VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac Valley Audubon Society

Volume 27, Issue 6 March 2009

Green Homes Tour Set for March 28

PVAS is sponsoring an Eastern Panhandle Green Homes Tour on Saturday, March 28.

The tour is being held in partnership with a "Building for a Greener Future" conference being held the same week at the National Conservation Training Center.

The conference, which is being organized by the Potomac Headwaters Resource Conservation & Development Council, is aimed at providing local builders and homeowners with practical insights into the opportunities and challenges of adopting green building practices.

It will include a free public lecture and reception from 7:00-9:00 p.m. on March 26, and an all-day, fee-based workshop on March 27.

The Green Homes Tour is intended to give those who attend the conference—and anyone else with an interest in the subject—an opportunity for a firsthand look at different approaches to green home construction.

In all, the tour will showcase eight homes in Morgan, Berkeley, and Jefferson counties.

Visitors to those homes will be able to see a wide variety of different green construction features, such as energy systems that incorporate passive solar, solar panel, wind turbine, and geothermal; construction systems that use insulated concrete, straw bales, double walls, structural insulated panels, and rammed-earth tire walls; rainwater collection systems; wastewater filtering systems; and much more.

The tour will be self-guided. Those who wish to participate should purchase a brochure beforehand for $15 at any one of several loca-

See *Green Homes Tour*, Page 7

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 $25,426.

That's a great result, especially in these troubled times! 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.

Summer Camp Registration Opens!

PVAS's Audubon Discovery Camp, a nature-oriented summer day camp for children in the Eastern Panhandle and nearby Maryland, is now registering campers for its 2009 season.

Registration was opened to PVAS members on February 13. The general public may register their children starting March 1.

Those who wish to register are encouraged to do so early—last year's camp was fully booked by the end of March.

This year's camp will span nine weeks between May 27 and July 24.

The first two weeks will be devoted to sessions for preschool-age children and an accompanying adult. The third week will be devoted to a session for children entering Kindergarten. The remaining six weeks will include a variety of sessions for children entering grades 1-6 and another set of sessions for children entering grades 5-7.

See *Summer Camp*, Page 6

Don't Forget Camp Scholarships

PVAS is now accepting applications for its 2009 summer camp scholarship program.

Each year, the program helps send deserving area youngsters to summer camps that emphasize conservation and the environment.

Any youngster within the Society's membership area (the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia and Washington County, Maryland) is eligible to apply.

All applications must be submitted by April 17.

This year, applicants will be able to choose among six different

See *Scholarships*, Page 6

President's Perch



Hello everyone:

At the risk of coming across like those irritating Public TV people who keep interrupting programming during *their* fund drives, I'm obliged to make one more pitch for our annual fundraising appeal.

But unlike *them*, I'll keep my pitch short.

First, thanks again to all of you who have helped make this appeal such a success so far.

By now, in spite of the continuing drumbeat of bad economic news (and the very real declines in all of our individual net worths since last fall) PVAS has managed to raise almost $25,500! That's more than we'd raised by this time last year, and the number of donors is running ahead of last year, too.

We appreciate all your support.

But we've still got a way to go to at least match last year's annual appeal total of $26,855. And we've only got until the end of March to do it.

So please do give if you possibly can.

PVAS is doing a lot of good things in the community—providing a wide variety of programs and activities that no one else is providing.

Your support is critical to sustaining this programming.

–Peter Smith

Wee Naturalists a Hit!



The new program, "Wee Naturalists," has been overwhelmingly popular. The program is designed for pre-school aged children (ages 3-5) and an adult to come to the Yankauer Preserve and explore nature as a team under the guidance of a PVAS instructor. The parent/child teams explore and orient themselves to the preserve and pavilion independently first, then are led through a variety of activities that changes with the seasons.

The programs are offered the third Wednesday of each month excluding May, June and July. February's program sold out almost immediately, and we're considering ways to add additional sessions to meet the demand. Registration forms can be found on PVAS' website. The program is $7 for a parent/child team for one session, or $5 if a family signs up for three or more sessions.

This new program is supported by the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation: Two Rivers Giving Circle. Suzi Taylor, of Sharpsburg, Maryland, is designing and delivering the programs. Suzi has a degree in Environmental Education from Slippery Rock University and is a past camp director for Audubon Discovery Camp. She also designed the Nature Discovery Backpacks and Teacher Kits for PVAS.

Additional Master Naturalist Workshops Scheduled

Since the last Valley Views was issued, two more Master Naturalist Workshops have been scheduled for 2009.

The specific dates, locations and topics of this year's workshops are now as follows:

March 7 at Antietam National Battlefield: *Wildfires and Forest Restoration* (9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.). A review of the characteristics and dynamics of wildfires, the history of such fires, techniques for fighting them, and the use of fire as a positive tool in woodland management.

March 14 at the National Conservation Training Center: *Project Learning Tree* (8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.). This workshop will focus on the forest as a window for gaining perspectives on key environmental issues and approaches to solving them.

March 25 at the Morgan County Observatory: *Introduction to Astronomy* (6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.). Learn to read a Star Map, identify constellations, and learn about their mythology. Learn about the life of stars and their composition. Observe the night sky and explore deep space objects with the Observatory's telescope.

May 9 at Cacapon State Park: *Using the Global Positioning System* (1:00-5:00 p.m.). A comprehensive introduction to the history and use of GPS. Each participant will receive a copy of the book *GPS Made Easy: Using Global Positioning Systems in the Outdoors*.

May 23 at Cacapon State Park: *Save Our Streams* (9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.). A detailed review of the bioassessment approach to monitoring the health of local streams and rivers.

June 6 at Cacapon State Park: *Dragonflies* (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.). Learn about the natural history of dragonflies in West Virginia, the characteristics of each dragonfly family, and dragonfly behavior.

July 25 at the National Conservation Training Center: *Pollinators of Interest to Eco-systems at Risk* (1:00-4:00 p.m.). A look beyond honeybees to some of the many other pollinators that help keep plant communities regenerating.

August 22 at the National Conservation Training Center: *True Bugs: The Piercing and Sucking Insect Group Heteroptera* (1:00-5:00 p.m.). A review of the general morphology and biology of the insects in this group, which include Stink bugs, Assassin Bugs, Squash Bugs, Water Striders, and Bed Bugs.

November 13-14 at Camp White Rock, Capon Bridge, WV: *Leave No Trace* (begins at 5:00 p.m. Nov. 13, includes an overnight stay that evening, and ends at 4:00 p.m. the next day). Earn credits toward becoming a certified trainer in the Leave No Trace program, which teaches individuals and groups how to reduce their impacts while they enjoy the outdoors.

The workshops will count as elective courses for individuals enrolled in PVAS's Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Program. However, they will also be open on a space-available basis to PVAS

members and others who are interested in learning more about certain topics 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 in any of the workshops should be submitted no later than two weeks before that workshop's date.

The cost of attendance for all but one of the workshops will be $10 per person for Master Naturalist Program members and trainees and $15 for others. The cost for the November 13-14 workshop will be $25 for all participants.

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

Sign-up Now for Birding 101!



We will once again offer our popular "Birding 101" course for beginning birders during the month of April.

The course, now in its 22nd year, will be taught by leading local bird experts, including Wil Hershberger and Matt Orsie.

It will utilize both evening classroom sessions and daytime field trips to teach everything from bird identification to birding techniques and resources to field etiquette. The focus will be on bird species that are found in the Eastern Panhandle area.

The classroom sessions will start on Thursday, April 9 and on each of the following three Thursdays (April 16, 23, and 30). All the sessions will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center just north of Shepherdstown.

The field trips will be held at various locations around the Panhandle from roughly 7 a.m. to 12 noon on the Saturday's following the Thursday evening classroom sessions (April 11, 18, 25 and May 2).

Tuition for the full course package of four classroom sessions and four field trips is $50. Space is limited and registration is required.

Registration forms and more information are available on the PVAS website at www.potomacaudubon.org or by contacting Kristin Alexander at pvasmail.aol.com or 304-676-3397.

Watershed Program Continues

An additional four schools, Ranson, Shepherdstown, and North Jefferson Elementary, and St. Joseph's Academy (about 180 students) began the half-year watershed program earlier in February. While this program is more compact, it offers students the basics of watersheds and includes a field experience to the Izaak Walton League of Berkeley County and a sewage treatment plant. These students will be growing native grass in their classroom which they will then plant on their school property as an erosion control measure.

March 11 PVAS Program Will Focus on Polar Bears

PVAS will sponsor a presentation about polar bears the evening of March 11 at the National Conservation Training Center.

The speaker will be Carolyn Rushizky, who has led interpretative polar bear excursions in Churchill, Manitoba, and who worked with the late Dr. Malcolm Ramsay, a leading Polar Bear biologist.

She will focus on the bear populations at Churchill, where people and polar bears coexist in close proximity.

The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Room 151 of the Center's Instructional West Building.

The program is free and anyone is welcome to attend.

Ms. Rushizky has also served as a ranger at Yellowstone National Park and Katmai National Park in Alaska, which has the largest concentration of brown bears in the country. While at Katmai, she participated in an ongoing study that tracked bear populations and behavior.

She has also led trips for the National Wildlife Federation.

Carolyn was educated in Fish and Wildlife Management at Montana State University, and also attended the Park Ranger Law Enforcement Academy in Santa Rosa, California.

She currently lives in Harpers Ferry with her husband Victor and three young children.

This program was originally scheduled to be held last November but had to be postponed because of a conflict.

For more information contact Peter Smith at 304-876-1139 or pvsmith@frontiernet.net.

Spring Egg Hunt Registration Online



Our second Spring Egg Hunt at the Yankauer Nature Preserve has been scheduled for Sunday afternoon, April 5th, from 2-4 p.m. 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. This year's event will be for children ages 3-6. Eggs will be hidden along two of the preserve's trails. Collected eggs will be "traded in" for a sweet treat. This will be a family-oriented event and parents should plan to go with their children as they walk on the trail.

To register for this event, you use the same registration portal as for summer camp which is found at www.potomacaudubon.org. Cost is $5 per child and it is recommended that parents pay on the day of the event. Registration is limited. For more information, contact PVAS Youth Education Director Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739.

Banshee Reeks Walk Set for March 14

PVAS members and friends are invited to join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Friends of Banshee Reeks for a March 14 bird walk at the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve in Loudoun County Virginia.

The walk will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Preserve's Visitor's Center.

The Banshee Reeks Preserve is a 695-acre property operated by the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

It encompasses 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 two miles along its southern border.

Because of its rich and varied habitat, it is considered a birding hot spot.

The walk will be held rain or shine, but not if the weather conditions are hazardous. Participants should bring binoculars, wear sturdy footwear, and dress appropriately for the season.

To get to the preserve, take U.S. Route 15 South from Leesburg, Virginia. Approximately ¼-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. Entrance to Banshee Reeks is on the left. Drive time from the Charles Town area is about 45 minutes.

For more information about the preserve, see the Friends of Banshee Reeks website at www.bansheereeks.org. For more information about the March 14 walk, contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.

Birding Trip to Chincoteague

Matt Orsie led a PVAS birding trip to the Eastern Shore from February 13 to 15. Twelve participants met at Chincoteague, Virginia, on a brisk and sunny Saturday morning and toured the refuge. Spectacular waterfowl seen there included Snow Geese, Tundra Swans, Brant, Northern Pintails, Northern Shovelers, Common and Red-breasted Loons, and Gannets.

The group continued north along the coast. In Ocean City, highlights included King and Common Eider, Razorbill, Red-necked and Eared Grebes, and many Surf Scoters. Great Comorant was observed at the Indian River Inlet. At Silver Lake in Rehobeth, a Black-bellied Whistling Duck was seen resting among hundreds of Mallards, Canvasbacks, and Ruddy Ducks.

Matt found the best bird of the trip near Prime Hook Refuge in Delaware—a very uncommon Common Teal, which is a European bird. This bird was a "lifer"—a first sighting of the species—for even the more experienced birders in the group. The trip ended with a visit to the Bombay Hook Refuge in Delaware, with views of thousands of Snow Geese, and a few Horned Larks in the fields.

The weekend was sunny, cold, and wonderful!

New WV Breeding Bird Atlas in the Works

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) will be coordinating the Second West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas beginning this spring.This will be a five-year project: work on the atlas will formally begin on May 15 and continue through May 4, 2014.

Rob Tallman, an Elkins-based DNR Ornithologist, will serve as the project director. DNR staff throughout the state will serve as district coordinators.

Volunteers will be critical to the success of the project, and anyone who has an interest in participating is encouraged to do so.

The project's objectives will be as follows:

- Document the current distribution of breeding birds in West Virginia.
- Compare data to and assess changes in breeding distributions from the first West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas, which was conducted from 1984-1989.
- Collect information on rare species and species of concern.
- Identify important habitats that support species of concern and/or a high diversity of species.
- Bring together birders, bird conservation groups and recruit new birders statewide.

To facilitate this effort, DNR has entered into an agreement with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Office of Information Science to provide an internet-based breeding bird application specific to West Virginia.

Contributors will be able to use a yet-to-be-announced web site to sign up for blocks, download instructions, forms, data sheets, maps and aerial photos of their blocks and enter data.

The site will include real-time maps that will allow users to view species lists and percentage of completion on a statewide, region or block scale. Also, block maps and species lists from the first West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas will be available allowing users to compare their current atlasing efforts and bird distributions to those from 20 years ago.

PVAS will pass along the address for this website as soon as it is available. In the meantime, questions should be directed to Mr. Tallman at 304-637-0245 or robtallman@wvdnr.gov.

Nature Writers Group Being Formed

The newly formed Potomac Valley Nature Writers group had its first meeting on February 22 in Shepherdstown. The group will be meeting monthly to read and discuss nature writers for inspiration and to share members' own efforts at nature journaling. If you would like more information about the group, contact Sandra Bloom at sbloom@myactv.net

Get PVAS Email Notices

You can receive email notices of PVAS events, activities, and items of special interest by writing to: info@potomacaudubon.org. Just say that you want to be on the list and provide your name and email address.

Get a Jump on Spring with Project BudBurst

Project BudBurst is a program of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR). UCAR manages the National Center for Atmospheric Research which is sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

"The ultimate goal of Project BudBurst is to have you observe the first day of the appropriate phenological event for your plant (e.g. first flower or budburst). You can use the Plant Identification Guides to help you determine the phenophase(s) for your plant. Please remember that the list below does not necessarily reflect the chronological event order for all plant species."

You ask, what is a phonological event? According to Wikipedia.com, "Phenology is the study of periodic plant and animal life cycle events and how these are influenced by seasonal and interannual variations in climate."

In short, Project BudBurst is building a database, much like the Great Backyard Bird Count, that collects observations of citizen scientists for correlation with climate and environmental change. Why this is important, "Though we don't usually talk about the seasons and plant growth in terms of phenology, it has an enormous impact on the natural environment and how we interact with it in our everyday lives. Because plants are at the base of the food chain, anything that affects plants ripples out to affect the rest of the ecosystem."

Its fun, it's easy, and you can play an important role in tracking change in our natural world. The data collection is conducted online at http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst/. Registration is free and the rewards are great. Even if you don't turn in data, the tree identification materials for native trees, flowers, and weeds are excellent and easy to access or download.

Berkeley County Starts 2009 Freon Unit Recycling Program

The Berkeley County Solid Waste Authority (BCSWA) is pleased to announce the 2009 freon unit recycling program.

Starting immediately, residents can drop off any unit containing freon. Examples of such units include refrigerators, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers, water coolers & heat pumps. Units will be accepted regardless of make, model, age or condition. Freon is an ozone layer depleting material unique to certain consumer grade items containing cooling elements. These units are not accepted for disposal at area landfills. Unfortunately, they are commonly placed in roadside dumps. US-EPA Federal rules prohibit the discharge of freon into the atmosphere. The freon unit program ends December 31, 2009.

The Grapevine Road Recycling Center is open Monday through Saturday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The center closes on posted holidays. All units will be inspected by the recycling center staff prior to acceptance. The BCSWA reserves the right to reject any unit not considered acceptable. The units will not be accepted at the South Berkeley Recycling Center, Hedgesville Recycling Center or the Marlowe Recycling Center.

The Grapevine Road Recycling Center also accepts ferrous and non ferrous metals, aluminum cans, steel cans, glass bottles, clean wood, yard waste, brush, mixed paper, newspapers, magazines, plastic bottles #1 & #2, ink jet cartridges, batteries, CFL's, cell phones and garden debris for recycling. The center also has mulch for sale at $10.00 per bucket. To find more information on the Berkeley County Recycling Program visit the webpage at http://www.berkeleycountycomm.org/links/recycle.cfm

The Grapevine Road Recycling Center is operated by the BCSWA and is cofunded by the Berkeley County Commission. The Berkeley County Recycling Program operates under the guidance of the Berkeley County Recycling Plan and was developed as an effort to conserve landfill space and to continue the gradual implementation of the West Virginia Recycling Act.

Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the Berkeley County Solid Waste Authority at 304-267-9370 or email at berkeleycountyswa@msn.com

Morgan County Pitches in to Recycle



The Charles R. Biggs Recycling Center opened in Morgan County, West Virginia, on December 15, 2008. The center was named in honor of Charles R. Biggs, a longtime volunteer and conservation activist, and a resident of Morgan County. Mr. Biggs, a retired Civil Engineer, has been treasurer of the Morgan County Solid Waste Authority for fourteen years. He was instrumental in the structural design of the center, and in writing the grants that secured funding for the $70,000 operation. Prior to establishing a permanent site, Charles and his wife Margaret contributed at least two days a month for many years to volunteering at recycling sites around the county.

The recycling center site is rented for a nominal fee from Eddie's Tires in Morgan County and is located near the headwaters of Warm Springs Run. An interesting conservation feature of the recycling center is the excavation of a rain garden at the site. Designed by the Morgan County Master Gardners' class of 2008, the rain garden will retain and filter storm water runoff before it is returned to the stream. The rain garden will improve the landscape of the center and serve as a buffer between the recycling center and the stream.

Sources of funding for the startup of the center included the Department of Environmental Protection, the Morgan County Eco-Coalition, Freeman and Sons, the Moose Lodge, and U.S. Silica. In kind contributions were provided by Seely Furniture. Since opening in December, usage of the center has doubled with as many as one hundred cars visiting the center each open day during the month of January. The recycling center, located at 2990 Valley Road in Berkeley Springs, is a self-service recycling center. The center accepts #1 and #2 plastic bottles, aluminum beverage cans, mixed metal cans and lids, mixed paper, corrugated cardboard, and clear, brown, and green glass bottles and jars. The center is open on Mondays from 11:00 to 5:00, Friday from 11:00 to 5:00, and Saturdays from 8:30 to 3:00. Anyone needing more information should contact the Morgan County Solid Waste Authority at (304) 258-8718 or on line at www.morgancountyrecycles.org.

PVAS Helps With C&O Bird Count

On January 24, PVAS helped to conduct the tenth annual C&O Canal Midwinter Bird Survey, covering a three-mile section of the canal from the Rumsey Bridge at Shepherdstown south to Antietam creek (miles 70-72).

PVAS's eight-person team, led by Nancy and Elliot Kirschbaum, counted a total of 39 species and 668 individual birds during a three-hour period from roughly 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Highlights were Common Mergansers and Common Goldeneye, relatively high numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets, and one Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

The Survey, which is coordinated by the District of Columbia Audubon Society, is designed to provide a snapshot count of birds present along the entire, 185-mile length of the canal.

The final tally for all of this year's count has not yet been posted, but results from previous years can be viewed at www.dcaudubon.org/canal-species-table.

Scholarships (Continued from page 1)

camps. The camps, the ages they serve, and their dates are as follows:

- West Virginia State Conservation Camp, Camp Caesar, Webster County, WV; ages 14-17, June 15-20.
- Trout Unlimited Conservation & Fishing Camp, Syria, Virginia (next to Shenandoah National Park, grades 8 through 11, June 21-26.
- Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies, Capon Bridge, WV; ages 11-15, June 20-July3; July 6-July 20; or July 28-August 10.
- Oglebay Institute Junior Nature Camp, Dallas Pike, WV, ages 10-15, July 19-25 or July 26-August 1.
- Mountain Adventures Camp, Spruce Knob, WV; ages 11-17, June 28-July 4; July 5-July 11; or July 12-July 18.
- Audubon Discovery Day Camp, Yankauer Nature Preserve, Shepherdstown, WV; ages 6-12, weekly sessions May 27-July 24.

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.

Financial need will be taken into consideration.

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

Scholarship winners may be asked to make a brief presentation about their camp experience at one of PVAS's meetings next fall.

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

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

Summer Camp (Continued from page 1)

For the first time, this year's camp will also include a special Junior Counselor-In-Training program for children ages 11-15 with leadership skills, to be held the week of June 15-19. Those who successfully complete this program will be able to participate in two additional weeks of camp at no charge by assisting as Junior Counselors.

Full details about the camp's sessions can be found on the PVAS website at www.potomacaudubon.org, and easy online registration is also available there.

PVAS strongly encourages families to register online this year. Those who do not have access to the Internet can obtain details and register by calling 304-676-8739.

Most of the camp sessions are held at PVAS's Yankauer Nature Preserve.

The sessions for older children are conducted by PVAS on the campus of the nearby U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center.

All of the camp's sessions are aimed at helping children gain a better understanding and appreciation of the natural world. All of them offer hands-on experiential learning led and supervised by experienced instructors.

Session sizes are kept very small to ensure an excellent instructor/child ratio of 1:10.

The camp director is Ellen Murphy, PVAS's Director of Youth Education, who has many years of experience in developing, directing, and delivering educational programs for children.

The preschool camp sessions will be led by Suzi Taylor, a former PVAS camp director who also has extensive environmental education experience.

The fee for most camp sessions will be $125 per week. The fee for the preschool sessions will be $50 per week.

Families that register a child in any of the camp's sessions may also participate in an overnight family campout the evening of July 24-25. The cost for the campout is $30 for a family of up to four people and $5 for each additional person. This fee includes dinner, evening program activities, and breakfast the next morning.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 14: Field Trip: Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve
March 28: Eastern Panhandle green homes tour
April 4: Tour of the Shepherdstown Wastewater Treatment Plant
April 5: Annual Children's Egg Hunt at Yankauer
April 9: Annual Birding 101 Course begins
April 11: Nature walk at Ft. Frederick and Big Pool
April 18: Annual Wildflower Festival at the Yankauer Nature Preserve
May 2: Annual 5K "This Race is for the Birds!" at NCTC
May 10: Nature walk at Cool Spring Farm in southern Jefferson County
May 23: Birding trip to the Eidolon Nature Preserve

Green Homes Tour (Continued from page 1)

tions around the Panhandle (see below).



The brochure will include a map and directions to the different homes, and each brochure will admit one carload of people to all of the homes on the tour.

Brochure holders may visit any or all of the homes in any order they wish between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Tour brochures will be available starting Monday, March 2 at the following locations:

- Dream House Furniture, 213 W. Washington Street, Charles Town
- Four Seasons Books, 116 W. German Street, Shepherdstown
- Good Natured, 209 S. Raleigh Street, Martinsburg
- The Nature Niche, 50 Washington Street, Berkeley Springs

Brochures will also be available at the March 26-27 conference events.

A portion of the $15 tour brochure fee will be applied toward the purchase of renewable energy credits to offset the carbon load emitted as a result of the tour. The balance of the proceeds will be used to support PVAS's programs for school children.

For more information about the tour, contact Jeff Feldman at 304-274-0509 or jfeld33@aol.com.

For more information about the conference, or to register for the conference workshop, contact 304-267-8953, ext 5, or phrcd.6003@verizon.net.

PVAS License Plates Available Again

All you folks who've noted with envy the sharp PVAS light-blue license plates may now purchase same for your vehicle. The snazzy plate goes on the front bumper (WV only, sorry!) and proclaims your support for the work we do.

Members only. The cost is $18 each.

To order, call or email Jean Neely: jeaneely@comcast.net; or 304.876.2410.

POTOMAC VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1982

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
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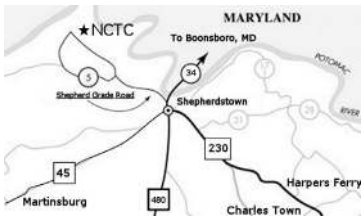
http://www.potomacaudubon.org

DATED MATERIALS

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

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, 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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