

Valley Views

**Potomac
Valley
Audubon
Society**

Volume 22, Issue 6

March 2004

March Program

Wednesday, March 9, 2004 – Lois Napier and her birds of prey

Lois' journey into the world of raptors began in 1992 with a visit to the Wildlife Center of Virginia, a wildlife rehabilitation hospital. There she photographed the resident birds of prey to use as models for her artwork. Enamored, Lois volunteered as an animal caretaker in the hospital. That experience enabled her to come into contact with wildlife and to directly see the impact that man has on it. After about 2 years, Lois was invited to become a docent and at that time began her tenure as an educator. She was taught how to handle many species of birds of prey and how to convey information and ideas to people of all ages. In 1994 Lois began the long application process and was granted her Federal Education Permit in 1995. As an artist and naturalist, Lois has spent the last 20 years studying wildlife and nature. She continues to do field studies as well as reading and attending lectures.

Lois currently holds permits from both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to possess non-releasable birds of prey for education. Her permits allow her to do programs in Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Early Announcement of and Extraordinary Program at NCTC

Wednesday, April 14, 2004 at 7:30 PM at NCTC

Our joint program with NCTC this year features award-winning author Gary Ferguson. In his latest book Hawks

-NCTC Program continues on page 3

March Field Trips

Two Trips Scheduled

Sunday March 7, we'll travel to the Blandy Farm/Virginia Arboretum on Route 50. We'll walk the Arboretum native plant trail. If there are any native trees or shrubs you have wanted to identify, here is the place where you can do it—all the trees and shrubs are clearly marked. After that we'll check out the woods and open meadows to see what we can find.


We'll meet at the Visitor's Center on Rt. 340 at the entrance to Bolivar, opposite the parking lot for Harpers Ferry National Park at 8:30a.m. We can car pool from there.

Sunday March 21, we'll celebrate the first full day of spring with a trip to Nolan's Ferry on the C&O Canal and explore the fields and ponds at Lilypons in Maryland.

The section of the C&O at Nolan's Ferry has open fields and a section of mature woods that often yields interesting birds. The fields and ponds at Lilypons could yield sightings of various ducks, great blue herons and migrating shorebirds. Two years ago we had 10-12 snipe, along with various land birds. We'll be doing a fair amount of walking so bring your waterproof walking shoes or boots.

We will meet at the first parking lot at Nolan's Ferry at 8:30 a.m. If you need directions, contact Pat Hunter, phunter@npca.org or 304-725-3936, to receive them by email or snail mail.

-Field Trips continues on page 3



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

News from Yankauer Nature Preserve . . .

Summer Camp Details!

Back by popular demand, we are pleased to announce that we will be offering EIGHT weeks of summer camp this summer at Yankauer! We will be serving children ages 6-12 and the daily schedule will be 9-3. The cost is \$85/week unless otherwise noted. The dates and themes will be as follows:

- June 14-18: "Animals Abound"
- June 21-25: "Creature Features"
- June 28-July 1: "Weather the Weather"
(Note: 4 day week ñ only \$75)
- July 6-9: "Geology Rocks!" (Note: 4 day week ñ only \$75)
- July 12-16: "Tree-mendous Trees"
- July 19-23: "Creepy Crawly Critters"
- July 26-30: "Earth Artists"
- August 2-6: "Adventures in Nature"

For more information about what each week holds and registration information, go to our website: www.potomacaudubon.org or call 304-676-3397. Internship and junior counselor opportunities are available and we love volunteers to lend a hand. Please help us spread the word!



Adam Benjamin looks for bugs during last year's "IncredibleInsects" week.

DOWN TO THE WIRE!

Thanks to the generosity of our members and friends, the Annual Appeal has reached the lofty sum of \$10,500! The last weeks of these appeals always present the greatest challenge, but we still need to hit our goal of \$12,000 before the end of March. Still, there's hope! We just received a "Challenge" from an anonymous PVAS member: This generous soul has pledged to match all donations up to the \$1,500 we need, starting right now! This is terrific, but we won't get this \$1,500 unless our friends and members dig down for the same! So, please do what you can to help. This is your chance to make your gift

go that much farther. Please consider a gift to help us reach our goal, all for the sake of the Yankauer program that is such a unique community asset. For your convenience, we've enclosed a return envelope. In an attempt to "practice what we preach" and conserve, some of you may receive our extra envelopes from last year. Thanks for your help! Let's meet this challenge!

Donate Your Vehicle!

Are you wondering what to do with your old wheels? Through a partnership with Winchester Auto Dealer's Exchange (WADE) we can now accept vehicles as donations! WADE will pick up the vehicle, clean it up, auction it off, and send us a check (after taking a small percentage for their service). It's quick, easy and mutually beneficial: you get a tax deduction for the Blue Book value of the vehicle, and the sale of the vehicle benefits the programs of Yankauer! What a deal! For more details, contact Kristin Alexander at PVASmail@aol.com or 304-676-3397.

Get Onboard at the Shepherdstown Train Station

Don't miss out on the inaugural event of "Preserve Partners"—a network of community members who are interested in supporting the Yankauer Preserve. Plan to attend our kickoff event at



the Shepherdstown Train Station on Sunday, February 29 from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. If you are interested in getting involved with our nature preserve or have a special talent that would benefit Yankauer, WE WANT YOU! No dues, no fees! Just come out to join Preserve Partners. Come see what the buzz is all about. Bring your questions and energy; we will have refreshments and fun!! If you are interested, but can not make the meeting, please call 304-676-3397 or e-mail Ann Craig at yankauerpp@frontiernet.net.

President's Perch



Hi Everyone - The groundhog said six weeks until spring, and we are almost there. Even though it hasn't looked much like spring of late, we have been busy putting our spring and summer programs together. On the top of the list is our camp scholarships ... please make sure any deserving young people get the details on how to apply, we will be sending at least 5 kids to camp this year, as well as some to our Yankauer Day Camp. In addition there are birds walks on March 7 & 21 and other outings to get us out-of-doors into some spring sunshine (and probably some rain too). Wil Hershberger is getting ready to start spring Birding 101 classes also (if you haven't already sent your name in, drop Wil a note at woodsong_wv@earthlink.net).

Our Yankauer Preserve has invited all of us to their kick-off event at the Shepherdstown Train Station on February 29 (see page 2), 4-6 p.m., and there will be live birds at our next membership meeting on March 10. What more could you ask for? With all we have going on, I'm sure there is something that will suit you.

It's also the time of year that we seek out new folks to join our PVAS Board of Officers. So please consider donating some time to help us do all the good things we do by volunteering to fill one of the following positions: Treasurer, Education Chair, Publicity Chair, Conservation Chair, Fundraising Chair ... call the current Board Member in the position, or me, for more information.

Have you heard those birds singing on sunny mornings? ... have you seen any robins? ... and how about those goldfinches, they are turning gold again! Come join us in welcoming spring! — Diana Mullis

Summer Camp Scholarships

For information and applications, contact Sue Mellott, 304-725-4153, or e-mail llamamama1@earthlink.net. Scholarships this year will include Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies at Capon Bridge, WV, <http://camppage.com/bcws/>, The Mountain Institute – Spruce Knob Mountain Center, <http://www.mountain.org>, and West Virginia DNR Junior Conservation Camp, <http://www.wvdnr.gov/environmental/ycpact.shtm>. If you know a deserving young person, get an application started, now!

Rest: A Season in the Remote Heart of Yellowstone, In his book, Ferguson comes to know the wild and beautiful core of greater Yellowstone “as a kind of sanatorium for the disenfranchised, a way station for men riding and hiding spring to fall to escape whatever curses they imagine hovering in the culture at large.”

Gary Ferguson's nature articles have appeared in dozens of national magazines, including *Outside*, *Sierra*, *Vanity Fair*, *American Forests*, *Big Sky Journal*, *Modern Maturity*, *Travel Holiday*, and productions of New York's Children's Television Workshop. He's also the author of fourteen books on nature and science, including Through the Woods: A Journey Through America's Forests, a starred selection in Kirkus Review as well as a winner of the prestigious Lowell Thomas Awards, and Spirits of the Wild: The World's Great Nature Myths, selected by the New York City Public Library as one of the best books of 1996.

Gary has appeared on more than a hundred radio and television programs; his nature-oriented essays can be heard on National Public Radio affiliates throughout the country. Before beginning his writing career he worked as an interpretive naturalist for the U.S. Forest Service in Idaho's Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

Join us at NCTC for an extraordinary program.

-Field Trips continues from page 1

Saturday, March 27, you are welcome to join the Loudon Conservancy on its monthly bird and nature walk thru the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship. This beautiful 900-acre preserve is located on Harpers Ferry Road, Rt. 671, in northwestern Loudoun County. Only a few miles south of Harpers Ferry and the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, this property includes meadows in the valley and heavily forested slopes on the Blue Ridge. The group meets at the Neersville Volunteer Fire Station on Rt. 671 at 8:00 a.m.

April Trips

April 17, PVAS's incomparable Bob Dean will lead a field trip – destination to be determined. But wherever Bob decides to go it is sure to be a great experience. A trip to Altoona Marsh is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 25.

West Virginia Water Conservation Legislative Update

Excerpt from: Charleston Gazette

2/18/04

Panel Strengthens Water Study Bill

By Ken Ward Jr.

STAFF WRITER

A House judiciary subcommittee on Tuesday strengthened a bill to help the state manage its water resources.

Committee members expanded a Department of Environmental Protection survey of large water users, from a snapshot of several years to an ongoing annual effort.

The committee also gave DEP authority to write water management plans, starting in 2006, for areas “where the quantity of water resources are found to be currently stressed or likely to be stressed.”

The committee, chaired by Delegate Corey Palumbo, D-Kanawha, approved the revised bill. The full Judiciary Committee is expected to take up the measure, perhaps as early as next week....

In his State of the State address in January, Gov. Bob Wise threw his support behind a water-use bill and proposed his own version. On Feb. 4, a somewhat modified version of Wise’s bill passed the Senate unanimously.

The version advanced by the House subcommittee claims West Virginia’s waters “as valuable public natural resources held by the state for the use and benefit of its people.”...

Rather than just preserving “common law” rights as the Senate version did, the subcommittee language would protect “riparian rights of capture, possession and all other existing rights and remedies recognized by common law or by statute.”

The subcommittee also revived a provision to require ongoing annual reporting of water use by large users, rather than a one-time survey or a survey over several years....

The survey and reporting would apply to withdrawals of 750,000 gallons a month or more.

In another expansion, the subcommittee added a requirement for ongoing reporting of transfers of water from one basin in the state to another. Water utilities would be exempted from that requirement.

We Need YOU on our Board

(Keep Reading!)

We need you to start thinking about volunteering two hours a month to attend a board meeting and a few more hours to fulfill the duties of a board position, much of which can be done at home. We don’t bite and we love fresh and not-so-fresh faces.

Now is the time to let us know if you or someone you know would like to join the PVAS Board of Directors for a one or two year term. You can be part of an environmentally responsible, non-profit organization that enjoys a positive and prestigious community image. Come help us fulfill the mission statement that we proudly display on the front page of this newsletter.

If you have questions or would like to nominate yourself or someone else, contact Diana Cummins at (304) 728-0345 or montex@frontiernet.net. You can also contact the current board member in that position. (See last page) Nominees will be on the May 2004 ballot and voting will be held at the May Spring Dinner.

The following positions are still open for next year: fundraising, treasurer, publicity, and education. I hope to hear from you! – dc

AUDUBON AT HOME LAUNCHES WEBSITE

Ivyland, PA, Thursday, February 5, 2004 – You know where you live, but do you know your “ecological address?” Audubon At Home, a new program made possible in part by the US Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is bringing conservation home through an exciting, interactive website designed to give guests useful information on making their backyards more bird-friendly, and their homes healthier and safer for their families. It accomplishes this by helping users identify the natural characteristics of their property and its role in local ecology.

As the centerpiece of this year’s Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) www.birdsource.org/gbbc/, Audubon is stressing the value of backyard habitat and asks participants to make their yards not only bird-friendly, but also bird-safe. The new Audubon At Home website, http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/index.html, contains a treasure trove of information that gives users the tools they need to create backyards that will attract birds and safeguard them as well.

IN MEMORIAM

Peg Boyer

December 10, 1945 – January 31, 2004

Potomac Valley Audubon Society recently lost an enthusiastic and hard-working member and friend, Peg Boyer, who served as Hospitality Chair on the PVAS Board from 2001 to 2003.

Peg joined PVAS soon after moving to Harpers Ferry seven years ago with her husband, Dan. She frequently assisted PVAS wildlife rescue coordinator, Diana Mullis, by transporting injured birds to rehabilitation centers. She attended monthly membership meetings regularly with neighbors, Lynn and Tess. Accepting the job of Hospitality Chair after it had been unfilled for a brief time, she transformed it immediately by taking on several new duties—planning, negotiating, and arranging both the Christmas potluck dinner and the annual May banquet—in addition to coordinating refreshments for each monthly meeting. She carried out her board duties with a unique grace, style, and sense of humor.

Peg brought to PVAS some well-developed organizational skills from a work background that included corporate, professional, real estate, and government jobs. Dan reports that she loved birds and other animals all her life and that she grew up in Chicago next to a forest preserve of several hundred acres, where “she would wander out constantly...to her mother’s distraction.”

We will miss Peg Boyer, enthusiastic, cheerful, and caring friend.

– Kathryn Henry, Past President, 2001-03

Address Updates Appreciated

Help us update our files. We have lost many e-mail addresses for people who used to have an email address ending with either *intrepid.net* or *stargate.com*. Please send your new e-mail address to montex@frontiernet.net or deldridg@citlink.net.

If you’ve changed postal addresses, we need that too.

We will keep you informed about both PVAS and/or Yankauer happenings, tell us which. Thank you!

Annual Dinner

Mark your calendars for our annual dinner. The date is May 8 and the place is our own Yankauer Pavilion. This event will be a casual, bring the kids, bring a dish to share, picnic. Plans include possible bird walks, blue grass music, star gazing and an owl walk. This is a time to honor some of our outstanding volunteers, to announce newly elected board members and enjoy the comradery of fellow PVASers.



More details will be forth coming. - Susan Brookreson

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
National Audubon Society.

Mail to:

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

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Address _____

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<http://potomacaudubon.org>

DATED MATERIALS

MAIL TO:

March 2004

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Volume 22, Issue 6



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.-April) 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
Vice President:	Diana Cummins 304 728-0345	montex@frontiernet.net
Secretary:	Mina Goodrich 304 876-2159	larrymina@aol.com
Treasurer:	Mike Zagarella 304 876-3165	ozcouple@intrepid.net
Conservation:	Dale Nisbet 304 535-9916	dale_nisbet@nps.gov
Education:	Sue Mellott 304 725-4153	llamamama1@earthlink.net
Field Trips:	Patsy & Ken Hunter 304 725-3936	phunter@npca.org
Hospitality:	Susan Brookreson 304 263-2823	brookre@earthlink.net
Membership:	Mary Sue & Dave Eldridge 304 876-2337	marysuee@citlink.net
Newsletter:	Wayne Braunstein 304 728-7181	wbraun1@peoplepc.com
Programs:	Fiona Harrison 304 724-7458	fharrison@brces.org
Publicity:	Diane Sylvester 304 263-6449	twosylvesters@cs.com
Fundraising:	(please volunteer to fill this space)	
International:	Bill Belton 304 258-3067	wbelton@direcway.com
Yankauer liaison:	Susan Brookreson 304 263-2823	brookre@earthlink.net
Special Contacts		
Director of Yankauer:	Kristin Alexander 304 229-9771	Kaemail730@aol.com
Newsletter Publisher:	David Miller 304 263-3130	cdmillermart2@juno.com
Web Master:	Kathy Bilton	kathy@fred.net
PVAS Wildlife Rescue Coord:	Diana Mullis	304-267-3482 & 304 724-4500(day)