

Valley Views

**Potomac
Valley
Audubon
Society**

Volume 23, Issue 2

October 2004

Field Trips

October 2 and 3—National Zoo’s Conservation and Research Center, Front Royal, Virginia, Open House: 10:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.:

Bring your family for a day of fun, tours, and activities at the National Zoo’s Conservation and Research Center in Front Royal, Virginia. This is the only weekend in the year when you have an opportunity to visit this normally closed campus. Lunch and beverages will be sold on the grounds, and there will be live music throughout the day. Special guided tours will take you through the animal breeding programs and veterinary hospital.

There are only around 300 parking spaces and they go on a first come first served basis. So if you think you can go, register for a parking pass. It is free to CRC Members, or \$25 for FONZ members and general public. There is a maximum of six people per car. Reservations are required. A parking pass and directions will be mailed with your confirmation. Passes can also be purchased by cash or check at the Front Royal/Warren County Visitor Center (800) 338-2576 or the Winchester/Frederick County Visitor Center (800) 662-1360, or you can register online at <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/activitiesandevents/celebrations/acf>

-Field Trips continues on page 2

Meeting Programs


October 13, “The Real Secret Life of Honeybees”

Come and hear about the importance of honeybees and their social structure. Also, Bill Bundy will debunk common myths surrounding honeybees. He will bring some equipment and tools, as well as some honey and other hive products (honeycomb) as a demonstration. He will also be selling some products if anyone is interested. There’s nothing better than fresh local honey!

Bill Bundy started beekeeping in 1997 in Loudoun County, VA. He has been a member of Loudoun Beekeepers Association (LBA) since then and has served as Vice President (2000-2002) and President (2002-2004). Over the last four years, he has also been heavily involved with the local course that LBA teaches called “Practical Beekeeping for Beginners.” He teaches several portions of it and mentors new beekeepers after they complete the course. He currently has 18 colonies, harvests honey and wax, and sells products to private customers and at local fairs.

-Programs continues on page 2

**See the Special Article on a New
Membership Option for PVAS
Chapter Support Beginning on
Page 3**



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

-Field Trips continued from page 1

We have one full car registered for Saturday, October 2. If anyone wishes to drive down together please let Patsy Hunter know at (304) 725-3936 or via email at phunter@npca.org and we'll coordinate.

October 9 and 10 (Columbus Day weekend)–Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and the Eastern Shore Birding Festival: Chincoteague is famous for the shorebirds that can be seen on its marshes. On the far southern tip of the Delmarva Peninsula is the Kiptopeke Banding Station. The area provides an excellent opportunity for novice and experienced birdwatchers to witness incredible numbers of birds congregated in preparation for their flight to the tropics.

Our plan is to drive down to Kiptopeke Banding Station on the Saturday and spend most of the day there. Sunday will be spent at Chincoteague. Make motel reservations as soon as possible. If you want more information on the festival itself or you wish to sign up for any of the many activities you can get more information at <http://www.esvachamber.org/festivals/birding/>. Or you can get in touch with Patsy Hunter at (304) 725-3936 or via email at phunter@npca.org. When you sign up with Patsy, please indicate if you would like to car pool.

Dates to Mark Down For the Future

Saturday November 13–Owlnet: Visit with Steve Huy at his banding station on South Mountain. Limited capacity!! First come first served!

-Programs continued from page 1

November 10, “The Important Bird Area Program in Maryland and DC”

David Curson, Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon MD-DC

The Important Bird Areas (IBA) program is part of an ambitious global initiative to identify the sites that are essential to the conservation of viable bird populations. In the United States Audubon is responsible for implementing the IBA program, and has now identified IBAs in most states. David Curson, Audubon MD-DC's newly appointed Director of Bird Conservation will talk about the IBA program in Maryland and DC and how you can help with the current search for new sites.

Walkin' Jim Stoltz to Perform for PVAS

Award-winning wilderness folksinger Walkin' Jim Stoltz will present his “Forever Wild” multimedia show in Shepherdstown on October 24. The event will be held at Shepherd University's Reynolds Hall, on King Street, at 7:00 p.m.

Stoltz has gotten his nickname by walking more than 25,000 miles through the wild country of North America. His “Forever Wild” show combines original songs, poetry, and photographs to convey his experiences and explain the importance of protecting wildlife and preserving rugged natural areas.



Tickets will be available at the door or by advance purchase. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children 4 to 12. Children under 4 will be admitted free.

Advance tickets go on sale October 1 at the following locations:

- O'Hurley's General Store, 205 East Washington Street, Shepherdstown;
- Gower's Feed, Inc., Route 115, Ranson
- Customer Service Desk at Martinsburg Mall.

Because of his Kids Shows and CDs your children may know more about Walkin' Jim than you do but that doesn't mean you won't be just as awed and entertained.

Don't miss this opportunity to see Walkin' Jim Stoltz live!

For further information about his performance in Shepherdstown, call Diana Cummins at 304-728-0345.

WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZ ABOUT AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP?

For the 22 + years that PVAS has been in existence, we have received a portion of the dues/subscription paid to National Audubon Society (NAS) for our members. This gave members the magazine, and other privileges of NAS membership—including membership in a local chapter, if one existed.

Our \$5.50 “rebate” per member helped pay for the liability insurance we must carry, the newsletter printing and postage, certain speakers at our meetings, etc. In fact, if we recruited a member ourselves, we got \$15 of the first year’s rate of \$20—a real incentive to the chapters.

During the ‘90s, NAS underwent a change of leadership and the emphasis on the chapters was lessened considerably. We all used to be part of the Audubon Family, with regional ties, as well as national ones. All that changed. The Board of NAS decided that state offices would be the way to go, and as of this time, about half the states have them (not WV, however). In line with this new thinking, resources became more strained and chapters were put on notice that “dues split” (the system described above) would be a thing of the past, and that the rebate funds would be gradually reduced to nothing.

We have received word that this year may be the very last for money from NAS and the chapters will be put on their own for fundraising. Naturally, we are looking for ways to pay the bills! The Yankauer Nature Preserve and our programs of environmental education there are self-supporting. Money coming in earmarked for Yankauer is not used to support the chapter’s other financial needs.

For many years, the annual birdseed sale was used to send children to ecology camps in the summer. Recently, we have had to re-think this policy and funnel some of that cash to cover general operating costs of PVAS. In response to our continuing financial needs and reduced support from NAS, the Board has elected to add a new form of membership and make it available to you.

“Chapter-Only Membership” is what it is called, and it means that any individual wishing to support PVAS may opt for this kind of membership. All monies so derived are kept at home; none will go to NAS. It means no magazine, and no national voting rights. But it as-

- Continues next column under President's Perch

President's Perch

Hi Everyone – It’s sure looking a lot like fall these days. I’ve been sitting here listening to the crickets as I write. The leaves are falling, pumpkins are ripe, birds are headed south, and it’s a bit cool (and no more tomatoes to put up ... YES!).



I’ve been busy putting this year’s Birdseed Sale together, and have enclosed your order form in this issue. I’m sorry to say there is a price increase for sunflower seed. There was an early frost in the Midwest, so the crop is not what was hoped for. Black Oil is up \$2.00 per bag and striped even more. The early frost will affect prices at all retail outlets as well as PVAS. The good news is that many items stay the same. Orders are DUE OCTOBER 15 ... don’t forget! ... and buy some for Mom and cousin Fred ... birdseed makes a great gift (in addition to sending kids to camp)!

As always, we have lots going on this month. We are going to learn all about honey bees at our regular meeting on October 13 (*see page 1*). Our Annual Race for the Birds at NCTC is October 23 at NCTC ... great fun for all ages! ... come and, by all means, bring the kids (*see page 4*). After you rest up from the Race, join us to hear stories and songs by “Walkin” Jim Stoltz (“*Forever Wild*”) at Shepherd College, October 24, at 7:00 p.m. (*see page 2*). Patsy and Ken have lined up some wonderful field trips (*see page 1*), and if you can’t make one of those, you can always make your own field trip by hiking one of our Yankauer Nature Preserve trails!

... and last, but not least ... I still need a Secretary! Please consider helping me out! PLEASE! (give me a call)

Come join the fun!

—Diana Mullis, President

sures that as a member of PVAS you may vote in our elections and participate in our governance process. You may even opt for both NAS and “Chapter-Only Membership” if you want to support both plans financially.

The Board has wrestled with this issue to come up with the plan. There is to be a range of PVAS-only membership levels, starting with a basic single membership

- Membership continues on Page 4

News from Yankauer Nature Preserve . . .

Thank you, Carolyn and Bruce Thomas for your donation in honor of Jon Pike's 50th birthday! (*Happy birthday, Jon!*)

Day of Caring, Another Success!

We had another amazing year at Yankauer with over 40 volunteers at United Way's Day of Caring. As in the past, the work accomplished was remarkable.

- A patch of ground was cleared and prepped for a future native butterfly garden designed by local landscape designer Virginia Provenzano. The garden is to be planted in the spring.
- A new short, level loop (about 1/4 mile) trail was created on PVAS' 10 acres for those who don't want to walk a whole mile over rocky and hilly trails
- Trail sections were improved with water bars and mulch to test which method avoids erosion and slippery trails best, and
- Two new "waysides" were created along the Kingfisher Trail, trading multi-flora rose for usable teaching spaces for youth and adult programs
- Invasives like Ailanthus, Autumn Olive and Japanese stilt grass were removed from large patches in the Preserve.



Photo by Kris Carr
Pictured: Mary Beth Bennett, WVU Extension Agent, Berkeley Co. with Master Gardener Eldon Winston. Using the garden tiller for the new butterfly garden.

The Gardener's Exchange Group impressed everyone again with their fantastic lunch. Thank you, volunteers, for a wonderful, productive day! The Preserve is a better place for it, both ecologically and educationally.

The next big project is the pavilion floor to be done in November. Contact Kristin at PVASmail@aol.com if you're interested in being involved!

Evening in the Cedars

Thanks to the hard work of Ann Craig, Outreach Coordinator, and Preserve Partner, Aundrea Humphries, the *Evening in the Cedars* was a wonderful evening full of music, food, and fun. Volunteers Carol Del-Colle and Suzi Taylor led Owl Prowls for guests and both groups either saw or heard barred owls! Guests had a wonderful time with the silent auction, too, and thanks to the generosity of our auction donors and guests, the event raised over \$2,000! Thank you to all volunteers who made the event possible and all the guests who supported our first fundraiser at the Preserve.

This Race is for the Birds!

Just a quick reminder, this year's race is on October 23 at 8 a.m. at NCTC! You can register on line at www.active.com, go to our website at www.potomacaudubon.org, or register the day of the race. There will be a 5K run, a walk, and a shorter fun run for kids.

Bring the whole family, then stay for NCTC's Annual Open House! Showers are available. We are still seeking race sponsors and volunteers. Contact Ann Craig at anncraigball@aol.com if you or someone you know would be interested in being a sponsor, or Diana Gavrira at jpikester@adelphia.net if you are willing to volunteer.

-Membership continued from page 3

price of \$20, and going to Lifetime Membership set at \$1,500. You will also have the option of allowing your name and address to be shared with NAS or to keep your private information solely at PVAS (under our charter we're obliged to share chapter-only data with NAS unless the member specifies otherwise on their application form).

There it is! Still, there's some work to be done on this plan. While NAS has given chapters the go ahead we may need to amend our local constitution. Diana Mullis and Kathryn Henry are working on this. So, we're not quite ready to print the application form, but keep tuned, it will be in another issue of Valley Views soon. Got questions? Call me, Jean Neely, at 876-2410.

- Jean Neely

WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY

WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY will soon be here! It's fun, easy and important! Each year, on October 18, monitoring volunteers celebrate the conclusion of a month-long effort designed to collect data and educate people about water monitoring while involving them in personal stewardship of their local water resources.

From September 18 through October 18 you can join with people from all ages, backgrounds, creeds, faiths and ethnicities throughout the world who are willing to invest in the protection of their community waterways.

The steps are simple:

- First, register at a monitoring site (or sites) on the World Water Monitoring Day website (www.worldwatermonitoringday.org) anytime after July 18.
- Next, prepare your monitoring equipment. You may use your own equipment or purchase a World Water Monitoring Day test kit beginning July 18 of each year from the website. The cost for the 2004 kit is \$19.95 and allows up to 50 repetitions.
- Then, monitor your local water body anytime between September 18 and October 18. You will assess dissolved oxygen (DO), acidity (pH), temperature and turbidity. Complete instructions are available on-line and are also included in each test kit.
- Finally, report your data. Simply return to www.worldwatermonitoringday.org and enter the results of your monitoring anytime from September 18 to December 18. You will contribute to an international database that will be used to further understanding about the world's water resources.

World Water Monitoring Day is coordinated by America's Clean Water Foundation (www.acwf.org), along with its international partner, the International Water Association (www.iwahq.org.uk). Other primary partners include the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrator (www.asiwpca.org) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov).

For a complete listing of other sponsors and partners, as well as resources and information relating to this annual event, visit www.worldwatermonitoringday.org or contact Edward Moyer by e-mail at e.moyer@acwf.org or telephone at 202-746-8493.

Bush Administration Changes Roadless Area Conservation Rule

This past month, the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy put out a call for public comment on changes to the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. In particular, the changes may have broad impact on the Monongahela National Forest (Seneca Creek, Cranberry Glades, Dolly Sods, etc.). Virtually every wild area in the Monongahela and its surrounds may be subject to road building and encroachment under the new regulations.

While the official period for comment ended on September 18, it's never too late to express your feelings to your elected federal representatives.

For more information on the impact of the rule changes go to the WV Highlands Conservancy Web site and download the September Issue of *The Highlands Voice*, www.wvhighlands.org/VoiceSep04.pdf.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ ZIP _____

Chapter Code Y54



Potomac Valley Audubon Society
 P O Box 578
 Shepherdstown, WV 25443
 Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 US Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 30
 Shepherdstown, WV

A proud partner of the United Way of
 Berkeley and Morgan Counties,
 United Way of Jefferson County, and the
 Combined Federal Campaign.



<http://potomacaudubon.org>

DATED MATERIALS

MAIL TO:

October 2004

Printed on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper

Volume 23, Issue 2



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 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.-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 304 267-3482	dianamullis@aol.com
Vice President:	Diana Cummins 304 728-0345	montex@frontiernet.net
Secretary:	(Open Position)	
Treasurer:	Jane Vanderhook 304 876-6993	janehook@frontiernet.net
Conservation:	Andy Vecchio	vecchios@earthlink.net
Education:	Karen & Bob Feugi 304 229-3737	ursine@mountain.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	marysue@citlink.net
Newsletter:	Wayne Braunstein 304 728-7181	wbraun1@peoplepc.com
Programs:	Fiona Harrison 304 724-7458	fharrison@brces.org
Publicity:	Peter Smith 304 876-1139	pvsmitth@frontiernet.net
Fundraising:	(Open Position)	
International:	Bill Belton 304 258-3067	wbelton@direcway.com
Yankauer liaison:	Rodney Woods 304 263-4286	rpwoods@adelphia.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)