

Valley Views

**Potomac
Valley
Audubon
Society**

Volume 24, Issue 2

October 2005

Field Trips

Eidolon

•Saturday, October 15th

Come join us as we explore a wonderful 350-acre forest habitat in Morgan County, WV. The property, Eidolon, extends from the Orleans Road on the crest of Sideling Hill east down to Woodmont Road. It was willed to The Nature Conservancy by its owner, Marguerite Zapoleon, but TNC has not yet taken ownership due to legal complications. TNC has indicated interest in having PVAS manage the property as PVAS has managed the Yankauer Preserve. PVAS' first-ever field trip to Eidolon will include stops at a spring and a historic stone structure that could be rehabilitated as a headquarters building. There are trails to hike while we bird and botanize the site. We will meet at 10:00 am at the viewpoint on WV Route 9 across from the Panorama Restaurant. This is 3 and 1/3 miles west of Berkeley Springs, measured from the intersection of Rt. 9 with Rt. 522 in Berkeley Springs. Dress appropriately, wear good hiking shoes and bring your binoculars.

Project Owlnet

•Saturday, November 5

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!
(Continued on page 2, column 2)

First Annual Potomac Arts Festival
Mark the Dates: Oct 28-30, 2005



Details page 3

Meeting Program

Dragonfly Expert to Speak

•Wednesday, October 12

Jennifer Wykle, wildlife biologist for West Virginia's Division of Natural Resources, will be the featured speaker at the October monthly meeting of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society.



Ms. Wykle will discuss the characteristics and identification of West Virginia's dragonflies.

Because these insects require good water quality to thrive, they are considered important indicators of overall stream and wetland health.

An interesting mix of northern, southern, coastal, and Midwestern species can be found in the state.

Ms. Wykle works with DNR's Wildlife Diversity and Natural Heritage programs, which are responsible for species listed by the federal government as threatened or endangered, as well as nongame wildlife and their habitats.

She has written about dragonflies for West Virginia Wildlife Magazine, and she coordinated the 2002 annual meeting of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas, which was held in Lewisburg, West Virginia. She has been with DNR since 2000, and is based in Elkins.

She has a Master of Science from Marshall University and a B.S. in Biology from Marietta College.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 12, in the auditorium of the U.S. Geological Survey's Leetown Science Center, 11649 Leetown Road (County Route 1), Kearneysville.

WV Environmental Council

Fall Annual Conference in the Eastern Panhandle Oct 14-16, 2005

Interested environmental protection groups and green businesses should visit the WVEC site for information at www.wvecouncil.org. There will be workshops, excursions, networking, silent auction, and work on the legislative agenda.

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

President's Perch



Hi Everyone!

October has to be one of the nicest months of the year...perfect weather, wood fires, fall foliage, pumpkins, apple butter...my list goes on and on! Let's get out there and enjoy!

Patsy & Ken have some great field trips to help us take it all in (see pages 1-2). And that's not all! We're hosting our first annual Potomac Arts Festival (think holiday shopping) in conjunction with the American Conservation Film Festival at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown on October 29-30. We're kicking it off with an Arts Festival Preview Party on Friday night, October 28, and our Race for the Birds the following morning (Saturday, the 29th). See page 3 for more details. Something for everyone! Bring the kids and grandma too!

I hate to say it, but it's also time to be thinking about those snowy days to come ... wood for the stove, some extra snow day food, and bird seed (yes those birds are going to need some extra food too).

This is our 24th Annual Bird Seed Sale. The orders are DUE October 15 (see insert).

Hope to see you here, there, and everywhere!

Diana Mullis, President

Help Protect Monongahela Forest

West Virginia conservation groups have launched a campaign against the Bush administration's rewrite of the Monongahela National Forest management plan. Groups are concerned that the plan fails to protect WV's wild areas. Information about the plan and how to make your concerns known is available at www.wwild.org. Information about the Forest Service and their proposal is available at www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf/plan_revision/plan_revision.htm. **The deadline for comments is November 14**

(News from Yankauer from page 3)

Annual Appeal

As you know by now, our Annual Appeal has been delivered to your mailbox. Contributions have started coming in, for which we are grateful. Each year we count on the generosity of our members and friends to keep up our environmental education programs. Thank you for your support! Remember that you can also donate at our website through the Network for Good at www.potomac-audubon.org by clicking the "Donate Now" icon. We are also part of the United Way, so you can designate your donation.

(Field Trips from page 1)

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.



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)
- \$15 Seniors and full-time students

Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society**

Mail to:

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

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**PVAS' First Annual Potomac Arts Festival
A Celebration of Nature and the Arts
October 28-30, 2005**

Enjoy the work of 40 visual artists from across the United States at the National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown. Weekend admission is free. See below for information on the Festival Preview Party. For additional information on any of the activities, please contact Jiji Beckett, Festival Coordinator, at 540-955-3553 or email: artfestival@potomacaudubon.org.

Potomac Arts Festival 2005 Schedule of Events

Friday, October 28: 5:30-8:30 pm. Festival Preview Party (tickets required)
Saturday, October 29: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. The Potomac Arts Festival is open to the public
Sunday, October 30: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Potomac Arts Festival is open to the public

You are invited to the
Potomac Valley Audubon Society's Preview Party
for the first annual Potomac Arts Festival



Join the Celebration of arts and nature
at this special sneak preview fundraiser,
which includes music, food and drink, and a silent auction
with original artworks created by the festival's artists.

Friday, October 28, 2005

at the
National Conservation Training Center
Shepherdstown, West Virginia

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Join festival jurors at NCTC's Entry Auditorium
for a private viewing of festival artworks

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Enjoy a lively gathering with music, food, and drink
at NCTC's Commons area

**Price for single tickets for the Preview: \$45.00
Please call 540-955-3553 to RSVP for this special event**

**News from Yankauer...
Programs, Programs, Programs!**

The phone is already ringing for programs being scheduled for spring! Our first program will take place at Camp Frame in Hedgesville on Sept. 22-23. This is Potomac Intermediate School's Environmental Program and we'll play some fun adaptation games with the 5th graders. This is just the beginning! We'll have lots of volunteer opportunities for programs this year, so if you're interested, please get in touch at 304-676-3397 or PVASmail@aol.com. We'll definitely need some extra hands.

United Way's Day of Caring

We had a great day at the Preserve for the United Way's 10th Annual Day of Caring. We got trails mulched, the butterfly garden ready to plant, trails trimmed and obstacles removed, a new parking lot area cleared, Ailanthus and stilt grass removed, parking lot weeded, and some of the more beat-up interpretive signs removed. Many hands do indeed make light(er) work. Volunteers made it all happen. About 75 people showed up! A fabulous lunch was served by volunteers Diana Mullis, Mary Stanley, and Jane Vanderhook. Thanks to all who came! A special thank you to Jean Neely for coordinating the effort!

Yankauer Workday Scheduled for Oct. 15

Although much was accomplished on the Day of Caring, there is always more to do. Come help us with a variety of projects from prepping the new parking lot area to sealing the pavilion floor, to planting the butterfly garden (weather and money depending)! We'd love your help for half or a whole day, 9-4. Please contact Kristin at PVASmail@aol.com or 304-676-3397 to find out more details if you're interested!

**"This Race is for the Birds!" 5K Trail Run
and Walk - Saturday, Oct. 29th 9-10am**

Come enjoy a fun run or walk on the trails around the campus of NCTC. We're hosting a kids' short fun run too! Fall colors should be great! Showers are available so you can stick around and enjoy the arts festival sweat-free. Adults (runners and walkers): \$20, kids under 10 for fun run: \$10. Price includes t-shirts for adults and t-shirts and prizes for all kids. Pre-register on-line at www.active.com or visit www.potomacaudubon.org to download a registration form. Hope to see you there! To volunteer, contact Don and Kathryn Henry at dhenry@myexcel.com or 304-876-6681. If you have general questions about the race, call 304-676-3397. (News from Yankauer continued on page 2, column 1)

Would you like Valley View by e-mail?

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



Potomac Valley Audubon Society
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DATED MATERIALS

A proud partner of the United Way of Berkeley and Morgan Counties, United Way of Jefferson County, and the Combined Federal Campaign.



<http://potomacaudubon.org>

MAIL TO:

October 2005

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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 | |
|---------------------------------|--|
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