Celebrating 25 Years
Potomac Valley Audubon Society
VALLEY VIEWS
Volume 26, Issue 6 March 2008

We Still Need Your Help With Our Annual Appeal!

As this is being written in mid February, our annual fundraising appeal—which was launched on December 1—has raised $22,240.

That's a great result! Thanks to all of you who have contributed so far.

But we're not done yet—our appeal period runs through the end of March.

So if you haven't contributed yet, please consider doing so now.

Remember that your annual appeal contributions are essential to our program efforts. Many of our programs are free. For those that do involve fees, we could never charge participants—especially children—enough to cover all our expenses. Your support makes up the difference.

To contribute, just send a check made out to "PVAS" to PVAS, PO Box 578, Shepherdstown, WV 25443.

Fourth Grade Watershed Program Expanding

Our Fourth Grade school program that helps educate Eastern Panhandle youngsters about the importance of water resources issues began its sixth year on February 4.

Called the "Watershed Education Initiative," the program is aimed at increasing children's awareness of water quality and watershed management issues affecting the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay.

These issues are a major concern for the region.

This year, ten Berkeley and Jefferson county schools have signed up for the program: the Country Day School, Mill Creek Intermediate, Morgan Academy, North Jefferson Elementary, Potomac Intermediate, Ranson Elementary, Saint Joseph's, Shepherdstown Elementary, TA Lowery, and Tomahawk Intermediate.

In all, a total of 869 students at those schools are enrolled.

This year's enrollment represents a big expansion of the program. Last year, about 550 students in six schools were enrolled.

At each school, students will be engaged in six classroom sessions and one day of field trips over a 16-week period.

The classroom sessions include time with an "Enviroscape" watershed model that lets students see how water flows off of various landscapes and can carry pollution, soil, trash, and other contaminants into waterways.

Students also learn about the impacts of native and non-native plants and the ways in which plants can improve water quality.

They also learn how to test water quality and interpret test results, and how small aquatic animals can be used as indicators of water quality.

The students' field trips let them put their newly-acquired scientific skills to work by testing Potomac River water quality first-hand.

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Nature-based Recreation in Decline

There's been a lot of stir this past month following the online publication of a paper by Oliver Pergams, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Patricia Zaradic, Bryn Mawr College, entitled, "Evidence for a fundamental and pervasive shift away from nature-based recreation." The paper, published February 4, 2008, in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA (PNAS), draws the conclusion that a fundamental shift is taking place in our society. Spurred on by evidence of a steady decline in visitors to our national parks, Pergams and Zaradic have expanded their hypothesis of declining interest in national parks to one of general apathy to nature-based recreation. As broader evidence they offer the following: visits to US national parks have declined as well as visits to Japanese national parks, US state parks, US national forests and per-capita duck stamps and fishing licenses.

In his online "Field of View" column at Birder's World, editor Chuck Hagner sums up an important perspective on what this

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means to us all,

> We've known for some time that if people are to care about natural areas as adults, they need to experience them as children.
>
> We also know that the best way to get people to behave in an environmentally responsible manner is to make sure they get to enjoy extended periods of time in natural areas, preferably in the company of a mentor.

How can we expect responsible stewardship if we as a society no longer value our contact with mother earth as a fun and friendly part of life? One way is to support the PVAS mission that brings education, conservation, and love of nature together for young and old alike.

If you're a subscriber to PNAS you can go online and get the full text of the paper at http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/abstract/0709893105v1 or if you're not a subscriber you can get a free extract at the same site. Alternatively you can go to the Birder's World "Field of View" column at http://bwfov.typepad.com/birders_world_field_of_vi/2008/02/a-shift-away-fr.html to read the additional details that Chuck Hagner has reported.

Summer Camp Scholarship Applications Now Available

PVAS is now accepting applications for its 2008 summer youth camp scholarship program. Each year, the program helps send deserving area youngsters to summer camps that emphasize conservation and the environment. Any youngster within our membership area (the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia and Washington County, Maryland) is eligible to apply.

This year, applicants will be able to choose among seven different camps. The scholarships PVAS provides will cover all camp tuition costs unless otherwise noted.

The camps, listed in ascending order of the age groups they accept, are as follows:

Audubon Discovery Camp, Yankauer Nature Preserve, Berkeley County, WV; ages 6 to 12, (one week scholarships) check web site for themes between June 9 and July 25.

Audubon Youth Camp, Hog Island, Maine; ages 10-13; August 3-9.

Junior Nature Camp, Oglebay Institute, near Wheeling, WV; ages 10-15; July 20-26 or July 27-August 2.

Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies, Capon Bridge, WV; ages 11-15; June 22-July 5 or July 8 - 22 (for this camp, the PVAS scholarship will cover all but $50 of the total cost; families will be asked to pay the remaining $50)

Mountain Adventures Summer Camp, Spruce Knob, WV; ages 11-17; June 22 - 29 or June 20 - July 6 or July 6 - 13.

Conservation and Fishing Camp, Trout Unlimited, Syria, Virginia; ages 13-17 (grades 8-11); June 22-27.

West Virginia State Conservation Camp; Camp Caesar in Webster County, WV; ages 14-18; June 9-14.

For more information and application forms go to our website at www.potomacaudubon.org or contact Kathryn Henry at 304-876-6681 or dhenry@myexcel.com.

All applications must be submitted by April 15.

Applicants must indicate which camp they wish to attend (and their second choice, if they have one), submit an essay that describes their interest in attending, and include a letter of reference from an adult other than a family member.

Transportation costs to the camps will be the responsibility of the scholarship recipients.

Scholarship winners will be asked to make a presentation on their camp experience at a PVAS meeting o next December (place and exact date to be determined). The presentation may include slides, photos, scrapbooks, art, or a form of writing.

The scholarship program is supported by the proceeds from our annual fall bird seed sale. Additional community sources also support scholarships to our own day camp program at the Yankauer Nature Preserve.

Egg Hunt...Audubon Style!

The Potomac Valley Audubon Society is sponsoring an Egg Hunt from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Sunday March 16 at the Yankauer Nature Preserve. Unlike traditional egg hunt events, this hunt will use eggs colored to resemble real wild bird eggs and include an opportunity for children to paint their own "real" egg to take home as they learn more about birds and their nests.

The object of this year's hunt will be to challenge children to find the naturally camouflaged eggs on the trail and discover how this helps birds keep their nests safe from predators rather than collecting candy filled plastic eggs. Eggs will be hidden along two separate trails at the nature preserve, one for children ages 3-5 and the other for children ages 6-8.

Collected eggs will be "traded in" for a sweet Easter treat. This will be a family-oriented event and parents should plan to go with their children as they walk on the trail.

Pre-registration for the event is required and the cost will be $5 per child—which can be paid that day. Registration is limited. To register, call PVAS Children's Program Director Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739 or email pvasprograms@comcast.net with your name, phone number, and the number and ages of children attending.

Heads Up List Notice to Readers

PVAS provides a free email notification service for all of our activities, events, press releases, and items of common interest. We call the notification service our "Heads Up List." If you are not currently receiving these announcements and would like to, you may send an email request to PVASmail@aol.com. Make sure to state that you wish to be added to the Heads Up List; give your name and the email address you wish to receive announcements.

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As part of their course of instruction, students also evaluate runoff conditions on their school grounds and plant native grasses and other filtering plants that help protect water quality.

This year for the first time 5th grade Watershed Clubs have been formed at most of the schools where the program was offered last year.

These clubs involve 5th graders in activities that reinforce the knowledge they gained through their participation in our 4th Grade program and helps them get involved in water-quality projects of their choosing.

Club members also help teach the 4th graders who are in the program this year.

Club activities include working with the Enviroscape, learning more about ground water pollution with a Ground Water Flow Model, developing plans for school Watershed Fairs, creating tiles that identify storm water drains as part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and creating videos for online posting.

The Watershed Education Initiative got its start through grants to PVAS from the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Canaan Valley Institute in Davis, West Virginia.

It is now supported by fees paid to PVAS by the schools and—this year for the first time—by a grant from the Project FLOW (Future Leaders of Watersheds) program of the West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service.

Other School Programs Also Gaining in Popularity

In addition to having an increasing number of area schools sign up for our 4th Grade program, we're also seeing more and more schools taking advantage of our other K-6 school programs.

So far, we've got 14 classes from four different schools participating in these programs during March, April, and May, with more likely to follow.

Like our 4th Grade program, our programs for the other K-6 grades are intended to help students gain a better understanding and appreciation of the natural world.

All the programs consist of classroom instruction that uses lesson plans we've developed and a field trip to our Yankauer Nature Preserve that allows students to connect the concepts they've learned in the classroom with real-world experiences.

Each program is built around a different theme. For example, First Graders learn how animals use their senses and adapt to their environments. Second Graders learn about the differences between plants and animals.

To learn more about these school programs, see our school program brochure on our website at www.potomacaudubon.org.

For more information about all our school programs, contact Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739 or pvasprograms@comcast.net.

PVAS Holds Teacher Development Workshop

On January 24, teachers from Berkeley and Jefferson counties attended a teacher development workshop conducted by PVAS at the National Conservation Training Center.

The teachers who participated are involved with the new 5th Grade component of PVAS's Watershed Education Initiative, our program that helps educate area youngsters about the importance of water resources issues.



Shown above, from left to right, are Theresa Highlands, Kathy Dowell, PVAS's Ellen Murphy, and Rebecca McMahon

The workshop was focused on helping the teachers develop new ways of incorporating service learning techniques into their efforts.

The workshop was led by Ellen Murphy, PVAS's Director of Children's Programs.

It featured marine biologist and author Sandy Burk as the keynote speaker. Burk discussed a service learning project that involved 5th Graders from Bethesda, MD, in working with the Fish and Wildlife Service and local watermen to boost shad populations in the Potomac River.

Workshop participants also heard presentations on service learning techniques by the Cacapon Institute and the WVU Berkeley County Extension Office. They were also able to try out an Enviroscape (a tabletop model of watersheds) and a Groundwater Flow Model supplied by the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District.

Service learning is intended to help students to connect classroom learning and community needs. It emphasizes analysis and problem-solving, and stresses teamwork.

Volunteers Needed for Spring School Programs!

We're actively recruiting volunteers now to help with our various school programs this spring.

First, we need volunteers to help facilitate the class visits to the Yankauer Preserve. Specific duties include helping PVAS staff lead nature hikes, nature games, and nature-exploration activities.

We also need volunteers to assist with our 4th Grade program. Specifically, all the classes participating in this program take a field trip to the Izaak Walton League facility on Scrabble Road near the Yankauer Preserve, where they divide into small groups and conduct water-quality testing, take stream bank assessment walks, and hunt for macroinvertebrates in the Potomac River. Volunteers play a key role in helping students with these activities.

Finally, volunteers are needed to help our 4th Grade program participants plant Rain Gardens at their schools during the last two weeks of May. The plantings include native grasses the students

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have grown in their own classrooms during the spring semester, plus some supplemental shrubs and wildflowers provided by grant funds. If you like digging in the dirt, this is the volunteer position for you! (And it's also a great way to satisfy Master Gardener volunteer hours!)

We train all our volunteers very thoroughly so they're comfortable with the roles and responsibilities required of them.

For more information on dates and volunteer responsibilities for the above programs, contact Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739 or pvasprograms@comcast.net.

Tickets Still Available for March Photo Seminar

Tickets are still available for a special, two-day nature photography seminar that will be held at the National Conservation Training Center the weekend of March 22-23.

The seminar is sponsored by PVAS's Potomac Valley Nature Photographers group.

It will be conducted by Joe and Mary Ann McDonald, an award-winning husband-wife team of wildlife photographers. They will cover topics that range from the philosophical to the practical—from the ethics of nature photography to composition to digital techniques and digital file management.

Photographers of all skill levels are invited to participate.

The cost of enrollment will be $80 for students and teachers, $100 for PVNP members, and $130 for non-members. Reduced rates are available for those who attend only one day of the seminar.

All proceeds will be used to further the Potomac Valley Nature Photographers' outreach, education, and conservation activities.

To purchase tickets, go to www.eventbrite.com/event/84093526. This website also contains detailed information about prices and the topics the seminar will cover.

For more information about the McDonald's work go to their website at www.hoothollow.com.

Birding 101

We are very happy to report that Bob Dean, Wil Hershberger, and Matt Orsie have agreed to teach Birding 101 again!

This course is designed for beginning birders. The course will focus on bird identification, birding techniques, using field guides and other resources, and field etiquette.

The course will be held in April and consist of four weekday-evening classroom sessions (7:00-9:00 p.m. Tuesdays or Thursdays) at NCTC and four Saturday morning field trips (roughly 7:00 a.m. to noon) at various sites around the Panhandle.

Tuition will be $50 per person. Pre-registration is required. See the PVAS website for specific dates. To register or to learn more, go to the website or contact Kristin Alexander at pvasmail@aol.com or 304-676-3397.

This Race is for the Birds!



Join PVAS for its seventh annual "This Race is for the Birds!" event on Saturday, April 26 on the campus of the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) near Shepherdstown.

The event has a few new twists this year! It will still be held rain or shine, but instead of being a 5K trail run, participants will be running 5 kilometers on the paved roads at NCTC on a closed course. The race will begin at 9:00 a.m. For those who enjoy a slower pace, participants can also walk the same course at their own pace. Now that the course is over paved surfaces, strollers will be appropriate and encouraged.

The walk will begin immediately after the runners have cleared the starting area. Following the completion of the run, at about 9:30 a.m., there will be a "Fun Run" for children under 10 years of age, on a special short course set up just for them. All children will receive a ribbon and prize for participating.

All proceeds go to support PVAS's youth education programs as well as the Yankauer Nature Preserve in Berkeley County and the new Eidolon Preserve in Morgan County.

Those who register before April 12 may register for $18 and are guaranteed a free t-shirt. After that and on the day of the race, adults participating in the 5-kilometer race or walk will be $20 per person and includes a free t-shirt while supplies last. The fee for children participating in the walk and/or Fun Run will be $10. All fees are tax deductible. Members of Shenandoah Valley Runners receive a $2 discount.

Runners who wish to pre-register can do so online at www.active.com or send a check payable to PVAS Attn: Race, PO Box 578, Shepherdstown, WV 25443. Registration forms can be downloaded on the PVAS website at www.potomacaudubon.org. You may register the morning of the race as well.

Everyone participating at the adult run/walk event should go to the gymnasium on the NCTC campus. Registration will take place from 7:45-8:45a.m. Registration for the children's "Fun Run" will be at 9:15 a.m. at the gymnasium.

Diana Gaviria has generously offered to coordinate the race again this year. Stay tuned for details, and if you'd like to volunteer to help that day, please let Diana know at 274-2690. We'd love your help and there are opportunities for everyone. For more information visit the PVAS website or call 304-676-3397 or email pvasmail@aol.com.

Wildflower Festival/Earth Day Celebration

This year's Wildflower Festival/Earth Day Celebration will be held at the Yankauer Nature Preserve on April 19.

The festival will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will include guided wildflower walks on the hour. Stay tuned for details in the next newsletter!

If you'd like to volunteer to help with a festival booth, children's activities or to lead a walk (training available!), please contact Kristin Alexander at 304-676-3397.

March Meeting Will Focus on Photography Camp

Our March meeting will feature a presentation about an innovative approach to getting teenagers more involved in nature—the summer digital nature-photography camp we've cosponsored since 2006 with the National Conservation Training Center.

The speaker will be Matt Poole, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who has coordinated the camp since its inception.

The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, at NCTC, in Room 151 of the Instructional West Building.

The photography camp is a joint project of the Fish and Wildlife Service and Potomac Valley Audubon, and it has also received major support from Nikon Inc.'s "Spirit Initiative" community involvement program.

It includes four days of field and lab training at the NCTC facility and field trips to other locations.

Enrollment is kept low, so those who participate will receive very intensive, hands-on instruction.

NCTC views the camp as an important, new educational model for fostering greater appreciation for nature and conservation among young people, and is encouraging other Fish and Wildlife Service facilities and conservation education organizations around the nation to replicate it.

Sign Up Now for April 5 Patuxent Trip

PVAS Board member Clark Dixon will lead a special field trip to the Patuxent Research Refuge near Laurel, Maryland, on April 5.

Established in 1936, the Refuge is the nation's first and only National Wildlife Refuge devoted to wildlife research. It is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Refuge's 12,841 acres support a wide diversity of wildlife in forest, meadow, and wetland habitats. Over 200 species of birds can be found there, and during the fall and spring migrations many waterfowl species stop to rest and feed.

The trip, which will last from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., will be an ideal trip for families with children. It will include a private, guided 45-minute tram tour of selected areas of the Refuge; a one-hour bird walk led by Carol Del-Colle; and an hour-and-a-half Herpetology walk led by Refuge naturalist Rod Burley.

There is no food service at the Refuge so participants should bring their own box lunch or mid-day snack.

Trip participants should plan to meet at the Refuge's Visitor's Center at 9:45 a.m.

The entrance to the Center is on Powder Mill Road, two miles east of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, near Laurel, Maryland.

Those who would prefer to carpool to the Refuge should plan to meet in the parking lot of the Charles Town Martin's supermarket off Route 340 at 7:30 a.m.

Anyone with an interest is invited to join this trip. However, all participants are asked to sign up beforehand by contacting Clark Dixon at 304-725-9634 or dixonconsultants@aol.com.

Please be sure to indicate how many people will be coming with you and whether you wish to carpool or intend to drive on your own to the Refuge.

The drive time to the Refuge from the Eastern Panhandle is about one-and-a-half hours. If you are driving on your own, Clark can provide more detailed directions to the Refuge.

For more information about the Refuge, see its website at www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/index.htm.

This trip will be cancelled in the event of severe and/or threatening weather.

Nature Photography Workshop Set for April 25-27

Wil and Donna Hershberger will be offering another nature photography workshop on April 25-27.

The workshop will be held at NCTC and will be open to people of all experience levels. It will include instruction in such topics as seeing light, reading tonalities, metering light with your camera, making a pleasing composition, and equipment needs and use.

Tuition is $150 and includes a course notebook, coffee and snacks, and instruction. Meals will be available at NCTC but are not included in tuition.

Space is limited to 15 people.

To enroll, mail a $25 deposit and registration form to PVAS, PO Box 578 Shepherdstown, WV 25443. For the registration form and additional information, go to the PVAS website or call 304-676-3397. Registrations will be accepted in the order they are received.

Berkeley County Textile and Book Recycling

The Berkeley County Solid Waste Authority (BCSWA) recently announced that the Grapevine Road Recycling Center and the South Berkeley Recycling Center are expanding to include the acceptance of unwanted clothes, shoes and any type of books for recycling.

Both centers are open every Monday through Saturday; 9am to 5pm. The Hedgesville and Marlowe Recycling Centers will **NOT** be accepting these items.

In an effort to develop the textile and book recycling, the BCSWA developed a cooperative with nonprofit recycler "Planet Aid". Planet Aid is a registered West Virginia charity that was founded in 1997 with the dual objective of preserving the environment through waste reduction and to raise funds for community development.

For more information call BCSWA 304-267-9370 or the Berkeley County Recycling Hotline at 671-2925 or by e-mail at berkeley-countyswa@msncom

Get Ready for Watershed Cleanups

Several local watershed groups have scheduled cleanups for the month of April throughout the Eastern Panhandle. PVAS encourages its members to participate. Check next month's newsletter for a complete list of dates, locations and contacts!

President's Perch



Hello everyone:

Thanks to all of you who have helped make our annual fundraising appeal such a success so far.

By now, we've managed to raise over $22,200! That's more than we'd raised by this time last year, and we appreciate all your support.

Last year, thanks to a very generous, one-time $5,000 challenge grant, our annual appeal yielded more than $27,000. We don't have that challenge grant this year but we'd like to get as close to last year's total as we can—and we've only got until the end of March to do it.

So if you've been planning to give but just haven't gotten around to it, this is the time to act.

Or if you haven't really thought about giving, we hope you'll consider doing so.

Your support really does make a difference. As you read this issue of this newsletter, look at all the different programs and services we're providing to the Eastern Panhandle community.

Our school programs are really starting to blossom and this year we're reaching more students in more schools than ever before.

We're expanding our popular summer camp programs once again, with more camp sessions for pre-school children and an innovative, new "fish discovery" camp program for teenagers at NCTC.

And we're continuing to make our new Eidolon Nature Preserve more and more accessible to the people of Morgan County.

The bottom line is simple: we couldn't do all these things without the funds we raise through our annual appeals.

Please do help if you possibly can. *– Peter Smith*

Calendar

March 12: 7 p.m. PVAS program at NCTC
March 16: 2-4 p.m. Egg Hunt at Yankauer! Registration required
March 19: Field Trip – Birding at Banchee Reeks
March 22-23:Nature Photography Workshop with the McDonalds
April (all month):Thursdays@ 7 p.m. Birding 101; Course begins April 3. Registration Required
April 5: Field Trip to Patuxent Wildlife Refuge
April 9: 7 p.m. PVAS program at NCTC
April 18: 7 p.m. PVAS program at Cacapon State Park
April 19: Wildflower Festival
April 25-27: Nature Photography Workshop with the Hershbergers
April 26: This Race is for the Birds!
May 14: 7 p.m. PVAS program at NCTC
May 29: 7 p.m. PVAS program at Cacapon State Park

Master Naturalist Workshop Details Announced

Details are now available about the new Master Naturalist Workshops we're offering this year.

These workshops, which will typically consist of three hours of instruction on a specific topic, will count as elective courses for members and trainees in our Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Program. However, they will also be open on a space-available basis to PVAS members and members of the general public who are interested in learning more about a specific topic but do not want to commit to a full course of Master Naturalist instruction.

Enrollment for each workshop will be limited to 20 persons.

Applications to enroll should be submitted no later than two weeks before the workshop date.

The cost of attendance for each workshop will be $5 for Master Naturalist Program members and trainees and $10 for PVAS members or members of the public.

The topics and schedules for the workshops will be as follows:

March 15 at Cacapon State Park: ***Nature Readings*** **(9-11 a.m.) – A discussion of some of the best examples of environmental writing for the past 200 years.** ***Eastern Box Turtles*** (1-3 p.m.) – Learn more about the status of box turtles and what you can do to help protect their habitat.

April 26 at Yankauer Nature Preserve Pavilion: ***Birds of Prey*** (8:30-11:30 a.m.) – The life history of eagles, owls, and hawks. Bring your birding field guide and binoculars if possible. ***Adaptation of Fish*** (12:30-3:30 p.m.) – A hands-on exploration of some of the common species of fish in the area. Wear old clothes and bring a pair of rubber gloves.

May 10 at The National Conservation Training Center: ***Speed Sketching - An Additional Tool to Aid in Field IDs*** (8:30-11:30 a.m.) – This course is as much about improving powers of observation in the field as it is about sketching. ***Using Dichotomous Keys*** (12:30-3:30 p.m.) – Learning to use a woody plant key (provided for class use) will give you the techniques and knowledge to distinguish trees from their leaf design.

August 23 at Cacapon State Park (Evening Program): ***Singing Insects*** (6-10 p.m.) – Join noted author Wil Hershburger for an evening learning and listening to singing insects like cicadas, katydids, and crickets.

September 6 at Cacapon State Park (Evening Program): ***Astronomy with Binoculars*** (7-1 p.m.) – Bring your binoculars and learn more about where to look and what to look for in the summer skies.

Application forms and further information are available on the PVAS website at www.potomacaudubon.org.

If you have questions, contact PVAS at 304-676-3397 or pvas-mail@aol.com.

Leesburg Birding Walk March 19

PVAS will join with the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for a birding walk at the Banshee Reeks Nature Reserve near Leesburg, VA, on Wednesday, March 19. Nancy and Elliot Kirschbaum will lead the walk, and anyone with an interest is welcome to participate.

The walk group will meet in the main parking lot at the Reserve at 8:30 a.m. The drive time to the Reserve from the Eastern Panhandle is about an hour.

The Reserve is a 695-acre property operated as a nature preserve by the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services. It contains many different Piedmont ecosystem habitats, including mixed hardwood forests of oak and hickory, successional fields and forests, meadows, hedgerows and tree lines, wetlands, ponds and streams. Goose Creek, a State Scenic River, flows for over 2 miles along its southern border.

To reach the Reserve, take U.S. Route 15 South from Leesburg. Approximately 1/4-mile South of the Leesburg Bypass, turn left onto Route 621, Evergreen Mills Road. Proceed South along Evergreen Mills Road about 5-miles. Turn right onto The Woods Road (Route 771). Proceed down The Woods Road for approximately one mile. The entrance to Banshee Reeks is on the left.

For more information go to the Reserve website at www.bansheereeks.org.

Summer Camp Is Almost Here!

Our popular Audubon Discovery Camp is back this summer—bigger and better than ever!

This year's camp is designed for three age groups: six weeks for boys and girls entering grades 1-6; three special weeks for preschoolers (ages 3-5); and four extraordinary weeks especially for teens in grades 5-8! The Family Overnight is back, too!

As in the past, the general theme for each week allows for hands-on, up close and personal investigations of nature. Campers are expected to get dirty and use their imaginations as they investigate the outdoor world!

For older campers, *Camp Survivor Part Deux* features more strenuous nature investigations including an afternoon caving and *Something's Fishy* will be held at the NCTC near Shepherdstown.

Full week sessions begin June 9 and extend through July 25, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. daily.

Most full-week sessions are $100 a week (10% discount for PVAS members) and include a free T-shirt. Sessions for older campers are very limited.

Online registration will begin in late February at the PVAS website at www.potomacaudubon.org. Paper registrations are available, but your best chance of registering for the week you desire is online. Check out the website for a preview of the specific session themes and dates!

For more information on dates and volunteer responsibilities for our camp programs, contact Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739 or pvasprograms@comcast.net.

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 Y54; source code 79N7)

Clip and mail this form to:
Membership Chair, PVAS
PO Box 578
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Thank you for your support!

RED DOT ALERT

If 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
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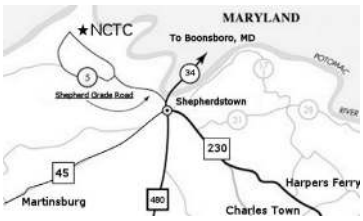
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DATED MATERIALS

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

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

PVAS BOARD

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

PVAS Officers and Board Members

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