

Celebrating  
**25** Potomac Valley Audubon Society  
Years  
**VALLEY VIEWS**

Volume 26, Issue 5

February 2008

## We Still Need Your Help With Our Annual Appeal!

As this is being written in mid January, PVAS's annual fundraising appeal—which was launched on December 1—has raised \$17,040. Another \$950 has been pledged, for a total of \$17,990.

That's a great comparable date last year, we'd raised about \$1,400 less.

**Annual Appeal**  
**Current Total \$18,000**  
**Still a Long Way to Go**

result! At a com-

Thanks to all of you who have contributed so far.

But we've still got a long way to go.

If you haven't contributed yet, please consider doing so now. A return envelope is included with this newsletter for your convenience (be sure to add your own postage).

## Watershed Education Initiative Begins 5<sup>th</sup> Year!

PVAS's Watershed Education Initiative, which helps educate area Fourth Grade students about the importance of water resources issues, will begin its fifth year in February.

This year, two new interns have been hired with the help of a FLOW (Future Leaders of Watersheds) grant from the State of West Virginia.

The interns, Caitlyn McIntire and Kristin Retter, will help expand the program to four new schools: Morgan Academy, Mill Creek, St. Joseph's Academy, and The Country Day School.

The five Berkeley and Jefferson County elementary schools that participated in the program last year will be participating again, so the program this year will be reaching students in a total of nine area schools.

The program consists of six classroom sessions and a field trip in April to the Potomac River. Each classroom session includes hands on lessons about a different aspect of watersheds, and each session builds upon the previous lesson.

This year for the first time as part of the FLOW grant, several of the students who participated in the program last year will be forming "Watershed Clubs" in their schools and doing related service learning projects.

Stay tuned through the spring as we report on the students' progress through the program!

*Intern Help - continues on Page 2, Col. 1*

## On the Wings of Dreams Store Makes Donation

The On the Wings of Dreams store in Shepherdstown presented a check for \$225 to PVAS on January 11.

The store last year decided to donate 3 cents to the Society for every crystal and mineral it sells, and this check represents the proceeds from all the crystals and minerals sold in calendar year 2007.

The money will be used to further the Society's education programs for children.

Shown above, from left to right: owner Laura Rau, PVAS executive director Kristin Alexander, and store employee Herb Clark.

On the Wings of Dreams first opened in 1999, and Ms. Rau has owned and operated it since January 2003.

"We decided it was time to give something back to the community and to the environment that have so graciously supported us," said Laura. "It makes sense to support a local organization that does such great work to promote environmental awareness. The society's children's programs are a great way to get kids away from the television or computer and back into nature."

The store is located at 139 West German Street. In addition to crystals; it offers a wide variety of sterling silver and natural stone jewelry; books and music; incense; sages, shells and prayer feathers; magical and ceremonial herbs; Buddhist, Hindu, Wiccan and Pagan altar pieces; essential oils; and Tibetan and crystal singing bowls.

PVAS greatly appreciates Laura's generosity.



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

## January PVAS Meeting Was NOT Cancelled

PVAS apologizes profusely to those who came to the National Conservation Training Center the evening of January 12 to attend the scheduled PVAS meeting there only to be told by the guard that the meeting had been cancelled.

The meeting was NOT cancelled. Neither we nor NCTC knows exactly what happened but somehow the guard on duty at the time was given bad information. We straightened things out when we arrived but we were running later than usual and by that time a lot of people had been turned away.

PVAS is sorry that so many people were inconvenienced. We will try to take steps to ensure that this doesn't happen again.

## Connecting People with Nature Conference

In early December, PVAS was invited to participate in a nationwide conference on "Connecting People with Nature" at the National Conservation Training Center.

PVAS's participation was scheduled to take two forms.

First, some conference attendees (mainly staff from the National Wildlife Refuge System) were to visit our Yankauer Nature Preserve to learn how we balance the preservation and research side of the preserve while still using the property for education and recreation.

Some children who have attended our Yankauer summer camp and some of our volunteers were scheduled to guide the group around the preserve. Unfortunately the field trip had to be canceled due to snow.

However, PVAS did participate in the second form, a "Partners' Expo" at NCTC. We set up displays explaining PVAS and our Potomac Valley Master Naturalists Program, and talked with conference attendees about ways in which refuges could use partnerships with organizations like ours to help connect people with nature.

*Intern Help - continues from Page 1, Col. 1*

## Intern Will Help With Yankauer Plan

In addition to helping us with our Watershed Education Initiative, intern Kristin Retter will also be helping us finalize a new land management plan for the Yankauer Nature Preserve.

Kristin is well suited for this task because she is a graduate of Shepherd University's Institute for Environmental Studies and has excellent experience and background in land management.

She will be partnering with Michael Schwartz, of the Conservation Fund's Freshwater Institute, to work through existing research and land management proposals and integrate the plans and data into one cohesive document. The draft document will then be presented to The Nature Conservancy for final review.

We are very fortunate to have Kristin helping us with this project!

## Wildflower Festival/Earth Day Celebration

This year's Wildflower Festival/Earth Day Celebration will be held at the Yankauer Nature Preserve on April 19.

The festival will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will include guided wildflower walks on the hour. Stay tuned for details in the next newsletter!

If you'd like to volunteer to help with a festival booth, children's activities or to lead a walk (training available!), please contact Kristin Alexander at 304-676-3397.

## Birding 101

We are very happy to report that Bob Dean, Wil Hershberger, and Matt Orsie have agreed to teach Birding 101 again!

This course is designed for beginning birders. The course will focus on bird identification, birding techniques, using field guides and other resources, and field etiquette.

The course will be held in April and consist of four weekday-evening classroom sessions (7:00-9:00 p.m. Thursdays) at NCTC and four Saturday morning field trips (roughly 7:00 a.m. to noon) at various sites around the Panhandle. The first class begins April 3.

Tuition will be \$50 per person. Pre-registration is required. See the PVAS website for specific dates. To register or to learn more, go to the website or contact Kristin Alexander at [pvasmail@aol.com](mailto:pvasmail@aol.com) or 304-676-3397.



## Calendar

Feb. 12	7 p.m. PVAS program at NCTC
Feb. 16	9 a.m. Birding trip to Cape Henlopen DE
Feb. 22	Potomac Valley Nature Photographers, 7-9pm, NCTC
Feb. 23	8 a.m. Bird walk at Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Studies
March 12	7 p.m. PVAS program at NCTC
March 16	2-4pm. Egg Hunt at Yankauer! Registration required
March 21	Potomac Valley Nature Photographers, 7-9pm, NCTC
March 22-23	Nature Photography Workshop with the McDonalds
April 3	Birding 101 Course begins (see website for final dates)
April 9	7 p.m. PVAS program at NCTC
April 18	7 p.m. PVAS program at Cacapon State Park
April 19	Wildflower Festival
April 25	Potomac Valley Nature Photographers
April 25-27	Nature Photography Workshop with the Hershbergers
April 26	This Race is for the Birds!
May 14	PVAS program at NCTC @ 7 p.m.

## Nature Photography Seminar in March - Tickets Available Now

Tickets are available now for a special, two-day nature photography seminar that will be held in Shepherdstown the weekend of March 22-23.

The seminar is being sponsored by PVAS's Potomac Valley Nature Photographers group, and it will be held at the National Conservation Training Center Auditorium. The seminar is open to photographers of all skill levels.

It will be conducted by Joe and Mary Ann McDonald, a Pennsylvania-based husband-wife team of award-winning wildlife photographers. During the seminar sessions, the McDonalds will share their extensive experience by covering topics that range from the philosophical to the practical—from the ethics of nature photography to composition to digital techniques and digital file management. For more information about the McDonald's work go to their website at [www.hoothollow.com](http://www.hoothollow.com).



The seminar hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon on Sunday. The cost of enrollment will be \$80 for students and teachers, \$100 for PVNP members, and \$130 for non-members. Reduced rates are available for those who attend only one day of the seminar.

All proceeds will be used to further the Potomac Valley Nature Photographers' outreach, education, and conservation activities.

Enrollment will be limited, so those who wish to enroll are encouraged to do so now.

To purchase tickets, go to [www.eventbrite.com/event/84093526](http://www.eventbrite.com/event/84093526). This website also contains detailed information about prices and the topics the seminar will cover.

Potomac Valley Nature Photographers was formed in January 2006 under the auspices of PVAS. It is intended to serve nature photographers in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia and neighboring counties in Maryland and Virginia.

Anyone interested in nature photography is welcome to become a member. For more information about the group and its activities, go to the organization's website at [www.potomacvalleynaturephotographers.org](http://www.potomacvalleynaturephotographers.org).

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## New Eagle Scout Projects at Yankauer

Two new Eagle Scout projects will soon be underway at Yankauer!

Davis Mull and Luke Fleri, who are both from Troop 412 in Shepherdstown, have adopted projects at the preserve.

Davis will be replacing all of the preserve's picnic tables and

possibly adding some benches for the butterfly garden. Luke will be making bluebird-box kits that our summer campers will use during "Flying Wild" week. He will also be creating an interpretive display of different types of nest boxes for the pavilion at Yankauer, along with a brochure that has information about the value of nest boxes and where visitors can find plans to make their own.

We thank both Davis and Luke for choosing PVAS as the recipient of their hard work!

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## February Program Will Focus on Water Resources Issues

The featured speaker at our November meeting will be Dr. Peter Vila, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at Shepherd University's Institute for Environmental Studies. .

Dr. Vila will talk about water resource issues.

The program is free and anyone is welcome to attend.

The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 14, at the National Conservation Training Center on Shepherd Grade Road, just north of Shepherdstown. It will be held in the small auditorium (Room 151) of the Center's Instructional West Building.

Future PVAS speakers include the following:

March 12—7:00 p.m. at NCTC: Matt Poole, of the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service, on the innovative digital photography camp for teenagers that NCTC and PVAS have sponsored for the past two years and will sponsor again this year.

April 9—7:00 p.m. at NCTC: W.H. "Marty" Martin on rattlesnakes.

April 18—7:00 p.m. at Cacapon State Park: Wil Hershberger on spring bird songs.

May 14—7:00 p.m. PVAS program at NCTC: Matt Orsie on his recent birding trip to Alaska.

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## Egg Hunt...PVAS Style!

The Potomac Valley Audubon Society is sponsoring an Egg Hunt from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 16, at the Yankauer Nature Preserve. Unlike traditional egg hunt events, this hunt will use eggs colored to resemble real wild bird eggs and include an opportunity for children to paint their own "real" egg to take home as they learn more about birds and their nests.

The object of this year's hunt will be to challenge children to find the naturally camouflaged eggs on the trail and discover how this helps birds keep their nests safe from predators rather than collecting candy filled plastic eggs. Eggs will be hidden along two separate trails at the nature preserve, one for children ages 3-5 and the other for children ages 6-8.

Collected eggs will be "traded in" for a sweet Easter treat. This will be a family-oriented event and parents should plan to go with their children as they walk on the trail.

Pre-registration for the event is required and the cost will be \$5 per child—which can be paid that day. Registration is limited. To register, call PVAS Children's Program Director Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739 or email [pvasprograms@comcast.net](mailto:pvasprograms@comcast.net) with your name, phone number, and the number and ages of children attending.



Hello, everyone:

PVAS's mission statement, which appears at the bottom of the front page of every issue of *Valley Views*, reads as follows: "Potomac Valley Audubon Society is people dedicated to preserving, restoring, and enjoying the natural world through education and action."

Organizational mission statements are often nothing more than hot air but ours is actually true. Especially the "people" part because we couldn't do much of what we do without the time and money contributed by our members and others in the community.

This particular issue of *Valley Views* reminds me of this because it happens to illustrate many different ways in which many different people can and do pitch in to help PVAS.

For example, you'll note that:

- We've begun to engage volunteers in trail work at our Eidolon Nature Preserve.
- Two Boy Scouts from Shepherdstown are going to be doing valuable work at our Yankauer Nature Preserve as part of their Eagle Scout projects.
- We're once again seeking volunteers to help with our annual spring Wildflower Festival and Race for the Birds, and with our school programs.
- We had a great turnout of people to assist with this year's Christmas Bird Counts.
- Our Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Program, which is managed entirely by volunteers, is gearing up to offer another year of instruction.
- Our Potomac Nature Photographers Group, which is also an all-volunteer effort, is planning another outstanding seminar featuring world-class nature photographers.
- So many people bought birdseed from us during last November's annual sale that we'll have a record amount to spend this year on summer camp scholarships.
- Nora Roberts' Foundation has given us another \$2,000 for our Nature Explorer Backpack Program, and the On the Wings of Dreams store in Shepherdstown has given us \$225 for our education programs.
- Our annual appeal has so far raised more than \$17,000 from individuals and families.

See what I mean?

—Peter Smith

## Nora Roberts Foundation Increases Grant

The Nora Roberts Foundation has awarded us another \$2,000 grant to expand the Nature Explorer Backpack program we started last year with an initial grant from the Foundation.

PVAS is very proud that the Foundation has chosen to continue their support of this project.



## Great Backyard Bird Count Coming Up

Mark your calendars for the 2007 Great Backyard Bird Count, which is set for February 15-18.

The Count is an annual four-day event that involves bird watchers of all levels in counting birds and reporting their results to create a mid-winter snapshot of the numbers, kinds, and distribution of birds across the continent.

The count provides an excellent opportunity to engage today's children in birdwatching because it revolves around a highly interactive website that's easy and fun to use and chock full of information about birds and birding.



Here's how the count works:

- Participants count birds for as little or as long as they want during the four-day period.
- Then they submit their counts online at the Great Backyard Bird Count website, using an online checklist, and they can see immediately how their results fit in.
- As the count progresses, they can use the website to see what's being reported from their own towns or anywhere else in the U.S. and Canada. They can also see how this year's numbers compare with those from previous years.
- Participants may also enter a digital photography contest by submitting photos of birds to the website. A panel of judges chooses the best photos and those and other photos are posted on the website's photo gallery section.

The count has a scholarly purpose, too: scientists analyze the results and post summaries highlighting the year's trends and findings.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is managed by the Cornell University Ornithology Laboratory and the National Audubon Society, with sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited.

In recent years some 50,000 individuals have participated.

To find out more, go to the GBBC website at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc).

## This Race is for the Birds, 2008!

The race is on! This year's "This Race is for the Birds" 5K run/walk event will take place at the National Conservation Training Center on April 26.



Diana Gaviria has generously offered to coordinate the race again this year with the help of Susan Brookreson, Jean Neely, and Carolyn Thomas.

Stay tuned for details, and if you'd like to volunteer to help that day, please let Diana know at 304-274-2690. We'd love your help and there are opportunities for everyone.

Proceeds from the event benefit PVAS's education program.

## PVAS Master Naturalist Program to Begin Second Year

The Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Program, which was initiated by PVAS last year, will offer its second year of training this spring. The training is open to all Eastern Panhandle residents who are interested in being certified as Master Naturalists by the state of West Virginia.

This spring's training will kick off with two full days of classes the weekend of April 11-13. After that, there will be one full day of classes each month (all on Saturdays) through September, and two full Saturdays of classes during October. In all, 64 hours of classes will be required to complete the training cycle.

About half the classes will be held at Cacapon State Park in Morgan County, and half at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Jefferson County. The specific schedule of classes will be as follows:

Saturday, April 12 - Sunday, April 13 – Cacapon State Park  
 Saturday, May 3 – NCTC  
 Saturday, June 7 – NCTC  
 Saturday, July 12 – Cacapon State Park  
 Saturday, August 23 – NCTC  
 Saturday, September 27 – NCTC  
 Saturday, October 4 – Cacapon State Park  
 Saturday, October 25 – NCTC

Enrollment will be limited to 20 persons. The deadline for submitting applications will be February 13. Tuition will be \$300 per person for the full course of instruction. A limited number of scholarships will be available.

In addition, this year for the first time PVAS will offer a series of special Master Naturalist Workshops. These workshops, which will typically consist of four to six hours of instruction on a specific topic, will count as elective courses for Master Naturalist members and trainees. However, they will also be open on a space-available basis to members of the general public who are interested in learning more about a specific topic but do not want to commit to a full course of Master Naturalist instruction.

The schedule for these workshops will be as follows:

Saturday, April 26 – Cacapon State Park  
 Saturday, May 10 – NCTC  
 Saturday, August 23 – Cacapon State Park  
 Saturday, September 6 – Cacapon State Park

Enrollment for the workshops will also be limited to 20 persons.

Applications to enroll should be submitted no later than two weeks before the workshop date. The cost of attendance will be \$5 for Master Naturalist members and trainees and \$10 for members of the public.

Application forms and further information are available on the Society's website at [www.potomacaudubon.org](http://www.potomacaudubon.org).

If you have questions, contact the Potomac Valley Audubon Society at 304-676-3397 or [pvasmail@aol.com](mailto:pvasmail@aol.com).

The Master Naturalist program is patterned after the long-established Master Gardener program. It is aimed at allowing individuals to increase their understanding and appreciation of the natural world while helping to serve their communities and the environment. Participants receive classroom and field training in a broad range of topics in the fields of natural history and environmental education.

After completing their 64 hours of training and 30 hours of volunteer work, participants are certified as Master Naturalists. They can then engage in such activities as leading interpretive walks at state parks, assisting biologists with research, and giving presentations to school children and other groups.

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

West Virginia's Master Naturalist program is a project of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, the West Virginia University Extension Service, the Canaan Valley Institute, Davis and Elkins College, and the West Virginia Division of Tourism.

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## Time to Start Thinking About Summer Camp Scholarships

PVAS is already looking ahead to summer camp time!

Each year, we offer scholarships to several summer camps, funded

*Birdseed Sales Best Ever – 2007  
 Effort Supports Kids Camps  
 Nets \$2,658*

in large part through the proceeds from our fall bird seed sale.

This year, we have more money available from our bird seed sale than ever before, so we will be offering more scholarships than ever before.

In the recent past the list of camps to which we have offered scholarships has included the following: the West Virginia State Conservation Camp, in Webster County; the Trout Unlimited Conservation and Fishing Camp, in Syria, Virginia; the Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies Camp, in Capon Bridge; the Oglebay Institute Junior Nature camp, near Wheeling; the Mountain Institute Youth Ecology camp, in Spruce Knob; and our own Audubon Discovery Day camp, at our Yankauer nature preserve.

Start thinking now about eligible youngsters, and then encourage them to apply later on. Watch future issues of Valley Views and our web site, [www.potomacaudubon.org](http://www.potomacaudubon.org), for information about the application process and details about specific camps, dates, and ages.

Once again, Kathryn Henry will be our scholarship coordinator. You may contact her at 304-876-6681, or at [dhenny@myexcel.com](mailto:dhenny@myexcel.com).

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## PVAS Volunteer Opportunities

Want to volunteer to help PVAS? Opportunities abound, especially in the spring! If you'd like to volunteer for any of the programs or projects mentioned in this newsletter, please contact Kristin Alexander at 304-676-3397 or [PVASmail@aol.com](mailto:PVASmail@aol.com) and she'll connect you with the right people.

## Area Christmas Bird Counts Very Successful

This year's two Eastern Panhandle Christmas Bird Counts, sponsored by PVAS, were very successful.

The 21 participants in the December 15 Charles Town count found a total of 87 species, which represents the second highest total of species sighted since the count's inception in 1952.

Of the more than 28,000 birds seen, the highlights were as follows: five Sandhill Cranes at Altona Marsh (a new count species), a record high 10 Bald Eagles, a Peregrine Falcon, two Long-eared Owls, and a "count week" Loggerhead Shrike.

The following species were also seen in record high numbers: Cooper's Hawk, Common Raven, American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, and Brown-headed Cowbird.

Twenty-three people turned out to participate in the January 5 Inwood area Christmas Bird Count, and together they logged a total of 8,352 birds of 74 species.

Two Buffleheads were new to the count. Other relative rarities included two Eastern Phoebes, two Loggerhead Shrikes, 27 Horned Larks, six Red-breasted Nuthatches, two Fox Sparrows, and a Purple Finch.

A significant list of species was seen in record high numbers including Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, both Vulture species, Eastern Screech-Owl, Blue Jay, Common Raven, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Brown-headed Cowbird.

Bob Dean, the compiler for the counts, thanks all of those who participated. "You are contributing to the largest database on winter bird populations in the country," he said "Your effort enables many researchers to better understand what is happening to winter bird populations, and to document changes within the composition of our avifauna. The longer the continuity of our participation, the more meaningful the data becomes."

### **You May Not Know:**

Bob Dean first worked on the Christmas Bird Count as an assistant to Clark Miller in the 1970s. Sometime in the late '80s Bob took over the lead role and has done this work faithfully since then. We owe many thanks for all his hard work on this and so many PVAS projects.

## Volunteer for Fern Wildlife Refuge!

Do you love wildlife? Gretl Learned is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator who operates the Fern Wildlife Refuge near Winchester, Virginia. When PVAS gets calls about injured wildlife, that animal often goes to Gretl. Her commitment and dedication to wildlife is absolutely amazing, and she's doing incredible things almost single-handedly.

She could really use some dedicated volunteers (for individual days or for the long term) to help at the refuge by planting trees, making brush piles, cleaning cages, and other related projects. If you'd like to help Gretl with her efforts, please call her at 540-888-7949. Her refuge is located at 3274 Greenspring Rd., Winchester, Virginia 22603.

## February Field Trips Include Visit to Eastern Shore

PVAS invites its members and anyone with an interest to two field trips in February.

First, on Saturday, February 16, we will join with members of the Baltimore Bird Club for birding on the Eastern Shore from Cape Henlopen, Delaware, to Ocean City, Maryland.

This trip will offer an opportunity to see loons, gannets, sea ducks, Great Cormorants, and Purple Sandpipers. Razorbill sightings are also possible.

The group will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Lewes-Cape May Ferry passenger parking lot in Lewes, Delaware, and leave from there.

Some participants may choose to go to Delaware on Friday and stay overnight. Some may choose to stay in or around Ocean City on Saturday night and continue on to Assateague on Sunday.

Those who plan to spend one or two nights on the Eastern Shore will be responsible for making their own room reservations.

This trip can be brutally cold and windy. Participants should be prepared to bundle up, and should bring binoculars and scopes if they have them.

Those who wish to participate are asked to contact Nancy Kirschbaum beforehand at 304-876-6881 or nancyk500@comcast.net so PVAS knows how many people to expect and can contact them if inclement weather forces cancellation.

On Saturday, February 23, we will join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for a winter bird walk at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship in nearby Loudoun County, Virginia.

This beautiful 900-acre preserve is located on Harpers Ferry Road (Route 671), a few miles south of Harpers Ferry and the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers.

The property includes meadows in the valley and heavily forested slopes on the Blue Ridge.

The walking group will meet at the Neersville Volunteer Fire Station on Route 671 at 8:00 a.m. Ample space for parking is available there.

Participants in this trip should dress appropriately for the weather conditions at the time and bring binoculars if they have them.

For more information about this event contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.

## Get Rid of Catalog Clutter

Visit Catalog Choice on the Web, <http://www.catalogchoice.org/>

Catalog Choice is a free service that allows you to decide what gets in your mailbox. Use it to reduce the number of repeats, to reduce unsolicited catalog mailings, and to promote the adoption of sustainable industry best practices.



### Eidolon Trail Work Volunteers Needed!

PVAS held its first trail-work day of the winter at the Eidolon Nature Preserve on January 12. Volunteers cleaned up the Blue Trail and most of the White Trail, and worked to provide better defined tracks for both those trails.

Those who participated are shown above. They are, from left to right, PVAS's land and facilities chair Tim Murphy; Joe Gentile, of Berkeley Springs; Robert and Cynthia Reiffen, who live in Columbia, MD, but have a weekend home at Great Cacapon; and Alec and Ronald Kidwell, of Great Cacapon.



Additional trail-work days will be scheduled at the preserve through the winter. If you're interested in participating please contact Tim Murphy at 304-876-8133 or timurf@comcast.net.

### Nature Photography Workshop April 25-27

Wil and Donna Hershberger will be offering another nature photography workshop on April 25-27.

The workshop will be held at NCTC and will be open to people of all experience levels. It will include instruction in such topics as seeing light, reading tonalities, metering light with your camera, making a pleasing composition, and equipment needs and use.

Tuition is \$150 and includes a course notebook, coffee and snacks, and instruction. Meals will be available at NCTC but are not included in tuition.

Space is limited to 15 people.

To enroll, mail a \$25 deposit and registration form to PVAS, PO Box 578 Shepherdstown, WV 25443. For the registration form and additional information, go to the PVAS website or call 304-676-3397.

Registrations will be accepted in the order they are received.

### Don't Use Salt to Melt Winter Freeze

*Condensed from an Ask Audubon feature—*

Trees and plants are damaged by road salt, even when salt is applied as far away as 600 feet from the road. Studies have shown salt sensitivity in 50.8% of woody plant species in Canada. Salt can interfere with the flowering, seed germination, roots, and stems of roadside plant species. Birds can mistake salt particles for food, resulting in fatality.

Salt carries risks for human health as well. In rural areas, wells are easily contaminated by salty runoff or seepage into groundwater.

One good alternative is calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), which is less harmful to the environment. Unfortunately CMA is more costly than salt, but the initial outlay of money can prevent the later costs associated with repairing the environment. In addition, simply reducing the amount of salt you add to the environment by using only as much salt as you really need to keep your driveway and walkway clear will also help.

### 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)

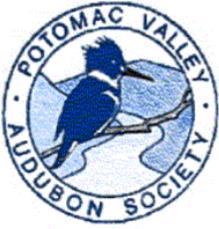
.....(Audubon chapter code Y54; source code 79N7)

**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  
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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 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
- Vice President: Nancy Kirschbaum .....nancyk500@comcast.net
- Secretary: Mina Goodrich .....larrymina@peoplepc.com
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- Vacant At Large .....

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**Emeritus Board Members**

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- Jean Neely .....jeaneely@comcast.net

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