

VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac
Valley
Audubon
Society

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WV Department of Environmental Protection Funds Watershed Program

PVAS is very pleased to announce that it has received \$25,000 in funding for this year's Watershed Education Initiative. PVAS has been fortunate to receive funding for the watershed program from Volunteer West Virginia the last two years, but as that program's priorities shifted, PVAS sought other means of program support.

The WVDEP will fund the program through their Division of Water and Waste Management. They are particularly interested in the development and improvement of rain and erosion control gardens at each participating school. The Watershed Education Initiative includes 10 hours of PVAS instruction for each classroom, with each of the seven sessions covering a different aspect of water quality and watershed conservation, from water chemistry to food webs.

Because of the intensity of this program, PVAS cannot charge schools enough to cover all of the related expenses. We are grateful to the DEP for funding the program for this school year. It will allow about 10 schools to participate this spring and help students install or improve 10 rain or erosion control gardens in Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties.

City of Ranson Funds PVAS Programs

In addition to participating in the fall version of the fourth grade watershed program, students of other grades at Ranson Elementary School will have the opportunity to participate in PVAS programs at Yankauer. This is made possible by the City of Ranson which is sponsoring PVAS programs for Ranson Elementary's classrooms as well as transportation to and from Yankauer Preserve. The City of Ranson has sponsored PVAS programs for their students for the last three years, allowing all students from the school to participate free of charge.

Birdseed Sale Reminder

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. Proceeds help fund PVAS childrens' education efforts.

FLOW Funding Extended through December

The Future Leaders of Watersheds program, part of Volunteer West Virginia, has been funding PVAS' Watershed Education Initiative over the last two years. Unfortunately that program will not be renewed at the state level into 2010. The good news is that they have extended the program through December using remaining funds. PVAS is the recipient of some of these funds, allowing some watershed schools to participate in a fall version of the watershed program. So far Ranson Elementary School will be one of the schools to participate. As part of the students' service project, Ranson Elementary students will work on the proposed Flowing Springs Park near the new Home Depot in Ranson. Other participating schools will be confirmed once schools are back in session.

Seely Foundation Awards Eidolon Grant

For the second year in a row, the Tom and Virginia Seely Foundation has awarded PVAS a \$1,000 grant to help infrastructure 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 greatly appreciates the Seelys' generosity!

"Insect Walks" Are Popular Family Events

PVAS is sponsoring two "insect walks" along the C&O Canal across from Shepherdstown the evenings of Friday, September 4, and Saturday, September 5.

The walks will be led by local insect expert Wil Hershberger, who is coauthor of "The Songs of Insects," a book and audio CD published by Houghton-Mifflin Company.

These are family-oriented events that are especially popular with young children but anyone with an interest is welcome to participate. There is no fee.

See *Insect Walk*, Page 2

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



Hello everyone:

You'll see from this issue of *Valley Views* that the programming we've scheduled so far for this fall includes a mix of familiar and new things.

Among the familiar things, our "Music in the Cedars" concert series at the Yankauer Nature Preserve is back for its sixth year.

Also, we've enlisted naturalist Wil Hershberger to continue his extremely popular evening "insect walks," and we'll be teaming up again with the Potomac Conservancy to host "Growing Native" seed collection events at both our nature preserves.

Our new things include our involvement with the September Berkeley Springs Fall Birding Festival and an end-of-October trip to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

The Birding Festival itself isn't new: the event was initiated last year by the Ecology Coalition of Morgan County. But because that group has since changed its focus, local organizers asked PVAS to become the festival's main sponsor and we enthusiastically agreed to do so.

We hope we can help grow this festival into a major annual event in the years to come, and we welcome any suggestions you may have for accomplishing that.

The Great Smoky Mountains Park trip is a whole new venture for us. The park is a full day's drive from the Eastern Panhandle and, because of the distances involved, we're planning to rent vans to haul all the participants and their gear to and from the park, and to charge a per-person fee to cover those costs.

We've never tried this approach before and we have no idea how it will work out. But we hope it does. The Great Smokies are one of the most spectacular areas of the Eastern U.S. and this trip offers a relatively easy, inexpensive way to spend some quality time camping and hiking in them with a congenial group of like-minded people.

If the trip does prove to be sufficiently popular, we'll likely be organizing more long-distance trips of this kind in the future.

Got suggestions of your own for other new and different activities or events PVAS might undertake? Please pass them along. Tradition is good but so is innovation—we try to embrace both.

—Peter Smith

Freedom's Run, October 3!

This fantastic run will route runners and walkers through our area's rich cultural heritage sites including Antietam National Battlefield, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and the C&O Canal. Proceeds will, in part, be used to match a potential Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant that will fund projects like natural trails and play spaces at local elementary schools in Jefferson County to encourage outdoor physical activity. For more information, go to www.FreedomsRun.org. You can participate by running, walking, or volunteering for the event.

Insect Walk (continued from page 1)

However, space will be strictly limited, so those who would like to participate should make a reservation as soon as possible by contacting Peter Smith at pvsmith@frontiernet.net or 304-876-1139.

The walks will explore fields and roadsides near the Canal. 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.

Those who wish to participate should bring a flashlight 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.

The walks will not take place if it is raining.

Wil also conducted two insect walks for PVAS in Morgan County during August.

Digital Nature Photography Camp

This year's digital nature photography camp was another huge success. The National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) partnered with us again this year, allowing FWS staff member Matt Poole, the founder of the camp, to coordinate and instruct the week. As in the past, the camp was held at NCTC. It's beautiful grounds, access to the water, and a state-of-the-art computer lab make it the perfect location for the camp.

Eleven high schoolers participated in this summer's camp, and each got to use a Nikon D-40 camera PVAS received as part of a Nikon Spirit Initiative grant two years ago. The week's experiences included a trip to Antietam Battlefield, Town Run in Shepherdstown, Brookside Gardens' butterfly house in Wheaton, Maryland, and Trego Mountain Sanctuary to take photos of falconry birds. The students learned about light, composition, using the camera, and using computer software to edit photos. Some of the very impressive resulting photos are now in a gallery on our website: www.potomacaudubon.org. One participant went on to enter two of her photos into the Washington County Ag Expo. Her owl photo won "Champion" and her butterfly photo got "Grand Champion!"



School Programs Need Volunteers

As fall approaches and students are returning to schools, volunteers are needed to help with class visits to Yankauer. Most programs are for elementary school children and involve both a directed hike and other program activities focused on a specific theme which correlates with the WV learning objectives for their grade level. Themes include Senses, Plants vs. Animals, Animal Adaptations, and Cycles in Nature. School programs generally last from 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

School groups often come to Yankauer Preserve from late September through mid-November and volunteers are essential to the success of these programs. Without them, our programs are simply not available to the local schools. When schools choose a date, we contact those who have indicated a willingness to help and volunteers can pick and choose the dates they are available.

If you would like to help, contact Ellen Murphy at 304-676-8739 or pvasprograms@comcast.net for the specific dates. Training is offered for new volunteers on an ongoing basis.

“HAIL” To another Year of Camp!

Audubon Discovery Camp wrapped up another year and it ended with a bang! Just as Family Camp was beginning on July 24, a terrific thunderstorm, complete with ½-inch hail stones, put a damper on our fire; but like all sessions of camp, everyone dried out and kept going and had a great evening. They enjoyed an evening owl prowling with Bob Dean and fresh breakfast sausage in the morning.

Thirty-one campers participated in three sessions of camp designed especially for preschoolers: “Out of the Nest,” “Just



For Fledglings,” and “First Explorers.” Two hundred thirty campers attended either traditional sessions for ages 6-11 including “Bugs 2 Bunny,” “Wing It!” and “Camp Survivor” or one of the camp weeks at the NCTC boat ramp. These included

“Skins, Skulls, and Throwing Sticks” which emphasized archeology techniques and Archaic Indian culture, “Something’s Fishy” which emphasized fish ecology, fishing and fly-tying techniques, or “Camp Survivor, Part Deux.” Eleven middle school campers interested in leadership techniques were able to train and serve as Junior Counselors-In-Training for the first time this summer. The total number of campers was 272!



Many thanks are due the volunteers who helped the staff with programs. These included Sherry Arnold, Susan Brookreson, Bland Campbell, Sherri Cooper, Bob Dean, Clark Dixon, Susan and Scott Fluharty, Kelly Heldreth, Nan Johnson, Nancy Kirschbaum, Kristen Marino, Wanda Miller, Marcyanna Millet, Melinda Phares, and Sandy Sagalkin. Junior staff included Christian Thomas, Skylar Benedict, Eliza Wallace, Sean Pike, and Alex Shanholtzer.

Wee Naturalists Programs

Wee Naturalists, our very successful adult-child preschool programs, have been so popular that we are expanding the program to a site in southern Jefferson County. CraftWorks at Cool Spring, a

craft school six miles south of Charles Town, has invited PVAS to hold additional programs on their property beginning in September. These programs will be in addition to the monthly programs at Yankauer.

The Wee Naturalist programs at CraftWorks will take place the third Thursday of each month, September through December. The monthly themes will be the same as those at Yankauer: September “Leave No Trace;” October “Leaf No Trace;” November “A Little Bit of Art;” and December “Snowflakes and Snowbirds.” The times of the program, 9:30-11 am, will also be the same at both sites.

At Yankauer, the programs are conducted on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 9:30-11:00 a.m. at the Yankauer Nature Preserve. The program has been so popular that a second session is sometimes added afterwards for overflow.

Adult and child partners can spend the first half hour exploring independently, then spend the remaining time with activities directed by PVAS staff and volunteers. Programs are conducted rain or shine and use a hands-on discovery approach. Everyone should wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather, whatever the weather!

All preschool children, ages 3, 4, or 5, are welcome and pre-registration is required. Programs are \$7.00 each or \$5.00 each if you register for 3 or more programs at one time. Program fees are non-refundable. Registration forms and program descriptions for both sites are available on our website, www.potomacaudubon.org or at www.CraftWorksatCoolSpring.org. For more information, contact the Wee Naturalist Director, Suzi Taylor, at 301-432-1908.

Sign Up Now for October Nature Photo Workshop

PVAS is now accepting registrations for a nature photography workshop that will be held the weekend of October 23-25 at Cacapon State Park outside Berkeley Springs.

Early registration is essential because the size of the workshop will be limited to 12 individuals; a waiting list will be maintained in case of a cancellation.

The workshop will be led by Wil Hershberger, one of the area’s leading naturalists and nature photographers, and his wife, Donna.

It will be aimed at beginners and photographers with some experience.

The workshop will run from 6:30 p.m. Friday, October 23, to 12:00 noon on Sunday, October 25.

It will cover all aspects of nature photography focusing on 35mm format equipment (film and digital), with classroom and field sessions. Topics of discussion will include light, composition, equipment, workflow, and finding suitable images.

The cost to participate will be \$150 for the entire weekend.

Participants must be at least 18 years of age.

Full information and registration forms are available on the PVAS website at www.potomacaudubon.org. Or, contact Kristin Alexander by e-mail at PVASmail@aol.com or telephone at 304-676-3397.

Registration forms should be submitted with a \$25 deposit to PVAS, PO Box 578, Shepherdstown, WV 25443.

Wil and Donna Hershberger are founding members of Potomac Valley Nature Photographers and operate Nature Images and Sounds in Hedgesville, WV.

Wil is a former PVAS president, the former first vice-president of the Shenandoah Photographic Society, and a former moderator of the flora and macro forum at NatureScapes.net. He is also a member of the American Ornithologists Union, the Society of Field Ornithologists, the North American Nature Photographers Association, the Professional Photographers Association and the North American PhotoShop Professionals. His nature photographs have been published widely.

Watch for “Growing Native” Seed-collection Events This Fall

The Potomac Conservancy is once again planning to partner with PVAS to hold two “Growing Native” seed-collection events in the Eastern Panhandle this fall.

One of the events will be held at our Yankauer Nature Preserve in Berkeley County and the other will be held at our Eidolon Nature Preserve in Morgan County.

The dates are not set yet, but we are currently aiming for late September or early October.

Once the dates are finalized, we will announce them on the PVAS website and via email and press release.

The Conservancy’s Growing Native program is aimed at improving water quality in the Potomac River. It recruits volunteers to collect seeds of native trees and delivers the seeds to state 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.

The Conservancy’s seed collection events are open to anyone who would like to participate. A state forester is on hand to aid with tree identification, and seed-collection bags are provided.

These events are very popular with children and make good family events. For more information, go to the Growing Native website at www.growingnative.org.



Master Naturalists Host Perseids Party

For the third year, PVAS hosted a “Perseids Party” at Trinity Center on Route 45 with Potomac Valley Master Naturalist candidates hosting. The site provides a large area with little light pollution and it is normally a great site for viewing the annual meteor showers. This year, however, the waning gibbous moon and cloud cover made viewing a real challenge. Nine folks gathered anyway and hoped for the best, but “partly cloudy” skies soon became “mostly cloudy.” The Perseids arrive every year in mid-August, so we’ll try again next year!

Sign Up Now for Great Smoky Mountains Park Trip

Join PVAS for a long weekend of camping in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as the National Park Service celebrates the Park’s seventy-fifth anniversary. We will travel to the Park on Friday, October 30, spend two full days there, and travel home on Monday, November 2.



The Great Smoky Mountains National Park encompasses 814 square miles in North Carolina and Tennessee, and is one of the largest protected areas in the eastern U.S. It receives over nine million visitors per year, which makes it the most visited park in the entire National Park System of 391 parks.

The Park is world-renowned for the diversity of its plant and animal resources, the beauty of its ancient mountains, the quality of its remnants of American pioneer culture, and the depth and integrity of the wilderness sanctuary within its boundaries. It offers panoramic views, tumbling mountain streams, water falls, historic farmsteads, and large stands of old-growth forests. The Park is mostly forested, and its fall foliage should be near its peak color during our trip. For more information, see the Park’s website at www.nps.gov/grsm.

The Park is about 450 miles from the Eastern Panhandle. Estimated travel time is about nine hours each way.

PVAS will provide all transportation. We will be camping in tents at campsites within the Park over the three nights of the trip. There are no motels or hotels located within the Park.

Activities will include hiking and wildlife watching (including elk watching). Possible additional activities include fishing, horseback trail riding, bicycling, and a visit to the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont.

At the outset, we plan to provide one seven-passenger van and one utility van (which will seat two) to carry tents and equipment. If enough people sign up to fill a second seven-passenger van, one will be rented.

Participants must supply their own tents, bedding, equipment and food. Some tent space will be available for those who do not have a tent of their own.

PVAS will pay for all transportation and campsite costs and will charge a fee to cover these costs. The amount of the fee will depend on the number of people who sign up for the trip and fuel costs at the time. If six people sign up, at today’s fuel costs the fee will be about \$195 per person. If nine people sign up, it will be about \$140 per person. If 16 sign up, it will be about \$120 per person.

Participants will be responsible for their own food costs and for the costs of participating in any activities that require special fees, such as fishing or horseback riding.

You don’t want to miss this exciting trip, which will be led by PVAS Board member Clark Dixon. For more information and/or to sign up contact Clark at 304-725-9634 or dixonconsultants@aol.com

Special September Program at NCTC!

PVAS will not present a program of its own at the National Conservation Training Center during September. Instead, on Wednesday, September 9, we are cosponsoring with NCTC a special presentation entitled "Aboriginal America and the Potomac Frontier, 1607-1676."

The presenter will be Stephen Potter, the National Park Service's regional archaeologist for the National Capital Region. Admission will be free for the program to be held in the Byrd Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

In the early 1600s, most of the Algonquian-speaking peoples of the Potomac River Valley were not only embroiled in their own alliances and squabbles, they were linked with other peoples through a complex web of trade, alliances, and conflict that stretched far beyond this area.

This tumultuous native political landscape affected the development of relations with the invading Europeans and the course of colonial and imperial powers in the region from the Great Lakes to the Virginia Capes.

Dr. Potter will use a combination of archaeological, ethnohistorical, and historical data to provide new perspectives on the critical sixty years following the establishment of Jamestown.

Dr. Potter received a Bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of Missouri at Columbia, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

His research interests include both the prehistoric and historic archaeology of the eastern United States, the 17th century Chesapeake frontier, the southern Algonquian Indians, and the archaeology and history of the American Civil War. He has been involved in archaeological fieldwork in many states, including Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia, and has authored books, articles and papers on a variety of topics.

He is the author of "Commoners, Tribute, and Chiefs: The Development of Algonquian Culture in the Potomac Valley" (University of Virginia Press, 1993), the first modern, scholarly account of the Algonquian-speaking peoples of the Potomac River, from c. A.D. 200 until the 1650s.

Potomac Valley Nature Photographers

The Nature Photographers' August meeting will take place on August 28, Joe Mikus will share his setup and techniques for capturing images of a great horned owl nest using remote technology.

On September 25, Pat Murphy will talk about his work with youth at the Boys and Girls Club in Martinsburg teaching them photography, traditional darkroom work, and digital photography. He has been teaching photographer there since 1971. He will be presenting images from the kids spanning many of those years.

All meetings take place at the National Conservation Training Center at 7 p.m. on the fourth Friday of each month. Learn more at www.potomacvalleynaturephotographers.org.

Don't Miss Berkeley Springs Fall Birding Festival!

PVAS is sponsoring this year's Berkeley Springs Fall Birding Festival, which will be held in and around Berkeley Springs, the weekend of September 18-20.

The festival is timed to coincide with the annual fall bird migration, which should be in full swing at that time. It is the only fall birding festival being held in West Virginia, and only the second birding festival to be organized in the state (the other is the New River Birding and Nature Festival, which was initiated in 2003 and is held in the spring).

Most of the festival's events are free and everyone is invited to attend.



Wil Hershberger

The first events will be a free welcoming reception and program at the Ice House the evening of Friday, September 18. The reception will begin at 7:00 p.m. At 7:30 p.m., Wil Hershberger, one of West Virginia's leading naturalists and birding experts, will give a presentation entitled "An Appreciation of Bird Song."

The next morning, at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, September 19, Wil Hershberger and local naturalist Joe Gentile will lead a free mountain top bird walk at the Eidolon Nature Preserve near Great Cacapon.

At 10:00 a.m., Saturday, a free birding workshop will be held at Warm Springs Intermediate School. The workshop will be aimed at children but also open to beginning birders of all ages. It will be led by Cacapon State Park Naturalist Kelly Smith and PVAS Youth Education Director Ellen Murphy and cover such topics as identification basics, birding manners, and using guidebooks and equipment.

At 7:30 p.m., Saturday, noted Northern Virginia author and raptor expert, Liam McGranaghan, will give a talk at the Country Inn about the annual hawk migration. Dessert and coffee will be served starting at 7:00 p.m. There will be a fee for this event (tickets will be \$5 per person in advance or \$7 at the door). Advance tickets may be purchased at the Nature Niche store in Berkeley Springs, telephone 304-258-0992.



Liam McGranaghan

The festival will wrap up the morning of Sunday, September 20,

with an 8:00 a.m. free bird walk led by Wil Hershberger at a mountainside meadowland property west of Berkeley Springs. The property includes a rich variety of habitats and offers good opportunities to see migrating raptors, blue jays, and warblers.

The festival's local community sponsors include Berkeley Springs Cottage Rentals, the Country Inn, Cowboy Cabin, the Fairfax Coffee House, Jane McCloud, the Morgan Arts Council Ice House, the Nature Niche, and Sleepy Creek Retreat.

For more information, contact Judy Webb at the Nature Niche store, (304) 258-0992.

United Way/CFC Fund Drives Coming Up

The United Way of the Eastern Panhandle and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) will kick off their annual fundraising campaigns on September 15 and September 24, respectively. The campaigns will last through December 15.

PVAS receives funding from the 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 pvasmal@aol.com or 304-676-3397

The Lawn Party at Belle Vue

Our June fundraising event, generously hosted by Mike and Gay Shepherd Henderson at their historic home, Belle Vue, was a fantastic success.

The event raised over \$7,000! The weather was perfect, so all 100 guests could fully enjoy the view of the Potomac River from the lawn of Belle Vue. We can't thank Mike and Gay enough for their hospitality.



PVAS was fortunate enough to have the same committee plan and cater this event that has done the Arts Festival and the Wine Tasting and Strawbale House Tour events. The event would not have been possible without their creativity, generosity, and talent. Our heartfelt thanks go to this committee: Alice Barkus, Susan Brookreson Nancy Kirschbaum, Gretchen Meadows, Diana Mullis, Deb Patthoff, and Jane Vanderhook. Professionals could not have prepared better food or ambience. Additional thanks goes to Wayne Braunstein, Joe Brookreson, Stephanie Diamond, Jeff Feldman, Jennifer Jones, and Don Patthoff for their volunteer help at the event. We also sincerely appreciate the generosity of Grapes and Grains Gourmet, Van Tol's Village Florist, and The Press Room for their support with wine, flowers, and linens, respectively.

Yankauer Concert Series Set

PVAS is again offering a series of free outdoor concerts this year at the Yankauer Nature Preserve north of Shepherdstown.

Our Sixth Annual "Music in the Cedars" concert series will kick off a bit later than usual, with the first concert scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 25.

The remaining five concerts will be held every Tuesday in September, with each one starting at 6:30 p.m.

The concerts will be held rain or shine in the Preserve's covered pavilion. Anyone is welcome to attend.

The schedule of performers will be as follows:

- August 25: The Outpatients (a group that specializes in "Toe-tappin' Acoustic Mayhem"—three-part harmonies, blazing instrumentals and "newgrass" jamming).
- September 1: Todd Coyle (journeyman musician/songwriter with rich vocals, unique guitar style and a warm smile).
- September 8: Grigorio Lacerda and Friends (Brazilian guitar player and vocalist performing popular and Brazilian songs with friends).
- September 15: The Second Wind Brass (for the Classically inclined; self-described as "long in the tooth," these musicians are enjoying rediscovering their instruments together).
- September 22: Betty Jo, Gena and Scott Rockwell (a family trio performing songs about love, nature, and the nature of love).
- September 29: Steve Cifala (a dynamic performer influenced by Rhythm and Blues, Little Feat, and Eric Clapton).

Those who attend the concerts are welcome to bring their own picnic suppers but the preserve does not have trash pickup so everyone is asked to carry out everything they bring in.

Picnic tables will be available in the pavilion on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendees may also bring their own chairs or picnic blankets for their comfort. Please leave pets at home.

For more information, visit the PVAS website cited above or contact the society by email at PVASmail@aol.com or telephone at 304-676-3397.

Shepherd University's Day of Service at Yankauer

Shepherd University's Day of Service included projects at the Yankauer Preserve this year. The day is an optional part of the orientation for new students, and this year a record breaking 225 students participated! The experience provides students with the opportunity to work side by side with other new students, an upperclassman, and a faculty member at a non-profit organization in the community.

This year PVAS hosted 12 students at Yankauer where they explored the trails while pulling stilt grass along the way. Volunteer Diane Sylvester helped pull stilt grass and other volunteers provided students with a delicious hot lunch before taking them for a hike to

see the Potomac River and explore the preserve. Ten bags of stilt grass were removed from the preserve thanks to their efforts (there's still plenty left for UW Day of Caring on September 15).

Many thanks to these new students and to the Department of Service Learning at Shepherd for making this day possible. Thanks also go to volunteers Sherry Arnold, Nan Johnson, Wanda Miller, and Diane Sylvester for providing a lunch for the crew.

United Way Day of Caring, September 15

This year's annual "Day of Caring" will kick off the United Way's funding campaign on September 15 this year. As in the past, PVAS will have lots of volunteer opportunities at the Yankauer preserve. This year's projects include pulling Japanese Stilt Grass, pulling weeds in the Butterfly Garden, weed control in the parking lot, mulching trails, and other tasks. The day will begin with a breakfast "Kick Off" for all volunteers at 7:30 a.m. at War Memorial Park in Martinsburg. Volunteers start coming to the preserve around 8:30 or 9 a.m. for an orientation and to start working. Lunch will be provided by PVAS at Yankauer for volunteers working there, and there will be a dinner celebrating all of the participating volunteers' labors and assistance from 4:30 – 6 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel in Shepherdstown. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Tim Murphy at 304-876-8133 or timurf@comcast.net or Kristin Alexander at 304-676-3397 or PVASmail@aol.com. This is our opportunity to give the preserve its annual "facelift" so please come spend the day with us!

Calendar

(Downloadable from www.potomacaudubon.org)

- Aug 25: "Music in the Cedars" Concert at Yankauer (Special time: 7-8pm)
- Aug 28: Potomac Valley Nature Photographers Meeting
- Aug 30: Potomac Valley Nature Writing Group at Yankauer
- Sep 1: "Music in the Cedars" Concert 6:30-7:30
- Sep 4-5: "Insect walks" with Wil Hershberger C&O Canal near Shepherdstown.
- Sep 8: "Music in the Cedars" Concert. 6:30-7:30
- Sep 9: PVAS Program at NCTC
- Sep 15: "Music in the Cedars" Concert. 6:30-7:30
- Sep 18-20: Berkeley Springs Fall Birding Festival
- Sep 22: "Music in the Cedars" Concert. 6:30-7:30
- Sep 25: Potomac Valley Nature Photographers Meeting
- Sep 27: Potomac Valley Nature Writing Group
- Sep 29: "Music in the Cedars" Concert. 6:30-7:30
- Oct 10-11: Berkeley Springs Apple Butter Festival
- Oct 14: PVAS program at NCTC
- Oct 23: Potomac Valley Nature Photographers Meeting
- Oct 23-35: Nature Photography Workshop at Cacapon State Park
- Oct 30-Nov 2: Weekend hiking and camping trip to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Nov 11: PVAS program at NCTC

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:

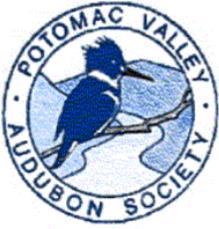
Membership Chair, PVAS
 PO Box 578
 Shepherdstown, WV 25443

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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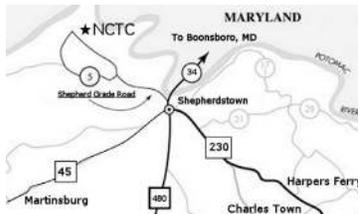


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The Potomac Valley Audubon Society meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through April, at the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), Shepherdstown, WV, in the Instructional West Building. 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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