavy, lecture-based tutorial," said course instructor and content coauthor Colleen McLinn. "It's packed with multimedia and interactive activities that make this course unlike anything else available. We wanted to create a learning environment that's friendly and accessible to everyone." Course multimedia content comes from the Cornell Lab's Macaulay Library, the largest archive of animal sounds in the world, with a growing video collection.

"Courtship and Rivalry in Birds" explores a basic principle of bird behavior each week, featuring common and exotic species. From Florida Scrub-Jay families in which siblings help raise new chicks, to the jaw-dropping plumages and bizarre dances of the birds-of-paradise, the goal is to help students develop new skills in observing birds and be able to apply what they've learned anywhere.

"You get the whole gamut—from birds you might see in your backyard to the most spectacular birds on the planet," said course coauthor Kevin McGowan. "If you pay attention, there are a lot of things happening—you can look at small movements, see how movements are put together, and figure out what it all means."

As part of the course, students participate in online discussions with the instructor and classmates. Interactive activities include trying to think like a bird—making behavioral decisions that have a direct impact on survival.

"With this new online course, we want to share our passion for birds and nature in a new way," said John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "We want anyone who is curious about nature to come along as we explore the fascinating, beautiful, and continually surprising world of birds!"

The online course was developed in partnership with eCornell, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cornell University. For more information about the course and to register for the five-week session **beginning November 11**, visit www.ecornell.com/birds--**be sure to watch the video** with more about the course contents. Another session will begin January 6, 2010. The cost of the course is $295 ($255 for Cornell Lab members) with a $30 dollar registration fee. To receive the Cornell Lab member discount, sign up by phone at (866) 326-7635.

Contact: Pat Leonard, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, (607) 254-2137, pel27@cornell.edu
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Nature Photographers



The Potomac Valley Nature Photographers will meet at NCTC on the 11th of December at 7 p.m. The group has invited a guest speaker from a Northern Virginia Camera club as the presenter. Go to the website at www.potomacvalleynaturephotographers.org/new/index.php for more information as the event gets closer. Members are also invited to provide up to three photos for the "Show and Share," to share their recent photos with other club members.

Annual Great Backyard Bird Count Kicks Off

This year's Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is scheduled for Presidents Day Weekend (February 12 - 15). Please save these dates! This year National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are promoting the GBBC as a great activity for families that's both free and educational, while also getting kids outside. In a time when people are cutting back expenses, the GBBC makes the perfect stay-cation.. Visit www.birdcount.org to view this year's press release for the GBBC.



The GBBC Web page makes the citizen science clear. *Each year the GBBC provides the most detailed real-time snapshot of bird distribution across North America, and we can see how birds are responding to changing weather patterns, available food sources, and other factors. With all of the results publicly available online, anyone can explore the data to see how birds are faring in their area. Although in-depth studies are necessary to further confirm any trends in bird distribution found during the GBBC, and to document their causes, these preliminary results are often clear indicators of how birds are responding to changes in our shared environment.*

More on that point, (quoting the Web site) *last year Audubon produced a report on common birds that are declining across their range (http://stateofthebirds.audubon.org/cbid). This report documented declines in bird numbers seen on the Christmas Bird Count and Breeding Bird Surveys. Last year we noted that we could see similar declines in the same species on the Great Backyard Bird Count (http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/science-stories/08Highlights). This year we continue to see declines in some of these species.* Declines are not only evident in the wild; they are showing up in our back yards.

Join in, have some fun, and take part in some citizen science.

PVNWG Readers' Club First Anniversary

The Potomac Valley Nature Writing Group formed in early 2009 to promote and celebrate this fascinating genre of literature. The PVNWG Readers' Club will soon mark its first anniversary. We meet on the first Sunday of each month to discuss the previous month's book selection. Recent books of the month included *Red-tails in Love* by Marie Winn, and *The Long Legged House* by Wendell Berry. For December 2009, it is reader's choice--any book by Diane Ackerman—to be the subject of the Club's meeting in January 2010. The Readers' Club currently convenes in a member's home. Individuals interested in joining may attend a first meeting as a guest of a current member.

Aspiring nature *writers* who would like to support and encourage one another are also encouraged to contact PVNWG. If there is enough interest, a writer's group to complement the reader's group will be formed.

For more information and/or to arrange to attend the Readers' Group as a guest, go to http://potomacvalleynaturewritinggroup.blogspot.com/ or contact Sandra Bloom, pvnaturewriters@gmail.com

The poem below is published as a seasonal treat of fun and whimsy. It is intended solely for entertainment and in appreciation of a creative twist on a familiar literaty work.

'Twas the Morning of Christmas by Scott Shalaway

'Twas the morning of Christmas,
And all `round the house,
the feeders were empty,
Not enough for a mouse.
Each feeder was hung
From its perch with great care,
But on this frosty morning,
The cupboards were bare.
Tubes, trays and suet bags...
Too many to mention.
In the Christmas Eve rush
They'd escaped my attention.
The rising sun on the breast of a new fallen snow,
Accented the vacuum in the feeders below.
I couldn't believe it, I'd stayed up too late.
I'd forgotten my friends on this most special date.
A hungry flock waited in dawn's early light, Reminding me clearly of my rude oversight.
Impatient, they perched in an old apple tree, Famished and- anxious, some scolded me.
Ashamed and embarrassed, I flew down the stairs,
I whistled and shouted like a big angry bear.
"now Linda, now Nora, and Emma, you, too,
We've got empty feeders, there's so much to do!"
I spoke no more words, We all went to work.
We filled every feeder, I'd been such a jerk.
The birds quickly forgave me and flocked to the food,
I knew in a moment, they'd lost their foul mood.
Cardinals and titmice and nuthatches, too,
Were first to arrive at my backyard bird zoo.
The black-oiled seeds disappeared with great speed,
I smiled contently, I'd fixed my misdeed.
Then finches and siskins sought the feeder with thistle,
They flew so intently, looked like a missile,
Soon sparrows and juncos ventured onto the tray,
Ravenously joining the late breakfast fray.
Even the water dish pulled in a crowd,
Those six thirsty chickadees were certainly loud.
When finally woodpeckers found the replenished suet,
We. were completely forgiven, the whole family knew it.
I began to feel better, I'd made up for my goof,
When suddenly a voice caught my ear from the roof.
(You may not believe this, but I swear it's the truth.)
From a perch at the top, sang a sassy blue jay,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good day!"

From an article in the Charleston Gazette,
Tuesday, December 20, 1994.

Homemade Suet Recipe

For those of us that like to make up our own suet to fill those 'suet bags,' here's a quick recipe that is time tested.

1 cup	lard
1 cup	crunchy peanut butter
2 cups	quick oats
2 cups	corn meal
1 cup	flour
1/3 cup	sunflower, millet, or nyjer (niger thistle) seed

Melt the lard and peanut butter over a low flame. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Pour into molds (almost any cleaned, previously used plastic container from the grocery store). and refrigerate or freeze.

Calendar of Events

December 5	Christmas Parade in Shepherdstown (11am)
December 6	Potomac Valley Nature Writers meeting
December 9	***NO PVAS MEETING IN DECEMBER***
December 11	Potomac Valley Nature Photographers
December 19	Jefferson County Christmas Bird count
January 2	Berkeley & Morgan county Christmas Bird Count
January 15	Master Naturalist Applications Due
January 13	PVAS program at NCTC- Migratory Water Birds
February 10	Program at NCTC – Chesapeake Bay
February TBA	field trip: Winter tree ID at Yankauer
February TBA	Winter wildlife-tracking at Cacapon State Park
March 10	PVAS program at NCTC: Maryland's Wood Duck population
April 14	PVAS program at NCTC: "Identifying Spring Warblers by Sight and Song."
March 28	Annual Children's Egg Hunt at the Yankauer Preserve.
April 17	Annual Wildflower Festival at the Yankauer Preserve
April 24	Annual "This Race is for the Birds" at NCTC

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 C9ZY540Z)

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.

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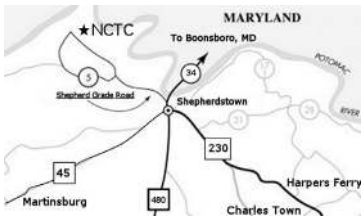
http://www.potomacaudubon.org

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

President:	Peter Smith 304 876-1139	pvsmith@frontiernet.net
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