

Valley Views

**Potomac
Valley
Audubon
Society**

Volume 22, Issue 8

May 2004

ANNUAL DINNER AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MAY 8 at 4:30PM!

Come out to our family style, potluck dinner at The Yankauer Pavilion. Bring a dish to share (if your last name starts with A - G, bring some type of protein, H - L, a starch, M - R, fruits and veggies, S - Z, desserts). Also bring folding chairs or a blanket to sit on, your own beverage and utensils (plates, silverware, etc.) Be prepared to take home all trash; we don't have garbage pick up at Yankauer. There will be a bird walk at 4:30 P.M. and an Owl Prowl at dusk. We're hoping to entertain you with music. Most importantly, come out to enjoy the beautiful scenery, the camaraderie and to applaud some of our outstanding volunteers.

Also, find out first hand who our newly elected officials will be for the coming year. The slate of officers is:

Conservation:	Andy Vecchio
Education:	Bob and Karen Fuegi
Fundraising:	<i>Yet to be filled</i>
Membership:	Dave and Mary Sue Eldridge
Publicity:	Peter Smith
Secretary:	Mina Goodrich
Treasurer:	Jane Vanderhook
Yankauer Liason:	Rodney Woods

If you have any questions, please call Susan Brookreson at (304) 263 - 2823.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, May 8 Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. We will meet at the West Virginia Visitors Center on Rt. 340 across from the Harpers Ferry NHP parking lot at 7:15am. We will leave by 7:30 and walk down from the NPS parking lot botanizing and birding as we go. We'll walk into Harpers Ferry and take the park service shuttle back up the hill. With luck we should find lots of warblers and other migrating birds. Experienced birder or novice, you are sure to enjoy this trip and there'll be lots of good birds.

Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16. Join us for the 9th annual PVAS trip to Cape May, NJ. The migration will be in full swing and we should get lots of shorebirds, and songbirds. We'll go birding at the Lighthouse, the Meadows, Higbee's Beach and wherever else the birds may be! Hopefully it will be warm but bring rain gear, waterproof foot-ware and insect repellent! You'll need to make motel reservations soon. If you have questions let us know and do let us know if you are coming. Ken and I may leave as early as the Thursday before so please let us know by COB Wednesday, May 12. Phone 304-725-3936 or email at phunter@npca.org.

Saturday, May 22 PVAS will be joining the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy in their monthly nature walk at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship on Harpers Ferry Road, Rt. 671 in Virginia between the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers. We meet at the Neersville Volunteer Fire Station at 8:00a.m.

-Field Trips continues on page 3



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

President's Perch

Hi Everyone -

If April showers bring May flowers, we should have lots! So come join our Mother's Day wildflower and bird watching walks at our Yankauer Nature Preserve, or take a walk yourself—Yankauer is open every day dawn to dusk. And be sure to sign your kids up for the Yankauer Summer Day Camps, they are filling up fast (see our Web site, <http://potomacaudubon.org>).

Many thanks and congratulations to Jean Neely who was awarded a \$5,000 endowment fund by the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation at their recent Spirit of the Panhandle ceremony in Shepherdstown. Jean received this award for her many services to the community which include founding PVAS. Jean has named our Yankauer Nature Preserve as the recipient of the endowment fund. We are hon-



ored Jean ... Thank you!

Our May meeting is our annual dinner and election meeting. We have decided to make it a pot luck picnic at Yankauer this year on Saturday, May 8. There will be lots to do and see in addition to the good food, so don't miss it.

We have a "Bird-A-Thon" every year as a fundraiser. I have agreed to sponsor the "Rocking Chair Birdwatchers" at my house. We will promise not to see more than 10 species, so even if you sponsor us at \$1.00 per bird it will only cost you \$10. I'm looking for folks to come join me on the veranda (drinks and food provided), Sunday, May 2, from 2:00-5:00 p.m., and of course, we need folks to sponsor us. So give me a call at 304-264-3482 or email at dianamullis@aol.com.

Hope to see you at some of our summer activities ... make it a good one! - *Diana Mullis, President, PVAS*

THE BIRD-A-THON-RETURNS!!

As many of you already know, PVAS is adjusting to a new relationship with National Audubon, one that is resulting in little or no funding from them. To be able to continue to offer quality programs, scholarships and meet budget needs, PVAS will have to get more creative in order to stay financially viable. It has been a long time tradition in May for Audubon members to participate in The Bird-A-Thon. Money raised will go to PVAS programs. What a deal, great birding and camaraderie that helps PVAS directly! Here's how it works: you can contact one of the folks listed and arrange a mutually agreeable time to bird with them or offer to be their sponsors. Or you could simply decide for one day to count all the species you see in your yard then pledge, for instance, \$1 a species. If you spot 25 species that day you've raised \$25 for PVAS. If all members would participate in just this small way we could greatly enhance our financial health. Make your checks payable to PVAS and make a note on the envelope that it is Bird-A-Thon monies. Send to PVAS, PO Box 578, Shepherdstown, WV 25443.

LYNNE WISEMAN (lewiseman@aol.com or 304.876.2539) – A long time Bird-A-Thoner with fantastic river habitat in her area.

BOB DEAN (bobdean52@aol.com or 304.754.3042) – Call to sponsor Bob and Wil as they head out on A Big Day (counting all the species you can find in one day). Be forewarned, they may see more than 150 species!

WIL HERSHBERGER (whershberg@aol.com or 304.754.7517) – In addition to a local Big Day with Bob, Wil is in Arizona in May doing it again. He says he can let you know via e-mail how the count is going!

SUSAN BROOKRESON (brookre@earthlink.net or 304.263.2823) – Join me in Berkeley County and I will treat you to a lunch break at my place.

JEAN NEELY (jeaneely@ix.netcom.com or 304.876.2410) – Jean will take you to an exquisite 365-acre mountain paradise that PVAS may be offered to oversee. Come give us your opinion about this property and enjoy the scenery in Morgan County while raising funds for PVAS.

DIANA MULLIS (dianamullis@aol.com or 304.267.3482) – Not too keen on hiking? No problem. Diana is offering the front porch of her lovely home to do the counting. It is not unusual to see red headed woodpeckers as you sit there!

THE CAPE MAY FIELD TRIP 5/15-5/16 – Consider attending and get some pledges for your species count. Call Patsy or Ken Hunter to join in (phunter@npca.org or 304.725.3936).

Happy Birding! Call Susan Brookreson at 304-263-2823 if you have questions.

News from Yankauer Nature Preserve . . .



Yankauer Appeal Tops Goal! Brings In \$14,101.00!

Our Annual Appeal for this year (December 15-March 31) has been completed with a stunning result—our goal of \$12,000 has been exceeded by over \$2,000!

This from a record number of donors: 123! Words alone cannot express our gratitude for such an outpouring of support. This year's results have been truly amazing, and we thank all those who gave so generously. We are well aware of everyone's financial demands, so it makes us proud to know you are so confident about our work. You may be sure that every nickel will be spent to continue and grow the Yankauer Nature Preserve programs for our community. **Thank you so much!** Below are the names of our donors, alphabetically by category. (Please let the editor know if we have mistakenly omitted your name, or have misspelled it.)

SUPPORTER (\$1000-\$4,999)

John & Jenny Allen; Anonymous; Jeanne Baden (for pavilion floor fund); Henry & Faye Davenport (for intern fund); Maggie Drennen; Mona Hayford; Bill & Jean Neely

PATRON (\$500-\$999)

Dan & Margaret Cogswell; Mina Goodrich & Larry Dean; Gary & Diane Sylvester (for Audubon Discovery Camp scholarships)

SPONSOR (\$100-\$499)

Duane & Marianne Alexander; Kristin Alexander & Jeff Feldman; Bill Belton (in memory of Julia Belton); Wayne Braunstein & Dannie Wall; Joe & Susan Brookreson; Judith Layman & David Bruining; Gaston Caperton; Gary & Diana Cummins; Ruth Ann & Bob Dean (in memory of Vernon Patterson); Sandra D'Onofrio; Tony & Sue Frank; Joan Hopkin; R. Kenneth Hunter; William & Bonnie Miller; George Snider; Elizabeth & Clifford Sojourner (in memory of Ann & Dan Fisher); Ray & Jane Vanderhook; Frank & Annette Van Hilst (in memory of Ann & Dan Fisher); Henry & Louise Willard; Lynn & Chess Yellott (in honor of Tom & Naomi Moses)

DONOR (\$1-\$99)

Christiana Alexander; Elaine Alexander (in honor of Kristin Alexander); Keith Alexander & Eva Olsson; Anonymous (3); The Athey Family; Marie, Dean & Caylin Botsford; Linda Briganti; Evelyn Brydges; Dabney Chapman; Jane Cook (in memory of Ray Scott Cook); Michael Del-Colle (in honor of Carol Del-Colle); Sara Denby; Elizabeth Eller (in honor of Bill & Jean Neely); John Frye; Fiona Harrison; Bill & Jean Hartgroves; Don & Kathryn Henry; Phil & Lily Hill; Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Horky; Kevin Hughes; Paul Hutchings; Catherine Irwin & Richard Stephan; Georgia Jeppesen & Mark Benedict (for staff professional development); Kitty & Ed Kelly; M. H. Kinnie; David Klinger (in honor of Kristin Alexander); Melissa Kowalski; Lisa LaCivita; Robert Landis; Richard & Frances Latterell; John & Judith Lilga; Jess Matlick; Sue Mellott; David & Barbara Miller; Diana Mullis; Phillis Mummert (in memory of Bernard & Leona Lemaster); Kim Myles; Matt Poole & Laura Eaton-Poole; Anne Seibert; Henry Shepherd (in memory of Clair Porter Shepherd); Peter & Victoria Smith; Rennie & Grant Smith; Mary Helen Staley; Janet Stone; John Sutton; Sharon Tebben; Ruth Tomsuden; Lynn Truslow; Brown Truslow; Suzanna Vanderveer; Dennis Wright (in memory of Laura E. Gallagher); Alfred Yankauer; Frances Yankauer (in honor of Alfred Yankauer); James Yankauer (in honor of Alfred Yankauer)

Mother's Day Wildflower Walks May 9!

Our 4th Annual Mother's Day Wildflower Walks at Yankauer will be bigger and better this year! Bring your mom (or moms, bring your family) to a fun and beauty-filled afternoon in the woods to see nature's colorful contributions. Enjoy refreshments and music under the new pavilion. The event will be held rain or shine; come dressed for the weather and potentially muddy trails. The walks will leave the pavilion on the hour between one and four pm. Please help us spread the word!

-Field Trips continued from page 1

Sunday May 23 at 7:30a.m. we will explore The Nature Conservancy's Altona Marsh in Jefferson County. We will meet at the parking lot for the small shopping center at Tusawilla Shops on Tusawilla Hill Drive off Rt. 50 between Middletown and Charles Town. We'll walk down the tracks looking for whatever the marsh has to offer – among the regulars in the past have been yellow warblers, common yellowthroats, willow flycatchers etc. and last year we had a pair of nesting red-headed woodpeckers! So come and join us.



Potomac Valley Audubon Society
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 Shepherdstown, WV 25443
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A proud partner of the United Way of
 Berkeley and Morgan Counties,
 United Way of Jefferson County, and the
 Combined Federal Campaign.



DATED MATERIALS

MAIL TO:

<http://potomacaudubon.org>

May 2004

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

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

- PVAS Officers and Board Members**
- President: Diana Mullis 304 267-3482 dianamullis@aol.com
 - Vice President: Diana Cummins 304 728-0345 montex@frontiernet.net
 - Secretary: Mina Goodrich 304 876-2159 larrymina@aol.com
 - Treasurer: Mike Zagarella 304 876-3165 mzaudiology@yahoo.com
 - Conservation: Dale Nisbet 304 535-9916 dale_nisbet@nps.gov
 - Education: Sue Mellott 304 725-4153 llamamama1@earthlink.net
 - Field Trips: Patsy & Ken Hunter 304 725-3936 phunter@npca.org
 - Hospitality: Susan Brookreson 304 263-2823 brookre@earthlink.net
 - Membership: Mary Sue & Dave Eldridge 304 876-2337 marysuee@citlink.net
 - Newsletter: Wayne Braunstein 304 728-7181 wbraun1@peoplepc.com
 - Programs: Fiona Harrison 304 724-7458 fharrison@brces.org
 - Publicity: Diane Sylvester 304 263-6449 twosylvesters@cs.com
 - Fundraising: (please volunteer to fill this space)
 - International: Bill Belton 304 258-3067 wbelton@direcway.com
 - Yankauer liaison: Susan Brookreson 304 263-2823 brookre@earthlink.net
- Special Contacts**
- Director of Yankauer: Kristin Alexander 304 229-9771 Kaemail730@aol.com
 - Newsletter Publisher: David Miller 304 263-3130 cdmillermart2@juno.com
 - Web Master: Kathy Bilton kathy@fred.net
 - PVAS Wildlife Rescue Coord: Diana Mullis 304-267-3482 & 304 724-4500(day)