

VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac
Valley
Audubon
Society

Volume 24, Issue 8

May 2006

▽Check out the Field Trips & the Monthly Program▽

Cape May, New Jersey

•Saturday and Sunday, May 13 and 14

PVAS' annual trip to Cape May, New Jersey for passerine migrants, shorebirds, horseshoe crabs, and more is scheduled for May 13 and 14. This is a great trip to one of North America's birding "hot spots." The arrangement is that you get there on your own by driving or car pooling (we're happy to help arrange a ride if you don't want to drive) and you make your own hotel reservations (again happy to provide information). We get together early on Saturday morning in Cape May and go on some birding excursions together. You are free to join in the scheduled trips or "do your own thing". Pre-registration is required by calling Ken or Patsy Hunter at 304-725-3936 or by email at phunter@npca.org.

Rolling Ridge Preserve

•Saturday, May 20

As part of the Rolling Ridge Preserve's Open House, PVAS has been invited to bird there with a hike beginning at 10:30 am. The Preserve, in eastern Jefferson County, is a Quaker-sponsored retreat and nature preserve where you may nourish your spirit and your love of nature. It stretches from the Appalachian Trail to the Shenandoah River. On our hike, we will explore some of the different habitats at the Preserve and hopefully find lots of good birds.

Pre-registration is required by Rolling Ridge Preserve. So please let Patsy or Ken Hunter know if you are planning on coming and they will provide directions to the meeting place. (Phone 304-725-3936 or email at phunter@npca.org.) Please pre-register for the hike by Thursday evening (May 18) so we can pass on the list to Rolling Ridge. In addition to the birding hike, the Open House offers other short and long hikes, tours, activities for kids, examination of their beehive, and a savory lunch for \$5.00. The event is free but they ask that if you plan on staying for lunch you register before May 14 with Ken or Patsy.

Are the Hummingbirds Back Yet?

They're in many areas already and it's time to get the feeders out again! You can check their migration progress online: <http://www.hummingbirds.net/map.html>. For more info on hummingbirds: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/BOW/RUTHUM/> And for info on feeding hummingbirds: http://kern.audubon.org/hummer_feeding.html.

Donald Kroodsma to Speak on The Singing Life of Birds

•Wednesday, May 3, at 7:00 pm (NCTC)

Donald Kroodsma, author, professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and visiting fellow at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, will speak about the singing life of birds during May's program. Kroodsma has studied birdsong for more than 30 years and is a recognized authority on avian vocal behavior. The program is being presented by PVAS in partnership with the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC). The program will be held at the NCTC auditorium. NCTC is located near Shepherdstown, WV. For directions, either check the website at <http://training.fws.gov/Documents/directions.pdf> or call 304-876-6881.

Annual Meeting Scheduled

•Saturday, May 20

PVAS will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, May 20 at the Yankauer Nature Preserve. The meeting will begin at 4:30 pm and will include a potluck supper.

If your last name begins with A-E, bring a dessert; F-M, vegetables or fruit; N-R, a starchy food; and S-Z, a protein dish. Bring a folding chair, your own plates, cups and utensils, and be prepared to take any trash home with you since there is no trash pick up at Yankauer.

The meeting's formal program will include the election of new officers and board members. This election will be significant because it represents the first move toward implementing the Board Restructuring discussed in the last issue of Valley Views. The Restructuring has enabled us to attract an impressive set of newcomers to the Board. The officer and board nominees are as follows:

Officers

Peter Smith - President

Peter retired as director of public affairs for the Association of American Universities in 2002. He joined the PVAS Board in 2004, and has been chairing the Board Development Committee that has developed the Board Restructuring plan.

(May 20 annual meeting cont'd page 2, column 1)

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

(May 20 annual meeting from page 1)

Officers (continued)

Nancy Kirschbaum - Vice President

Nancy Kirschbaum taught elementary school in Baltimore County, Maryland for thirty years. She recently retired, moved to West Virginia, and joined the PVAS Board as Program Chair in 2005.

Jane Vanderhook - Treasurer

Jane is retired from a career as a Computer Systems Software Designer. She joined the PVAS Board as Treasurer in 2004, and has agreed to serve a second term.

Secretary Fiona Harrison has one year left in her current term.

At-Large Board Members - 9 seats

Wayne Braunstein

Wayne, a secondary-school educator, has been a member of PVAS for nearly 20 years. He is a past editor of the chapter newsletter and served two terms on the Board of Directors in that capacity. He is currently a member of the Board Development Committee and has served on the Yankauer Committee and as a volunteer for various activities over the course of the years.

Susan Brookreson

Susan, an arts educator, is a founding member of PVAS who has held various positions in the organization, including the presidency. Over the past year, she served on the Board Development Committee and as the liaison between the PVAS Board and the Yankauer committee.

Clark A. Dixon, Jr.

Clark retired from the National Park Service in 2003 following a long career with the agency. The positions he held included Supervisory Park Ranger, Nature Center Director, Park Manager (superintendent), and Program Manager for the Southeast Region Career Internship Program. He currently works as a substitute teacher in Berkeley and Jefferson County School Systems.

Rob Hoxton

A. R. (Rob) Hoxton is president of Hoxton Financial, Inc., a financial planning firm with offices in Shepherdstown, Winchester, and Chambersburg.

Georgia Jeppesen

Georgia is employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center as an Education Specialist in the Division of Education Outreach. She has served on the Yankauer Advisory committee for the past five years.

President's Perch



Hello Everyone!

Hope you are enjoying the green (and other colors) of spring. After a winter of brown and gray, I forgot just how green things can be! There are field trips (page 1) and a Spring Wildflower Festival (page 3) to help us enjoy the season, and I'm looking forward to seeing you at Yankauer for our Annual Meeting on May 20 in the form of a Potluck (see page 1-2). Come early and enjoy the Yankauer's wildflowers, birds and trails.

Keep those feeders full. This is the time of year that our feathered friends really need our help.

Diana Mullis, President, PVAS



USFWS

(May 20 annual meeting from column 1)

At-Large Board Members - 9 seats (cont'd)

Carolyn Thomas

Carolyn is a visiting assistant professor at Shepherd University in the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Sports.

Christine Wolf

Christine currently works as the African Wildlife Program Manager for Humane Society International. Previously, she was Director of Government and International Affairs with The Fund for Animals for over a decade.

Current Board Members David Eldridge and Sharon Stephan have one year left in their current terms.

News From Yankauer


Puddles of Programs

Want to try your hand at teaching—or get your hands back into it? We have programs on April 27, May 1-6, 30 and 31. Whether you want to help us launch our first-ever third grade “Adaptations” program or teach Jefferson County 6th graders about predators, prey, and bald eagles, we have programs for you. You can even take high schoolers for a nature walk through Yankauer or lead girl scouts on a walk along the Cacapon River. Opportunities abound. Just get in touch with Kristin for more details and she’ll happily match you with a program of your choice. Call 304-676-3397 or e-mail her at PVASmail@aol.com.

Potomac Arts Festival

Preparations for the Second Annual Potomac Arts Festival, to be held November 3-5, are well underway. This event will again be held in partnership with the American Conservation Film Festival and the National Conservation Training Center.

There are many opportunities for volunteers to help. Sandy (Yankauer cont’d column 2)

 **RED DOT ALERT** Please note that a red dot on your mailing label may mean your membership has expired and this could be the last PVAS newsletter you receive. Please renew using the form below.



(Yankauer cont’d from column 1)

Sponaugle and her team would love for you to get involved. Contact them at artfestival@potomacaudubon.org or 304-876-8321.

We are also looking for Festival sponsors. If you or your business are interested in being a sponsor this year, please contact Sandy soon.

Artist applications are available at: www.potomacaudubon.org or by calling Sandy. Applications are due May 1.

This year, the festival will be held in NCTC’s beautiful gymnasium.

A “Watershed” of Thanks

We had phenomenal weather this year for the watershed field trips with fourth graders. Even the river cooperated by not flooding this spring (though we could certainly use the rain)! About 500 fourth graders visited the Potomac River at the Isaac Walton League and toured the Shepherdstown Wastewater Treatment Plant in March and April as part of our Watershed Education Initiative. We cannot thank the Berkeley County Isaac Walton League and the treatment plant staff enough for letting us use and tour their facilities. The educational value of each experience cannot be matched. An enormous thank you also goes to Susan Brookreson and Nancy Kirschbaum for leading several programs, and to Amy Mason for doing a spectacular job as the lead instructor.



“SNAPSHOT” from Potomac Valley Nature Photographers (PVNP)

Jim Clark presented “Capturing a Sense of Place” at the March PVNP meeting to an audience of 88 people. His talk was very well received, and we thank him enormously for sharing his time and incredible photographs with us. On April 28 Don Saunders will present: “Thousands of Images - How to Organize, Find, and Archive Your Digital Images.” This will be a technical presentation regarding the intricacies of digital asset management. To stay informed, go to www.potomacvalleynaturephotographers.org and learn tips, look for upcoming events, workshops and field trips, and participate in the forum. Details for the May meeting are being planned, so go to the website for information as we get closer.

Audubon Discovery Camp

Registration has begun for children ages 6-12! Thanks to Dan Cogswell, volunteer and computer programmer extraordinaire, you can now register on-line at our website: www.potomacaudubon.org. The Camp themes this year include “Unhuggables” (June 19-23), “Weather or Not, Here I Come!” (June 26-30), “Footprints” (July 10-14), “Predator vs. Prey” (July 17-21), and “Camp Survivor” (July 24-28). We’ll conclude the summer with a family campout on July 28. Registration for a week is \$95/child; the campout is \$20/family (includes meals). Junior counselor positions are also available for teens. Applications are available on the website. We are happy to have Danny Carter back as camp director. You can reach him with questions at 304-283-9449.

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

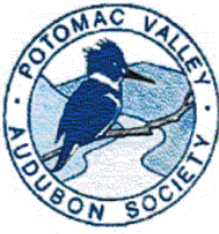
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P.O. Box 578
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

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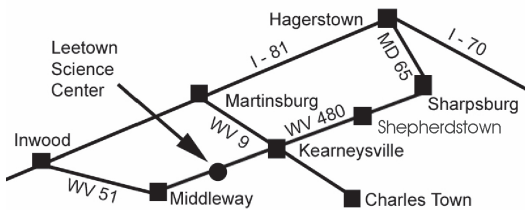
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The Potomac Valley Audubon Society meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through April, in the auditorium at the USGS Leetown Science Center, Leetown/Kearneysville, WV. Programs are free and open to the public. For additional 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.

PVAS Officers and Board Members

- President: Diana Mullis 304-267-3482dianamullis@aol.com
- Vice President: (Open position)
- Secretary: Fiona Harrison 304-724-7458h_f_harrison@yahoo.com
- Treasurer: Jane Vanderhook 304-876-6993janehook@frontiernet.net
- Conservation: (Open position)
- Education: (Open position)
- Field Trips: Patsy & Ken Hunter 304-725-3936phunter@npca.org
- Membership: Mary Sue & David Eldridge 304-876-2337.....deldridg@citlink.net
- Newsletter: Sharon Stephan 304-885-4356sstephan_at_eaglesnest@adelphia.net
- Programs: Nancy Kirschbaum 304-876-6881NancyK500@adelphia.net
- Publicity: Peter Smith 304-876-1139pvsmith@frontiernet.net
- Fundraising: (Open position)
- International: Bill Belton 304-258-3067wbelton@direcway.com
- Yankauer Liaison: Susan Brookreson 304-263-2823brookre@earthlink.net
- Special Contacts
- Director of Yankauer: Kristin Alexander 304-229-9771Kaemail730@aol.com
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- Web Master: Kathy BiltonKathy@fred.net
- PVAS Wildlife Rescue Coord: Diana Mullis304-267-3482 & 304-724-4500(day)