VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac Valley Audubon Society

Volume 28, Issue 8 May 2010

Annual Appeal Raised a Record $29,856

Our latest annual fundraising appeal, which began December 1 and concluded March 31, raised a total of $29,856.

This is $1,335, or 4.7 percent, more than we raised over the 2008-2009 winter and represents a new record high.

The number of donors hit a new high, too: 160 families and individuals contributed, up from 149 the year before.

The average contribution to this year's appeal was $184.30, which is a very high figure for small organizations like ours.

The return from this year's appeal was a great outcome given the continuing concerns about the economy throughout the appeal period, and it will help us weather this difficult time. It's gratifying to know we have such a loyal base of support in the community.

A full list of all those who contributed is included in this newsletter as a special section.

Thanks again to all of you who have been so generous to PVAS. We appreciate your help, and you can count on us to put your contributions to good use!

Don't Miss June Reception at Ripon Lodge Farm!

Rusty and Cricket Morgan have graciously agreed to host a fundraising reception for PVAS at their beautiful home, historic Ripon Lodge in southern Jefferson County, the evening of Saturday, June 5.

The event is open to PVAS members and friends, and all proceeds will be used to support PVAS's education programs for children.



The Morgans are one of Jefferson County's oldest families and Ripon Lodge is a significant County architectural landmark.

The house was built in the

See *June Reception*, Page 2

Annual Meeting to be Held June 11

This year's PVAS annual meeting will be held the evening of Friday, June 11, at the Yankauer Nature Preserve.

The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck supper.

The annual business meeting will follow; the main item of business will be the election of board members and recognition of volunteers.

Election of Board Members

There are thirteen board positions called for in the PVAS bylaws. Four of the positions are officers with the remainder serving as at-large members. Election of board members is staggered so that approximately one-third of the seats are up for election each year. The term of office for all board members is three years with a maximum of two consecutive terms; however, a person that serves two consecutive terms and is elected as an officer may extend their board membership/officer position by one additional term by unanimous decision of the board.

This year five board seats are up for election by the membership. Four of the board positions are up for election due to regular expiration of terms and one seat is to fill a position vacated by the resignation of a board member prior to expiration of term. Four seats are at-large positions and one is for the position of Secretary.

Of additional note, the officer position of vice president is being vacated due to expiration of term limit. The board does not currently have a candidate from among its ranks to fill this position.

Slate of Candidates

Mina Goodrich, Secretary (re-election)

Mina retired in 1999 after a long career in health care with the Department of Veteran's Affairs, both in Martinsburg and Washington, D.C. A native of Shepherdstown, she has been a member of PVAS since its early days. She previously served as Secretary from 2001 to 2004. Mina has also been active on the boards of the Friends of the Shepherdstown Library, the Jefferson County

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President's Perch



Hello everyone:

May is usually a busy time for PVAS, and this year is no exception. For example:

- Our "Watershed Education Initiative," which teaches fourth graders about the importance of protecting water resources, will soon wrap up its seventh successful year in area schools.
- We're gearing up now for our eighth year of summer day camp at our Yankauer Nature Preserve in Berkeley County. Camp sessions start there on May 26.
- We're also looking forward to offering day camp sessions at CraftWorks in southern Jefferson County for the first time. These sessions will start later on, in June.
- For adults, we're offering a wide range of field trips this month: from a Harpers Ferry geology trip to birding trips in Jefferson and Berkeley counties to a trip to a high-altitude swamp in Garrett County MD.
- We're also sponsoring a Birdathon. To be held the weekend of May 8-9, this event is being named in honor of Ruth Ann Dean.
- On May 22, we're once again sponsoring an Eastern Panhandle Green Homes Tour. Like last year's tour, this one will showcase a variety of homes that demonstrate different kinds of "green" building technologies.
- Special projects on tap include finishing cleanup of the winter-storm tree damage at the Yankauer preserve and replacing the floor of the preserve's pavilion.

Thanks to the staff, interns, Board members and volunteers who have been pitching in to help make these things happen.

Thanks, too, to the many families and individuals who also help make things happen by contributing to our annual appeal. The nearly $30,000 that you contributed this time was an exceptional result in the current economic climate, and it will go a long way in helping us to sustain our programming. We're grateful for your support!

—Peter Smith

June Reception (continued from page 1)

1830s by William F. Turner, who served in the Virginia House of Delegates in the 1840s.

The property remained in the Turner family until 1916, when it passed to L.M. Long, a prominent County resident.

The Morgans are only the third family to own the property, having purchased it from the Long family in the early 1970s.

Rusty and Cricket maintain it as a working farm.

The house is built of stone in an uncommon T-shape and includes eight rooms that are twenty feet square; nine fireplaces; and an elegant, half-spiral curved staircase in the center hall.

Situated at the crest of a low hill it commands a panoramic view of rolling pastures and the Blue Ridge.

The nearby town of Rippon was named after the house; tradition has it that the name of the town was given an extra "p" to avoid confusion with Ripon, Wisconsin.

The house and its grounds were designated a Jefferson County Historic Landmark in 1977 and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The reception will be held from 4:00-7:00 p.m. If weather permits it will be held mostly outside, on the lawn. If not, it will be held in the house. In any case, those who attend will have an opportunity to tour the house's downstairs rooms.

Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served, and musical entertainment will provide background.

Dress will be casual.

Tickets to the event will be required, and space will be limited.

Basic tickets are $45 per person. Those who pay $150 for two people will be recognized as Donors, those who pay $200 for two will be recognized as Patrons, and those who pay $250 or more for two will be recognized as Supporters.

Ticket costs will be tax deductible.

To reserve tickets, please call 304-676-3397 or e-mail PVAS-mail@aol.com and provide your name, address, and phone number.

Thanks to Race for the Birds Sponsors!

This newsletter is going to the printer before this year's Race for the Birds is held on April 24, so look for results from the race in our next (June) newsletter.

But we do want to give special thanks here to the many businesses and organizations that have sponsored this year's race.

This year, we have two "Platinum" Level sponsors, who each contributed more than $1,000. One is Hoxton Financial, Inc., the Shepherdstown wealth management firm. The other is the "Friends of Mark Benedict," a group of individuals who sponsor the race each year to honor the memory of Dr. Mark A. Benedict, a local conservation scientist who passed away in 2006.

The other race sponsors are as follows:

Gold Level ($500 or more): Freedom's Run, Hau Ink, Jefferson Security Bank, PowerBar, Roach Energy, Shepherdstown Chronicle, Two Rivers Treads, USFWS National Conservation Training Center.

Silver Level ($250 or more): Caribbean Islands Travel Service; Chick-fil-A, Martinsburg; Go Green Gals; Potomac Portables Restrooms; Progressive Printing.

Bronze Level ($100 or more): Bavarian Inn; Bonnymeed Farm Nursery; Briarwood Dental Center; CraftWorks; Dr. Paul Davis, DDS; Dickinson & Wait Craft Gallery; Edward Jones Investments,

Shepherdstown; John T. Gibson, DDS; Joseph Brookreson, DDS; Grapes and Grains Gourmet; Greentree Realty; Hypnocoffee.com; Jefferson Chiropractic Center, Inc.; Lynne Wiseman@era.com, realtor; McAteer & Associates, PLLC; Nesquik; Drs. Donald and Erica Patthoff; Potomac-Mecklenburg Garden Club; The Press Room; Professional SportsCare & Rehab; Pedal and Paddle; Ray P. Vanderhook, DDS, MS; Ryan T. McCarthy, MD; Shepherdstown Coffee and Candlery; Shepherdstown Opera House; Shepherdstown Sweet Shop; Stone Soup Bistro; Windflower Garden Club.

As always, we appreciate the strong community support for this event. You can express your appreciation as well by giving these businesses and organizations a "thank you" of your own the next time you see them.

Green Homes Tour, May 22

The 2010 Eastern Panhandle Green Homes Tour is scheduled for Saturday, May 22. Sponsored by PVAS, the tour is a self-guided, open house-style event that will allow participants to visit area homes showcasing environmental building approaches and technologies.

Proceeds from the tour support PVAS's educational programs for children.

In 2009, this event drew over 300 people and raised nearly $2000 for PVAS.

This year's Green Homes Tour will feature seven green homes in Jefferson, Berkeley and Morgan Counties that demonstrate a range of environmentally considerate approaches to residential building.



McKechnie House with Turbine

Participants will get to see strawbale, Structural Insulated Panel and cordwood construction; renewable energy technologies, including solar electric, wind and solar hot water systems; composting toilets and graywater wetland treatment designs; high efficiency wood-burning heaters and in-floor radiant heat systems; and a host of other green building materials and design considerations.

Several of the homes are still under construction, offering a rare glimpse inside the process of green building.

Green Homes Tour brochures will be available for $15 at several locations around the Panhandle (see below). Brochures will provide an overview of the green homes along with directions to each, and serve as a ticket to the event, admitting one carload of people to all homes.

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, May 3rd at the following locations:

- DISH American Bistro, 213 W. Washington Street, Charles Town
- Four Seasons Books, 116 W. German Street, Shepherdstown
- Sir Speedy Printing, 1351 Edwin Miller Blvd, Martinsburg (in Courthouse Square by the Post Office)
- The Nature Niche, 50 Washington Street, Berkeley Springs

The Green Homes Tour is being held in partnership with the Building for a Greener Future Conference taking place Friday, May 21st 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 possibilities for adopting green building practices.

Conference workshops will include sessions on green building approaches, renewable energy systems and incentives, geothermal technology, indoor air quality considerations, alternative wastewater treatment options, and living roofs among others. Exhibitors of green building products and services will also be in attendance.

For more information about the Green Homes Tour, contact Jeff Feldman at 304-274-0509 or GreenPathConsulting@gmail.com.

For more information about or to register for the Building for a Greener Future conference, contact Olga Adams at 304-267-8953, ext 5, or phrcd.6003@verizon.net.

Family Egg Hunt a Hit

The annual Egg Hunt at Yankauer was booked solid again this year with 36 youngsters and their families searching the Cedar Loop for eggs painted to look like wild bird eggs. While waiting for their turn at the egg hunt, children listened to a story called The Odd Egg. They also tried walking like a penguin carrying an egg on its feet while keeping the egg from touching the ground, and rotated through other stations where they discovered how large some eggs are, why eggs are shaped the way they are, and why wild bird eggs are colored the way they are. After enjoying the hunt for naturally colored eggs, children were given a sugar cookie to decorate with icing the color of natural eggs: robins egg blue, tans, and crème colors. They even made some eggs speckled with edible decorations.



Many thanks to the volunteers who made this fun family event possible: Diana Mullis (who made the sugar cookies and frosting), Debbie and Jackson Crouse, Sarah Fedorchak, and Paula Donahoe.

Ruth Ann Dean Memorial Birdathon

PVAS will hold a "Birdathon" the weekend of May 8-9.



The event is being named in honor of Ruth Ann Dean, who was a founding member and ardent lifelong supporter of PVAS, a Board member in the early years, and an avid birdwatcher.

The Birdathon is a fun event. Teams will compete to identify the highest numbers of bird species they find in Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan and Washington counties and on the Potomac River bordering those counties within any 24-consecutive-hour-period during the weekend of May 8-9.

Besides the fun, we hope valuable data can be obtained on the species present during this period and be compared with data obtained in subsequent-year Birdathons.

Participants can choose to form their own teams, decide their team names and select their own leaders. If you don't have a team, we will help you find one.

Another option is to participate individually in a "Big Sit," in which individuals choose a 17-foot diameter circle or their porch and identify all the birds they see from that area within a 24-consecutive-hour-period.

Prizes will be given to teams for the most species counted, the most uncommon species, the most species identified by a youth team or team consisting of new birders, and the best team name. A "Sitting Duck" prize will also be given for the winner of the Big Sit. The winners in all categories will be announced in Valley Views, the PVAS newsletter.

There is no entrance fee and registration is easy. Teams must consist of 2-5 participants (unless a person registers for the Big Sit). All you have to do is get together with friends and form a team. Or you could make this a family event and enter as a family team. Identify your team members, choose a leader, select a team name and decide whether your team will be competing in one of the special categories, such as youth or new birder teams.

Teams and individual "Big Sit" participants should notify Sandy Sagalkin, the Birdathon coordinator, at 301-432-6847 or monsansagalkin@myactv.net, telling how they plan to participate.

The deadline for registration is May 1. Teams and "Big Sit" participants will be sent a species list, simple rules for the competition, and any other instructions needed for the event.

Please join us for this fun event!

Annual Meeting (continued from page 1)

Animal Welfare Society and the Shepherdstown Men's Club. She also volunteers regularly at the Shepherdstown Library. She has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Shepherd University and an M.B.A. from Frostburg State University in Maryland.

Leigh Jenkins, At-large (re-election)

Leigh has lived fulltime in Morgan County, WV since 1989, after moving there from the Washington, D.C. area. She was raised in El Paso, Texas where she was an active member of the Trans-Pecos Audubon Society. She worked as an Environmental Specialist for Gifford-Hill and Company, a cement corporation, in Texas before moving to the Washington, D.C. area. She presently teaches Advanced Placement Biology and Advanced Placement Environmental Science, as well as Advanced Biology, at Berkeley Springs High School in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. She is a member of the Morgan County Master Gardeners and is currently enrolled in the Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Program. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Texas A & M University and a Master of Arts in Sociology from the University of Texas at El Paso. She returned to Shepherd College in 1994 to receive her teaching certification in Biology and is currently a candidate for a Master of Arts degree in Science Education/Curriculum and Instruction at Shepherd University.

Jesse Morgan, At-large

Jesse Morgan lives and raises his family in Charles Town. He grew up in Jefferson County and has strong ties to the community, especially southern Jefferson County. He holds a Master of Science in Geology degree from West Virginia University (1996) and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Science degree from Boston University (1993). He and his wife are entrepreneurs in environmental services. As Director of Field Operations, Jesse oversees all drilling and other environmental field projects for A-Zone Environmental Services, LLC.

Kathy Stolzenburg, At-large

Kathy is an animal/nature lover since early childhood. She graduated from George Mason University (Fairfax, Virginia) in 1986 with a degree in psychology. Her professional career includes: time as a realtor and co-owner of the boutique firm, Eastern Panhandle Realty; event planner for two non-profits; and almost a decade in non-profit fundraising working for The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Her association with the TNC began in 1997 as the Legacy Club Manager, cultivating donors who had named the Conservancy in their wills, and ended in 2005 as the Associate Director of Donor Stewardship. She served on the board of Association of Donor Relations Professionals (ADRP) and was a presenter at their inaugural conference. While living in Northern Virginia she was a volunteer, licensed wildlife rehabilitator. She currently lives in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, with her husband (a natural history author), mother/business partner, and a variety of pets.

Jane Vanderhook, At-large

Jane is a returning member of the PVAS board and served two terms as a past Treasurer. She is retired from a career as a Computer

Systems Software Designer. She is an active community volunteer and has served on the boards of Jefferson County Youth Soccer League, Country Day School, and her homeowners' association. She has served as the AYSO National Director for Youth and Women Referee Development. She holds a degree in Experimental Psychology. She is a recent grandmother and assists her daughter with child care duties. She spends as much time as possible in the capacity of doting grandmother.

Regular Program

Following the election, we will recognize outstanding PVAS volunteers.

All PVAS members are invited to attend, and children will be welcome.

For the potluck supper, please bring a dish to share. Those whose last names begin with the letters A-H are asked to bring vegetables or fruit; I-L, a dessert; M-R, a protein dish; and S-Z, a starch dish. All are asked to bring their own dishes, flatware, and the like, so we can be environmentally conscientious. PVAS will provide water and lemonade.

For more information, contact Kristin Alexander at 304-676-3397 or pvasmail@aol.com

Yankauer Pavilion Floor to be Replaced

The winter was hard on the Yankauer Preserve. The cedar trees took the brunt of the damage, and thanks to many hours of volunteer labor, the trails are finally clear of all tree branches and trunks. The damage is still quite evident, however.

The damage to the pavilion floor was also severe. The snow melting onto the earthen floor and then melting and refreezing caused the south side of the pavilion floor to crumble to pieces. The earthen floor was placed entirely by volunteers over two days in November, 2004. The floor has served us well, though it did not hold up as well as we'd hoped under the challenge of 30+ campers every day in the summer and benches being rolled on top of it daily. But this winter was the final blow.

Thankfully, the Job Corps has a crew of youth learning how to work with concrete, and they have generously agreed to volunteer their services with spreading and finishing the floor. Member and neighbor Ted Wachter has volunteered to break apart the existing floor with an electric jackhammer he owns, and will use his truck to move the existing material out of the way to make room for the new concrete to come in. (The old material will be used to make the grade of the north edge of the parking lot more gentle, and may be used to build up part of the accessible trail this fall.) A free (or reduced cost) source of concrete is still being sought at this time.

All of this must happen before summer camp. The first full week of May we will tear out the existing floor, the second week we'll be pouring and spreading the new concrete floor, and the following week we'll be staining and sealing the floor….just in time for the first session of camp. So please bare with us as we deal with the inconvenience of maintenance, and come and visit the new floor this summer. In the meantime, we'll let you know how it goes.

Audubon Discovery Camp has Some Openings Available

While most of the popular camps sessions are full, a few sessions are still available.

"Earth Artists" has some slots available still at both Yankauer and CraftWorks. The week will emphasize natural and recycled crafts, but there will still be plenty of time for hikes, games and nature exploration.

The short week of "Dirt" the week of July 4th also has availability. This 4-day week has a corresponding lower fee of $100/camper and is bound to be tons of filthy fun looking for salamanders, worms, moles, sow bugs and other "dirty" critters.

The other sessions that still have room available are for our youngest campers. "Out of the Nest" May 26-28, 9-11:30, is for three year olds and a favorite adult and is a great way to introduce your little one to the preserve and to other nature-loving kids. "Just for Fledglings" June 1-4 from 9-11:30 is for four and five year olds and is a great way for a child/adult team to spend a summer morning. Short hikes, games, guided activities, and crafts will capture kids attention and imagination.

Please help us spread the word that some sessions do still have space! Families can register on- line at our website, www.potomacaudubon.org. There is a downloadable brochure on the website as well. Ellen Murphy can answer questions at pvasprograms@comcast.net or 304-676-8739.

Watershed Field Trips Brave Sun and Storm!



This spring's watershed field trips have been held in the rain, the sun, the wind, and in fog, but at least there's been no snow! We've taken students to the Potomac River, the Cacapon River, Back Creek, and Tuscarora Creek and found exciting adventures at every site including macroinvertebrates like crayfish and hellgrammites! Each visit also includes riverbank assessments to evaluate erosion issues or other impacts, a filtration activity, and water quality testing such as dissolved oxygen, pH and temperature.

Every year, we depend on volunteers to help make the field trips a reality. Many, many thanks to: Frank Rogers, Nan Johnson, Joy Pardue, Vicki Blazer, Dom Coscia, Kris O'Brien, Jim Jenkins, Kelly Smith, and Kristin Alexander. The watershed instructors who have also volunteered extra time on field trips other than those for their own schools are Marybeth Grove, Krystal Kennedy, Melanie Snyder, Kate Lehman, Brooke Parker, and Debbie Crouse.

In early May, students will be planting erosion control gardens at their schools using native plants purchased with grant funds from the Division of Environmental Protection. Thanks to a partnership with Shepherd University, the plants were transplanted and are currently thriving in a greenhouse there awaiting their new homes. Along with the purchased native plants, the students will plant Virginia Wild Rye that they have been growing in their classrooms through the spring. The resulting erosion control gardens will help prevent stream sedimentation and clean stormwater runoff from schoolyards and parking lots for years to come.

2009 PVAS Annual Appeal Donors

(December 1, 2009-March 31, 2010)

Advocates ($1,000 and up)

John and Jenny Allen, Shepherdstown
Neal and Alice Barkus, Shepherdstown
Mina Goodrich, Shepherdstown
Mona L. Hayford, Inwood
Jean Neely, Shepherdstown (in memory of Elizabeth Neely)
Bob and Linda Reynolds, Shepherdstown
Peter and Vicki Smith, Shepherdstown
Gary and Diane Sylvester, Martinsburg
Jane and Ray Vanderhook, Shepherdstown

Supporters ($500-$999)

Rich Parker and Joette Borzik, Shenandoah Junction
Susan and Joe Brookreson, Martinsburg
James E. Horner, Berkeley Springs (in memory of Martha Horner)
Rob and Mary Logan Hoxton, Shepherdstown
Skylar Benedict and Georgia Jeppesen, Martinsburg
Wayne Braunstein and Dannie Wall, Kearneysville
Henry K. Willard II, Shepherdstown

Patrons ($250-499)

Duane and Marianne Alexander, Ellicot City, MD
William and Vicki Bonifant, Martinsburg (in honor of Susan & Joe Brookreson, Jane & Ray Vanderhook, Gretchen & Craig Meadows)
Sara Denby, Annandale, VA (in memory of Ruth M. Tomsuden)
David and Mary Sue Eldridge, Shepherdstown
Jon Pike and Diana Gaviria, Martinsburg
Elliot and Nancy Kirschbaum, Shepherdstown
Norberta Schoene and Bill Lands, Berkeley Springs
Lolly and Tom Martin, Shepherdstown
Alexander and Pam Miller, Shepherdstown
Joy and Larry Pardue, Shepherdstown

Sponsors ($100 to $249)

Jeff Feldman and Kristin Alexander, Martinsburg
Roland and Barbara Bergman, Shepherdstown
Sharon Bias, Charles Town (in memory of Bill Hartgroves, neighbor)
Laurie Smelter and Dr. Alan R. Biggs, Shepherdstown (in memory of Edgar H. "Hal" Biggs)
Charles and Margaret Biggs, Berkeley Springs
Bonnie Sitman and Don Briggs, Shepherdstown
Dan and Margaret Cogswell, Shepherdstown
W. Joseph Coleman Jr., Round Hill, VA
Marika and Barry Cutler, Bethesda, MD (in honor of Luke Turner Cutler)
Al Davis, Falling Waters (in memory of Albert E. Davis, Sr.)
Michael and Carol Del Colle, Summit Point
Clark and Ora Dixon, Ranson
Margaret Drennen, Shepherdstown
Elizabeth C. Eller, Greensboro, NC (in honor of Jean Neely)
Cynthia Ellis, Red House, WV
Scott and Susan Fluharty, Martinsburg (in memory of Dare Fluharty and Betty Lilly)
Sue and Tony Frank, Charles Town
Karen Stoyko Fuegi, Gerrardstown (in memory of Doris and Michael Stoyko)
Virginia and Joseph Hankins, Shepherdstown
Chuck Dunkerly and Fiona Harrison, Charles Town
Vivian and Verle Headings, Harpers Ferry
Elizabeth H. Hyman, Falls Church, VA
Dr. James E. Keel, Rippon (in honor of Bill Belton)
Ed and Kitty Kelly, Shepherdstown
Mary L. King, Charles Town
John and Judity Lilga, Sharpsburg, MD
Rich and Joan Lyon, Rockville, MD
Diana Lee Mullis, Shepherdstown
Ellen and Kevin Murphy, Harpers Ferry
Timothy Murphy, Shepherdstown
David and Kim Myles, Harpers Ferry
Susan Nash, Shepherdstown
Jane and CD Park, Martinsburg
Deb and Don Patthoff, Martinsburg
John and Erin Reisenweber, Martinsburg
Dara Ritter, Knoxville, MD
Philip Carter Salladay, Shepherdstown
Fred Shanholtzer, Paw Paw
Ray Smock, Martinsburg
George Snider, Martinsburg
Hope and John Snyder, Shepherdstown
Elizabeth Sojourner, Richmond, CA
Lee E. Stine, Sharpsburg, MD
John and Nancy Streeter, Shepherdstown
Carolyn and Bruce Thomas, Shepherdstown
Lynn B. Truslow, Shepherdstown
Brown Truslow, Shenandoah Junction
Lois and Fred Turco, Shepherdstown
Frank and Annette van Hilst, Kearneysville (in memory of

Dan and Anne Fisher)
Paul and Lisa Welch, Shepherdstown
Craig and Roy Winkel, Martinsburg
Rodney and Cindy Woods, Martinsburg
Mary E. Woodward, Bridgeport, WV
James and Francis Yankauer, Sacramento, CA
Lynn and Chess Yellott, Shepherdstown

Donors (up to $100)

Janet Ady, Myersville, MD (in honor of the NCTC Division of Outreach)
Elaine Alexander, St. Louis, MO (in honor of Kristin Alexander)
Ellen M. Anderson, Harpers Ferry
George Athey and family, Charles Town
Nick and Joanie Blanton, Shepherdstown
Molly Bloom, Shepherdstown
Alice White and Dave Bort, Keedysville, MD
Elizabeth Brent, Harpers Ferry
Evelyn Brydges, Berkeley Springs
Sandy Burk, Chevy Chase, MD
Charlotte Beyersdorfer, Hagerstown, MD
Henry and Sandra Blackford, Gerrardstown
Joseph P. Campbell, Harpers Ferry
Dabney Chapman, Shepherdstown
Laura Clark, Harpers Ferry
Cecile Claude, Hedgesville
Robert Cline, Williamsport, MD
Jane Cook, Shepherdstown (in memory of William T. Simmons)
Frances and Philip Cox, Shepherdstown
Christopher Craig, Harpers Ferry
David and Dana DeJarnett, Martinsburg
Mary and Walter Duke, Martinsburg
Jack Ebersole, Hagerstown, MD
Erdem Ergin, Shepherdstown
Sharon and Richard Fedorchak, Shepherdstown
Gale and Gareth Foulds, Berkeley Springs
John C. Frye, Hagerstown
Joe Gentile, Berkeley Springs
Robin Good, Harpers Ferry
Karen Greeley, Sharpsburg, MD
Virginia Harris, Charles Town
Don and Kathryn Henry, Shepherdstown
Barbara Herrman, Berkeley Springs (in memory of Sylvia Rubin Herrman)
Beverly E. Hershberger, Maugansville, MD (in honor of my son, Wil Hershberger)
Kevin Hughes, Charles Town
Catherine Irwin, Shepherdstown
Perry and Stephanie Jamieson, Sharpsburg, MD
Leigh Jenkins, Berkeley Springs (in honor of Bill Belton)
Nanette Johnson, Shepherdstown
Marty and Carol Kable, Charles Town
Karen Kelley, Martinsburg
Mary H. Kinnie, Inwood
Richard L. Latterell, Shepherdstown (in honor of Dr. Frances M. Latterell)
Tom Leslie, Berkeley Springs
Winifred H. Lewis, Martinsburg
Nancy Little, Harpers Ferry
Karrie Loucks, Hagerstown, MD
John McGrath, Shepherdstown
Dorothea McMillan, Martinsburg
David and Barbara Miller, Williamsport, MD
William S. Miller, Ranson
Marcyanna Millet, Berkeley Springs
Edward and Helen Moore, Shepherdstown
Ella Mose, Sharpsburg
Rob and Quincy Northrup, Shepherdstown
Dave and Kris O'Brien, Hedgesville
Don and Amy Owen, Harpers Ferry
Thomas Panebianco, Great Cacapon
Jeffrey and Carol Plautz, Ranson
Babulal Pragani, MD, Martinsburg
Mary Jane Puckett, Potomac, MD
Mary L. Race, Hagerstown, MD
Sandy and Monda Sagalkin, Sharpsburg, MD
Anne Seibert, Clear Spring, MD
Ivan Severson, Shepherdstown
Elias R. Shilling, Sharpsburg, MD
Alex and Patricia Short, Baltimore, MD
Anne and Dennis Small, Shepherdstown
Peter and Sallie Spaulding, Shepherdstown
Mary Helen Staley, Cascade, MD
Bonnie and Bill Stubblefield, Martinsburg
Susan Hirsch and Michael Sullivan, Shepherdstown
Katherine Sweeny, Hagerstown (in memory of Mary Grow)
Jean B. Taylor, Martinsburg
Dale and Hank Walter, Shepherdstown
Richard K. Zimmerman, Martinsburg

Thanks to all of you for your generous support of PVAS!

Note: If any of the information above is inaccurate or incomplete, please let us know so we can correct our records!

May PVAS Program at NCTC Will Focus on Green Homes

PVAS will sponsor a presentation about "green" homes the evening of Wednesday, May 12, at the National Conservation Training Center outside Shepherdstown.

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

Admission is free and anyone is welcome to attend.

The speaker will be local green building expert Jeff Feldman. He will preview our upcoming May 22 Eastern Panhandle Green Homes Tour (see separate article elsewhere in this newsletter) and discuss green home technologies generally.

Feldman has been professionally involved in environmental and human development work for over 20 years. He is a speaker, trainer, coach, and author on a broad range of environmental, leadership and organizational topics. He founded Eagle's View Enterprises, a leadership development and team building training firm, in 1993 after serving five years on the faculty at Penn State University.

He has recently launched a new venture, GreenPath Consulting, through which he offers green building consulting and green home audit services to those with an interest in being more environmentally-mindful in new construction and remodels as well as in exploring ways to live more lightly on the planet in their existing homes.

He is married to PVAS executive director Kristin Alexander.

Three Local Area Birding Trips Set for May

In addition to the long-distance field trips we're offering during May, we're also offering local area birding trips in Berkeley and Jefferson counties.

As usual, these trips will be free and anyone with an interest is welcome to participate.

The first of these trips is a Saturday, May 1 trip to Sleepy Creek and Stauffer's Marsh in Berkeley County. This will offer opportunities to see great-crested flycatchers, several warbler species, vireos, and scarlet tanagers.

Participants will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the small general store/gas station on Tuscarora Pike (County Route 18) near County Route 7 in Shanghai.

The trip will be mostly by car with some walking.

The second trip is a Wednesday, May 12 trip to the Shannondale Wildlife Management Area and Shannondale Lake in Jefferson County. Bald eagles, red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks may be encountered, along with various warblers, turkeys, and thrushes.

Participants will meet at 8:00 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.

The trip will involve about 2 miles of walking along a moderately kept trail.

The third trip is a Saturday, May 22 birding trip at the National Conservation Training Center.

Here, participants will bird the various habitats on the Center's 538-acre campus, including several wooded trails, meadows, edge areas and hedgerows. They will make a stop to observe the bald eagle nest on the property and have opportunities to observe various warblers, vireos, thrushes, scarlet tanagers and other species of birds.

Participants should check in at the Security Gate inside NCTC and meet at 8 a.m. in the reception area of the main building at NCTC. Security will tell you where to park.

Because of the security requirements at NCTC, this trip will require pre-registration at least 5 days beforehand (by May 17). To pre-register, contact Sandy Sagalkin at monsansagalkin@myactv.net or 301-432-6847.

For this trip in particular, bug repellant is highly recommended to ward off ticks.

For more information about any of these trips, contact Sandy Sagalkin at the email address or phone number shown above.

Harpers Ferry Geology Walk

PVAS will sponsor a geological walking tour of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park on Sunday, May 2.

The tour will be led by park Ranger David Fox and focus on the geological features found in the park and surrounding mountains.

Participants will meet at 2:00 p.m. in the Lower Town on Shenandoah Street across from the Bookshop. We're advised to park at the Visitors Center parking lot on Route 340 and take the shuttle into the town.

There is no fee for the walking tour and anyone with an interest is welcome to participate. However, the Park Service will charge a fee of $6 per vehicle at the Visitors Center parking lot entrance.

The walking tour will last about one hour.

The park's geology is of great interest. It stretches back to about 360 million years ago, when the Appalachian mountains rose and the rocks that predominate today were formed.



Different rock types can be easily seen—not only in natural formations around the park but in the structures, walkways and roads of the old town.

In general, shale predominates on the eastern side of the park while limestone predominates on the west side. The sides of the hills above the town showcase the Paleozoic and Precambrian rock units of the Blue Ridge.

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

May 15 Geology/Birding Trip Will Start in Berkeley Springs

PVAS is sponsoring a geology and birding field trip to western Maryland and Mineral County, WV, on Saturday, May 15.

The trip is free and anyone with an interest is welcome to participate.

The trip leader will be geologist and birding expert Dr. Dennis Coskren.

The geological features to be observed and discussed will include folded Appalachian ridges and valleys; rocks that are 450-300 million years old; an ancient river channel; ancient mud cracks; fossil shells; and limestone, sandstone, and conglomerate formations.

The birding will include a stop at Sideling Hill to attempt to see ravens that are nesting in the area.

Participants will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Berkeley Springs Food Lion store. They will carpool from there and visit sites near Hancock and Cumberland in MD and Keyser in WV. The trip will last until noon or so.

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

Don't Miss Late May Trip to Finzel Swamp

PVAS will sponsor a special field trip to the Finzel Swamp preserve in Garrett County MD on Saturday, May 29.

Finzel Swamp is often referred to as a window into ice ages past. It is located in a high-altitude "frost pocket" where the surrounding hills capture an unusual amount of moisture and cold air to create a landscape more reminiscent of Canada than Maryland.



The leader of our trip there will be Frostburg State University Biology Professor Frank Ammer, who is an expert on the preserve. This will be a rare opportunity to visit this unique property with such a knowledgeable guide.

The trip is free and anyone with an interest is welcome to participate.

Participants will meet at the Swamp parking lot at 9:00 a.m.

For directions, go to the Nature Conservancy website at www.nature.org and type "finzel" in the search box.

The elevation of the preserve is 2,700 feet. Its 326 acres contain a shrub swamp, other plant communities, and the headwaters to the Savage River. It is home to a wide range of plants, birds, and mammals.

Among its flora, the preserve's stands of tamarack (larch) trees, wild calla, and Canadian burnet in the United States are among the most southernmost in the U.S. Red spruce, small cranberry, cotton grass, and bog fern can also be found here.

The preserve offers good opportunities for sighting a number of bird species near the southern edge of their geographical range. These include the Alder Flycatcher and Nashville Warbler, both listed as In Need of Conservation, and two other rare species, Northern Saw-whet Owl and Northern Waterthrush. Several State-rare species have bred here periodically, including the Sedge Wren, Henslow's Sparrow, Sora, Purple Finch, and the Golden-winged Warbler. Other bird species that can be found on the property include the American Bittern, Rail, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Woodcock, Cedar Waxwing, Scarlet Tanager, Wild Turkey, and the Whip-poor-will.

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

Canaan Valley Birding Festival

The Fourth Annual Southern Boreal Birding Festival will be held June 4-6 at the Canaan Valley Resort in Davis, WV.

Canaan Valley and its surroundings provide ideal habitat for many species of birds normally found further north. Some birds to be seen are the Blackburnian Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, Alder Flycatcher and Bobolink to name a few.

Last year's festival included sightings of Brewster's Warbler, a rare hybrid of Blue- Winged and Golden-Winged Warblers.

Festival activities include daily walks, workshops and guest speakers.

Fees for the weekend range from $50 without lodging to $217 per person with lodging

Event sponsors include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the West Virginia Master Naturalist Program.

For full details, see the festival website at www.canaanresort.com/bird-festival.

Look for PVAS Booth at May 8 Boonsboro Green Fest

The town of Boonsboro, Maryland, will hold its Second Annual Boonsboro Green Fest on Saturday, May 8. The festival will be held rain or shine in Shafer Park, which is right next to the downtown, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission will be free.

Hosted by the Boonsboro Recycling Task Force, the festival is aimed at promoting conservation efforts and recycling and will feature a wide variety of vendors and exhibitors. Items offered for sale will include local organic farm products, heirloom plants, hand crafted soaps and personal care products and even rainwater collection systems.

Exhibitors will include firms that specialize in such areas as renewable energy systems and sustainable, low-impact landscape design, as well as PVAS and other conservation-minded organizations.

There will also be special children's activities and food concessions.

See the festival website at www.boonsborogreenfest.com for full details.

PVAS Sponsoring June 4 Cacapon State Park Program on Dolly Sods Munitions

PVAS will sponsor a special program at Cacapon State Park the evening of Friday, June 4.

The topic will be "Staying safe in the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area—What the public needs to know about unexploded World War II munitions there." The speaker will be Nick McHenry, an Environmental Engineer with the Environmental and Remediation Section of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Huntington, WV.

The program will be held in the Daniel Morgan Room of the park's Lodge starting at 7:00 p.m.

Admission will be free and anyone with an interest is welcome to attend.

During World War II, the area now known as the Dolly Sods Wilderness area was extensively used by the U.S. Army for artillery practice.



Although the Corps of Engineers made a concerted effort in the 1990s to dispose of unexploded shells in the most widely used areas of Dolly Sods, an unknown number of such shells remain and are continually being discovered by hikers.

McHenry is well versed in this subject because he has been the Technical Coordinator for the Corps' West Virginia Maneuver Area Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Project for the past four years.

He has also worked on various other FUDS and environmental remediation projects since beginning his career with the Corps in 2003.

He is a 2002 graduate of the Civil Engineering program at West Virginia University's Institute of Technology in Montgomery, West Virginia.

Governor Manchin Signs Landfill Ban into Law

On March 24, 2010, Governor Manchin signed Senate Bill 398 into law. The bill amended WV Code §22-15A-22 to prohibit the disposal of certain electronic devices, such as computers, monitors, and television sets in a solid waste landfill in West Virginia. The landfill ban is effective January 1, 2011. It was introduced and championed by Senator Karen Facemyer (Jackson County) and enjoyed broad support in both the House of Delegates and the State Senate.

This bill is expected to work in conjunction with established local recycling programs and the new "Covered Electronic Devices Takeback Grant Program". The goal of the CED Grant Program is to establish a registration process to determine if manufacturers has adopted or implemented a takeback/recycling program for their products that is free to the public and to award recycling grants to counties and municipalities for recycling or other programs that divert covered electronic devices from the waste stream. CED grants are limited to a maximum amount of $40,000.

To learn more about SB 398, visit the WV Legislative Services website at http://www.legis.state.wv.us/

A Public Service Announcement from the Berkeley County Solid Waste Authority

Berkeley Springs High Gets Green Grant

On the first day of the 2010 school year, students in the Advanced Placement Environmental Science class at Berkeley Springs High School were given a clipboard, a pencil, and the following assignment: research and design the renovation of an existing underutilized greenhouse on the high school campus. Seven 3-person teams were allowed creativity in their design. The only requirements were that the design should include some type of alternative energy application, and that the greenhouse project would be designed to sustain itself over time. Students were then required to find a funding source, establish their project's needs, determine the requirements of the grant, and write a proposal. Innovative ideas from each team were combined into one comprehensive design.

Opportunity came when Morgan County Board of Education received information on a service-learning grant funded through the State Farm Youth Advisory Board. The State Farm Youth Advisory Board, http://www.statefarmyab.com, is a group of young people that administer a unique grant program empowering others to take an active role in their education through service-learning. Among the project areas funded, the greenhouse renovation fit perfectly into the category of environmental responsibility. A grant proposal was submitted and State Farm awarded $41,763.00 to create a sustainable learning laboratory.

The grant covers construction costs including: a solar hot water system to support a root zone heating system; a photovoltaic panel to help generate electricity for ventilation fans and lighting; a back-up propane heater and tank; and a computerized monitoring system to track temperature, lighting, and humidity. Students will also have the opportunity to attend the 2010 Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Student interns will maintain the greenhouse during the summer months when school is not in session.

The greenhouse renovation crosses disciplines in botany, agriculture, health, nutrition, economics, and consumer science. In addition to the basic science instruction, students will be incorporating 21st century learning and technology skills, critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and entrepreneurial and environmental

literacy. This project will allow students to become leaders in modeling a viable, sustainable program that will demonstrate youth empowerment in the community.

Hummingbirds Arriving

Revised and reprinted from June 2009

Waiting for the hummingbirds is a spring ritual for birders and many outdoors enthusiasts in general. It's always a thrill as spring arrives to make your first sighting. The truth is, however, that the hummingbirds arrive well before many of us become aware of their presence. Based on the PVAS service area, ruby throated hummingbirds should have started showing up here around April 15.

There are a proliferation of articles and Web information available on hummingbirds. Anyone interested in learning good practices for feeding and observing these fascinating creatures can find it with some ease. In addition, there are several organizations that promote and act as advocates for this information. Of note is Operation RubyThroat: The Hummingbird Project, www.rubythroat.org.

The Hummingbird Project Web site recommends putting up feeders as early as mid March. This tidbit and a number of other hints are contained in the Miscellaneous Notes section on the Hummingbird Feeding Hints page, www.rubythroat.org/FeedingHintsMain.htm. For instance, we shouldn't feel bad about missing a week of feeding because, "Ruby-throated Hummingbirds know other food sources for at least a mile in all directions. It's egocentric to think the hummingbirds can't survive without you." Also, "There is evidence that hummingbirds seldom hit windows if the feeders are as close to the glass as possible," and "Don't worry if Ruby-throated Hummingbirds spend a lot of time drinking artificial nectar; they also visit flowers for natural nectar and also catch small insects."

Calendar of Upcoming Events: (details at www.potomacaudubon.org)

May TBA: Master Naturalist Workshop—Wildfires
May 1: Birding trip to Sleepy Creek and Stauffer's Marsh
May 2: Geology walking tour at Harpers Ferry
May 3-21: Pavilion at Yankauer closed for construction
May 8-9: Ruth Ann Dean Memorial Birdathon.
May 8: Second Annual Boonsboro Green Fest
May 12: Birding trip to the Shannondale Wildlife Management Area
May 12: PVAS program Green Homes Tour
May 15: Geology and birding field trip
May 22: Eastern Panhandle Green Homes Tour
May 22: Birding trip at NCTC
May 26: Camp begins at Yankauer
May 28: Potomac Valley Nature Photographers
May 29: Field trip to Finzel Swamp in Garrett County MD
June 4: PVAS program at Cacapon State Park. Staying Safe at Dolly Sods
June 5: Master Naturalist Workshop—Project Wild.
June 5: Master Naturalist Workshop—Ferns
June 25: Potomac Valley Nature Photographers
June 26: Field trip to the Ice Mountain preserve

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

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City: _____ State: ____ Zip code: _____

Phone (optional): _____

E-mail: (optional): _____

Membership Type (check one):

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(For PVAS local membership, check the box following if you do NOT want PVAS to share your contact information with National Audubon: ___)

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Clip and mail this form to:
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Thank you for your support!



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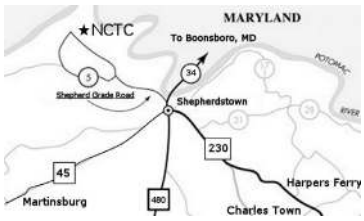
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DATED MATERIALS

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

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.

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