

# VALLEY VIEWS

## Potomac Valley Audubon Society

Volume 30, Issue 3

November 2011

### Stauffer's Marsh Dedication Set for November 8

PVAS's new Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve will be formally dedicated in a public ceremony on Tuesday, November 8.

The ceremony will be held at 1:00 p.m. in the parking area at the north end of the preserve.

The individual who donated the property to PVAS, Stauffer Miller, of Charlottesville, Virginia, will participate.

Also participating will be Berkeley County Council President Bill Stubblefield, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle, and the Berkeley County Farmland Protection Board. Other elected officials and organizations have also been invited.

Anyone with an interest is welcome to attend.

The marsh is located in Back Creek Valley just one-half mile south of Shanghai on the east side of Back Creek Valley Road (County Route 7).

It is 45.7 acres in size and includes a mix of shallow ponds, marshy areas, woods, and edge lands. This rich diversity of habitats makes Stauffer's Marsh very attractive to birds, especially wetland species.



For more information, contact Peter Smith at [pvsmitth@frontiernet.net](mailto:pvsmitth@frontiernet.net) or 304-876-1139.

### Come Have a Wild Time at Wild Goose Farm!

Support PVAS' educational programs while having a great time on November 12, 2011 from 1-4 p.m. We're back at Wild Goose Farm, just outside Shepherdstown, in the beautiful hand-crafted timber-frame barn built in 2002. PVAS held its very first major fundraising event there eight years ago, and we're grateful that the new owners, Cricky and Michelle Shultz are willing to have us back!

We'll serve a delicious pork barbecue dinner with all the fixin's;

apple slab pie with ice cream; wine, beer, cider, and other delicious treats. (Vegetarian options will be available!)

Enjoy a champagne hayride, music by Greg Lloyd, Bob and Robin Dean and their musical friends, an auction, and lots of other activities. Donors of \$150 or above can have their photo taken with a Eurasian Eagle-Owl -- one of the largest owls in the world!



As with our other fundraisers, prepaid reservations are required. Individual tickets are \$45/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. Donors, Patrons, and Supporters are all eligible to have photos taken with the Eagle-Owl. We'll even provide the photographer!

If you'd like to receive an invitation to this event, contact Kristin Alexander at 304-676-3397 or [PVASmail@aol.com](mailto:PVASmail@aol.com) and provide your name, address, e-mail, and phone number. A detailed schedule and a list of auction items will be available at [www.potomacaudubon.org](http://www.potomacaudubon.org) as the event approaches. We hope to see you there!

### Yankauer, Eidolon Management Agreements Renewed

The Nature Conservancy and PVAS have renewed the agreements that govern their co-management of the Yankauer and Eidolon nature preserves.

The old management agreements had been in force since October 2006. The new agreements also carry five-year terms, and will expire in October 2016.

The terms and conditions of the agreements have not changed, and TNC and PVAS will continue to play the same roles at both

See *TNC Agreement*, Page 2

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



## Eidolon Nature Preserve Fall 2011 Hunting and Hiking Schedule

The land now known as the Eidolon Nature Preserve has been hunted by neighboring families for generations, and when Marguerite Zapoleon willed the land to the Nature Conservancy, she stipulated that hunting should be allowed to continue there.



Accordingly, and also in the interest of maintaining a healthy forest and viable animal populations, the Nature Conservancy and PVAS are permitting hunting on the property.

To balance the safety of hikers and the interests of deer hunters, we ask all visitors to observe the following rules during deer season:

- Hunters must be licensed by the state and follow all applicable state laws and regulations.
- For their part, hikers should exercise appropriate caution during hunting season and wear at least one item of blaze orange clothing.
- In accordance with state law, no hunting will be permitted on Sundays.
- The Eidolon Nature Preserve will close its trails to hikers for the entire first week of the firearm season for deer hunting (November 21 through 26 this year) and every Saturday thereafter until the season ends on December 10.
- On all other days during the firearm season for deer, the trails will be open to hikers from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. only.

Please see the schedule below for specifics.

### 2011 Eidolon Fall Hunting and Hiking Schedule "At A Glance"

Mon., Nov. 21 to Sat., Nov. 26	<b>First week of firearm season for deer- Trails closed to hikers every day</b>
<b>Sunday, Nov. 27</b>	No hunting
Mon., Nov. 28 to Fri., Dec. 2	Trails open to hikers 10am-3pm only
Sat., Dec. 3	<b>Trails closed to hikers all day</b>
<b>Sunday, Dec. 4</b>	No hunting
Mon., Dec. 5 to Fri., Dec. 9	Trails open to hikers from 10am-3pm only
Sat., Dec. 10	<b>Trails closed to hikers all day Last day of firearm season for deer</b>
Wed., Dec. 28 to Sat., Dec. 30	<b>Antlerless deer hunting season Trails closed to hikers every day</b>

Hello everyone:

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll note that our agreement with The Nature Conservancy to co-manage the Yankauer and Eidolon nature preserves has been renewed for another five years.

That's good news for all concerned.

The Conservancy benefits because the donors of both these properties wanted them to be used for educational purposes and the Conservancy isn't structured to deliver that sort of thing.

PVAS benefits because the preserves provide us with excellent venues for our nature-education programs, especially our children's programs.

Members of the public benefit because they can take advantage of these programs if they wish and in any case they have full access to both nature preserves year round.

If you're new to the area and haven't yet visited Yankauer and/ or Eidolon, we encourage you to give them a try.

The two properties are very different.

Yankauer encompasses about 110 acres of mostly former farmland that's in the process of returning to its natural forested state. It also has high limestone bluffs that overlook the Potomac River. The terrain is gently rolling and the trails are pretty easy.

Eidolon, which is 354 acres in size, is a wilder sort of place. It's a heavily forested mountain property and some of the trails are quite steep and rugged. But it offers spectacular views from the top.

Autumn, in particular, is a great time to visit either or both properties. Winter is good, too, if the snows hold off (no gnats!).

You can find directions to both preserves on the PVAS website, [www.potomacaudubon.org](http://www.potomacaudubon.org). Trail maps and detailed descriptions are available there too.

If you have any questions about any of this, don't hesitate to give me a call at 304-876-1139 or email me at [pvsmitth@frontiernet.net](mailto:pvsmitth@frontiernet.net).

-Peter Smith

**TNC Agreement** (continued from page 1)  
preserves.

The Nature Conservancy owns and has ultimate responsibility for the two properties. PVAS handles the day-to-day operations and maintenance and is also responsible for all educational programming and activities.

The Yankauer Preserve was donated to TNC in 1966. PVAS began assisting with its upkeep in 1984 and has been formally involved in its management since 1994.

PVAS has been formally involved in managing the Eidolon Preserve since the preserve was first established in 2006.

## Growing Native Event at Yankauer

On October 8, ten volunteers joined WV's Chesapeake Bay Forester Herb Peddicord at the Yankauer Preserve to help collect nuts and seeds for the Potomac Conservancy's "Growing Native" program. Seeds gathered during the event are given to state nurseries in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Once they grow into young trees, they are planted along rivers and streams in the watershed to improve and protect the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay.

Unfortunately the picking was slim this year. Herb explained that for some reason acorn production was down significantly this year across the panhandle, and spicebush and dogwood berries were nowhere to be found. Other seeds were also challenging to find, but the group did collect some paw paws, redbuds, an assortment of hickory nuts, walnuts and other seeds and nuts.



The Growing Native kiosk is still at Yankauer and will remain there until the end of October (and perhaps a little longer.) The kiosk contains breathable bags for nuts and seeds as well as cards for you to track your volunteer hours, where the seeds were collected, and other information. The Conservancy has also installed seed-collection kiosks at the Farmers Market in Inwood, and the Nature Niche in Berkeley Springs.

## Sign Up Now for "Wee Naturalists" Sessions

PVAS's "Wee Naturalists" program continues in November with sessions about "Nature's Art" on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

The program's December sessions will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and be about "Snowflakes and Snowbirds."

The Wee Naturalists program is aimed at pre-school children ages 3-5. It is designed to provide regular opportunities for small children and loving adults to explore nature together safely under the guidance of an experienced PVAS instructor. Children must be accompanied by a parent, grandparent, other adult relative, or guardian.

All sessions are held at the Yankauer Nature Preserve. Each session will last from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

To ensure that everyone receives close, personal attention, enrollment is limited and pre-registration is required.

Families may register for one, several, or all of the monthly sessions. The fee is \$5 per child/adult team per session.

The program is led by Suzi Taylor, of Sharpsburg, Maryland, a veteran PVAS camp director who has a degree in environmental education.

Information and registration forms are available on the PVAS website. For more information, contact Ms. Taylor at 301-432-1908

or [tomandsuzi506@cs.com](mailto:tomandsuzi506@cs.com).

The program was established in 2009 with support from the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation's Two Rivers Giving Circle.

## Local Teacher and Students Adopt Flowing Springs Park

Carolyn Thomas, a teacher at Wildwood Middle School, received a grant from Toyota's Tapestry program. These grants provide funding for teachers to implement innovative, community-based science projects in environmental science, physical science, and integrating literacy and science.

Mrs. Thomas is bringing her seventh-grade students to Flowing Springs Park regularly through the school year to investigate the feasibility of reintroducing brook trout to Flowing Springs Run. Students are doing water quality monitoring, tree planting, plant diversity surveys, and other scientific data gathering. The project is pulling together partner organizations such as Potomac Valley Audubon Society, The Mountain Institute, Trout Unlimited, WV Division of Forestry, The American Conservation Film Festival, NOAA, USDA, and others. Two of our Potomac Valley Master Naturalists have adopted this project and go out to the park each week to help Mrs. Thomas and her students with the project.

On October 21, one of her classes will be spending an entire day at the park to do some stream monitoring and assessment, as well as planting native trees and shrubs to replace a hedgerow of invasives that were removed on Day of Caring. Hedgerows are valuable habitat for birds and other wildlife, so we are anxious to replace the habitat as soon as possible and get the new trees and shrubs established. Remaining funds from PVAS' TogetherGreen grant will be used for this planting and the fence used to protect it.

By the end of the school year, all of Mrs. Thomas' students will have spent several hours at the park, getting to know the site and learning how to protect the stream. For final projects her students will be making an interpretive sign about how Flowing Springs Park fits in with the rest of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; decide how feasible the reintroduction of Brook Trout is currently; and if it is not feasible now, what steps would need to occur to make the reintroduction possible.

## Concerts Wrap Up

Our "Music in the Cedars" concert series at the Yankauer Preserve wrapped up at the end of September after another successful year. A total of about 180 people came out for the free performances over the two months they were offered. Some audience members came every week, while others happen to be visiting the area from out of town. The concerts bring many new folks to the preserve, so the performances continue to serve to introduce community members to the trails and beauty of Yankauer.

The concerts are only possible because of the generosity of the performers who participate out of love for music, the preserve, and PVAS. We sincerely thank all of the performers in the 2011 Music in the Cedars: The Outpatients; Erik Janus; Greg Lloyd, Bob and Robin Dean; Chelsea McBee; The Rolling Coyotes; The Dilletantes; David LaFleur; Betty Jo, Scott, and T-Roy; and Steve Cifala.

## Birdseed Order Reminder: New Storage and Pickup Plan

If you ordered seed for pickup from the Williamsport Gower's or from Berkely Springs, Saturday, November 12, from 10 a.m. to noon is the pickup date and time.

If you designated seed for storage on your order, you may stop buy the Gower's feed store location you designated on or after November 14 to pick up your seed. Both Gower's locations will provide storage until April 1 but not after that date.

In addition, volunteers are needed for the November 12 deliveries from 10 a.m. until noon in Berkeley Springs and Williamsport. To volunteer please contact Diana Mullis at 304-267-3482 or [dianamullis@aol.com](mailto:dianamullis@aol.com). Diana is also the person to contact regarding any birdseed questions.

*Many thanks to our loyal customers for their support of our birdseed sale to benefit PVAS education programs!*

## Rain Garden at St. Joe's Completed

As you may recall from last month's newsletter, PVAS began to install a rain garden at St. Joe's Parish School in September. Volunteers worked tirelessly over Labor Day weekend to dig out the trench, replace the previous soil with soil that drains quickly, install overflow drainage, and mulch the site.

On September 27, St. Joe's fifth graders helped plant the rain-garden-appropriate plants. These students participated in PVAS'



watershed program the year before, so Ellen Murphy provided them with a quick review about watersheds, runoff, erosion, buffers and other topics before they began. James Dillon, the volunteer who designed and helped install the garden, explained

to the students why he chose the site (the erosion was significant!) and how rain gardens work. He also introduced them to the plants they would be installing in the garden and why they were chosen. They are all natives, provide great habitat for birds and butterflies, and can tolerate very wet or very dry conditions.

James briefed them on where and how to plant each plant, and they were off! Students planted liatris, swamp milkweed, switchgrass, Golden Alexanders, New York asters, Black-eyed Susans, sedges, Joe Pye weed, blueberries, and some fringe trees that were donated. The garden looks great, and the students were enthusiastic (muddy) participants.

This project was made possible with the funds from the WVDEP 319 grant PVAS received in support of its watershed program and rain gardens at local schools. This was by far the most involved rain garden we've ever coordinated, and it could



not have been done without the incredible help of PVAS and St. Joe's volunteers and enthusiasm from St. Joe's teachers, students and administrators.

## PVAS Cosponsoring 2012 Natural Landscape Gardening Conference

PVAS has joined a variety of other area organizations in cosponsoring a natural landscape gardening conference that will be held at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia, April 14, 2012.

The one-day conference is entitled "Tomorrow's Landscapes: More Birds, Butterflies, and Bees for YOUR Garden."

It is being organized by the Piedmont/Blue Ridge Horticulture Society and Shenandoah University's Environmental Studies Department.

Experts will provide valuable advice on ways homeowners can improve birds and butterfly habitat with plant choices suited to the mid-Atlantic climate and soils.

Selected books, plants, and tools will be available for purchase.

Space is limited and preregistration is required.

The cost is \$99 until March 1, 2012, and includes coffee and a box lunch.

For more information and to register online, go to the conference website at [www.pbrhs.org/landscape/index.html](http://www.pbrhs.org/landscape/index.html).

## View from the Eagles Nest

By Sandy Sagalkin

I recall seeing a Planet Earth documentary showing a Cheetah running down an antelope at a blazing 60 miles per hour. But what about a predator that can achieve speeds of 200 miles per hour? I was wondering how Peregrine Falcons can achieve those amazing speeds, while on the ferry heading to Cape May, New Jersey, for a PVAS bird trip.

I met up with six other PVAS members Friday night, October 14, and we made plans to head for the Hawk Platform at Cape May Point State Park the next morning after breakfast. Cape May is one of the best places in the country to observe the fall hawk migration. It is especially good for watching falcons. Unlike many other hawk watches around the country, the hawks at Cape May fly so close to the platform, you feel you can reach out and touch them.

The weather Friday was scattered rain showers and southerly winds, not the best for hawk watching. They prefer northwesterly winds, which give them a nice tailwind as they migrate south. Fortunately, the winds shifted to the west on Saturday and we were in for a good day.

I'm not into Air Shows, at least not the kind involving the "Blue Angels." This is my kind of "air show." The Peregrine Falcons did not disappoint. We probably had a dozen or so Saturday morning, many "stooping" for a quick meal (another bird) on their way south. They are amazingly agile in flight, capable of extremely sharp turns at blazing speeds. Another, much smaller falcon, the Merlin, is an equally impressive raptor. Its powerful chest muscles and wings

propel it at amazing speeds. It is said that if you get a long look at a Merlin, it is probably not a Merlin. Besides these two species, we saw American Kestrels (another type of falcon), Sharp-shinned Hawks (“Sharpies”), Cooper’s Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, Bald Eagles, and Ospreys. We saw an exciting encounter between two Bald Eagles, an adult harassing what was probably a four-year old for about ten minutes.

Besides the Hawk Platform, Cape May Point State Park has three other walking trails that are great for birding, for looking at native plants and insects, and at this time of year, for watching migrating Monarch Butterflies. We walked some of these trails and spent the afternoon at “The Meadows,” another great habitat operated by The Nature Conservancy. The next morning, several of us went back to the Hawk Platform for one last look before heading back to the Cape May Ferry for the trip home. Everyone said they had a great time.

Join us on November 6 as we head to Waggoner’s Gap, Pennsylvania, to catch the Golden Eagle migration. Last year we saw 13 Golden Eagles, as well as 78 Red-tailed Hawks and other species.

## Sign Up Now for November 6 Hawk-watch Trip to Pennsylvania

PVAS will sponsor a hawk-watching trip to Waggoner’s Gap in south central Pennsylvania, near Carlisle, on Sunday, November 6.

The trip will be led by Matt Orsie, one of the Eastern Panhandle’s leading birders.

There is no fee, and anyone with an interest is welcome to participate.

However, since the trip may be postponed or canceled because of weather, pre-registration is required. To pre-register and get details about the time of departure and carpooling possibilities, contact Sandy Sagalkin at [monsansagalkin@myactv.net](mailto:monsansagalkin@myactv.net) or 240-291-6465.

The drive time to Waggoner’s Gap from the eastern panhandle is about 2 hours. The stay at the site will be about 4-5 hours.

Waggoner’s Gap is one of the best-known hawk-watching sites on the East coast. It began to attract regular visitors in the late 1930s, and hawk-migration data have been collected there since the early 1950s.

The November 6 trip is timed to catch the peak migration period for Red-tailed Hawks and Golden Eagles. Last year at that time, participants saw 13 Golden Eagles, 78 Red-tailed Hawks, 3 Goshawks, and several other species.

The Waggoner’s Gap site is basically a rock pile at the top of a 1,500-footridge. This offers excellent views but it also leaves visitors very exposed to the weather. Therefore, trip participants should be prepared for very cold temperatures—possibly in the 30s or 40s—with windy conditions and should dress for weather 15-20 degrees colder than forecast.

Participants should also pack a lunch and bring water, as nothing is available at the site. They should also bring cushions to sit on, since there is limited space for folding chairs.

Loaner binoculars will be available for participants that do not have their own.

## C&O Canal Bird Walk Set for November 19

PVAS will sponsor a bird walk on the C&O Canal near Shepherdstown on Saturday, November 19.

The event is free and open to the public.

Participants should plan to meet at 8:00 a.m. at the large National Park Service parking lot on Canal Road, on the Washington County side of the Shepherdstown bridge, just east of the railroad trestle (not the first, small parking lot at the base of the hill).

The group will then carpool to Antietam Creek and walk back. The walk will consist of about three miles of level walking and will take about 3 hours.

Anytime is a good time to walk the C&O Canal and look for birds. At this time of the year, birds that may be seen include Winter Wrens, Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Downy, Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers, as well as waterfowl and raptors.

Loaner binoculars will be available for participants who do not have their own.

For more information, contact Sandy Sagalkin at [monsansagalkin@myactv.net](mailto:monsansagalkin@myactv.net) or 240-291-6465.

The Potomac Valley Audubon Society is a United Way of the Eastern Panhandle.

## Remember United Way/CFC Fund Drives

Remember that the annual fundraising campaigns of the United Way of the Eastern Panhandle and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) are now underway.

Both campaigns will last into the winter.

Because PVAS is an IRS-qualified non-profit agency, individuals who contribute to either United Way or CFC can designate all or part of those contributions to PVAS, if they wish.

To designate United Way contributions to PVAS, look for the section of the United Way contribution form that asks how you want your donation invested and indicate that you want to make a “Restricted Contribution” to “Potomac Valley Audubon Society, PO Box 578, Shepherdstown, WV.”

To designate CFC contributions to PVAS, enter PVAS’s CFC number (29061) on the CFC form that you file with your employing agency.

Please note that United Way and CFC deduct a percentage from all designated contributions to cover their administrative costs.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Alexander at [pvasmail@aol.com](mailto:pvasmail@aol.com) or 304-676-3397.

## November Program Will Focus on Fish Health Issues

Our November program at the National Conservation Training Center will focus on the latest findings concerning the health of fish in the Potomac River and other rivers in the region.

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

Admission is free and anyone is welcome to attend.

The speaker will be Dr. Vicki S. Blazer, the fish pathologist at the Leetown Science Center's National Fish Health Research Laboratory.

Her talk will be entitled "Intersex in Bass and Association with Land Use in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed."

Dr. Blazer has worked at the Fish Health Research Laboratory since 1992. Since that time, she has been involved in numerous fish disease issues in the Chesapeake drainage area, as well as national and international fish health issues.

Previously she was assistant leader of the Georgia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit at the University of Georgia, where she taught courses in fish diseases, fish pathology, and fish nutrition and directed graduate student research.

She has a B.S. in Marine Biology from Southampton College of Long Island University and a Ph.D. from the University of Rhode Island. She did two years of postdoctoral work at the University of Georgia's Veterinary College.

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## Bad Weather Dampens Plant Sale

PVAS has received a donation of \$84 from the Winston Gardens Native Plant Nursery to support the new Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve.

The donation represents 15 percent of the proceeds from the Nursery's annual fall Open House, which was held the October 1-2 weekend. Unfortunately the weather was cold and rainy that weekend, and sales were way off.

Nevertheless, PVAS appreciates the generosity of the owners, Virginia Provenzano Winston and her husband Eldon. A plant sale they held this spring generated a donation of more than \$230 to PVAS.

The nursery is located in northeastern Berkeley County, at 1121 Hollida Lane, one mile off Swan Pond Road.

It specializes in trees and shrubs that are native to this region.

For directions and a full list of the plants available, go to the Nursery's website at [www.winstongardens.com](http://www.winstongardens.com). Or call the Winstons at 304-267-6924.

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## Audubon 'Birding the Net' Timed with "The Big Year"

*National Audubon Society, NEW YORK (October 11, 2011)*

Birdwatching hit the Internet in a big way as Audubon launched its groundbreaking social media campaign, Birding the Net, on

October 10. Visitors to over 100 websites -- including AOL, Slate, Discovery Channel and more will encounter unexpected avian visitors -- each inviting them to find more birds to add to their lists. Timed to build on the release of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox's *The Big Year*, the campaign, created by Goodby, Silverstein & Partners, will bring the excitement of birds and birding to a broad new audience in a new and unexpected way.

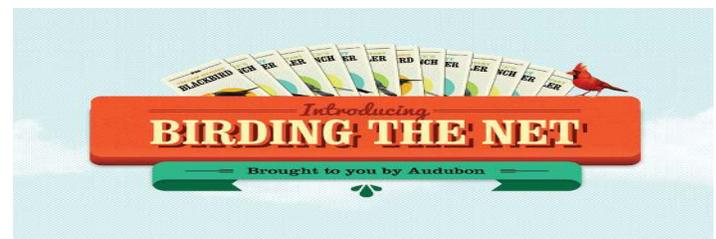
"Birds are the best possible ambassadors for the environment, and this will help people see them in a whole new way," said David Yarnold, President & CEO of Audubon. "This is about fun -- but it's also about getting more people involved in taking action to protect birds and the planet we share with them. And with this unprecedented use of social media and the web, we're also making it clear that this is not your grandmother's Audubon."

In *The Big Year*, characters compete to see the most North American birds in one year. Birding the Net brings to the Internet the thrill of the chase found in real-world birding, challenging players to spot dozens of species that will be released from October 10 through November 7. Web surfers will observe virtual birds doing the same things that birds do outdoors: animations of birds will fly across homepages, perch on mastheads, and flock to birdhouses that anyone can install on personal websites and blogs. Clicking on the animated birds on the many participating websites takes players to an Audubon Facebook page to collect and trade "bird cards" which feature recordings of birdsongs, bird facts, and video. The first players to collect all the birds will win prizes, including a voyage to the Galapagos Islands.

"This campaign amazingly combines bird preservation, education and alluring animation in an addictive experience that spreads across the Internet," said Jeff Goodby, Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of Goodby, Silverstein & Partners and long-time supporter of Audubon. Says Goodby, "the game turns the cold digital world into a resonant reminder of what we love about the warm and fragrant natural world around us."

All that is required to play is to visit Audubon on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NationalAudubonSociety](http://www.facebook.com/NationalAudubonSociety). The game will go viral, since trading bird cards helps a player's chances of winning; the more Facebook friends that compete in Birding the Net, the more opportunities for trading birds. And for exclusive hints on where to find birds on the Internet, Audubon followers on Twitter (@AudubonSociety) can interact and follow campaign "spokesbirds" @FloridaScrubJay and @RufHummingbird.

In addition to the grand prize voyage for two to the Galapagos Islands courtesy of Lindblad Expeditions, prizes include Canon cameras, Nikon binoculars, gift cards to Woolrich and downloads of the *Audubon Birds -- A Field Guide to North American Birds* mobile app from Green Mountain Digital. All 200 winners also receive one-year membership to Audubon.





On the first weekend of November for each of the past eight years, The American Conservation Film Festival (ACFF) has brought to the Shepherdstown stage the best of conservation film making from around the world: beautiful films, provocative films, heart-wrenching films. This year's festival promises to be no exception.

The festival will be running in venues across Shepherdstown, beginning Thursday, November 3, through Sunday, November 6.

The ninth annual American Conservation Film Festival features over 40 conservation-themed films along with post-screening, meet-the-Filmmaker interactions, topical dialogues featuring panels of content experts, and various special events. Highlights include 3D night at NCTC on Friday evening, *The Big Fix* film and panel discussion about the Gulf oil spill, *The City Dark* about the disappearance of the night sky due to light pollution, family programming at NCTC throughout the day on Saturday and much more.

Schedule and ticket information is available on the ACFF website, [www.conservationfilm.org](http://www.conservationfilm.org). All-Access Festival passes are available for \$40 with block tickets for specific time blocks and venues available for \$10.

Tickets are on sale now!



## Calendar

- Nov 3-6: American Conservation Film Festival
- Nov 6: Hawk-watching trip, Waggoner's Gap
- Nov 8: Formal dedication of Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve, 1 p.m.
- Nov 9: PVAS Program, "Intersex in Bass and Land Use in the Chesapeake Watershed"
- Nov 12: Fall Fundraiser at Wild Goose Farm, 1-4 p.m.
- Nov 19: Birdwalk on the C&O Canal near Shepherdstown, 8 a.m.
- Dec (TBA): Potomac Valley Nature Photography Annual Potluck
- Dec 17: Christmas Bird Count in Charles Town
- Dec 31: Christmas Bird Count in Inwood

## JOIN PVAS TODAY!

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

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

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

### Membership Form

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

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

### Clip and mail this form to:

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

**Thank you for your support!**

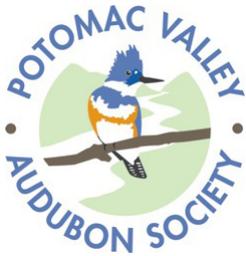


## If you'd rather join the National Audubon Society:

Some people prefer National Audubon Society membership, which includes a subscription to the Society's Audubon magazine. To become a National member, go to the Society's website at [www.audubon.org](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.

### RED TEXT - DOT ALERT

If red text or a red dot appears on your mailing label, your membership may have expired and this could be your last issue of Valley Views. Take action to renew your Local membership. If you are a National Audubon Society member, the National Society will notify you directly when your membership is up for renewal.



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The Potomac Valley Audubon Society meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through April, at the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), Shepherdstown, WV, in the Instructional West Building. Programs are free and open to the public. For additional information about PVAS or its programs and activities, please call any of the board members listed 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 Thursday 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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