

VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac Valley Audubon Society

Volume 27, Issue 1

September 2008

Seely Foundation Awards Eidolon Grant

On June 20, the Tom and Virginia Seely Foundation awarded PVAS a \$1,000 grant to help improvements that will support educational programming our Eidolon Nature Preserve.

The Foundation, which is based in Berkeley Springs, was founded in 1997. It is dedicated to fostering education, athletic, social, civic and community-based activities and opportunities for Morgan County children.

PVAS appreciates the Seelys' generosity.

Another Summer Camp Success!

Audubon Discovery Camp continues to be one of PVAS' most popular programs. This summer over 200 different children participated in the camp, mostly held at the Yankauer Nature Preserve.

As in past years, each week focused on a different theme, but this year the camp program was expanded to include three sessions for preschoolers (Out of the Nest, Just for Fledglings, and First Explorers) and four sessions for campers entering grades 5-8 (Camp Survivor Part Deux, Something's Fishy, Art in the Wild, Flying Wild). Camp sessions for campers entering grades one through six (the age group traditionally served) included: My Life as a Worm, Coyote Tails, Dig in the Dirt, Camp Survivor, Earth Artists, and Bird Brains.

So many children signed up for Camp Survivor that we added an additional week at Yankauer for children on the waiting list. In addition, thanks to the generosity of the National Conservation Training Center, PVAS was able to use the Center's campus as a satellite "overflow" site and schedule three weeks of camp sessions there to accommodate the demand for the camp program.

Children who participated in aspects of camp had a blast and learned about topics from birds to worms, fish to fire making, geo-caching to Leave No Trace principles. Special activities included geo-caching at NCTC (led by NCTC staff) and caving in Whiting's Neck Cave with Go-Adventure Sports.

The summer ended on a beautiful evening with a Family Camp Out. Families roasted hot dogs over a fire, made s'mores, set up tents, participated in evening activities, and went on an owl prowling

Summer Camp continues on page 7 column 1

Summer Concert Series Underway

PVAS this year is again offering a series of free outdoor concerts during August and September at Yankauer Nature Preserve.

Our Fifth Annual "Music in the Cedars" concerts are being held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. each Tuesday evening in August and September. The concerts are held rain or shine in the Preserve's covered pavilion.

This August performers were as follows: August 5, Satch Alwin; August 12, Grigorio Lacerda and Friends; August 19, Terry Tucker and Ardyth Gilbertson; August 26, The Reasons Why.

Here's the September concert lineup: September 2, The Outpatients (newgrass and rhythm/blues band featuring Steve Cifala, Jamie Daly, and Rob Receveur); September 9, the Rolling Coyotes (a blend of country-tinged folk with diverse instrumentation and vocals describing unique places, characters and themes); September 16, The Dilettantes (well-known acoustic folk songs performed with voice and guitar by Jeff and Trudy Roth); September 23, Daryl Bryarly (Folk, Civil War and Celtic favorites and originals performed on Hammered Dulcimer); September 30, Steve Cifala (a dynamic performer influenced by Rhythm & Blues, Little Feat, and Eric Clapton).

Directions to Yankauer are posted on the PVAS website.

You're welcome to bring your own picnic supper to any of the concerts, but the preserve does not have trash pickup so please plan to carry out everything you bring in.

Picnic tables are available in the pavilion on a first-come, first-served basis. You may also bring picnic blankets or chairs for your comfort. Please leave pets at home.



Above: Grigorio Lacerda and Friends

Birdseed Sale Coming Up

Please remember that PVAS's annual fall birdseed sale will get underway soon. If you plan to buy seed from us this year, be sure to watch your October *Valley Views* for your Birdseed Order Form.

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



Hello Everyone:

An apology is order. When the last (June) issue of Valley Views was published, I found to my chagrin that it somehow contained a reprint of the old President's Perch column from the month before (May), rather than the new column I had written.

So let's try this again. Following is the column that should have run in the June Valley Views, its verb tenses are now out of whack because July 1 is now in the past rather than the future. But that doesn't affect the message I was trying to convey:

Things change, and when our new fiscal year rolls around on July 1, our current Treasurer, Jane Vanherdook, will step down.

She has no choice in the matter because she's served two full, consecutive terms as Treasurer, and our by-laws prohibit a third consecutive term.

A retired Computer Systems Software Designer, Jane joined the PVAS Board in 2004 and has been our Treasurer since that time.

That means she's been in this key post at precisely the time that PVAS has been undergoing a major transformation. And she deserves a lot of credit for helping to make that transformation happen.

Specifically, she's played a major role in professionalizing our financial operations.

This professionalization has been essential because our budget is continuing to grow and becoming increasingly complex.

The steps we've taken on Jane's watch have included the following:

- We've worked with a certified public accountant to clarify and strengthen our day-to-day financial practices and procedures.
- In the same manner, we've also clarified and strengthened our overarching financial policies, and established firm new controls.
- We've spelled out all of these practices, procedures, policies and controls in a new Fiscal Operations Policy Manual, which our Board adopted last February.
- For the first time, we've hired a part-time bookkeeper, Elizabeth Lowe. Elizabeth, who is highly experienced, is assisting with disbursements, payroll, tax reports, and monthly financial statements.
- We've also committed ourselves to annual outside audits to ensure that our books are in order and our procedures are in keeping with best-practice standards.

All of these steps will make the job of Jane's successor, Lex Miller, much, much easier. And they'll serve the entire organization well as we go forward in to the future.

So as we welcome Lex to the Board, we also want to say "Thanks" to Jane for a job well done.

—Peter Smith

United Way Day of Caring Is Tuesday, September 9

This year's United Way Day of Caring will be held at Yankauer AND Eidolon!

Yankauer has several areas that need some weeding, trail maintenance, mulching, and general upkeep. At Eidolon we'll focus on trimming back the brush that has grown into the road in preparation for school buses.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

7:30 a.m.: Breakfast at War Memorial Park in Martinsburg (breakfast site for Morgan County to be determined.)

8:30: Meet at project locations

Lunch: Provided at project site (Yankauer/Eidolon)

3:30: Wrap up for the day

4:30-6:30: Dinner/Celebration at the Clarion Hotel in Shepherdstown (your t-shirt is your ticket to dinner)

Please let us know you're coming so we can have a t-shirt (aka dinner ticket) and lunch for you. Points of contact to volunteer are:

Yankauer – Tim Murphy 304-876-8133 Timurf@Comcast.net
Eidolon – Joe Gentile 304-258-3197

The United Way is collecting non-perishable food donations to support the Panhandle Food Banks. Please bring donations to the breakfast or the work site.

Many hands really do make light(er) work, so we hope you can join us!

Chimney Swift Counts Underway

Chimney Swifts are the constantly twittering small birds that are seen in flight over towns. At this time of year, as they have finished raising their young, they begin to congregate at night in communal roosts in large chimney towers prior to their fall migration. These roosts sometimes contain hundreds of birds. Each year, birders make an effort to count the birds at some of these roosts.

On August 8, Elliot and Nancy Kirschbaum led a PVAS group that counted over 300 Chimney Swifts at a roost at Shepherd University. A number of curious walkers joined the PVAS watchers after they found out what was happening.

Another "Swift Night Out" count will be done the evening of Saturday, September 13. We will meet near the greenhouses on High Street at 6:30 p.m. to observe Swifts entering the large chimney between Knutti Hall and White Hall. Bring binoculars and a chair. If you plan to participate, please contact Nancy Kirschbaum beforehand at 304-876-6881 or nancyk500@comcast.net so we know how many people to expect..

To see results of last year's counts, and for more information about Chimney Swifts, go to www.chimneyswifts.org/.



John Sill

Courtesy John Sill
© Mass Audubon

Digital Nature Photography Camp '08

This year's Digital Nature Photography Day Camp, again held in partnership with the USFWS' National Conservation Training Center, was another inspiring experience. The photo camp, now in its third year, had 10 high school aged participants. Each camper was able to use a Nikon Digital SLR camera donated by Nikon last year as part of its Spirit Initiative Grant.

Matt Poole, who works at NCTC, coordinated and instructed the camp again this year and arranged for some amazing experiences for participants. In addition to learning about using the cameras, composition, lighting, and other skills, campers were able to spend lots of time practicing in the field. NCTC's grounds provide beautiful photo opportunities including the Potomac River, fields, wildlife, and the garden behind the day care center.

Campers were also taken off-site to An-tietam Battlefield to practice landscape photography; the Trego Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary to practice wildlife photography of the birds used for falconry; Patuxent Wildlife Refuge for a wide range of photo opportunities as well as to learn about some USFWS research projects and activities. At the end of each day, campers would come back to the computer lab at NCTC to look at and edit their photos, and learned how to edit photos using free computer software.



Hilary Grabowska & Cherish Martinez
focus on nature

As the week's culmination, participants had the opportunity to visit Longwood Gardens to take pictures of the spectacular flowers and the butterflies in the butterfly pavilion.

This year's camp had two observers who hope to replicate or adapt the photography camp at their own facilities. One was Cindy Souders, an outreach specialist from the Regional Office of USFWS in Denver, who hopes to promote similar programs at Wildlife Refuges out west. The other was Gaile Ramey who attended the Children and Nature Conference at NCTC in 2006. She hopes to use this type of photography camp for Children and Nature Initiatives in her community in Connecticut. She hopes to partner with her local Audubon Refuge to make the camp a reality there.

A slideshow of some of the spectacular images taken by participating teens are available at www.potomacaudubon.org. Please check them out! You'll be amazed at the images the campers were able to capture.

Stargazing a Hit!

About twenty-five people showed up to view the Perseid Meteor Shower early Tuesday morning at the Trinity Center's Orchard House along Rt. 45 between Shepherdstown and Martinsburg. People came from as far as Washington, D.C. for the display, and a hiker from the Appalachian Trail even joined the group. Some spectacular meteors streaked the sky, awarding participants for their early rise.

Morgan County Fall Birding Festival

The Ecology Coalition of Morgan County (eCo) is sponsoring a Fall Birding Festival the weekend of September 26-28.

The festival will feature a series of events in and around Berkeley Springs with Bill Thompson III, author and editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and his wife Julie Zickefoose, a widely published natural history writer and artist. Bill's most recent book, *The Young Birder's Guide to Birds of Eastern North America* (Houghton Mifflin), has just been published this year.

Everyone in and around the Eastern Panhandle is invited to attend any or all of the events.

The first event will be a reception and book-signing with Bill and Julie from 7:00-9:00 p.m., Friday, September 26, at the Ice House in Berkeley Springs.

The next morning, at 10:00 a.m. on the 27th, there will be a birding workshop that will be aimed at children but also open to beginning birders of all ages. The workshop will cover such topics as identification basics, birding manner, and using guidebooks. Its location is still being determined as this is being written.

At 7:30 p.m. on the 27th, Bill will give a talk at the Ice House on "The Perils and Pitfalls of Birding."

The festival will wrap up the morning of the 28th with a bird walk led by Bill and Julie at Sleepy Creek Retreat. Carpools will leave from the courthouse parking lot downtown at 8:00 a.m., and return at approximately 11:00 a.m.

There will be a fee of \$5 per person for the bird walk, but all the other events are free.

For more information contact the Nature Niche store in Berkeley Springs at 304-258-0992 during business hours.

Ice House Will Showcase PVAS Workshop Photos

In connection with the Morgan County Fall Birding Festival, the Ice House in Berkeley Springs will showcase some of the photographs that were produced during two photo workshops: a Morgan County Arts Council workshop being held in early September and the workshop conducted for PVAS at Cacapon State Park July 11-13 by Wil and Donna Hershberger.

The photographs will be on display from roughly September 20-28.

Hawk Watch Set for September 21

Join PVAS and local naturalist Dave Weesner for a trip to Washington Monument State Park, on South Mountain near Boonsboro, Maryland, on September 21 to watch migrating hawks.

The annual Broad-winged Hawk migration should be at or near its peak that weekend, and South Mountain is one of the best (and least crowded) sites in the mid-Atlantic for viewing hawks.

The Park's monument offers an excellent vantage point to watch these magnificent birds as they ride the thermals that sweep along the mountain's ridgeline.

Hawk Watch Trip continues on page 4 column 1

September PVAS Meeting Will Focus on Improving Wildlife Habitat

Our September meeting will focus on ways local farmers and landowners can develop and improve wildlife habitat on their property.

The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. September 10 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center on Shepherd Grade Road, just north of Shepherdstown. It will be held in the small auditorium (Room 151) of the Center's Instructional West Building.

The program is free and anyone is welcome to attend.

The speakers will be Bill Bennett, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency, and J.R. Wolf, of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation service.

They will review the federal programs that are available to assist with wildlife habitat development and improvement, and also discuss in a general way how best to manage land to provide good bird habitat.

The federal programs they will review will include the following:

- The Conservation Reserve Program, which provides financial and technical assistance for converting highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as tame or native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filterstrips, or riparian buffers.
- The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, a voluntary land retirement program
- The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, which provides financial and technical assistance specifically for improving fish and wildlife habitat.

For more information about the meeting contact Peter Smith at 304-876-1139 or pvsmith@frontiernet.net.

Hawk Watch Trip continues from page 3

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

Participants will gather at 9:00 a.m. in the Park's uppermost parking lot, just below the monument. From there, the group will walk the 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. Participants should bring binoculars if they have them and be prepared for chilly weather.

No pre-registration is needed for this trip. But please note that the trip will be cancelled if it is raining because hawks do not fly in such weather.

For more information contact Peter Smith at 304-876-1139 or pvsmith@frontiernet.net.

Virginia Audubon Council Meets in Shepherdstown

The Virginia Audubon Council, which comprises the six Audubon chapters in the state of Virginia, opted to do something different this July and held its annual summer meeting in Shepherdstown, WV.

The meeting was held on July 12 at the Stone Soup Bistro restaurant. A total of 14 Council members attended, representing the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society, the Richmond Audubon Society, and the Virginia Beach Audubon Society.

The Richmond chapter's delegation included Caroline Coe, who is also a National Audubon Society Board member.

The Council invited PVAS to participate, and several Board members and PVAS Executive Director Kristin Alexander attended.

Also attending were Connie Mahan, the National Audubon Society's Director of Grassroots Outreach, and Mary Elfner, who directs the Virginia Important Bird Area Program for the Society.

Participants got updates from Connie and Mary about their current efforts, heard a presentation about National Audubon's work on the population control issues, shared information about current chapter activities, and discussed issues of mutual concern.

Thanks to John Coe, of the Richmond chapter, for organizing this informative and useful meeting.

Wil Hershberger to Lead September 20 "Insect Walk"

Local insect expert Wil Hershberger will lead another of his popular "insect walks" for PVAS on Saturday, September 20.

The walk will be held along the C&O Canal across from Shepherdstown.

Participants will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the large C&O Canal parking lot on Canal Road three-tenths of a mile south of the Rumsey Bridge. From there, Wil will lead the group in an exploration of the surrounding fields and roadsides. Insects likely to be encountered include tree crickets, several species of meadow katydids, perhaps one or two species of round-winged katydids, northern true katydids, oblong-wing katydids, and perhaps some bush katydids.

This is a family-oriented event that is especially popular with young children. But anyone with an interest is welcome to participate. If you come, bring a flash light and be prepared to walk through high grass and weeds. Tucking pants legs into socks and spraying them with a DEET-based insect repellent is recommended.

Wil, who lives in Hedgesville, has been a naturalist all his life. His website can be found at www.natureimagesandsounds.com.

He has been photographing and recording the natural world for more than a decade and his work has been published in magazines, calendars, and books. His recordings of birds, frogs and insects are archived at the Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

For more information contact Peter Smith at 304-876-1139 or pvsmith@frontiernet.net.

Sign Up Now for Trip to “World’s Largest Pawpaw Orchard”

PVAS will sponsor a trip the afternoon of September 28 to what is said to be the largest Pawpaw orchard in the world, located in Carroll County, Maryland.

The trip will be led by Neal Peterson, of Harpers Ferry, who is one of the leading experts on this interesting native tree, and who has been in the forefront of efforts to develop commercially viable cultivars.

The Pawpaw (*asimina triloba*) is a small, very decorative tree that bears fruit with a custard-like texture and a sweet flavor reminiscent of mango or banana.

It has a long history. It was cultivated by Native Americans and early settlers. The Lewis and Clark expedition relied on Pawpaw fruit on their way west, chilled Pawpaw was one of George Washington’s favorite desserts, and Thomas Jefferson cultivated Pawpaw trees at Monticello.

But the fruit is full of seeds and highly perishable, which makes commercial-scale production and handling difficult. In addition, although the Pawpaw tree is very hardy once established, it is very difficult to transplant.

The Maryland orchard that will be visited is one of a dozen sites in the East, South and Midwest currently engaged in testing Pawpaw cultivars designed to overcome these problems.

Owned by Jim Davis, of Westminster, Maryland, it comprises about 1,300 trees of select varieties from Peterson’s 25-year breeding project. Their fruits possess outstanding flavor, can range up to a pound in size, and have far fewer seeds than their wild cousins.

The visit to the orchard will begin at 2:30 p.m. with a presentation by Neal about the history and uses of the Pawpaw. Then Jim will lead a tour of the orchard. Fresh Pawpaws will be available, along with Pawpaw ice cream.

The orchard is about 1½ hours from Harpers Ferry, and carpooling will be available.

Anyone with an interest is invited to participate but the trip is limited to 15 people and pre-registration is required.

To pre-register and get carpool instructions or directions to the orchard, contact Sheri Fedorchak at 304-876-8432 or stelladogg@hotmail.com.

To learn more about Pawpaws and Neal Peterson’s work see Neal’s website at <http://petersonpawpaws.com>.

NCTC Employee’s Association Donation

The NCTC Employee’s Association generously donated \$500 in support of the Yankauer Nature Preserve in June. The group’s activities include occasional fundraisers to help deserving organizations. We are very honored and grateful that the NCTC Employee Association chose PVAS’ activities at Yankauer as the recipient of this year’s fundraiser. Thank you!!!

Yankauer Developments

Yankauer Nature Preserve has a new color brochure, similar to the brochure produced for Eidolon earlier in the year. Many thanks go to Michael Schwartz for designing the brochure’s new, beautiful trail map. The same map will be blown up and displayed on the kiosk at the preserve in the next month.



Also coming soon is a new entrance sign at Yankauer. The sign will sport the Yankauer logo, designed by Eden Design several years ago, and will replace the existing sign that is rotting. The new sign will also explain to visitors that the preserve is a collaborative project between PVAS and TNC. The sign looks beautiful, and we thank Tim Murphy for taking care of its installation.

Eidolon Invasive Plant Survey Completed

Eastern American Forestry Management, a Morgantown, WV, forestry consulting firm, this spring completed a survey of the invasive plant species at the Eidolon Nature Preserve.

A survey report was transmitted to PVAS in June.

Happily, the report concluded that although some invasive species have become established on the preserve, the property “does not have a major problem with invasive species.”

The species that are present there are primarily Garlic Mustard, Multiflora Rose, Japanese Stiltgrass, Tree of Heaven, and Autumn Olive.

As would be expected, the highest concentrations of invasives were found in or near disturbed areas. These areas include the land around the Zapoleon’s cottage, the sites of earlier farmsteads, the edges of the preserve road, power line rights-of-way, and, to a lesser extent, pathways and trails where limited soil disturbance has been occurring.

PVAS will work with The Nature Conservancy to develop a plan to address the property’s invasives in the future.

Eidolon Land Transfer Still Pending

The May issue of *Valley Views* noted that the Board of Trustees of the West Virginia chapter of The Nature Conservancy had formally approved a proposal to transfer two parcels of land within the Eidolon Nature Preserve to PVAS, and that it was hoped the transfer could be accomplished by July 1.

However, the process of completing the transfer has proven to be more complicated than expected, and the transfer is still pending.

Most recently the Conservancy’s legal staff has required the development of a so-called “baseline report” documenting the current condition of the two parcels.

In July, PVAS completed the field work needed for this report and

Eidolon Land Transfer continues on page 6 column 1

Volunteers Recognized

At PVAS' June picnic at Yankauer, several volunteers were recognized for outstanding volunteer service to PVAS over the last year.

In recognition of their general "over and above" service to PVAS, Julie Laing, Wil Hershberger, Matt Orsie, Bob Dean, Kathy Bilton, Diana Gaviria, Diana Mullis received Kingfisher Awards.

Kingfisher Awards were also awarded to Nancy Kirschbaum and Susan Brookreson for the many hours of teaching provided over the last year.

Joe Gentile, Tim Murphy and Kelly Smith were recognized for their efforts to increase programs and activities at Eidolon and Morgan County.

Master Naturalists Wanda Miller, Don Henry, Ora Dixon, Kathryn Henry, and Ellen Murphy received awards for their efforts to keep the Master Naturalists program running smoothly and successfully.

PVAS would not be nearly as effective and active without the incredible efforts of these and many other volunteers. Thank you all!

Finally, Ellen Murphy was given a signed Charlie Harper poster in recognition of her outstanding work in her first year of employment with PVAS.

Eidolon Land Transfer continues from page 5 submitted a 49-page draft to the Conservancy. The Conservancy is now preparing a series of specialized maps that must be included in the document.

The current hope is that the transfer will be accomplished by early fall, so we can still begin work this year on the facilities that are needed to support educational programming at Eidolon.

One of the parcels to be transferred is 1.4 acres in size. It is located near the preserve entrance and will be developed to include a parking area and school bus turnaround.

The other parcel is about 7 acres and includes the old stone cottage near the preserve's ridgeline. Here, we plan to restore the cottage so it can provide shelter for educational programming and develop a satellite parking area and turnaround. Over time, we also hope to construct an open education pavilion at this site.

Plans for the cottage restoration and the two parking/turnaround areas have been prepared and donated by the Martinsburg architectural firm of Grove and Dall'Olio, the carpentry program at the Harper's Ferry Job Corps Center has agreed to donate labor for the cottage restoration, and bids have been received from two grading contractors for the turnaround/parking area work.

PVAS has funds in hand to complete the main parking area and turnaround, and this is the work we still hope to undertake this year. If we can raise an additional \$2,800 we can also undertake much needed repairs to the preserve road this year.

The restoration of the cottage is currently scheduled for next summer.

The satellite parking area and turnaround will be completed as funds become available.

State Ecologists Inventory Eidolon Sites

Two ecologists from the West Virginia Natural Heritage Program, Elizabeth Byers and Brian Streets, visited the Eidolon Nature Preserve on July 21.

Guided by preserve volunteer Joe Gentile, they inventoried the flora at several sites along the eastern side of the preserve.

The sites included an area of eastern ridgetop along the Lady Slipper Trail, a nearby area oak/hickory forest below an outcrop of sandstone ledges, and a "boulder stream" or "rock river" along the Yellow trail that probably dates to the Pleistocene period.

The boulder stream is considered one of the most notable natural features of the preserve. In addition to its geological interest, it harbors a variety of flora including Butternut trees—which are an uncommon species considered vulnerable in our state because of recent, widespread declines.

The data that Elizabeth and Brian collected will go into the Heritage Program's database, which is the most comprehensive biodiversity resource for West Virginia.

The Heritage Program is part of the Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. It inventories, catalogues, and supports conservation of rare plants and animals and exemplary natural communities (types of forests, wetlands, cliff habitats, etc.) that are significant enough to merit special consideration as land-use decisions are made.

NCTC Speaker Will Discuss Predators' Roles in Ecological Balance

The National Conservation Training Center's popular public lecture series will continue in September with a presentation by William Stolzenburg, the author of the new book *Where the Wild Things Were*, on September 18.



He will speak at 7:00 p.m. in the Byrd Auditorium.

PVAS is cosponsoring his talk.

A former science editor of *Nature Conservancy* magazine, Stolzenburg is a wildlife journalist who has been covering conservation biology issues for the past twenty years.



The full title of his first book is *Where the Wild Things Were: Life, Death, and Ecological Wreckage in a Land of Vanishing Predators* (Bloomsbury, 2008). It follows a group of scientists as they uncover the critical role large predators play in sustaining the diversity of life—and the disastrous ecological consequences of their disappearance from most of their former ranges.

Stolzenburg holds a Master's degree in wildlife from New Mexico State University, where he explored the science of predator control. He now writes from his home in Shepherdstown.

Calendar

- August 30: Insect Walk, Cacapon State Park
- September 2: Music in the Cedars: The Outpatients
- September 6: Master Naturalist Workshop at Cacapon State Park
- September 9: United Way Day of Caring (Yankauer & Eidolon)
- September 9: Music in the Cedars: Rolling Coyotes
- September 10: PVAS Lecture: Habitat Restoration
- September 16: Music in the Cedars: The Dilletantes
- September 18: NCTC Lecture: Vanishing Predators
- September 20: Insect Walk, C&O Canal, Shepherdstown
- September 21: Field Trip: Hawk Watch
- September 23: Music in the Cedars: Daryl Bryarly (dulcimer)
- September 26: Potomac Valley Nature Photographers, NCTC
- September 28: Field Trip: Paw Paw Orchard
- September 30: Music in the Cedars: Steve Cifala

United Way/CFC Fund Drives Coming

The United Way of the Eastern Panhandle and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) will kick off their annual fundraising campaigns on September 9. The campaigns will last through December 15.

PVAS receives funding from United Way and CFC each year and encourages its members to give to their campaigns. Federal employees can designate PVAS as the recipient of all or part of their CFC contribution by entering PVAS’s CFC number (29061) on the CFC form.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Kristin Alexander at pvasmail@aol.com or 304-676-3397.

Photo Club

The next meeting of the Potomac Valley Nature Photographers will take place Friday, September 26, at 7 p.m. at the National Conservation Training Center. The topic of the meeting has not been set at this time, but the meeting will include a “Show and Share” opportunity as well as Q&A time. It will also include a new monthly “Photography Tip of the Month.” Please join us!

Summer Camp continues from page 1

led by Bob Dean.

The camp hosted an extremely strong staff: Laurel Ady, Hannah Lloyd, Sarah Prince, Charlie Sullivan, Suzi Taylor and Nolan Thomas. We were fortunate to have several intern sponsors this year to support the hire of such a quality staff. We thank Stan and Judy Jones, Henry and Faye Davenport and Jean Neely for their support of the staff and camp program.

Volunteers were an enormous help throughout the summer and deserve a heartfelt thank you: Susan Brookreson, Debbie Crouse, Bob Dean, Clark Dixon, Nancy Kirschbaum, Nancy Little, Wanda Miller, and Suzi Taylor.

Ellen Murphy, PVAS’ Youth Program Director, directed camp activities for the second year and did a phenomenal job.

JOIN PVAS TODAY!

We now offer two kinds of memberships:

1. PVAS Local Membership

Here’s what you get:

- Access to a wide variety of PVAS programs and events for adults and children.
- Discounts for selected chapter activities, like children’s summer camps.
- A subscription to PVAS’s newsletter and e-mail alerts about events and programs of special interest.
- ALL your dues stay here to support local PVAS efforts!

To become a local member: Enclose a check for \$20 (\$15 for seniors and students). Please make check out to “PVAS.” This fee covers membership for everyone in your household for one year.

2. Dual Membership with National Audubon

You get all the benefits of PVAS membership plus membership in the National Audubon Society, which includes a subscription to *Audubon* magazine. If you select this option, almost all of your dues will go to National Audubon. To obtain a dual membership, enclose a check for \$20 if you are joining NAS for the first time or \$35 to renew an existing NAS membership (\$15 in either case for seniors and students). Make check out to “National Audubon Society.”

Membership Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: ____ Zip code: _____
 Phone (optional): _____
 E-mail: (optional): _____

Membership Type (check one):

PVAS Local Membership ____
 (For PVAS local membership, check the box following if you do NOT want PVAS to share your contact information with National Audubon: ____)

Dual Membership with National Audubon ____
 I’d like to get *Valley Views* by e-mail ____ US mail ____ (check one)

.....(Audubon chapter code Y54; source code 79N7)

Clip and mail this form to:

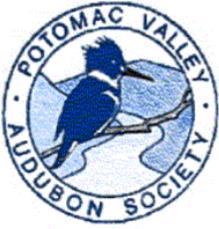
Membership Chair, PVAS
 PO Box 578
 Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Thank you for your support!



RED DOT ALERT

● If 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 Dual membership or Local membership.



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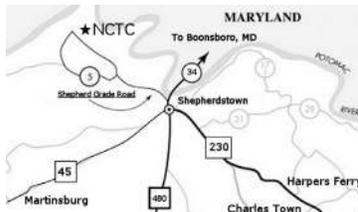


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The Potomac Valley Audubon Society meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through April, at the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), Shepherdstown, WV, in the Instructional West Building. 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 Wednesday of the month (Sept.-June). Meeting location will be announced prior to meetings. These meetings are open to all PVAS members.

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