

Valley Views

Potomac
Valley
Audubon
Society

Volume 24, Issue 3

November 2005

Field Trips

Project Owlnet

•Saturday, November 5

(Sorry--this trip is full). We will once again visit Steve Huy at the Project Owlnet banding operation on Lamb's Knoll on the border of Frederick and Washington Counties in Maryland. Steve is a licensed bander specializing in Saw-whet owls, our smallest owl. Because the Saw-whets don't start migrating until late in the evening, we plan to arrive at the banding station around 9:00 pm. This trip has been very popular in the past and because of limited space, we can only accommodate a fixed number of people. You must sign up in advance for this trip. Sign up early to get a spot!

Matt Orsie

•Saturday, November 19

Matt Orsie, our incomparable local birder, will lead a birding trip to various ponds, lakes, creeks, rivers, and fields in Berkeley and Jefferson Counties where we are likely to see both resident and winter visiting birds. Matt is a great leader and whether you are a beginning or experienced birder, you are sure to learn a lot. We will meet at the Martins parking lot in the area of the Sherwin Williams store, off Route 340 in Charles Town at 7:30 am. A word to novice birders: We do a fair amount of standing around looking at birds, so dress warmly, wear shoes that will keep your feet warm and dry, and bring your binoculars.

For more information, contact Ken or Patsy Hunter at 304-725-3936 or phunter@npca.org.

Bird Banding Demonstration

•Sunday, December 4

PVAS will hold its 13th annual bird banding demonstration on Sunday, December 4. The event will be hosted by PVAS bird banding expert Bob Dean at his Hedgesville, WV, residence from 1-4 p.m. This is a very enjoyable and educational family event and children are welcome. Refreshments will be provided. The event is held outdoors, so those planning to attend should dress accordingly.

Directions are as follows: From I-81 north or south -- take Exit (Continued on page 2)

Meeting Program

Master Naturalist Program

•Wednesday, November 9

Rose Sullivan, the acting coordinator of a new West Virginia "Master Naturalist" program, will be the featured speaker at the November monthly meeting of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society.

Launched last year, the West Virginia Master Naturalist program is one of the first in the nation. Patterned after the 33-year-old Master Gardener Program, it is aimed at allowing individuals to increase their understanding and appreciation of the natural world while helping their communities and the environment.

Participants receive classroom and field training in a broad range of topics in the fields of natural history and environmental education.

Those who complete 64 hours of training and 30 hours of volunteer work are certified as Master Naturalists.

Once certified, these individuals help construct and maintain nature trails, lead interpretive walks at state parks, assist biologists with research, and give presentations to school children and other groups.

West Virginia's Master Naturalist program is a project of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, the West Virginia University Extension Service, the Canaan Valley Institute, Davis and Elkins College, and the West Virginia Division of Tourism.

The first Master Naturalist program was established by the state of Texas in 1998. Currently, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Mississippi, and Missouri also have programs.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 9, in the auditorium of the U.S. Geological Survey's Leetown Science Center, 11649 Leetown Road (County Route 1), Kearneysville.

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

President's Perch



Hello Everyone!

Hope you are enjoying the beautiful change of seasons and the mostly wonderful weather! Seems we have had a little of everything ... hot, dry, wet, cold, and some wonderful autumn days. I have enjoyed watching the birds migrate through (lots of warblers through my yard), and the herds of hummers fighting over the sugar water were quite entertaining. One wonders how the hummers can fatten themselves up when they spend so much energy chasing!

Just to make sure your calendar is full, we have some really fun things going on! We are putting on the Potomac Arts Festival (10/28-30) and our Annual Race for the Birds (10/29, see page 3) at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in conjunction with the American Conservation Film Festival (which is all over Shepherdstown & at NCTC). There is something for everyone ... fun stuff for kids of all ages, educational movies and displays, and beautiful arts and crafts for sale. Then there are our November field trips (see pages 1 and 2) and our November PVAS meeting program on the Master Naturalist Program (see page 1). Don't forget bird seed pick-up day is Saturday, November 5. (If you forgot to place an order, call me: Diana – 304-267-3482.)

Diana Mullis, President

(Field Trips from page 1)

20 and follow Route 901 west for about 2 miles to the first stop sign. Turn left and go 0.2 miles to Harlan Springs Road (just beyond the church). Turn left on Harlan Springs and go 0.7 miles to Limestone Lane (across from stone spring house and pond). Turn right on Limestone and go 0.3 miles to parking sign in field below the house.

From Route 9 west of Hedgesville-- at the James Rumsey Technical Institute (just east of Hedgesville High School) turn left onto Cumbo Road. Go 1.1 miles to the first stop sign and turn left onto Harlan Springs Road. Go 1.25 miles on Harlan Springs to Limestone Lane. Turn left on Limestone and go 0.3 miles to parking sign in field below house.

For further information, contact Ken or Patsy Hunter by phone at 304-725-3936 or by e-mail at phunter@npca.org.

Christmas Bird Counts

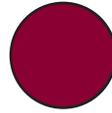
•Saturday, December 17 and Monday, December 26

The traditional Audubon Christmas Bird Counts will once again be ably organized by Bob Dean. The Charles Town/Jefferson County count will be on Saturday, December 17 and the Inwood/Berkeley County count will be on Monday, December 26. Everyone is welcome to join in this endeavor, which helps us see long-term trends in bird populations. To sign up or get more information, please contact Bob Dean at bobdean52@aol.com or 304-754-3042.

Hurricanes Affect Migrating Birds

If you're interested in information on the impact of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina on migrating bird populations, check out the following <http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/national/article/0,1406,KNS_350_4134176,00.html> (registration required).

Recent updates on the impacts of Hurricane Rita, as well as the ongoing recovery efforts from Hurricane Katrina, can also be found at the Audubon Mississippi Web site at <<http://www.msaudubon.org/katrina/>>. Notes include news on recent damage to coastal sanctuaries as well as exciting and heartwarming recovery efforts for birds and their habitat.



RED DOT ALERT!

Please note that if a red dot is on your mailing label for this newsletter, your membership has expired and this may be the last PVAS newsletter that you receive. Please renew your membership using the form below.



JOIN PVAS TODAY

When you join PVAS, you automatically become a member of the **National Audubon Society**.

Your membership includes:

- One year (six issues) of award-winning **Audubon Magazine**
- Eight issues of **Valley Views**, PVAS's newsletter of field trips, programs, and local issues
- Advance notice of all PVAS events

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR:

- \$20 Individual SPECIAL OFFER (1st time members only)
- \$35 Individual (renewal)
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Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society**

Mail to:

Membership Chair, PVAS
P.O. Box 578
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

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Chapter Code Y54

News from Yankauer....

Work Day Report

A big thank you goes out to Jeff Feldman, Chris Robinson and Rodney Woods for spending their Saturday morning out at the preserve repairing and maintaining the pavilion. With a little luck the floor will remain crack-free.

Potomac Arts Festival and Race

PVAS' first ever Potomac Arts Festival and our 5th Annual "This Race is for the Birds!" are coming together in late October. Both promise to be great successes. Stay tuned next month for a full report. Hopefully you will be there to see it all unfold! If so, thanks for coming out, and thanks for helping to make it happen! If you missed last month's Valley Views and need more information on times and locations, please contact JiJi Beckett, Festival Coordinator, for information on the arts festival at 540-955-3553 or email: art festival@potomacaudubon.org. For information on the Race for the Birds, you can contact Don and Katherine Henry at dhenry@myexcel.com or 304-876-6681. You can also access a copy of October's Valley Views at www.potomacaudubon.org.

Annual Appeal Reminder

You will notice an envelope from our Annual Appeal enclosed in your newsletter this month. We have received approximately one-third of our goal of \$12,000. Many thanks to those who have brought us to that point. For those who haven't contributed yet, it's not too late. We're trying to wrap up this year's appeal by the end of December. We realize that requests for help are coming at you from every direction this year and there are tremendous needs everywhere. Please remember that your support is needed locally as well. Every bit helps. If each of our members gives \$25 we can make our goal. Thanks for your continued support!

Potomack Intermediate's Environmental Program

On September 22 and 23, we saw nearly 200 5th graders at Camp Frame. Most of the students were enrolled in our Watershed Education Initiative as 4th graders last year, so it was great to see so many familiar faces. Some of them even serenaded me with the Water Cycle Boogie that they learned as part of the program! This year they learned about animal adaptations through games and other hands-on activities.

Spring Program Volunteers

We are already getting requests for spring programs. Want to help? Join the Preserve Partners program team. You'll get trained and ready to roll for our very busy spring. We'd love your help!

Seeking Spring Intern/Instructors

In preparation for our watershed and other school programs in the spring, we are seeking motivated students or recent graduates in Environmental Studies, Science Education, Elementary Education, or Recreation. The positions are January through the first week in June. The weekly schedule and responsibilities vary, so anyone interested should contact Kristin Alexander at 304-229-9771 to talk about the details. Please spread the word!

Audubon Web Site Provides Contact Information for Every State

Audubon has announced the introduction of new State and Chapter pages on the National Audubon Society Web site.

The new pages can be accessed at <http://www.audubon.org/states/index.php>. From there, a pull-down menu connects users to updated pages of contact information for every Audubon entity in each state, while the sidebar provides access to a similar locator for Centers at http://www.audubon.org/states/centers_sanctuaries.php.

The changes include another link to a new interactive map of the United States. Clicking on <http://www.audubon.org/states/flashMap.php> brings up a large map of the United States, allowing you to select individual states by clicking on that state or selecting it via a pull-down box. Easy to navigate state maps feature geographically located, interactive graphics that offer instant links to Chapter, State or Center contact information. By using the tools provided, users may enlarge the map and pan to a specific area. In addition, by layering on cities and roads, website visitors can map a route to their nearest Audubon Center or other facility.

Tracking Monarch Migrations

The following is excerpted from a story describing how Monarchs migrating from Maine for the winter are being tagged in an effort to better understand their migrations. The article includes advice to gardeners to help the butterflies prepare for their long journey. The full article can be found at: <http://outdoors.maine.today.com/news/051002butterfly.shtml>.

Unlike most insects, monarchs cannot survive the winter, so those



on the East Coast travel to the Mexico mountains. Those farther west head for California. The monarchs in North America are a mystery to scientists because they travel farther than all other tropical butterflies. One of the butterflies tagged in Maine was found in Belize.

Other species of butterflies and moths travel in one direction, but monarchs migrate back and forth. What has most baffled scientists and naturalists in this pattern of travel is that a butterfly's offspring are believed to return to the same over-wintering location.

Eventually, the butterflies returning to Mexico or California each fall are the great-great-grandchildren of the butterflies that left the previous spring, according to the University of Kansas' Web site, www.monarchwatch.org.

The loss of fields filled with milkweed to developments and the destruction of forestland cover in Mexico, where the butterflies winter, are suspected to have thinned the monarch's numbers.

Margi Huber at Maine Audubon suggests that migrating monarchs can be helped by landowners who create butterfly gardens with flowers offering nectar the butterflies prefer, such as bee balm, the coreopsis species, the gaillardia species, butterfly weed, phlox and goldenrod.

Would you like Valley Views by e-mail?

Call David Eldridge at 304-876-2337 or deldridg@citilink.net.



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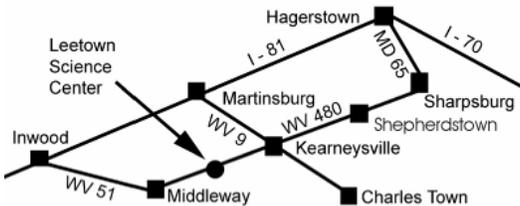
<http://potomacaudubon.org>

MAIL TO:

November 2005

Printed on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper

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

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

PVAS Officers and Board Members

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