Valley Views

Potomac Valley Audubon Society

Volume 22, Issue 5 **February 2004**

President's Perch



Hope your holidays were enjoyable! With all the activity of the holidays, I look forward to the quiet time winter brings ... with no gardening to do, I have a little time to sit in front if the fire with my hot cocoa and enjoy the birds at the feeders. Speaking of birds, I just finished selling the extra birdseed left from our birdseed sale, and we sold a little more this year than last. Thank you for supporting us with your orders! The money we make funds our camp scholarship program, and this year's announcement is on page 3 of this newsletter. Please be sure to pass this information along to any local young people that you know. These environmentally oriented educational camps are often life changing experiences for young people.

Each of you recently received the Yankauer Preserve annual appeal letter. We welcome all contributions, large and small! Your contribution will help us provide outdoor educational experiences to kids of all ages. Do come out to see what we are doing and enjoy the Preserve! Many thanks to Kristin and all the volunteers that have made this a reality!

I hope to see you at our next meeting on February 11, 7:30 p.m. at the Leetown Science Center. Bruce Lemmert will be telling us about "Duties of a Game Warden." Meanwhile, I hope you are enjoying the birds at your feeders and the fact that there is no grass to cut and weeds to pull (for a while) ... Happy Winter!

Diana Mullis, PVAS President

Field Trips

In February we are planning three field trips one far afield and two close in Jefferson County and Loudon County – hope you can join us for one or all!

Sunday February 15, we will be at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge near Cambridge MD on the Eastern Shore. Blackwater in February will often yield good sightings of various species of duck, Snow Geese, Bald Eagles and an occasional Golden Eagle in addition to over-wintering passerines. You can get surprisingly good views from your car so don't let the cold weather keep you home! Dress warmly, bring your binoculars and scope and be prepared for some great birding.

We will meet in the parking lot of the Visitors Center at 9:00 am. Hope lots of folks can join us Please sign up with Ken and Patsy Hunter at 304-725-3936 or via email at phunter@npca.org. (Directions will be provided to

-Field Trips continues on page 2

Crumbs on the Snow

-by Lucretia Penny

When it's winter and the snow
Like a tablecloth is spread,
I remember hungry birds
And see that they are fed.
On their snowy tablecloth
They find my gift of bread.

…Thanks to Bev Duarte of Pampered Petz for bringing this to our attention.

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

Meeting Programs

Wednesday, February 11, 2004 -Duties of a Game Warden –Bruce Lemmert

Bruce Lemmert has been a Virginia Game warden assigned to Loudoun County since 1989. In 1996 Bruce was selected as the Virginia Game Warden of the Year. In 1997 Bruce was chosen as the Wildlife Officer of the Year for the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officer's Association and in 2002 he was the recipient of the Guy Bradley Award, from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Prior to becoming a game warden, Bruce served Franklin County, Virginia as their Director of Parks and Recreation and as the Assistant County Administrator.

Bruce earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry and Wildlife Management from Virginia Tech.

Coming Attractions

Wednesday, March 9, 2004 – Lois Napier and her birds of prey

Also, check next month's issue for more on the April program.

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those who sign up)

Sunday February 22, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Cathy Shewbridge Waterfowl Outing. PVAS members Lynne Wiseman, Tess England, and Bruni Haydle will again be leading us on this popular birding trip formerly known as the Waterfowl on the Shenandoah River field trip. Birding beginner or just curious? Come on out, this one's for you! Experienced birder? Maybe another Red-necked grebe irruption? After the field trip come and warm up at Ken and Patsy Hunter's house in Charles Town.

We will meet at Bakerton Road, just west of Harpers Ferry. Park on the broad (west) side of the road until we leave at 1:00 p.m for the Bloomery Road area and possibly Shannondale and the Potomac River. You may carpool or caravan with us. Please contact either Lynn or Tess at (304) 876-2539 if you have any questions

Saturday February 28 Please join some PVAS members as we join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy in their monthly nature walk at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship on Harpers Ferry Road, Rt. 671 in Virginia between the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers. We meet at the Neersville Volunteer Fire Station at 8:00am.

Other Items of interest

The Loudon Wildlife Conservancy is offering a field trip to Banshee Reeks on February 14.

BIRDING BANSHEE — Saturday, February 14, 8:00 a.m. The regular monthly bird walk at the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve in central Loudoun County will meet at 8:00 am at the Visitor Center/Manor House. Everyone is welcome at these bird walks which are cosponsored by the Friends of Banshee Reeks (www.bansheereeks.org) and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy (www.loudounwildlife.org). Directions to the Nature Preserve can be found at www.bansheereeks.org.

Upcoming Field Trips in March

Sunday, March 7, Virginia Arboretum and Blandy Farm on Rt. 50

Sunday, March 21, Nolan's Ferry and Lily Ponds on the first day of spring !

WV Legislative Action Alert

Senator John Unger first initiated action on a water use bill for West Virginia this legislative session. Unger's bill was at first rejected by the Senate but he has since been joined by Governor Bob Wise with a slightly modified version, SB 163. The proposed Senate bill also has a companion bill in the House, HB 4026. The bill proposes a public policy of protection and conservation of water resources, it mandates a three year consumptive study, creates a special revenue fund, and establishes enforcement action against high-volume users that do not participate in the study.

It is expected that the Senate Natural Resources Committee (SNRC) will take up SB 163 on Monday, January 26, 2004 so a legislative action alert has been distributed urging people to contact members of the SNRC and urge them to support passage of Senate Bill 163. State Senators of note in this area include John Unger, who already supports the bill; Senator Herb Snyder, hbsnyder@mail.wvnet.edu; Senator Walt Helmick, whelmick@mail.wvnet.edu; and Mike Ross, who has no listed e-mail address. Special note are Senator Walt Helmick and Senator Herb Snyder who serve on the SNRC.

December Pot Luck - A good Time for All

Members enjoyed good fellowship and good food at the annual December General Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner. The meeting was held at St. John's Lutheran Church in downtown Martinsburg. Attendees were treated to presentations by two of our scholarship winners from last year.



Ashley Boarman talked about her week long trip to Teen Camp in Hog Island. Her enthusiasm was a great lift for the membership and served to reinforce the good we do by sponsoring youth scholarships to conservation and ecology camps. According to Ashley, she's been to a number of nature camps but never one focused on birding. It looks like she's going to be a lifelong birder.

Below, Meghan was our first recipient to attend Mountain Institute Ecology camp in central West Virginia. It's apparent she had a great time and learned about conser-



vation including laws and enforcement. She said it was the best camp she's been to (especially because of the spacious and clean facilities).

Of course, the evening was capped off with a silent auction and nearly everyone took home great gifts and goodies. If you didn't make this one, put it on your calendar for next year.

Summer Camp Scholarships

It's almost time to get in gear to award our Summer Camp Scholarships for 2004. We hope to send at least two deserving students to summer camp in 2004. Through the annual birdseed sale and other fundraisers, we'll be sending students to premier camps for the experience of a lifetime.



Applications will be available at the regular monthly meeting at the Leetown Science Center in February. If you know of any young people that would be good candidates to receive our scholarship you can get an application form to them or have them get in touch with Sue Mellott, 304-725-4153, or e-mail her at suellamamama@aol.com. Also, don't forget to pass this along to any youth leaders that might know of some good candidates.

As in the past, we welcome sponsors to help defray the cost of these scholarships. If your company or employer would be willing to help out with financial support, we'll be able to send even more young students to these environmentally friendly learning camps. These youth will become stewards of the earth for future generations. Let's help them to get off on the right foot.

Livable Landscapes

***Design with Habitat in Mind*,** a horticultural forum, will take place on Saturday, March 13, 2004, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, at the National Conservation Training Center. Rick Darke, award-winning author, photographer, and design consultant, will illustrate and analyze a broad array of landscapes. He will present strategies to select and employ native plants, to emulate patterns from local ecologies, and to use other techniques based on conservation and stewardship.

The event is offered by the Shenandoah-Potomac District Garden Clubs. All registrations must be received by March 7th. For information call 304-725-2040, or email JDAlfriend@frontiernet.net.

News from Yankauer Nature Preserve · · ·

Annual Appeal Update

Good news! We are currently at 66% of our goal of $12,000 for the Annual Appeal with $7,955 collected as of Jan. 10th. This is up 25% from last year's donations at this time. If you wonderful people keep this up, we'll hit that goal by the end of February. Many thanks to those whose donations are now safely in the bank. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity and are so thankful that you believe in this project. For those who haven't given this year, please consider a contribution before the March 31 deadline. We want to proudly list your name in the newsletter and keep our expanding programs rolling!

"Preserve Partners" Kickoff!

Join PVAS in kicking off "Preserve Partners"… a network of community members who are interested in supporting the Preserve through volunteering to lead programs, sharing professional services or expertise, helping with trail maintenance, and helping with special events and other fundraising activities. Please attend our kickoff event at the Shepherdstown Train Station on Sunday, February 29 from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. If you are interested in getting involved with our nature preserve or have a special talent that would benefit Yankauer, WE WANT YOU! No membership dues are required to join Preserve Partners: giving time and talent is as important as making a monetary donation (though donations are gladly accepted). Bring your questions and energy; we will have refreshments and fun!! If you are interested, but cannot make the meeting, please call 304-676-3397 or e-mail Ann Craig at *yankauerpp@frontiernet.net*.

Discovery Camp Announcement

PVAS is pleased to announce its second season of summer camp this summer. We'll even have a pavilion this summer for shelter! Stay tuned for dates, weekly themes, and other details in the next Valley Views!

Volunteers Needed

Spring is going to be a busy time at the Preserve, especially as we pilot our three new school programs! Volunteer opportunities including leading programs, maintaining trails, helping control invasives, and other projects at the preserve are posted on the PVAS website at *www.potomacaudubon.org*. We'd love your help! You can learn more about these projects at the Preserve Partners Kickoff mentioned above, too!

Watershed Education Initiative , Take 2!

The second year of this initiative, funded by NOAA, will take flight on February 9. This spring we will be working with Eagle School, Mill Creek Intermediate, Potomack Intermediate, and T.A. Lowery. This year's interns bring wonderful experience and enthusiasm to this project and we look forward to working with them: Kara Conner, Beth Frazier, Jen Hollis, and Annie Sabatos. We'll keep you posted as the program gets underway!

We Need YOU on our Board

(Please Don't Stop Reading!)

We only need your body and soul and all your money…just kidding, we only need your soul. Mostly, we **do** need you to start thinking about volunteering two hours a month to attend a board meeting and a few more hours to fulfill the duties of a board position, much of which can be done at home. We don't bite and we love fresh and not-so-fresh faces. If you've been a PVAS member wondering why we haven't done *(fill in the blank)*, come tell us about it and help us out.

Now is the time to let us know if you or someone you know would like to join the PVAS Board of Directors for a one or two year term,. You can be part of an environmentally responsible, non-profit organization that enjoys a positive and prestigious community image. Come help us fulfill the mission statement that we proudly display on the front page of this newsletter.

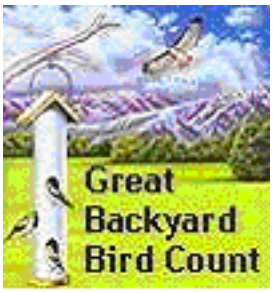


If you have questions or would like to nominate yourself or someone else, contact Diana Cummins at (304) 728-0345 or montex@frontiernet.net.

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Great Backyard Bird Count

– February 13-16, 2004



A cooperative project developed and managed by National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. This project draws attention to the 80 percent of residential land area having private lawns that contribute to habitat for migrating and over wintering birds. Anyone that enjoys birding and/or birds can participate by making observations right in their own backyard and submitting a tally.

How to Participate:

1. Count the birds in your backyard, local park, or other natural area on one or all four count days, for at least 30 minutes.
2. Keep track of the highest number of individuals that you observe at any one time.
3. Keep separate records and fill out a checklist for each area.
4. Go to website – http://www.birdsource.org
5. Select West Virginia Checklist and submit your results.
6. The website has more detailed instructions on how to complete the checklist and will offer identification tips and answer your questions.
7. If possible please send a copy to Dale_nisbet@nps.gov and he will tabulate the totals received from our membership.
8. For further information please contact Dale Nisbet at the above website. You can also contact Patsy Hunter at 304-725-3936 or via email at phunter@npca.org

- We NEED You… Continued from page 4

You can also contact the current board member in that position. (See last page) Nominees will be on the May 2004 ballot and voting will be held at the May Spring Dinner.

The following positions will be open next year: fundraising, secretary, treasurer, publicity, membership, and conservation officer. I'll be waiting to hear from you! *-dc*

Preliminary Notice for Birding 101

As a preliminary notice for interested birders and fledgling birders, Wil Hershberger has agreed to teach Birding 101 again this year. While no dates or times have been set, the target looks like mid-March through mid-April. The best way to make sure you get a spot in the class is to contact Wil and get on the waiting list. You can e-mail Wil at WHershberger@afrs.ars.usda.gov. If you don't have access to e-mail, drop us a note or postcard at PVAS, P O Box 578, Shepherdstown, WV 25443



So if you're new to birding or you're thinking a little refresher would do you some good, come on out. You'll be learning from one of the most accomplished and respected birders around and you'll be in great company.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE, JOIN PVAS TODAY!

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

♦ One year (six issues) of award-winning ***Audubon*** Magazine

♦ Eight issues of ***Valley Views***, PVAS's newsletter of field trips, programs, and local issues

♦ Advance notice of all PVAS events

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR:
$20 Individual SPECIAL OFFER, 1st time members only!
$35 Individual (renewal)
$15 Seniors and full-time students.

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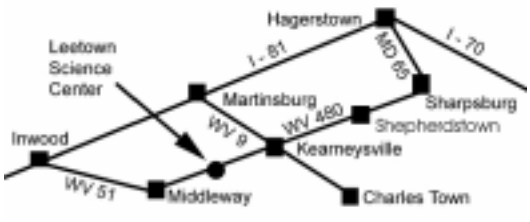
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DATED MATERIALS

MAIL TO:

http://potomacaudubon.org



The *Potomac Valley Audubon Society* meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through April, in the auditorium at the USGS Leetown Science Center, Letown/Kearneysville, WV. Programs are free and open to the public. For additional information about *PVAS* or its programs and activities, please call any of the board members listed her or see http://potomacaudubon.org. *PVAS* serves the Easter Panhandle of West Virginia and neighboring Washington County, Maryland.

PVAS BOARD

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

PVAS Officers and Board Members

President:	Diana Mullis 304 267-3482	dianamullis@aol.com
Vice President:	Diana Cummins 304 728-0345	montex@frontiernet.net
Secretary:	Mina Goodrich 304 876-2159	larrymina@aol.com
Treasurer:	Mike Zagarella 304 876-3165	ozcouple@intrepid.net
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Field Trips:	Patsy & Ken Hunter 304 725-3936	phunter@npca.org
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Membership:	Mary Sue & Dave Eldridge 304 876-2337	marysuee@citlink.net
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Publicity:	Diane Sylvester 304 263-6449	twosylvesters@cs.com
Fundraising:	(please volunteer to fill this space)	
International:	Bill Belton 304 258-3067	wbelton@intrepid.net
Yankauer liaison:	Susan Brookreson 304 263-2823	brookre@earthlink.net

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Web Master:	Kathy Bilton	kathy@fred.net
PVAS Wildlife Rescue Coord:	Diana Mullis	304-267-3482 & 304 724-4500(day)