

Valley Views

Potomac
Valley
Audubon
Society

Volume 24, Issue 4

December 2005

Field Trips

Bird Banding Demonstration

•Sunday, December 4

Reminder: PVAS' 14th annual bird banding demonstration will be hosted by expert, Bob Dean, in Hedgesville, WV, from 1:00-4:00 pm. This is an enjoyable and educational event. You'll see common backyard birds close up and learn about them. It's also a great opportunity to socialize and meet others with similar interests and enjoy the refreshments provided.



US Fish & Wildlife Service

The event is held outdoors, so those planning to attend should dress accordingly.

Directions: From I-81 north or south take exit 20 and follow Rte 901 west for about 2 miles to the first stop sign. Turn left and go 0.2 miles to Harlan Springs Road. Turn left onto Harlan Springs and go .7 miles to Limestone Lane (across from stone spring house and large pond). Turn right on Limestone and go 0.3 miles to parking sign in field below the house.

From Route 9 west of Hedgesville, stay on Rte 9 till just before the exit to I-81. Turn left on Harlan Springs Road. Go 1.25 miles on Harlan Springs to spring house and pond on your left. Turn left onto Limestone Lane and park in the field below the house.

For further information, contact Ken or Patsy Hunter by phone at 304-725-3936 or by e-mail at phunter@npca.org.

Christmas Bird Counts

•Saturday, December 17 and Monday, December 26

The Charles Town/Jefferson County Christmas Bird Count will be on Saturday, December 17 and the Inwood/Berkeley County count will be on Monday, December 26. These local counts are part of a Christmas Bird Count that has been conducted throughout (Field trips continued on page 2)

Meeting Program

Campers To Make Presentations

•Wednesday, December 14

Our December meeting will feature our traditional pot-luck dinner and a presentation by our five camp scholarship winners from summer 2005. These outstanding young people will tell us what they learned from their camp experience and what was most exciting about camp. Three campers attended the West Virginia State Conservation Camp: Amber Printz, from Kearneysville; Joseph Nicks from Hedgesville; and Randall Thomas from Funkstown, Maryland. At the Mountain Institute Camp we sponsored Meredith Carroll from Charles Town. And finally, Sarah Gilroy, from Harpers Ferry, went to the Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies, on a scholarship partly sponsored by the Burgundy Center and by PVAS.

Please join us to congratulate these young people! For the pot luck, please bring a dish to share (A-H, bring a starch; I-L, veggies or fruit; M-R, dessert; S-Z, bring protein). Please bring your own dishes, flatware, etc., so we can be environmentally conscientious.

The meeting will be held at 7:00 pm at Leetown Science Center, 11649 Leetown Road (County Route 1), Kearneysville (map p. 4). (Meetings continued on page 3)

Art Festival a Success



more on page 3

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

President's Perch



Hello Everyone!

I don't know about you, but for me it doesn't seem possible that the calendar is turning to December! Maybe it's because it stayed warm so long, or maybe it's because the leaves lasted till mid-November, or maybe it's because we have been so busy enjoying our fall activities that the calendar ran out too quickly. Just the same ... it's December! The Christmas Bird Counts are scheduled (see page 1) our December Pot Luck is here (see page 1), and we are all wondering how we will get everything done!

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped with the Art Festival, Race for the Birds, Birdseed, and all the other events we have sponsored through the year. This is the last issue of Valley Views for this year, and there will not be a January issue. Hold on to this one so that you can find us between here and February. We have been busy and productive in 2005, and we appreciate the continued support of you, our members. We hope you enjoy the holiday season, and look forward to seeing you at our Pot Luck on December 14, and through the coming year. There are lots more good and fun things to do ... come join us!

Diana Mullis, President

(Field trips continued from page 1)
the western hemisphere every year since 1900 under the auspices of the National Audubon Society To sign up or get more information please contact Bob Dean at bobdean52@aol.com or 304-754-3042.

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

•Saturday and Sunday, January 28-29

PVAS will lead a field trip to the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (BNWR) and other birding "hot spots" near Cambridge on Maryland's Eastern Shore on the weekend of January 28-29. If participants are interested in doing a weekend trip, we'll do that (probably spending Saturday night in Cambridge, MD). Otherwise, we will do just a day trip. You will need to sign up prior to the trip. This trip is a fantastic opportunity to see winter residents as well as a diversity of wintering waterfowl. The snow goose population can number in the tens of thousands. The BNWR also has the greatest nesting density of bald eagles in the eastern United States north of Florida and we are sure to see a number of these magnificent birds. With luck, we might also see Golden Eagles, which are frequently sighted at the refuge. Don't forget that you must register in advance by calling Ken or Patsy Hunter at 304-725-3936 or by email at phunter@npca.org

(Field trips continued in column 2)

Reminder: Valley Views is not published in January. Save this issue & check www.potomacaudubon.org for updates.

(Field Trips from column 1)

The Cathy Shewbridge Memorial Waterfowl Outing

•Sunday, February 12

PVAS' great birders Lynne Wiseman, Tess England, and Bruni Haydl will again lead us on this popular birding trip (formerly known as the Waterfowl on the Shenandoah River field trip). Birding beginner or just curious? Come on out-- this one's for you! One year we had an eruption of Red-necked Grebes, and last year, there was a beautiful barred owl snoozing the afternoon away in a sycamore tree, just where Bruni told us to look!

We will meet at Bakerton Road off Route 340, just west of Harpers Ferry National Park on the broad (west) side of the road. We will leave at 1:00 p.m. for the Bloomery Road area and possibly Shannondale and the Potomac River. We encourage you to carpool as parking areas are limited. Please dress warmly and be aware there may be muddy areas if it doesn't freeze before then. Please contact either Lynne or Tess at (304) 876-2539 if you have any questions. The day of the event, you can contact Lynne on her cell phone at 304-676-2725.



RED DOT ALERT

Please note that if a red dot is on your mailing label for this newsletter, your membership has expired and this may be the last PVAS newsletter that you receive. Please renew your membership using the form below.



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 **National Audubon Society**

Mail to:

Membership Chair, PVAS
P.O. Box 578
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

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News From Yankauer...

...Art Festival Great Success

The hard work of Festival Coordinator, JiJi Beckett, and her cadre of volunteers, helped make the Potomac Arts Festival a success. There were more than 40 artists' booths and tables and the beautiful artwork transformed several buildings on the NCTC campus. The 3d-annual American Conservation Film Festival ran in tandem with the arts festival and more than 2,500 visitors come out to support the arts and films. Artists couldn't believe that this was a first year event, and guests were awed by the level of talent at the festival.

JiJi has expressed gratitude for the hard work of the following volunteers before and during the festival: Kristin Alexander, Maggie Brill, Susan Brookreson, Michael Callaway, Kitty Clark, Ann Craig, Katie Donovan, Jeff Feldman, Mike Gallup, Miles Hawthorne, Shannon Holliday, Quinith Janssen, Ed Kelly, Kitty Kelly, Nancy Kirschbaum, Julie Laing, Matt Long, C. Mason, David Moller, Carolyn Moller, Jean Neely, Gordon Russell, Frank Salzano, Caitlin Schneiderman, Peter Smith, Nan Snyder, Giny Tucker, Dick Tucker, Jane Vanderhook, Lindsey Warf, Emily Witman, and Rodney Woods. A big thank you also goes out to Steve Chase, Thelma Flynn, and Mark Madison of NCTC for all their time and efforts helping to organize the arts festival's first year.

Many individuals and businesses also contributed to the arts festival. Their support helped make the festival a truly professional production. Thank you to Premier Bank, Eden Design, Dr. & Mrs. Craig A. Winkel, Tom & Sandra D'Onofrio, Shanti Saagar Yoga, Sweet Shoppe Bakery, Arts & Humanities Alliance of Jefferson County (AHA!), John & Jenny Allen, Bill & Jean Neely, Marianne & Duane Alexander, Bill & Vicki Bonifant, Joe & Susan Brookreson, Nancy Craun, Mike & Carol Del-Colle, Joseph A. & Virginia S. Hankins, Tom & Toni Leslie, Delegate John & JoAnne Overington, Betty & Dean Russell, Peter & Vicki Smith, and Jane & Ray Vanderhook.

Help Needed for Annual Appeal

For those who have already contributed to PVAS's Annual Appeal, we say: "Thanks!"

How about the rest of you? Have you felt tapped out by hurricane and earthquake donations? This has been an awful year for many people, and there have been many immediate needs. But please consider the long-term importance of close-to-home giving, too. At PVAS, the environmental education programs we offer through the Yankauer Nature Preserve are a real investment in the Eastern Panhandle's future. And these programs are especially dependent on the funds we raise through our Annual Appeal.

Last year our children's education programs gave nearly 1000 kids a new appreciation of the importance of conservation and environmental stewardship. We also initiated our first adult education program. The demand for these programs is growing tremendously and we need your help. *If each person reading this newsletter would contribute just \$25 we'd easily reach the goal that would allow us to do these things: \$12,000.*

The Annual Appeal closes December 31, so please consider a contribution today. If you've misplaced your special envelope, don't worry -- just send a check in any envelope to PVAS Annual Appeal, PO Box 578, Shepherdstown, WV 25443. All donations are fully tax-deductible. We thank you!

(Yankauer News continued column 2)

(Yankauer News from column 1)

This Race is for the Birds!

Our 5th annual 5K race at NCTC was a great success again this year. The weather behaved, about 75 runners and walkers of all ages participated, and we had a great crew of volunteers, including Jean Neely, Susan Brookreson, Diana Gviria, Don and Kathryn Henry, Kristin Alexander, Joe Brookreson, Suzanne Bucci, Danny and Michelle Carter, Dave and Mary Sue Eldridge, Diana Mullis, Bruni Haydl, Patsy Hunter, Karene Motivans, the Pike Family, Haydon and Rita Rudolf, Bruce and Carolyn Thomas, Jane Vanderhook, Nancy Giles, and Vince Vorndran.



School Programs Practically Booked!

What a spring it's going to be! We're offering between 2-4 programs almost every school day from Feb. 7-June 1 for the 4th grade Watershed Education Initiative alone. How are we going to pull this off? With help! We're currently looking for Watershed Instructors and will be needing lots of volunteer help this spring. Contact Kristin if you'd like to get involved at 304-676-3397 or PVASmail@aol.com.

Nature Photography Workshop April 28-30, 2006

Spring will be here sooner than you think! This workshop, taught by Wil and Donna Hershberger and held at NCTC, will focus on wildflowers. Instruction will include: seeing the light, reading tonalities, metering the light with your camera, making a pleasing composition, what equipment you really need and how to use it. Tuition is \$100 which includes a course notebook, snacks, and instruction. Meals are available at NCTC but are not included in tuition. Space is limited to 10 people. Send a \$25 deposit and registration form to PVAS, PO Box 578 Shepherdstown, WV 25443. Registrations will be accepted in the order they are received. For the registration form and additional information, go to www.potomacaudubon.org or call 304-676-3397.

(Meetings continued from page 1)

•Wednesday, January 11, 2006

The speaker for our January meeting is Dr. John Rappole, who will talk about his recently published book, "Birds of the Mid-Atlantic Region and Where to Find Them." The book is a comprehensive guide to bird life in our area and directs readers to public sites where each species can be found.

Dr. Rappole has studied the ecology of migratory birds and the conservation biology of endangered birds and mammals over three decades, and has published 11 books on these topics. For more information on this program, contact Nancy Kiirschbaum on 304-876-6881 or check the website at www.potomacaudubon.org.

Mark Your Calendars For the Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will take place February 17-20, 2006. It's a weekend when you can both watch birds and teach people about watching birds.

Take a look at past years' results at www.birdsource.org/gbbc, and get your digital camera ready to share your birds through the online gallery. Participants submit their observations online and can see where their results fit in immediately.



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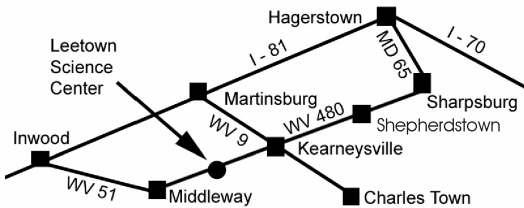
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MAIL TO:

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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, Leetown/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 here or see <http://potomacaudubon.org>. PVAS serves the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia and neighboring Washington County, Maryland.

PVAS BOARD
 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.

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