

## 2020 Board Member Candidate Biographies

### Executive Committee Candidates:

**President Position, Jim Cummins:** Jim is a retired freshwater ecologist. Jim and his wife Nancy, a retired Jefferson County teacher, live in Bakerton. He has a Masters of Science (1985) in Biology from George Washington University. Jim co-started the District of Columbia's fisheries program where he worked from 1985 to 1988. From 1988 until his retirement in 2016 he was the Director of the Living Resources for the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin. His projects included biological assessments of streams and rivers in WV, MD, PA and DC, environmental flow studies, habitat restoration and fish passage, especially in regard to the Little Falls Dam near Washington, D.C. and a linked American shad stocking program with integrated student and volunteer involvement. Jim enjoys woodworking, gardening, fishing, canoeing, playing music, working at various scales to improve the community, reading, and trying to keep a beagle named "Abe" from causing trouble.

### At-large Member Candidates:

**Patty Bain Bachner** recently moved to Shepherdstown from the Washington, DC area. She has been active in non-profit organizations since 1990. This includes positions as Executive Director of the Mid- Atlantic Chapter of the Tourettes Syndrome Association, and Executive Director of the Maryland Center for Assault Prevention. She is currently leading an Engineering Better Readers Program initiative in several states. Patty is an alumnus of Marietta College. She is impressed by the many programs, camps, and member activities offered by PVAS, and she would like to make a constructive difference in this very special and incredibly beautiful environment for our children and generations to come.

**Susan Brookreson** is a founding member and past president of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. She has a passion for education and the natural world. Susan has also served on the PVAS board as education chair and co-chair of our birdseed sale. Current PVAS activities include serving on the events committee, being an instructor for Master Naturalists elective classes, Watershed Education instructor and assisting or leading other various workshops and classes as needed. Susan has been an educator most of her professional life teaching art to Pre-Kindergarten through college level (Shepherd University). She most recently was employed by the Martinsburg VA Hospital as a Creative Arts Therapist. Susan earned her BA from the University of Maryland and her MA from West Virginia University.

**Georgia Jeppesen** is recently retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), where she was employed for almost 20 years. Some of her areas of concentration included connecting People with Nature, reaching diverse audiences, youth conservation leadership engagement, and training USFWS employees in environmental education and education evaluation. Georgia received her B.A. degree from the University of Utah in 1981 and her M.S. in Science Education – Curriculum & Instruction from Florida State University in 1997. She has been in the environmental education/conservation field for almost 35 years, working for non-profit conservation groups, state and county school systems, universities and state parks, federal agencies and as an independent contractor.

**Wil Hershberger** has been an avid naturalist most of his life. After becoming an accomplished and well-respected birder, photography skills learned in his Dad's basement darkroom were rekindled. Today his photography has become an extension of his passion for the natural world. He has an innate ability to capture the natural world in an artistic way. Over a decade ago, Wil and his wife Donna formed Nature Images and Sounds, LLC. Together, they photograph everything from birds to bugs. Wil is also an accomplished sound recordist. Over 3,200 of his recordings, including birds and bugs, are archived at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds. Through his photography and sound recordings, he hopes to instill in others the desire to protect and save these sacred natural treasures.

**Herb Peddicord** has been a resident of Martinsburg in Berkeley County WV for 29 years. He has a BS in Forestry Resource Management and currently owns a registered forestry consultant business. He recently retired from WV Department of Forestry, where his forestry skills included landowner site visits, timber harvest inspections, and wildland fires issues. As a watershed forester for 11 years of his career, Herb is active in six different watershed groups, including board membership on the Opequon Watershed Team. Herb is also a trained facilitator for Project Learning Tree, a national Environmental Education curriculum. He has provided education and outreach for a vast array of youth and adults in the panhandle. He is a licensed herbicide applicator, and is knowledgeable in many of the environmental issues in this area, including storm water management. He is an active volunteer for Potomac Valley Audubon Society and in many aspects of this community. He is very interested in serving on the PVAS board and feels climate change is the biggest threat to habitat of all species including birds and humans.