

Valley Views

**Potomac
Valley
Audubon
Society**

Volume 24, Issue 6

March 2006

▼ *Check out the Field Trips & the Monthly Program* ▼

Altoona Marsh

● **Saturday, March 25, 8:00 am**



USFWS

We will explore The Nature Conservancy's Altoona Marsh in Jefferson County and neighboring ponds for over-wintering passerines, raptors and waterfowl. We will walk on railroad tracks at the marsh. The footing is uneven, so wear appropriate shoes. We will meet at the

Martins parking lot opposite the Sherwin Williams store off Route 340 in Charles Town. Please let us know if you plan to come; we would like to let you know if we have to postpone due to weather. Call Ken or Patsy Hunter 304-725-3936 or phunter@npca.org.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

● **Saturday, April 16, 7:15 am**

We will meet at the far end of the Harpers Ferry NHP parking lot off Route 340 at 7:15 am. We will leave by 7:30 and walk down from the NPS parking lot, botanizing and birding as we go. We'll walk into Harpers Ferry and take the park service shuttle back up the hill. With luck we should find some early migrants and residents. Experienced birders and novices are sure to enjoy this trip and hopefully there will be lots of good birds. Please dress appropriately – whatever the weather is going to be!

Potomac River Archaeology

● **Wednesday, March 8, 7:30 pm**

Richard J. Dent, director of American University's Potomac River Archaeology Survey, will be the featured speaker at the March monthly meeting of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society.

He will discuss early Native American settlement patterns and lifestyles along the Potomac, focusing on three specific sites he has excavated.

Dr. Dent has been at American University for the last decade. Previously, he taught at the University of Maryland, College Park.

He has worked extensively in both colonial American and Native American archeology. His current emphasis is on Native Americans and the ways in which their societies were changed by the adoption of agriculture. In addition to his work along the Potomac River Valley, he conducts excavations in Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah.

He has authored numerous publications including "Chesapeake Prehistory" (Plenum Press, 1995).

He lives in Great Cacapon, WV.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 pm Wednesday, March 8, in the auditorium of the U.S. Geological Survey's Leetown Science Center, 11649 Leetown Road (County Route 1), Kearneysville. Interested members of the public are also invited to attend.

Camp Scholarships Available

PVAS is looking ahead to the summer camp season! Please help us by passing along the news about our scholarships to any deserving young people that you know. Camps, locations, ages, and dates are as follows:

- *West Virginia State Conservation Camp, Camp Caesar, Webster County, WV; ages 14-17, June 12-17, 2006*
- *Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies, Capon Bridge, WV; ages 11-15, June 26 – July 9, 2006*
- *Mountain Institute Youth Ecology Camp, Spruce Knob, WV; ages 9-11, July 30 – August 3, 2006*
- *Audubon Discovery Day Camp, Yankauer Nature Preserve, Shepherdstown, WV; ages 6-12, several sessions mid-June to late July*

Let's go camping!! To obtain more information and/or an application form, go to the PVAS web site, www.potomacaudubon.org or contact Kathryn Henry, 304-876-6681, dhenry@myexcel.com.

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



President's Perch

Hello Everyone!

Hope you are enjoying some winter fun and quiet time. I've been thinking I'd catch up on some reading, and enjoy my hot chocolate by the fire, but telephones and computers don't seem to notice that it's snowy and cold out there. I have been enjoying counting the birds at the feeders ... it gives me a good excuse to sit and gaze out the window. My highlight this past weekend was 6 turkeys (the ones with feathers), and a white throated sparrow with a totally white tail. Speaking of which, we will be sponsoring a Birding 101 again this year to help us identify all those birds (see below).

It's time to be thinking about any kids and summer camp scholarships (page 1). Our birdseed sale will sponsor 3 or 4 scholarships this year ... thanks to all you birdseed buyers.

This is also the time of year we start looking for new Board members to help us do all the good things we do. Our community is growing, as is our membership. Come help us chart a course that meets the needs of our growing community, and includes the things that you think are important. We need your ideas, your support and some of your time. Our next Valley Views will have additional details about the Board positions coming open and a new Committee based organizational structure that we hope you will see yourself in. Be thinking about it!

To rescue you from cabin fever, we have field trips coming up (see page 1), and don't forget that our Yankauer Nature Preserve (page 3) fits any schedule, and is wonderful every season of the year.

Diana Mullis, President

Birding 101 is Back!



USFWS

Wil Hershberger and Bob Dean once again have agreed to co-lead this very popular course. Join them on Thursday evenings at NCTC for a classroom presentation from 7-9 pm March 9, 16, 23, and 30. Continuing tradition, they will then lead corresponding Saturday morning field trips (March 11, 18, 25, April 1) around the Panhandle to search out birds in the field. Tuition for the entire workshop is \$50. Space is limited and reservations

are required. Call or e-mail Kristin to reserve your space today at PVASmail@aol.com or 304-676-3397.

Nature Photography Club is Popular

85 people came to the first meeting of the Potomac Valley Nature Photographers in January! The Byrd Auditorium was bursting with enthusiasm as the founders outlined possible future activities for the new group. They'll be holding regular meetings on the fourth Friday of each month at NCTC. To stay informed, go to www.potomacvalleynaturephotographers.org and learn tips, look for upcoming events and participate in the forum.

On Friday, February 24th at 7 pm at NCTC's Byrd Auditorium, a video about the life and work of nature photographer Jim Brandenburg will be shown. Brandenburg is famous for his photographs of wolves in the wilds of Alaska.

At the meeting we'll also share the results of the survey from the first meeting; provide tips for using the new web site; discuss the possibility of forming smaller interest groups or committees; conduct the very first "Share and Show," where others get to see "what you've been up to" photographically.

At the March meeting on the 24th at 7pm in the Byrd Auditorium, Jim Clark, nationally known nature photographer and recently retired from NCTC, will present a talk and slide presentation about "Capturing a Sense of Place."



Sharon Stephan 2006



RED DOT ALERT

Please note that if a red dot is on your mailing label for this newsletter, your membership has expired and this may be the last PVAS newsletter that you receive. Please renew your membership using the form below.

JOIN PVAS TODAY

When you join PVAS, you automatically become a member of the **National Audubon Society**. Your membership includes:



- One year (six issues) of award-winning **Audubon Magazine**
- Eight issues of **Valley Views**, PVAS's newsletter of field trips, programs, and local issues
- Advance notice of all PVAS events

Enclosed is my check for:
\$20 Individual SPECIAL OFFER (1st time members only)

\$35 Individual (renewal)

\$15 Seniors and full-time students

Make checks payable to

National Audubon Society

Mail to:

Membership Chair, PVAS

P.O. Box 578

Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ ZIP _____

Chapter Code Y54

News From Yankauer

Coming Soon...



Sharon Stephan
2006

April Wildflower Festival

Did your dreams of an early spring get stifled with the snow? Don't despair. Spring really is around the corner. Come celebrate its arrival at the Wildflower Festival at Yankauer on April 22 from 11 am to 4 pm. Enjoy guided walks, refreshments, children's activities, art and more! Contact Kristin if you'd like to volunteer.

Thank You...Thank You...

•Thank you to the following additional contributors to the Annual Appeal: Kate Bale, Ian Gibson-Smith and the IanThom Foundation in memory of Thomas G. Martin. Thank you so much for your support!

•A special thank you goes to Bill Fishbach, Tiffany Tabler, and the Thomas and Howard families for helping to keep the parking lot clean this winter. Thanks also goes to Rodney Woods for clearing some major windfall from the trails and for helping to clear way for the parking lot expansion. Special thanks to Jeremy Tabler for pushing over trees in the parking expansion area. Thank you for all you do, neighbors.

•Due to the weather, the parking lot expansion has been postponed until early March. Please forgive our muddy construction site! We'll get it cleaned up as quickly as we can. An enormous thank you goes out to McClearly and Early Construction for donating the shale used for fill; Potomac Construction Industries for donating 60 tons of crusher run to top the parking lot; the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District for covering the remaining construction costs; Cam Tabb for grinding the brush into mulch; and Joe DE Mandel for his incredible volunteer efforts clearing the brush and trees from the area and loading them into the dumpster to be mulched. Extraordinary generosity and flexibility has been demonstrated by all involved. Thank you!

Volunteers Needed for Spring Programs at Yankauer

Want to work with kids at Yankauer this spring? We're now scheduling programs for grades K-6 for the spring and Kristin would love your help. Contact her at 229-9771 or PVASmail@aol.com to learn more.

Nature Photography Workshop Filled

All spaces are now taken for the nature photography workshop on April 28-30. We are taking names for a waiting list and compiling a list of people who are interested in future workshops, so please get in touch with Kristin in either case.

Partnership with Mountaineer Chapter

PVAS is happy to report that we are working with Mountaineer Audubon chapter in Morgantown by sharing our school curriculum with them. They are talking to a school in their service area about piloting the Yankauer programs at a 4-H site near the school as early as this spring. How exciting to see the ripple effects of our programs.



POTOMAC ARTS FESTIVAL

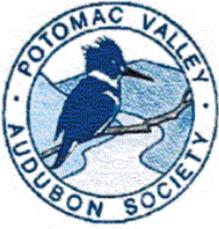
2006 Potomac Arts Festival

PVAS is pleased to announce that we'll be holding the Second Annual Potomac Arts Festival this fall on November 3-5, again in partnership with the American Conservation Film Festival and the National Conservation Training Center. Want to give a hand? Contact Kristin Alexander if you'd like to help pull off another successful event!

Bird Gallery

NCTC & USFWS





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://potomacaudubon.org>

DATED MATERIALS

A proud partner of the United Way of Berkeley and Morgan Counties, United Way of Jefferson County, and the Combined Federal Campaign.

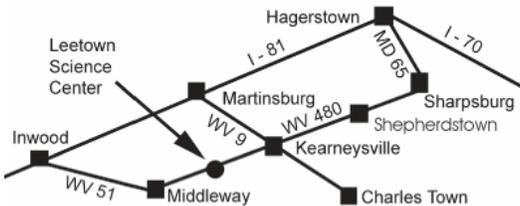


MAIL TO:

March 2006

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The Potomac Valley Audubon Society meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through April, in the auditorium at the USGS Leetown Science Center, Leetown/Kearneysville, WV. Programs are free and open to the public. For additional information about PVAS or its programs and activities, please call any of the board members listed here or see <http://potomacaudubon.org>. PVAS serves the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia and neighboring Washington County, Maryland.

PVAS BOARD
 The PVAS Board meets the first **Wednesday** of the month (Sept.-June) at Shepherd College, Snyder Hall, Room 317, 7PM. These meetings are open to all PVAS members.

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