

VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac Valley Audubon Society

Volume 30, Issue 4

December 2011

Stauffer's Marsh Preserve Dedicated

PVAS's new Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve was dedicated during a November 8 ceremony that was blessed by beautiful fall weather.

The preserve was donated to PVAS in September by Stauffer Miller and his wife Elinor, who currently live in Charlottesville, Virginia.



Stauffer Miller Photo by Wil Hershberger

About 40 people joined PVAS and the Millers for the dedication ceremony.

Speakers included Berkeley County Council President Bill Stubblefield; state delegates John Overington and Walter Duke; staff members of U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller and U.S. Representative Shelley Moore Capito; and representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle, and the Berkeley County Farmland Protection Board. U.S. Senator Joe Manchin sent a letter of con-

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Wild Goose Event a Wild Success!

On November 12, Cricky and Michelle Shultz opened their beautiful timber frame barn at Wild Goose Farm, just outside Shepherdstown, to PVAS for our fall fundraiser. PVAS was blessed with a perfect fall day so guests could enjoy hayrides while sipping champagne in the warm sunshine. They were treated to delicious pork barbecue, baked beans, corn pudding and apple slab pie with



Rock Hill Creamery ice cream. In addition, Bob Dean pulled together the Harlan Spring Band – a fantastic group that added to the festive atmosphere. Trego Mountain Nature Center in Maryland brought a Eurasian

Eagle-Owl with whom Donors, Patrons and Supporters could have their photos taken. The hand-hewn beams of the barn glowed in the

sunshine and the fall decorations, many of which were donated by Butler's Farm Market, added to the fall ambiance. Rodney Woods loaned us his auctioneering skills for a lively auction of donated items.

PVAS is incredibly fortunate to have so many volunteers help with these types of events. The coordinating committee that planned the event included Alice Barkus, Susan Brookreson, Gretchen Meadows, Diana Mullis, and Jane Vanderhook. This same group donated most of the food and beverages, AND did most of the cooking with additional help from Joe Brookreson, Mina Goodrich, and Craig Meadows.

The coordinating committee also decorated and set up the barn with assistance from Josiah Corwin-Roach, Jeff Feldman, Jennifer Jones and Jim Vanderhook. Gary Sylvester rigged up his tractor to provide hayrides around the farm. Mina Goodrich and Larry Dean donated and poured the champagne and sparkling cider for the

See *Wild Goose* Page 2

Watch for Annual Fundraising Appeal Mailing

PVAS will launch its annual fundraising appeal on December 1.

We know that the economy remains uncertain, at best, and everyone is anxious about the future. We're continuing to tighten our belts, too.

But your annual contributions are one of our most important funding sources, and we'll be very grateful for any contribution you feel you can afford.

So 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, 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!

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



Hello everyone:

The morning after our November 12 fundraising event at Wild Goose Farm, a friend who had attended telephoned to praise the event and offer congratulations. It was such a nice affair, she said; so “classy.”

I truthfully told her that I deserved absolutely no credit whatsoever, and that any and all congratulations should go to our Executive Director, Kristin Alexander, and to the very generous and talented group of volunteers who work with her to plan and organize our fundraising events.

PVAS always has lots of volunteers doing all sorts of things, and of course we’re grateful to them all.

But the folks who plan and organize our fundraisers are special.

First, they use their own funds to buy all of the food and beverages that are served at these events. They donate all of this.

Then they donate their time and skills to prepare and present the food and beverages in ways that at least meet (and often surpass) the standards of the best professional caterers.

Finally, they donate additional time, skills and materials to decorate the events according to the same high standards.

And they do this time after time, year after year.

In other words, they enable us to offer high-quality fundraising events at very low cost. And this means that almost all the money raised from these events is used to support our regular programs and activities.

Not many organizations can say the same; most of them spend far more than PVAS does on fundraising event overhead.

Much of what this group does is done quietly behind the scenes, and even though they’re thanked publicly at each event, many people may not fully grasp the importance of what they’re doing.

This column is an attempt to remedy that.

The volunteers I’m talking about are Alice Barkus, Susan Brookreson, Gretchen Meadows, Diana Mullis, Deb Pathoff, and Jane Vanderhook. Be sure to give them the recognition they deserve the next time you see them.

—Peter Smith

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, www.potomacaudubon.org, keep an eye on your email, and see your local paper for changes and new announcements.

If you haven’t already signed up for the PVAS Heads Up email announcement list you can do so by sending a request with your name and email address to pvasmail@aol.com.

Stauffer (continued from page 1)
gratulations.

“This is a very generous gift that will be an important and enduring natural resource not only for the people of Berkeley County and the residents of the Eastern Panhandle but also for visitors to the area,” said Council President Stubblefield. “Land and habitat conservation should be priorities for our county, and this is something that this gift should remind us of and one which we should take to heart. If we want to leave future generations a county they can be proud of, it’s important that we do what we can now to conserve as much land and habitat as possible.”

The preserve is located in Back Creek Valley in Berkeley County, on the east side of Back Creek Valley Road (County Route 7), one-half mile south of Shanghai.

The property is 45.7 acres in size. Much of it is wetland, with shallow ponds and marshy areas. It also includes some woods and edge lands. It has long been a favorite spot for Eastern Panhandle birders.

PVAS will manage it as a public nature preserve and plans to add some trails over time.

Like the other nature preserves PVAS manages, it will be open to the public year-round.

PVAS will need volunteers to help manage the property, and several people have already offered their services. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Kristin Alexander at 304-676-3397 or pvasmail@aol.com.

Wild Goose (continued from page 1)

hayride. Torri Thomas took photos of the Eagle-Owl and guests, Sarah and Stan Corwin-Roach greeted and registered guests, Jeff



Feldman and Don Briggs directed parking and were excellent behind-the-scenes helpers. Auction items were donated by Kristin Alexander, Susan Brookreson, Susan Fluharty Gretchen Meadows, Diana Mullis, and Jane Vanderhook.

The band, including Bob and Robin Dean, Greg Lloyd, Terrie Shaeffer, Gary St. Onge, Ike Eichler, and Jeff Payne, played for fun and food. Each volunteer pulled out every stop to make the event a success, and we couldn’t have done it without them.

With all of the incredible volunteer help and generous donations, the event raised over \$10,000 for PVAS programs, including \$2,000 from the auction for a special start-up fund for Stauffer’s Marsh. This specific fund will help PVAS develop trails, signage, brochure, and bird list for the new preserve. We can’t thank Cricky and Michelle Shultz enough for providing us the barn pro bono, and for their help with parking, decorating, and generally preparing for the event.



Two Rivers Giving Circle Helps Wee Naturalist Program

PVAS has been fortunate enough to receive a grant to pilot a new program, “Wee Naturalists on the Road,” at preschools in Jefferson and Berkeley County in the new year. The grant is from the Two Rivers Giving Circle Donor Advised Fund of the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation, and will provide \$2,500 in “start-up funds” for this new program.

The new program will be loosely based on the Wee Naturalist program for preschoolers that we offer at Yankauer, but will be adapted to be appropriate for an indoor classroom setting rather than the adult/child pairing used on the trails at Yankauer. The new programs will include costumes, active games and role-plays, stuffed animals and stories to expose these children to the variety of plants and animals nature has to offer in this region.

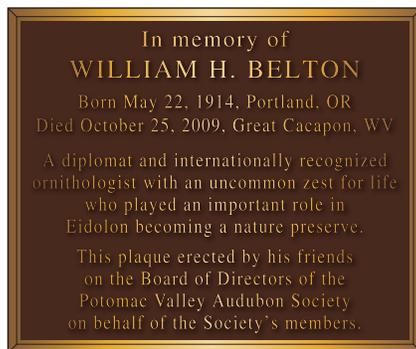
The funding will allow PVAS to provide a series of programs to preschool classrooms free of charge in its first year while PVAS adapts and evaluates the new program. Suzi Taylor, a seasoned environmental educator who currently teaches the Wee Naturalist program at Yankauer, will be piloting these new programs as well.

We are very excited to adapt the very popular Wee Naturalist program for this new setting and audience, and look forward to having a new preschool program to serve the area for years to come.

Bill Belton Commemorated

Family members, friends, and associates of the late Bill Belton gathered at the Eidolon Nature Preserve on Sideling Hill Mountain the afternoon of November 13 to dedicate a plaque commemorating him

Bill, who lived in Great Cacapon, passed away at the age of 95 on October 25, 2009. He served on the PVAS Board for many years, right up to the time of his death, and he played a key role in the establishment of the preserve.



The plaque was paid for by voluntary contributions from current and former members of the PVAS Board.

Following the ceremony, Bill’s widow, Cory, held a reception for the participants at her home in Berkeley Springs.

An Oregon native, Bill graduated from Stanford University in 1935 and had a distinguished 32-year career in the U.S. Foreign Service. After he retired, he began a second career as a self-educated ornithologist, earning international recognition for his work on the birds of Brazil.

He purchased property in Great Cacapon while he was in the Foreign Service and built a house and moved there after his retirement.

In addition to his service on the PVAS Board, he was very active on the boards of a variety of related area organizations, including the Nature Conservancy in West Virginia, the Potomac Headwaters Resource Conservation and Development Council, the Land Trust

of the Eastern Panhandle, and the Friends of the Cacapon River.

Those who attended the dedication are shown in the accompanying photo. They are, from left to right, back: Sigfrid Yngvesson, Leverett, MA (Bill’s son-in-law); Larry Springer, Berkeley Springs; Grant Smith, Harpers Ferry (President of the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle); Barbara Yngvesson (Bill’s daughter); Jonathan Harvey, Charleston, WV (representing the Nature Conservancy); Vicki Smith, Shepherdstown; Nancy Kirschbaum, Shepherdstown (former Potomac Valley Audubon Society Board member); Pat Springer, Berkeley Springs; Peter Smith, Shepherdstown (President of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society); Renny Smith, Harpers Ferry; Helen Herlocker, Great Cacapon; Cory Belton, Berkeley Springs (Bill’s widow); Becky Lett, Berkeley Springs (Cory’s daughter); Debra Gidlund, Berkeley Springs; Nancy and Richard Harvey, Berkeley Springs; Velda Hoffman, Berkeley Springs; Mary Nichols, Berkeley Springs; Betty Lou Harmison, Berkeley Springs; Lee Jenkins, Berkeley Springs (Potomac Valley Audubon Society Board member); Calvin Hoffman, Berkeley Springs; Jean Neely, Shepherdstown.



Kneeling in front: Jan Weinberg, Berkeley Springs; Lex Miller, Shepherdstown (Treasurer of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society); Joe Dent, Great Cacapon; Kristin Alexander, Martinsburg (Executive Director of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society); Tim Murphy, Shepherdstown; Joe Gentile, Berkeley Springs (Eidolon’s volunteer caretaker).

New PVAS Website, Coming Soon!

PVAS has been partnering with Kristin Kaineg this fall to develop a new, modern website. The website will allow people to register for programs and field trips on-line, become a member or renew their membership on-line, receive more in-depth information about our programs and history, and it will be easier to navigate. The birding committee is also working on a birding trail map for the region that will be accessed from the site. There will be an interactive calendar with in-depth information about upcoming programs and more.

We plan to launch the new website in the new year, so go to www.potomacaudubon.org in January to check it out! We hope you like what you see!

Registration opens for next year's "Race for the Birds"

PVAS is now accepting online registrations for our 11th annual "This Race is for the Birds!" event.

The event will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2012, on the campus of the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), near Shepherdstown, in conjunction with the Center's annual open house.

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.

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

Registration for these two races will be capped at 400 for both, so same-day registration may not be available.

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 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.

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.

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.

All proceeds will be used to support Potomac Valley Audubon's programs for children, and all fees will be tax deductible.

Fifth Master Naturalist Class Celebrates Completion!

On November 5, Master Naturalists gathered together for a potluck and celebration of their 5th graduating class. Ten new Master Naturalists were certified this year which means they have completed 64 hours of in-depth training in local wildlife and natural resource management and a minimum of 30 hours of volunteer service in the form of educational or scientific activities.

These newly Certified Master Naturalists include: Marilee Cunningham, Joan Cuzzart, Susan Jones, Scott MacKinnon, Tracy McCleaf, Woodrow Nackley, Henry Robinson, Louis Scavnicky, Gail Siano, and Lou Siano. The group also recognized the 33 Master Naturalists that recertified this year by completing their 8 hours of continuing education classes and 16 hours of volunteer service. Perhaps most impressively, the group recognized four of its members that have now completed their fifth year of active membership and service: Nancy Little, Wanda Miller, Ellen Murphy, and Diane



Sylvester. All were in the first "class" of Potomac Valley Master Naturalists and received a field bag and a certificate in recognition of this milestone and thanks for their service. Congratulations to all for this accomplishment!



Sylvester, Murphy, Miller, Little

Finally, the group recognized and thanked the 2011 Master Naturalists Co-chairs for their service and leadership, Krystal Kennedy and Nancy Little, and welcomed in the new Co-chairs, Susan Jones of Berkeley Springs and Melanie Snyder of Charles Town. In addition, Marilee Cunningham will be the new Treasurer for the group, filling an open position.

Sign Up Now for 2012 Master Naturalist Program

Our Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Program is now accepting applications for its 2012 classes.

Instruction will begin in March 2012 and continue monthly through October.

Applications must be postmarked by January 14, 2012. Candidates will be notified of their selection by February 1. Enrollment is strictly limited to 20 persons each year.

Established in 2007, the Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Program is sponsored by PVAS and is a chapter of the State of West Virginia Master Naturalist Program.

Its classes are open to anyone who wants to be certified as a Master Naturalist by the state of West Virginia. Most who enroll come from Jefferson, Berkeley, and Morgan Counties. Interested persons who live outside this area are welcome to apply, but they must commit to completing all their volunteer work in West Virginia.

In all, 64 hours of classroom time and 30 hours of volunteer work are required to complete the certification cycle.

Classes are held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, Cacapon State Park in Berkeley Springs, Yankauer Nature Preserve in northeastern Berkeley County, and Cool Spring Farm in southern Jefferson County.

Tuition is \$300 per person for the full course of instruction. A limited number of scholarships will be available.

Application forms and more details are available on the Potomac Valley Audubon Society website at www.potomacaudubon.org. Scholarship applications are also available there. For more information email Melanie Snyder at littleowl48@hotmail.com.

The Master Naturalist program is patterned after the long-established Master Gardener program. It trains individuals in the fundamentals of natural history and nature interpretation as a way of promoting responsible stewardship of natural resources.

Graduates of the program become part of a corps of highly qualified volunteers who assist government agencies, schools, and non-government organizations with research, outdoor recreation development, and environmental education and protection.

To remain certified they must take 8 hours of training and participate in 16 hours of volunteer activity annually.

Youth Program Update

The school programs that are being piloted at schools for kindergarten, first, fourth and fifth grades are nearly complete! This program was funded by the WV Division of Natural Resources and has allowed PVAS to test these new programs in the schools with over 800 youth this fall. The evaluations of the programs are currently being processed, but there's no doubt they've been a hit with the kids!

In addition, we've been able to offer our programs to schools serving disadvantaged youth this fall with support from the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation's Frada Fine Fund and the Foundation's Youth Grants Program. The scholarship funds provided by the Foundation have allowed an additional 560 elementary students to participate in our programs free of charge this fall.

In addition, nearly 480 fourth-grade students have been participating in our Watershed Education program this fall taught by either Ellen Murphy or Suzi Taylor. Additional schools have already scheduled the watershed program for the spring. Students participating in the program learn about water quality issues by participating in hands-on activities both in the classroom and in the field.

Meanwhile, Ellen Murphy is busy planning for summer camp! We'll be offering sessions at the Yankauer Preserve (in Berkeley County between Martinsburg and Shepherdstown), Peter Burr Farm (near Kearneysville), and FLOC (For Love of Children Outdoor Education Center near Shannondale). The camp brochure will be out in early February, and registration will be available on our website. Stay tuned!

All of these programs are possible thanks to the hard work of our Director of Youth Programs, Ellen Murphy, our Watershed and Wee Naturalist Instructor Suzi Taylor, and a cadre of dedicated volunteers. PVAS is incredibly fortunate to have such a hard working team.

Birdseed Sale 2011 - Many Thanks

... to Marvin & Judy Gower and the staff at Gower's Williamsport, and also to Jon Birr and the staff at Gower's Ranson ... they negotiate getting really good birdseed, help us get it into vehicles, and supply storage (until April 1 this year ... don't forget). And many thanks to our PVAS helpers, Al Davis and Connie Ness at Williamsport and Joe Gentile (who helped me) at Berkeley Springs. And last but not least ... many thanks to all of you who ordered birdseed!! If you run into any problems with your birdseed, please give me a call: Birdseed Coordinator - Diana Mullis at 304-267-3482 or dianamullis@aol.com. Thanks Again!!

Christmas Bird Counts Coming Up

December 17 and 31 have been set as the dates for this winter's annual Eastern Panhandle Christmas Bird Counts.

These local-area counts are sponsored by PVAS. They're part of a volunteer-based 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.

Count volunteers follow specified routes through a designated 15-mile diameter circle, counting every bird they see or hear all day.

The December 17 count, the Charles Town count, encompasses a circle that is centered near Charles Town and stretches from the Shannondale area at the east to near Middleway at the west.

The circle for the December 31 count, the Inwood count, is centered near Shanghai in Berkeley County and includes the west side of Martinsburg and Inwood to the east and the Stotler's Crossroads/Greenwood section of Morgan County to the west.

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 Bob Dean at 304-754-3042 or bobdean52@gmail.com.

The data collected from each year's Christmas Bird Count are 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.

The data from each year's count are available online at www.birdsource.org (once there, click on "Christmas Bird Count."). To view data from the Eastern Panhandle counts enter their official 4-letter codes, WVCT and WVIN, in the appropriate field.

Reminder: Eidolon Hunting and Hiking Schedule for December

If you're planning to visit the Eidolon Nature Preserve in December, please remember that the main firearm season for deer continues through December 10 and there is a special, three-day season for antlerless deer December 28-30. Please keep the following rules in mind:

- In accordance with state law, no hunting is permitted on Sundays, and hikers can use Eidolon's trails freely on those days during hunting season.
- During the early December portion of the main firearm season for deer, the trails will be closed to hikers on Saturday, December 3, and Saturday, December 10.
- On all other days between December 1 and December 10, the trails will be open to hikers from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. only.
- The preserve will be closed to hikers during the entire three-day antlerless deer season, which runs from Wednesday, December 28, through Friday, December 30.
- 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.

Next PVAS Program at NCTC Will Be January Talk on Pawpaws

As usual, PVAS will not hold a program at the National Conservation Training Center in December.

Our next NCTC program will be a January 11 program about the history and uses of the Pawpaw tree.

The speaker will be Neal Peterson, of Harpers Ferry. Peterson is one of the leading experts on this interesting native plant, and he has been in the forefront of efforts to develop commercially viable cultivars.

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

Admission is free and anyone is welcome to attend.

The Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) is a small, very decorative tree that bears fruit with a custard-like texture and a sweet flavor reminiscent of mango or banana.

It has a long history. It was cultivated by Native Americans and early settlers. The Lewis and Clark expedition relied on Pawpaw fruit on their way west, chilled Pawpaw was one of [George Washington's](#) favorite deserts, and [Thomas Jefferson](#) cultivated Pawpaw trees at [Monticello](#).



But the fruit is full of seeds and highly perishable, which makes commercial-scale production and handling difficult. In addition, although the Pawpaw tree is very hardy once established, it is very difficult to transplant.

For nearly 30 years, Peterson has been engaged in a breeding project intended to overcome these problems. He has now developed six patented varieties with fruits that possess outstanding flavor, can range up to a pound in size, and have far fewer seeds than their wild cousins. These plants are offered for sale nationwide through three commercial nurseries in Missouri, Kentucky and Oregon.

To learn more about Pawpaws and Peterson's work see Peterson's website at <http://petersonpawpaws.com>.

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 contributions," 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.

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

View from the Eagle's Nest

By Sandy Sagalkin

Did you know you can see Golden Eagles in the PVAS service area – well - within a reasonable drive of our service area? Seven PVAS members drove up to Waggoner's Gap, Pennsylvania, Sunday, November 6. It was perfect weather for us—sunny and a high of 43 degrees—although not ideal for Golden Eagles, hawk watching being very weather-dependent. Still, we saw three of these magnificent creatures, as well as a Bald Eagle, Coopers and Sharp-shinned Hawks, and well over 50 Red-tailed Hawks, all migrating south to their wintering grounds. This is the second year that PVAS has gone to Waggoner's Gap for the Golden Eagles. Last year we lucked out with better weather and saw thirteen.

I really wanted to use this article to tell you about the new PVAS Birding Committee. Formed this summer, the Birding Committee is working on several projects that we hope will be of high interest to the PVAS birding community. Want to know the best places in our service area to bird, where the locals bird are, and how to get there? Want to find spring migrants? summer breeding birds? late summer shorebirds? fall warblers? fall hawk watches? winter waterfowl? Soon, you will be able to find out with a new PVAS Interactive Birding Trail Map. It will be available with just a few clicks on the PVAS website. If you are new to birding or new to the area, I think you'll love it.

Most PVAS birders got their start in Birding 101. I took the course four years ago and was hooked. Many alumni of Birding 101 retake the course every year, just to go out with our experts – Wil Hershberger, Bob Dean, and Matt Orsie. They've been doing this for years and we owe them a big debt of thanks. But wouldn't you like to improve on the skills you've picked up in Birding 101, and become more proficient at identifying warblers? be able to walk through the woods, hear a bird song and know there are Black-throated Green Warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, or Indigo Buntings nearby? or know that the area you are hiking through is perfect habitat for Swamp, Song and Fox Sparrows? The Birding Committee is working on developing a Master Birder program. While we haven't locked down the details yet – whether it will be like the Master Naturalist program or a series of workshops, the idea is test whether enough fledgling and intermediate birders out there want to improve their skills.

The last thing I want to mention is that we are working with the National Conservation Training Center to develop activities for next spring to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day. I hope we will have a week of activities for you birders culminating in our annual Ruth Ann Dean Memorial Birdathon.

Great Backyard Bird Count a “Gold Mine” of Information

The next GBBC is February 17-20, 2012.

When tens of thousands of people watch birds and report what they see online, they create a snapshot showing the whereabouts of many hundreds of bird species across the United States and Canada. This annual gold mine of information about birds comes from participants in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), a joint project of the [National Audubon Society](#) and the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) with Canadian partner [Bird Studies Canada](#).

To find out more about these and other trends from the 2011 count, visit www.birdcount.org and click on “Highlights of 2011 GBBC.”

The Great Backyard Bird Count is sponsored in part by [Wild Birds Unlimited](#).

From an NAS news release April 4, 2011.

Morgan, Berkeley County Receive E-Cycling Grants

The Morgan and Berkeley County Solid Waste Authorities each were the recipient of FY12 Covered Electronic Devices (CED) Grants awarded by the WV-DEP’s Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP). REAP awarded 24 applicants in total across the State; totaling \$233,587.00. These grants will have immediate positive impact on the recycling of electronics in these two counties.

The Morgan County SWA was the recipient of a \$7,500 grant to conduct a one day special event for the collection of electronics.

The Berkeley County SWA was the recipient of a \$18,000 grant. This grant will be utilized to continue to fund the free continuous collection program of electronics at the South Berkeley Recycling Center (SBRC). The SBRC will be accepting electronic devices during its normal operating schedule of Tuesday through Saturday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. No other Berkeley County recycling center will be accepting electronic devices at this time. The SBRC is located at 637 Pilgrim Street, Inwood. To learn more about the Berkeley County Recycling Program, including the location of all centers, please visit the website at www.berkeleycountyrecycling.com

On March 24, 2010, Governor Manchin signed Senate Bill 398; which amended WV Code §22-15A-22 to prohibit the disposal in a landfill of certain electronic devices, such as televisions, computers or video display devices effective January 1, 2011. These recycling programs are an effort to increase recycling, reduce litter and open dumping, and to develop an alternative collection program due to the passage of SB398.

PO Box 1227, Inwood, WV 25428
304-267-9370 Office, 304-671-2925 Recycling Hotline
berkeleycountyswa@msn.com
www.berkeleycountyrecycling.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Dec 9, 7pm: Potomac Valley Nature Photographers Mtg.
Dec 17: Charles Town Christmas Bird Count
Dec 31: Inwood Christmas Bird Count
Jan 11, 7pm: PVAS Program on Paw Paws

JOIN PVAS TODAY!

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

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

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

Membership Form

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

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

Clip and mail this form to:

Membership Chair, PVAS
PO Box 578
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Thank you for your support!

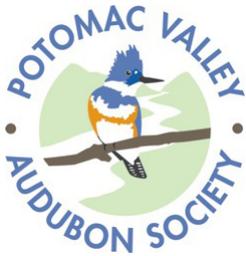


If you’d rather join the National Audubon Society:

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

RED TEXT - DOT ALERT

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



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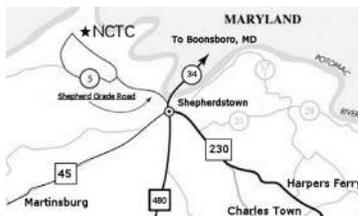


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The Potomac Valley Audubon Society meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through April, at the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), Shepherdstown, WV, in the Instructional West Building.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

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

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