

# Valley Views

**Potomac  
Valley  
Audubon  
Society**

**Volume 22, Issue 1**

**September 2003**

## **Mark Your Calendars**

*This issue of Valley Views features upcoming field trips and programs •••*

### **Field Trips**

#### **Sunday, September 7, at the Blue Ridge Center**

The first field trip of the fall season will be at the Blue Ridge Center, just east of the West Virginia line in Virginia. We will be joining members of the Loudon Wildlife Conservancy for a hike through this beautiful preserve. The preserve is not open to the public except for guided walks and we are fortunate that our leader and host will be the naturalist extraordinaire, Joe Coleman of the Conservancy. We should find butterflies using the late summer flowers, as well as early fall migrating birds. We will meet at the Neersville Volunteer Fire Station parking lot at 8:30am. From there we will drive to the preserve. Hope to see you there.

Directions: The Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship and the fire station are located on Route 671 in Virginia. From Jefferson County, take Route 340 east past Harpers Ferry, crossing the Shenandoah River bridge. Route 671 is the only intersection with a traffic light between the Shenandoah bridge and the Potomac River bridge, and there is a gas station at the intersection. Turn right (going south) onto Route 671 for about two miles to the fire station on your left.

*Field Trips continued Column 1, Page 2...*

### **Programs**

#### **Thursday, September 4 Meg Lowman at NCTC**

On Thursday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m. biologist Dr. Meg Lowman will present a slide-show on "Life in the Treetops: Current Trends in Canopy Research and Conservation" at the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center (Shepherd Grade Road, Shepherdstown, West Virginia). Forest canopies are a global hotspot. Reputably over 50% of biodiversity in the planet inhabits these regions. Lowman will illustrate the latest methods and findings in worldwide forest canopy research.

The talk is free and open to the public. No tickets or reservations are required. This presentation is co-sponsored by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society and The Friends of the NCTC. For more information contact Mark Madison at (304) 876-7276 or [mark\\_madison@fws.gov](mailto:mark_madison@fws.gov) or check out our web page at: <http://training.fws.gov/history/publiclectures.html>

#### **September 10 Wings and Things**

Come for a close-up look at some of our most beautiful birds of prey! Maryland Department of Natural Resources Ranger Mark Spurrier returns with the

*Programs continued Column 2, Page 2...*



*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...*

### **Saturday, October 4, at Dolly Sods**

We hope that many folks will join us at Dolly Sods in Hampshire County as we join Bob Dean at the Allegheny Front Banding Station. The banders work in the mornings and Bob Dean might lead us on a hike in the afternoon. We hope to see some warblers and other passerines close up at the station and if we are lucky we might see some migrating hawks. There is camping in the small campground across from the bird banding station or if camping is not to your taste there are good motels in Petersburg. In addition to the birds we hope to visit a number of unusual plant communities at the "Sods" including sphagnum bogs and heath barrens.

### **Tentative October 14 or 15**

Wil Hershberger might be able to lead a insect field trip. More details to come but mark your calendars and keep hoping - this will be a really interesting trip.

### **Saturday, October 25, at Project Owlnet**

We will once again be visiting Steve Huy at the Project Owlnet banding operation at Lamb's Knoll on the border of Frederick and Washington counties in Maryland. Because the owls don't start migrating until late in the evening - we plan to arrive at the banding station around 9:00 p.m. Those who went on this field trip last year will remember the beautiful little owls that Steve netted and banded. Group size is limited so if you are interested in going please call Ken or Patsy Hunter at (304) 725-3936 or email at [phunter@npca.org](mailto:phunter@npca.org).

### **November**

Bob Dean will be setting up his nets at his home. That date has not been set yet.

### **December**

The annual Christmas bird count - dates to be announced.

### **Other Opportunities**

In addition to the migrating song birds, September is also the beginning of the raptor migration which continues through to December. There are a number of excellent sites close by in Maryland, the Washington Monument State Park hawk watch at the monu-

ment and Snickers Gap on Route 7 in Virginia. Further afield there are the world famous hawk watch stations at Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania and Cape May in New Jersey. If you want directions to any of these places call Patsy or Ken Hunter at 304-725-3936 or email: [phunter@npca.org](mailto:phunter@npca.org).

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### **Programs continued from Page 1...**

highly entertaining "Wings and Things" program. This promises to be an evening full of feathered friends, as Ranger Mark introduces them and describes their habitat, natural history, and how they came to be a non-releasable bird. Please bring the family. This is an evening you won't want to miss!

### **October 8 Songs of Insects-Wil Hershberger**

Why are birds silent in late summer? Who are the singers of late summer? Have you ever wondered how and why insects make sounds? How are high fidelity sound recordings of insects made and why? Come to the October meeting to find out!

Join us as we welcome PVAS member Wil Hershberger. Wil has archived nearly 2000 recordings with the Library as of 2003. Many examples of unusual vocalizations of birds and a comprehensive collection of singing orthopterans are also included in the collection as well as a large collection of pristine natural sound files.

### **November 12 GO-Adventure Sports-Eriq Powers**

Eriq Powers, trip leader and founder of *GO-AdventureSports*, has been an outdoor educator for over ten years. Eriq co-instructed *Basic Outdoor Adventures*, a course which introduced students to a variety of outdoor adventure activities. Eriq has spent the last seven years providing quality adventure programming, while also receiving additional certifications from such organizations as the National Cave Rescue Commission, National Association of Search and Rescue Technicians, Rescue 3 International, American Mountain Guides Association and American Canoe Association.

### **December 10 Annual Potluck Dinner and Camp Report**

Bring a dish to share and join us at our (almost) annual potluck dinner. Since last year's dinner was cancelled

## President's Perch

Hello from your New President! I hope your summer was a good one! It's hard to believe summer is nearly gone ... the kids are headed back to school, the golden rod is in full bloom, the birds are flocking up to head south ... how did it go so fast?!



With September comes our first meeting of the season (Sept. 10), plans for this year's birdseed sale (orders in Oct., Nov. 1 pick-up date), field trips to catch glimpses of all those migrating birds (Sept. 7), Day of Caring (Sept. 9) at Yankauer with the United Way, and lots of other good things ... mark your calendars and come join us!

And ...last but not least, I would like to thank our new Board of Officers (see the new list on the cover) for agreeing to serve on the Board this year!

See you in September ... Diana Mullis, President

### NOTE CARDS ON SALE IN SHEPHERDSTOWN

Many thanks to these merchants who helped sell our beautiful note cards created by Diana Cummins: The Four Seasons Book Store, and Dickinson and Wait. Both of these establishments are located on German Street in downtown Shepherdstown.

### Yard Sale this Fall to Benefit PVAS!

Have you been looking at piles of items around the house and wishing for a way or excuse to get rid of them? Look no further! You can get rid of the clutter while benefiting PVAS! We're planning a yard sale in the Yankauer parking lot sometime this fall. Stay tuned for more details in the next newsletter or on the website, but feel free to start gathering things together now!



*Programs continued from Page 2...*

due to weather, let's try to make this one happen! Those of us who attended in 2001 remember the fantastic food and we have a lot of catching up to do! *Details to follow, but put this date on your calendar.*

## "Winged Migration" Takes Flight

The Shepherdstown Old Opera House showed the documentary "Winged Migration" through the month of August. Breathtaking cinematography and an intimate view of intercontinental migrations allow the audience to experience the thrills of free flight and the inescapable drives of nature.

Much to the delight of PVASers and other moviegoers, August 3 was designated as a special showing to promote and support PVAS. President Diana Mullis got time at the opening of the evening showing to talk about the plight of migratory birds and the role people and organizations like PVAS can play. A group of volunteers led by Jean Neely also took advantage of the opportunity to set up an information booth at the entrance to the theater.

**ANNUAL  
BIRDSEED SALE**  
**Look for details on the  
BIRDSEED ORDER in the  
OCTOBER VALLEY VIEWS**

### Special Event

Mark your calendars now for a regional native plant society meeting that you won't want to miss! The West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia native plant societies are sponsoring a joint two-day conference October 4-5, at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV.

This exciting event will bring these three native plant societies together to explore the native plant communities and natural areas that we have in common. Please join us for a weekend of speakers, field trips, workshops, exhibits, and more!

**\*\*\*\* For details about the meeting \*\*\*\***

<http://www.wvnps.org/multistatenpsmeeting.html>, or contact Lynn Wagner at [lwagner@intrepid.net](mailto:lwagner@intrepid.net), 304-876-7027. *Register by July 1 for the Early Bird Discount Rate!!*

Details about the event will be updated and posted on the homepage of the WVNPS, [www.wvnps.org](http://www.wvnps.org).

## *News from the Yankauer Nature Preserve...*

### **Words of thanks...**

We'd like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their recent contributions toward the Yankauer Nature Preserve:

- In Memory of Mary Boppe, given by her neighbors at Steamboat Run in Shepherdstown.
- Frank and Annette Van Hilst made a donation in memory of Dan and Ann Fisher
- Rotary Club of Martinsburg contributed \$500 towards our summer programs
- Potomac – Mecklenburg Garden Club contributed \$200 towards our summer programs, and promised an additional \$500 for a future bench at the preserve
- The West Virginia Community Foundation's Jane Snyder Fund gave a grant of \$1,000 to cover some of our summer program expenses. This money was used to hire summer staff and sponsored the summer camp program for the Boys and Girls Club of Jefferson County.
- Jack and Sophie Henry donated a Martin's Merchandise Card

### **Summer Camp was a Hit!**

This first summer camp was a huge success! Twenty-nine campers attended, many of whom attended camp more than one week! The most popular week was "Scales and Tails" which focused on reptiles and amphibians. The four weeks kept us very busy indeed, and all the campers, parents, staff and volunteers were incredible troopers through all sorts of weather from our cold and wet June through the hot and humid July. A huge thanks goes out to Susan Brookreson who volunteered throughout the camp and was our arts and crafts guru. Our staff was Julie Corriveau of Martinsburg and Suzi Taylor of Sharpsburg, Maryland. Both had lots of teaching experience and lent a wonderful, professional touch to the camp. Junior Counselors included Ben and Dylan Lynch, Megan Myles, BJ Sade, Elizabeth Szczepanski, and Mecklen Van Evera. Everyone contributed to make the summer a success. Thanks to all! Check out the article about the camp in the Morning Herald. The link is on our website!

### **Day Camp for the Boys and Girls Club of Jefferson County**

The Boys and Girls Club of Jefferson County came for three days for a day camp experience as well. Between 30 and 50 students attended to explore a different theme each day: habitats, mammals and birds. Students went hiking on the trails, played nature games, and did art projects. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers as well as the volunteers, Diana Cummins, Kathryn Henry, Jane Lewis, Bill Morgan, Kris O'Brien, Anna Powers, Duncan Pringle, BJ Sade, Katia Sherwood, Peter Harmon, Tammy Miller, Mikael and Erik Neville and staff at the Boys and Girls Club, The program was tremendously successful and we hope to continue this partnership in future years.

### **What's up with the Watershed?**

The Watershed Education Initiative is now complete and only the submission of the grant report remains. The program concluded with a service project at the school. Each school had a slightly different project, but each project included planting grasses and shrubs around areas with erosion or other runoff areas of

concern on the school grounds. The plants and plans for each site were furnished and developed by Michael Schwartz of the Freshwater Institute and intern Sarah Ogden. This service project component of the program



*Students show off their "big find" from their river clean up at the NCTC boat ramp. This was part of their river study field trip in April.*

took a lot of time and energy, and these two gave it an amazing amount of time and attention. The product is tremendous! Please check out the rain gardens at their website, [www.freshwaterinstitute.org](http://www.freshwaterinstitute.org). The assessment tools we used were developed with the help of Georgia Jeppesen at the NCTC. Several volunteers helped

*Yankauer Nature Preserve continued from Page 4...*

process the assessment tools which can be a tedious job. A huge thank you goes to: Wayne Braunstein, Susan Brookreson, Jean Neely, and Rodney Woods. Volunteer Alan Biggs will be helping us with the statistical analysis of the results and final grant report.

Though the EPA grant is complete, we have applied for additional funding to continue this program at local schools.

### **Barn Party a Huge Success!**

Thank you all for supporting the “Wild Time at the Wild Goose” through donations, volunteer efforts, attending the event, or spreading the word! Thanks to all the support, the event was filled to capacity and was enormously successful. The entire event went more smoothly than we’d ever dreamed thanks to the careful and detailed planning of volunteer Jeff Feldman and his incredible cadre of volunteers. A little over \$11,000 was raised thanks to the generosity of our guests and friends! All of the money raised will go directly to support the Yankauer Nature Preserve. Please visit the PVAS website at [www.potomacaudubon.org](http://www.potomacaudubon.org) for pictures of the great time had by all!

### **United Way Day of Caring, Sept. 9, 2003**

Come out and get your hands dirty for a great cause? Join us for the Day of Caring this year at Yankauer! There are numerous projects to get involved with including mulching the pavilion, clearing trails, removing invasives from areas in the preserve, making educational waysides, and marking the property boundaries before hunting season begins. Please call Jean Neely, asap, at 876-2410 to find out how you can help and let her know if you’ll be joining us! Lunch will be provided, so we need to know how many will be attending ahead of time. Hope to see you there!

### **Land Transfer is Official, Pavilion Coming Soon!**

Congratulations! PVAS now owns 10 acres of land at Yankauer. The transfer was completed at the end of June thanks to the pro bono work of lawyer Frank Hill of Shepherdstown. At the writing of this Valley Views, the pavilion site is being cleared and made ready for

its foundation. The roof may be up by the time you read this! We are still looking for funds to put in the raised floor...the next part of the project. If you’re interested in helping to fund this next component, please contact Jean Neely at [jeaneely@ix.netcom.com](mailto:jeaneely@ix.netcom.com) or 876-2410. If you have questions about the project, contact Kristin Alexander at [PVASmail@aol.com](mailto:PVASmail@aol.com) or 304-676-3397.

### **“This Race is for the Birds”**

The date has been set for the third annual “This Race is for the Birds!” Once again the NCTC has agreed to host us on the morning of their Annual Open House, Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Stay tuned for more details on our website and next Valley Views! If you have questions about the event, please contact Diana Gaviria at [jpikester@adelphia.net](mailto:jpikester@adelphia.net). Diana Gaviria will be co-directing the race this year with past race director Jane Lewis. Thanks to both of you for agreeing to organize this event again this year!

#### **POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT**

##### **Outreach Coordinator (Part Time)**

\$8,640, (\$12/hr. from 9/1/03 until 6/30/04)

Our Yankauer program needs an Outreach Coordinator (part-time) to help plan and implement a comprehensive Development Program (fundraising) for the environmental education center operated by the group. Work is to be done in the field and at home.

The Outreach Coordinator will work mainly for the Director, but will also be assisting the volunteer who serves as the Development Chair. Specific duties include: organizing a “friends” group; coordinating media relations; helping create and keep current a long-range development plan; organizing volunteers for various tasks at the center; assisting in database management (mainly done by a volunteer); and other tasks as may be assigned by the Director.

Interested persons should contact Kristin Alexander at [PVASmail@aol.com](mailto:PVASmail@aol.com) or 304-676-3397.



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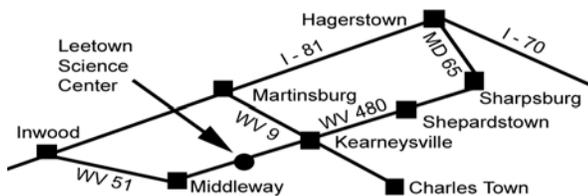
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The Potomac Valley Audubon Society meets at 7:30PM on the second Wednesday of each month, September through April, in the auditorium at the USGS Leetown Science Center, Leetown/Keameysville, WV. Programs are free and open to the public. For additional 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.-April) at Shepherd College, Snyder Hall, Room 317, 7PM. These meetings are open to all PVAS members.

**PVAS Officers and Board Members**

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