

VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac Valley Audubon Society

Volume 32, Issue 2

October 2013

The Marvelous Chimney Swift

by Wil Hershberger



Pencil drawing by Julie Zickefoose

From central Florida north to Nova Scotia, west to central Texas and central North Dakota, the Chimney Swift has become a much loved and awe-inspiring bird. From the middle of the last century, Chimney Swifts have become

ever more dependent on human structures for their nesting and roosting sites. The population of Chimney Swifts has been in decline for the last 20 years or so as older chimneys are demolished. Newer chimney designs are not as attractive to these birds, and their native hollow dead trees of old growth forests are a thing of the past. There has been a great effort to construct artificial Chimney Swift towers that will certainly help these birds with roosting and nesting activities.

Around mid-April the Chimney Swifts will return to our area, and their twittering will be a welcome sign of spring. Pairs will be flying together as well as trios and small groups flying around at high speeds chattering all the way. Soon after arrival from spring migration, pairs begin to form. These birds are always on the wing, unless perched on the vertical surface of their nesting/roosting structure. When new pairs form, they will exhibit the V-ing display where the trailing bird will lift its wings into a V shape. The leading bird may or may not strike the same pose. All the while the pair is chattering incessantly. (<https://soundcloud.com/wilhershberger/wh-13t0909-chimney-swift>) Birds that were paired during the previous year are not as apt to display as new pairs, and will get down to the task of building the nest as soon as possible. The pair builds the nest — a loose collection of twigs, which are collected from branches while on the wing, the twigs are glued together with the birds saliva. This tiny nest will hold 4-5 eggs that hatch in about 20 days; the nestlings fledge in another 30 days. From the time that the young are about 5 days old they are very vocal, creating a real cacophony when a parent or unmated helper brings food into the nesting structure. (<https://soundcloud.com/wilhershberger/chimney->

...continued on page 2

Birdseed Orders Due

Enclosed in this newsletter is this year's Birdseed Order Form, which is due **OCTOBER 15**. You will be glad to see that better weather in the mid-west has resulted in better prices and we are all glad for that! Please note that there is no set pick-up day at Gower's Ranson again this year, so you can pick up seed during regular store hours beginning Monday, November 4. If you need another order form, or have questions, give me a call: Diana Mullis [304-267-3482](tel:304-267-3482) or dianamullis@aol.com Thanks!

October Program Will Focus on Deer Impacts on Forest Health

Our October program at the National Conservation Training Center will feature a presentation about the negative impacts deer are having on area forests, and the implications for efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay. The program will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 9 in Room 151 of the Instructional West Building. Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend.



The speaker will be Neil Gillies, Director of Science and Education at the Cacapon Institute, in High View, WV. Founded in 1985, the Institute maintains research and education programs aimed at protecting rivers and watersheds in the region. His presentation will include a look at some of the Institute's research into strategies for mitigating deer damage to forest environments.

UW and CFC Campaigns

The United Way and Combined Federal Campaigns have begun! Don't forget that you can designate PVAS as the recipient of your donation through those agencies! (CFC #29061)

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

...continued from page 1

swift-nest) Unmated birds will roost together during the summer months, giving the impression that Chimney Swifts nest colonially. They do not, preferring to nest one pair to a structure.

The real spectacle occurs during the fall migration — late August through late September in our area. Large numbers of Chimney Swifts move south together in ever changing flocks with birds moving more or less independently of the larger flock. They migrate during the day at heights of 30-400 feet. At the end of the day, large flocks form around suitable roosting structures, often large chimneys. The flock wheels around looking like a living tornado focused on the entrance of the chimney. As the light fails, the birds start to stream into the chimney a few at a time at first, then in larger and larger groups until suddenly the sky is empty of these flying cigars. So many birds may pack into a single chimney, that some will suffocate from the crush of birds above them.

Nancy Kirschbaum perhaps described the spectacle best in her trip report — “Yesterday evening, Sept 6, twenty members of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society and the Shepherdstown community participated in A Swift Night Out (<http://www.chimneyswifts.org>.) We gathered at the tall chimney on High Street, across from the Shepherd University greenhouses at 7:00 PM.

After about half an hour with only a few swifts being seen, suddenly the sky over the chimney was full of swifts circling. At 7:40, funneling birds began to flutter down into the chimney as fast as we could count them. By the time the last bird had entered the chimney at 8:00, a total of 1,272 Chimney Swifts had entered the chimney to roost. This was the largest number of birds we have ever recorded at this location. It was an impressive show that thrilled everyone, from novice to expert!”

During the fall migration, Chimney Swifts fly south over the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico on their way to the Yucatan Peninsula. From there they head for the upper Amazon Basin to spend our winter feasting on the insect bounty of South America’s summer.

Director’s Report

by Kristin Alexander, PVAS Executive Director

Day of Caring is always a big event. This year Nan Johnson, a Master Naturalist and neighbor to the Yankauer Preserve, generously agreed to take it on. This enormous task includes attending United Way Day of Caring organizational meetings (during the workday), recruiting crew leaders and workers, coordinating all of the tasks and making sure volunteers have the tools and resources they need to accomplish said tasks, tracking down volunteers to sign waivers and get t-shirt sizes, recruiting and organizing volunteers to provide food for all of these people, and then meeting, greeting, training, and coordinating all of those folks (over 100!) when they show up at different times for different jobs with different backgrounds, interests, and skills. This is obviously not for the timid.

Nan Johnson, a professional project manager, was up to the task. We gave her the contacts and plans from previous years that volunteer Tim Murphy had gathered, and she took that information and ran. Nan has been volunteering at Yankauer for several years, so

she knew the preserve and the tasks that needed attention.

Day of Caring is predictably unpredictable. Volunteer numbers jumped from 75 to 110 in a day and the lunch volunteers scrambled to make sure enough food was on hand. Nan reorganized the tasks to accommodate the additional hands. I usually am at the Day of Caring to help troubleshoot and meet and greet. Then, there was a death in my family and the funeral was scheduled to be the morning of Day of Caring.

Normally I may have panicked...at least a little. But Nan and the lunch crew were experienced, organized, and on top of the details. They said they didn’t need me. And they were right. The day came off without a hitch (at least no more of a hitch than any Day of Caring). And I have to admit I wasn’t worried. The Day was in good hands and I was able to be with my family without another thought.

Volunteers are the foundation of PVAS. They are likely our most valuable resource. All of the Day of Caring volunteers deserve and have my sincere thanks. It was a hot and humid day and we work them hard at Yankauer! But to Nan I give a virtual “standing ovation” for her above and beyond efforts – from saying “yes” to taking on Day of Caring, to the incredible management of the day.



Yankauer workers

Photo by Betty Beckley

Day of Caring

On September 10, 2013 about 90 volunteers endured the heat and humidity at Yankauer Nature Preserve and trimmed and mulched trails and spruced up the preserve as part of the United Way Day of Caring.

Volunteers included several school groups including the Jefferson Pop Singers, Air Force Jr. ROTC, and Blue Ridge Community Technical College. The Charles River Laboratories sent a hardy bunch that spent the entire day trimming the Kingfisher Trail. The Berkeley/Jefferson Master Gardeners started early to perform a makeover of the entrance area and gardens and to pull out invasive species. Numerous Master Naturalist helped organize the event and lead groups of volunteers throughout the day, and the PVAS Events Committee provided a delicious hot lunch for the large group of volunteers.

Cam Tabb donated 40 yards of wood chips for the trails and butterfly garden, and Hobday Homes repaired the leaky roof of the

pavilion - a problem that has been plaguing staff and volunteers for years.

Volunteers still standing late in the day enjoyed dinner with fellow community members at the Clarion Hotel in Shepherdstown. Entertainment was provided by the Jefferson Pop Singers. We can't thank all of the volunteers enough for sharing their time, muscle, and sweat with us! The preserve always looks so much better at the end of that long day. THANK YOU!!!



Pavilion repairs

Photo by Nan Johnson

Hike to Jefferson's Rock



View from Jefferson's Rock

PVAS invites hikers of all ages and abilities to join veteran trail hiker Dave Michener for a short hike up to Jefferson's Rock at Harpers Ferry on Saturday, October 19. Participants will meet at the Harpers Ferry train station at 9:00 a.m.

Anyone with an interest is welcome to come along. There is no fee for the hike but parking in the train station lot will cost \$5.

The date of this hike is only six days short of the 230th anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's visit to the place now known as Jefferson's Rock, on October 25, 1783.

Bring a camera to capture the amazing views from this spot; Jefferson called it "perhaps one of the most stupendous scenes in nature." As an extra bonus, fall colors should be close to their peak at this time, and the hike will offer an excellent vantage point for viewing them.

On the way back to the train station, the group will hike along part of the Appalachian Trail. This hike will be relatively easy but it will include some steep steps. It will take about an hour. It will take place rain or shine.

Participants should wear sturdy footwear and dress appropriately for the prevailing weather conditions.

Pre-registration is encouraged but not required. To pre-register go to the PVAS website or contact Dave at DaveMichener@msn.com or 703-973-6435.

Shannondale Springs Bird Walk

PVAS will sponsor a birding trip to the Shannondale Springs Wildlife Management Area, on the east bank of the Shenandoah River in Jefferson County, on Saturday, October 5. The trip is free and anyone with an interest is welcome to come along, regardless of their birding skills. Children are welcome. No pre-registration is required. Participants should plan to meet at 7:30 a.m. at the WMA parking area by the boat launch site, off Mission Road.

The 1,361-acre Shannondale Springs property is managed by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources; it includes a mixture of forest, brush land and open fields covering rolling hills. The trip will involve walking about two miles over mostly level ground, although some hilly, uneven terrain will be encountered. The trip should offer an opportunity to see some early-arriving winter birds, such as white-throated sparrows, brown creepers, and ducks like common mergansers.

Participants should wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for prevailing weather conditions, and bring along water and insect repellent. Binoculars will be available for anyone who needs them. The trip may be cancelled in the event of bad weather.

For more info, contact Jim Farley at jamesfarley@frontiernet.net or 540-686-2056.

Harpers Ferry Bird Walk

PVAS will sponsor a birding trip to the South Schoolhouse Ridge section of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park on Wednesday, October 23. The walk will begin at 8:00 a.m. and last two to three hours. It will be free and all are welcome, including children, regardless of their birding skills. No pre-registration is needed.

Participants will meet at the South Schoolhouse Ridge parking area. From Route 340 west of Harpers Ferry, turn south onto Millville Road (County Route 27) at the outdoor flea market; proceed 2 miles to parking area. If the gate is closed, pull off and park along the road.

The trip will involve about 3 miles of walking through woods and fields, with some hilly terrain. Birds expected to be seen include

raptors and fall migrants. Participants should wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for prevailing weather conditions, and bring along water, and insect spray. Binoculars will be available for anyone who needs them.

The trip will be cancelled in the event of bad weather.

For more information go to the PVAS website or contact Deb Hale at debhale72@gmail.com or 304-535-2346.

Cape May Hawk-Watch Trip

Here's a reminder that PVAS is sponsoring a hawk-watching trip to Cape May, NJ the weekend of October 11-14. Anyone with an interest is welcome to participate and there will be no fee. But participants will be expected furnish their own transportation and arrange for their own accommodations.



The trip will be led by local birder Sandy Sagalkin, and it will focus on several hawk-watching sites in the Cape May area. It will offer good opportunities to see Peregrine Falcons, Merlins, American Kestrels, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Coopers Hawks, Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers and other raptors.

Those who participate will also be able to take advantage of a variety of free educational opportunities offered by the Cape May Bird Observatory and the New Jersey Audubon Society. Their offerings include such events as a Mini-Hawk ID workshop for beginners, a Hawk-banding demonstration, a Monarch tagging demonstration and bird walks that are open to the public. The Cape May Bird Observatory website (www.birdcapemay.org) contains a list of Cape May hotels and motels which offer discounts to birders who are members of the Observatory.

At this late date, accommodations of any kind in Cape May could be difficult to find, and those just deciding now to participate may need to seek rooms in other towns. Sandy will be staying at Leith Hall, a Victorian B&B in Cape May that offers discounts to members of the Cape May Bird Observatory. You can try for a reservation there through the B&B's website at www.leithhall.com or by calling 609-884-1934.

Those who wish to participate should pre-register by contacting Sandy by phone at 240-291-6465. For more information, contact him by email at monsansagalkin@myactv.net.

Family Hike at Harpers Ferry

PVAS will offer a special Harpers Ferry area hike for families with children on Saturday, October 5. This hike is part of PVAS's *Outdoor Explore!* program, which is intended to give youngsters a better understanding and appreciation of the natural world in a safe, supervised way. Its activities include hiking, exploration of different local habitats, plant and animal identification, and other natural science activities.

The hike will last from 9:00 a.m. to about 1:00 p.m. It will follow the Overlook Trail in the Maryland Heights section of the Harpers

Ferry National Historical Park, on the Maryland side of the Potomac River. Families with children of all ages will be welcome.

The hike is free, but enrollment is limited and pre-registration is required. To register or get more information go to the PVAS website or contact Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739 or Ellen@PotomacAudubon.org.

The hike route is rated as difficult, with steep and rocky sections. However, it offers spectacular views. Participants should bring water and a snack, wear sturdy shoes, and dress for the prevailing weather. If the weather is warm, they should bring insect repellent.

The hike group will assemble in Harpers Ferry, at the river overlook known as The Point, and cross over the Potomac on the footbridge.

Parking may be available at the Harpers Ferry Train Station but if visitor traffic is heavy participants will have to park at the park's Visitor's Center and ride the bus to the lower town.

Evening Bird Walk Set for Oct. 18

PVAS will sponsor a special evening bird walk under a full moon on the historic Claymont property outside Charles Town on Friday, October 18. The walk will begin at 6:00 p.m. and last about three hours. Sunset will be at 6:29 p.m. that day and the moon will begin rising at 6:54 p.m.

The event will be free and open to all interested persons, regardless of their birding skills. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult. No pre-registration is required.

Those who wish to join the walk should plan to meet the trip leader, Joette Borzik, on the Claymont entrance road where a wetland meets the access driveway. The entrance is located at 667 Huyett Road; it is marked by a street sign that says "Claymont Mansion."

The event will involve about two miles of moderate walking. It should offer opportunities to see late evening birds, owls, and bats. The walk will be conducted rain or shine. Participants should wear sturdy shoes; dress appropriately for the prevailing weather; and bring drinking water, insect repellent and one flashlight per person. Binoculars will be available for those who need them.

For more info, contact Joette at 240-440-4221 or pep4223@comcast.net.

Tree Walk Set for Claymont Oct. 5

PVAS is sponsoring a Tree Walk at the historic Claymont Mansion property outside Charles Town on Saturday, October 5. The walk will be led by arborist Shawn Walker. Participants will meet at 10:00 a.m. on the entrance road to the property, which is located at 667 Huyett Road.

The walk will last about two hours. It will focus on identification of tree species, the habitats and landscape values of different trees, and the issues different tree species may pose for both forest managers and homeowners. There will be a prize for the winner of a tree-height guessing challenge.

The event will be free and open to the public but space will be limited and pre-registration is essential. To pre-register or get more information, go to the PVAS website or contact Kelly Wolf at kheldreth@hotmail.com or 304-229-6229.

Participants should wear comfortable shoes and bring insect repellent.



Natural History Workshops Open To All

PVAS's Natural History Workshops offer in depth programs to persons interested in learning more about the natural history of the area. There is only one workshop left in this calendar year, so don't miss the opportunity to learn more about the natural history of fish at the NCTC on November 4 from 6 to 9 pm. Although these workshops help Master Naturalists complete their required re-certification class hours, all the workshops are open to the public. Workshops usually feature some formal instruction and then a field component so that participants can readily apply what they have just learned in class. Registration is open now at www.PotomacAudubon.org.

Our seventh Master Naturalist class program has wound down for the season and a new class will begin in March 2014. Applications for the class are currently being accepted although classes are also available now on an individual basis! Classes cost \$15-20 each, depending on the number of hours. All classes can be found at www.PotomacAudubon.org under the Events Calendar.

Nature Photographers Take Break

Because the attendance at Potomac Valley Nature Photographers' gatherings has been very low over the last year or so, we have decided to suspend future meetings in the near future. Wil Hershberger, who has been spearheading the meetings in recent years, sent out an email to the group asking for feedback on what they wanted the future to hold. The responses were few, but very thoughtful, and we were grateful for the feedback.

While everyone who responded was very appreciative of all of the work Wil has done over the years to hold the group together, the consensus seemed to be that the group has lost its momentum and that we should take a break to regroup and consider various options such as changing to quarterly meetings, featuring nature photography at PVAS monthly meetings, disbanding altogether, and other suggestions.

For now we will not plan to meet this fall, but will continue to weigh various options. We welcome any and all feedback and ideas. We'll keep all of the members' contact information, and will alert any/all members to the future of PVNP once we've decided what course to take.

We thank all of the PVNP members for sharing excellent nature photography and passion for their hobby and subject matter. And a sincere thank you to Wil and Donna Hershberger for launching this endeavor several years ago and committing so much time, energy, talent, and dedication to the group.

Sign Up Now for Wee Naturalists Sessions

PVAS is now accepting enrollments for our October and November "Wee Naturalists" sessions for preschoolers.

Our Wee Naturalists program is designed to provide opportunities for children ages 3-5 to explore nature together safely under the guidance of an experienced PVAS instructor. The instructor is Suzi Taylor, of Sharpsburg, MD, a veteran Audubon camp director who has a degree in environmental education. All sessions are held at the Yankauer nature preserve on Mondays. The October date is the 21st, and the November date is the 18th.

Each session will last from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Each will include walks, crafts, and other activities that focus on something different in nature, related to the season.



Wee Naturalists at work

To ensure that everyone receives close, personal attention, enrollment will be limited and pre-registration is required. At each session, each child must be accompanied by a parent, grandparent, other adult relative, or guardian.

Easy on-line registration is available on the PVAS website. Families may register for any or all of the months. The fee is \$5 per child-adult team per session.

For more information, contact Suzi at 301-432-1908 or tomand-suzi506@cs.com.

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

Fall Programs Are Underway

Outdoor Explore! begins its first program for families this fall with a hike to Maryland Heights. (See "Family Hike" on page 4.) This volunteer-led exploration of the trail that overlooks Harpers Ferry is designed especially for families with younger children (ages 6-9) although everyone is welcome. Using the "supervised but unstructured" approach to environmental exploration, families will be able to enjoy the wonders of changing seasons as well as discover and explore the hike up the trail. These programs are designed to encourage families to enjoy being outside together in various locations around the Eastern Panhandle. Additional programs will be scheduled in the future.

All programs and registration information can be found on the PVAS website under Events Calendar. The website is updated frequently so check back on a regular basis to see what's new with PVAS. www.PotomacAudubon.org can be your best source of nature programs in this area!

Schools Are Calling!



Our school programs have begun with a bang this fall! Generous grants from Ecolab and the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation make it possible for us to provide programs to Title 1 Schools at reduced or no cost. Teachers in both Berkeley and Jefferson Counties have scheduled programs either in their classroom or at Yankauer Preserve. First graders from Ranson Elementary will be using their “Scientific Senses” on their annual visit to Yankauer Preserve. Second and third grade students from Rosemont Elementary in Martinsburg have scheduled programs about plants and animals in October. The Kindergarten classes at the school will be doing “Insectigations” in November. Classes at North Jefferson Elementary have scheduled programs for their third and fifth grades, too.

Students in both second and third grade from St. Joseph’s Parish School in Martinsburg have arranged for a series of programs for the entire year that include both classroom presentations and visits to Yankauer Preserve. Fourth graders at the school participate in our year-long watershed education program as well.

PVAS has been invited to participate in two programs that serve large numbers of students. The Jefferson County Sixth Grade Science Olympiad provides a series of activities to all sixth graders in the county; PVAS staff and Master Naturalists are a big part of this multi-day event. Potomack Intermediate School in Martinsburg sponsors a two-day Potomack Educational Program to help their fifth graders explore science. PVAS will present a program on food chains to the students.

Our Watershed Education program has kicked off another year with several schools choosing to participate in a year-long program rather than our standard program. Twenty-six classes are involved in the watershed program this fall and we expect more to enroll after the first of next year.

Finally, we will be helping seventh grade students from Wildwood Middle School investigate the water quality and aquatic insects of Flowing Springs Run in October. Student’s in Carolyn Thomas’ science classes re-visit topics that were first introduced to them in fourth grade watershed classes. It’s exciting to think that PVAS has helped set the foundation for these middle school students as they learn more about water quality issues.

Teachers that would like to learn more about or schedule a program should contact Ellen Murphy at Ellen@PotomacAudubon.org. Volunteers to help with these programs are always welcome!

PVAS Octoberfest at Wild Goose Farm!

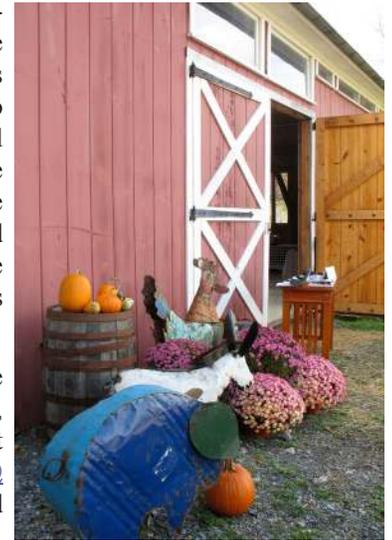
Support PVAS’ educational programs while having a great time on October 26, 2013 from 1-4pm. We’re back at Wild Goose Farm, just outside Shepherdstown, in the beautiful hand-crafted timberframe barn built in 2002. The current owners, Cricky and Michelle Shultz, are willing to have us back for a third year in a row!



This year, just to “mix things up” PVAS will be having an “Octoberfest” with beer, wine, brats, sauerkraut, and lots of seasonal fare. Bob Dean and the Harlan Springs Band will be back to provide wonderful musical entertainment.

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.

If you’d like to receive an invitation to this event, contact Kristin Alexander at 304-676-3397 or Kristin@PotomacAudubon.org and provide your name, address, e-mail, and phone number. A



Wild Goose Farm

detailed schedule and a list of auction items will be available at www.potomacaudubon.org as the event approaches. We hope to see you there!

PVAS to Benefit at Shepherdstown Rotary Club Ball

PVAS will be one of several local non-profits to benefit from the 2013 “Our Ball, Your Charity” held by the Shepherdstown Rotary Club on December 6 at the Shepherdstown Fire Hall. Gary Heichel is generously sponsoring a PVAS Table for attendees at the Charity Ball. Gary is also soliciting donations of items to benefit PVAS at the Silent Auction held during the Ball.

Years of experience indicate that attendees at the Charity Ball often respond well to Silent Auction offerings of “big ticket” items, e. g., vacations at cabins or condos in desirable locations, access to apartments in Washington, DC, or other major destinations, cruise packages, event tickets, and personal luxury and service items.

If you wish to contribute an item for bid at the Charity Ball Silent Auction, please contact Gary Heichel at e-mail garyiris.heichel@frontier.com or telephone 304.274.8931. Let’s work together to position PVAS as a major benefactor at the Rotary Charity Ball!

Envision Jefferson 2035

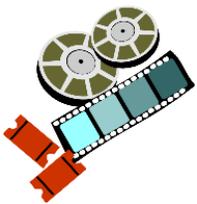
Jefferson County is updating its Comprehensive Plan. The County anticipates about 15,000 to 30,000 new residents by 2035 with a corresponding increase in housing, services, employment, and business activity. Citizen input to this important planning process is essential. At stake is the character of Jefferson County and how it might be affected by growth and land use changes over the next two decades. The next public meeting will be scheduled in October

with the chief topic being the type of development that the County should plan for.

Interested residents can sign up to follow progress of the comprehensive planning process on the County's website: <http://envisionjefferson2035.com/>

In addition, *Envision Jefferson 2035* will have a booth at the Jefferson County Fair where attendees can go to learn more about Envision Jefferson 2035, fill out a copy of the Land Use and Goals and Objectives Survey, provide input on where they would like to see future growth (or protection) take place, or provide comments about what they would like to see take place in Jefferson County in the coming decades. The survey is expected to be on line too. PVAS members might be particularly interested in voicing their opinions on open space, parks, recreation, and agricultural preservation in addition to other topics.

American Conservation Film Festival



The eleventh annual American Conservation Film Festival (ACFF) will open Thursday, October 31st and run through Sunday, November 3rd. The festival features more than 60 of the best conservation films from around the world at venues throughout Shepherdstown. Speakers, panel discussions, meet-the-filmmaker sessions

and a variety of special events will also be taking place as part of the festival. Film listings, scheduling and ticketing information can be found online at www.conservationfilm.org.

September Newsletter Problems!

There were a couple of problems with the September issue of *Valley Views* for those who get the printed edition. First the printer was not able to produce the newsletter in a timely manner (and it was the Labor Day weekend). Second there were five fewer copies printed than were ordered, and consequently five members did not get the professionally printed issue. Those five got an issue printed on a home printer. We apologize for these problems, and we are taking steps to ensure that they are not repeated.



*Are you ready for winter feeding?
Get your birdseed now - see page 1*

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!

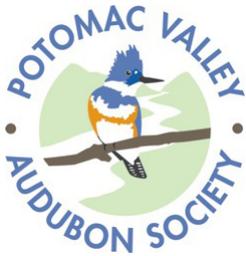


If you'd rather join the National Audubon Society:

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.



Potomac Valley Audubon Society
 P O Box 578
 Shepherdstown, WV 25443
 Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 US Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 30
 Shepherdstown, WV

<http://www.potomacaudubon.org>

DATED MATERIALS

A proud partner of the United Way of the Eastern Panhandle and the Combined Federal Campaign.



CFC#29061

MAIL TO:

October 2013

Printed on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper

Volume 32, Issue 2

The Potomac Valley Audubon Society meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through April. Programs are free and open to the public. For additional information about PVAS or its programs and activities, please contact any of the board members listed here or see <http://www.potomacaudubon.org>. PVAS serves the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia and neighboring Washington County, Maryland.

PVAS BOARD
 The PVAS Board meets every other month on the first Thursday of the month (Sept.-June). Meeting location and time will be announced prior to meetings. These meetings are open to all PVAS members.

PVAS Officers and Board Members

- President: Diana Mullis (2014)..... DianaMullis@aol.com
- Vice President: Jane Vanderhook (2015)..... janehook@frontiernet.net
- Secretary: Mina Goodrich (2014) larrymina@peoplepc.com
- Treasurer: Lex Miller (2014)..... pamandlex@frontiernet.net
- Board Members-at-Large:
 - Clark Dixon (2013)..... dixonconsultants@aol.com
 - Diana Gaviria (2014) jpikester@comcast.net
 - Tanner Haid (2016) Tanner.Haid@gmail.com
 - Leigh Jenkins (2013)..... jenkinsleigh@hotmail.com
 - Lou Scavnicky (2015)..... captainlou@comcast.net
 - Michael Sullivan (2014)..... msullivan@limno.com
 - Amanda Whitmore (2016) Tremba01@gmail.com

Ex Officio Board Member: Peter Smith (past president)..... pvsmitth@frontiernet.net

Emerita Board Member: Jean Neely jeaneely@comcast.net

Special Contacts

- Executive Director: Kristin Alexander (304-676-3397) Kristin@PotomacAudubon.org
- Program Director: Ellen Murphy (304-676-8739)..... Ellen@PotomacAudubon.org
- Web Master: Kathy Bilton..... kathy@fred.net
- PVAS Wildlife Rescue Coord: Diana Mullis (304-267-3482)..... dianamullis@aol.com
- Valley Views editor/publisher: Don Henry (304-876-6681)..... dhenry@myexcel.com