VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac Valley Audubon Society

Volume 34, Issue 9 June 2016

President's Perch

by Jane Vanderhook, PVAS President

Save the date!

June 11th is the date of the PVAS Annual Members Meeting. We will begin with a very brief meeting and recognition of volunteers followed by dinner which will be provided to members as a thank you. All the food is courtesy of your PVAS board. We will need to know how many we are feeding so please RSVP with your name and number of guests to janehook@frontiernet.net or by calling or texting (304) 676-3397. We promise to keep the meeting short and the dinner delicious. So mark your calendars and don't miss it.

The June newsletter is usually the last one you receive until the fall when it returns from summer hiatus. Lately, though, there have been so many activities and so much to report over the summer that in order to keep you informed, we will continue to publish an abbreviated version of the newsletter. Lots of important things are in the works, so please continue to follow us throughout the summer. Of course, we must thank our very dedicated volunteer editor, Charlotte Fremaux. This wouldn't be possible without her hard work and patience.

This newsletter is my last as PVAS President. My term ends on July 1, and the new president (presumably Mike Sullivan if the election voting trends continue) will begin to submit these articles. It has been a joy to serve a non-profit that is such a solid organization with high ideals, outstanding staff and incredibly good people involved in it. Thank you for the opportunity.

***Valley Views* – Summer Issues!**

We normally lay off Valley Views through the summer months of July and August, but we don't slow down! In the survey, you told us that this newsletter is the #1 way you keep informed of PVAS activities. So….
This summer, we've decided to keep Valley Views going through the summer, in a shorter format to keep you updated on PVAS activities and events. We don't have a name yet… "Valley Glimpse?" "Valley Breeze?" If you have suggestions on what to call our brief summer edition, give us a buzz or drop a note at Kristin@PotomacAudubon.org or 304-676-3397.
But we look forward to staying in touch this summer.

Director's Report

by Kristin Alexander, PVAS Executive Director

Change is afoot! After 10 wonderful years of incredible dedication and service, PVAS program director Ellen Murphy will be transitioning to part-time status beginning June 1, 2016. We are grateful that she will continue working with us about 20 hours/week.

Ellen began working for us in 2006 part time as a watershed instructor, then camp director, then full-on Program Director. She has been one of the most dedicated, hard-working, and capable people I've come across and she's gotten us through many challenges. From covering for me when I was on maternity leave (for which I'll be eternally grateful) and just being able and willing to do what needed to be done, she has become a fixture and incredible asset to PVAS and its programs.

Fortunately, she's not leaving us entirely… She will be continuing to instruct programs at local schools and at Yankauer. This fall her primary responsibility will be piloting our new 5th grade Sustainable Energy curriculum with local schools, but will be doing other programs as needed as well.

To help fill this huge gap, PVAS has hired Bridget Tinsley who will start August 1, 2016. Bridget will be coordinating the Watershed Education Initiative for 4th graders (she instructed this program this spring), will coordinate land management efforts at the preserves, and will support PVAS's conservation programs such as Grassland Birds Initiative and Native Plant Sale. Bridget has been volunteering for PVAS for the last year and has proven to be capable, willing, and knowledgeable. She'll be a wonderful addition to the PVAS team.

We will be recognizing Ellen for her ten years of service at the June 11th Annual Meeting. We hope you'll come to applaud her years of service.

Support PVAS Through *AmazonSmile*

Several of you have been supporting PVAS through AmazonSmile, and encouraging us to let more folks know of the opportunity to support PVAS in this way. So… If you shop at Amazon.com and want to support PVAS at the same time, you can select PVAS as the recipient of a donation from AmazonSmile valued at 0.5% of your purchase. Just bookmark this link: http://smile.amazon.com/ch/55-0626891 and all your eligible shopping will benefit PVAS.

Thanks!

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

The Magic of Magiciada

By Wil Hershberger and Lang Elliott – From, "The Songs of Insects," 2007, Houghton-Mifflin.



Photos © Wil Hershberger

Have you ever been surprised by the sudden appearance in your neighborhood of tens of thousands, if not millions, of big, black, scary-looking bugs with red eyes and orange wings … crawling all over everything and making a deafening racket from the treetops? If you have, then consider yourself lucky … you've experienced the emergence of "periodical cicadas," amazing insects that may show up in your area only three or four times in your lifetime! Enjoy them while they last, because when they disappear from the trees and shrubs, they won't be visiting again for a very long, long time.

They'll be back in our area again this year. Brood V will be out in late May or early June in the western portion of our region, west throughout most of West Virginia, eastern Ohio, and extreme western Pennsylvania. Each hatch of these extraordinary insects is referred to as a brood. There are 12 distinct broods of the 17-year cicada and we have the pleasure of living within the range of two of these broods.

Basic Facts: Periodical cicadas are found only in eastern North America. They are unique in their combination of long, prime-numbered life cycles (13 or 17 years), synchronized mass emergences, and overwhelming choruses. There are seven species, all of the genus *Magicicada* — four with 13-year life cycles and three with 17-year cycles. The 17-year species are generally northern in distribution, while the 13-year species are generally southern and midwestern. All have black bodies, red eyes, and orange wing-veins, making them difficult to tell apart except by experts (although the songs of different species are distinct). *Magicicada septendecim*, the most common 17-year species, is also the most well-known to the general public. Why are they called Magicicada? … because they're "magical" … indeed!

Annual Cicadas: There are many other cicadas in North America that are not periodical, meaning that individuals of these species emerge in reasonable numbers every year. These are called "annual cicadas" to distinguish them from the periodicals. This is not to say that individuals of annual species have a one-year life cycle. On the contrary, each individual may take many years to develop into an adult, but life cycles of individuals within a population are staggered so that some adults appear every year.

Are they "Locusts"? Many people refer to periodical cicadas as "17-year locusts" or "13-year locusts," but they are not locusts, which are a type of grasshopper in the insect Order Orthoptera. Periodical cicadas are a member of the insect Order Homoptera and are relatives of the aphids, planthoppers, leafhoppers, and shield bugs.

Are they Dangerous to Humans? Periodical cicadas may look scary, but they are actually quite harmless and do not sting or bite. You can hold one in your hand (or allow one to land on your nose) without fear. Adults have a proboscis that they insert into plant stems to extract sap, but it is unlikely that one would mistake your hand (or nose) for a stem. Given the lack of danger, there's no reason not to treat them gently and respectfully.



Myth and Culture: The uniqueness of the group has given them a special appeal and cultural status. Members of the Onondaga Nation near Syracuse, New York, maintain the oral tradition of being rescued from famine by periodical cicadas. Early colonists viewed them with a mixture of religious apprehension and loathing, even though they posed no threat. Modern Americans are intrigued by them, and there are numerous websites to assist in planning weddings, graduations, and other outdoor activities around emergences. Some even consider them a delicacy, concocting recipes to reduce the crunchiness (though we wonder how anyone could take joy in eating such a beautiful creature).

Cicada Mania: The periodical cicadas of eastern North America are unique among cicadas the world over. Nowhere else do cicadas exhibit such synchronous, periodic mass emergences. Those who live within their range are lucky indeed. Given their outlandish appearance, mysterious 13-year and 17-year cycles, extraordinary numbers, and the overwhelming loudness of their choruses, anyone who experiences a *Magicicada* emergence will be notably and irreversibly impressed … hopefully for the better!

PVAS Events

International Migratory Bird Day Celebration



The International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) Celebration is held once a year at the peak of the spring migration. IMBD was created in the early 1990's at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and first celebrated at the National Zoo, Washington, DC, in 1993.

IMBD helps raise awareness of the spectacular journey migratory birds take between their summer and winter homes. The unique nature of migratory birds highlights the importance of the United States, Mexico, the Caribbean, and South and Central America collaborating and working towards international conservation efforts and environmental education.

Again, this year the Potomac Valley Audubon Society (PVAS) joined in this celebration of the migratory bird's amazing accomplishments with bird walks and education programs.

The Potomac Valley Audubon Society hosted a total of ten bird walks over eleven days in four counties! People from a variety of communities came to learn about birds through a unique set of programs. One urban program, "Introduction to Birding and Bird Walk for Beginners," was held in a city park in Martinsburg and offered beginner birders a safe place to ask questions and try birding for the first time. The children's bird walk at Wind Dance Farm Homeschool gave students a chance to use binoculars and learn why preserving habitat is important for bird conservation. A visit to a successful Purple Martin colony gave participants an "up close and personal" experience with the social behavior of Purple Martins.

While the Eastern Panhandle and Washington County were being hammered with record setting days of rain, over 100 community members still took advantage of the PVAS sponsored IMBD bird walks. A big thank you goes out to all our trip leaders for getting up early and braving the rain and cold temperatures. Our fearless leaders of the 2016 IMBD were: Deb Hale, Debbie Maiorano, Sandy Sagalkin, Carol Del-Colle, Lynne Wiseman, Steve Hartman, Jim Farley, Joette Borzik, Jon Boone, and Janet Ardem.

The May Monthly Program landed in the middle of IMBD celebrations, and featured an educational program by the Purple Martin Society of Fredrick. Over 35 community members gathered to hear Chip Hussion, Chet Anderson, Mike Dixon, Jim Grove and Don discuss their experiences with Purple Martins, how to establish a colony and basic information on the birds. Mr. Hussion was gracious enough to host a follow-up field trip to his successful Purple Martin Colony two days following the program.

We appreciate the support and enthusiasm PVAS's volunteers and community give to IMBD, and we look forward to many more years of education, conservation and enjoyment!

PVAS Events

Native Plant Sale Success



The First Annual Native Plant Sale on May 21 from 9-4 was a great success in spite of the rainy day thanks to wonderful vendors, volunteers, and the community. It was hard to track, but at least 100 folks braved the weather and came out to purchase native plants and other goods.

Vendors of beautiful native plants included Bluebell Ridge Nursery in Sharpsburg, MD; Enchanters Garden of Hinton, WV; Sunshine Farm and Nursery of Rennick, WV; Star Eagle Gardens, Berkeley Springs, WV. PVAS had butterfly weed provided by Sunny Meadows Farm (Sharpsburg) and native trees provided by Stadler Nursery (Frederick). Eighty of the butterfly weed were pre-ordered leaving only 20 left for sale at the event. And they were gone by 9:10! Thank you!!!! All but four trees were gone by the end of the day as well.





Other vendors included Shary's Garden Art (Berkeley Springs); Dutchess Apiary (Shepherdstown); and Sustainable Solutions (Shepherstown). Sustainable Solutions also had some beautiful trees and warm season grass seed for sale.

We could not have had a successful day without the help of our wonderful PVAS/ Master Naturalist volunteers: Paul and Joanne Breitenbach, Karlin Sink, Shawn Walker, Debbie Maiorano, Susan Jones, Bridget Tinsley, Eldon and Ginny Winston, Larry and Patricia Stritch, Lynne Yellott, Diana Gaviria, Christine Marshall, Kat Cooper, Scott MacKinnon. The team spirit and positive attitudes made the very wet day quite enjoyable and made the vendors feel welcome and valued. Many thanks, too, to the Shepherdstown Sweet Shop Bakery for providing free coffee for all vendors and volunteers throughout the cold, wet day.

A special thank you to the Native Plant Sale committee that has been planning this event for many months: Susan Jones, Debbie Maiorano, Bridget Tinsley, and Ginny Winston. We'd also like to thank the GardenFest Committee and the Shepherdstown Community Club's Back Alley Garden Tour and Tea for their collaboration and support in publicity, event coordination, and town permitting. Many requests were received for a repeat performance, so we'll plan on doing it again next year!

Family and Youth Programs

Wee Naturalists Returns In The Fall



Our monthly Wee Naturalists program that helps introduce preschoolers (ages 3-5) and a caring adult to outdoor adventures takes a break in summer, but will return in the fall. Wee Naturalist is designed so that child/parent teams explore outdoors together, focusing on a different theme each month.

The programs are held at Yankauer Nature Preserve. Programs begin at 9:30 a.m., but the first thirty minutes is for free play and exploration, with the structured activities following. (Don't forget that the new Pixie Hollow area near the pavilion is perfect for free play!) Cost is $5 and pre-registration is required, but there's no extra charge for siblings under 2. Find out more about this great program at www.PotomacAudubon.org/weenats.

Family and Youth Programs

Volunteer This Summer

Even though it will soon be summer, PVAS's youth programs go on and volunteer help is welcome! ***A special invitation is made to the new Master Naturalist candidates who need volunteer hours to complete their initial certification.***

Our Audubon Discovery Camp is a great way to help kids learn about nature. Our volunteers help the staff with finding supplies, assisting with activities and projects, hiking, fort building, or just hanging out with some really neat campers. Camp volunteers are welcome to spend a day, several days, or even a week with a particular group. We'll help you find the age group and camp theme that fits your interests. Camp is held at Yankauer Preserve from June 6 through July 22. (The last two weeks are focused on preschool ages.) July 6-22, we also hold camp sessions at the Peter Burr Farm near Kearneysville.

We also have committed to several libraries in the WV Eastern Panhandle and Washington County MD this summer helping them with their summer reading program. PVAS will offer a read-aloud book and nature-based activity. We supply the book and all materials and supplies—volunteers supply their time with the hour-long programs. We welcome your help!



We also have an ongoing need for volunteers to:

Represent us at contact booths at local fairs and festivals.

Weed the gardens at Yankauer Preserve (ongoing, throughout the warm months).

Trim and repair trails at Yankauer, Eidolon, and Stauffer's Marsh.

Lead family, nature and birding walks at locations all around the Eastern Panhandle.

Help with PVAS events like the Wildflower Festival and Race For The Birds.

Present workshop programs to Master Naturalists.

Support Fundraisers by stuffing envelopes, providing refreshments, or helping to plan the events.

And especially, help with educational programs (such as camp and school groups) at Yankauer Preserve!



We offer training for every job. Please contact us via phone, email, Facebook. snail mail, smoke signal, carrier pigeon, or in person. We will be happy to hear from you and will help you find your perfect niche. To volunteer or just to have your questions answered, contact Ellen about Youth Programs at Ellen@PotomacAudubon.org or Krista about Adult Programs at Adults@PotomacAudubon.org.



Family and Youth Programs

Audubon Discovery Camp Trivia

Things that you might not know about our summer camp program:

Our first camp was held in 2004 with 29 campers (total) attending.

Fifteen years later, we average 200 campers a summer over a 6-week season at three sites.

For the past 10 years, our camp shirts have featured a different animal and color each year. Do you have them all? (blue/dragonfly, tan/lizard, orange/owl, brown/turtle, grey/skunk, light blue/tracks, lime green/frog, yellow/crow, red/fox).

This year's shirt features a caterpillar.

We have campers this year from as far away as Mumbai, India! Some are spending time with grands in the Shepherdstown area.

In general over the years, the most popular session has been "Camp Survivor."

This year, the first session to fill was "Science in the Woods."

Ben Schonberger is returning for his third year as leader of our Teen Digital Nature Photo Camp. He's the best!



There's still time to register your child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or neighbor's kid for a week of Audubon Discovery Camp!

Sessions at Yankauer include "Camp Survivor," "Nature's Architects," and "Science in the Woods." "The Simple Life" and "Pioneer Survivor" are being offered at the Peter Burr Farm. "Wildlife CSI" (at Yankauer) and "Pioneer Survivor" (at Peter Burr Farm) are designed for older elementary campers. High school students can take advantage of one of the best youth programs anywhere -- our Digital Nature Photo Camp. Most camp sessions are $150 per week for PVAS members although a few are slightly higher or lower. Questions about camp should be directed to Ellen Murphy (Ellen@PotomacAudubon.org).

Birding News and Events

Join June 1 Harpers Ferry Bird Walk

The Potomac Valley Audubon Society will sponsor a birding trip to the Virginius Island section of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park on Wednesday, June 1. The walk will begin at 7:00 a.m. It will be free, and anyone with an interest is welcome to come along, regardless of their birding skills. Children are also welcome.

Registration is required and participants will need to sign a waiver of liability because the walk involves crossing some railroad tracks. To register, go to the Society's website at www.potomacaudubon.org.

Participants should meet in the parking area on Shenandoah Street just below the intersection with Route 340. The walk will focus on the riverfront and old canal areas of Virginius Island. Birds likely to be sighted include Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, vireos, flycatchers, various woodpeckers, locally breeding warblers, herons, raptors and waterfowl. The trip distance will total about 3 miles. Participants should wear sturdy footwear, dress for the prevailing weather conditions, and bring along insect repellant and drinking water. Binoculars will be provided if needed. The trip may be canceled or postponed if weather conditions are poor.

For more information go to the PVAS website or contact Deb Hale at debhale72@gmail.com or 304-535-1528

Birding News and Events

PVAS Cosponsoring Birding Activities at New Hagerstown Park

PVAS has joined with the City of Hagerstown and the Washington County Bird Club to organize summer birding activities at Hagerstown's new Kiwanis Park.

There will be a series of morning bird walks in the park. The park is situated along Antietam Creek, and has a varied riverine and meadow habitat. Local birding expert Sandy Sagalkin will lead the walks that will be held on various Wednesdays and Saturdays from June 4 through September 3. They will start at 8:00 a.m. and last one and a half hours.

These activities will be free and open to everyone, regardless of their birding experience or skills. The Kiwanis Park is located at 371 Dynasty Drive in Hagerstown, behind the medical professional buildings on Opal Court, off Eastern Boulevard. If you have questions, contact Sandy at sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com or 240-291-6465.

Birding News and Events

Join June 5 Bird Walk at Rolling Ridge

PVAS will sponsor a bird walk on the Rolling Ridge Foundation Lands on the Blue Ridge in Jefferson County on Sunday, June 5. The walk will begin at 7:30 a.m. It is free and open to anyone with an interest, regardless of their birding skills. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged but not required. Easy registration is available on the PVAS website.



Participants should plan to meet trip leader Joette Borzik at the Rolling Ridge Study Retreat Community, located at the end of Mission Road. From Charles Town, West Virginia, follow Route 115 / Charles Town Road (Old Route 9) heading south, then turn right on Mission Road. Continue on Mission Road approximately 6.2 miles, driving past Shannondale Springs Wildlife Management Area. Turn left where Mission Road becomes a gravel road. After 1 mile on the gravel road, you will approach a 4-way intersection. Go straight and park your vehicle at the Rolling Ridge Study Retreat Community where the walk will begin.



PVAS birders at Rolloing Ridge and Acadian Flycatcher seen at last year's walk

The walk will last about 3 hours, and cover rolling terrain. This is a good opportunity to see increasingly hard to find Red Headed Woodpeckers. Other birds likely to be present will be warblers, vireos, flycatchers, tanagers, gnatcatchers and raptors. Participants should wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the prevailing weather conditions, and bring along water, a snack, and insect repellent. PVAS will provide binoculars for those who do not have their own. The walk may be cancelled in the event of heavy or steady rain, as access requires travel on a gravel road. Those who register on the PVAS website will be notified by email by 9 P.M. the previous evening if cancellation is anticipated.

The Rolling Ridge Foundation Lands are one of the largest privately held wilderness preserves in the Eastern Panhandle. On its 1,400 acres of secluded, forested land are miles of hiking trails, the Appalachian Trail, the Shenandoah River, five mountain streams, ponds, waterfalls and scenic overlooks.

To reserve binoculars or for additional trip information, contact Joette at 240-440-4221, or pep4223@comcast.net. For property access questions, contact Scot DeGraf at 301-275-2009.

Birding News and Events

Come Join Summer C&O Canal Bird Walks

PVAS is teaming up with the National Park Service to offer a new series of Sunday morning bird walks along the C&O Canal towpath in the Williamsport MD area this summer. The walks will be held on the second Sundays of June, July and August (June 12, July 10, and August 14) from 7:00-10:00 a.m.

All the walks will begin at the Canal Visitor Center at Cushwa Basin in Williamsport, and led by PVAS's Sandy Sagalkin. They are free and open to anyone with an interest, regardless of their birding skills. They will involve easy walking over level ground, and children and families are welcome. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required. Registration is available on the PVAS website at www.potomacaudubon.org.

The Canal towpath offers good birding opportunities, since it is a major stop for migrating birds and neotropical birds that breed in our area. Species likely to be sighted will include Baltimore Orioles and Prothonotary Warblers, among many others. Participants should wear sturdy footwear, dress for the prevailing weather conditions, and bring along insect repellant and drinking water. Binoculars will be provided if needed.

Directions to the Williamsport Canal Visitor Center can be found on the Canal website at www.nps.gov/choh/planyourvisit/williamsportvisitorcenter.htm. The trips may be canceled or postponed if weather conditions are poor.

For more information, go to the PVAS website or contact Sandy at sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com or 240-291-6465.

Antietam Bird Walks Scheduled

Veteran birder Sandy Sagalkin will lead monthly bird walks along the Final Attack Trail section of the Antietam National Battlefield this summer. The walks will be held on the fourth Saturday of each month: June 25, July 23 and August 27. All the walks will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Burnside Bridge and last two-and-a-half to three hours. The walks are free and open to anyone with an interest, regardless of their birding skills. They will involve relatively easy walking over mostly level ground. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required. Registration is available on the PVAS website.

Participants should wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the prevailing weather conditions, and bring along water. PVAS will provide binoculars for those who do not have their own. Various trip details could change depending on weather or recent bird sightings.

The trail the walk will follow is in the area where the Union Army made its final advance to drive the Confederate Army from Maryland on September 17, 1862, only to be turned back by A.P. Hill's final Confederate counterattack. It is also the site of an extensive effort by the Antietam National Battlefield to restore and preserve native grasslands on the Otto Farm fields in the Battlefield's southwest corner.

For more information, go to the PVAS website or contact Sandy at sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com or 240-291-6465.

Blue Ridge Center Bird Walk Set for July 13

The Potomac Valley Audubon Society will sponsor a bird walk at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship in nearby Loudoun County, VA, on Wednesday, July 13. The walk will begin at 7:00 a.m. and be led by birding expert Deb Hale. It is free and open to anyone with an interest, regardless of their birding skills. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged but not required. Easy registration is available on the Society's website at www.potomacaudubon.org.

The Center is located at 11661 Harpers Ferry Road (VA Route 671), a couple of miles south of Route 340 and just opposite the Neersville Fire Department. Look for a small sign with the Blue Ridge logo. Plan to meet before 7:00 a.m. in the Center parking lot. This trip will cover about three miles and last about three hours. It should offer opportunities to see a good variety of birds, including warblers, vireos, flycatchers, tanagers, gnatcatchers and raptors.

Participants should wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the prevailing weather conditions, and bring along water and insect repellent. PVAS will provide binoculars for those who do not have their own. Various trip details could change depending on weather or recent bird sightings.

For more information, contact Ms. Hale at debhale72@gmail.com or 304-535-1528.

Birding News and Events

PVAS Sponsoring August 24 Harpers Ferry Walk

The Potomac Valley Audubon Society will sponsor a bird and butterfly walk in the South Schoolhouse Ridge section of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park on Wednesday, August 24. The walk will begin at 7:00 a.m. and last about three hours. It is free, and anyone with an interest is welcome to come along, regardless of their birding skills. Children are also welcome.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged but not required. Easy registration is available on the Society's website at www.potomacaudubon.org.

Participants will meet at the South Schoolhouse Ridge parking area. From Route 340 west of Harpers Ferry, turn south onto Millville Road (County Route 27); proceed 7 tenths of a mile to parking area. If the gate is closed, pull off and park along the road.

The trip will involve about 3 miles of walking through woods and fields, with some hilly terrain. Birds expected to be seen include lingering summer breeders such as vireos, warblers, flycatchers and grassland birds, as well as raptors and year-round resident birds.

Participants should wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for prevailing weather conditions, and bring along water, and bug spray. Binoculars will be available for anyone who needs them.

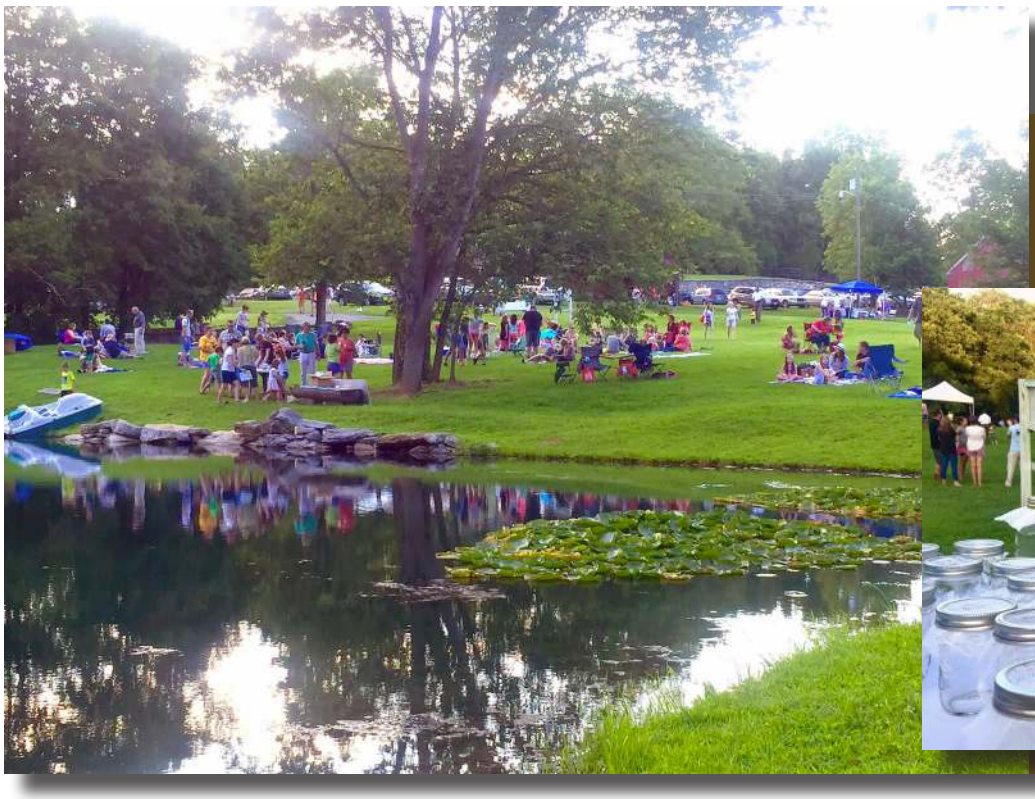
The trip will cancelled in the event of bad weather. For more information go to the PVAS website at www.potomacaudubon.org or contact Deb Hale at debhale72@gmail.com or 304-535-1528.

Fiddles, Fireflies and Frogs – Save the DATE!

On Wednesday, July 13th, PVAS will host its Second Annual "Fireflies, Fiddles and Frogs" family event. Bring your own supper and blanket to have a picnic, then enjoy lots of outdoor fun activities with the kids: A location is still being finalized, so stay tuned for details!

The event will begin at 6pm and go 'til dark. A suggested donation of $10/ family will be gratefully accepted that night. Specifics will be available at www.PotomacAudubon.org as the event gets closer and as details come together! We hope to see you there, rain or shine!







Potomac Valley Master Naturalists

PVMN Spring Gathering

The PVMN 10th Anniversary Spring Gathering was held on Saturday, May 7, at Cacapon State Park. With around 25 Master Naturalists and some family members participating in events throughout the day, it was our largest Spring Gathering yet! Special thanks go to Susan Jones for coordinating such a fun and informative event.



Ellen Murphy lectures on wolves, foxes and coyotes

The day got off to a rainy start, but that didn't deter the participants in Lynne Wiseman's bird walk, which included a surprise sighting of a Louisiana Waterthrush. Arborist Shawn Walker gave a lecture on the Emerald Ash Borer, including a demonstration of a preventive treatment for ailing ash trees he thinks still have a hope of overcoming larval infestation. Park Superintendent Scott Fortney presented a history of Cacapon State Park. It was supplemented in the afternoon by a natural history hike led by Clark Dixon, with special focus on Indian Run and its watershed. Wolves, foxes, and coyotes were the topic of a lecture given by Ellen Murphy, which included some cool facts, photos, and children's books. All of these speakers, except for the park superintendent, are Master Naturalists, and these walks and talks were an inspiring way for the rest of us to see how Master Naturalists can share their knowledge with the community.

Attendees broke bread over a delicious potluck lunch that, as always, had way more food that could actually be eaten. The meal ended on a special note, with a peach cobbler cooked over an open fire by Clark Dixon, the result of Clark's morning-long demonstration of outdoor cooking. By the end of the day, the rain gave way to blue skies and sunshine, and attendees left with smiles on their faces, great food in their bellies, and lots of new and fascinating knowledge about the natural world.

PVMN 10-Year Anniversary Honored with Float Trip

Opequon Project Team is sponsoring a float trip for Potomac Valley Master Naturalists in honor of our 10th Anniversary.

Join your fellow MNs on July 16th to experience and appreciate the beauty and splendor of the Opequon from a new and different perspective. It's not uncommon to see turtles, snakes, blue and green herons, pileated woodpeckers, kingfishers, beavers, muskrat, deer, cattle and turkey, to name a few. Paddle the lazy waters as they meander through rural farmland and wonder why it took you so long to get out there and enjoy this gem of a creek we all have in our back yard. The float trip will take approximately 2 hours and traverse about 7 miles of the creek from the Rt. 45 Bridge to the "take out" at Lou & Jake Scavnicky's place just downstream of the old Myers Bridge. The float trip will be followed by a potluck & swimming at Lou & Jake's.

For those who do not have a canoe or kayak, one can be rented at any one of the outfitters in Harpers Ferry or at the Shepherdstown Pedal & Paddle. Reservations should be made sooner rather than later, as rentals go quickly in the summer.

Registration is required and may be completed using the Events Calendar at www.potomacaudubon.com. Sign up early, as registration will close July 10th to allow time organize the necessary the number of volunteer vehicles to shuttle paddlers from the "take out" back to the starting point.

Potomac Valley Master Naturalists 10th Anniversary Birthday Bash

The Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Program is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2016 with dinner and a concert at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC). Participants may browse through exhibits including photos, art, and writings, each on a nature theme, and all original work by PVMN members. After dinner, guests may socialize or just sit back and listen to the concert while enjoying birthday cake, ice cream, and coffee. All PVMN members will have an opportunity to sign the birthday card at this celebration.

The birthday celebration will take place from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., Saturday, October 8, 2016 at the NCTC dining room and Roosevelt Room Commons space. Menu details are still in progress with NCTC staff, but once finalized will be posted along with logistical details in the September issue of Valley Views.

Did You Know...?

PVMN has a Facebook group that allows all of us in the Master Naturalist program to connect and share information, plans for hikes and nature walks, and ideas about events to attend and places to visit. Members also use it to post photos of plants and other things that they need help identifying. It's a great site for drawing on the knowledge of fellow Master Naturalists and forming friendships!

You don't have to be certified to join; membership is open to anyone who has begun the program. To join, simply type in "PVMN Connect" on Facebook and request to join the group so that one of the moderators can add you as a member.

Did You Know...?

Are you a certified Potomac Valley Master Naturalist, and have you received one of those little blue cards in the mail letting you know that your PVAS membership is about to expire? ***Don't send in a check just yet!*** One of the benefits of certifying and re-certifying as a Master Naturalist with our chapter each year is a free membership to PVAS, which includes such perks as: access to Valley Views, discounts on PVAS programs and events, and discounts to several local businesses.

As PVAS is unable to separate Master Naturalists from other PVAS members at the moment, everyone is sent a blue card when their membership is about to expire. If you have received a card and have certified or re-certified as a PVMN, please send an email to admin@potomacaudubon.org and your membership will be manually updated in the system.

Many thanks for your Master Naturalist service to our community!

LAST CALL

Master Naturalist field trip to Baraboo, Wisconsin

July 28 - August 1, 2016. Open to PVMN and PVAS members/guests.

We are planning a trip to the Aldo Leopold Foundation, International Crane Foundation, Wisconsin Dells boat trip and much more. PVAS website registration deadline June 5th.

Please call Lynne Wiseman for further details 304-676-2725 and information about motel reservations we have reserved in Wisconsin.

JOIN PVAS TODAY!

ALL of your dues will stay here to support local PVAS efforts and help us grow! And here's what you'll get:

- Member discount to many PVAS programs and events.
- A subscription to *Valley Views*, the PVAS newsletter.
- Free or reduced admission to participating nature centers and/or their programs across the country.
- E-mail alerts about events and programs (upon request).
- An invitation to a PVAS Members annual gathering.
- Discounts to participating **local businesses**.

Details available at potomacaudubon.org/member

To become a local member, send in the form below and enclose a check for $20 ($15 for seniors and students). Make the check out to "PVAS." This fee covers membership for everyone in your household for one year. For details, go to: http://potomacaudubon.org/member.

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip code: _____

Phone (optional): _____

E-mail: _____

To save postage costs, PVAS regularly sends its newsletter by e-mail. You can be assured that we do not share email addresses with anyone. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by U.S. mail check here: __.

Clip and mail this form to:

Membership Chair, PVAS
PO Box 578
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

If you'd rather join the National Audubon Society:

Some people prefer National Audubon Society membership, which includes a subscription to the Society's Audubon magazine. To become a National member, go to the Society's website at www.audubon.org and click on "join." If you join National Audubon and reside in Berkeley, Jefferson or Morgan counties in West Virginia, or in Washington County Maryland, you will automatically become a member of PVAS and have access to our events, an e-mail copy of newsletter and e-mail alerts. However almost all of your dues payments will go to the National Audubon Society; only a small percentage will go to PVAS.

Potomac Valley Audubon Society
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DATED MATERIALS

A proud partner of the United Way of the Eastern Panhandle and the Combined Federal Campaign.
CFC#29061

CFC#29061

MAIL TO:

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The Potomac Valley Audubon Society meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through April. Programs are free and open to the public. For additional information about PVAS or its programs and activities, please contact any of the board members listed here or see http://www.potomacaudubon.org. PVAS serves the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia and neighboring Washington County, Maryland.

PVAS BOARD

PVAS Board meetings take place the first Thursday of the month (September through June). Meetings are open to all PVAS members. Please contact the President or Vice President if you would like to attend.

PVAS Officers and Board Members *(Year of term expiration in parentheses)*

President: Jane Vanderhook (2016) ..... janehook@frontiernet.net
Vice President: Michael Sullivan (2016) ..... msullivan@limno.com
Secretary: Diana Gaviria (2016) ..... jpikester@comcast.net
Treasurer: Dan Cogswell (2017) ..... daniel.cogswell@gmail.com
Board Members-at-Large:
Clark Dixon (2017) ..... dixonconsultants@aol.com
Kara Gibson (2016) ..... KaraKlein@gmail.com
Tanner Haid (2016) ..... Tanner.Haid@gmail.com
Joe Hankins (2016) ..... joseph.hankins@gmail.com
Susan Jones (2016) ..... wvbagend@frontier.com
Matthew Patterson (2016) ..... tridecanone@yahoo.com
Don Campbell (2017) ..... treehouseview@comcast.net
Mina Goodrich (2017) ..... larrymina@peoplepc.com
Elizabeth Morningstar (2017) ..... d1g1nthed1rt@comcast.net
Ex Officio Board Member: Diana Mullis (past president) ..... DianaMullis@aol.com
Emerita Board Member: Jean Neely ..... jeaneely@comcast.net
Special Contacts
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Program Director: Ellen Murphy (304-676-8739) ..... Ellen@PotomacAudubon.org
Adult Prog. Coord: Krista Hawley (703-303-1026) ..... AdultPrograms@PotomacAudubon.org
Web Master: Kathy Bilton ..... kathy@fred.net
PVAS Wildlife Rescue Coord: Diana Mullis (304-754-3753) ..... dianamullis@aol.com
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