VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac Valley Audubon Society

Volume 29, Issue 5 February 2011

Coming: Summer Camp Scholarships

It may be winter outside but it's time to start spreading the word about this year's PVAS summer camp scholarship program!

Every year throughout its history PVAS has provided scholarships to help area youngsters attend nature-oriented summer camps. The scholarship program is supported partly by our fall birdseed sale. Additional community sources also support scholarships to our own day camp program at the Yankauer Nature Preserve.

Last year we provided scholarships for children to attend the Mountain Adventures Summer Camp near Spruce Knob, WV, the Oglebay Institute Junior Nature Camp near Wheeling, and our own Audubon Discovery summer day camp at Yankauer.

Scholarships to other camps are usually available as well.

Please start thinking now about eligible youngsters, and be sure to encourage them to apply. For further details about specific camps, dates, ages, and application forms, watch future issues of Valley Views and check our web site, www.potomacaudubon.org.

Kathryn Henry will once again be our summer camp scholarship coordinator. You may contact her at 304-876-6681, or at dhenry@myexcel.com.

We Still Need Your Help With Our Annual Fundraising Appeal!

As this is being written in mid January, PVAS's annual fundraising appeal—which was launched on December 1—has raised $21,379.

That's a great result in the current economic climate! It's about 8 percent more than we'd raised at a comparable date last year, and the number of our contributors is up, too. In all, a total of 126 families and individuals have given so far and our average contribution is $169.67.

But we've still got a long way to go to at least match last year's annual appeal total of $29,856.

Our annual appeal period runs through the end of March.

Thanks to all of you who have already contributed.

If you haven't contributed yet, please consider doing so now if you can. No gift is too small and any amount will be appreciated.

If you've received this newsletter by regular mail, a return envelope is included for your convenience (be sure to add your own postage). If you receive our newsletters by email, you can send contributions to: **PVAS, PO Box 578, Shepherdstown, WV 25443**.

New High School Watershed Program Begins

Since beginning the Watershed Education Initiative in 2003 we have reached thousands of fourth graders in Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan counties. This spring, we will begin a new program focused on high school students, especially those in tenth grade Biology. Participating high schools are Martinsburg and Musselman in Berkeley County, Jefferson in Jefferson County, and Paw Paw in Morgan County. All versions of the program still focus on teaching students about their watershed, the importance of water quality to people and wildlife, and how our local actions impact the Chesapeake Bay. Field trips to either the Potomac or Cacapon River (or a tributary) will allow the students to practice the water testing skills they learn in the classroom, using Vernier electronic probes, and search for macroinvertebrates as stream health indicators.

The new high school program is funded by a WV DEP grant (with assistance from Friends of

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Summer Camp Preview

In just a few weeks, registration for our summer day camp programs will begin as campers anticipate another fun-filled summer of nature programming! This is our ninth year of camp! Sessions at Yankauer Nature Preserve will be held from May 31 until July 22 with the first two weeks designed for preschoolers. Traditional day camp sessions for ages 6-13 will begin on June 13. The base price for sessions is $150 a camper. Scholarships are available. Scholarship forms will be available at the www.potomacaudubon.org website by early February.

This year, we have several new surprises in store for campers. We are continuing two weeks of camp at Cool Spring Farm in southern Jefferson County and adding a week at a new site, the Peter Burr Farm near Bardane in Jefferson County. Sessions at Yankauer and Cool Spring Farm will focus on all kinds of animals (*Four Legs, Six Legs, More Legs, No Legs!*) as well as several sessions of Camp Survivor. The Peter Burr site will allow us to offer *The Simple Life*, emphasizing nature studies and investigations into life during "the

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

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President's Perch



Hello everyone:

Thanks to all of you who've helped make our annual fundraising appeal such a success so far.

We know times are still tough for a lot of households, and we're grateful for any and all contributions we receive.

In the end, last year's annual appeal raised $29,856. Right now, we've raised about 72 percent of that amount. We'd like at least to match last year's total this year and based on the response we've had so far we're hopeful that we can—but we've only got until the end of March to do it.

So if you've been planning to give but just haven't gotten around to it, we hope you'll do so soon.

Or if you haven't really thought about giving, we hope you'll consider it.

Your support really does matter. As you read this newsletter, look at all the different services PVAS is providing to the community. Here are just a few examples:

- The programs we offer in area schools are continuing to evolve. Our fourth grade program—which teaches youngsters about the importance of protecting our streams and rivers—is beginning its eighth year and still expanding (this year, thanks to a grant from the Friends of the Cacapon River, we'll be offering it in Paw Paw for the first time). This year, we're also piloting a new high-school version of this program.
- Our summer camp programs are evolving, too. New offerings this summer will include more sessions for older children and a new camp session at the historic Peter Burr Farm in Jefferson County.
- We're continuing to help the City of Ranson develop its new Flowing Springs Park, and this year we'll also be helping the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission lay out a new nature trail between the Peter Burr Farm and the T.A. Lowrey Elementary School.
- Our Master Naturalist Program is going strong and about to begin its fifth year of instruction.

The funds we raise through our annual appeals are critical to sustaining these kinds of activities.

Please do help if you possibly can. *—Peter Smith*

New HS Program (continued from page 1)

the Cacapon River in Morgan County) and is allowing PVAS to partner with the Cacapon Institute. This collaboration will allow more extensive use of the Cacapon Institute's e-school (www.cacaponinstitute.org) with our existing program. Cacapon Institute staff will be teaching the programs in Morgan County as part of the partnership, and they are sponsoring the program at Musselman High.

Another facet of the high school program is having the students cultivate native wild grasses and plants in their school greenhouses. By nurturing these plants, stronger root bases can be established, increasing the survival rate, especially in drought conditions as we experienced in Summer 2010. The plants will be planted by the students on their school property at the end of this semester, either in a rain garden or to help stop erosion problems on the school property.

Grant from Nora Roberts Foundation

PVAS has received $8,000 from the Nora Roberts Foundation in support of its summer camp, "Nature Explorer" backpack program, and Wee Naturalist programs. The grant will help support the expansion of each of these programs while keeping the programs reasonably priced (or free) for program participants.

The funding will allow PVAS to hire a site director needed for our Audubon Discovery Camp sessions in Jefferson County—at CraftWorks at Cool Spring Farm and at a new site this summer, Peter Burr Farm. (See more about these sites in the article about this year's summer's camp.)

In addition, the grant will allow the Wee Naturalist program to expand while keeping the cost to families at a minimum. This program is designed for preschool children with an adult mentor to explore nature together in adult/child teams. While the program is popular, we have found it extremely difficult to cover all expenses while keeping fees low enough for families to afford. This grant will help offset some of those costs and keep the program affordable to families!

Finally, about $4,000 of the funds will allow PVAS to continue to expand its Nature Explorer Backpack program. There are now nineteen "Nature Explorer Backpacks" at seven libraries and one nature center available to families in the community throughout PVAS' service area, including Washington County. The goal of these packs is to provide families with tools and ideas to get kids outside exploring nature. Themes so far include birds, insects, and backyard habitats. The library packs continue to be extremely popular, so with this funding, PVAS plans to provide the four libraries that do not yet have birding back packs with packs of that theme, provide another backpack with a new theme to seven existing library partners and resupply and replace items and do repairs on existing packs. Suzi Taylor has done an excellent job on developing these backpacks, and we are very happy to have her continue to work with PVAS on this program.

PVAS Benefits From Shepherdstown Rotary Event

PVAS received $2,750 through its participation in the Shepherdstown Rotary Club's annual Christmas Charity Ball, which was held December 3 at the Shepherdstown Volunteer Fire Department Hall.

This was the third-highest total of any organization participating in the event—only the Animal Welfare Society and the Shepherdstown Library received more.

In all, the event netted a total of $27,100 for 19 different nonprofit organizations in the region.

Individual Rotarians help underwrite the Ball by sponsoring tables and contributing funds to cover all of the Ball's food costs. The proceeds from the sale of tickets to each table are then donated to a charity selected by that table's host. There is no fixed price for tickets; instead, attendees are asked to make appropriate contributions.

PVAS's table was sponsored by PVAS president Peter Smith.

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Board member Mina Goodrich generously donated items for PVAS to auction.

Thanks are due to Beth Batdorf and John Bresland, Gary and Iris Heichel, Bob and Linda Reynolds, and Board members Mina Goodrich and Jane Vanderhook for supporting PVAS's table.

Thanks are also due to Shepherdstown Rotary for making this event possible.

Friends of the Cacapon River Support Morgan School Program

Friends of the Cacapon River has renewed its commitment to sponsoring PVAS' Watershed Education Program for Morgan County Schools. With this organization's support of $5,000, Warm Springs Intermediate School's fourth graders will be participating in the program again this year. In addition, Paw Paw's fourth, fifth, eighth and ninth grade classes will be participating in the program for the first time.

This year PVAS will be partnering with the Cacapon Institute (CI) to bring these programs to Morgan County. This excellent organization has been working with schools in recent years to deliver watershed education. This year CI and PVAS will be pooling their resources to provide the best of each other's programs at these two schools. Ben Alexandro and Frank Rodgers, of CI, will be trained on PVAS' Watershed program by Ellen Murphy, and will deliver the program to these two Morgan County schools. The partnership between Friends of the Cacapon River, Cacapon Institute, and PVAS will minimize driving distances and program costs and use all our resources more efficiently. Meanwhile, Paw Paw and Warm Springs Intermediate will be able to participate free of charge in the best of what PVAS and CI programs have to offer.

School Programs Continue in Popularity

PVAS continues to have a presence in the public and private schools through numerous nature programs. Classroom teachers are beginning to request these programs more often, especially since we have developed themes that can be offered as an "in-school field trip," reducing transportation costs.

In Fall 2010, we reached over 1,000 students in Berkeley and Jefferson Counties through nature programs at school or at Yankauer and an additional 850 through programs such as the Jefferson County Science Olympiad.

Teachers have also begun reserving spots for Spring field trips to Yankauer Nature Preserve, including schools from Washington County, Maryland. New programs are being developed at the request of teachers so that we can now offer a variety of topics for each elementary grade level, and we have received requests to be present at school science nights. Thanks to our volunteers, we are able to fulfill these requests.

From The Mailbag

PVAS has received thank you letters from some of the students that participated in our fall programs. Here's a sample from some second graders (all spelling is retained from the original):

> Dear Mrs. Murphy- I liked when we had a scavenger hunt. It was fun when we went in rope circles. That was fun to! I want you to know that it was one of the funnest school days ever.
>
> Your Friend, Hunter

> Dear Mrs. Murphy- I enjoyed the scavenjer hunt and I learned so many things from you. Posms, and kangaroos are marsopeels. (marsupials)
>
> From Nolan

> Dear Mrs. Murphy- I enjoyed doing the scavinjer hunt. I liked the class tree. How did you know how to make the class tree? I liked everything you teched us. I like you coming to Berkley Hights Elametry School.
>
> Your friend, Chloe ☺

Summer Camp (continued from page 1)

good old days." Campers will experience bread making, candle dipping, nature dyes, and other traditional farm-life activities for one week in late June.

A new session will be held from 5-10 p.m. so that campers can explore Yankauer as the evening turns to night! Night hikes, searching for nocturnal critters, star gazing, and storytelling in camper forts after dusk are some of the activities planned for *The Deep, DARK Woods*.

Middle school teens can choose from sessions that feature a trip to Echo Hill Outdoor School on the Chesapeake Bay, adventure programming and an overnight at For Love of Children Outdoor Education Center in Shannondale, or a canoeing trip on the Potomac River. Campers ages 13 and older can apply to be Junior Staff by sending an email to Ellen Murphy at pvasprograms@comcast.net and indicating their interest. Junior staff will be selected from those who apply.

Questions about camp can be answered by Ellen at 304-676-8739.

PVAS to Partner with Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission

PVAS has been approached by the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission to assist them in improvements at their Peter Burr Farm in Bardane. The group is interested in developing a nature trail on the property that highlights its natural features such as its wetland, birds, grassland, and others. Master Naturalist Nan Johnson has agreed to be the lead naturalist in this project. In addition, the Commission has invited PVAS to hold a week of summer camp on its property, and host bird walks and other nature-oriented activities. We are excited about this new partnership and where it might lead.

Progress Report: Flowing Springs Park

Flowing Springs Park planning is underway. Back in November, part of the committee met to focus on the conservation priorities for the park as it is developed. The grassland, wetland, and spring were the primary focus of the conversation, as well as how we could minimize the threats to each as the park is planned.

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On January 28, weather permitting, a team from WVU will be coming to Ranson to help facilitate the committee's recreational planning meeting for the park. The WVU team will consist of Jenny Selin, Community Design Team Coordinator in the Division of Resource Management, Professor Steve Selin, who will be using the park as a case study for graduate students enrolled in his course, "Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management," and Assistant Professor Angela Campbell, who will be using the park planning process as a case study for her three Landscape Architecture students. She has also volunteered to refine the students' plans over the summer to be most useful to the City.

The Flowing Springs Park committee is currently working on setting the site for deer fences, putting together a plant list for buffer and habitat plantings, and looking ahead to scheduling various volunteer days where the community can come together to help clean up and protect their future park. Stay tuned as things develop!

Birding 101 Returns in April

Dates are still being solidified as of the writing of this article, but have no fear, the popular course, Birding 101, will be offered again in 2011! By the time you read this, the dates and application materials will likely be posted on the PVAS Website. We'll be sending out a notice to the PVAS e-mail list to share the details as soon as they are confirmed.

This much we do know… The course will consist of four weekday-evening classes at the National Conservation Training Center from 7-9 p.m. The course will also include four Saturday morning field trips around the area so you can practice identifying the birds you learned about at the previous class. (These trips are optional, but encouraged.) The entire course is only $75.

If you are interested in the course but are not on the PVAS e-mail list and don't see the information on the website yet, please contact Kristin Alexander at PVASmail@aol.com or 304-676-3397. We will happily send registration materials to you upon request.

Sign Up Now for Master Naturalist Workshops

PVAS's Potomac Valley Naturalist Program is once again offering a series of Master Naturalist Workshops in the Eastern Panhandle this year.

The workshops, which will consist of three or more hours of expert instruction on a specific nature studies topic, will count as elective courses for individuals enrolled in the Master Naturalist Program.

However, each session is also open on a space-available basis to members of the general public who are interested in learning more about certain topics but do not want to commit to a full course of Master Naturalist instruction.

Enrollment for each workshop will be limited to 20 persons.

The cost of attendance for each workshop will be $10 for Master Naturalist Program members and trainees and $15 for others.

Application forms and full details are available on the PVAS website at www.potomacaudubon.org.

In all, a total of six workshops on a variety of topics are being offered during 2011.

The first workshop, on "Emerging Contaminant Issues and Fish Health" was held on January 15.

The specific dates, topics, and locations of the remaining workshops are as follows:

February 5: "Nature Programs with Children." 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the main Lodge of Cacapon State Park, Berkeley Springs. This workshop will focus on skills and strategies for leading programs with children. Participants will learn how children think and process information as they grow, and get an overview of teaching resources for nature education.

Late April/Early May (exact date to be determined): "Leave No Trace Trainer Workshop." At the For the Love of Children Outdoor Education Center, Shannondale. Earn credits toward becoming a certified trainer in the Leave No Trace program, which teaches individuals and groups how to reduce their impacts while they enjoy the outdoors. Will include an overnight camping stay.

May 14: "Bats." 7:00-10:00 p.m. at Cool Spring Farm, Charles Town (date and time tentative). West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Biologist Kieran O'Malley will review the natural history of bats and lead evening field explorations.

August 20: "Monarch Watch." 1:00-4:00 p.m. at Cool Spring Farm, Charles Town. Participants will learn about the life cycle and habits of the Monarch Butterfly and other native butterflies. Session will include hands-on field activity to search for butterfly host plants, butterfly eggs, larvae, and adults.

September 24: "Fall Wildflowers." 9:00 a.m.-12 noon. at the National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown. This workshop will include a short classroom session to introduce and explore the phenology of autumn and its natural changes, then focus on exploring and identifying common wildflowers and plants around the NCTC campus.

For more information contact Wanda Miller at 304-263-7320 or PVMN54@gmail.com or Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739 or pvasprograms@comcast.net.

Learn How to Identify Trees in Winter

PVAS is offering a winter tree-identification field trip at the Yankauer Nature Preserve the morning of Saturday, February 12.

There is no fee, and anyone with an interest is invited to attend.



West Virginia state forester Ben Kunze will lead the trip. He will show how to identify trees through such clues as their branching habits and overall shape, twigs and buds, and bark.

Participants will meet at the preserve parking lot at 10 a.m. The total time of the trip will be about two hours.

Pre-registration is recommended but not required; to pre-register contact Kelly Heldreth at kheldreth@hotmail.com or 304-229-6229 or 540-931-5945.

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If there has been a major snow the day before or weather is especially inclement on the day of the trip, call 304-676-3397 to make sure the trip is still on.

If the trip is snowed out, it will be rescheduled to February 26.

Those who participate should be sure to dress warmly and wear sturdy footwear.

Detailed directions to the preserve can be found on the PVAS website at www.potomacaudubon.org.

Don't Miss Eastern Shore Birding Trip

Please join David Myles on a February 19-20 birding trip to the Eastern Shore that will include visits to Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague Island National Seashore, and perhaps Ocean City and beyond.



The Chincoteague Refuge is renowned for its abundant, diverse bird habitat. It includes more than 14,000 acres of beach, dunes, marsh, and maritime forest; its location along the Atlantic Flyway makes it a vital resting and feeding spot for a large number and diversity of birds.

This will be a great time to visit the area as waterfowl begin staging for their migration north. During a visit there in 2009, we identified approximately 77 species during our trip, including birds seen at Ocean City, Assateague, and Rehoboth Beach.

Meet Dave and the other trip participants at 6:30 a.m., Saturday morning, in the lobby of the Chincoteague Island Best Western, which is located at 7105 Maddox Boulevard (on the left hand side of the road near the entrance to the park before the causeway).

Dave will be staying at the Best Western; room rates there are as low as $59.49 with breakfast included. There are a number of lodging opportunities in and around Chincoteague for those who want to shop around. Rooms can be booked online at www.bestwestern.com or by calling 800-553-6117.

As the trip comes together, if there is sufficient interest, Dave and some participants may opt to stay overnight Saturday somewhere north of Chincoteague and bird some Maryland and Delaware areas perhaps up to Bombay Hook on Sunday and possibly Monday before heading home.

If you are willing to lend a ride, let Dave know. To get more information about the trip or hooking up with a carpool, contact Dave by email at dkmyles@comcast.net. After the evening of February 16, call his cell at 201-245-5868 or 304-839-7866 or email him at david.myles@nice.com.

For more information about the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague Island National Seashore go to www.fws.gov/northeast/chinco/assateague.html.

Local Area Birding Trips Set for February 9 and 26

PVAS will be sponsoring two local area birding trips during February, one in Jefferson County and the other in Washington County.

The first trip, scheduled for Wednesday, February 9, will include visits to Flowing Springs Park and Altona Marsh in Jefferson County.

Flowing Springs Park has a variety of habitats that attract raptors, such as Red-Shouldered and Red-Tailed hawks and American Kestrals, Wilson Snipes, waterfowl and songbirds. Altona Marsh is a well-known marl marsh that attracts large populations of Red-Winged Blackbirds, other songbirds, raptors, woodpeckers, shore birds, including the Virginia Rail and Sora, and waterfowl.

We will meet in the parking lot of the Martin's Supermarket at Jefferson Crossroads, in Charlestown, at 8:00 a.m. For additional information or directions contact Sandy Sagalkin at monsansagalkin@myactv.net or 240-291-6465.

The second trip will be a three-mile walk along the C&O Canal between Antietam Creek and Shepherdstown on Saturday, February 26.



Here, we'll be looking for Winter Wrens, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Yellow-rumped Warblers, and possibly Hooded and/or Common Mergansers if the river isn't frozen over.

Participants should plan to meet at 8:00 a.m. at the large National Park Service parking lot on Canal Road, just east of the railroad trestle (not the first, small parking lot at the base of the hill). For more information or directions contact Kate Weatherby at yankee_in_virginia@yahoo.com or 304-535-1319.

Exact trip details of both trips may change according to recent bird sightings.

In case of inclement weather contact the trip leader to see if the trip is still on.

Audubon Hog Island Camp in Maine

Broadcast email: November 30, 2010
Erica Van Etten <ericavanetten@GMAIL.COM>

Hi—this may be of interest to folks, especially if there are any Hog Island alumni out there?. The National Audubon Society has opened registration for their famous week-long birding and environmental education programs at the historic Audubon Camp in Maine on Hog Island. Instructors include Pete Dunne, Kenn Kaufman, Scott Weidensaul, Steve Kress, Lang Elliott and many more. Seven programs are being offered – 4 birding programs for adults, a teen birding program, an educator's week, and an Audubon Chapter Leadership Program focusing on the Atlantic Flyway Initiative. Two thousand eleven is the 75th anniversary of programs on Hog Island, legendary among birders and environmental educators since the time of Roger Tory Peterson, the camp's first ornithology instructor in 1936. The 2011 programs are being organized by National Audubon's Seabird

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Restoration Program (Project Puffin), which assumed management of the programs from Maine Audubon in 2010 after the programs were cancelled in 2009. In two "service-learning" sessions participants will work directly with National Audubon biologists from the Seabird Restoration Program to census seabirds and restore nesting habitat on offshore seabird islands. All programs feature a boat trip to visit restored colonies of Atlantic Puffin and Tern (Roseate, Arctic, Common) at Eastern Egg Rock Island, as well as workshops, evening presentations, expert birding tours, camaraderie, and fabulous home-cooked meals (lobster!). Housing is in cabins on the island. For more information, photos or to enroll, visit http://hogisland.audubon.org. Some scholarships are available - check with your local Audubon chapter or birding club to see if they are sponsoring an adult or teen camper this year.

February Program Will Focus on Stink Bugs

Our February program at the National Conservation Training Center will feature a presentation on the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug.

The program will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 9. Since we expect it will be unusually popular, NCTC has agreed to cosponsor it and shift the location from our usual meeting room to the large Byrd Auditorium in the Entrance Building.

Admission is free and anyone is welcome to attend.

The presenter will be Dr. Tracy Leskey, entomologist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Appalachian Fruit Research Station in Kearneysville.



Dr. Leskey and her colleagues at the Research Station are in the forefront of research into the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, and she co-chairs a special USDA working group that is trying to find ways to respond to the problems the insect poses.

Native to China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan, the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug was apparently introduced into the U.S. in eastern Pennsylvania in the late 1990s. Since then, it has become firmly established throughout the Middle Atlantic region and is rapidly spreading to other parts of the country.

First thought to be simply a nuisance, the insect has quickly proven to be an increasingly serious agricultural pest that is capable of causing widespread damage to fruit and vegetable crops. Fruit growers in the Eastern Panhandle have been particularly hard hit over the past couple of years.

Backyard Bird Count Coming Soon

Here's a reminder that this year's Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is scheduled for February 18-21.

The annual GBBC is a joint project of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with Canadian partner Bird Studies Canada.

The four-day event is free and is open to bird watchers of all ages and skill levels. It's an especially great activity for families with children.

Participants watch birds for any length of time on one or more days of the count and enter their tallies at www.birdcount.org. The results provide a snapshot of the whereabouts of more than 600 bird species.

An estimated 63,000 people from across the United States and Canada participated in last year's count, submitting more than 97,300 bird checklists.

More information is available on the GBBC website at www.birdcount.org. Or contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at 800-843-2473, gbbc@cornell.edu, or National Audubon at 202-861- 2242 ext. 3050, citizenscienece@audubon.org.

South Berkeley Recycling Center Accepting Electronics

Press Release: December 18, 2010; Berkeley County Solid Waste Authority; www.berkeleycountyrecycling.com



Effective immediately, the South Berkeley Recycling Center (SBRC) at 637 Pilgrim Street, Inwood will be accepting nearly all forms of used electronic devices for recycling as part of the center's day to day collection. This recycling program expansion is an effort to increase recycling, reduce litter and open dumping, and to develop an alternative collection program due to the passage of SB398. The SBRC will be accepting electronic devices during its normal operating schedule of Tuesday through Saturday; 9am to 5pm. No other recycling center will be accepting electronic devices at this time.

On March 24, 2010, Governor Manchin signed Senate Bill 398 into law. SB 398 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.

Cost: There will be a cost sharing processing fee of $5.00 per television set and/or computer monitor. The $5.00 fee is applicable to CRT style monitors, LCD style monitors, Plasma screens and Flat Screen TV's. All other electronic devices will be accepted for free. No checks or credit cards are accepted. Please bring exact change.

Self Unloading: Be prepared to self unload. It is important to remember to bring sufficient help with you upon delivery of the electronics as self unloading of the electronic material is a requirement of the program. Equipment will be available at the center to assist in the unloading of very large items.

Acceptable Items: Acceptable items include, but are not limited to, answering machines, camcorders, compact disc players, copiers, cell phones, duplicators, electronic typewriters, fax machines, hard drives, laptops, mainframe computers, mobile phones, modems, pagers, personal computers, monitors ($5.00 fee), keyboards, mouse, printers, printed circuit boards, radios, remote controls, stereos, tape players, telephones, telephone equipment, televisions ($5.00 fee), test equipment, transparency makers, uninterruptible power supplies, VCR's, word processors and other similar electronic items. These items will be accepted regardless of age, condition or manufacturer.

Large Loads: Entities desiring to recycle 12 or more units per visit

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shall palletize the electronics. For safety reasons, all pallets with electronic units must be shrink wrapped prior to delivery at South Berkeley Recycling Center.

Statewide Information: The West Virginia Solid Waste Management Board has created a comprehensive website to assist the citizens, businesses and recyclers of West Virginia to better understand the laws and recycling options available. The website is http://www.state.wv.us/swmb/EWaste/Index.html

Business Information: Businesses, institutional and commercial entitities in need of electronics recycling services are encouraged to contact Freedom Electronics Recycling at 301-223-4123 or visit their website at www.freedomrecycling.com.

More Information: To learn more about the Berkeley County Recycling Program, including the location of all centers, please visit the website at www.berkeleycountyrecycling.com

Join the Nature Writers' Group

Do you enjoy reading and/or writing about nature? Then you are invited to join the Potomac Valley Nature Writers' Group (PVNWG). The Group meets each month from September through May to discuss a particular nature writer and his or her work. Selections vary to include male and female writers, classic and contemporary works, fiction and nonfiction, prose and poetry. PVNWG also supports members' own writing efforts such as nature blogging and nature journaling. Meeting dates and locations vary. For more information, visit http://potomacvalleynaturewritinggroup.blogspot.com/ or contact pvnaturewriters@gmail.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 5:	Training —Nature Programs with Children
February 9:	Birding walk - Flowing Springs Park & Altona Marsh.
February 9:	PVAS Program - Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs, NCTC
February 12:	Field Trip - Winter Tree ID, Yankauer Nature Preserve
February 18-21:	Great Backyard Bird Count
February 19-20:	Birding trip - Eastern Shore
February 25:	Potomac Valley Nature Photographers meeting
February 26:	Bird walk - C&O Canal
March 9:	PVAS Program – Topic TBA
March 18:	Woodcock walk - Freshwater Institute
March 25:	Potomac Valley Nature Photographers meeting
April 9:	"This Race is for the Birds" - NCTC
April 13:	PVAS Program – Topic TBA
April 16:	Wildflower Festival - Yankauer Nature Preserve
April 17:	Egg Hunt - Yankauer Nature Preserve
April 17:	Wildflower Walks - Eidolon Nature Preserve
April 22:	Potomac Valley Nature Photographers meeting

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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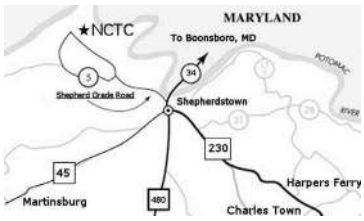
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DATED MATERIALS

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 Thursday of the month (Sept.-June). Meeting location will be announced prior to meetings. These meetings are open to all PVAS members.

PVAS Officers and Board Members

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Emeritus Board Members

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PVAS Wildlife Rescue Coord:	Diana Mullis	304-267-3482

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