

Valley Views

**Potomac
Valley
Audubon
Society**

Volume 23, Issue 1

September 2004

Mark Your Calendars

This issue of Valley Views features upcoming field trips and programs ...

Field Trips

Saturday, September 4: Join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Potomac Valley Audubon Society on a natural history walk (about three miles long) at the beautiful Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship in northwestern Loudoun County. We should see butterflies using the late summer wildflowers as well as early migrating birds. The Blue Ridge Center is located on Harpers Ferry Road, Rt. 671, a few miles south of Harpers Ferry and the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. We will meet at the Neersville Volunteer Fire Station on Rt. 671 at 8:30 a.m. For more information call Patsy Hunter at (304) 725-3936.

October 2 and 3—National Zoo’s Conservation and Research Center, Front Royal, Virginia, Open House: 10:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.: Bring your family for a day of fun, tours, and activities at the National Zoo’s Conservation and Research Center in Front Royal, Virginia. This is the only weekend in the year when you have an opportunity to visit this normally closed campus. Lunch and beverages will be sold on the grounds, and there will be live music throughout the day. Special guided tours will take you through the animal breeding programs and veterinary hospital. Meet scientists and keepers and explore the tools and technology used to understand animals and

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Meeting Programs

September 8, “Keeping the ‘Wild’ in Wonderful West Virginia!”

Matt Keller, Coordinator, West Virginia Wilderness Coalition

Matt earned a BA in Outdoor Education from Ohio University and an MA in Geography from the University of Wyoming. In former lives, he was a whitewater rafting and backpacking guide in Tennessee and Maine, a YMCA program coordinator taking kids into the wilds of Oregon and a GIS Analyst for West Virginia University. In his current position as the coordinator for the West Virginia Wilderness Coalition (the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, the Sierra Club - West Virginia Chapter, and The Wilderness Society) he is working towards introduction and passage of a new West Virginia wilderness bill for the Monongahela National Forest.

October 13, TBA

We’ve got a great program for you but we’re awaiting confirmations and the presenter’s biography. Check the next issue of Valley Views for all of the details.

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

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their habitats. Walk around the grounds and enjoy the beautiful property.

There are only around 300 parking spaces and they go on a first come first served basis. So if you think you can go, register for a parking pass. It is free to CRC Members, or \$25 for FONZ members and general public. There is a maximum of six people per car. Space is limited and reservations are required. A parking pass and directions will be mailed with your confirmation. Parking passes will be mailed the first week of September.

Car passes can also be purchased by cash or check at the Front Royal/Warren County Visitor Center (800) 338-2576 or the Winchester/Frederick County Visitor Center (800) 662-1360, or you can register online at <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/activitiesandevents/celebrations/acf>

We have one full car registered for Saturday October 2. If anyone wishes to drive down together please let Patsy Hunter know at (304) 725-3936 or via email at phunter@npca.org and we'll coordinate.

October 9 and 10 (Columbus Day weekend)–Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and the Eastern Shore Birding Festival: Chincoteague is famous for the shorebirds that can be seen on its marshes. On the far southern tip of the Delmarva Peninsula is the Kiptopeke Banding Station. Here, during the fall migration on Virginia's eastern shore, a natural funnel is created focusing the migration of the neotropical songbirds and raptors to the southernmost tip of the Peninsula. Our plan is to drive down to Kiptopeke Banding Station on the Saturday and spend most of the day there; we'll be driving back up to Chincoteague for the night. Sunday would be spent at Chincoteague. If you are interested you need to make motel reservations as soon as possible. If you want more information on the festival itself or you wish to sign up for any of the many activities you can get more information at <http://www.esvachamber.org/festivals/birding/>. Or you can get in touch with Patsy Hunter at (304) 725-3936 or via email at phunter@npca.org.

Please let Pat Hunter know if you are interested in going. When you sign up please indicate if you would like to car pool. Dates to Mark Down For the Future

Saturday November 13–Owlnet: Visit with Steve Huy at his banding station on South Mountain. Limited capacity!! First come first served!

NAS Tackles Chapter Relations Issues

As most of you know, last year plans to revamp National Audubon's organizational structure and financial support for local chapters resulted in the formation of the Take Back Audubon movement. The PVAS Board of Directors unanimously voted to support the Take Back Audubon position and retain the grass roots, local chapter organization that has been effective in representing the interests of the membership and providing a collegial forum for events and activities of local chapter members. As a result of that initiative, NAS extended meager financial support to local chapters and committed to opening a dialog with the membership on the form and future of the National Audubon Society.

In a communication from Lynn Tennefoss, State Programs and Chapter Services, NAS, we are updated on the progress that has been made and plans for chapter inputs:

For more than 18 months the National Audubon Society's Ad Hoc Chapter Task Force, chaired by Bill McQuilkin, has worked to create a renewed spirit of partnership and common purpose between National Audubon Society (NAS) and Audubon Chapters. As part of their charge, the task force has sought to identify Chapter relation issues and to clarify the role of Chapters, now and longer term, within Audubon.

At this time, the Ad Hoc Chapter Task Force is preparing a draft set of recommendations that address both Chapter and NAS concerns for presentation to the NAS Board of Directors at its September board meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The task force's draft recommendations will address the relationship between NAS and Chapters including issues around communications, financial empowerment, membership, Chapter management and Chapter relations with NAS State Offices. These draft recommendations will then be made available for review and comment from Chapters and subsequently amended before they are finalized and taken before the NAS Board of Directors for adoption in January 2005 at their meeting in Naples, Florida.

In order to effectively communicate with Chapters the findings and draft recommendations and to garner and incorporate Chapter feedback, the task force is seeking opportunities to meet with Chapters, discuss the task force's findings and draft recommendations, and obtain feedback from Chapters.

Potomac Valley Audubon Society is considered a part of the Pennsylvania council, which will meet Novem-

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November 10, "The Important Bird Area Program in Maryland and DC"

David Curson, Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon MD-DC

The Important Bird Areas (IBA) program is part of an ambitious global initiative to identify the sites that are essential to the conservation of viable bird populations. In the United States Audubon is responsible for implementing the IBA program, and has now identified IBAs in most states. David Curson, Audubon MD-DC's newly appointed Director of Bird Conservation will talk about the IBA program in Maryland and DC and how you can help with the current search for new sites.

Coming Attraction

Walkin' Jim Stoltz to Perform for PVAS

While we're still trying to work out the details, it looks like Walkin' Jim Stoltz will be available to do a benefit concert for PVAS in October. Jim Stoltz is a guitar picker with an ear and a 'sole' for traditional folk music. He has been traveling the United States the past 18 years with his award-winning multimedia concert, *Forever Wild*, promoting wilderness preservation and respect for our environment. He sings his songs "with the sense of having been there" because he probably has and "he sings with the assurance and sincerity of someone who has something to say."



Check Next Month's Valley Views for Details

President's Perch

Hi Everyone - Hope you have enjoyed your summer. It's been a busy summer for PVAS! Lots of goings on at Yankauer...nature walks, summer camp for kids, the Cedar Series concert series...hope you



were able to join in! It is hard to believe that fall is just around the corner. My garden is in full bloom and I have tomatoes everywhere. With everything so lush and green, it's hard to imagine that winter exists, but I keep seeing a red leaf here and there, and I know what comes next. So while I'm canning tomatoes, I'm thinking about the birdseed sale (your order form will be in next month's *Valley Views*), programs, fund raising, fall field trips, and more!

The PVAS Board has continued to work on many things through the summer. A couple of things come to mind that you will be hearing more about: PVAS is going to launch its new "Chapter Only Membership" program soon. Basically, it will be the same cost as National Audubon Society membership, but will not include the NAS magazine (more details will be provided in next month's *Valley Views*). Also, PVAS has accepted a partnership with our local American Conservation Film Festival folks. Starting with this issue, we will be including their announcements in *Valley Views* (see Page 5).

We hope to see you at our October 13 meeting at the USGS in Leetown, and also at our Yankauer Nature Preserve ... it's hard to stay inside with this beautiful weather...so come join us.

One more thing, your Board is in need of a Recording Secretary, whose job it is to take notes at Board meetings, type them up, and distribute them before the next Board meeting. Board meetings are the first Wednesday of the month, September through June. PLEASE consider helping us out (give me or Diana Cummins a call).

— Diana Mullis, PVAS President

News from Yankauer Nature Preserve . . .

A Tribute

After a long and productive life, I am sad to report that we recently received word from Dr. Alfred Yankauer's brother and sister-in-law that he passed away. Dr. Yankauer died in June at the age of ninety. His family expressed how pleased he was with our efforts at the Preserve and made a contribution in his honor for the continuation of our programs. I am so pleased that we had the chance to thank Dr. Yankauer for his generous gift of the Yankauer Preserve before his passing.

Summer Camp Report

We are happy to report that Summer Camp was a wonderful success this year! We filled a total of 87 spaces this summer, provided 17 scholarships, and hired three interns! All summer staff did a wonderful job and learned just as much as the campers. Thank you to Suzi Taylor for doing a fabulous job as camp director this summer. Congratulations also go to Jennifer Boserman, Siri McDonald, and Jessica Wedeking, our summer interns. Thanks to their help we were able to reach many more children this year. Thanks also go out to the following people and organizations for their contributions over the summer:



Intern sponsors: Henry and Faye Davenport, Stan and Judy Jones

Camp Scholarship Sponsors: Bill Belton, Susan Benjamin, Frank Hill, Gary and Diane Sylvester, the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation's Jane Snyder Fund

Volunteers – David Beard, Susan Brookreson, Julie Corriveaux, Stanley Dickinson, Sue Mellott, and Fanny Smith.

Junior Counselors: Laurel Ady, Merrill Ady, Samuel Boserman, Sharon Gravatt, Susan Nelson, Thomas Neville, Samuel Padgett, and Benjamin Sade.

Thank you, also, to South Berkeley Pharmacy for the donation of medical supplies

Day of Caring

This year's Day of Caring is Tuesday, September 14, so please put it on your calendar! Please contact Jean Neely right away if you can spend the day with us helping out with various projects at the Preserve. We'll be spreading mulch, preparing a butterfly garden bed, creating a new short trail, and cleaning up the parking lot! We're looking for crew leaders as well as helping hands. We hope you can join us! Jean can be reached at jeaneely@ix.netcom.com or 876-2410. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided for volunteers. Contact Jean for details. Thanks!

Cedar Series

The Cedar Series, a free music series at the Preserve in August, was a huge success. Ann Craig organized four bands to provide music for community members to enjoy free concerts under the pavilion at Yankauer. The Series brought out many new faces to the Preserve as well as our most faithful fans. Our gratitude goes to the following bands for sharing their time and talents: Allegheny Uprising, Steven Cifala, The Dilletantes, Bruce Jennings, and The Outpatients.

Thanks for coming and enjoying the Cedar Series and thank you, Ann, for organizing this community event!

Race for the Birds

The Fourth Annual, "This Race is for the Birds" is fast approaching! As in previous years, the race will be held in conjunction with the NCTC's Open House, this year on October 23. The race will include a 5K Trail Run, 5K Trail Walk, a shorter Fun Walk, and a children's Fun Run! We are still in need of volunteers, sponsors and runners/walkers! Please contact Diana Gaviria at 274-2690 if you are interested in running or walking, or Ann Craig at anncraigball@aol.com if you can help by volunteering or sponsoring the race. Please spread the word! Registration brochures are available from either Diana or Ann, or you can register on-line at www.active.com. More information will be available on our website, www.PotomacAudubon.org.

American Conservation Film Festival Prepares for 2nd Annual Event "The Changing of the Land"

The American Conservation Film Festival prepares for its second annual event slated to take place on November 4, 5, and 6 in Shepherdstown.



With fifty-plus submissions for the film extravaganza, the ACFF selection committee has the difficult task of deciding which films will make the final cut. This year's theme, "The Changing Face of the Land", helps to focus on the films that exhibit changes in the environment, the land and the ways of life in the world. The films range from outstanding animation to documentaries and narratives.

To volunteer, inquire about partnerships, or to get any information about ACFF please visit us on the Web at www.conservationfilm.org or call Cassie Cohn, Festival Manager, at (304) 876-7373 or ccohn@conservationfilm.org.



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ber 6. PVAS has hopes of having a representative at that meeting, however scheduling conflicts with our annual birdseed sale. Regardless of live representation at the meeting, our voice will be heard.

Your thoughts and comments are of vital importance. Take a moment to send an e-mail or note to a board member (see the list on the last page of the newsletter) or pick up the phone and make your feelings known. As with so many things of this nature, showing a high level of member interest and involvement is the best way to give the PVAS position clout.

Events of Special Interest

At the National Zoo's Visitor Center in Washington DC.

September 9 – Lecture at 7:30 p.m. Discovering and Understanding Life's Diversity

In a fast-paced, slide-illustrated talk, the National Zoo's Russell Greenberg, director of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, will share a behind-the-scenes look at Smithsonian biodiversity research.

September 23 – Signing at 7:00 p.m.; Lecture at 8:00 p.m.

Under a Wild Sky In a fascinating lecture, William Souder will talk about how Audubon saw birds as well as how Audubon lived his tumultuous, peripatetic life. Souder sets Audubon's life and art in the scientific context of the times, when rivalries raged among the United States' first homegrown biologists and their European counterparts.

For more information, call Patsy Hunter at 304-725-3936. She would like to try and arrange a car pool and can provide either driving or metro directions.

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
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Mail to:
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P.O. Box 578
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

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<http://potomacaudubon.org>

DATED MATERIALS

MAIL TO:

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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, Letown/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 her or see <http://potomacaudubon.org>. *PVAS* serves the Easter Panhandle of West Virginia and neighboring Washington County, Maryland.

PVASBOARD
 The *PVAS*Board meets the first Wednesday of the month (Sept.-June) at Shepherd College, Snyder Hall, Room 317, 7PM. These meetings are open to all *PVAS* members.

PVAS Officers and Board Members

President:	Diana Mullis 304 267-3482	dianamullis@aol.com
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