

Valley Views

**Potomac
Valley
Audubon
Society**

Volume 24, Issue 1

September 2005

Field Trips

Visit Altoona Marsh

•Saturday, September 17

Patsy and Ken Hunter will lead a trip at Altoona Marsh, Jefferson County, beginning at 7:30 am. This is a marl marsh wetland with many unusual plants. At the marsh we walk along the railroad tracks where the footing is uneven, so wear appropriate shoes, and bring mosquito repellent in addition to your field guide and binoculars. This is a great trip for beginners because we often can get good views of the birds. If time and interest permits we will also visit some of the nearby ponds. We will meet at the Martins' parking lot, in the area of the Sherwin Williams store, on Route 340 in Charles Town at 7:30 am. For more information please call Ken or Patsy Hunter 304-725-3936 or email Patsy at phunter@npca.org.

PS the July 9 trip to Ice Mountain was a great hit! Susan Guynn of the Frederick News Post covered it in the August 4 issue. Check it out at www.fredericknewspost.com.

Volunteers Needed for First Annual Potomac Arts Festival

PVAS is sponsoring the first annual Potomac Arts Festival, which will be held the October 28-30 weekend in Shepherdstown. About 30 volunteers are needed to help with the event. Volunteers will help set up and work on site during the festival.

The festival will feature nature-inspired arts and crafts offered for sale by 40 artists and craftspeople who have been selected by professional arts jurors. The exhibitors will include artists and craftspeople from the local area as well as from the District of Columbia and other states, such as Ohio, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina.

Arts Festival continued on page 2, column 1

Meeting Programs

Watershed Protection Expert to Speak

•Wednesday, September 14

PVAS' September monthly meeting will feature Neil Gillies, Executive Director of the Cacapon Institute.

Founded in 1985, the Cacapon Institute maintains research and education programs aimed at protecting the watersheds of the Cacapon, Potomac, and other Appalachian rivers. The organization is based in High View, WV, in Hampshire County.

In his remarks, Gillies will provide an overview of two of the Institute's current programs, the Potomac Headwaters Stream Flow Restoration Project and the Potomac Highlands Watershed School.

The Stream Flow Restoration Project is a pilot program aimed at partially restoring natural stream flow characteristics in two West Virginia headwater watersheds. The program has the potential to improve the quality of both surface and ground water resources.

The Potomac Highlands Watershed School is a new web-based learning center that uses interactive activities to teach students about regionally relevant environmental issues and concepts.

Gillies joined the Cacapon Institute in 1996. Over his nine years with the organization, he has developed and managed a number of large research and education projects. He also manages the institute's day-to-day operations. For more information about the Institute and its programs, see the organization's website at www.cacaponinstitute.org.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 14 at Leetown Science Center, 11649 Leetown Road (County Route 1), Kearneysville.

PVAS members and the public are invited to attend.



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

President's Perch



Hello Everyone!

The goldenrod is blooming, the baby birds are nearly grown, and the kids are getting ready for another school year. Where did summer go, and how did it go so quickly?

The garden is still overflowing with vegetables (especially squash), but when the goldenrod blooms, I know that fall is well on its way. So Nancy has been busy getting programs together (Neil Gillies, Executive Director of the Cacapon Institute will speak on September 14--see page 1) and Patsy and Ken are busy organizing field trips (see page 1 for the next scheduled trip). Also, please mark the weekend of October 28-30 for our First Annual Art Festival and Race For the Birds at NCTC (see pages 1 and 3).

As you will see on our list of Board Officers and Members, we are still in need of people to fill Board positions. Please consider sharing some of your talents and time with us. We need a Vice President, and Chairs for Conservation, Education and Fundraising. The time commitment is small (one Board meeting a month, and some at-home work), the rewards are big, and a full Board makes it easier to do the many good things that we think are important (and it makes my position as President a lot easier). Please come help! Give me a call at 304-267-3482 (evenings).

I hope you have enjoyed your summer! It certainly has been a hot one! I'm really looking forward to some of those glorious fall days that this part of the country is known for. If you can't join our field trips, you can always create one of your own at our Yankauer Nature Preserve. Come join the fun ...

Diana Mullis, President

Arts Festival from page 1

Proceeds from the event will be used to support PVAS's environmental education programs and its Yankauer Nature Preserve in northeastern Berkeley County.

The festival will be held at the National Conservation Training Center in tandem with the third annual American Conservation Film Festival, which will take place at the Center at the same time.

To volunteer or learn more about volunteering contact festival coordinator Jiji Beckett by e-mail at artfestival@potomacaudubon.org or by telephone at 540-955-3553.

For more **general information about the festival and PVAS**, go to the PVAS website at www.potomacaudubon.org.

News from Yankauer Nature Preserve . . .

Day of Caring - September 13th

Join us at Yankauer for a day of community service through the United Way's annual kickoff event, the Day of Caring! Enjoy breakfast at 8 am at War Memorial Park for Berkeley County residents, or at the Bavarian Inn if you live in Jefferson County. At breakfast, grab a t-shirt and come to the preserve at 9 am. Bring gloves, water, wheelbarrows, work shoes, sun protection, work clothes, pruners, rakes, shovels, and pitchforks. (Don't forget to label your tools!) This wonderful day is fun and productive! We'll control invasive plants, trim trails, and generally spruce things up and be done at 3. Lunch will be provided at Yankauer, and dinner will be available at either Charles Town Races for Jefferson County residents or War Memorial Park for Berkeley County residents.

August Annual Appeal

By now you've probably received our annual appeal to our members and friends. This fundraising effort provides significant support for PVAS' environmental education programs. The letters went out in August this year so we could include an annual report in keeping with our fiscal year. We also are avoiding the United Way campaign time, which is in the fall each year. And don't forget: you can give through the United Way at work and also, for Federal workers, via the Combined Federal Campaign. Look for 'Potomac Valley Audubon Society' in the pledge packet. Thank you for your generosity!

Discovery Camp

This summer's Audubon Discovery Camp at Yankauer served 81 different children. Some children attended week after week, filling 129 spaces in the six weeks of camp. They had great fun playing nature games, building bird nests and shelters, and hiking the trails. Fifteen camp scholarships were given thanks to Bill Belton, Susan Benjamin, John Blomberg, Susan Brookreson, the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation, Frank Hill, Sue Ann Palmer, Gary Phalen, the Potomac-Mecklenburg Garden Club, and Jane Vanderhook. Even the interns were sponsored this summer with generous contributions from Henry and Faye Davenport, Maggie Drennen, Stan and Judy Jones, and the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation's youth grants.



The Cedar Series

This wonderful summer musical event was very well attended this year. We'd like to thank the following musicians for their generosity in sharing their time and talents with us: Allegheny Uprising, Daryl Bryarly, Steven Cifala, The Dilettantes, and Steve Warner and the Rolling Coyotes. This has proven to be a wonderful community event and we couldn't do it without the contributions of these wonderful performers. Thank you!

Our Growing Endowment

The PVAS endowment at the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation is now up to \$7000 and will be increased to \$8000 by the end of the year. This increase was made possible through a challenge grant offered through a partnership with the Community Foundation and the Bank of Charles Town. We were able to match the bank's pledge thanks to the generous donations of Stuart Berger, Betty Eller, Diana Mullis, Jane Vanderhook.

Looking for a Way to Help?

PVAS needs volunteers for two events this fall. The Fifth Annual "This Race is for the Birds!" will take place on Oct. 29th, the same weekend of our First Annual "Potomac Arts Festival!" If you can help out the morning of the race, contact Kathryn or Don Henry at dhenry@myexcel.com or 304-876-6681.

The Potomac Arts Festival will be the weekend of Oct. 28-30 with a special fundraising "Preview Event" Friday night, then a free art show on Saturday and Sunday. If you can help with the Arts Festival, contact coordinator Jiji Beckett at artfestival@potomacaudubon.org or by telephone at 540-955-3553.

Naturalist Field School Premiers

Our first Naturalist Field School session was declared a huge success by participants in the Nature Photography Workshop offered in partnership with Wil and Donna Hershberger. The course booked within a week, and the workshop that was scheduled in November for those on the waiting list is already full as well.

We look forward to growing these kinds of workshops in the future. A huge thank you goes to Wil and Donna for making our premier workshop a success! Stay posted for future offerings! If you have a suggestion for a workshop topic, contact Kristin Alexander at PVASmail@aol.com or 304-676-3397.

Cathy Shewbridge Memorial Bench

On August 10th, six students and a faculty member from Shepherd University came to Yankauer to participate in Shepherd's "Day of Service" – part of their freshman orientation program. The day was full of pride and accomplishment for the students, especially for those who helped place the new memorial bench in memory of Cathy Shewbridge.

Joe Shewbridge donated the bench and plaque for the Preserve and chose a place for it. Cathy always wished for more places to sit and rest along the trails at Yankauer, and the Shepherd students helped place a bench there in her memory. Not only did the students carry the very heavy recycled plastic bench 1/4 mile down the trail, but they were so proud to be a part of it that they insisted on lining the new trail with fallen trees and hauling mulch to the spot. The result is a beautiful, peaceful spot. Joe plans to dedicate the bench formally at a later date.



Storage Added at Yankauer

Thanks to an incredible volunteer effort under the expert guidance of Bob Dean, the Yankauer Preserve now boasts a storage shed under the roof of the pavilion. The space allowed summer camp staff to store teaching supplies and resources in a secure place. The shed is also home to new convertible table/benches that are used for programs at the Preserve. A special thank you goes to the crew that made this possible through their generous donations of time and materials: John Allen, Nick Blanton, Bob Dean, Jeff Feldman, Gary and Diane Sylvester, and Rodney Woods. THANK YOU!

2nd-3rd Grade Curriculum Complete

Thanks to a partnership with WVU, local teachers, and the West Virginia DNR, we developed curricula for grades two and three this summer. Four teachers developed curricula that they will help pilot test this school year. Participating teachers included Jocelyn Edgar, Johnna Exline, and Lynn Fornwalt, and principal Brent Sherrard.

The teachers and Kristin would like to especially recognize the generosity of the library staff at NCTC that allowed the teachers to use their resources all week.

Are You a PVAS Member?



MAKE A DIFFERENCE, 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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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:

September 2005

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Volume 24, Issue 1



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, 7 PM. These meetings are open to all PVAS members.

PVAS Officers and Board Members	
President:	Diana Mullis 304-267-3482dianamullis@aol.com
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