

VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac
Valley
Audubon
Society

Volume 32, Issue 9

June 2014

Thank you Wilbur!

Certainly you have noticed the beautiful photographs in many issues of *Valley Views* marked with ©Wil Hershberger and have read the fascinating articles written by him about birds, frogs, bugs, skunk cabbage, and sounds in nature. Many readers know who Wil is, but perhaps not all know everything he has been up to over the years.

Wil has been an avid naturalist most of his life. After becoming an accomplished and well-respected birder, photography skills learned in his Dad's basement darkroom were rekindled. Today his photography has become an extension of his passion for the natural world. He has an innate ability to capture the natural world in an artistic way. Over a decade ago, Wil and his wife Donna formed [Nature Images and Sounds, LLC](#). Together, they photograph everything from birds to bugs. He is also an accomplished sound recordist with over 2,000 of his recordings, including birds and bugs, archived at the [Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds](#). Through their photography and sound recordings, they hope to instill in others the desire to protect and save these sacred natural treasures.

A summary of many of his accomplishments:

- Past President of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society and the Frederick chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
- Member of the North American Nature Photographers Association (NANPA), North American Photoshop Professionals, and Professional Photographers of America
- Awarded the honor of "Highly Commended" for an insect photo by the Shell/BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition for 2006
- Awarded the honor of "Highly Commended" for a whitetail deer photo by Nature's Best magazine Photographer of the Year Competition for 2008 and 2010.
- Photographer of the Year 2006 Shenandoah Photographic Society
- Awarded "Best of the Bugs" for the support website for the book, [The Songs of Insects](#) by the University of Florida entomology and nematology department.

His images have been published in:

- Calendars by Gladstone Media
- Books by Stackpole and Houghton-Mifflin
- Oasis Magazine of Italy

- Appalachian Trail Conservancy Magazine
- National Parks Magazine
- Bird Watchers Digest

Articles by Wil have been published in:

- Nature Photographers Magazine
- NatureScapes.net online magazine
- The Observer
- Valley Views, newsletter for the Potomac Valley Audubon Society

He has also published a book: [The Songs of Insects](#), Houghton Mifflin Co., co-authored with Lang Elliott

PVAS is fortunate to have such an accomplished naturalist as a member and a frequent contributor to our activities. Thank you, Wil!

International Migratory Bird Day Report

By Sandy Sagalkin

This was the fifth running of the Ruth Ann Dean Memorial Birdathon, and the winners are Joette Borzik and Chuck Parker of the White-eyed Weary-o's, who identified 121 species within the prescribed 24-hour period (they birded for 18 hours straight on Saturday, May 3!). Joette and Chuck are repeat winners of the birdathon, having won in 2012. Bob Dean and Stan Corwin-Roach of the Tufted Turkeys came in second with 113 species and get Honorable Mention. In all, five teams with 15 participants competed in this year's birdathon.

There were two Big Sit contenders this year. Big Sitters must identify as many birds as possible from within a 50-foot diameter circle and within the 24-hour prescribed Big Sit time limit. Linda Carl won the Big Sit with 33 species.

PVAS also held three public Big Sits led by Jean Neely, Deb Hale and Sandy Sagalkin. The public Big Sits were held at Sam Michaels Park, Harper's Ferry National Historical Park, and the Antietam National Battlefield. The Harper's Ferry Team, led by Deb Hale and Mike Wiltshire, identified 55 species from within a 50-foot diameter circle within the six-hour period established for the

...IMBD continued on page 2

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

...IMBD continued from page 1



One of the Big Sits
Photo by Jean Nealy

public Big Sits. Twenty-five members of the public came and helped.

In all, 144 birds were identified, including 27 warbler species, as reported by all birdathon and Big Sit teams.

This year's birdathon was memorable from another standpoint: it was the first birdathon where

the participants were not hammered by relentless rain. Well, you can't have everything. The participants had a great time notwithstanding.

The Potomac Valley Audubon Society scheduled more activities this year than ever before to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day. We had bird walks at Claymont Mansion, Harper's Ferry, the C&O Canal, Stauffer's Marsh, PVAS's Eidolon Nature Preserve, Sideling Hill area (Washington County), and the Antietam National Battlefield. The Washington County Bird Club co-sponsored the walks at Sideling Hill and the Antietam National Battlefield. A ride and bike birding trip had to be cancelled due to rain. Over 60 members of the public joined our bird walks.

We also conducted a children's birding workshop at Wind Dance Farm Homeschool in Morgan County, which was open to children in our coverage area. Twenty children and three parents participated in the program. The children saw Baltimore Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Common Yellowthroats, and Eastern Towhees, and learned to recognize the songs of the Louisiana Waterthrush and Scarlet Tanager among others.

Katie Fallon returned to our area for International Migratory Bird Day and gave a boffo performance at the National Conservation Training Center on vultures, her latest book topic. Last year she discussed her book on Cerulean Warblers, *Cerulean Blues: A Search for a Vanishing Songbird*. Most of us birders typically note but do not get excited about Turkey and Black Vultures, the two vulture species in our area. Katie made the topic interesting and answered questions for a half-hour after the talk ended. She even gave a respectable imitation of Turkey and Black vultures flying. Fifty-five people came to hear Katie Fallon.

Congratulations to our winners and thanks to everyone that helped make this year's International Migratory Bird Day a success!

Last Issue of Volume 32

Valley Views is not published in July and August. ☹️

The next issue (number 1 of volume 33) will appear in September.

President's Perch

By Diana Mullis

Where does the time go? This is the last issue of *Valley Views* until September. We've included an event calendar, but trips, workshops, and other programs are constantly being added to the calendar on our website, www.PotomacAudubon.org. You may also sign up for our "Heads-up!" email list to receive e-mail alerts about upcoming events and programs. To sign up for that, contact Kristin Alexander at Kristin@PotomacAudubon.org.

Don't forget that we need your election Ballot! So if you haven't sent one in yet, please do. For your convenience, we've enclosed another copy in this newsletter.

The May *Valley Views* included information about revisions to our Constitution & Bylaws as well as the slate of officers put forward by the Nominating Committee. This information is also available at www.PotomacAudubon.org. If you can't access the website, simply call 304-676-3397 and we'll send you what you need by mail.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as President this past year, and I want to thank each and every one of you for your support and friendship. We did a lot of good things this past year. I hope that, like me, you look forward to being a part of the many good things that PVAS will do in the future. Thank you for being a part of PVAS!

DianaMullis@aol.com -- 304-754-3753

▶ **BALLOT** ◀

If you have not submitted your ballot for PVAS by-law changes and election of officers, please do so ASAP! We must have ballots from at least 10% of our membership.

The deadline has been extended to **June 15**.

A ballot is enclosed with this newsletter, in case you have misplaced yours. Complete the ballot and mail it to the address printed on the ballot. Thanks!

Director's Report

By Kristin Alexander, PVAS Executive Director

As we approach the end of the PVAS Fiscal and Operational Year, I want to thank the board members who are stepping down after their service.

Mina Goodrich and Lex Miller are both stepping off the Board after reaching their term limits. They have been incredibly dedicated to PVAS and have provided invaluable service and guidance on the Executive Committee - Mina as Secretary and Lex as Treasurer. They will both be missed.

Diana Mullis, who served as President for the last year, is also stepping down from this role. Diana has been an incredibly active PVAS member since its inception and has filled every board position over the years. So when we needed to fill the role of President last year she was the perfect choice. We truly thank her for her dedication and leadership this year. Thankfully she's not going too far! She'll continue to serve as Past-President for the next two years.

With Diana stepping from the role of President to Past President, Peter Smith will be leaving the Executive Committee. Peter has been very active as Past President as he continued to provide valuable perspective at meetings and to spearhead press coverage, the Morgan County Birding Festival, and many other projects. Even as he steps out of his official role on the Executive Committee, he has agreed to continue with these special projects and we are grateful.

Leigh Jenkins, At-Large Board member, has also reached her term limit. Leigh has been a wonderful advocate for our youth programs as the Youth Program Committee Chair, and has shared valuable resources, insights and ideas from the perspective of a teacher. Leigh will also be missed.

Finally, Amanda Whitmore is regretfully resigning from the Board to allow time for family obligations. Amanda has been a wonderful contributor to the Board, sharing with us her volunteer management expertise, and her prior experience as a VISTA volunteer. She also contributed significantly to the Backyard Naturalist program in its inception.

I thank each and every one of you for your leadership and guidance during your service on the PVAS Board of Directors.

Newsletter Editor Needed!

I want to thank Don Henry for taking on the Newsletter Editor role over the last two years. He claims to have enjoyed the job, learning InDesign and editing the articles, but I know it's a lot of work, too! He's done a fantastic job, but is ready to move on to a more flexible lifestyle without deadlines that sometimes cramp other adventures he'd like to have. So we thank Don for his time and fantastic contributions to PVAS's ValleyViews!



Would you like to fill Don's shoes? He's volunteered to train the next person in the use of InDesign and the roles/responsibilities of Newsletter Editor. Don didn't know the software at all when he took on the role and he says it's not hard. (And even fun!)

If you'd like to learn more about this volunteer role within PVAS, please contact either Don or me and we'll give you the details of what's involved and how you could help. Don can be reached at dhenry@myexcel.com or (304) 876-6681 or I can be reached at Kristin@PotomacAudubon.org or 304-676-3397.

Many thanks again to Don, and to whoever wants to be next Editor! - Kristin Alexander

Winston Gardens Nursery Makes Another Donation!

PVAS has received a donation of \$303 from the Winston Gardens Native Plant Nursery in Martinsburg to support our Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve in Back Creek Valley. The funds represent 15 percent of the proceeds from the Nursery's annual spring Open House, which was held May 3-4. The nursery is located in north-

eastern Berkeley County, at 1121 Hollida Lane, one mile off Swan Pond Road.

The nursery specializes in trees and shrubs that are native to this region and typically offers more than two dozen different species for sale. These range from popular favorites like Sugar Maples and Redbuds to hard-to-find species like Fringe Tree, Witch Hazel, and Black Haw Viburnum.

The nursery's owners, Virginia Provenzano Winston and her husband Eldon, have been making such donations since 2011. PVAS greatly appreciates their generosity!

For directions and a full list of the plants available, go to the Nursery's website at www.winstongardens.com. Or call the Winstons at 304-267-6924

United Way and CFC Contributions

The United Way of the Eastern Panhandle has recently informed us that we're slated to receive about \$3,000 from donations designated for PVAS during the 2013 United Way and Combined Federal Campaign fundraising appeals.

In all, 19 families and individuals donated to PVAS through the CFC or the United Way. We sincerely thank those who contribute to PVAS through these designations: Anonymous, Shelly Blanchard, Carolyn Duckworth, Blaine Eckberg, James Gibbs, Jesse Goodman, Glenn Gravatt, Georgia Jeppesen, Tracy Leskey, Miles McEvoy, Mark Muse, Frank Muth, Laura Palmer, Donna Phillips, David Rosen, Philip Sibrell, Aileen Smith, Esther Woodworth, and Mathew Zenkovich.

A Celebration of West Virginia!

Join us for our summer fundraiser on Saturday, June 21, from 4-6:30. We will be celebrating our great state of West Virginia while raising money for our education programs.

Bob and Tia McMillan have graciously offered to host the event for PVAS at their beautiful modern home on Terrapin Neck. The house was built in 1997 by former West Virginia Governor Gaston Caperton. It has been showcased in many architectural publications and is spectacularly sited along the Potomac River. Their West Virginia art collection will be available for viewing.

The silent auction will include products from West Virginia like Blenko glass, wine and art. There will also be jewelry, a tequila tasting for eight, kitchen ware, a unique portable table and chairs, a bird house, and much more.

The reception will be held outside on the patio and lawn and will feature West Virginia food favorites and live music. Dress is casual.

The event is open to all PVAS members and friends. However, space is limited and tickets will be required. Ticket prices start at \$45. To receive an invitation, contact Kristin Alexander at Kristin@PotomacAudubon.org or call 304-676-3397.

Hope to see you there!

PVAS Field Trips in June

Listed below are PVAS field trips scheduled for June. For more information, use the web address or phone number given in the article, or visit the PVAS website www.PotomacAudubon.org. Participants should dress appropriately for the prevailing weather conditions; bring insect repellent, water, and sunscreen; and wear comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots. A snack might be useful for the longer trips. The trips are open to all and are free unless otherwise noted in the article. In some cases pre-registration is required or recommended and there may be a fee. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.



June 4: Harpers Ferry Bird Walk

PVAS will sponsor a birding trip to the Virginius Island section of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park at 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 4. The walk will focus on the riverfront and old canal areas of Virginius Island. Birds likely to be sighted include orioles, several warbler species, various types of vireos and fly catchers, herons, ducks and raptors. The trip will be about 3 miles total. Binoculars will be provided if needed. Participants will meet in the parking area on Shenandoah Street just below the intersection with Route 340. The trip may be canceled or postponed if weather conditions are poor.

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.

For more information go to the PVAS website or contact trip leader Deb Hale at debhale72@gmail.com or 304-535-2346.

June 5: Bird and Butterfly Walk at CraftWorks



PVAS and CraftWorks at Cool Spring are teaming up to sponsor a Birding and Butterfly Walk on the CraftWorks property on Thursday, June 5. The walk will start at 7:00 a.m. and last about four hours. It will be led by master birder Joette Borzik and butterfly enthusiast Bruni Haydl. The trip will involve at least one mile of walking over uneven terrain. You may opt out of the walk at any time or stay as long as you wish. The trip will be held rain or shine but in the event of rain it will focus on birds, as butterflies will not be active.

CraftWorks is located at 1469 Lloyd Road, in southern Jefferson County. Plan to meet at the CraftWorks parking lot by 7:00 a.m. Bring binoculars if you have them. Some binoculars will be available for loan and can be reserved by contacting Joette at 240-440-4221 or pep4223@comcast.net.

Registration is mandatory. To register, go to the Craftworks website at www.wvcraftworks.org and click on "Classes and events." Full directions to the CraftWorks property are also available there.

For more information contact Krista Hawley at adultprograms@PotomacAudubon.org or 703-303-1026.

June 11: Snavelly's Ford Birding Trip

PVAS and the Washington County Bird Club will sponsor a birding trip in the Snavelly's Ford section of the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, MD, on Wednesday, June 1, beginning at 7:30 a.m. and lasting about three hours. Snavelly's Ford is located on Antietam Creek in the southern part of the Battlefield, near Burnside Bridge. The trip will involve moderate hiking, mostly on level ground. It will be focused on birds that migrate in early spring, raptors, woodpeckers, swallows, sparrows, and other species. Trip participants should plan to meet at the Bridge.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged but not required. To register, go to the Society's website at www.PotomacAudubon.org.

The trip may be cancelled in the event of bad weather.

For more information go to the PVAS website or contact Sandy Sagalkin at 240-291-6465 or monsansagalkin@myactv.net.

Outdoor Cooking Class June 28



PVAS will offer one of its popular outdoor cooking classes in Jefferson County on Saturday, June 28, at a farm in Kearneysville from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It will be led by master naturalist (and outdoor chef *extraordinaire*) Clark Dixon. It will provide instruction and practice in cooking outdoors without pots and pans or kitchen utensils. Unless there is a torrential downpour, the class will be held rain or shine.

The class is open to anyone, but participation is limited and pre-registration by June 14 is required. These classes usually fill up quickly, so early registration is advised. There will also be a fee of \$10 to cover supplies and materials for instruction. To register, go to the PVAS website www.PotomacAudubon.org or contact Kelly Wolf at k2kellywolf@outlook.com or 304-229-6229. Each registrant may bring one guest, such as a child or spouse, free of charge.

Plan to bring your own food to be cooked. A list of possible foods and suggestions for preparation will be provided to those who register, along with directions and full details. Participants have the option to camp at the class site on Friday night; those who wish to do so must bring their own camping gear. Please contact Kelly if you're interested in this opportunity.

Looking for Feedback and Ideas from our Members

The biggest asset of the Potomac Valley Audubon is its dedicated and passionate volunteers and leaders. We are very blessed to have such an enormous support system. Our committed and engaged members allow us to offer a wide variety of programs—from field trips to bird walks to natural history workshops and everything in-between.

Summer is a great time for us to take a deep breath and look ahead to our yearly programming. We welcome your fantastic ideas and would love to hear what opportunities you would like to see us offer in the future. Feel free to share ideas you have for courses you might like to take, hikes you might enjoy, things that you would like to learn in a workshop, interesting places you have been looking to visit, etc!

We would also love to know if you have the experience and knowledge to lead a trip, deliver a course, give a talk, lead a hike, or plan an outing. We look forward to hearing from you and are excited to expand on and enhance our current calendar of events.

Please feel free to email Krista Hawley at adultprograms@PotomacAudubon.org with your ideas, suggestions or feedback.

Sign Up for Fall Raptor Workshop

PVAS is sponsoring a Natural History Workshop on raptors this fall beginning with a two-hour evening classroom session on Thursday, September 11, at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown. This session will provide an overview of the subject. Participants will then join in three field trips on September 20, October 12 and November 1. The field trips will all be single-day trips, confined to locations within a two-hour drive of the Eastern Panhandle. The workshop is part of PVAS's Advanced Birding Series, so it is not intended for beginning birders. Participants must be graduates of PVAS's "Birding 101" class or have commensurate birding experience. The goal is to take birders at that level to the next level of knowledge and identification within this unique group of birds.

The workshop will be led by three local birding experts: Wil Hershberger, Bob Dean, and Matt Orsie. It will focus on raptor behavior, migration patterns, identification techniques, behavior, distribution and population trends, and conservation goals.

Enrollment is limited to only 12 persons, so pre-registration is essential. A fee is required. Registration and more information are available on the PVAS website at www.PotomacAudubon.org, or you can contact Krista Hawley at 304-876-8471 or at adultprograms@PotomacAudubon.org. The fee for the workshop is \$75 for PVAS members and members of the Society's Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Program, and \$100 for the general public (this latter fee includes a year-long PVAS membership).

PVAS's Advanced Birding Series will continue over the next few years, with different workshops focusing on different bird groups and families. The field trips will be aimed at having the participants do the bulk of the bird identifications so others in the group will all learn collectively.

PVAS's Natural History Workshops are intended for people who are interested in learning about particular natural history topics in considerable depth but cannot commit to pursue the much more comprehensive natural history education available through PVAS's Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Program, which can take a year or more to complete.

Midsummer Shorebirds Workshop

Here's a reminder that PVAS is sponsoring a Natural History Workshop on shorebirds at midsummer, which begins with an evening classroom session on July 30, followed by an August 1-3 field trip to the Delaware shore. The workshop will be led by Matt Orsie and Sandy Sagalkin. As part of PVAS's Advanced Birding Series, it is not intended for beginning birders. Participants must be PVAS "Birding 101" graduates or have commensurate birding experience.

The fee for the workshop is \$60 for PVAS members and members of the Society's Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Program, and \$65 for the general public. Pre-registration is essential and so is making your own lodging arrangements on the Delaware shore. To register and get full details, go to the PVAS website www.PotomacAudubon.org.

For more information, contact Matt at 304-261-5602 or wv-birder@comcast.net or Sandy at monsansagalkin@myactv.net.

Berkeley Springs Birding Festival September 19-21

Planning is underway for the Seventh Annual Berkeley Springs Fall Birding Festival to be held in and around Berkeley Springs the weekend of September 19-21. As usual, the festival will be aimed at beginning and intermediate birders and families with children.

PVAS is once again its lead sponsor. Local community sponsors include the Nature Niche store in Berkeley Springs.

Full details will be announced in the September issue of *Valley Views*. In the meantime, for updates keep an eye on the PVAS website www.PotomacAudubon.org or contact Judy Webb at the Nature Niche store at 304-258-0992 or natureniche@earthlink.net.

Wee Naturalist Returns in August

Our popular Wee Naturalist program, for preschoolers and a caring adult, returns in August! Programs will be held at Yankauer Preserve on Monday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Dates are August 25, September 15, October 20, and November 10. The program will once again be led by Suzi Taylor, an experienced environmental educator who has facilitated the program since it began seven years ago.

The program is designed to help children and their adult partners explore the natural world through hands-on activities, games, crafts, books, and circle time. A StoryWalk® is often featured on the Cedar Loop during each program. Each program features a different theme that is appropriate to the time of year and includes "a walk in the woods." All programs are held rain or shine.

Pre-registration is required for all Wee Naturalist programs and the cost is only \$10 for each child-adult team. A second preschool sibling is only \$5 more and children under age 2 may attend with their older sibling at no extra cost. Registration for each session can be completed at www.PotomacAudubon.org/weenats.

Master Naturalist Courses

If you have always been interested in the Master Naturalist Program but haven't been ready to commit to the whole year, here is your chance for a sneak peek into our fabulous program! The Potomac Valley Audubon Master Naturalist Program is a yearlong program with courses offered once a month from March through October. Students are accepted through an application process and for the most part, courses have not been available to the general public. However, these courses are now available on an individual basis. Adults and teens, over the age of 16, may register for any or all of the courses listed below that interest them.

Information about these courses and registration can be found at www.PotomacAudubon.org under the Events Calendar. Each course has limited spaces available and ranges in cost from \$15-25 each, depending on the number of hours. If you decide that you would like to become an official Master Naturalist Candidate, you can then do so and you will have some of the courses already completed. The courses feature both classroom instruction and a field component so that participants can readily apply what they have just learned.

Here is a list of the courses for the rest of the 2014 year:

June 21 at National Conservation Training Center (NCTC):

- Insects and Spiders of WV
- Natural History of Fish

July 19 at Cacapon State Park:

- Natural History of Aquatic Habitats
- Geology of WV

August 16 at NCTC:

- Habitats Improvement
- Natural History of Soils

September 20 at NCTC:

- Natural History of Mushrooms
- Natural History of Mammals
- Program Development

September 21 at NCTC:

- Terrestrial Habitats
- Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines

Chimney Swift Tower Installed at Claymont Mansion

Historically, Chimney Swifts built nests in hollow trees. But as pioneers moved westward and cleared the forests as they went, the birds adapted their behavior and began nesting in the chimneys of the houses that began springing up where hollow trees used to be. Conveniently, they nest in May through August when fires in fireplaces are rare. The nests are made of twigs, broken from tips of branches, and glued with saliva to a vertical surface such as a hollow of a tree or a chimney. The female lays three to five white eggs.

The Claymont Mansion was built in 1840 by Bushrod Corbin Washington, grand-nephew of George Washington. Located outside Charles Town, the mansion sits on 350 acres that are farmed for hay, a market farm, and historic orchards.

In 2010, the Claymont Society received a grant from "Save

America's Treasures" to restore the historic mansion. As with most historic homes in the area, the mansion's chimneys were popular nesting sites for Chimney Swifts. Concerned about the impact sealing the chimneys would have on the Swift populations, PVAS volunteer Joette Borzik and Claymont Society Executive Director Amy Silver began to talk about opportunities to build a tower for the Chimney Swifts to replace the lost chimney habitat.



Chimney Swift tower

Gary and Diane Sylvester researched various designs and began to build the tower at their shop. Joette Borzik worked with Claymont to get permission to build the tower, select a site, and prepare the site. Joette also spearheaded raising some of the monies the materials would cost to build the tower. Claymont and volunteers donated materials, money, and time to the project without which the tower would never have been possible.

PVAS truly appreciates the efforts the Claymont Society has made to preserve history, while replacing the birds' lost nesting site. Their dedication to history and to the Chimney Swifts is much appreciated. In addition to thanking the Claymont Society for participating in the project and for their financial contribution for materials, the tower would not have been possible without volunteers Joette Borzik, Rose Borzik, Gary and Diane Sylvester, Lou Scavnicky, and Pete Palmer.

To learn more about Chimney Swifts, how to build a tower, and other information on conservation efforts of these birds, you can go to www.chimneyswift.org.

Summer Camp Predictions

Wow! These are going to be summer camp experiences that we'll talk about for a long time! Most of our waiting lists are full, and what we have planned for campers is a fun-filled and active summer of nature. Most of the sessions will have campers out in the woods exploring habitats, looking for bugs, hiking the trails at the Yankauer Preserve and, of course, building forts. At the Peter Burr Farm, campers will bake bread, weave on lap looms, play old time games, and experience just a bit of what it was like before TV, cell phones, and video games. Over at CraftWorks, the campers will explore nature and connect the animals they find with stories to be dramatized with puppets, face paint, and their imaginations. Our younger campers will focus on nature found in Wild and Wonderful West Virginia as well as wild and wonderful Yankauer Preserve. Finally, our teen photo campers will be using our Nikon cameras and the computer lab at Shepherd University to learn tips and techniques for taking great nature photos.

All camp fees are due now as well as any orders for the camp t-shirts. Full information about what to bring to camp and other things parents want to know is found on the PVAS website www.PotomacAudubon.org/discovercamp. We promise a full report (with pictures!) in the September *Valley Views*.

Scholarship Winners

The PVAS Camp Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that we will sponsor a number of young people for exciting and educational camp experiences this summer. For the first time we are sending some local folks to the Family Camp at Hog Island on the beautiful coast of Maine. Twelve-year-old Billy Surber from Hagerstown will attend Family Camp with his parents, Eddie and Maggie. Billy has been home-schooled by his parents, and he especially enjoys nature and art.

Christian Heasley, a student from South Martinsburg Middle School, will attend the Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies in Capon Bridge, WV, on a scholarship that is co-sponsored by Burgundy. Christian's strengths are math and computer science, but he's also interested in wilderness and camping.

Both Christian and Billy have attended our own PVAS Audubon Discovery Camp in past years. In 2014 we are granting camp scholarships to nearly 20 children to attend our various ADC week-long day-camp activities! We are truly pleased that our camps – at Yankauer, Peter Burr Farm, and Craft Works at Cool Spring – have been perennially popular.

Each year PVAS offers camp scholarships to eligible persons throughout the PVAS membership area. These great opportunities for deserving individuals are generously supported by our fall bird seed sale, as well as other donors and community sources. We thank our bird seed customers and all loyal supporters of our camp scholarships!

Programs Have Kept PVAS Busy

Our Program Director, Ellen Murphy, says she has the best job in the world because she gets to spend much of her time sharing nature with students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Our school programs often take place in the classroom and use the schoolyard as an outdoor exploration lab. Some classes prefer to visit Yankauer Preserve for a full day experience in nature. Either way, we've been able to serve a total of 4,092 students this past school year!

- 348 students visited Yankauer Preserve through field trips this year. (Almost 100 of those students were from Burke Street Elementary School in Martinsburg, many of whom had never been to a nature preserve before.)
- 1386 students participated in classroom presentations from PVAS—many funded by generous grants from Ecolab and the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation.
- 911 students in West Virginia participated in PVAS' fourth grade watershed education program.
- 312 additional students in Washington County MD participated in the watershed program as well, thanks to funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust.
- 1135 additional students were served through larger programs like the Jefferson County Science Olympiad and Potomack Intermediate's Environmental Program.

Even with all the snow days this past winter, this has been a banner year for PVAS school programs. Volunteers have helped do these programs; we simply could not do all them without our great volunteers. Our newest school programs, which focus on wetlands

such as Stauffer's Marsh, will be piloted next year through a grant from the WV Division of Natural Resources. Although the fall school calendars are not yet set, we're sure to be back in the classroom or out in the woods by September for another exciting year sharing nature with children.

JOIN PVAS TODAY!

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

- Access to a wide variety of PVAS programs and events for adults and children, including field trips, special events, workshops and courses, and environmental projects.
- A subscription to Valley Views, the PVAS newsletter
- E-mail alerts about events and programs of special interest
- Satisfaction of supporting conservation efforts, youth and adult nature education, individual and family recreation, and a wide array of programs in your community.

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

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip code: _____

Phone (optional): _____

E-mail: _____

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

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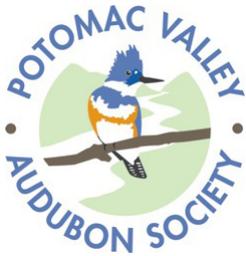
**Membership Chair, PVAS
PO Box 578
Shepherdstown, WV 25443**

Thank you for your support!



If you'd rather join the National Audubon Society:

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



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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

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

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

- President: Diana Mullis (2014)..... DianaMullis@aol.com
- Vice President: Jane Vanderhook (2015)..... janehook@frontiernet.net
- Secretary: Mina Goodrich (2014) larrymina@peoplepc.com
- Treasurer: Lex Miller (2014)..... pamandlex@frontiernet.net
- Board Members-at-Large:
 - Clark Dixon (2014)..... dixonconsultants@aol.com
 - Diana Gaviria (2014) jpikester@comcast.net
 - Tanner Haid (2016) Tanner.Haid@gmail.com
 - Leigh Jenkins (2014)..... jenkinsleigh@hotmail.com
 - Lou Scavnicky (2015)..... captainlou@comcast.net
 - Michael Sullivan (2014)..... msullivan@limno.com
- Ex Officio Board Member:** Peter Smith (past president)..... pvsmitth@frontiernet.net
- 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
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- PVAS Wildlife Rescue Coord: Diana Mullis (304-754-3753)..... dianamullis@aol.com
- Valley Views editor/publisher: Don Henry (304-876-6681)..... dhenry@myexcel.com
- VISTA volunteer: Melanie Snyder..... Admin@PotomacAudubon.org