




Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve

Trail Distances	
Back Creek Trail	0.34 mi
Back Creek Trail Loop	0.18 mi
Connector Trail	0.06 mi
Marsh Trail	0.17 mi
West Pond Trail	0.30 mi

-  Information
-  Overlook
-  Parking



Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve

Berkeley County, WV

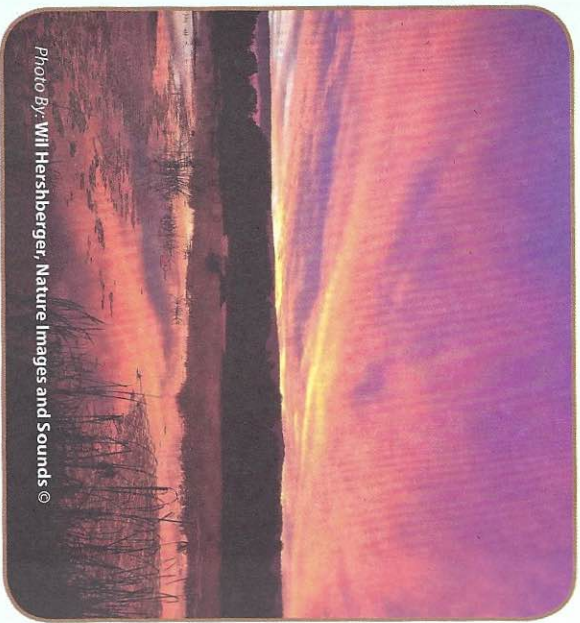


Photo By: Will Hershberger, Nature Images and Sounds ©



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For more information please visit our website:

www.PotomacAudubon.org



Map created on August 30th, 2013 for the WV GIS Network Center. Map was produced by mapping at www.mapping.com. Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Welcome to the Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve!

This 45.7-acre nature preserve, owned and managed by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society (PVAS) with an easement held by the USDA, has been restored as a wetland and set aside as a special place for those who appreciate the natural world and seek to learn from it.



The Stauffer's Marsh Story

Formerly marshy farmland, most of the preserve property was entered into a permanent conservation easement in the mid 1990s through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wetland Reserve Program. At that time, USDA restored it as a wetland – the first wetland restoration project in the state of West Virginia.

The property was donated to Potomac Valley Audubon Society in the summer of 2011 by Stauffer Miller and his wife Elinor. The Millers had owned the property since 1999 and had maintained it as a nature preserve on their own.

The mission of the preserve is to protect the land forever from future development and to fulfill the Millers' wish that it be maintained to provide habitat for wetland bird species and serve as a place to help educate the public about the importance of wetlands. Birders, hikers, and photographers are welcome at the preserve any time between dawn and dusk each day.

Location & Directions

Stauffer's Marsh is located on Back Creek Valley Road outside Hedgesville, WV.

If you are using GPS, the parking lot at the preserve is across from 4069 Back Creek Valley Road, Hedgesville, WV.

From Martinsburg: head west on Route 45, crossing I-81 and proceeding for 4 miles. Upon reaching the town of Arden, follow the signs for Route 45. Continue on Route 45 for 4.4 miles. Turn right on Buck Hill Rd. After 4 miles Buck Hill Rd becomes Boyds Gap Rd/Tuscarora Pike. Continue following this road for another mile until you reach the town of Shanghai. Turn left onto Back Creek Valley Rd. In half a mile, Stauffer's Marsh is on the left.

There is a gravel parking area at the preserve entrance.

More about PVAS

PVAS is dedicated to preserving, restoring and enjoying the natural world through education and action. To learn more about our programs, activities and membership, go to www.PotomacAudubon.org

Please Help Us Keep the Preserve Clean and Safe!

- Please carry out trash.
- Motorized vehicles, boats and horses are not permitted.
- To protect sensitive habitats, dogs are not permitted.
- Camping and campfires are not permitted.
- Please refrain from smoking.
- Possession or use of alcohol is not permitted.
- Collection of plants and animals is prohibited.
- Public hunting and fishing is not permissible.

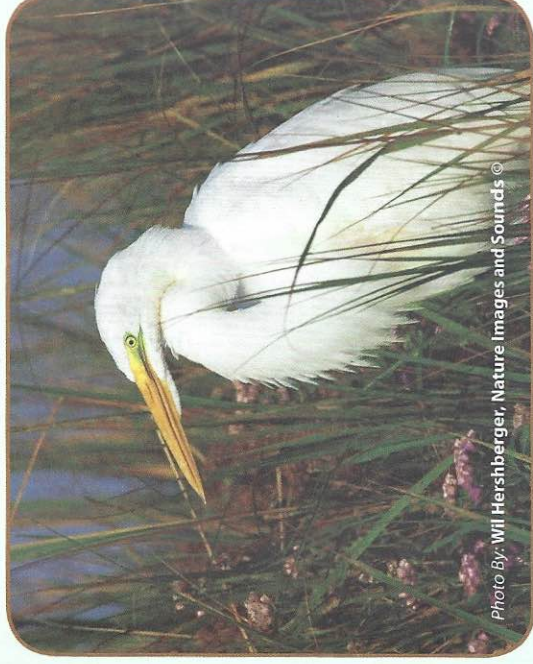


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Wander the Trails

The property includes a mile of easily accessible, mowed trails winding around shallow ponds, marsh, wetlands, woodlands with vernal pools and a three-acre pollinator meadow.

The Marsh and West Pond Trails feature overlooks with spectacular views of the preserve's ponds and marshy areas. You will often spot waterfowl and turtles basking in the sun and if you're very quiet you may even catch a glimpse of a muskrat. The Back Creek Trail circles our meadow and traverses our wet woodlands before ending at beautiful Back Creek. The meadow is composed of diverse native flora specifically tailored to pollinators including Monarch butterflies.

This rich diverse habitat makes Stauffer's Marsh especially attractive to birds, making it a favorite spot for many local birders. To date, over 150 species of birds have been identified here, including many migrating species. To view the entire list, visit www.potomacaudubon.org/stauffer.