VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac Valley Audubon Society

Volume 27, Issue 9 June 2009

Don't Miss June Lawn Party at Belle Vue!

Here's a reminder that Mike and Gay Shepherd Henderson have very graciously agreed to host a fundraising reception for PVAS at their beautiful home, the historic Belle Vue mansion just outside Shepherdstown, the evening of Saturday, June 6.

All proceeds from the event will be used to support our education programs for local children.

Belle Vue is one of Jefferson County's most historic homes.

It has been owned by Shepherdstown's founding family, the Shepherds, since 1900.

It was designated a Jefferson County Historic Landmark in 1975 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The reception will be held rain or shine from 4:00-7:00 p.m. If weather permits it will be held mostly outside, on the porch and lawn that offer sweeping views of the Potomac River and the Maryland mountains.

Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served, and musical entertainment will provide background.

Dress will be casual.

Tickets to the event will be required, and space will be limited.

Basic tickets are $45 per person. Those who pay $150 for two people will be recognized as Donors, those who pay $200 for two will be recognized as Patrons, and those who pay $250 or more for two will be recognized as Supporters.

Ticket costs will be tax deductible.

If you have not yet received an invitation and would like one, please call 304-676-3397 or e-mail PVASmail@aol.com and provide your name, address, and phone number.

Taking a break for the summer...

For those of you who are new to PVAS (and for those of you who need a reminder), PVAS does not hold monthly meetings or publish the *Valley Views* newsletter during July and August.

The next monthly meeting and newsletter will be in September.

We'll continue to sponsor field trips and other activities during the summer, however, so watch for our emails or check the PVAS website at www.potomacaudubon.org for updates.

If you're not on our email list and would like to be, just send an email to pvasmail@aol.com, saying you'd like to be included on our "Heads Up List." Be sure to include your name and the email address at which you want to receive our messages.

Don't Miss Potluck Supper at Yankauer June 13!

In June, instead of holding one of our regular second-Wednesday-of-the-month meetings at NCTC, we're planning a special, family-oriented potluck supper on Saturday the 13th, in the pavilion at the Yankauer Nature Preserve.

The event, which will begin at 6:30 p.m., will include a potluck supper, and we'll take time to recognize some PVAS volunteers after that.

All PVAS members and friends are invited, and children will be welcome.

For the potluck supper, please bring a dish to share. Those whose last names begin with the letters A-H are asked to bring vegetables or fruit; I-L, a dessert; M-R, a protein dish; and S-Z, a starch dish. All are asked to bring their own dishes, flatware, etc., so we can be environmentally conscientious. PVAS will provide water and lemonade.

For more information, contact Kristin Alexander at 304-676-3397 or pvasmail@aol.com.

Look for PVAS Displays at Summer Events

If you're attending this summer's Shepherdstown Street Fest and/or Morgan County Fair, stop by PVAS' displays at these events and say hello.

This year's Shepherdstown Street Fest will be held June 27 on German Street downtown, and PVAS will be there from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Morgan County Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, August 1, and noon to 5 p.m., Sunday, August 2, at the Berkeley Springs High School. PVAS will be there both days.

President's Perch



Hello everyone:

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll note that PVAS is involved in helping to establish a new public park in Ranson.

We appreciate the opportunity to assist with this project, and we hope the new park will be a real plus for Ranson and all of Jefferson County.

Collaborative efforts of this kind are nothing new for PVAS. We've got a long history of working with other organizations in all sorts of ways.

For example, we're involved with The Nature Conservancy on a regular basis through our management of the Yankauer and Eidolon nature preserves, which they own.

We've worked with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources on a variety of things, including the establishment of our Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Program.

Local teachers and school administrators helped us design our education programs for school children, and we continue to work closely with them in delivering and refining those programs.

The National Conservation Training Center and Cacapon State Park generously provide space for a variety of PVAS activities and have been very supportive of our efforts.

The Conservation Fund's Freshwater Institute has provided us with expert technical assistance for many years.

For the past several years, we've partnered with the Potomac Conservancy to host tree-seed collection events at the Yankauer and Eidolon preserves.

We also work with local watershed groups and help them publicize their stream cleanup and restoration activities.

I could go on, but you get the idea.

One of the best things about this area of the country is that in spite of all the population growth that's occurred here in recent years, it's still a relatively small and close-knit community.

That's particularly true for those of us who are involved in helping to promote greater understanding and appreciation of our many natural assets.

We're still able to get to know and respect each other as individuals, to conduct most of our business on a personal level, and to forge personal relationships that facilitate cooperation between our respective organizations.

Let's hope we can keep it that way as we go forward into wherever the future takes us. *—Peter Smith*

Front Royal Center Trip is Full

As this is being written, our June 13 tour of the National Zoo's Conservation and Research Center near Front Royal, Virginia, (May *Valley Views*) is already full and we have a lengthy waiting list.

Because this tour has proven to be so popular, we will try to repeat it again this fall and give preference to those who are on the current waiting list. If you would like to be added to that list please contact Peter Smith at pvsmith@frontiernet.net or 304-876-1139.

Annual Meeting, Board Election Results

May 13 – The membership in attendance at the annual meeting voted unanimously to elect the slate of candidates presented in the May issue of *Valley Views*. In addition, current president, Peter Smith, was reelected for an additional term.

Prior to the vote, Wayne Braunstein, Chairman of the Board Development Committee, addressed the membership to explain the special circumstances of reelecting Peter Smith as president. PVAS' bylaws set a two consecutive term limit for service on the board of directors; and, having served two consecutive terms, Peter Smith has reached the term limit. However, Article III, Section 3, of the bylaws provides that "an individual who after two terms of consecutive service on the Board is elected an Officer, and as such may serve one additional three-year term…Exceptions may be made by unanimous decision of the Board and will be limited to one three-year term."

Peter has been an extraordinary leader and fostered a period of unprecedented growth for PVAS. As the first president following PVAS' 2006 reorganization, he has worked tirelessly to implement our new structure, heighten awareness of PVAS' contributions to the community in our service area, increase our educational programs, and build a stronger financial foundation for the future. Because of his leadership the Board Development Committee ask him to stay on as president and help mentor a successor over a more extended period of time than would normally be the case. At the May 6 board of directors meeting, the board voted unanimously to recommend his reelection and, contingent on that reelection, to make an exception to the two term limit provision of the bylaws.

That being said, the meeting was turned back over to Nancy Kirschbaum, Vice President, to conduct the actual vote. As mentioned above, the membership unanimously elected the entire slate of candidates: Don Briggs, At-large; Wayne Braunstein, At-large; A.R. "Rob" Hoxton, At-large; Georgia Jeppesen, At-large; and Peter Smith, President.

Congratulations to our new and returning board members. Brief biographies of the newly elected board members were presented on page 2 of the May issue of *Valley Views*.

PVAS Helping With New Jefferson Co. Park Project

Since early this year, PVAS has been involved in an effort to establish a new public park in Jefferson County, within Ranson's city limits.

The park will encompass about 30 acres that have been donated to the City of Ranson by a real estate developer and another 8 acres donated by Charles Town Races and Slots.

The property is located between Route 9 and Flowing Springs Road, near the Potomac Towne Center shopping center. It includes the spring that is the source of Flowing Springs Run and about 3,000 feet of the Run's floodplain.

It will be known as Flowing Springs Park.

The goal is to protect and enhance much of the land as a wetland

wildlife habitat, with walking trails and observation decks for viewing. A portion may also be developed for more intensive human recreational use.

The park project is being spearheaded by Ranson's Parks and Recreation Commission and Planning Commission.

The West Virginia Division of Forestry is providing technical assistance and has included the project in its "CommuniTree" program, which is aimed at promoting urban tree planting and environmental education through local, volunteer efforts.

Ranson officials have applied for a grant from the state to develop the walking trails and observation decks. This work will probably take several years to complete.

The Division of Forestry hopes to organize a tree-planting event on the land this fall.

PVAS has agreed to be part of a board that will help guide the project and is helping with biological studies of the site.

Nancy Kirschbaum has been surveying bird populations, along with Matt Orsie and Wil Hershberger.

Cheryl Jennings, one of our Master Naturalists, is surveying frogs, salamanders and dragonflies.

Others will be surveying other aspects of biological interest as seasons progress.

Arts and Humanities Alliance Awards Grant

The Arts and Humanities Alliance of Jefferson County, W.V., awarded $6,500 in grants to nine Jefferson County community groups April 20 at the Charles Town Visitor's Center in Charles Town, W.V. The awards were presented by AHA President Peter Corum and AHA Community Grants Chairman Ron Widmyer.

Potomac Valley Audubon Society was among the organizations that received grants for the summer children's discovery camp.

AHA Community Grant recipients must be residents of or operate from facilities in Jefferson County. Projects must demonstrate positive community impact through the arts and humanities. Grant criteria and other details can be found at http://www.ahajc.org/CommunityGrant.htm.

The mission of AHA, a volunteer, non-profit organization, is to preserve the rich history and culture of Jefferson County and to encourage creative opportunity for all its citizens.

For more information, contact Ron Widmyer at 304-725-4326.

"This Race is for the Birds!" Raises over $6,000

Our eighth annual "This Race is for the Birds!" 5K run/walk event, held May 2, on the National Conservation Training Center campus, raised over $6,000. All these proceeds will benefit the Society's educational programs.

As always, we appreciate the community's support. We also want to give special thanks to our lead sponsor, Jefferson Security Bank, to NCTC for hosting the event, to Diana Gaviria and the race committee for coordinating it, and to the many volunteers for helping out the day of the event. Many of the local businesses sponsored the event and we thank them for their support.

As always the centerpiece of the event was a 5-kilometer race sanctioned by the Shenandoah Valley Runners Club. Walkers could enjoy the same course at their own speed, and there was also a "Fun Run" for children under 10 years of age led by Dr. Mark Cucuzella.

This year, a total of 121 registrants participated in the race, up from 89 last year.

The overall winner of the race was Mike Meadows who had a time of 18:41. The 1st Female overall was Martha Nelson who had a time of 19:44.

Full results are available on our webpage at www.potomacaudubon.org.

This Race Is for the Birds Sponsors

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Shenandoah Valley Runners
The Shepherdstown Chronicle
Shepherdstown Opera House
Shepherdstown Sweet Shop
Stone Soup Bistro
3 Onion Lounge
Yellow Brick Bank Restaurant

Space Still Available in Nature Photography Workshop

As this is being written, PVAS is still accepting registrations for a nature photography workshop that will be held the weekend of June 5-7 at the National Conservation Training Center near Shepherdstown.

The workshop will be led by Wil Hershberger, one of the area's leading naturalists and nature photographers, and his wife, Donna.

It will be aimed at beginners and photographers with some experience.

The workshop will run from 6:30 p.m., Friday, June 5, to noon on Sunday, June 7.

It will cover all aspects of nature photography focusing on 35mm format equipment (film and digital), with classroom and field sessions. Topics of discussion will include light, composition, equipment, workflow, and finding suitable images.

Early registration is essential because the size of the workshop will be limited to 12 individuals; a waiting list will be maintained in case of a cancellation.

The cost to participate will be $150 for the entire weekend.

Participants must be at least 18 years of age.

Full information and registration forms are available on the PVAS website at www.potomacaudubon.org. Or, contact Kristin Alexander by e-mail at PVASmail@aol.com or telephone at 304-676-3397.

Registration forms should be submitted with a $25 deposit to PVAS, PO Box 578, Shepherdstown, WV 25443.

Summer Master Naturalist Workshops

PVAS is offering three Master Naturalist Workshops during the summer

The workshops, which consist of three or more hours of expert instruction on a specific natural history topic, count as elective courses for individuals enrolled in the Society's Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Program.

However, the workshops are 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.

Applications to enroll in any of the workshops should be submitted no later than two weeks before that workshop's date.

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

Application forms and further information are available on the PVAS website. Or contact PVAS at 304-676-3397 or pvasmail@aol.com.

The specific dates and topics of the three workshops are as follows:

June 6: ***Dragonflies*** (9 a.m.- noon at Cacapon State Park). Learn about the natural history of dragonflies in West Virginia, the characteristics of each dragonfly family, and dragonfly behavior.

July 25: ***Pollinators of Interest to Ecosystems at Risk*** (1-4 p.m. at the National Conservation Training Center). An in-depth look at some of the many pollinators which help keep our plant communities regenerating, including some s which can be controlled by humans to provide a back up when mankind's other interventions put the pollination web at risk.

August 22: ***True Bugs: The Piercing and Sucking Insect Group Heteroptera*** (1-5 p.m. at the National Conservation Training Center). The emphasis of this course will be on the general morphology and biology of this insect group, which includes Stink bugs, Assassin Bugs, Squash Bugs, Water Striders, and Bed Bugs.

Potomac Valley Master Naturalists Hosts National Conference

In late September 2009, PVMN will host the national Alliance of Natural Resource and Outdoor Service Programs conference at the USFWS National Conservation Training Center. This conference is focused on helping agencies and volunteers who manage programs, such as Master Naturalist and Master Gardeners, learn new techniques for maintaining records, training volunteers, and networking as well as learning about new and successful programs across the country. While in the eastern panhandle, the participants will enjoy field trips to some of the natural areas where our Master Naturalists volunteer.

Summer Camp Is Almost Here!

Camp sessions for this summer are almost ready to begin! Preschool programs for campers and a parent/adult will kick off the summer on May 27. Traditional sessions for ages 6-12 will begin June 15 including our new Junior Counselor-In-Training unit. These eager middle school students will learn leadership techniques and participate in group skill building during their week at camp. Those who complete the training week will be able to return for 2 weeks this summer to work directly with younger campers and practice the skills they have learned. In July, three sessions for older campers will take place at the USFWS National Conservation Training Center.

The health and safety of our campers is a top priority and all staff are trained in Basic First Aid and CPR. With the recent concerns in the media about swine flu, we will be especially alert for potential problems and keep camper families fully informed. When any health concerns occur at camp, parents are notified by email, but camper confidentiality is always maintained. Parents are reminded to include bug repellant and sunscreen in camper backpacks and review the importance of using hand sanitizer frequently with their campers.

Although camp sessions have been filled for weeks, waiting lists are still being taken for all sessions and it is worth being on a list since plans sometimes change and spots open. To register for a waiting list, you should go through the registration process online at www.potomacaudubon.org, completing the family name and camper information. Be sure to include the session and dates for your preferred sessions under the "comments" section at the end of

the registration form. Credit card information is not required for campers on the waiting list. If a spot opens, we will contact campers in the order that they registered on the waiting list.

PVAS Awards Thirteen Camp Scholarships

This year, we are awarding summer camp scholarships to a total of 13 area youngsters.

Each year, using the proceeds from our annual fall birdseed sale, we send deserving area children to summer camps that emphasize conservation and the environment.

PVAS received thirteen applications from campers ages 6-13 for a variety of camps, both residential as well as our own Audubon Discovery Day Camp. While most of the scholarship funds come from Bird Seed Sale proceeds, this year PVAS Board members chipped in to make sure all applicants are able to attend camp this summer. We are pleased to announce the following camp scholarship recipients:

Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies – Zachary Barb, Capon Bridge, WV; age 12
Mountain Adventures Summer Camp – Kelby Culp, Harpers Ferry, WV; age 13
Junior Nature Camp at Oglebay Institute – Shawn Hogbin, Hedgesville, WV; age 12
Audubon Discovery Camp at Yankauer– Lily Braithwaite, Sada Braithwaite, Zane Braithwaite, Elle Colbert, Devon Crouse, Jackson Crouse, Tighe Didden, James Lamp, Patrick Rao, and Christian Romero

A special thank you goes to board members Don Briggs, Susan Brookreson, Mina Goodrich, Rob Hoxton, Georgia Jeppesen, and Lex Miller who helped make camp experiences possible for all of our applicants. A heart-felt thank you also goes to Kathryn Henry for heading up the scholarship committee again this year. And many thanks to all of you who bought bird seed from PVAS, making these scholarships possible.

School Programs Set a Record (Whew!)

Spring school programs held at Yankauer Preserve are almost finished (with camp taking over for the summer), but when the last two classes visit in late May, PVAS will have set a record for students served in one year. Over 1,800 students will have either visited Yankauer Preserve as a field trip, encountered PVAS staff and volunteers during an "in-school" field trip, or participated in a school-wide program since last July. The more than 800 students enrolled in the watershed program is in ADDITION to that total! The fall will be here before we know it and we need more volunteers if we are to maintain this level of service to the community. Most programs are for elementary school children and involve both a directed hike and other program activities focused on a specific theme which correlates with the WV learning objectives for their grade level. Themes include Senses, Plants vs. Animals, Animal Adaptations, and Cycles in Nature. School programs generally last from 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

School groups often come to Yankauer Preserve from late September through mid-November and volunteers are essential to the success of these programs. Without them, our programs are simply not available to the local schools. When schools make their plans, we advertise the dates to those who have indicated a willingness to help and volunteers can pick and choose the dates they are available.

If you would like to help, contact Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739 or pvasprograms@comcast.net for the specific dates. Training is offered for new volunteers on an ongoing basis.

Potomac Valley Nature Writing Group

Love good writing about nature? Then the Potomac Valley Nature Writing Group might be for you. PVNWG meets at 3:00 PM on the last Sunday of each month to discuss works of naturalist authors who are "outstanding in the field." The group has selected the following books for the coming months:

MAY David Rains Wallace, Idle Weeds – The Life of a Sandstone Ridge
JUNE Hal Borland, Beyond Your Doorstep
JULY George Costanz, Hollows, Peepers & Highlanders: An Appalachian Mountain Ecology
AUGUST David Kline, Scratching the Woodcock--Nature on an Amish Farm
SEPTEMBER Robin Wall Kimmerer, Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses
OCTOBER Marie Winn, Red-Tails in Love: A Wildlife Drama in Central Park

Group members also support and encourage one another in developing their own nature writing skills. All levels of experience are welcome! For updates about the next meeting and details about the book selections, go to http://potomacvalleynaturewritinggroup.blogspot.com/ or contact Sandra Bloom, pvnaturewriters@gmail.com

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Cleanup Gets a Boost

Since the very earliest days of PVAS' youth education programs, watershed concerns—especially the Chesapeake Bay watershed—have been a major object of our efforts. We've focused on teaching the coming generation the importance of caring for watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay watershed in particular. While the fourth graders that went through our program were becoming competent stewards of the watershed the adult state legislators responsible for the Bay watershed were being much less successful.

All that could change as of May 12 when President Barack Obama issued an executive order making the EPA the lead agency on the Bay cleanup. Parts of six states—Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia— and the District of Columbia are included in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Chief executives of three of those states and the District of Columbia established the Chesapeake Executive Council in 1983, which over the span of 25 years has failed to get past bickering, partisan interests, and in adequate commitments.

As reported by Ashley Halsey, III, in the Washington Post on May 13,

> In taking the lead from a coalition of state governments, which admitted last year that their 25-year cleanup effort had failed, the administration is positioned to mandate more stringent cleanup goals than politically sensitive state officials could publicly embrace. EPA leadership and enforcement could serve as a cudgel over state legislatures whose focus on parochial issues has often fractured coordination efforts.
>
> It's not clear what the executive order's direct impact might be on the 17 million people who live in the bay watershed, but it could lead to new requirements for upgrading sewage treatment plants and other utilities and limits on developers and on farmers and homeowners who fertilize their fields and lawns with nutrients that seep into the bay.

Of special interest to residents in the PVAS service area, the legislature of West Virginia has been trying to enact a measure known as The Chesapeake Bay Restoration Initiative. Naomi Smoot in the Martinsburg Journal reported May 14,

> The legislation would have established a water quality trading program to help wastewater treatment plants meet requirements for reduced nitrogen and phosphate discharges. Financing for costly upgrades that will be needed to help many existing plants reach compliance with these requirements also were discussed in the bill.
>
> The measure earned approval by members of the House and Senate, but it was vetoed by Gov. Joe Manchin, who said the bill could conflict with federal environmental laws. At question were provisions that would have let existing wastewater treatment plants postpone compliance with the lower discharge requirements because of the high price tag that could come along with them.

Herb Snyder, State Senator, Jefferson County, has been a proponent of the legislation and is hopeful that the extra push of the Obama Executive Order could help undo policy and funding obstacles and allow infrastructure improvements to move forward.

The impacts of the Executive Order and state legislation are still unfolding but we can all be hopeful that this is one opportunity to show our kids we're willing to practice what we preach.

Recycle Plant Containers



'Tis the season to plant flowers and vegetables. Many gardeners share a common frustration at not being able to recycle the plastic plant containers once the plant has been put in the ground.

The Dolley Madison Garden Club has taken on this issue and has a solution, but they need help from community members like you.

They have contacted Cindam Recycling, based in Maryland, which is one of the few companies in the country who will pick up the plastic nursery pots and recycle them. They require the pickup site to be at a commercial nursery. The club approached Meadow Farms which is on Rt 340 outside of Charles Town and they have graciously agreed to provide a site free of charge, provide signage and instruct their staff on where to direct customers.

The club now needs to find people who are willing to devote a couple of hours to help sort and stack pots that have been dropped off. If you are willing to take a two hour shift one Saturday during the Spring season and the same in the Fall, please contact Amanda Baltierra at abaltierra@citlink.net. She is scheduling volunteers to help with this project. Volunteers are also encouraged to bring nursery pots collected from neighbors, friends, and others. Amanda will provide detailed instructions for volunteers.

West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project Begins

The March 2009 issue of *Valley Views* covered plans to revise *The West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas* beginning in May. Well, the time has come! *The West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas II* website is up and running! The site can be viewed at martes.dnr.state.wv.us/BreedingBirdsAtlas/.

The site contains all the instructions and materials you will need to start atlasing. There is also a very nice mapping application that will allow you to view and explore blocks and regions. This can be found at the "Priority Block Maps" tab under the Table of Contents.

The official Web site that WVDNR contracted the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology to develop will not be ready yet for a few weeks, so at this point there is no way to officially register for block(s) or enter observations. Until that site is active you may register by e-mail to Rob Tallman.

For more information and to register contact: Rob Tallman, Ornithologist, WV Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241, (304) 637-0245, robtallman@wvdnr.gov.

Hummingbirds Have Arrived

Waiting for the hummingbirds is a spring ritual for birders and many nature enthusiasts in general. It's always a thrill as spring arrives to make your first sighting. The truth is, however, that the hummingbirds arrive well before many of us become aware of their presence. Based on the PVAS service area, ruby-throated hummingbirds should have started showing up here around April 15.

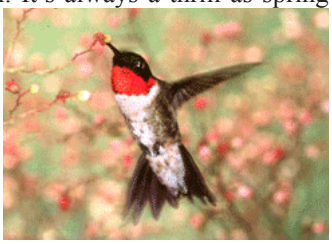


Photo by Steve Maslowski-USFWS

There is a proliferation of articles and Web information available on hummingbirds. Anyone interested in learning good practices for feeding and observing these fascinating creatures can find it with some ease. In addition, there are several organizations that promote and act as advocates for this information. Of note is Operation RubyThroat: The Hummingbird Project, www.rubythroat.org.

If you haven't put your hummingbird feeders up yet, don't wait any longer. You don't have to see them flitting around to know they're here, and the weather doesn't have to be warm and balmy. They are hardy little sprites that manage to do OK during surprisingly cold spring weather swings.

The Hummingbird Project Web site recommends putting up feeders as early as mid March. This tidbit and a number of other hints are contained in the Miscellaneous Notes section on the Hummingbird Feeding Hints page, www.rubythroat.org/FeedingHintsMain.htm.

For those that don't want to intrude on the natural ecosystem of hummingbirds but also don't want to miss out on up-close observation, consider putting in some native plants that attract and sustain hummingbirds. Check the Hummingbird Project Web site for the top ten native hummingbird plants.

One last note, don't forget that hummingbirds are fiercely territorial. With that in mind, make sure you put up at least three feeders and/or put in multiple native plants so that everyone can peacefully coexist.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 30:	Field trip - Chestnut Orchard
May 30:	Open House – CraftWorks at Cool Spring Farm
May 31:	Potomac Valley Nature Writers
Jun 5-7:	Nature Photography Workshop
Jun 6:	Master Naturalist Workshop at Cacapon
Jun 6:	Lawn Party at Belle Vue
Jun 13:	Field Trip: National Zoo's Conservation & Research Center (full)
Jun 13:	Potluck at Yankauer
Jun 15:	Audubon Discovery Camp begins
Jun 26-28:	Camping trip - Shenandoah National Forest
Jun 26:	Potomac Valley Nature Photographers Meeting
Jun 27:	Shepherdstown Street Fest
Jun 28:	Potomac Valley Nature Writers
Jul 6-10:	Digital Nature Photography Camp
Jul 24:	Potomac Valley Nature Photographers Meeting
Jul 25:	Master Naturalist Workshop –Pollinators
Jul 26:	Potomac Valley Nature Writers
Aug 1:	Field trip - Cranesville Swamp Preserve in Preston County WV
Aug 1-2:	Morgan County Fair
Aug 11:	Annual meteor-watching party
Aug 15:	Volunteer Day at Yankauer
Aug 21-22:	Evening insect walks at Cacapon State Park
Aug 22:	Master Naturalist Workshop —True Bugs
Aug 28:	Potomac Valley Nature Photographers Meeting
Aug 30:	Potomac Valley Nature Writers
Sep 4, 5:	Evening "Insect walks" at C&O Canal near Shepherdstown
Sep 9:	Archeology Program at NCTC
Sep 28:	Potomac Valley Nature Photographers Meeting
Sep 27:	Potomac Valley Nature Writers
Oct 10-11:	Berkeley Springs Apple Butter Festival
Nov 13-14:	Master Naturalist Workshop - Leave No Trace Trainer Course

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: ___)

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I'd like to get *Valley Views* by e-mail___ US mail ___ (check one)

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

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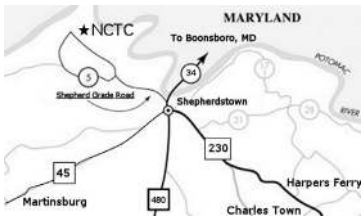
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The Potomac Valley Audubon Society meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through April, at the US Fish and Widlife Service National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), Shepherdstown, WV, in the Instructional West Building. 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 Wednesday of the month (Sept.-June). Meeting location will be announced prior to meetings. These meetings are open to all PVAS members.

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