

VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac
Valley
Audubon
Society

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PVAS Assumes Ownership of Stauffer's Marsh

Stauffer Miller, the owner of the popular Berkeley County birding site known as Stauffer's Marsh, has donated the property to PVAS.

The donation has been in the works since last January, after Mr. Miller gave a presentation about the marsh during a PVAS program at the National Conservation Training center.



The deed transfer was finally completed on September 9 and recorded September 12.

Shepherdstown attorney D. Frank Hill III handled all the legal work *pro bono*.

Mr. Miller, a retired veterinarian who currently lives in Charlottesville, Virginia, is an Inwood native. He purchased the property in 1999 and has been maintaining it as a bird sanctuary on his own since that time.

It will now be known formally as the Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve.

The property 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 about 750 feet of Back Creek frontage.

Originally part of a 1754 Fairfax land grant, the property was formerly marshy farmland. In the mid-1990s, a previous owner entered most of it (41.4 acres) into a permanent conservation easement through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wetland Reserve Program. At that time, USDA took extensive steps to restore it as a wetland.

Today, the property includes a mix of shallow ponds, marshy areas, woods, and edge lands.

See *Stauffer's Marsh*, Page 2

BARN PARTY!

Join PVAS for its fall fundraiser on November 12 from 1-4 p.m. The barn party will take place in the beautiful timberframe barn at Wild Goose Farm, just outside Shepherdstown. The event will include lunch and all the fixin's. Please go to our website for details. Invitations will be sent out in mid-October. Pre-purchased tickets are required. Tickets will be \$45/single ticket, Donor \$150 (admits 2),



Patron \$250 (admits 2), or Supporter \$500 (admits 2). For an invitation, contact Kristin at 304-676-3397 or PVASmail@aol.com.

Birdseed Sale Changes for 2012!

Spring flooding in the Midwest and extreme conditions elsewhere around the globe have made availability of seed scarce and unpredictable, especially sunflower seed. In some cases prices have doubled and market sources are unstable. The result...PVAS's birdseed pickup and storage program has changed greatly.

Both Gower's locations will provide storage, but only until April 1. In this uncertain climate they are unable to assure they can supply seed at the current prices after March; therefore, seed not picked up by that date will be forfeit. The birdseed committee will make every effort to notify our customer's if they have seed in storage as that date approaches.

Additionally, the Ranson Gower's location will carry a reduced list of products. Ranson will not have a designated pickup date; seed may be picked up during regular store hours anytime after November 14. The Williamsport Gower's location will have a designated pickup date of November 12 and allow storage after that date for certain products shown on the order form. Berkeley Springs customers will pick up their seed on November 12 at the Hunter's Hardware Warehouse.

Order forms for the annual PVAS birdseed sale are enclosed with this issue of Valley Views. Forms may also be found on the PVAS

See *Birdseed*, Page 2

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

President's Perch



Hello everyone:

The acquisition of the Back Creek Valley property known as Stauffer's Marsh represents a new milestone for PVAS.

Although we already co-manage two nature preserves for The Nature Conservancy, the Marsh will be the first nature preserve wholly owned and operated by PVAS.

We're very grateful to the former owner, Stauffer Miller, for his decision to donate this property to us.

It was a very generous gift, not only to us, but to the whole Eastern Panhandle, and we can't thank him enough.

Our mission at the preserve will be to fulfill Mr. Miller's wish that it be maintained as a good habitat for wetland birds and as a place that can help educate the public about the importance of wetlands.

Over time we hope to facilitate easier public access to the preserve by creating additional trails. We also hope to provide some interpretive signage.

But the property's size and terrain are such that it does not lend itself to much, if any, development beyond that, and we don't envision any other infrastructure projects there for the foreseeable future.

We're excited about the opportunity to be good stewards of this marvelous property, and we look forward to working with its neighbors and others to maximize its potential.

If you'd like to get involved and help us out there please let us know—I'm sure we'll be offering plenty of volunteer opportunities at the preserve, especially for trail work, and we'll welcome any assistance you can provide. Financial help will be welcome, too.

—Peter Smith

Stauffer's Marsh (continued from page 1)

This rich diversity of habitats makes Stauffer's Marsh very attractive to birds, especially wetland species.

This makes it a favorite spot for many Eastern Panhandle birders. To date, some 150 species of birds have been identified there.

Many of the preserve's ponds and marshy areas are easily viewed from the road. Currently, the preserve's only formal trail is a mowed lane that runs from a locked gate near the property's northeast corner to Back Creek. PVAS hopes to develop additional trails in the future.

Birders, hikers, and photographers are welcome to visit at any time.

Because local residents have been fishing the property since USDA created its ponds, PVAS will continue to allow fishing but only with prior permission. No boats are allowed on the ponds.

To keep deer populations down, one local family has exclusive hunting rights in exchange for helping to care for the property. No other hunting will be permitted.

Ticks are prevalent at the preserve, and visitors are urged to use

appropriate precautions at all times. Waterproof footwear is also recommended.

There is a substantial gravelled parking area at the north end of the preserve. There is also some parking at the south end.

Directions to the preserve are as follows:

From **Hedgesville and points west**: take Route 9 to Back Creek Valley Road (County Route 7) just west of Hedgesville.

Follow Back Creek Valley Road south for 10.5 miles to the village of Shanghai. In Shanghai, from the intersection with Hampshire Grade and Tub Run Hollow roads, continue following Back Creek Valley Road south for another one-half mile. The preserve will be on your left, on the east side of the road.

From **Martinsburg**: Take King Street west over I-81 to Tuscarora Pike (County Route 15). Follow Tuscarora Pike about 10 miles over North Mountain and across Back Creek into Shanghai (it becomes County Route 18 at the intersection with Poor House Road). In Shanghai, turn south onto Back Creek Valley Road and follow it one-half mile to the preserve, on your left, on the east side of the road.

From **Charles Town**: Take West Virginia Route 51 west about 16.6 miles to West Virginia Route 45. Turn west (left) on Route 45 and follow it 2.5 miles into Glengary. At Glengary, turn north (right) onto Back Creek Valley Road (County Route 7). Follow Back Creek Valley Road 4.2 miles to the preserve, on your right, on the east side of the road.



Birdseed (continued from page 1)

Website at www.potomacaudubon.org. Please read the enclosed flyer completely and fill out the appropriate form with care.

As in the past, proceeds will go to fund our educational programs.

In addition to your generous support of birdseed orders, volunteers are needed for November 12 delivery 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. Diana is also the person to contact regarding any birdseed questions.

Don't forget - Birdseed Orders are due October 15.

Remember United Way/CFC Fund Drives

If you give, don't forget that you can designate PVAS for directed contributions. Any questions, contact Kristin Alexander at pvasmail@aol.com or 304-676-3397.

Attendance Up At Berkeley Springs Fall Birding Festival

This year's Berkeley Springs Fall Birding Festival, which was held over the September 16-18 weekend, drew more people than ever before. The festival's two evening programs and four daytime walks and workshops had a total attendance of 213, up from last year's 176.

Some attended several or all of the events but each event drew new participants and in all about 130 different people participated. Some came from as far away as Ohio and Wisconsin.



Shown above is the group that turned out for the Sunday morning bird walk at Sleepy Creek retreat near Cacapon State Park.

All the events got excellent reviews, especially the evening programs.

Judy Webb and Helen Herlocker deserve great thanks for all their hard work in organizing the festival. Thanks are also due to Carol DelColle, for conducting the workshop for beginning birders, to Joe Gentile, for leading a walk at the Eidolon Nature Preserve, and to the festival's evening presenters: Sharon Stiteler, Liam McGranaghan, and Marcy Heacker.

Planning for next year's festival will begin shortly.

Fall Youth Programs Have Started!

It didn't take long for our fall programs to get to warp speed this year! In fact, we are taking reservations for Spring 2012 now as fall school programs are close to being fully booked!

A new season of our popular child-adult partner "Wee Naturalists" program began in August and will continue through early December. These monthly programs are conducted rain or shine. Spaces are still available for these programs. Please help us spread the word!

Watershed programs are being conducted in five schools (about 460 students) this fall (Ranson and Shepherdstown Elementary, Mill Creek and Tomahawk Intermediate, and St. Joseph's Parish School. Another seven schools are expected to be served during the spring semester.

New programs for kindergarten, first, fourth, and fifth grades are being field tested this fall with a limited number of classrooms in each grade participating. About 1,000 students will be part of this pilot program. Almost all of the spots were claimed by Labor Day! These programs will be offered in the classroom with an outdoor component using the individual schoolyards. The Kindergarten program focuses on wildlife conservation. The first-grade program helps students learn the differences between living and non-living

things. The fourth-grade program addresses food chains and webs and the fifth-grade program tackles tree structure and photosynthesis. Program costs for these programs are being funded by a grant from WV Division of Natural Resources.

Additional funding from the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation and the City of Ranson are providing ways for additional classes in Jefferson and Berkeley Counties to take part in these new programs. Some classes are choosing to travel to Yankauer Preserve as well.

A new collaboration at Berkeley-Heights Elementary School in Berkeley County has also begun with a teacher training for all third-grade teachers at the school. The training will support teachers as they use their schoolyard as an outdoor classroom during the entire year and learn about and compare West Virginia plants, animals, and habitats through cross-curricular learning.

St. Joseph's Parish School in Martinsburg has developed a service project program that will allow their kindergarten through fifth-grade students to visit Yankauer Preserve on a monthly basis this year and combine an age-appropriate service project with nature explorations. Service projects will include everything from "Growing Native" nut collection this fall to "Christmas For The Birds" in December, and gardening projects next spring.

Volunteers are needed for all programs, but especially those at Yankauer Preserve. Helping with school programs is an excellent way for Master Naturalists to complete volunteer hours! If you are interested in helping with any of the programs, would like further information, or want to schedule a program, contact Ellen Murphy at pvasprograms@comcast.net or 304-676-8739.

Day of Caring Sets New Record

This year's Day of Caring at the Yankauer Preserve set an all-time record number of volunteers. 121 people came out to the preserve to help pull stilt grass, beat back invasives, clean up the flower beds, trim and mulch trails, install water bars, and generally spruce things up. This year's represented groups at Yankauer included IT Sexton, Jefferson High School's Pop Singers, Airforce Jr. ROTC, Potomac Valley Master Naturalists, Potomac Valley Audubon Society, Shepherdstown Rotary, Tri-State Group, and WV Master Gardeners. Everyone enjoyed a hot lunch provided by PVAS volunteers Alice Barkus, Wanda Miller, Diana Mullis, and Jane Vanderhook. Jennifer Caskey was also generous enough to allow overflow parking along her lane to accommodate the abundance of cars.

This year PVAS also had a Day of Caring site at Flowing Springs Park in Ranson. We had 40 volunteers there who planted 175 trees in a new riparian buffer zone between the railroad and stream, installed an electric deer fence, and removed invasive species. The volunteers at Flowing Springs Park included representatives from the Cacapon Institute, Charles Town Rotary, the City of Ranson, Job Corps, Master Gardeners, Ranson Residents, and the WV Division of Forestry. Volunteers at this site enjoyed chicken sandwiches donated by the Chick-fil-A in Ranson.



It is truly remarkable what many hands can do in a day when they are dedicated to giving back to the community. We can't thank the

United Way enough for making this volunteer day possible, and of course, we thank the volunteers themselves who worked so hard and accomplished so much.

Yankauer “Growing Native” Event Set for October 8

PVAS is once again planning to partner with the Potomac Conservancy to hold a Growing Native seed-collection event at the Yankauer Nature Preserve on Saturday, October 8. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to noon, rain or shine.

Everyone is welcome to participate. A state forester will be on hand to aid with seed identification, and seed-collection bags will be provided.

These events are very popular with children and make good family outings.

Pre-registration is suggested but not required; people can register on site that morning if they wish. To pre-register or get more information, contact Deanna Tricarico, the Conservancy’s Outreach Coordinator, at tricarico@potomac.org or 301-608-1188, extension 204.

For those who cannot attend the October 8 event but would like to help, the Conservancy will be installing seed-collection kiosks at the Yankauer Preserve, the Farmers Market in Inwood, and the Nature Niche store in Berkeley Springs. Families and individuals can gather seeds on their own at their own pace and drop them off at any of these locations anytime through October 23. Full instructions on procedures for gathering and dropping off seeds can be found on the Growing Native website at www.growingnative.org.

The Growing Native seed collection program is aimed at improving water quality in the Potomac River. Each year, it musters thousands of volunteers throughout the Potomac River watershed to gather native tree seeds that are donated to state tree nurseries where they are nurtured into small tree seedlings. The seedlings are then planted along streams and rivers in the Potomac watershed to help restore forests that filter pollution and run-off.

Anyone is welcome to participate, and it’s easy to do: at each event, a state forester is on hand to aid with tree identification and seed-collection bags are provided.

Since the program’s inception in 2001, volunteers have collected more than 150,000 pounds of seeds and helped restore hardwood forests along nearly 800 miles of streamside land.

2012 Race for the Birds Date Set; Registration Opens Soon

PVAS’s Eleventh Annual “This Race is for the Birds!” will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2012, at the National Conservation Training Center outside Shepherdstown.

On-line registration will be available starting Thanksgiving Day 2011 on the race website at www.RacefortheBirds.org.

The 2012 race will include five- and ten-mile runs, a shorter community walk/run, and a one-mile “Fun Run” for kids.

Mark your calendars now so you can join this fun family event! This will be a good opportunity to see NCTC’s beautiful campus during the peak of the spring wildflower season.

“Wee Naturalists” Sessions Continue

PVAS’s “Wee Naturalists” program continues in October with sessions about fall leaves on the 19th and 20th.

The program’s November sessions will be held on the 16th and 17th and focus on “Nature’s Art.” The December sessions will be on the 7th and 8th 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.

Families may register for one, several, or all of the monthly sessions. The fee is \$5 per child/adult team per session. To ensure that everyone receives close, personal attention, enrollment is limited and pre-registration is required. All sessions are held at the Yankauer Nature Preserve. Each session will last from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

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.

Don’t Forget Winston Gardens Open House!

Here’s a reminder that the Winston Gardens Native Plant Nursery’s fall Open House Plant Sale will be held the weekend of October 1 and 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

PVAS will receive 15 percent of the Sale proceeds.

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

Operated by noted area landscape designer Virginia Winston and her husband Eldon, it specializes in trees and shrubs that are native to this region.

This fall it is offering more 40 different species for sale. These range from popular favorites like Sugar Maples and Canadian Hemlock to hard-to-find species like Hornbeam, Spicebush, and Red and Bottlebrush Buckeye.

Light refreshments will be served and a door prize will be offered.

For directions and a full list of the plants available, go to the Nursery’s website at www.winstongardens.com. Or call the Winstons at 304-267-6924.

Last Chance To Join Cape May Hawk-watch Trip

There’s still time to join PVAS’s hawk-watching trip to Cape May, New Jersey, during the October 14-16 weekend.

This is a great time of year to be at the shore, and it will be a great opportunity to see Peregrine Falcons, Merlins, American Kestrels, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Coopers Hawks, Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers and other species of hawks.

Anyone with an interest is welcome to come along and there will be no fee. But participants will be expected furnish their own transportation and make their own hotel or motel reservations.

Sandy Sagalkin will be the trip leader, and he will be staying at Leith Hall, a B&B at Cape May (telephone 609-884-1934). The Cape May Bird Observatory website (www.birdcapemay.org) contains a list of hotels and motels which offer discounts to birders who are members of the Cape May Bird Observatory. If you are planning to come on the trip, it might pay to become a member, which you easily can do online. Cape May can be pricey and cheaper accommodations may be available at Wildwood, New Jersey.

Pre-registration by phone is required: contact Sandy Sagalkin at 240-291-6465. For more information, you can contact him by email at monsansagalkin@myactv.net.

We're Offering Local Hawk-watch Opportunities, Too

If you'd like to go hawk-watching but don't have time to travel far, PVAS is sponsoring trips to Maryland's Washington Monument State Park on October 5 and 19. Anyone with an interest is invited to participate in either or both trips.

The park's monument is an official hawk-watch platform and one of the best hawk-watching sites in the mid-Atlantic. Species that may be seen at this time include Ospreys, Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned and Coopers Hawks, and Red-tailed Hawks.

Local naturalist Sandy Sagalkin will lead the trip and help identify the birds seen.

The Park is located four miles east of Boonsboro and 1½ miles north of Alternate Route 40 on Monument Road.

Participants will gather at 9 a.m. in the Park's uppermost parking lot, just below the monument. From there, the group will walk up to the monument at the summit. The trail is not long but it is rather rough and not suitable for anyone who needs assistance.

The length of the stay at the monument will depend on how the hawk flight is going. If conditions are good, the trip leaders may stay until early afternoon. Other participants can leave whenever they wish.

The hawk-watch itself is free, but there is a fee to enter the park: \$2 for Maryland residents, and \$3 for others.

No pre-registration is required.

Participants should bring binoculars if they have them, snacks or a lunch if they wish, and be prepared for chilly weather. PVAS will provide binoculars for those who do not have any.

Rest room facilities are available in the Park's parking lot area.

The trip will be cancelled if it is raining because hawks do not fly in such weather.

For more information contact Sandy at 240-291-6465 or monsansagalkin@myactv.net.

Patuxent Refuge Trip Will Be Ideal for Families

PVAS is sponsoring a field trip to the Patuxent Research Refuge near Laurel, Maryland, on Saturday, October 29.

Anyone with an interest is invited to participate.

Established in 1936, the Refuge is the nation's first and only National Wildlife Refuge devoted to wildlife research. It is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The field trip, which will last from approximately 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., will be an ideal trip for families with children.

It will include a guided, one-hour bird walk at 9:30 a.m.; a guided, 45-minute tram tour of selected areas of the Refuge at 11:30 a.m.; a self-guided of the Refuge's Cash Lake area at 1:00 p.m. There will also be scavenger hunts for children.

There is no fee to enter the Refuge but the tram tour will carry a fee of \$3 for adults, \$2 for senior citizens, and \$1 for children under 12. There is no food service at the Refuge so participants should bring their own box lunch or mid-day snack.

Trip participants should plan to meet at the Refuge's Visitor's Center at 9:30 a.m. The entrance to the Center is on Powder Mill Road, two miles east of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, near Laurel, Maryland.

The drive time to the Refuge from the Eastern Panhandle is about 1¼ hour. Those who would prefer to carpool or caravan to the Refuge should plan to meet in the parking lot of the Charles Town Food Lion supermarket off Route 340 at 7:45 a.m.

Those who wish to participate are asked to pre-register by contacting Kelly Wolf at kheldreth@hotmail.com or 304-229-6229. Please be sure to indicate how many people will be coming with you and whether you wish to carpool or intend to drive on your own to the Refuge.

For more information about the Refuge, see its website at www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/index.htm.

This trip will be postponed to November 5 in the event of rain. On that date, the tram tour will not be available.

First Phase of Eidolon Cottage Restoration Complete



The first phase of the effort to restore the old stone cottage at the Eidolon Nature Preserve is now complete.

Hedgesville contractor Duane Householder and his son Josh have finished the concrete footings that are needed for the post and beam framework that will support a new cottage roof.

PVAS hopes to move forward next summer with construction of the framework and roof next summer.

The goal is to get the cottage in shape to be used as a shelter and educational pavilion.

Eidolon's former owners, Louis and Marguerite Zapoleon, built the cottage in 1950-51.

They used the structure as a weekend retreat for more than a decade, and they intended to use it as their summer home when they retired.

However, the cottage was gutted by fire in 1962 and the Zapo- leons never rebuilt it.

October Program Will Focus on Lyme Disease

Our October program at the National Conservation Training Center will focus on Lyme Disease.

The program will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, October 12, in Room 151 of the Instructional West Building.

Admission is free and anyone is welcome to attend.

The speaker will be Dr. Jennifer Cox Janus, a board-certified internist and pediatrician who practices as a primary care physician at Johns Hopkins Community Physicians in Hagerstown.

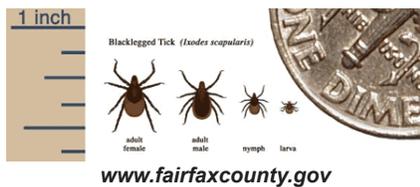
Her talk will cover the epidemiology, presentation, diagnosis and prevention and treatment of Lyme Disease. She will briefly discuss other tick-borne diseases as time permits.

Lyme Disease is an illness caused by a tick-borne bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*. It is transmitted by the bite of the blacklegged tick, commonly known as the deer tick.

The incidence of Lyme disease is high in this region. In West Virginia, 83 percent of the total 772 Lyme Disease cases reported for the whole state from 2000-2010 were in Morgan, Berkeley and Jefferson counties. The data for nearby Maryland counties are similar.

Lyme Disease is most often contracted in May, June, and July but cases are now being seen year-round.

Dr. Janus received her M.D. from the University of Maryland School of Medicine and completed her residency at the University of Michigan Health System.



View from the Eagle's Nest

By Sandy Sagalkin

Roger Tory Peterson once described wood warblers as “The butterflies of the bird world.” When these small creatures are adorned in their breeding plumage, they are like little jewels hanging from a tree. Peterson also spoke about “Confusing Fall Warblers”, those that have donned their winter plumage and cause intermediate birders some headaches. With this in mind, I asked Matt Orsie, an avid resident birder, if he would lead a trip focused on fall warblers. We were already scheduled to go to the Allegheny Front Banding Station on September 10 so Matt said, “Let’s bird our way up to Dolly Sods.” A small group of PVAS birders met up at 6 a.m., Saturday morning, September 10, in the parking lot of the Hermitage Inn located in Petersburg, West Virginia.

As we headed up the east side of the Allegheny front to the Sods; we made several stops along the way. At one of our first stops Matt played a recording of the Cape May Warbler in hopes of attracting a few of the migrants that were seen flying overhead. For many, this is the first experience with “fall versions” of the warblers. It only took a minute before birds started responding. Most were Cape May Warblers, but we also had Black and White, Black-throated Green, Magnolia, Tennessee, Blackpoll, Yellow-throated and Bay-breasted warblers. At other spots we observed: Nashville, Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided, Yellow-rumped, Blackburnian warblers, and Common Yellowthroats. 14 warbler species in all. Our high counts were 30 Cape May and 17 Black-throated Green warblers.

When we reached the banding station, Joanie Patterson, the

daughter of Ralph Bell (founder of the station), and other Brooks Bird Club volunteers, that operate the station, were generous with their time and information. They held up birds that were banded for closer looks. Even birders appreciate a “bird in the hand” as an aide to help identifying them in the “bush.”

While heading home, I thought about how much I learned and how viewing birds in the field took much of the confusion out of identifying fall warblers. Will I have to keep going out in the fall to lock in this knowledge? Yes, and I’m already looking forward to next year. I was also thinking about our next group of birding outings—to hawk watches—to observe the spectacular migration of our most charismatic bird species, the raptors. We have trips scheduled for Washington Monument State Park (MD), Waggoner’s Gap (PA) and Cape May (NJ). I hope you will join us. We now *have loaner binoculars*, so not having them is no excuse.

PVAS Installs Rain Garden at St. Joe’s

St. Joseph Parish School has been participating in PVAS’ Watershed Education Initiative for several years. Each year the fourth-grade students look at the schoolyard to investigate runoff and erosion issues, and there was one spot that was particularly bad. Now, thanks to a grant from the WV Division of Environmental Protection and the help of many hard-working volunteers, St. Joe’s has a rain garden to help.

James Dillon, Pennsylvania Certified Horticulturist and owner of Native Havens Design/Horticulture Consultation, approached PVAS about a year ago offering to help with future rain garden projects and we took him up on it! The garden has been in the planning stages for several months thanks to volunteer James and a designer for Through the Garden, Inc. We also met with key individuals from the City of Martinsburg and St. Joe’s. Donations of compost, mulch and soil for the project came from Cam Tabb, Gary Sylvester, and Through the Garden, Inc. Other materials were purchased using grant funds.

The impervious surfaces that drain into the rain garden add up to about 14,800 sq. ft. (that is more than ¼ acre). The garden takes water from the parking lot, walkway, turf area, and roof of the preschool, so this is bigger and more involved than anything we’ve ever taken on.

On Labor Day weekend a cadre of volunteers truly labored. Jim Harden of J & J Builders, and a parent at the school, volunteered to use his backhoe and dump truck to dig the trench and haul the soil and stone away.

This project would have ended before it started without his generosity. With the complication of significant rainfall expected in



the very near future, the pressure was on to get it done, and Jim stayed to the bitter end to make sure that happened.

PVAS is indeed fortunate to have so many incredible volunteers who rise to the occasion. In this case, it was hauling and spreading mulch, stone, and soil two days straight. Without complaint, Nan Johnson, Marie VanValkenburgh, Gary Sylvester, and Jeff Feldman came early and stayed late to get the job done before the weather hit, and James Dillon oversaw the project to completion. It took two full days, but the rain garden was installed (minus the plants) before four inches of rain put it to the test.

Thankfully, except for one minor breach, the garden withstood the pressures of tropical storm Lee. James Dillon showed his dedication by checking on the garden during the storm and making a repair. With a bale of straw and silt fence, he made sure we didn't cause more harm than good with the loose soil after construction. The issue will be fixed permanently when the plants are placed.

Students who participated in the watershed program last year as fourth graders will be planting rain garden appropriate trees, shrubs, and perennials the last week of September. These plants can tolerate very wet and very dry conditions, making them ideal for the wide range of soil conditions rain gardens face. This year's fifth-grade students are very excited to build on last year's program.

Next month's Valley Views will feature photos of the students planting the rain garden!

Stop By and See Us at Apple Butter Festival

PVAS will again have a display at this year's Apple Butter Festival in Berkeley Springs, so if you attend stop by and say hello.

The PVAS display will be located with the other conservation-related displays, on Independence Street by Hunter's Hardware.

The Festival will be held October 8 and 9.

Calendar

- Oct 1 & 2: Native Plant Nursery fall Open House, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Oct 1: Freedom's Run
- Oct 5: Hawk-watching at Washington Monument State Park, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Oct 8: Seed-collection event at the Yankauer Preserve, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Oct 8-9: Berkeley Springs Apple Butter Festival
- Oct 12: PVAS program at the National Conservation Training Center, 7p.m.
- Oct 14-16: Hawk-watching trip to Cape May, NJ
- Oct 19: Hawk-watching at Washington Monument State Park, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Oct 28: Potomac Valley Nature Photographers, 7-9 p.m.
- Oct 29: Field trip to the Patuxent Research Refuge, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Nov 3-6: American Conservation Film Festival
- Nov 5: Master Naturalist Potluck/Graduation

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!

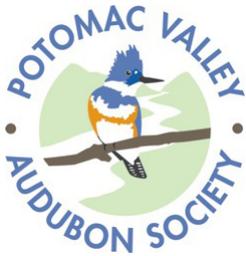


If you'd rather join the National Audubon Society:

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 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.

PVAS Officers and Board Members

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