

VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac
Valley
Audubon
Society

Volume 28, Issue 9

June 2010

Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper

Following the format of recent years, the annual meeting will be a covered dish social combined with the business of officially electing the board for the coming year. Don't miss this chance to mix, mingle, and conduct some of the most important member business of the year.

The meeting will be held the evening of Friday, June 11, at the Yankauer Nature Preserve.

The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck supper.

The brief business program will include recognition of con-

See *Annual Meeting*, Page 2

Don't Miss June Reception!

Here's a reminder that Rusty and Cricket Morgan have very graciously agreed to host a fundraising reception for PVAS at their beautiful home, the historic Ripon Lodge in southern Jefferson County, the evening of Saturday, June 5.



The event is open to PVAS members and friends, and all proceeds will be used to support our education programs for local children.

The Morgans are one of Jefferson County's oldest families and Ripon Lodge is a significant architectural landmark.

Built in the 1830s, 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 p.m.-7 p.m. If weather permits it will be held mostly outside, on the lawn that offers sweeping views of the Blue Ridge.

Food and beverages 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.

Pavilion Floor Replacement at Yankauer

The pavilion floor at Yankauer was replaced in May after significant storm damage caused from the existing earthen floor being saturated and then broken up in the freeze/thaw activity in the late winter. Kristin Alexander and volunteer Tim Murphy have coordinated volunteer efforts to break up the floor with jackhammers and scoop and haul the rubble away.

Special notes of thanks go to Ted Wachter for breaking up the floor and for hauling the rubble to the edge of the parking lot. An enormous thank you also goes to a small group of Young Life volunteers out of Martinsburg that came out on May 8 to shovel and wheelbarrow the rubble away. They worked incredibly hard for a full 8 hours raising money to go to Young Life Camp this summer (they got sponsors for their volunteer hours—great idea). Gary Sylvester also contributed by bringing his tractor to the preserve and scooping out the smaller remaining chunks that were hard to gather by hand and shovel. He also did some reconditioning on the parking lot. The team effort was inspiring, as always.

As of the writing of this article, the Harpers Ferry Job Corps concrete team is scheduled to come on Monday, May 17, to form the pavilion floor for the new concrete to be poured later in the week. The Job Corps is volunteering their time as part of their training program, for which we are very grateful.

With a little luck, the pavilion floor will be dry and ready for little camper feet by the time camp starts May 26. Thanks to all who have contributed to this project!



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



Hello everyone:

For the last four summers PVAS has collaborated with the National Conservation Training Center on an innovative digital nature photography camp for local high school students.

Led by NCTC training specialist Matt Poole, the camp has been very successful and attracted a lot of attention. The Nikon corporation has donated digital SLR cameras for it and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has promoted the camp nationally as a model activity for getting teenagers more involved in the natural world.

This year, NCTC needs to concentrate its resources elsewhere so PVAS is assuming full responsibility for the camp.

Fortunately, we've recruited a new volunteer photography instructor, Bruce Field, and Asbury United Methodist Church is partnering with us by allowing us to rent their Shepherdstown computer lab at a bargain rate.

So things change but that's OK. We appreciate the time and effort NCTC has devoted to getting this camp off to a good start, and we look forward to keeping the camp going in the future.

Very special thanks are due to Matt Poole for his vision for and dedication to this camp project. The camp wouldn't have been possible without him, nor would it have been of such high quality. We hope we'll be able to continue to meet the high standards he's set for it.

—Peter Smith

Summer Camp Registration Has Begun!

If you are thinking that you won't be able to register for Audubon Discovery Camp this late in the year, you might be wrong! We still have a few spots available in Earth Artists (both at Yankauer and Cool Spring Farm) and Dirt! at Yankauer. Older campers may find a spot in the Dirty Jobs session, but enrollment in this session is very limited, so don't wait!



There are also a few spots available in our preschool sessions (Out of the Nest or Just For Fledglings) at Yankauer in late May and very early June. Both of these sessions are a half-day experience for a camper and parent or special adult.

When sessions fill, PVAS maintains waiting lists and campers are encouraged to put their name on the list so that we will know who to contact first when openings occur. It really is worth the time to register for waiting lists although no guarantees about attending camp can be offered. The registration process for open sessions and waiting lists is available through the link at www.potomacaudubon.org.

Annual Meeting (continued from page 1)

tributions from many of our volunteers and election of board members.

The slate of board candidates is:

Mina Goodrich, Secretary (re-election)

Leigh Jenkins, At-large (re-election)

Jesse Morgan, At-Large

Kathy Stolzenburg, At-Large

Jane Vanderhook, At-large

All PVAS members are invited to attend, and children are 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, and the like, 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

Sign Up Now for Teen Photo Camp!

Applications are now being accepted for an innovative nature photography day camp for area high school students.

Now in its fifth year, the camp is sponsored by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society.

This year the camp, traditionally held at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), is centrally-located in Shepherdstown at the Youth Camp owned by Asbury United Methodist Church, near the Shepherd University baseball field.

The week-long camp will be held August 2-6. It will include four days of field and lab training at the Youth Center and a one-day field trip to a nearby natural area.

Participating students not only learn about the fundamentals of digital nature photography and image editing from expert instructors, they also gain a greater understanding of nature and a greater appreciation for conservation.

Enrollment is very limited, so those who participate receive very intensive, hands-on instruction. They also have full access to computers and photo editing software at the Youth Center and Nikon Digital SLR cameras are provided for the week. The cost for the entire week is only \$150.

Participating students must be entering grades 9, 10, 11 or 12 in the fall of 2010 (or be of equivalent age) and they must reside in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia or Washington County, Maryland.

The camp is led by volunteer Dr. Bruce F. Field, of Hagerstown, who is himself an excellent nature photographer, and Krystal Kennedy, an avid photographer who recently graduated from Shepherd University with an emphasis in Secondary Science Education. The camp will also host guest photographers from the Potomac Valley Nature Photographers who will help throughout the week with photo coaching and will teach specialty topics.

For more information and an application, please go to www.potomacaudubon.org or contact Kristin Alexander at 304-676-3397 or PVAEmail@aol.com.

2010 Race an Overwhelming Success!

The vision for an expanded 2010 "This Race is for the Birds" was fully realized on April 24, 2010. It exceeded our expectations significantly with more participants (350+ !) and more money raised (\$8000+ !) than we ever anticipated.

Over 350 adult runners/walkers participated (compared to 150 last year) in one of the three adult events: the 7+ mile run, 4+ mile run, and 2-mile community walk/jog. Another 25 children participated in the kids 1-mile "fun run" which was free this year to get as many kids out enjoying NCTC's trails as possible.

Between the participants' contribution of race fees and our generous sponsors, the event raised an unprecedented \$8,000.

As always, we appreciate the community's support. We want to give special thanks to our lead sponsors, Hoxton Financial and Friends of Mark Benedict for their generosity; to NCTC for generously continuing to host and support the event; to James and Suzy Munnis for directing and coordinating the event; to the race committee for helping to pull all the details together (Mark Cucuzella, Tom Shantz, and Carolyn Thomas); 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. (See separate list.)

The entire event went off without a hitch, and we are grateful to everyone who supported the event and made it such a success.

We sincerely thank the following generous sponsors for their support of the race:

Platinum:



Gold:



The Shepherdstown
CHRONICLE

Two Rivers Treads



HAUINK.COM



Silver:

Caribbean Islands Travel Service
Chick-fil-A, Martinsburg
Go Green Gals
Potomac Portable Restrooms
Progressive Printing

Hypnocoffee.com
Jefferson Chiropractic Center, Inc.
Lynne.Wiseman@ERA.Com
Martins
McAteer & Associates, PLLC
Ryan T. McCarthy, MD
Nesquik
Drs. Donald and Erica Patthoff
Pedal and Paddle, 876-3000
Potomac-Mecklenburg Garden Club
The Press Room
Professional SportsCare & Rehab
Shepherdstown Coffee and Candlery
Shepherdstown Opera House
Shepherdstown Sweet Shop
Stone Soup Bistro
Ray P. Vanderhook, D.D.S., M.S.
Windflower Garden Club

Bronze:

Bavarian Inn
Bonnymeed Farm Nursery
Briarwood Dental Center
Joseph Brookreson, D.D.S.
CraftWorks
Dr. Paul Davis, D.D.S.
Dickinson & Wait Craft Gallery
Edward Jones Investments Shepherdstown
John T. Gibson, D.D.S.
Grapes and Grains Gourmet
Greentree Realty

Special thanks to our race volunteers...

Chris Amores	Vicki Blazer	Diana Gaviria	Kristin Knitter	Alison Munnis	Jessica Schmitt	Jame Super
Skylar Benedict	Don Briggs	Heather Gayle	Ashley Leslie	Rosemary Nickerson	Karen Shantz	Katy Super
Amanda Biebel	Margaret Cogswell	Linda Grubb	Emily Leslie	Suzanne Offutt	Shim Jae Won	Carl Thomas
Jennifer Biebel	John Craig	Don Henry	Sherry Leslie	Jan Offutt	Bonnie Sitman	Sally Thomas
Teri Biebel	Cindy Evarts	Libby Howard	Tedd Leslie	Daniel Pike	Erin Super	Wayne Thomas

PVAS Receives Grant for Yankauer

PVAS is pleased to announce \$2,000 of grant funding from Potomac Headwaters RC&D to finish the land management plan for the preserve and to complete a professional assessment of invasive plants at the preserve. Thanks to RC&D's support, we can do both projects this summer with full foliage so the assessment can be completed at the ideal time of year. Once complete, the invasive plant map will help PVAS manage the preserve, prioritizing certain areas that are in most need of attention. We sincerely thank RC&D for their support in our land management efforts at Yankauer.

Together Green Grant Submitted

PVAS has submitted a grant application to National Audubon's "Together Green" grant program that is funded by Toyota. The project will provide resources for PVAS and the City of Ranson to continue the development of the new Flowing Springs Park next to the Home Depot in Ranson.

The purpose of the grant is to provide opportunities for communities not normally involved with conservation projects engaged with water or habitat conservation. If funded, the grant will provide: deer fencing to promote a riparian buffer to protect the headwaters of Flowing Springs; several volunteer days to help clean up the park from tires, trash, invasive species, and other problems; and funding for native trees, shrubs and grasses that will improve the habitat for grassland birds. (The site already provides excellent habitat for several bird species on Audubon's Watchlist such as the Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Field Sparrow.)

The grant will also provide assistance with a land management plan that will provide the City of Ranson with guidance in managing the park for best practices for habitat and water conservation for years to come, while still providing passive recreation activities at the park for community members. Finally, the grant proposal will help PVAS offer programs to the local schools using the park as the outdoor classroom, and offer teacher trainings to utilize the park for their classroom use. We should hear by August if the grant was accepted.

Congrats to Camp Scholarship Recipients!

Summer is going to be an especially exciting time for the young people who have won camp scholarships from PVAS. Each of the scholarship recipients wrote a letter to the scholarship committee outlining why they wanted to attend their chosen camp and included a reference from a non-family member such as a teacher.

Alison Munnis of Shepherdstown will attend the Mountain Adventures Summer Camp near Spruce Knob, WV. At the age of 14 Alison is active in school athletics and captain of the girls' track team at Shepherdstown Middle School. She wants to learn about animal habitats and wilderness survival.

Tyler Steffey of Shepherdstown will attend the Junior Nature Camp of the Oglebay Institute near Wheeling, WV. Tyler, age 14 and a student at Shepherdstown Middle School, likes to draw animals and to read about them. He also enjoys volunteering at a nearby wildlife refuge.

Also attending Oglebay's Junior Nature Camp will be Isabella Steffey of Shepherdstown, a fourth-grader at Shepherdstown Elementary School. She likes birds, especially owls. Recently she designed a science experiment to determine ants' preference for brown or white sugar!

Campers receiving scholarships to attend camp at Yankauer chose a variety of sessions including Dirt!, Dirty Jobs, Camp Survivor, First Explorers, and Wildlife CSI. These scholarship recipients go through the same application process, and we are proud to announce the following winners: Dylan Brown, Zane, Sada, and Lily Braithwaite, Devon and Jackson Crouse, Jake Kemman, James and Jon Lamp. Congratulations!

Every year throughout its 28-year history PVAS has sent youngsters to camp on scholarships, supported by our fall birdseed sale. Thank you for purchasing birdseed through PVAS to support the scholarship program! The youth will have a fantastic time at the various camps, and will more than likely have so much fun they won't even realize how much they're learning along the way!

Watershed Program Ends another Successful Year

All fourth-grade watershed students in Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties ended their watershed program with a service project involving planting native grass grown in their classroom. Potential erosion problems at each school were identified earlier this year and sites were prepared in March. Additional native plants were nurtured in the Shepherd University greenhouse this spring so that each school site would have better coverage. The Freshwater Institute created custom planting plans for each school involved in the program and the students implemented them.



At South Jefferson Elementary School, the plants will prevent run-off problems near rooftop downspouts. At Tomahawk Intermediate School in Berkeley County, the plants will stabilize an area where a new portable classroom was installed. At Pleasant View Elementary School in Morgan County, the chosen site will help



correct erosion concerns on the hillside adjacent to the school. Morgan Academy will be helping to stabilize the Rocky Marsh Run stream bank in Scrabble where the bridge was replaced this spring. The other schools in the program had identified similar problems that are now in the process of being corrected thanks to the efforts of the students.

Many thanks are due our Watershed Instructors this year: Krystal Kennedy, Debbie Crouse, Marybeth Grove, Brooke Parker, Melanie Snyder, and Kate Lehman. Special thanks go to the volunteers who helped the students plant grass including Joe Gentile and Mary Youngblood! Loudest kudos go to the 800 students and their teachers who participated in the program this spring!

Wee Naturalist Update

The Wee Naturalist program, our preschool program for adult/child teams, is taking a short summer break while Audubon Discovery Camp is being held at the Yankauer Preserve. However, registration is open now for summer/fall/winter programs. These popular programs will resume the 3rd Wednesday and Thursday in August and will run through December. From 9:30-10:00 the adult/child team explore on their own to orient the child to the preserve and the other children, and then the PVAS-directed program takes place from 10:00-11:00. Children ages 3-5 are invited to attend. Sessions are \$8 each or \$7 each if you register for three or more sessions at a time. Pre-registration is required, and the forms are available on our website at www.potomacaudubon.org.

June Birding Trips

In addition to the field trips we're sponsoring during June, we're also offering three birding trips.

As usual, these birding trips will be free and anyone with an interest is welcome to participate.

The first trip will be a Wednesday, June 2, birding walk on the C&O Canal towpath between Antietam Creek and Shepherdstown.

It will provide an opportunity to look for birds along the towpath and on the Potomac River. With trees and bushes fully leafed out by this time, birding will be by both eye and ear.

Participants will meet at 8 a.m. in the large C&O Canal parking lot on Canal Road three-tenths of a mile south of the Rumsey Bridge. Cars will be left at both ends of the walk to avoid a return hike.

The second trip will be a Saturday, June 19, birding trip to either the National Conservation Training Center near Shepherdstown or Greenbriar State Park in Washington County, Maryland. Details will be announced later.

The third trip will be a Wednesday, June 30, trip to Flowing Springs Park and Altona Marsh in Jefferson County. These two sites provide a great variety of habitats for summer birdlife.

Participants will meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot in front of the Martin's Supermarket in the Jefferson Crossroads shopping Center off Route 340 just east of Charles Town.

For more information about any of these trips, contact Sandy Sagalkin at monsansagalkin@myactv.net or 301-432-6847.

Thirty Nine Participate in Ruth Ann Dean Memorial Birdathon

Thirty five birders on eleven teams and four individuals spent the May 8-9 weekend searching for as many bird species as possible during the Ruth Ann Dean Memorial Birdathon.

The event was named in honor of Ruth Ann Dean, who recently passed away, an ardent birder, founding member and lifelong supporter of PVAS.

The total number of species identified during the birdathon was 156.

Several teams of expert birders were out to score 100 or more species within the 24 consecutive hours allowed under the rules.

Besides the team event, participants could opt to enter the "Big Sit" competition, choosing a single location marked by a 50 foot circle from which the birder or birders tried to identify as many species as possible. Four entrants signed up for the Big Sit.

Birding conditions were less than ideal, with morning rain on Saturday and wind gusts of up to 40 knots on both days. But weather couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of the birders. And the event provided some special moments for many participants.

Carol del Colle recalls getting out of the car on a dark road in the early morning in Berkeley county trying to call owls, when several Whip-Poor-Wills responded calling their names very loudly and quickly, a life bird for Carol.

For Bruni Haydl and Lynn Wiseman, it was going the day without a pileated woodpecker, until driving into a subdivision that had an old snag with a hole in it and seeing a pileated woodpecker fly in and then out, followed by the female poking her head out to see what all the fuss was.

We all bird for our own reasons: some for the challenge of finding a new previously unseen bird, a "lifer," others as a way to commune with the untamed side of nature, still others out of admiration for the little creatures that migrate a thousand miles or more every year to continue their line. The allure of their songs is enchanting.

The winner of the Birdathon was The Barn Swifts with Matt Orsie, Carol Del-Colle and Carol Winckler identifying 110 species.

Three other teams also identified over 100 species and deserve Honorable Mention. They are Team Myles with Dave and Kim Myles; The Tufted Turkeys with Bob Dean, Stan Corwin-Roach, Shelly Blanchard and Rodney Bartgis; and The Maryland Yellowthroats with Dave Weesner, Pol Heiney and Larry Balinski.

The Big Sit winner was Linda Carl with 35 species. Judge, Peter Smith, President of PVAS, declared a tie in the Team Name competition between the "Odd Ducks," consisting of Rose Mary Evans and Donna Graham, and the "Lame Ducks, consisting of Jane Vanderhook and Jean Neely." Our judges for the Most Uncommon Species identified during the Birdathon, local birding experts Elliot and Nancy Kirshbaum, declared Linda Carl the winner with her sighting of the Common Redpoll.

The complete list of species identified during the Birdathon was posted on the West Virginia Birding Listserve on May 15. The list will also be posted on PVAS's website. If you are not a subscriber to the Birding Listserve, you can access the posting at: <http://list.audubon.org/archives/wv-bird.html>

Don't Forget Cacapon State Park Program on Dolly Sods Munitions

Don't forget that PVAS is sponsoring a special program at Cacapon State Park the evening of Friday, June 4.

The topic will be "Staying safe in the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area—What the public needs to know about unexploded World War II munitions there."

The speaker will be Nick McHenry, an Environmental Engineer with the Environmental and Remediation Section of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Huntington, West Virginia.

The program will be held in the Daniel Morgan Room of the park's Lodge starting at 7:00 p.m.

Admission will be free and anyone with an interest is welcome to attend.

Following is an article Nick has prepared for *Valley Views*

Following the 3Rs to Stay Safe in the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area

Nick McHenry

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District

In 1943-44, Dolly Sods visitors would have been welcomed with the boom of artillery cannons or the crack of mortars being fired as Army regiments were coming to train in the highlands of West Virginia. The West Virginia Maneuver Area (WVMA) was an Army installation that exposed troops to a mountainous area which replicated conditions expected to be encountered during war in Europe.

The WVMA, a 2.18-million acre site, trained soldiers, for various aspects of mountain warfare. The Seneca Rocks rock climbing school, Gladwyn mule school, mountaineering school, and firing ranges for artillery and mortars battalions were all parts of the overarching WVMA. The firing ranges are where Dolly Sods' role in the WVMA comes into focus. The ranges generally resulted in the firing of artillery shells or mortars into what is now the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area or at surrounding mountaintops.

Remnants of the ranges can still be encountered today in the form of unexploded ordnance (UXO). UXO is military munitions that were fired, but failed to detonate as intended. The exact amount of ordnance remaining in the Dolly Sods region is unknown, but the risk is illustrated by continuous discovery of UXO by recreational visitors to this day.

To address Dolly Sods UXO concerns, an ordnance removal project was authorized under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) for Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS). Such projects are established for sites that were contaminated while under the control of the Department of Defense (DoD) prior to 1986. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Huntington, WV District, is responsible for overseeing this project.

In an effort to reduce risk to Dolly Sods visitors, an ordnance removal action was initiated, and removal activities began in 1997-98. USACE Contractors cleared trails (+20' on each side of the trail) and campsites within this area. The removal action was the most

feasible alternative based on cost, environmental impact, and reduction of public risk. The disposal of 41 mortars and 1151.5 pounds of OE-related scrap, significantly reduced the items posing a hazard to the public in the most widely used areas of Dolly Sods.

Following completion of the removal action, the WVMA/Dolly Sods FUDS Project went into "Long Term Management (LTM)" phase. The USACE's main efforts have been placed on making the public aware of Dolly Sods UXO issue and teaching what to do if UXO is encountered while visiting the area.

If you are at Dolly Sods and believe you found a UXO, you should consider it extremely dangerous and follow the 3R's of Explosives Safety:

- 1) Recognize – Recognize the UXO and the potential danger inherent to that encounter.
- 2) Retreat – Do not touch, move or disturb the UXO. Walk back the way you came.
- 3) Report – A special Forest Service phone number has been created to report ordnance encounters within Dolly Sods: 1-888-283-0303. If UXO is found off Forest Service property, please report it to the nearest law enforcement authority immediately.

It is not the intention of this project to dissuade the use of the Dolly Sods Wilderness, but to educate the public on how to enjoy the Dolly Sods safely, with respects to UXO.

For more information, please contact Nick McHenry, USACE at 304-399-5909 or via email at Nickolas.L.McHenry@usace.army.mil.

Or visit the project's website at www.lrh.usace.army.mil/projects/current/derp-fuds/wvma.



Topo Map: U.S. Geologic Survey 'Blackbird Knob Quadrangle' Monongahela Nat'l Forest



Ice Mountain Trip Set for June 26

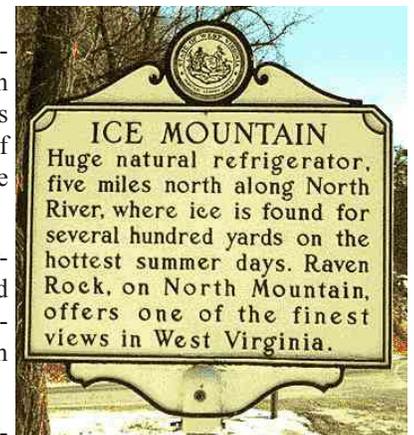
PVAS has scheduled a field trip to the Ice Mountain Preserve in Hampshire County, West Virginia, on Saturday, June 26.

Always a popular field trip destination, the Ice Mountain Preserve is a 149-acre property that contains an unusual geologic site: a high rocky slope that traps winter ice and retains it year round, like a kind of natural refrigerator.

The ice itself is mostly hidden from view deep within the rocks but cold air flows continually from a series of vents at the bottom of the slope.

Historically, Native Americans and early settlers used the vents for storing perishable food in the warm months.

Now the vents are of interest primarily because they create a unique ecosystem that supports Canadian, Alpine, and even Arctic species of plants in addition to native Appalachian species.



The mountain also has high sandstone cliffs offering impressive views and rock chimneys that are home to large ravens. One may also see eagles there.

The preserve is owned by the Nature Conservancy, and it can only be accessed through organized trips of this kind. All trips through it are led by trained Nature Conservancy volunteers. PVAS Board member Clark Dixon has recently undergone this training, and he will lead our trip.

Because parking at the preserve is limited, participant should plan to meet at the Food Lion parking lot on Route 51 off I-81 in Inwood at 8:30 a.m. and carpool from there to the preserve.

The hike into the preserve will begin about 10:00 a.m. and last about two hours.

Anyone with an interest is welcome to participate but space will be very limited so they should sign up as early as possible by contacting Clark at dixonconsultants@aol.com.

The hike through the preserve is relatively challenging, with steep elevation changes. Participants should wear sturdy shoes. Bug spray is recommended.

Join Us for a Special Visit to the Smithsonian's Leesburg Center

PVAS will sponsor a field trip to the Smithsonian Institution Naturalist Center in Leesburg, Virginia, on Saturday, June 12.

The trip is intended for adults and families with children age 10 and over. It is designed to provide an introduction to the learning and research resources available at the facility.

Participants will meet at the Center entrance at 11 a.m. Admission and parking will be free.

Registration is recommended but not required. To register or get more information contact Kelly Heldreth at kheldreth@hotmail.com or 304-229-6229.

The Center's resources are considerable. It was established over 30 years ago to give the public an opportunity for "hands-on" exploration of natural history subjects, and it moved to its Leesburg location in 1995.

Its collections include 36,000 natural history objects, 6,500 books, and a wide range of scientific equipment.

The Center is open five days a week to the general public on a walk-in basis. Its Family Learning Center (for all ages) and Main Study Gallery (only for adults and children 10 or older) offer a variety of natural history learning opportunities.

The Center also maintains programs for school groups from Grade 5 through university. Students work in structured programs appropriate to their grade levels.

For more information, see the Center website at www.mnh.si.edu/education/fieldtrip/planned_programs/naturalist_center/index.html.

The center is located at 741 Miller Drive SE, next to the Leesburg airport, south of the Route 7/15 Leesburg bypass. From the bypass, turn south on Sycolin Road (state route 643) and follow it about a mile to Miller Drive on the right.

Apply Now - Student Conservation Summit at NCTC

PVAS is pleased to announce that we are partnering with Friends of NCTC to offer five partial scholarships for an amazing summer experience for high school students at the US Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center.

For the second year, approximately 120 student fellows from schools across the country will gather at NCTC for the Student Climate and Conservation Congress (SC3). The program is sponsored by the Green Schools Alliance and NCTC, and aims to get high school students actively engaged in "greening" their schools and community. Speakers this year include writers, scientists, architects, and activists. Students arrive Saturday, June 26, and will depart midday on July 1.

PVAS and Friends of NCTC are pooling their resources to provide five \$400 scholarships for high school students who live in the PVAS service area (Berkeley, Jefferson, Morgan, and Washington Counties.) The remaining cost to the family will be \$100. The price includes overnight accommodations and meals at NCTC, all programs/activities, and a whitewater rafting trip on our local rivers.

For additional information and to apply for the scholarships, please contact Kristin Alexander at PVASmail@aol.com or 304-676-3397.

Join PVAS at July 17 "Fresh Feast on the Farm" Dinner

PVAS is partnering with Jane Tabb, of Kearneysville, for her next "Fresh Feast on the Farm" dinner, which will be held the evening of July 17.

The dinner will be held at Bill White Grantham's Meadow Green/Aqua Green Farm on Route 51 near Middleway in southern Jefferson County.

Fresh Feast on the Farm



Jane launched the Fresh Feast on the Farm program in 2008, with the help of funds from the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

The program is intended to help promote the local food movement and agritourism in Jefferson County. It provides unique dining experiences that highlight delicious, locally produced foods served in beautiful farm settings.

Each dinner features a multi-course meal that varies with the seasons. The dinners are country elegant—held in a tent, barn or other farm building with white tablecloths and linen napkins.

Meals are served plated and are accompanied by West Virginia wines.

Ten percent of each event's gross revenues are donated to a local non-profit organization that provides volunteer wait staff (in this case, PVAS). The host farm also receives ten percent. The remaining proceeds cover event and program costs.

The July 17 event will start at 6 p.m. with appetizers and a walking tour of the farm. Dinner will follow at 7 p.m.

A new hay barn will be the dinner venue.

The Meadow Green/Aqua Green Farm is a diverse, conservation-minded operation on 186 acres. Bill White Grantham, a seventh-generation farmer, owns and operates it with his wife Kerry and nephew Andrew Upright. They raise free-range cattle and hay, and have converted a hog-farrowing barn into a facility to raise rainbow trout.

The conservation practices on the farm include stream bank fencing and limited access areas to protect Turkey Run, which flows through the property.

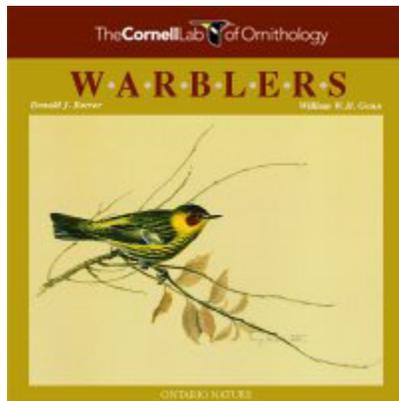
The cost to attend the dinner will be \$75 per person. Space is limited and reservations are required.

For more information, go to the program's website at www.feshfeastonthefarm.com. To make reservations, contact Jane at 304-725-4325 or Vinemont@frontiernet.net.

Carry a Tune with Digital Warbler Songs...

Sounds from Cornell Lab of Ornithology play on any MP3 device

Ithaca, NY—A compilation of 310 songs and calls for 57 species of warblers is now available from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Macaulay Library—the largest archive of wildlife sounds in the world. Originally released in 1985 as an LP record, *Songs of the Warblers of North America* is the most comprehensive audio guide to warblers available anywhere. The newly digitized version can be used on any device that plays MP3 files and is \$14.99 at www.macaulaylibrary.org.



“We received numerous requests for this digital release,” said Macaulay Library audio curator Greg Budney. “Knowing the songs of warblers really enhances people’s ability to find and identify dozens of stunning warbler species.”

Multiple sounds for each species showcase the variability in warbler vocalizations, enabling listeners to recognize the essential qualities of each species’ song while also appreciating the variability within and among species. Selected examples are available for listening at www.macaulaylibrary.org.

The MP3 files are accompanied by photos of each warbler for those who download the material to a device that can show images.

A PDF copy of the booklet that accompanied the original album provides information on the location and date for each recording and is included in the download. This guide to warbler songs and calls is a collaboration of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics, and Ontario Nature.

Contact: Pat Leonard, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, (607) 254-2137, pel27@cornell.edu

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership institution dedicated to interpreting and conserving the earth’s biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Visit the Cornell Lab’s web site at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Rd, Ithaca NY 14850
Call toll-free (800) 843-BIRD (2473)

Governor Manchin Signs New Litter Law

Announcement courtesy the Berkeley County Solid Waste Authority

On March 31, 2010, Governor Manchin signed Senate Bill 627 into law. SB 627 amended WV Code §22-15A-3 and §22-15A-4 relating to the crime of littering. SB 627 was introduced by Senator(s) Ron Stollings (Boone), Richard Browning (Wyoming) and John Unger (Berkeley) and enjoyed broad support in both the House of Delegates and the State Senate.



This law requires the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection to encourage, organize, coordinate and increase public awareness, and participation in, a volunteer litter reporting program state-wide. In addition, this law increases the fines for any person who is convicted of littering or open dumping.

The breakdown of the new litter fines are:

- Any person convicted of littering is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- Any person who dumps less than one hundred pounds is subject to a fine of not less than \$100.00 but not more than \$1,000.00.
- Any person who dumps more than one hundred pounds but less than five hundred pounds is subject to a fine of not less than \$1,000.00 but not more than \$2,000.00.
- Any person who dumps more than five hundred pounds is subject to a fine not less than \$2,500.00 but not more than \$25,000 or confinement in jail for not more than one year.
- Any person who is convicted of littering shall pay a civil penalty not less than \$200.00 nor more than \$1,000.00.

The new law is effective June 11, 2010.

To learn more about SB 627, visit the WV Legislative Services website at <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/>

Look for PVAS Display at Morgan County Fair

If you're attending this summer's Morgan County Fair, stop by PVAS' display and say hello.

The Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, July 31, and noon to 5 p.m., Sunday, August 1, at the Berkeley Springs High School. PVAS will be there both days.

Taking a break for the summer...

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

Our next monthly meeting and newsletter will be in September.

In the meantime, if you're not currently receiving email notices about our programs and activities you can join our e-mail list by writing to pvasmail@aol.com. Just say that you want to be on the PVAS e-mail list and provide your name and email address.

Or, you can keep up with our schedule simply by checking on our website, www.potomacaudubon.org.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

(see www.potomacaudubon.org for updates!)

- Jun 2: Birding walk - *C&O Canal*
- Jun 4: PVAS program at Cacapon State Park – *Safety at Dolly Sods*
- Jun 5: Master Naturalist Workshop—*Project Wild*
- Jun 5: Master Naturalist Workshop—*Ferns*
- Jun 5: PVAS event hosted by Rusty and Cricket Morgan at Ripon Lodge
- Jun 11: PVAS annual potluck - *Yankauer*
- Jun 12: Field trip - *Smithsonian Institution Naturalist Center*
- Jun 19: Birding trip - *either NCTC or Greenbrier State Park*
- Jun 25: Potomac Valley Nature Photographers meeting - *NCTC*
- Jun 26: Field trip - *Ice Mountain*
- Jun 29: Birding trip - *Flowing Springs Park and Altona Marsh*
- Jul 17: "Fresh Feast on the Farm" Dinner
- Jul 23: Potomac Valley Nature Photographers meeting - *NCTC*
- Jul 30-Aug 1: Field Trip - *Delaware's Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge*
- Jul 31-Aug 1: Morgan County Fair
- Aug 27: Potomac Valley Nature Photographers meeting - *NCTC*
- Sep 11 (may extend to 12): Banding and Birding trip - *Dolly Sods*
- Sep 24: Potomac Valley Nature Photographers meeting - *NCTC*
- Sep 24-26: Third Annual Berkeley Springs Fall Birding Festival
- Oct 7-10: Hawk-watching trip - *Cape May, NJ*

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 C9ZY540Z)

Clip and mail this form to:

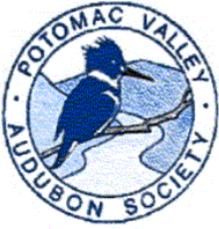
Membership Chair, PVAS
 PO Box 578
 Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Thank you for your support!



Ⓡ 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 Dual membership or Local membership.



Potomac Valley Audubon Society
 P O Box 578
 Shepherdstown, WV 25443
 Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 US Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 30
 Shepherdstown, WV

<http://www.potomacaudubon.org>

DATED MATERIALS

A proud partner of the United Way of
 the Eastern Panhandle and the Com-
 bined Federal Campaign.

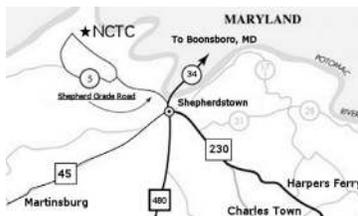


MAIL TO:

June 2010

Printed on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper

Volume 28, Issue 9



The Potomac Valley Audubon Society meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through April, at the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), Shepherdstown, WV, in the Instructional West Building. Programs are free and open to the public. For additional information about PVAS or its programs and activities, please call any of the board members listed her or see <http://www.potomacaudubon.org>. PVAS serves the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia and neighboring Washington County, Maryland.

PVAS BOARD
 The PVAS Board meets every other month on the first Wednesday of the month (Sept.-June). Meeting location will be announced prior to meetings. These meetings are open to all PVAS members.

PVAS Officers and Board Members

- President: Peter Smith 304 876-1139pvsmith@frontiernet.net
- Vice President: Nancy Kirschbaumnancyk500@comcast.net
- Secretary: Mina Goodrichlarrymina@peoplepc.com
- Treasurer: Lex Millerpamandlex@frontiernet.net
- Board Development: Wayne Braunstein 304 728-7181wbraun@frontiernet.net
- Board Members-at-Large: Don Briggsldonaldbriggs@gmail.com
- Susan Brookresonbrookre@earthlink.net
- Clark Dixondixonconsultants@aol.com
- Rob Hoxtonrhoxtan@hoxtanfinancial.com
- Leigh Jenkinsjenkinsleigh@hotmail.com
- Georgia Jeppesengeorgia_jeppesen@comcast.net
- Carolyn Thomaswebethomas@aol.com
- Vacant

Ex Officio Board Members

- Diana Mullis 304 267-3482.....dianamullis@aol.com

Emeritus Board Members

- Jean Neelyjeaneely@comcast.net

Special Contacts

- Executive Director: Kristin Alexander 304 676-3397kaemail730@aol.com
- Web Master: Kathy Biltonkathy@fred.net
- PVAS Wildlife Rescue Coord: Diana Mullis..... 304-267-3482