

VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac
Valley
Audubon
Society

Volume 29, Issue 6

March 2011

We Still Need Your Help With Our Annual Appeal!

As this is being written in mid February, 155 of you have contributed \$28,346 to our annual fundraising appeal since December 1.

That's a great result, especially in the current economy! It's about \$1,400 more than we'd raised by the same time last year, and it's about 95% of last year's annual appeal total of \$29,856.

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 so far, 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.

Camp Registration Has Begun

Open registration for Audubon Discovery Camp has begun on the PVAS Website, www.potomacaudubon.org, and sessions are beginning to Ell.

Six weeks of camp are being offered at Yankauer Nature Preserve, two weeks are being offered at our satellite location, CraftWorks at Cool Spring (on Lloyd Rd near South Jefferson Elementary School), and one week at our newest site at the Peter Burr Farm near Bardane WV.

Sessions like *The Simple Life* and *The Deep, DARK Woods* (as well as the always popular *Camp Survivor*) are Elling up, so don't wait to register! When sessions Ell, 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, but in order to keep the system running smoothly, all camper families need to complete the full registration form. Like last year, a credit card is required to register.

Camp fees for most sessions this year are \$150 per camper per week. Preschool camps (1/2 days) will be \$50. T-shirts (youth and adult sizes) are available for order at \$10 each and ALL shirts must be preordered by May 15 to guarantee availability at camp.

Camp Scholarship Opportunities!

If you know a young person, or if you ARE that young person who would enjoy learning about the natural world at summer camp, we encourage you to apply for a camp scholarship from PVAS. The deadline for applications is April 8, 2011, so act now! Scholarships are available for eligible young people within the PVAS membership area – the WV Eastern Panhandle and Washington County, Maryland. Camps, locations, ages, and dates are as follows:

- **West Virginia State Conservation Camp**, at Camp Caesar, Webster County, WV; June 13 - 18, 2011; Campers must be 14 by January 2011 and not past their 18th birthday on June 1, 2011.
- **Trout Unlimited Conservation & Fishing Camp**, at Syria, Virginia (next to Shenandoah National Park), grades 8 through 11; June 26 – July 1, 2011.
- **Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies**, at Capon Bridge, WV; ages 11-15; June 26 - July 9; July 12 – 26; or August 2 – 15, 2011.
- **Oglebay Institute Junior Nature Camp**, at Dallas Pike (near Wheeling), WV, ages 10-15; July 24-30 or July 31 – August 6, 2011.
- **Mountain Adventures Camp**, at Mountain Institute, Spruce Knob, WV; ages 12-17; June 19 - 25, June 26 – July 2, or July 3 - 9, 2011.
- **Chesapeake Adventures**, schooner trip, Chestertown, MD; ages 11-14; July 25 – 29, 2011.
- **Audubon Discovery Day Camp**, at Yankauer Nature

See Summer Camp, Page 2

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

President's Perch



Hello everyone:

I want to thank all of you who have already contributed to this year's PVAS annual fundraising appeal.

By now, in spite of the fact that economy is still pretty dismal in our area, you've contributed nearly \$28,500. That's about \$1,400 more than you'd contributed by this time last year, and the number of you who are contributing is up, too.

We're very grateful for all your support.

But we've still got quite a way to go to at least match last year's annual appeal total of \$29,856. And we've only got until the end of March to do it.

So please do give if you possibly can.

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

As always, 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.

And as always, your support is critical to keeping these programs and activities going.

Any help you can provide will be appreciated.

—Peter Smith

Summer Camp (continued from page 1)

Preserve in Shepherdstown, at Craft Works in southern Jefferson County, and at Peter Burr Farm Site in Kearneysville; pre-school to grade 12; nine weeks late-May to late-July.

Every year throughout its 29-year history PVAS has sent youngsters to camp on scholarships, supported by our fall bird seed sale. Additional community sources also support scholarships to our own day camp program at the Yankauer Nature Preserve.

To obtain more information and/or an application form, go to www.potomacaudubon.org. There you'll also find links to the camps' web sites, which provide lots more exciting information and descriptions! Or contact Kathryn Henry at 304-876-6681, dhenry@myexcel.com.

Spring Egg Hunt Registration Open

Registration is now open for our annual Spring Egg Hunt at the Yankauer Nature Preserve! This year's hunt has been scheduled for Sunday afternoon, April 17, from 2-3:30 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. Look for the class labeled "Egg Hunt at Yankauer." A valid credit card is required to register.

Birding 101

Register now for the very popular Birding 101! The course is tailored for beginning birders and utilizes both classroom sessions and field trips to teach everything from bird identification to field etiquette to birding techniques and resources. The course will be taught by local birding experts Bob Dean, Wil Hershberger, and Matt Orsie. An impressive collection of images and recordings, many captured by the instructors, enhance the course.



The classroom sessions will be held at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center just north of Shepherdstown from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday evenings, April 7, 14, 21, and 28. The field trips will be held at various locations around the Panhandle from roughly 7 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, April 9, 16, 23, 30.

The Saturday morning field trips allow participants to practice skills learned in the classroom. Participants will visit a variety of habitats to observe the bird species found in each. Field trips are held entirely outdoors, so participants should dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for muddy conditions. Class size will be limited to 24 participants. The course is open to people of all ages but children younger than 15 must be accompanied by an adult.

The series of workshops is \$75 per participant. The fee includes classroom sessions and field trips. Checks should be made out to "Potomac Valley Audubon Society" with "Birding 101" in the memo line.

Pre-registration is required. Registrations will be accepted by mail, and will be accepted in the order they are received. Download the registration form found at www.potomacaudubon.org. If the form does not download properly or if you'd rather have it mailed, please e-mail PVASmail@aol.com or call 304-676-3397 and leave a detailed message. Registration forms should be accompanied by the \$75 fee. Please send both to PVAS, Attn: Birding 101, PO Box 578, Shepherdstown, WV 25443.

Spring Programs Are Underway —Despite The Snow!

Even though some schools have lost days this winter because of snow days, PVAS programs have stayed on schedule. Our watershed program continues in Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan counties with only slight adjustments. The biggest challenge this year has been scheduling field trips at a time when warmer weather is more likely! Field trips will be held on the following dates and volunteers are always needed to help!

Flowing Springs Park in Ranson on March 29 and 31.

Mill Creek (near Mountain Ridge Intermediate School) on April 1.

Cacapon River in Morgan County (at the Fisher Bridge) on April 5, 6, 7.

Tuscarora Creek (E. John Street) on April 8 and 14.

Back Creek (near Tomahawk Intermediate School) on April 12 and 13.

At Yankauer, spring school visits have already been scheduled for April 12 and 13 (2nd grade), April 26 (kindergarten), April 29 (1st grade), and May 5 (middle school). Additional programs may be scheduled as the weather improves. Contact Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739 if you could spare a day in late March or early April to help with any of these programs.

WVU Helping To Plan New Ranson Park

A team of faculty and students from West Virginia University travelled to Jefferson County from Morgantown on January 28 to help the City of Ranson finalize plans for its new Flowing Springs Park.

The WVU team consisted of Angela Campbell, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture; Dr. Steven Selin, Professor of Forestry and Natural Resources; Jenny Selin, Community Design Team Coordinator; and several graduate students.



Professor Campbell is using the park planning process as a case study for her landscape architecture students. Professor Selin is using the process as a case study for graduate students enrolled in his course, "Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management."

The landscape architecture students will develop an overall plan for the park, and the Natural Resource Management students will propose land management and community involvement strategies.

During their visit, the WVU team met with members of the park's planning committee, including Ranson Mayor Mark Hamill; Ranson Parks and Recreation Director Jimmy Pierson; Ranson City Planner Sarah Kleckner; Jefferson County Commissioner Lyn Widmyer; Michael Schwartz, of the Conservation Fund's Freshwater Institute; Herb Peddicord, the West Virginia Division of Forestry's Chesapeake Bay Forester; Lee Snyder and John Billmyer of Snyder Environmental Services; representatives of PVAS; and several Ranson residents.

Planning committee members briefed the WVU faculty and students about the park and the city's vision for its future, including trails, interpretive signage, wildlife habitat, and other passive recreation elements. The group then walked the park property to see its features first-hand.

The WVU team will be coming back on April 2 to participate in open house at the park and continue gathering input from community members.

WVU's involvement in the park planning process was facilitated by the "TogetherGreen" grant received last fall by PVAS.

The TogetherGreen grant program is a collaborative effort of the National Audubon Society and Toyota, Inc. It is designed to fund innovative conservation projects, support conservation leadership, and offer volunteer opportunities that significantly benefit the environment and reach new audiences.

It awards grants to Audubon organizations and partners that demonstrate exceptional creativity in working with other groups on projects that will produce tangible benefits for environmental quality. The PVAS grant was one of 43 such grants awarded nationwide last year.

Flowing Springs Park Open House/Volunteer Day April 2

Through the TogetherGreen Grant that PVAS received last fall, PVAS is organizing an Open House/Volunteer Day for the park on April 2 from 11-4.

The event will include a welcome tent (likely in the Home Depot parking lot in Ranson) where visitors and volunteers can overlook the park and look at a map of the future park. The WVU team will be there to gather input from community members about what they'd like the park to include, as well as any obstacles to their use of the park that might be solved with some planning work at the city level.

Visitors and volunteers will be invited down into the park itself for nature walks, trash cleanup, invasive removal and tree planting. Gloves, tools and refreshments will be provided along with t-shirts for volunteers.

The Open House/Volunteer Day will be a collaborative event between Potomac Valley Audubon Society and its Master Naturalists, the City of Ranson, WV Division of Forestry, Project CommuniTree, WV Conservation Agency, The Conservation Fund's Freshwater Institute, and WVU. Other partners may be involved as the date approaches.

For more information or to get involved with this event, please contact Kristin Alexander at 304-676-3397 or PVASmail@aol.com.

Poems Sought for Wildflower Festival

PVAS is again asking local poets to submit poems that will be displayed as part of its annual Wildflower Festival, which will be held this year on Saturday, April 16.

The festival will be held at the Society's Yankauer Nature Preserve north of Shepherdstown.

For the fourth year in a row, the festival will include a Poetry Walk that will feature poems focusing on spring themes displayed along the preserve's Kingfisher trail.

Those who wish to submit poems for display are encouraged to do so by email by sending them to pvnaturewriters@gmail.com. Poems may also be dropped off at the Four Seasons Bookstore in

Shepherdstown or submitted by regular mail to Poetry Walk, c/o PVAS, PO Box 578, Shepherdstown, WV 25443.

The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. Saturday, April 9.

“Race for the Birds” Coming Up Soon

Plans are now set for our tenth annual “This Race is for the Birds!” event, which will be held on Saturday, April 9 on the campus of the National Conservation Training Center outside Shepherdstown.

As it did last year, the event will feature two professionally timed races—one 4.9 miles long and another 7.7 miles long.

Those who wish to register for either of these races are encouraged to do so soon. Registration for them will be capped at 400, so same-day registration may not be available.

There will also be a self-timed 2-mile community jog/walk for families and individuals who prefer a slower pace, and a 1-mile “Fun Run” for children under 10 years of age.

The 4.9- and 7.7-mile races will follow trails that wind through the forests and fields of the 538-acre NCTC campus.

The 2-mile jog/walk will follow a course that will be very user-friendly for families with small children, and trail-friendly baby joggers will be appropriate and encouraged.

The trails on the NCTC campus are not normally open to the general public so this event is a good opportunity to visit and enjoy the facility’s beautiful trail network.

The two races will begin at 9:00 a.m. The jog/walk will begin shortly afterwards and the children’s Fun Run will be held at about 10:45 a.m.

The children’s Fun Run will be free. Fees for the other portions of the event will range from \$15 to \$25.

All proceeds will be used to support PVAS’s programs for children, and all fees will be tax deductible.

For full information, go to the race website at www.raceforthebirds.org. On-line registration is available there through a link to Active.com. Or contact the race directors, James and Suzy Munnis, at jmunnis@earthlink.net or 304-876-6784.



you to help with registration, refreshments, serve as course marshals, direct traffic and parking, and lend a hand where needed to ensure a successful race for everyone. Families and teens are welcome. The morning goes by pretty quickly and we will send you off about 11:00 AM with a 10th anniversary t-shirt.

Interested? You can sign up on our website (RacefortheBirds.org) or Contact Carolyn Thomas at crthomas25443@gmail.com.

PVAS Offers Great Scholarship Opportunity for Teachers

The legendary Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine has added an exciting new camp – *Sharing Nature: An Educator’s Week* – to its 2011 line-up. PVAS is to cover part of the cost teacher. The camp is de- and non-science K-12 July 14 – 19, 2011.



The scholarship application deadline is now! For more details on the camp, check the Hog Island web site: www.projectpuffin.org and follow the links to for Audubon Camp and Educator’s Week. For PVAS scholarship information and application go to www.potomacaudubon.org, or contact Kathryn Henry at 304-876-6681 or dhenry@myexcel.com.

The PVAS camp scholarship program is supported by our fall bird seed sale. Scholarships are available for eligible persons within the PVAS membership area – the WV Eastern Panhandle and Washington County, Maryland.

Master Naturalist 2011 Class Begins

The fifth Potomac Valley Master Naturalist class will begin March 19-20 at Cacapon State Park and will continue monthly through November. The 2011 class has 21 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 over 60 active members.

Class dates and locations (still subject to change) for 2011 are:

March 19-20: Cacapon State Park (Old Inn)

April 30: Shepherd University

May 21: NCTC

June 11: Cool Spring Farm

July 16: Cacapon State Park

August 6: NCTC

September 10: Cool Spring Farm

October : Yankauer Nature Preserve

November 5: Cacapon State Park

November 19: Annual Meeting/Service Project (Location TBA)

Race Volunteers Needed

Spring looks like it is just around the corner and that means that “This Race is for the Birds” sponsored by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society will be coming up soon. This year our 10th annual run/walk will be held on Saturday, April 9, at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown. Help us make this race our best ever!

Last year we had over 300 runners and walkers and this year we are expecting up to 500 people of all ages to run and walk in the events which include two trail races (4.4+ miles, 7+ miles), a self timed 2 mile course and a free KIDS FUN RUN. We need folks like

February Stink Bug Program Draws Record Crowd

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug program that PVAS and the National Conservation Training Center cosponsored on February 9 drew an enormous crowd.

NCTC officials estimated afterwards that as many as 550 people showed up for the program; they said this was the largest turnout for any evening program ever held at NCTC.

The facility's main auditorium could not hold these numbers, and a closed-circuit video feed was directed to four classrooms in the Center's instructional buildings to handle the overflow.



Photos courtesy: Wil Hershberger, Nature Images and Sounds ©

The presenter was Dr. Tracy Leskey, entomologist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Appalachian Fruit Research Station in Kearneysville.

All who attended agreed that the turnout for her talk underscored the seriousness of the Stink Bug infestation in this area.

SkyTruth Founder Will Be March Speaker

Our March program at the National Conservation Training Center will feature a presentation about the Shepherdstown-based nonprofit organization SkyTruth.

The program will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, in Room 151 of the Instructional West Building.

Admission is free and anyone is welcome to attend.

The speaker will be John Amos, SkyTruth's founder and president. He will review the organization's history and discuss its current activities and future plans.

SkyTruth is a unique organization that uses satellite images, aerial photographs, and other kinds of remote sensing and digital mapping to document the environmental impacts of human activities.

Its work ranges from tracking relatively short-term events like oil spills in real time to measuring the long-term changes in the composition of deciduous forests because of clearcut logging and commercial tree farming.

The images it has produced have appeared on many network news broadcasts, major magazines and newspapers. Its work has been used in public meetings and courtroom proceedings and in legal expert witness reports. SkyTruth has given briefings to Congressional and Executive branch staff in Washington, and testified at Congressional hearings.

Its website is at www.skytruth.org.

John Amos is an expert in the use of satellite images and other remote sensing data.

After earning degrees in geology from Cornell (BS) and the University of Wyoming (MS), he spent 10 years conducting environmental, exploration and resource assessment studies for the energy and mining industries and government entities.

He founded SkyTruth in 2001. As President, he directs day-to-day operations, develops and manages projects and programs, and is responsible for fundraising and administration.

Three Birding Trips Set for March

PVAS has organized three birding trips for the month of March. All trips are free and anyone with an interest is welcome to participate. Various details of each trip could change depending on weather and recent bird sightings. Here's the schedule:

March 9: Birding walk at Cool Spring Farm

in southern 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 in Charles Town.

The Cool Spring property offers a nice mix of habitats ranging from open fields to former orchard plots as we stroll along Bullskin Run.

We can expect to see American Goldfinches and Chipping Sparrows showing off their fresh spring colors, and Eastern Bluebirds are sure to be checking out the numerous boxes on the property.

For more info, contact Kate Weatherby at yankee_in_virginia@yahoo.com or 304-535-1319. In case of inclement weather, contact her to see if the trip is still on.

March 18: Trip to observe the display Zight of the American Woodcock

led by naturalist Wil Hershberger.
To be held at 7 p.m. at the Conservation Fund's Freshwater Institute, on Turner Road outside Shepherdstown.

For more details watch PVAS's email update service and the PVAS web site. 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."

March 26: Birding trip to the Shannondale Springs Wildlife Management Area

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.

At this time of year, this trip offers opportunities to see Bald Eagles and other raptors, great blue herons, several species of woodpeckers, including Northern Flickers, Bluebirds, Eastern Phoebe, Golden-Crowned and Ruby-Crowned Kinglets, Cedar Waxwings, and other songbirds.

For more info, contact Sandy Sagalkin at 240-291-6465 or monsansagalkin@myactv.net. In case of inclement weather, contact him to see if the trip is still on.

“Wildlife Signs” Walk Offers Good Family Fun

PVAS is sponsoring a “Wildlife Signs” walk at the Cacapon State Park in Morgan County on Saturday, March 19.

The event is free and anyone is welcome to join in.

Participants should meet at 10 a.m. at the Park’s Nature Center. The walk will begin from there and be led by park naturalist Kelly Smith.

This will be a very family-friendly event that will show how to look for tracks and other signs of wildlife in West Virginia forests.

Pre-registration is recommended but not required; to pre-register contact Kelly Heldreth at kheldreth@hotmail.com or 304-229-6229 or 540-931-5945.

Tour the Ridge State Fish Hatchery

PVAS will sponsor a tour of the Ridge State Fish Hatchery in Morgan County on Saturday, March 26.

The tour is free, and anyone is welcome to join in.

Participants should plan to meet at 1:00 p.m. at the hatchery building. Plenty of parking is available there.

The hatchery is a state-run facility that is currently used to raise trout to be stocked in state waters and some private waters that are open to the public.

Assistant Manager Richard Harrington will discuss the facility’s history and explain how it functions.

This will be a family-friendly event; after the tour, participants can also hike the 30-acre property that contains various warm-water ponds that may offer opportunities to see turtles and frogs.

The hatchery is located south of Berkeley Springs off Route 522, about 2 miles north of the Virginia state line. The address is 12051 Valley Road.

Pre-registration is recommended but not required; to pre-register contact Kelly Heldreth at kheldreth@hotmail.com or 304-229-6229 or 540-931-5945.

Legislature Considers Recycling, Litter and Solid Waste Bills

Reprinted from: RECYCLING NEWS, Berkeley County Solid Waste Authority, February 5, 2011

berkeleycountyswa@msn.com

www.berkeleycountycycling.com

Several separate bills have been introduced by legislators across the State to address recycling, litter and solid waste programs in West Virginia.

House Bill 2814: A bill to establish a program to recycle beverage containers and reduce litter. The bill requires the use of returnable containers for many beverages and requires the use of a five cent deposit; exempts deposits on containers from sales taxes and excludes deposits from business and occupation taxes; prescribes the powers and duties of DEP; and prescribes penalties and remedies.

HB 2814 has been introduced by Delegate(s) Barbara Evans Fleischauer (Monongalia), Joe Talbott (Webster), Bonnie Brown (Kanawha), Mike Manypenny (Taylor), Mary Poling (Barbour), Margaret Anne Staggers (Fayette) and Barbara Hatfield (Kanawha).

House Bill 2136: A bill to impose an excise tax on grocery stores, drug stores and convenience stores equal to \$.05 for each plastic shopping bag given to customers. The tax may not be passed on to customers. HB 2136 has been introduced by Delegate(s) John Doyle (Jefferson), Bonnie Brown (Kanawha) and Clif Moore (McDowell).

House Bill 2104: A bill to provide a mechanism whereby unused, unexpired nonnarcotic drugs previously owned by a deceased nursing home patient or resident may be donated to free health care clinics in the state.

HB 2104 has been introduced by Delegate(s) Richard Iaquinta (Harrison), Larry Barker (Boone), Ron Fragale(Harrison) and Tom Azinger (Wood).

House Bill 2017: A bill to modify the role of the Public Service Commission in controlling certain services for solid waste collections. HB 2017 has been introduced by Delegate(s) Charlene Marshall (Monongalia) and Barbara Evans Fleischauer (Monongalia).

House Bill 2153: A bill to require the Department of Environmental Protection to remediate any waste tire pile in the state consisting of more than twenty-five tires. HB 2153 has been introduced by Delegate(s) Richard Iaquinta (Harrison), Joe Talbott (Webster), Dale Martin(Putnam), Ron Fragale(Harrison) and Tim Miley (Harrison).

To learn more about these bills, visit the WV Legislative Services website at <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/>

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Note from Valley Views:

Additional information on West Virginia environmental legislation tracking is available from the West Virginia Environmental Council, www.wvecouncil.org. WV Environmental Council publishes a monthly newsletter with a listing of all of the legislation they are currently tracking.

As an additional note, the February 3 online edition of the Martinsburg Journal carried an article by staff writer Jenni Vincent entitled “Local man lobbies for the environment.” According to this article, WV Environmental Council is working with several local legislators on solar energy legislation designed to promote solar energy and provide homeowners with certain inducements and protections for installing solar energy systems.

Let us hope that this recent spate of environmental legislation in West Virginia is an indication of things to come.

Join Potomac Valley Nature Writers

Do you enjoy reading and/or writing about nature? Then you are invited to join the Potomac Valley Nature Writers' Group (PVNWG). The Group meets each month from September through May to discuss a particular nature writer and his or her work. Selections vary to include male and female writers, classic and contemporary works, fiction and nonfiction, prose and poetry. PVNWG also supports members' own writing efforts such as nature journaling. Meeting dates and locations vary. For more information, visit <http://potomacvalleynaturewritinggroup.blogspot.com/> or contact pvnaturewriters@gmail.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Mar 9:	Bird walk, Cool Spring Farm
Mar 9:	PVAS program at NCTC, "SkyTruth"
Mar 18:	Woodcock walk, Freshwater Institute
Mar 19:	"Wildlife Signs" walk, Cacapon State Park
Mar 22:	Leave No Trace Workshop (Instructor Training)
Mar 25:	Potomac Valley Nature Photographers Mtg.
Mar 26:	Birding trip to the Shannondale Springs
Mar 26:	Tour of the Ridge State Fish Hatchery, Morgan County
Apr 2:	Flowing Springs Park Open House and Volunteer Day
Apr 7:	Birding 101 class begins
Apr 9:	10 th Annual "This Race is for the Birds," NCTC
Apr 13:	PVAS program, NCTC (Subject TBA)
Apr 15:	Timber Rattlesnake Program, The Ice House in Berkeley Springs
Apr 16:	Annual Wildflower Festival, Yankauer Nature Preserve
Apr 17:	Children's Egg Hunt, Yankauer Nature Preserve
Apr 17:	Wildflower walks, Eidolon Nature Preserve
Apr 22:	Potomac Valley Nature Photographers Mtg.
Apr 22:	Earth Day
Apr 29:	Birding field trip, Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area
Apr 30-May 1:	Winston Nursery (All Natives!) Open House
May 1:	Birding field trip, C&O Canal in Hancock
May 7:	Boonsboro GreenFest
May 11:	PVAS program, Natural History of the Potomac River
May 14-15:	Ruth Anne Dean Memorial Birdathon
May 27:	Potomac Valley Nature Photographers Mtg.
May 28:	Birding field trip, Stauffer's Marsh
May 31:	Summer Camp Begins!!!

JOIN PVAS TODAY!

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

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

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

Membership Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____
 Phone (optional): _____
 E-mail: _____

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

Clip and mail this form to:

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

Thank you for your support!



If you'd rather join the National Audubon Society:

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

RED TEXT - 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 Local membership.

If you are a National Audubon Society member, the National Society will notify you directly when your membership is up for renewal.



Potomac Valley Audubon Society
P O Box 578
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
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DATED MATERIALS



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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 here or see <http://www.potomacaudubon.org>. PVAS serves the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia and neighboring Washington County, Maryland.

PVAS BOARD

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

PVAS Officers and Board Members

President:	Peter Smith 304 876-1139	pvsmit@frontiernet.net
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