

# VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac  
Valley  
Audubon  
Society

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## President's Perch

by Jane Vanderhook, PVAS President

Hooray! You did it! The final total is in and this year's Annual Appeal not only exceeded our budget goal but exceeded last year's all-time high, thanks to you. The total was an amazing \$41,756. Your generosity never fails to impress us. Thank you so much.

Two especially important events are coming up soon. On May 14th the seventh annual PVAS sponsored Ruth Ann Dean Memorial Birdathon begins. The Birdathon is named in honor of Ruth Ann Dean, who was a founding member and enthusiastic supporter of PVAS, an early Board member and an avid birder.

This event is open to all members of the public. Birders at all levels of experience are invited to participate in this team event. Teams will compete to identify the highest number of bird species they find anywhere in Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan or Washington Counties within a 24-consecutive-hour period during the weekend of May 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. You can form your own team - which may consist of 2 to 5 members, decide on a team name and select your leader. If you don't have a team and want to participate, PVAS will help you find one. Another option is to participate individually or as a group in a "Big Sit." For the Big Sit, individuals identify or a team identifies all bird species they can see while they remain within a 50-foot diameter circle of their choosing. Teams can choose a circle in their own backyards or circle somewhere they like to bird.

One of the purposes of a birdathon is to raise awareness. Another important aim is to raise money. While it is not a requirement, teams and individuals are strongly urged to find sponsors who will pledge a certain amount per bird species identified or who will simply pledge a fixed amount.

You may register on our website at [www.potomacaudubon.org/event-2119882](http://www.potomacaudubon.org/event-2119882) and if you have questions or need assistance, please contact Krista Hawley at (703) 303-1026 or [adultprograms@potomacaudubon.org](mailto:adultprograms@potomacaudubon.org). It really is quite fun.

The second event that is coming up soon is the June 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Members Meeting. This members-only meeting and dinner is our chance to offer you dinner as a thank you for your support throughout the year. You will find more details later on in this newsletter but for now – we promise to keep the meeting short and the dinner delicious. So mark your calendars and be sure to join us.

## Director's Report

by Kristin Alexander, PVAS Executive Director

Once again, the generosity of PVAS members and friends is quite apparent. This year's annual appeal ran from December 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016. In that time, PVAS members and friends gave a total of \$41,756 to support PVAS and its programs. (This is slightly ahead of last year's record breaking total of \$41,465!) THANK YOU!!!

This annual appeal is a critical component to PVAS's budget. We couldn't operate without the direct support of our members and friends. Every year we interpret your generosity as a vote of confidence and support, and we put those funds toward our programs as efficiently as possible.

We are truly grateful for the support we receive from you. Without monetary gifts and the gift of time given by volunteers, we would not be able to accomplish nearly as much. Our board continues to be very supportive of PVAS through 100% participation in the annual appeal on top of their volunteer service and leadership.

Many thanks for your continuing and overwhelming generosity. You have given us the foundation upon which we can build another successful year.



**Pre-order  
Butterfly  
Weed  
from  
PVAS!**

<http://www.potomacaudubon.org/Store>

**Pick-up May 21, 9am-4pm behind the**

**Shepherdstown Public Library**

**at the PVAS Native Plant Sale!**

**Quart-sized pots for \$5!**

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

## Waves of Warblers: the Prothonotary Warbler

by Wil Hershberger

With the passing of April to May, our woods become momentarily filled with the “jewels of the bird world,” as Roger Tory Peterson penned. These colorful sprites of the north woods entertain and challenge us during their passage. Most of these species nest in the boreal forests far to the north. Some may nest in the mixed forests of the northern tier states; still fewer will stay to nest in our neck of the woods.

There are several locations in our area where you can catch these colorful songsters on their way north. The premier spot is Sleepy Creek WMA in western Berkeley County and eastern Morgan County. From Back Creek Valley Road turn west onto Sleepy Creek Road. Just past the rangers station is a hollow and a parking area on the right. Walking from here toward the mountain, on any spring morning, can be very productive birding. From here, drive halfway up the mountain and pull over at the spring coming out of the hillside on the uphill side of the road. Walking in either direction will produce migrant and resident warblers. Near the top of Third Hill Mountain is a sharp hairpin turn to the left. Parking here is another great spot for migrant and resident birds. Shannondale Springs WMA is another great spot to check for warblers. Any trail over the ridges or a walk along the river will put you in great habitat for migrant and resident warblers. The C&O canal and along the Shenandoah River are also good places for warbler watching.

Among these fancy travelers are species such as: Black-and-white Warbler, Wilson’s Warbler, Canada Warbler, Cape May Warbler, American Redstart, Blackpoll Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, to name but a few. Adding to this list would be the beloved Prothonotary Warbler, one of local breeding species of warbler.



Photos © Wil Hershberger

Seeing a Prothonotary Warbler for the first time is a sight that you will never forget – bright golden feathers cover the entire body, the underside near the tail is white, the wings are darker with a bluish cast, the beak is black, and their large, black eyes give them a piercing gaze. These are denizens of heavily wooded wet habitats, seeking a cavity in a tree limb (often an abandoned Downy Woodpecker hole) that, if possible, hangs out over the water of a large stream, river, or flooded woodland. While pair bonds may last through the winter, the males arrive on the breeding grounds first and start looking for nesting sites. He will line the cavity with moss in preparation for her approval. She arrives a week or so later and checks out his available homes. Once she makes her choice, she alone builds the nest using mosses and lines the cup with finer plant materials. She completes this task in about a week or less. She’ll lay up to seven glossy white eggs that are speckled with reddish to lavender markings. Again, she alone incubates the eggs for about two weeks. The altricial young remain in the nest for around eleven days.

Now, the male isn’t getting off that easy. While she is incubating he will bring her food. Also, during the first few days of brooding the hatched young, the male will feed his sitting mate. He is also responsible for maintaining control of his territory. He sings loudly from exposed perches in the understory of the woods. Early in the day he often punctuates his songs with sharp call notes. His song, “sweet, sweet, sweet, Sweet, SWEet, SWEEt, SWEET!” rings out throughout his domain. The last few repetitions being louder and more emphatic. <http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/85160>.

You can easily find this gorgeous species nesting along our two great rivers – the Potomac and the Shenandoah. A walk along the C&O canal, across from Shepherdstown, will produce at least one singing Prothonotary Warbler. They will be out near the water’s edge. They are more active in the mornings when males sing repeatedly in an effort to keep his neighbors at bay. While he repeats his “sweet” phrase, he is telling his buddies to stay out! This is my territory!

PVAS Events

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Race for the Birds

A gorgeous setting, dedicated volunteers and eager racers set the scene for our 15<sup>th</sup> annual This Race is for the Birds held on Saturday, April 9, 2016.

The property of Wild Goose Farm provided a dynamic and picturesque venue for this years' race. Participants ran on the banks of lily pad ponds, up rocky hills, down grassy paths and through woods flocked with wildflowers. Race registration and volunteer check-in were located in the historic red barn with the start and finish line just adjacent to the barn. Edward Schrank, owner of 5 Runners Racing Timing Company, provided the timing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. Talented M.C., Chris Amores, entertained us with music, race announcements and sponsor recognition. Julie Wyant, voice major at Shepherd University, was gracious enough to brave the cold on an early Saturday morning to beautifully sing the National Anthem. Antietam Photographic Society's troupe of volunteer photographers captured the feel of the day with hundreds of photos from all corners of the course. Race photos can be found here: <http://antietamphotographicsociety.org/galleries/race-for-the-birds-2016/>.



A total of 239 runners, joggers and walkers crossed the finish line of the 10K and 5K races. Most participants came from the immediate tri-state area however some runners traveled from further locations including Silver Spring MD, Alexandria VA and even Philadelphia PA.

The overall winner of the 10K race was Jared Hallow, of Gerrardstown WV, who had a time of 36:04.2. The 1<sup>st</sup> Female in the 10K was Martha Nelson, of Washington DC, who was 7<sup>th</sup> overall with a time of 40:59.6. The overall winner of the 5K race was Jack Conant, from Harpers Ferry WV, with a time of 18:30.6. The 1<sup>st</sup> female in the 5K was Madelynne King of Shepherdstown WV, who was 5<sup>th</sup> overall with a time of 24:35.8. Full results are available on the Race website: [raceforthebirds.org](http://raceforthebirds.org).

Many thanks to all of our fabulous sponsors, including our lead sponsor, HFI, A Division of United Capital Financial Advisers. The amount of work that went in to this years race was tremendous and we could not have done it without the generosity of numerous volunteers who helped with pre-race work such as clearing the trails, marking the course, creating the maps, setting up the registration, delivering supplies as well as day of activities like parking, registration, course marshals and cleanup crews. A special thank you goes out to our Race for the Birds Committee and Nan Johnson, volunteer Race Director extraordinaire.



Race Sponsors...THANK YOU!

We can't thank the 2016 race sponsors enough for all they did to make this year's race a success!

Not only did the support provide a wonderful experience for local runners, but the race was another financially successful event in spite of the change of venue.

We thank them for their loyalty and their generosity.



Associated Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons, Briarwood Dental Center, Caribbean Islands Travel Service, Chick-fil-A of Martinsburg, Clayton L. Johnson, Jefferson Security Bank, Joe and Susan Brookreson, John A. Draper, Jr., MD, Patthoff General Dentistry, Progressive Printing, Roach Energy / ROCS, Shepherd University Wellness Center, Skinner Law Firm, Trees 101

German Street Coffee & Confectionery a MARKETPLACE, Grapes and Grains Gourmet, Dickinson and Wait Craft Gallery, domestic, Dr. David Miljour, D.C., Edward Jones, AC&T, Anne R. Basham, DDS, Bros and Bras, d'Accord Boutique, Davitt McAteer & Associates, Depot Florist, La Trattoria - Italian Eatery, Martinsburg, LynneWiseman.com, Realtor, Medicaid, Morgan Academy, Mountain View Solar, Potomac Valley Master Naturalists, Potomac Mecklenburg Garden Club, Reid's Distributors, Shepherdstown Pharmacy, Ted Leslie, DDS, The Press Room, William F. Queen, DDS & Whitney Queen Spry, DDS

## PVAS Events

### Native Plant Sale

Our First Native Plant Sale is coming together. We have six native plant vendors and two other vendors including garden art and an apiary selling honey! This is in addition to the PVAS-hosted booth that will have volunteers and professionals sharing information about gardening for wildlife, the importance of pollinators, the benefits of native plants, and the threats facing pollinators (and people if the pollinators disappear!)

The native plant vendors are listed below. All sell plants native to North America, with most plants being regionally native. All plants are neonicotinoid-free so they are healthy for pollinators. The vendors with websites welcome pre-orders that can be picked up at the event: Sunshine Farm and Gardens ([www.sunfarm.com](http://www.sunfarm.com)); Hill House Farm and Nursery ([www.hillhousenativeplants.com](http://www.hillhousenativeplants.com)); Enchanter's Garden, Hinton, WV ([www.enchantersgarden.com](http://www.enchantersgarden.com)); Bluebell Ridge Nursery, Sharpsburg, MD; and Star Eagle Gardens, Berkeley Springs, WV. PVAS will be selling Butterfly Weed as well, both available for pre-order at our website, [www.potomacaudubon.org/store](http://www.potomacaudubon.org/store), and at the plant sale.

In addition to the native plant vendors, Shary's Garden Art, of Berkeley Springs, WV will be selling bird baths, bird feeders, and other creative garden items, and Eversweet Apiaries, of Kearneysville, WV, will be joining the sale with honey tastings and will have honey for sale.

Other vendors are still registering, so stay tuned and check out our website as the event nears.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** If you'd like to help out at the event, we can use volunteers Friday, May 20 to pick up plants, as well as volunteers for the day of the event: May 21. Volunteer opportunities include: educating about native plants and their benefits to people and pollinators; delivering/carrying plants to cars; loaning PVAS a wagon or small cart; setting up booths; meeting/greeting vendors; laying out vendor locations prior to the event. Contact Kristin Alexander at [Kristin@PotomacAudubon.org](mailto:Kristin@PotomacAudubon.org) if you are interested in lending a hand!

### Election of Board Members 2016

It's time to vote for PVAS Board members! Please note the separate ballot included with this month's Valley Views.

PVAS holds elections of its Board of Directors annually. Votes may be submitted by mail-in ballot or electronically by June 1<sup>st</sup> ([https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PVAS\\_Board\\_2016](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PVAS_Board_2016)). Votes can also be delivered in person at the Annual Member Meeting which will be held at Yankauer on Saturday evening, June 11<sup>th</sup>. There are thirteen board positions called for in the PVAS Bylaws. Four of the positions are Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer), and the remainder serve as At-large board members.

The Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for election to the board for two-year terms beginning on July 1, 2017:

Michael Sullivan, President (current Vice President); Diana Gaviria, Secretary (re-election); Patty Bain Bachner, At-large member; Laura Davis, At-large member; Stephen Paradis, At-large member; Joe Hankins, At-large member (re-election); Susan Jones, At-large member (re-election); and Tanner Haid, At-large member (re-election). The biographies of the slate of officers are printed on the back of the ballot, and are also available at <http://www.potomacaudubon.org/2016nominees>

Past President Diana Mullis is officially leaving the board at the end of June. Everyone at PVAS owes Diana a big **Thank You** for her many years of volunteer service on the board as President and in other positions, on committees, cooking for events, selling bird seed, advising on and rescuing wild animals, and much more. Diana was there when PVAS came into existence in 1982 and, if we are lucky, she will continue to help PVAS and its programs in the future.

### Annual Meeting June 11

Please save the date for the Annual Member Meeting: Saturday, June 11, 6:00pm at the Yankauer Preserve. Once again, dinner is on us. The Board is hosting the event (plates, silverware and napkins will also be provided) as a "Thank You" to our members. The event will begin with a very brief business meeting to elect board members, acknowledge contributions of board members who are stepping off the board, recognize Birdathon winners and dedicated volunteers. This is a members-and-volunteers-only (and free) event. For planning purposes, please RSVP via email to [janehook@frontiernet.net](mailto:janehook@frontiernet.net), or leave a telephone message at 304-676-3397 to let us know how many from your party to expect for dinner.

We hope you will join us!

## PVAS Events

### Shepherdstown Shop Continues Donations to PVAS

Shepherdstown's On the Wings of Dreams shop has once again donated a portion of its annual sales proceeds to PVAS.

This is the ninth year shop owner Laura Rau has set aside three cents from each crystal and mineral sold during the year to donate to us. This year's donation totals \$310, the largest annual amount ever. It is based on 2015 sales of more than 10,000 crystal and mineral items. It brings the shop's total donations to PVAS to \$2,175.

All these donations have been used to support our programs for children, including our camps and scholarships, and programs that promote conservation and exploration in nature.

This year's donation was presented at the shop on April 21. The accompanying photo shows, from left to right, shop employee Bethany Przybocki, who is a Shepherd University Student from Gainesville, VA; shop employee Margie Florimbio, of Charles Town; shop owner Laura Rau; shop employee Terri Fogle, of Smithburg, MD; and PVAS Executive Director Kristin Alexander.

"As always, we're tremendously grateful to Laura and her colleagues at the shop for their generosity," said Kristin. "The funds they've provided to PVAS have been a big help to us. One of the great things about the Eastern Panhandle is that we have so many locally owned, public-spirited businesses like Laura's."

The On the Wings of Dreams shop is located at 139 West German Street in Shepherdstown. In addition to crystals, it offers a wide variety of sterling silver and natural stone jewelry; Native American jewelry, books and music; incense; sages, shells and prayer feathers; ceremonial herbs; statuary; essential oils; prayer flags and both Himalayan metal and crystal singing bowls. Its website can be found at [www.WingsOfDreamsShop.com](http://www.WingsOfDreamsShop.com).



## Family and Youth Programs

### It Was A Perfect Day!

After all the cold and windy weather in March, April 16<sup>th</sup> turned out to be the perfect day for our Wildflower Festival at Yankauer Preserve! Visitors were treated to guided walks by knowledgeable volunteers, children's activities, and a variety of spring flowers. Our "special guests" included Twin Leaf, Mayapple, Cut leaf Toothwort, Yellow Violets, and Dutchman's Breeches. Even Jack in the Pulpit peeked out for the day. In addition, the Redbud and Paw Paw trees were fully in bloom, and an amazing array of Zebra Swallowtail butterflies were taking advantage of the blossoms. (The Zebra Swallowtail depends on the Paw Paw tree for nectar and for laying eggs.)

Another feature of the day was the poetry posted along the trail. Many of these poems were composed especially for the event by local poets. Thanks to Ava Bird, Ed Zahneiser, Patt Welsh, Nancy Hartman, and Ruby Braithwaite for their talent. Thanks also go to Kathryn Henry, Kathy Bilton, Joe Metzger, Mary Duke, and Mary Beth Ross for leading the walks, and to Flo Wilbik, Marcyanna Millet, Patty Bachner, and Becki Jones for their help with the children's activities and refreshments. A special thanks to Kendra Atkins for making sure the poetry was in place on the Kingfisher Trail.



*Flo, Patty, and Marcyanna helped celebrate Wildflower Festival*

### Volunteer This Summer

Even though it will soon be summer, PVAS's youth programs go on and volunteer help is welcome! A special invitation is made to the new Master Naturalist candidates who need volunteer hours to complete their initial certification.

Our Audubon Discovery Camp is a great way to help kids learn about nature. Our volunteers help the staff with finding supplies, assisting with activities and projects, hiking, fort building, or just hanging out with some really neat campers. Camp volunteers are welcome to spend a day, several days, or even a week with a particular group. We'll help you find the age group and camp theme that fits your interests. Camp is held at Yankauer Preserve from June 6 through July 22. (The last two weeks are focused on preschool ages.) July 6-22, we also hold camp sessions at the Peter Burr Farm near Kearneysville.

We also have committed to helping several libraries in the WV Eastern Panhandle and Washington County MD this summer with their summer reading program. PVAS will offer a read-aloud book and nature-based activity. We supply the book and all materials and supplies - volunteers supply their time with the hour-long programs. We welcome your help! To volunteer or just to have your questions answered, contact Ellen at [Ellen@PotomacAudubon.org](mailto:Ellen@PotomacAudubon.org).

## Family and Youth Programs

### Spring Break Featured “Passport to Nature”

During the last week in March, PVAS took advantage of school spring break days to offer new “Passport to Nature” programs at local libraries. Each program had a different theme, but each was focused on nature and featured a read-aloud book and activity. At the Shepherdstown Library, children enjoyed making boats out of natural materials and floating them on Town Run. They did float!

Other programs included making sun-prints at North Berkeley Library, following the North Star at South Jefferson Library, making animal tracks at Bolivar-Harpers Ferry Library and edible campfires at Charles Town Library. At the Martinsburg Children’s Library, patrons learned about wild animal scat and made their own from a variety of candy!

Over 85 children participated in one or more of the programs and several families came to almost every one! The program was funded by the Nora Roberts Foundation, and we are very appreciative of their support. Combining literacy with nature is a winning program. Volunteers made each day happen. Special thanks go to Mary Duke, Emily Gross, Marybeth Grove, Becki Jones, Elizabeth Morningstar, Carol Del-Colle, Susan Brookreson, Karen Fuegi, Wanda Miller, Marilee Cunningham, Amy Evrard, and Mary Beth Ross for their help and humor in providing the programs.



### Sign Up For Wee Naturalists In May

Our monthly Wee Naturalists program that helps introduce preschoolers (ages 3-5) and a caring adult to outdoor adventures will continue in May. You can register online now! Wee Naturalist is designed so that child/parent teams explore outdoors together, focusing on a different theme each month. The programs are held at Yankauer Nature Preserve. On May 16, we’ll be discovering what lives in logs! We’re going to look for the critters that live under logs, and have fun pretending to live underneath one, too!

Programs begin at 9:30 a.m., but the first thirty minutes is for free play and exploration, with the structured activities following. (Don’t forget that the new Pixie Hollow area near the pavilion is perfect for free play!) Cost is \$10 and pre-registration is required, but there’s no extra charge for siblings. Find out more and register at [www.PotomacAudubon.org/weenats](http://www.PotomacAudubon.org/weenats).

### Last Call For Camp

There’s still time to register your child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or neighbor’s kid for a week of Audubon Discovery Camp! Sessions at Yankauer include “Camp Survivor,” “Nature’s Architects,” and “Science in the Woods.” “The Simple Life” and “Pioneer Survivor” are being offered at the Peter Burr Farm. “Wildlife CSI” (at Yankauer) and “Pioneer Survivor” (at Peter Burr Farm) are designed for older elementary campers.

High school students can take advantage of one of the best youth programs anywhere: our Digital Nature Photo Camp. Most camp sessions are \$150 per week for PVAS members, although a few are slightly higher or lower. Questions about camp should be directed to Ellen Murphy ([Ellen@PotomacAudubon.org](mailto:Ellen@PotomacAudubon.org)).



## Family and Youth Programs

### Our Camp Staff

Our camp staff this year will have familiar faces to returning campers. Suzi Taylor will be onsite director at Yankauer Preserve and the Peter Burr Farm. After taking a break last summer to travel with her family, we're excited she's returning! Jenny Moore will be spending a few weeks with us as well, managing the camp program at Stauffer's Marsh and the preschool camps.

Madeline Madison will be returning after spending her freshman year at Beloit College in Wisconsin. She will be joined by Benjamin Palmer, who is a rising senior at Shepherd University. New to the staff, but not to camp, is Hunter Bodwell, who "grew up" at camp and is graduating this year from Martinsburg High School.

Several of the staff will be VISTA Summer Associates, which means they will be volunteering their time. Each is paid a stipend for living expenses, and will receive an educational award at the end of the summer, that can be applied to college loans or school fees. The Summer Associates program is designed to provide direct services to children, especially with programs that focus on STEM (science related programs) and reduce summer learning loss.

## Birding News and Events

### Birdathon Set for May 14-15

The Potomac Valley Audubon Society (PVAS) will hold its seventh annual "Ruth Ann Dean Memorial Birdathon" the weekend of May 14-15. Everyone is welcome to participate, regardless of their experience or expertise at birding.

The Birdathon offers several options for joining friendly competitions to see who can identify the highest number of bird species during the weekend inside PVAS's geographical territory (Jefferson, Berkeley, and Morgan counties in West Virginia and Washington County in Maryland). This event is very family friendly and is great way to get children more interested in birds and the natural world in general. All its activities are free. Those who participate are encouraged to seek pledges from neighbors, family, and friends to help support conservation programs at PVAS. Sponsor a team at: <http://www.potomacaudubon.org/event-2119880>.

Full details are available on the PVAS website at [www.potomacaudubon.org](http://www.potomacaudubon.org). You may also contact Krista Hawley at (703) 303-1026 or [adultprograms@potomacaudubon.org](mailto:adultprograms@potomacaudubon.org).



People can participate in the Birdathon in one of two ways:

The first way is to go out in the field, as part of a team or as an individual, and actively seek to identify as many birds as possible during any 24-consecutive-hour-period during the weekend. Birdathon teams should be two to five members in size and can be made up of friends or family members. If you don't have a team of your own, PVAS can help you find one.

The second way to participate is to initiate a "Big Sit," in which you choose any location you want within PVAS's territory and identify all the bird species you can see or hear from within a 50-foot diameter circle - again, within a 24-consecutive-hour-period during the weekend. You can locate your circle outside your porch or deck, in your yard, or in some favorite local spot. Here, too, you can do this on your own or invite friends and family to join you and make it a special event. This is a much easier option, and better suited for older folks and families with small children.

Those participating in the field and in individual or small-group Big Sits are asked to register with PVAS. Registration is free and easy on the PVAS website. PVAS's annual Birdathon is named in honor of Ruth Ann Dean, who was a founding member and ardent supporter of PVAS. Each year, it is part of a series of local activities commemorating International Migratory Bird Day.

## Birding News and Events

### Migratory Bird Day Events Set for May 6-15

PVAS has put together a special series of local events during the second week of May to mark the 24<sup>th</sup> annual observance of International Migratory Bird Day. The IMBD is an international program that aims to promote greater understanding and appreciation of the importance of migratory birds in North, Central and South America. It was initiated in 1993 by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center.

This year's IMBD theme is "Spread Your Wings for Bird Conservation." All the local events will be free, and anyone with an interest is invited to participate. Pre-registration is required for the Birdathon event; it is encouraged but not required for all the other daytime events. No pre-registration is needed for the May 11 evening program. To register for events and get directions and other details go to the PVAS website.

For each trip, participants should dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring drinking water and insect repellent. Binoculars will be provided if needed. For additional information about specific events contact the individuals mentioned in the event descriptions or Krista Hawley at [adultprograms@potomacaudubon.org](mailto:adultprograms@potomacaudubon.org) or 703-303-1026.

The schedule of events follows below.

**Friday, May 6: Bird walk in the Murphy's Farm section of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.** Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Park's Visitor's Center off U.S. 340. For more info contact trip leader Deb Hale at 304-535-1528 or [debhale72@gmail.com](mailto:debhale72@gmail.com).

**Saturday, May 7: Introduction to birding for beginning birders.** To be held in Martinsburg's War Memorial Park. Meet Debbie Maiorano at 8:00 a.m. at the Park's McKee Pavilion. She will provide an overview of the subject and then lead a walk through the park. For more info contact Debbie at 540-535-5145 or [debbiem58@aol.com](mailto:debbiem58@aol.com).

**Sunday, May 8: Mother's Day bird walk along the Final Attack Trail section of the Antietam National Battlefield.** Cosponsored by the Washington County Bird Club. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Burnside Bridge. Intended especially for families with children. For more info contact Sandy Sagalkin at 240-291-6465 or [sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com).

**Monday, May 9: Bird walk in the Virginius Island section of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.** Meet walk leaders Carol Del Colle and Lynne Wiseman at 7:30 a.m. in the parking area on Shenandoah Street just below the intersection with Route 340. For more info contact Lynn at 304-676-2725.

**Tuesday, May 10: Bird walk at the Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve** in Berkeley County's Back Creek Valley. Meet trip leader Steve Hartmann at 8:00 a.m. in the parking area at the north end of the marsh.

**Wednesday, May 11: Bird Walk at the Shannondale Springs Wildlife Management Area** on the east bank of the Shenandoah River in Jefferson County. Meet walk leader Jim Farley at 7:30 a.m. at the boat launch site off Mission Road. For more info contact Jim at 540-686-2056 or [jamesfarley@frontiernet.net](mailto:jamesfarley@frontiernet.net).

**Wednesday, May 11: PVAS evening program** at the Hospice of the Panhandle Facility at 330 Hospice Lane, Kearneysville. 7:00 p.m. in the main meeting room of the Main Office Building. The program will feature a presentation about Purple Martins. The speakers will be four members of the Purple Martin Society of Frederick, MD: Chet Anderson, Chip Hussion, Mike Dixon and Jim Grove. They will discuss the life cycles of Purple Martins, including their migratory patterns, their habits in their breeding range, and ways to attract them. People who would like to establish a Purple Martin colony on their property will not want to miss this program. It will also be a good opportunity for everyone to learn more about these interesting birds.

**Thursday, May 12: Bird walk at Sideling Hill in Washington County, MD.** Cosponsored by the Washington County Bird Club. Meet trip leader Sandy Sagalkin at 7:00 a.m. in the upper parking lot of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, 18306 Col. Henry K. Douglas Drive, Hagerstown (off Route 65, just south of I-70). For more info go to the PVAS website or contact Sandy at 240-291-6465 or [sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com).

**Friday, May 13: Visit to a successful Purple Martin colony in the Charles Town area.** To be led by veteran birder Joette Borzik. The walk starts at 7:30 a.m. For more info go to the PVAS website or contact Joette at [pep4223@comcast.net](mailto:pep4223@comcast.net) or 240-440-4221.

**Saturday and Sunday, May 14-15: Seventh Annual Ruth Ann Dean Memorial Birdathon.** Teams and individuals will compete to identify the highest numbers of bird species they find in the area within any 24-consecutive-hour-period during the weekend. Free and open to anyone who is interested, but all must pre-register. Those who participate are encouraged to seek pledges from neighbors, family, and friends to help raise funds to support conservation programs at PVAS. See separate article for more info.

**Sunday, May 15: Bird Walk at the Eidolon Nature Preserve** in Morgan County. To be led by local birders Jon Boone and Janet Ardem. This is a good opportunity to see the rare Cerulean Warbler, which nests here. Meet at the preserve at 7:30 a.m. For more info, contact the Nature Niche store in Berkeley Springs at 304-258-0992 or [natureniche@earthlink.net](mailto:natureniche@earthlink.net).

## Birding News and Events

### Antietam Bird Walk Set for May 29

PVAS will sponsor a bird walk along the Final Attack Trail on the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, MD on Sunday, May 29. The walk will be free and open to anyone with an interest, regardless of their birding skills. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged but not required. Easy registration is available on the PVAS website.

Participants should plan to meet walk leader Sandy Sagalkin at the Burnside Bridge at 8:00 a.m. The walk will last about 2 1/2 to 3 hours, and cover mostly level terrain. Participants should wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the prevailing weather conditions, and bring along water. PVAS will provide binoculars for those who do not have their own. Various trip details could change depending on weather or recent bird sightings.

The trail the walk will follow is in the area where the Union Army made its final advance to drive the Confederate Army from Maryland on September 17, 1862, only to be turned back by A.P. Hill's final Confederate counterattack. It is also the site of an extensive effort by the Antietam National Battlefield to restore and preserve native grasslands on the Otto Farm fields in the Battlefield's southwest corner.

For more information, contact Sandy at [sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com) or 240-291-6465.

## Notes from the Preserves

### Preserve Notes

At Yankauer, the addition on the back of the shed is the proud recipient of shelves, completed by Eagle Scout Candidate Jackson Tennant. These shelves have been anticipated for some time, and the program staff is VERY excited. The new space will allow for the educational outreach supplies to be stored within reach, and conveniently close to the vehicular access to the pavilion. And, no more going up and down ladders to access the lofts in the other storage area while loaded down with heavy bins of boots and other supplies!! A tremendous thanks to Jackson and his family for their planning and implementation of this project, and to Captain Lou Scavnicky for overseeing it!

At Eidolon, Allegheny Power has removed the power line that ran through the center of the property. The purpose of the power was to supply the FAA tower, formerly on the top of the mountain, with electricity. The tower was removed several years ago, making the power line irrelevant. The habitat will be allowed to return to forest again, and further disruption to the interior of the preserve will be minimized.

At Stauffer's Marsh, spring has definitely sprung! Volunteer Caretaker Steve Hartmann has already been mowing and maintaining the preserve, assessing tree plantings, and erecting the purple martin house for the season. More interpretive signage will be installed this summer, along with publication of a new brochure that will be available to visitors at the kiosk. We can't thank Steve enough for all he does at the marsh.

## Potomac Valley Master Naturalists

### Master Naturalist Classes - Opening Weekend

The opening weekend for the 2016 new Master Naturalist classes was held at the Hospice of the Panhandle on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Attendance included twenty-three new enrollees and two students making up classes: one local and one from a chapter in Elkins, WV.

Other than a few set-up issues, (loose wire, thanks Larry Smith), it all went smoothly. The students interacted well with each other and participated in the lessons with good comments and questions. Thank you instructors!

Various members of the MN Coordinating Committee were on hand to welcome the students, answer questions, and help set up and clean up. It was a positive weekend, and we are off to a good start for our 2016 class.



**Potomac Valley Master Naturalists**

**10th Anniversary Campout at Rolling Ridge June 4th and 5th**

Come out to Rolling Ridge for hiking, birding, camping, stargazing, and getting to know a beautiful piece of land. Rolling Ridge, located just off Mission Road past Shannondale Springs, encompasses over 1400 acres of woods and streams protected by a conservation easement with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. The trails lead up the ridge to the Appalachian Trail, to various streams and ponds and waterfalls, and down to the Shenandoah River.

**Activities to choose from Saturday:**

- 10:00 AM - Hike to Crescent Rock Overlook on ridge on the Appalachian Trail (Long)
- 10:00 AM - Hike to small waterfall (Short)
- 11:00 AM - Butterflies, pollinators and backyard wildlife garden session
- 2:00 PM - Hike to large waterfall and the Shenandoah River (Medium)
- 4:00 PM - Straw bale, cordwood, cob, solar water, earth roof house tour

Also for kids: team-building games and challenges, sit spots and observation, tree identification, outdoor play, and creating gnome homes from natural materials.

On Saturday evening we'll have a campfire with music and storytelling followed by stargazing, telescopes, and star maps with Kevin Bowles.

**Activities to choose from Sunday:**

- 7:30 AM: Bird walk, led by Joette Borzick
- 11:00 AM: Forest Stewardship. Rolling Ridge has just finished a Forest Stewardship Plan and for those interested, we there will be a session on forest stewardship, ways of working with the WVDNR, the Cerulean Warbler Project and hunt clubs. Attendance at this session may be counted towards 1 hour of the education elective requirement for Master Naturalist recertification.

The Rolling Ridge Study Retreat has a campsite area with picnic tables and a fire circle. The Retreat House will be open for use of bathrooms, as well as back-up shelter in case of stormy weather. There will be a \$5/person or \$10/per family fee for camping. All fees will go to the Rolling Ridge Foundation and will be used for preservation of the Rolling Ridge site. Those who would welcome volunteer opportunities could also help with a small service project.

A few tents may be available for loan on a first come-first serve basis. For more information, please contact Linda or Scot DeGraf: [lindajdegraf@gmail.com](mailto:lindajdegraf@gmail.com), or 301-789-9097; [scotdegraf@gmail.com](mailto:scotdegraf@gmail.com), or 301-275-2009.



**Master Naturalists Plant Trees at NCTC**

On Saturday, April 16 and Wednesday, April 20, two contingents of MNs planted trees at NCTC as part of the facility's reforestation project. The project was overseen by Phil Pannill, NCTC Land Manager, and led by Clark Dixon, PVMN Coordinating Committee Chairman. As usual, MNs enjoyed camaraderie and the satisfaction of a job well done!

*Phil Pannill, NCTC Land Manager shows how deep to plant the saplings.*



**Did You Know...?**

**2016 Master Naturalist Conference  
North Bend State Park**

Did you know that the seventh annual Master Naturalist Conference will be held Friday, June 10 through Sunday, June 12 at North Bend State Park? The conference schedule, description of classes, and instructor bios may be found on the [www.mnofwv.org](http://www.mnofwv.org) home site.

The Conference registration fee for 2016 is \$75.00 for early registration and \$100.00 if postmarked after May 2. Lodging arrangements must be made directly with North Bend State Park at 304-643-2970. To register for the 2016 WV Master Naturalist Conference go to [www.mnofwv.org](http://www.mnofwv.org) to view the conference schedule and to register for pre-conference activities and conference classes. Make lodging reservations as soon as possible. After submitting the online form, make a copy of it and send it along with your check made out to D&E Master Naturalists to Kathy Shreve at WVDNR, Elkins Operation Center, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV, 26241.

Pre-conference activities are ongoing all day Friday, June 10, with registration in North Bend Lodge lobby. The breakfast buffet is on your own. Because all classes on Saturday will be in the field, box lunches will be provided to all conference participants. Please contact Kathy by email at [kathy.s.shreve@wv.gov](mailto:kathy.s.shreve@wv.gov) or 304-637-0245 if you need assistance.

Pre-conference Activities, Friday, June 10:

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Guided Kayak/Canoe Trip on North Bend Lake

10 AM - 12:30 PM: Walking Tour of Harrisville, West Virginia (meet at the Lodge)

9:00 AM: Blennerhassett Island State Park

8:30 AM: Bike Hike (meet at the Lodge)

6:00 PM: Cookout at Pavilion #3

Campfire to follow the cookout (bring an instrument or skit)

And, mark your calendars for the Eighth Annual MN Conference at Chief Logan Lodge and State Park, June 9-11, 2017.

**Master Naturalist 10 Year Anniversary  
Spring Gathering**

**Cacapon State Park at the Nature Center Pavilion**

**Saturday, May 7, 2016 - Join us anytime!**

7:30 - 9:00 Bird walk: Lynne Wiseman

9:00 - 11:00 Outdoor cooking: Clark Dixon

9:00-10:30 Emerald Ash Borer: Shawn Walker (1.5\*)

10:30 - 11:30 History of Cacapon State Park:

Superintendent Scott Fortney (1\*)

**11:30 - 1:00 Potluck lunch (please bring a dish to share, along with your own plate and utensils)**

1:00 - 2:00 Wolves, Foxes, Coyotes: Ellen Murphy (1\*)

2:00 - 3:30 Hike: Clark Dixon will discuss Natural History along the trail and Indian Run and its watershed (1.5\*)

**Please contact Susan Jones at [wvbagend@frontier.com](mailto:wvbagend@frontier.com)**

**if you are attending, and if you are able to provide a helping hand with set up and clean up.**

(\*Recertification Education Hours)

**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:

- Member discount to many PVAS programs and events.
- A subscription to *Valley Views*, the PVAS newsletter.
- Free or reduced admission to participating nature centers and/or their programs across the country.
- E-mail alerts about events and programs (upon request).
- An invitation to a PVAS Members annual gathering.
- Discounts to participating **local businesses**.

Details available at [potomacaudubon.org/member](http://potomacaudubon.org/member)

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. For details, go to: <http://potomacaudubon.org/member>.

**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

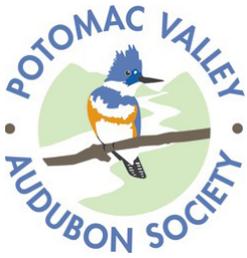
PO Box 578

Shepherdstown, WV 25443



**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](http://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.



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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. Programs are free and open to the public. For additional information about PVAS or its programs and activities, please contact 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**

PVAS Board meet-  
 ings take place the  
 first Thursday of  
 the month (Sep-  
 tember through  
 June). Meetings  
 are open to all  
 PVAS members.  
 Please contact  
 the President or  
 Vice President if  
 you would like to  
 attend.

**PVAS Officers and Board Members** (Year of term expiration in parentheses)

- President: Jane Vanderhook (2016)..... janehook@frontiernet.net
- Vice President: Michael Sullivan (2016) ..... msullivan@limno.com
- Secretary: Diana Gaviria (2016) ..... jpikester@comcast.net
- Treasurer: Dan Cogswell (2017) ..... daniel.cogswell@gmail.com
- Board Members-at-Large:
  - Clark Dixon (2017) ..... dixonconsultants@aol.com
  - Kara Gibson (2016) ..... KaraKlein@gmail.com
  - Tanner Haid (2016) ..... Tanner.Haid@gmail.com
  - Joe Hankins (2016) ..... joseph.hankins@gmail.com
  - Susan Jones (2016) ..... wvbagend@frontier.com
  - Matthew Patterson (2016) ..... tridecanone@yahoo.com
  - Don Campbell (2017) ..... treehouseview@comcast.net
  - Mina Goodrich (2017) ..... larrymina@peoplepc.com
  - Elizabeth Morningstar (2017) ..... dl1ntheD1rt@comcast.net

**Ex Officio Board Member:** Diana Mullis (past president) ..... DianaMullis@aol.com

**Emerita Board Member:** Jean Neely ..... jeaneely@comcast.net

**Special Contacts**

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