

VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac Valley Audubon Society

Volume 28, Issue 6

March 2010

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 \$26,941. That's a great result, especially in these troubled times! It's about \$1,500 more than we'd raised by the same time last year, and it's about 95% of last year's annual appeal total of \$28,521.

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, and we hope we can at least equal last year's total.

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.

Sign Up Now for Summer Camp Scholarships

If you know a young person who would enjoy learning about the natural world at summer camp, encourage him or her to apply for a camp scholarship from PVAS. Scholarships are available for eligible young people within the PVAS membership area: the West Virginia Eastern Panhandle and Washington County, Maryland. Camps, locations, dates and ages/grades are as follows:

West Virginia State Conservation Camp at Camp Caesar, Webster County, WV. June 14-19. Campers must be 14 by January, 2010, and not past their 18th birthday on June 1, 2010.

Trout Unlimited Conservation & Fishing Camp at Syria, Virginia (next to Shenandoah National Park). June 27-July 2. Grades 8 through 11.



Previous recipient Sarah Shadle shares her experience

PVAS "Delivers" at Schools

Over the last several years, PVAS has encountered more and more obstacles to getting students out to the Yankauer Nature Preserve. Last fall, when gas prices were high, Berkeley County limited each classroom to one field trip per year. This year's budget cuts and high transportation costs have required the county to continue this restriction. To combat this policy over the last two years, PVAS has sought and received outside funding sources to cover those bus costs so that children could still participate and have their field experience in a natural setting.

PVAS has been struggling with these trends, and the field trip restrictions have made us question the sustainability of the all-day field trips to the Yankauer Preserve. The fact that this restriction has continued reaffirms our need to address this issue. We won't discontinue the field trips to Yankauer Nature Preserve, but we've decided to develop programs to be delivered at the schools as well. This has proven to be a very popular aspect of the fourth-grade Watershed program.

We still advocate the benefits of learning about nature in a more "natural" setting, which many of today's children may only experience once or twice in their early schooling (and for some, perhaps in their lives). We do, however, recognize that many youth may benefit

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



Hello everyone:

This is my last opportunity to urge support for this year's PVAS fundraising appeal, so here goes.

I promise to be brief.

First, many thanks again to all of you who have already contributed

By now, in spite of the jobs situation and the economy, you've contributed nearly \$27,000. That's about \$1,500 more than we'd raised by this time last year, and our number of contributors is up, 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 \$28,521. And we've only got until the end of March to do it.

So please do give if you possibly can.

And don't feel embarrassed if you're not able to give as much as you have in the past. Contributions of any size will be welcomed.

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 these programs and activities.

We're always grateful for any help you can provide.

—Peter Smith

Camp Scholarships (continued from page 1)

Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies at Capon Bridge, WV. June 27-July 10, July 13-27, or August 3-16. Ages 11-15.

Oglebay Institute Junior Nature Camp at Dallas Pike, WV (near Wheeling). July 18-24 or July 25-31. Ages 10-15.

Mountain Adventures Camp at the Mountain Institute, Spruce Knob, WV. June 20-26, June 27-July 3, or July 4-10. Ages 11-17.

Audubon Discovery Day Camp at the Yankauer Nature Preserve on Whiting's Neck in Berkeley County and at CraftWorks in southern Jefferson County. Nine weeks from late May to late July. Pre-school to age 12 and Junior Counselor-in-Training for age 13 and up.

Every year throughout its 28-year history PVAS has sent youngsters to camp on scholarships, supported by our fall birdseed sale. Additional community sources also support scholarships to our own day camp program at the Yankauer Nature Preserve.

To obtain more information, links to the camps' web sites, and application forms, go to the PVAS website at www.potomacaudubon.org. Or contact Kathryn Henry at 304-876-6681 or dhenny@myexcel.com.

The deadline for applications is April 9, 2010, so act now!

Summer Camp Registration Has Begun!

Open registration for Audubon Discovery Camp began February 15 on the www.potomacaudubon.org website and sessions are beginning to fill. Six weeks of camp are being offered at Yankauer Nature Preserve and two weeks are being offered at our satellite location, CraftWorks at Cool Spring (on Lloyd Rd near South Jefferson Elementary School).

The *Camp Survivor* and *Ways of the Bay* sessions are already filling fast and *Earth Artists* and *Wildlife CSI* are close behind, so don't wait to register! When sessions fill, PVAS maintains waiting lists and campers are encouraged to put their name on the list so that we will know who to contact first when openings occur.

Registrations are being accepted through the same online system we used last year. Last year's camper families are already in the system and will only need to update their information before registering for sessions. New campers will complete the full registration form. This year, a credit card is required to register.

Camp fees for most sessions this year are still \$125 per camper per week. Preschool camps (1/2 days) will be \$50. T-shirts (youth and adult sizes) will be available for order at \$10 each and ALL shirts must be preordered to guarantee availability at camp.

In Memorium

Sadly, Ruth Ann Dean, one of PVAS's founding members, died on February 4 after a long and courageous struggle with cancer. She passed away at her home, surrounded by family and friends. Our sincere condolences go out to her family, especially husband Bob Dean and sons Hickory and Robin Dean.

Active in the early years of PVAS as a board member, Ruth Ann continued to be involved with the chapter throughout her life. She and Bob hosted many "Tally Rallies" at their home north of Martinsburg after the annual Christmas Bird Counts. She often accompanied Bob on owl prowls (sometimes even fooling Bob by calling back to him as another owl from afar) and on other PVAS activities.

Ruth Ann will long be remembered for her strength, positive attitude, generosity, and sense of humor, even throughout her fight with cancer.

Ruth Ann and Bob Dean were both grateful for the support PVAS members and friends shared. Many prepared meals for them and supported the rally that was held to honor Ruth Ann last year at Poor House Farm Park's Henry Arena that Ruth Ann helped establish.

Visitation will be at the Brown Funeral Home, 327 W. King Sreet in Martinsburg, on Friday, March 5, from 3-5 p.m. and from 7-9 p.m. Her memorial service will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 6, 2010, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 200 W. King St. in Martinsburg.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Poor House Farm Park Arena, 103 Justin's Way, Falling Waters, WV 25419; or to Hospice of the Panhandle, 122 Waverly Court, Martinsburg, WV 25403.

March PVAS Program at NCTC Will Focus on Wood Ducks

PVAS will sponsor a presentation the evening of Wednesday, March 10, about efforts to build Wood Duck populations in Maryland.

The program will be held at 7 p.m. at the National Conservation Training Center outside Shepherdstown, in Room 151 of the Center's Instructional West Building.

The speaker will be Clifton Brown, the executive director of the Maryland Wood Duck Initiative (MWDI).

This all-volunteer organization works to enhance Maryland's Wood Duck population and to generate a greater appreciation of the wetland habitats in which the birds live by advocating and demonstrating a "Best Practices" approach in artificial nest box programs. It also strives to involve the public through educational programs, internships, and research projects.

MWDI has made some notable strides. It began field operations in 2004 at two sites on the Eastern Shore: the Eastern Neck Federal Wildlife Refuge and the State of Maryland's Millington Wildlife Management Area.

Since then, the organization's scope has grown to include 68 public project sites. More than 1,650 boxes are now involved on these sites and a Best Practices resource management approach is now either in effect or being implemented at each participating site.

The colorful Wood Duck is considered by many to be the most beautiful of all waterfowl. It is one of only a few North American ducks that nest in trees in wetland areas. But natural cavities for nesting are often hard to come by and Wood Ducks readily use nest boxes provided for them.

Wood Duck populations were in serious decline a hundred years ago because of habitat loss and market hunting. However, their numbers have increased substantially since then because of modern game laws and conservation efforts by groups like MWDI, and their populations are now considered at sustainable levels.

For more information, go to the MWDI website at www.mwdi.net.

Weather Impacts Watershed Program

The "Blizzards of 2010" sent our Watershed program on a slight detour, but our schedule allows for possible snow days and we'll soon be back on schedule! Students will soon be planting Virginia Wild Rye and Echinacea in their classrooms and growing the plants for the remainder of the school year. Sessions in March will introduce new technology into the program and field trips to the Potomac and Cacapon Rivers. Volunteers are always needed to help with the field trips. Contact Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739 if you could spare a day in late March or early April to help.



Photo by John Harvey at Johnharveyphoto.com

February Chesapeake Bay Program Cancelled

The February 10 snowstorm forced cancellation of the joint PVAS-National Conservation Training Center program planned for that evening. The program was to have featured author and environmentalist Ned Tillman discussing the past, present and future of the Chesapeake Bay.

An effort will be made to reschedule the program to sometime next fall.

Potomac Valley Master Naturalists Begin 2010 Class

The fourth Potomac Valley Master Naturalist class will begin this month at Cacapon State Park and will continue monthly until October. The 2010 class has 20 well qualified and eager students who will take 64 hours of instruction in a variety of natural history topics and complete 30 hours of volunteer work to qualify as a Master Naturalist. Volunteer activities often include leading interpretive walks at Yankauer or Eidolon.

Nature Preserves, assisting state biologists with research, giving presentations to school children and other groups or helping with contact booths at fairs and festivals. Participants have two years to complete their certification. The Potomac Valley Chapter currently has 56 active members. This year's annual meeting will be held at Yankauer Nature Preserve and will feature a potluck lunch and service project as a thank you to PVAS for sponsoring the program. Last year's annual service project was at Cacapon State Park.

Class dates for 2010 are:

March 20-21	Cacapon State Park (Old Inn)
April 17	Cool Spring Farm
May 1	Yankauer Nature Preserve
June 12	NCTC
July 17	Cacapon State Park (Lodge)
August 14	Cool Spring Farm
September 18	Cacapon State Park (Lodge)
October 2	NCTC
October 3	Yankauer Nature Preserve (Annual Meeting Picnic/Service Project)

Master Naturalist Workshops Are Open to the Public

To maintain certification, Master Naturalists are required to complete at least 8 hours of continuing education each year and complete and additional 16 hours of volunteer service. PVMN offers workshops each year to help members complete their recertification. Master Naturalists are given the first opportunity to participate, but the public may attend as space allows.

Workshops this year will include Wildfires, Early Spring Night Sounds, Leave No Trace, Nature Observation and Speed Sketching, Ferns, Using GPS for Field Research, Project WILD, West Virginia Beavers, and Developing Nature Programs for Students. Dates for these programs and registration materials will be available at www.potomacaudubon.org. Elective classes are \$10 each for enrolled Master Naturalists and \$15 each for the general public. Pre-registration is required, as space is limited. For additional information, contact Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739.

PVAS Delivers (continued from page 1)

almost as much from discovering nature in their own backyard or schoolyard, to which they are exposed every day, as they would to see the more “wild” nature at the Yankauer Preserve. With these new programs, PVAS can introduce our school children to the more accessible nature in their own neighborhoods.

PVAS got funding for this new pilot program from Two Rivers Giving Circle which will fund the second-grade program pilot. In addition, Ecolab will fund the majority of the third-grade program with National Audubon Society contributing additional funds. With this support, PVAS will develop, pilot, and evaluate new environmental education programs that take place in the schoolyards themselves. These programs will still get children outdoors and focused on environmental education, but will use the schoolyard for hands-on, engaging activities rather than using the preserve as a classroom.

Berkeley County currently has the most stringent bus restrictions, so it was selected as the priority county for this pilot program. This spring, we will be pilot testing two new programs for second- and third-graders from Title 1 Schools in Berkeley County: Berkeley Heights, Burke Street, Tuscarora, and Winchester Avenue.

The new programs will be updated to align with some new priorities mandated by the state along with the West Virginia Content Standards and Objectives that each teacher is required to meet. However, it will be more economical and sustainable – especially for schools with lower income populations that may not have the extra money for bus transportation. These programs will offer a permanent, less expensive alternative for students; and a more simple option for teachers to arrange.

If the concept is well received, PVAS plans to develop these school-site programs for all grades. This spring the second- and third-grade pilot studies will help us measure the effectiveness of this new type of program.

We'll keep you posted on how it goes!

Three Birding Trips Set for March

PVAS has organized three birding trips for the month of March. There are no fees and anyone with an interest is welcome to participate. Here's the schedule:

March 13: Birding trip to Shannondale Wildlife Management Area and Shannondale Lake in Jefferson County. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot in front of the Martin's Supermarket in the Jefferson Crossroads shopping Center off Route 340 just east of Charles Town. Possible highlight species include Winter Wrens, Loons, various ducks, and Bald Eagles. For more information contact Sandy Sagalkin at 301-432-6847 or monsansagalkin@myactv.net.

March 24: Birding trip to Fort Frederick State Park in Washington County, MD. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Fort Frederick Visitor's Center parking lot. Possible highlight species include Wood Ducks, Pileated Woodpeckers, Gold-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Fox Sparrows. This trip will include walking several miles on the C & O canal and other level trails. The park is located at 11100 Fort Frederick Road near Big Pool. Contact Nancy Kirschbaum at 304-876-6881 or nancyk500@comcast.net.

March – date to be announced: Trip to observe the display flight of the American Woodcock. The exact date, time, and place will be determined when the Woodcock mating season begins. Watch PVAS's email update service and the PVAS web site (www.potomacaudubon.org) for details. Naturalist Wil Hershberger will lead this trip. For more info contact Nancy Kirschbaum at 304-876-6881 or nancyk500@comcast.net. If you're not signed up to get PVAS's email updates you can do so anytime by sending your email address to pvasmail@aol.com with a note giving your name and saying “please add me to your heads-up list.”

Sign up Now for Birding 101!

Space is still available for PVAS' annual “Birding 101” class. The course, now in its 23rd year, will be taught by leading local bird experts, including Bob Dean, Wil Hershberger and Matt Orsie.

For only \$50, participants can enjoy four informal but informative classroom sessions on Thursday evenings in April at NCTC (April 1, 8, 15, 22). On the corresponding Saturdays (April 3, 10, 17, 24), field trips are taken to various habitats in the panhandle to make sure participants have the opportunity to see a wide variety of birds.

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.

Wildflower Festival Set for April 17

PVAS will hold its annual spring Wildflower Festival on Saturday, April 17, at the Yankauer Nature Preserve, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. rain or shine. The festival coincides with the peak blooming of spring wildflowers. Guides will lead walks through the preserve for advanced and beginner wildflower identification. Walks suitable for families are included. Children's activities are planned and refreshments will be provided.



Spring Beauty – © Daniel Reed - www.2bthewild.com

For the third year in a row, the festival will also include a special Poetry Walk component—original poems on spring themes will be posted all along the preserve's Kingfisher trail where the majority of wildflowers are found.

“**Auguries of Innocence**”- opening stanza
William Blake (1757–1827)

To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour...

Those who wish to submit poems for posting are encouraged to do so. Submissions should be sent by email to pvnaturewriters@gmail.com. Or, send them by regular mail to “Poetry Walk, c/o PVAS, PO Box 578, Shepherdstown, WV 25443. The deadline for submissions is April 10.

Introducing "RacefortheBirds.org!"

PVAS is very proud to announce its new website for this year's "This Race is for the Birds!" Now in its ninth year, the race is undergoing some major changes including its very own website. The website includes a button that takes potential runners directly to our run's registration page on active.com, maps of the courses, a run schedule for the day, a page crediting sponsors, directions to NCTC, a "gallery" of artwork that several art classes from Shepherdstown Elementary School contributed for new logo ideas, and many other features. Check it out! RacefortheBirds.org.

Many thanks go to Kristin Kaineg of Kaineg Print and Design for her wonderful work on the website, and to Kathy Bilton for her willingness to host and manage the site into the future.



Egg Hunt at Yankauer

Don't forget to register for our third Spring Egg Hunt at the Yankauer Nature Preserve has been scheduled for Sunday afternoon, March 28, from 2-4 p.m. Pre-registration for the event is required and the cost is \$5 per child. Registration is limited. A link to the online registration program is posted on the PVAS website, www.potomacaudubon.org.



Environmental Ed Conference to be Held in Harpers Ferry

The West Virginia Environmental Education Association (WVEEA) will hold its fourth annual conference in Harpers Ferry the weekend of March 12-14.

The Association connects and unites West Virginia individuals and organizations interested in environmental education. Its members include environmental professionals, elementary and secondary school teachers, higher education instructors and professors, informal educators, and interested members of the public.

The organization's annual conference is intended to share the latest information and research, foster discussions, provide professional development, and strengthen West Virginia's environmental education community.

This year's conference will be held at the Quality Hotel Conference Center on Route 340.

Two PVAS members are playing prominent roles in it. It is being chaired by PVAS Board member Clark Dixon, and our Youth Education Director, Ellen Murphy, is the conference program coordinator.

The conference will begin the afternoon of Friday, March 12, with a field trip to the "For Love of Children" Outdoor Education Center in Jefferson County. That evening, a welcoming reception for conference participants and invited guests will be held Harpers Ferry National Historic Park.

Saturday's program will include a 9 a.m. keynote address, workshops on a wide variety of topics throughout the day, and a luncheon discussion.

The keynote address, "Get Outside and Learn," will be presented by award-winning National Park Service filmmaker John Grabowska and his daughter, Hilary.

The Saturday evening schedule will include an Expo and poster session, dessert social, silent auction with live music.

Workshops will continue Sunday morning followed by the annual business meeting of the WVEEA. The conference will end at 1 p.m.

Anyone with an interest is welcome to register and attend all or part of the conference. The fee for the full conference is \$95 up to February 26 and \$110 afterwards. The student fee for the full conference is \$65. There is also a \$65 fee for one-day registration.

Some scholarships are available. Registration includes a one-year WVEEA membership.

To view the full conference schedule and to register go to www.wveea.org. For more information about scholarships or any aspect of the conference contact Eriks Janelsins at 404-242-6855 or ejanel-sins@oionline.com.

The WVEEA is an affiliate of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE).

Audubon Guides Releases iPhone App Series for Nature Enthusiasts

Green Mountain Digital is pleased to announce that it is bringing the best-selling National Audubon Society field guides to the iPhone and iPod touch platforms. Each field guide app contains substantial content, feature and functionality enhancements not found in the comparable book form, including over 2,300 bird songs. The goal is to put nature at your fingertips.

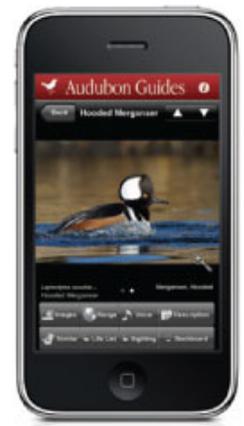
These apps are created in alliance with the National Audubon Society, and feature North American mobile field guides for birds, wildflowers, trees and mammals, as well as a series of regional guides for birds and wildflowers. Many more app field guides will come to market over the next four months, including butterflies, reptiles and amphibians, sea shore creatures, and mushrooms.

Green Mountain Digital is a Vermont based digital media company that is building a large position in the mobile and web world to support and promote the nature and wildlife field. To date, they have introduced 13 apps into the market, all of which are available in the iTunes App store in the Reference section.

You can visit Green Mountain Digital's site at www.AudubonGuides.com where you will find extensive nature and wildlife content.

Introducing Audubon Birds

A Field Guide App to
North American Birds



Blizzards Happen – Count Goes On

The Mid-Atlantic States may have been covered by snow and battered by howling winds but the Great Backyard Bird Count went ahead as planned.

The 2010 GBBC took place February 12-15, but it's not too late to send in your data entry. The data entry deadline is March 1. If you were of a mind to watch your feeder (there's always plenty of action during a snow storm) and you recorded your sightings you can still submit data for this year's GBBC.

As of February 16, the results were still coming in.

Statistics from 2010

Total Checklists Submitted: 70,034

Total Species Observed: 571

Total Individual Birds Counted: 7,658,671

Tough Situation for Overwintering Birds

It's been a very difficult winter for all the creatures in our region. The socialized critters that we see out the kitchen window are struggling to make it. Raccoon tracks around the compost pile are regular though sparse and the compost litter is thoroughly examined. The abundance of deer seems to have diminished. The chipmunks and squirrels are scrambling for seed litter under the feeders, and the birdfeeders themselves are a beehive of activity. Last but not least, the human population hasn't fared too well either. We've all been put in our place by record snowfall and blizzard conditions.

Not so strangely, our awareness of the difficulty for overwintering birds gets heightened. The Tuesday, February 16, issue of The Washington Post carried at least two features related to this theme. Patterson Clark, in a piece called "Urban Jungle," wrote a small article on a flock of overwintering American Robins that have settled in some holly shrubs around the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and P Streets in Georgetown. His main point was that our bird populations need shelter in winter almost as much as the other essentials, a point often overlooked in the 'advice' columns that typically run in winter.

The other article came in the form of "HINTS FROM HELOISE." This syndicated column that usually covers how to remove spots and stains from upholstery gave a quick list of ideas for preventing bird collisions on window panes. Heloise gets extra credit for pointing



out that "birds tend to fly into windows more during migration and breeding seasons," but that's not an untimely reminder either.

According to an article released by National Audubon Society on February 10, 2009, and published in *Birder's World Magazine: Field of View*, birds are wintering farther north due to climate change:

Analyses of citizen-gathered data from the past 40 years of Audubon's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) reveal that 58 percent of the 305 widespread species that winter on the continent shifted significantly north since 1968, some by hundreds of miles.

When weather swings like we've experienced this year take place and severe conditions persist, these birds run out of luck. Regardless of how far north birds overwinter, snow takes its toll on them. Cornell Lab of Ornithology published a report by Sarah Malone, Jacqueline Cerretani, and Steve Kelling, in the Summer 2000 issue of *Birdscope* entitled "Birds and Snow." The report studied the behavior of the American Robin as well as the Downy Woodpecker using data from the Great Backyard Bird Count for 1999 and concluded "food availability may be the primary factor influencing some species' winter ranges, but snow cover may also play a role." Making a long story shorter, the birds in our area got a double whammy this year.

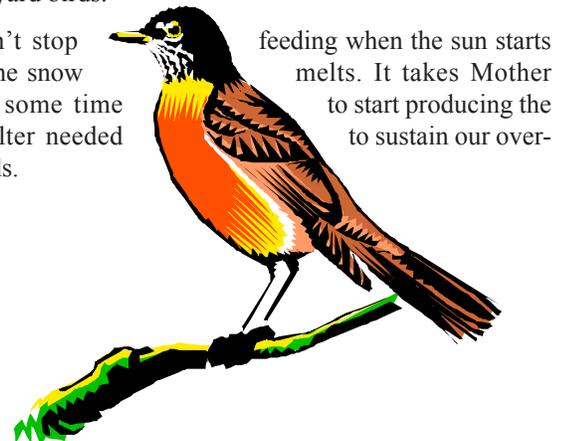
There are numerous lists floating around for helping our backyard birds through the tough times but one from a January 10 posting on the BBC – Autumn Web site seemed to be a pretty good condensation.

...here are our top tips:

- Keep your bird feeders topped up daily with high energy foods such as sunflower hearts
- Put out some food on the ground (ideally clear away the snow first) to help ground feeding birds
- Put out fat balls - especially good for robins and long-tailed tits.
- Provide ice-free water for them to drink and bathe

This advice seems somehow appropriate considering that England has had a difficult winter not unlike our own. In addition, don't forget Patterson Clark's main point and do what you can to provide shelter for your backyard birds.

Lastly, don't stop feeding when the sun starts shining and the snow melts. It takes Nature quite some time to start producing food and shelter needed by overwintering birds.



This Race is for the Birds —Help Wanted

Help Wanted: Volunteers are needed for “This Race is for the Birds.” This is the spring fundraising race sponsored by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society on Saturday, April 24. The event, held at the National Conservation Training Center, has been expanded this year and offers several options including two trail races, a community walk/run and a free KIDS FUN RUN.

We expect 250-300 runners and we need your help. There is a job for everyone including: course marshalls, registrars, snack and water attendants, parking directors, go-fers, etc. Teens are welcome! Invite your friends to join us.

Interested? Send a note and your phone number to Carolyn Thomas, crthomas25443@gmail.com or call 304-267-3115. She will follow up with details. The only guarantee is the sincere appreciation of the runners and the race committee (and probably a T-shirt).

Calendar

- March 10:** PVAS program Maryland’s Wood Ducks
- March 13:** Birding at Shannondale
- March 24:** Birding at Fort Frederick State
- March 26:** Nature Photographers Mtg.
- March (TBA):** Field Trip: American Woodcock
- March 28:** Egg Hunt
- April 1:** Birding 101 class begins
- April 14:** PVAS program “Identifying Spring Warblers by Sight and Song.”
- April 17:** Wildflower Festival
- April 23:** Nature Photographers Mtg.
- April 24:** “Race for the Birds”

Join Potomac Valley Nature Writers’ Group

The Potomac Valley Nature Writers’ Group (PVNWG) formed in early 2009 to promote the art and appreciation of *nature writing*. This genre of literature explores and celebrates the natural world and our relationship within it. PVNWG welcomes both readers and writers to participate.

Members meet each month to discuss a particular nature writer and his or her work. The group encourages members’ writing efforts such as nature blogging and nature journaling. Group members will coordinate the Poetry Walk for the PVAS Yankauer Wildflower Festival this year.

For more information about the group, upcoming book selections, and the times and locations of meetings, go to <http://potomacvalleynaturewritinggroup.blogspot.com/> or contact pvnaturewriters@gmail.com

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 C9ZY540Z)

Clip and mail this form to:

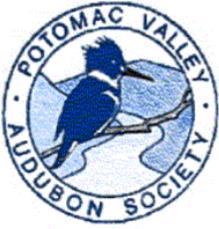
Membership Chair, PVAS
 PO Box 578
 Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Thank you for your support!



T RED TEXT - RED DOT ALERT

If red text or 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.



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DATED MATERIALS

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

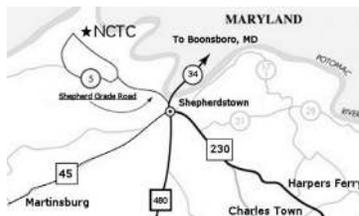


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The Potomac Valley Audubon Society meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through April, at the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), Shepherdstown, WV, in the Instructional West Building. 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

- President: Peter Smith 304 876-1139pvsmith@frontiernet.net
- Vice President: Nancy Kirschbaum nancyk500@comcast.net
- Secretary: Mina Goodrich larrymina@peoplepc.com
- Treasurer: Lex Miller pamandlex@frontiernet.net
- Board Development: Wayne Braunstein 304 728-7181 wbraun@frontiernet.net
- Board Members-at-Large: Don Briggs ldonaldbriggs@gmail.com
- Susan Brookreson brookre@earthlink.net
- Clark Dixon dixonconsultants@aol.com
- Rob Hoxton rhoxtan@hoxtonfinancial.com
- Leigh Jenkins jenkinsleigh@hotmail.com
- Georgia Jeppesen georgia_jeppesen@comcast.net
- John Reisenweber jreisenweber@centrabank.com
- Carolyn Thomas webethomas@aol.com

Ex Officio Board Members

- Diana Mullis 304 267-3482 dianamullis@aol.com

Emeritus Board Members

- Jean Neely jeaneely@comcast.net

Special Contacts

- Executive Director: Kristin Alexander 304 676-3397 kaemail730@aol.com
- Web Master: Kathy Bilton kathy@fred.net
- PVAS Wildlife Rescue Coord: Diana Mullis 304-267-3482