

Celebrating
25 Potomac Valley Audubon Society
Years
VALLEY VIEWS

Volume 25, Issue 9

June 2007

Eidolon Preserve Opens

About 100 people turned out for the formal opening of the new Eidolon Nature Preserve in Morgan County on May 19. More than 50 were on hand for the 10 a.m. opening ceremony, and another 50 or so came to walk the property during an open house that followed until 4 p.m.



Weather conditions were ideal for the event, and turnout was also likely boosted by a lengthy preview that was broadcast the night before on the evening newscasts of the region's only television station, NBC25 in Hagerstown.



Shown above, from left to right, are: PVAS board member emeritus Bill Belton; Thomas Minney, of the Nature Conservancy, holding a bronze plaque that will be mounted at the preserve; Lena Kidwell, of Hedgesville; PVAS president Peter Smith; and Betty Lou Harmison, of Berkeley Springs.

Mr. Belton, Mrs. Kidwell, and Mrs. Harmison were friends of the late Marguerite Zapoleon, who donated the land for the preserve.

Also attending the opening ceremony were Morgan County Commissioner Brenda J. Hutchinson and Bath Town Council member Nancy Harvey. Organizations represented included the Friends of the Cacapon River, the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association, the Ecology Coalition of Morgan County, Potomac Water Watch, the Foxglove Garden Club, and the USDA's Potomac Headwaters Resource Conservation and Development. U.S. Representative Shelly Moore Capito (R) sent a letter of congratulations.

The 354-acre preserve is owned by the Nature Conservancy and co-managed by PVAS.

It is located on Sideling Hill, just west of Berkeley Springs. It will be open to the public from dawn to dusk year round. Directions can be found on our website at www.potomacaudubon.org.

Don't Forget Our 25th Anniversary Celebration!

We hope you signed up for our 25th birthday celebration at The Yankauer Nature Preserve on June 2, and are planning to attend.

The event will begin at 6 p.m. It will include festive decorations, a fabulous forest setting, awards, a bonfire, a delicious dinner and stories to share. Everything (dinner with beverage and dessert, all utensils, plates, cups etc.) will be provided.

The menu will include pulled pork sandwiches, grilled portebella sandwiches, vegetarian baked beans, cole slaw and birthday cake. There will be no charge for members.

If you have any questions, contact Susan Brookreson at 304.263.2823 or brookre@earthlink.net

Thanks to all that did give a prompt RSVP to our 25th birthday party.

Our Meeting Location Is Moving!

As many of you know, the U.S. Geological Survey's Leetown Science Center, where we have held our monthly membership meetings for many years, is no longer available to us.

But we are very happy to announce that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown has graciously agreed to host our monthly meetings from now on.

We are also changing the start time of our monthly meetings from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The meetings will still be held the second Wednesday of every month, except the summer months of June, July and August.

New Location - continues on Page 4, Col. 2

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

Slate of Candidates for PVAS Board

The membership adopted a revised organization structure for PVAS at the May meeting last year. All of the board members, with the exception of four officers, now serve as "At Large" members. This action was closely followed with a revision of the PVAS by-laws in January 2007 establishing an election cycle in which approximately one third of the board is up for election each year. Additionally, with only a special exception for officer positions, members may serve only two consecutive terms on the board. As a consequence, David and Mary Sue Eldridge who have served together in one seat on the board for two consecutive terms must relinquish their position on the Board. A total of four seats are open for election at the 2007 Annual Meeting. The slate of candidates follows:

Susan Brookreson	Current Member
Mina Goodrich	Current Member
Nancy Kirschbaum	Current Member
Leigh Jenkins	New Member

Election of Board Members will be conducted during the Annual Meeting (a.k.a., 25th Anniversary Celebration) on June 2 at the Yankauer Nature Preserve. In accordance with the by-laws, members that are unable to attend this meeting may show support for any or all candidates by submission of a proxy. "Proxies must be submitted in writing stating the name or position of the Officer or Director with authority to cast a vote on behalf of the member. Proxies must also be dated and signed by the member and delivered by mail or other means to any Officer of the SOCIETY." The list of Officers is found on the back page of this newsletter.

Master Naturalist Classes at NCTC

Our new Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Program held its first classes at the National Conservation Training Center on May 5.

Shown at right is instructor Jeff Feldman with a group of students on the NCTC grounds. Feldman led a four-hour class on nature interpretation.



The program, which was launched in April with a round of classes at Cacapon State Park, will run through October.

Classes are being held monthly, at either NCTC or Cacapon State Park.

Participants receive classroom and field training in a broad range of topics in the fields of natural history and environmental education.

After completing training, they are certified by the state of West Virginia as Master Naturalists. They can then engage in such activities as leading interpretive walks at state parks and assisting state biologists with research.

A total of 21 students from throughout the Eastern Panhandle are enrolled in this year's program.

This Race is for the Birds! 2007

Our annual trail run and walk at the US Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) enjoyed nearly 100 runners and walkers ages 4-65 turning out for the event! The event raised approximately \$5,000 for PVAS' education programs thanks to the generous sponsors listed in the newsletter and the generosity of participants as well. Race times are available on the PVAS website. An enormous thank you goes out to the race committee for organizing the race: Diana Gaviria (committee chair), Susan Brookreson, Jean Neely, and Carolyn Thomas. As always, we are indebted to NCTC for graciously allowing us to use their beautiful facility for the race. And finally, we want to thank the additional race volunteers for their help the day of the race: Satch Alwin, Susan and Joe Brookreson, Danny and Michelle Carter (led the kids' "Fun Run!"), Monica, Hilary and Sierra Grabowska, Jen Jones, Julie Laing, Karene Motivans, Kim and Kyle Myles, Joy Pardue, Jon, Sean, and Daniel Pike, Rita and Haydon Rudolf, Pam Smulovitz, Erin and Katy Super, Bruce, Carl, and Christian Thomas, and Lynne Wiseman.

A special thanks to the following sponsors of this year's "This Race is for the Birds!"



Friends of Mark Benedict

Associated Oral Maxillofacial Surgeons, Caribbean Islands Travel Service, Curves of Jefferson County, Dickinson And Wait Craft Gallery, Erica Patthoff, D.D.S., German Street Coffee and Candlerly, Grapes and Grains, Greentree Realty, Healthway Natural Foods of Martinsburg, Joseph Brookreson, D.D.S., Law Office of D. Frank Hill, III, linda@gregdidden.com, Lost Dog Coffee, Lynne.wiseman@ERA.com, McAteer & Associates, PLLC, Medical Management Solutions, Medicap Pharmacy, Neighbors of the Yankauer Preserve, One, Two Kangaroo, On the Wings of Dreams, Paul F. Davis, D.D.S., Potomac-Mecklenburg Garden Club, Potomac Portable Restrooms, The Press Room, Progressive Printing, Ray P. Vanderhook, DDS, MS, Shenandoah Valley Runners, The Shepherdstown Chronicle, The Shepherdstown Observer, Specialty Business Supply, Yellow Brick Bank Restaurant

Appalachian Trail Visitor Use Study

Are you curious about the Appalachian Trail (AT)? Would you like to learn more but are not quite ready to hit the trail with a backpack? Well, here is your chance. The AT is 75 years old and has never had a science-based calculation of trail users. Without an accurate visitor count it is difficult to effectively manage what is often referred to as our longest National Park (2,175 miles). A survey is taking place in our area (from Harpers Ferry, WV to Boiling springs PA), June 1 to August 14, 2007. Volunteers will interview AT users as they exit the trail at various checkpoints.

To volunteer or obtain more information go to: www.srs.fs.fed.us/trends/ or contact the study project manager at: Mattowens@warnell.uga.edu or (706) 559-4266

PVAS Scholarships Announced

Summer 2007 is going to be an especially exciting time for the youngsters who have won camp scholarships from PVAS, reports Kathryn Henry, scholarship coordinator.

Kyle Myles of Harpers Ferry and Jacob Shadle of Middleway will attend Trout Unlimited's Conservation and Fishing Camp, in Syria, Virginia, next to Shenandoah National Park. These two scholarships are being co-sponsored by Trout Unlimited. Kyle is a Boy Scout who loves hiking, camping, and fishing. He can usually be seen volunteering at the PVAS annual "This Race is for the Birds"! Jacob's favorite subject is science, and he wants to protect the outdoors and all kinds of wildlife.

Hanna Davis of Falling Waters will attend the Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies, near Capon Bridge. This scholarship is co-sponsored by the Burgundy Center. Hanna has many interests including playing on a softball team and taking archery lessons.

Seventeen scholarship winners will attend PVAS's very popular Audubon Discovery Camp at Yankauer. They are: Zachary Bowman, Lily Braithwaite, Zane Braithwaite, Sarah Fedorchak, Hannah Harrelson, Liam Harrelson, Tim Harrison, Benjamin Hayes, David Hayes, Fauna Mahootian, Kia Mahootian, Zhaleh Mahootian, Liam McKee, Morel Simpson, Syles Simpson, William Slonaker, and Danica Wilson.

Congratulations to all of these eager campers!

Wildflower and Earth Day Festival

Approximately 150 people came out to enjoy the festivities at the Yankauer Nature Preserve on April 21. The weather and wildflowers



were perfect for visitors to explore the preserve and learn about a variety of environmental organizations in the area with which they can get involved. A special thank you goes to the organizations that shared their information with visitors: Berkeley Community Pride, Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle, Maryland Native Plant Society, and the Opequon Watershed Team. Wil and Donna Hershberger also had a booth displaying nature photography and Wil's new book. The event would not have been possible without the help of dedi-

cated volunteers including Kathy Bilton, Susan Brookreson, Wil Hershberger, Marilyn Kinyon, Nancy Kirschbaum, Julie Laing, Joe Metzger, Jean Neely, Joey Nicks, Joy Pardue, and Katja Sherwood. We also sincerely appreciate Jennifer Caskey loaning us Caskey Lane for overflow parking. Thank you all!!!

May Program Cancellation

Our apologies for the late cancellation of the "Wings and Things" program scheduled for May 9. We will work to reschedule the program for the fall. A special thank you goes to Don and Kathryn Henry and Bob Dean who were willing to lead walks for folks who did not get the message in time and still wanted to participate in a program that evening.

State Helps Set Up Eidolon Bird Survey

Kieran O'Malley, a wildlife diversity biologist with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, traveled to the Eidolon



Nature Preserve May 4 to help set up observation points and a protocol for a survey of the birds breeding on the property.

O'Malley was accompanied by two of PVAS's

most experienced birders, Vice President Nancy Kirschbaum and her husband Elliot.

The Kirschbaums will be doing the actual survey work later this spring.

For the short run, this spring's survey will expand our initial knowledge of Eidolon's natural resources, and thus will be helpful in shaping the land management plan that is currently under development.

For the long run, all of the survey points have been marked with permanent metal tags and mapped by GPS. This means we will be able to track bird population trends on the property by repeating the same survey at the same locations using the same protocol every year.

During two informal visits to Eidolon last May and this May, the Kirschbaums have so far identified some 40 species of birds on the property, including Cerulean, Hooded, and Worm-eating warblers.

Audubon Discovery Camp

For the first time ever, Audubon Discovery Camp is booked solid and has been since mid-April. We are very pleased that the program is in such demand! We plan to expand in the future to allow space for additional children; but for now, each session has a waiting list, including "Just for Fledglings" (preschool) and the nature photography camp sessions!

Some campers this year will be able to attend a week on scholarship thanks to the annual birdseed sale, donors who have provided all or part of the fee, and the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation which is providing 10 additional scholarships for children involved with the Boys and Girls Clubs and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Our camp director, Ellen Murphy, has hired summer camp staff but is still looking for Junior Counselors, ages 14-17. Junior Counselors are unpaid staff who attend a week (or more!) at no charge by working as staff assistants. Applications for Junior Counselors are found on our website at www.potomacaudubon.org.



Hello, everyone:

In last month's newsletter, I noted that although PVAS has changed a lot since its founding a quarter century ago, we aren't afraid to try new things. Well, we're at it again.

For almost all of its 25 years, PVAS has held its monthly membership meetings at the U.S. Geological Survey's Leetown Science Center. That location has served us well and we thank the Center's Director, Bill Palmisano, and his colleagues for all their hospitality.

But it's time to move on. And so when we resume our monthly meetings in September after our usual summer hiatus, we'll be holding them at a new location: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) just north of Shepherdstown.

The exact logistics remain to be worked out but we'll probably be meeting most months in the small auditorium (Room 160) of the Instructional West Building, which is just behind the main entry building that houses the registration desk, the main auditorium and the museum.

The NCTC is a fabulous facility. Most of you are probably already familiar with it but for those who aren't, it has everything meeting-goers could possibly want: more than ample parking; safe, well-lighted public areas; and comfortable meeting spaces with state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment.

It's also just a very pleasant place to be—the Center's buildings are thoughtfully designed and welcoming, and its 500-acre campus provides a beautiful, park-like setting.

Beyond all that, having our meetings at NCTC is a great fit for us because we're already partnering with NCTC in many other ways. For example:

- Our annual Race for the Birds and Potomac Arts Festival are held on the NCTC campus.
- Our Potomac Valley Nature Photographers group has met regularly at NCTC since its inception.
- We teamed up with NCTC last year to offer a new digital nature photography camp for teenagers, and the same camp is being offered again this year.
- Roughly half of this year's new Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Program courses are being held at NCTC
- We help out with the Science Olympiad that's held at NCTC each spring, and occasionally with NCTC training courses as well.

Needless to say, we're extremely grateful to NCTC's Director, Rick Lemon, and his staff (especially Steve Chase) for their willingness to assist us and work with us in so many ways. The next time you hear somebody griping about the aloofness of the federal bureaucracy, you can remind them that NCTC is one federal institution, at least, that really cares about the community in which it's situated and works hard to be a good friend and neighbor to that community. We're lucky to have such an institution here.

--Peter Smith

New Location - continued from Page 1

So our next meeting this year will be held at 7:00 p.m. on September 12 at NCTC.

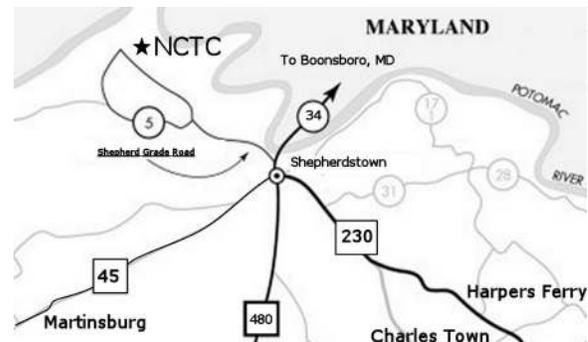
The program that evening will be the program on "green" home construction that was originally scheduled for last February but cancelled because of bad weather.

The speaker will be Jeff Feldman, a former environmental educator who is currently building an innovative green home for himself and his wife—our own Kristin Alexander—in Berkeley County near our Yankauer Nature Preserve.

Feldman will discuss green building and the importance of environmental considerations in decision-making about new construction, remodeling, and even simple upgrades of existing homes.

The specific NCTC room location for this meeting will be announced in the September issue of *Valley Views*.

For those who have not been to NCTC, the directions are as follows:



- From the intersection of Routes 480 and 45 (Duke and German streets) in Shepherdstown, follow Route 480 (Duke Street) 0.2 miles and take the third left onto Shepherd Grade Road.
- Follow Shepherd Grade Road 1.7 miles to the "Y" intersection with Scrabble Road. Bear to the right at this intersection to stay on Shepherd Grade Road.
- Follow Shepherd Grade Road another 1.7 miles to the NCTC gate on the right. Proceed straight in and follow signs to registration in the entry/auditorium building. There will be a sign in the lobby of the building directing you to the PVAS meeting room.

You can also find directions and maps on the NCTC website at <http://training.fws.gov/mapdir.html>.

PVAS' History Tidbit...

When you see a West Virginia license plate featuring the rose-breasted grosbeak, think PVAS. In order for the extra \$15 fee for these DNR license plates to go to The Nongame Wildlife and Natural Heritage Program, West Virginians had to pass an amendment to the state constitution. In 1995 & 1996, through the WV Audubon Council, PVAS was a leader in the effort to get the amendment passed.



Credits: Jacob Dingel/PGC Photo

**Summer Recess
July and August**

For those of you who may be new to PVAS (and for those of you who aren't new but need a reminder), there will be no monthly general meeting in July or August and *Valley Views* is not published. The general membership meeting and our next issue will resume in September.

Thank you Volunteers!

Several volunteers from Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church came to Yankauer on May 12 to help prepare the preserve for the 25th anniversary celebration as well as for summer camp! Volunteers included Rosemarie Coy, Sally Fitzgerald, Sharon Henderson, Terry Lindsay, Suellen Myers, and Vicki Smith. The group was joined by volunteer Suzi Taylor who is leading "Just for Fledglings" camp at Yankauer this summer, and Ellen Murphy, our Director of Children's Programs. By the end of the day, we had a clean and organized pavilion storage shed, a mulched pavilion perimeter, and a full container of brush to be mulched. Cam Tabb generously loaned an empty container for the brush and will mulch the debris. Hearty thanks to the many hands that made an enormous difference!

Upcoming Events

- June 2nd 6pm: PVAS' 25th Anniversary Celebration at Yankauer
- June 4-August 4: Summer Camp Sessions
- June 24: PVAS member event at Cacapon State Park
- September 12: Membership meeting at NCTC on "Building Green"

Note: Summer field trips are still in the planning phase. Please check the website regularly for a summer schedule: www.potomacaudubon.org.

Outfitter Shop Offering Discounts to PVAS Members

The Outfitter at Harpers Ferry has generously decided to offer a 15-percent discount to all PVAS members.

To obtain the discount, just bring a copy of a PVAS newsletter with your address label on it. If you get your newsletter by email, bring a copy of an email that transmitted one of our newsletters.

Because the shop does eco travel and birding trips, it has a good stock of items essential for these kinds of activities. For more information you can call the shop at 1-888-535-2087 or visit the shop's website www.theoutfitteratharpersferry.com

The shop is located at 180 High Street in Harper's Ferry. Its hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Parking is available at the train station; if you tell the Park Service you are coming to the Outfitter they will waive the park entrance fee.

Laura Clark
The Outfitter at Harpers Ferry
180 High Street, P.O. Box 1231
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425
1-888-535-2087
outfitterhf@yahoo.com

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)

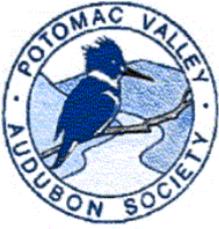
Clip and mail this form to:
 Membership Chair, PVAS
 PO Box 578
 Shepherdstown, WV 25443

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.



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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. 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

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