

Valley Views

**Potomac
Valley
Audubon
Society**

Volume 23, Issue 9

June 2005

Field Trips

Saturday, July 9 – 7:30 a.m.

ICE MOUNTAIN, Hampshire County, WV. This 142 acre property is owned by The Nature Conservancy and is open for guided visitation April through November. All trips to Ice Mountain are led by trained volunteers. The primary feature of the preserve is the 60 small holes and openings at the base of a rock talus that accumulates and retains ice. Ice Mountain takes its name from an unusual geologic process that results in a natural refrigeration effect—cold air flowing out of the holes throughout the year.

The system appears to work like an open-top supermarket freezer. Dense, cold air sinks deep into the talus forming ice masses inside it in the colder months. As the weather turns warm, cooled air from the ice masses makes its way through the talus and out the ground vents. Because the system is so efficient, the ice only melts gradually and remains in the talus all year, even in the dog days of summer. A group of boreal plants grow around the cold air vents. The preserve also has high sandstone cliffs affording views of the surrounding area. A short trail across private property will take us to the Preserve where we will take a mile round trip hike down to the cold vents. The site is about 90 minutes from Martinsburg so we want to leave by 7:30 a.m. Space is limited so please sign up early with Ken or Patsy Hunter at 304-725-3936 or phunter@npca.org

Saturday, August 6 – 9:00 a.m.

ANNUAL LOUDOUN COUNTY BUTTERFLY COUNT Join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy on its ninth annual Butterfly Count, centered in the Waterford area. No experience is necessary; novices will be teamed with experienced leaders in each segment of the count. Come out and have fun while contributing to butterfly conservation. Counters will also be visiting butterfly gardens in the area which stretches from White's Ferry in the east to the Appalachian Trail and the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship in the west and from Point of Rocks south to Lincoln. This

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New Board Elected

On the business side of the annual meeting, members present elected the board. The new board below includes both new and returning members:

President	Diana Mullis
Vice President	
Secretary	Fiona Harrison
Treasurer	Jane Vanderhook
Board Development ..	
Conservation	
Education	
Field Trips	
Fundraising	
Membership	David & Mary Sue Eldridge
Newsletter	Sharon Stephan
Programs	Nancy Kirschbaum
Publicity	Peter Smith
Yankauer Liaison	

Unfilled positions will be appointed by the board on a temporary basis for the remainder of term of the position being filled. You can help out by volunteering to fill an open position. Contact Diana Mullis or any board member to discuss how you can help.

Second Annual Kingfisher Awards

PVAS continued a new tradition of recognizing contributions to the chapter by giving the Kingfisher Award. At the annual meeting on May 7, five Kingfisher Awards were presented by President, Diana Mullis.

For those unable to attend, following is a run-down on the first recipients.



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

News from Yankauer Nature Preserve ...

Discovery Camp Starts June 13!

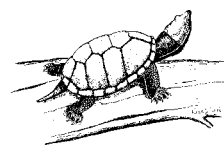
Register now at www.potomacaudubon.org for a week (or 6!) of fun-filled days at Yankauer. Our staff has been hired, and we can't be more excited about their experience and enthusiasm. This year we are fortunate to have received two grants to help fund our Camp program. The camp is also pleased to have received an Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation Special Needs Grant to better serve children with special needs and autism through programs in nature and outdoor education. The Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation's C. Scott and Elizabeth C. Shade Youth Fund and the Jane P. Snyder Youth Fund have sponsored an Intern/Instructor. This grant, combined with the generous contributions of Henry and Faye Davenport, Maggie Drennen, and Stan and Judy Jones, has allowed us to hire three full-time intern/instructors with full sponsorships. These donations will help us serve more children while keeping our staff to child ratio very low.

Vehicle Donation!

A hearty thank you goes to Torri Thomas (our very first intern!) for the donation of her car. It's so easy! Call Kristin at 304-676-3397 if you'd like information on how to donate your vehicle. Thanks, Torri!

Wetland Construction

The next time you're at Yankauer, you'll notice a depression at the east end of the pavilion. Steve Shaffer, a recent graduate of Shepherd, has used the wetland as part of P.O.W. (Planning of Wetlands) training sponsored by Environmental Concern, Inc. and NCTC. As part of the coursework he studied the drainage of the pavilion and surrounding area. With the expert help of volunteer Michael Schwartz, a wetland is taking shape. A home school group working on the Jason Project (wetlands was this year's theme) came out on May 19 to help grade and plant the wetland with Virginia Wild Rye for the first year's planting. The rest of the wetland will be planted next spring after a year of



observing runoff and water collection tendencies. A special thank you goes to Steve Shaffer, Michael Schwartz, and Patricia Barber's home schooling group, as well as All-Terrain Excavating, LLC for their work on the project.

In the Watershed...

June wraps up the watershed program with service projects at each school and at Morgan Grove Park in partnership with the Shepherdstown Men's Club. Each project will focus on improving the water quality of the site through planting native grasses, trees and shrubs that will prevent erosion, provide shade, and filter runoff. This year we are fortunate to have received funding from the Canaan Valley Institute that will help us cover our expenses and those incurred by our partner organization, the Conservation Fund's Freshwater Institute. Norm Thompson Outfitters also helped with the program this year by sponsoring our two interns.

Grow the Endowment!

Remember that endowment that was set up in PVAS' name last year? It is now worth \$7,000 and change. BUT! It can grow by another \$1000 if we act now. Each of the next three years, starting in 2005, the bank will match \$500 raised by PVAS. The endowment, residing at the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation, will then be \$1K richer each of those three years. By the end of 2007, at that rate, the fund will be \$10,000. PVAS gets the proceeds each year, or we can plow it back into the fund to grow more. It is earmarked for the support of environmental education projects only. This is really a big opportunity and we need your help. \$500 really isn't so much— every \$5 and \$20 bill makes the pot grow fast! Please call Jean Neely (304-876-2410) if you'd like to help build this endowment. Thanks!!

A Thoughtful Gift

Satch Alwin and Jen Jones, two Yankauer Volunteers, have honored PVAS with a thoughtful and selfless gift. At their recent wedding, they asked that in lieu of gifts, donations be made to Yankauer. What generosity! Our hearty congratulations and sincere thanks to them both.

Summer Institute

Plans are in the works for a summer institute for adults, held at NCTC on weekends this summer. Eventually this program will grow to include nature related themes such as birding, botany, art, photography, butterflies, backyard habitats and more. We're going to start small this year, but we'll grow the program over time. Watch for updates and offerings in the local papers, the website and heads up lists. If you're afraid you'll miss the updates using these methods, please call 304-676-3397 and we'll put you on a special "Summer Institute" interest list to make sure you are included. Stay tuned!

-Kingfisher continued from page 1

KRISTIN ALEXANDER – for her efforts above and beyond her official position as director of Yankauer Nature Preserve; credit for much of our growth and success with Yankauer is attributable to her tireless efforts

WAYNE BRAUNSTEIN – for service to the chapter in editing the newsletter and acting as resident contrarian on the board

KATHRYN HENRY – for service on the board and as a past president, and for continued service whenever there is a need and in particular in drafting proposed changes to our charter

PATSY and KEN HUNTER – for countless hours organizing and leading field trips and for systematizing the process (the Hunters will continue to support field trips as members of a working committee)

JANE VANDRHOOK – for stepping up to our urgent need to improve our accounting system by converting to new software and working closely with our accountant

The Kingfisher Awards are an acknowledgement of the contributions of the recipients and a small way of saying thanks for all they've done.

Presidents Perch

Hi Everyone –

Looks like it's time for shorts and flip-flops again! The garden is growing, especially the weeds, the Orioles are nesting in the back yard (what an amazing color those males are!), and there are thunderstorms again. And speaking of summer, our local "Audubon Discovery Camp" begins June 13. So get those kids (ages 6-12) signed up. We have lots of fun stuff lined up to keep them busy, entertained, and learning (see page 2). The camp is our very own Yankauer Nature Preserve, and it is a great place for adult and family entertainment also ... grab a snack and your walking shoes and check out the trails, birds, wildflowers, and river views. It's a great place for a summer outing!

July 1 will begin a new calendar in the Audubon cycle. We elected a new Board (see page 1) at our Annual Meeting and Pot Luck (hope you were able to join us ... the food was wonderful!!) We gave out some awards to our invaluable volunteer supporters (see page 1), did a bird walk and ate lots! And we thought about saying goodbye to Gary & Diana Cummins (Diana is currently our Vice President, and much more!) who are moving to the State of Washington later this summer, but mostly we talked about finding ways to get together again (a field trip to check out the birds of the Northwest, etc.). We will truly miss you Diana & Gary, and are hoping the AT bird survey project materializes so that we can get you back here for lots of visits. Thank you both for your many contributions to our community!!

This will be the last issue of *Valley Views* until August, so hang on to it so that you can find us. Have a great summer ...

Diana Mullis, President

Thanks for Enriching My Life

While the winds of change shift my life to the West Coast, I would like to give my deepest gratitude to all of you who have made such an impact on me while a member of PVAS. What I have learned from you could not be learned in a classroom. If I were to list everyone whom I should thank personally, it would start to read like the back of this newsletter; beginning with the generous board members from 1998, when Gary and I first joined, through the current leadership; then I would have to add all the wonderful active members who touched my life with their friendships and collegial and sharing attitudes. You have taught me birding, botany, and everything in between...and I'm still learning.

I have been properly and generously thanked for my meager efforts and I can only say it has been my most enjoyable pleasure. I will cherish the camaraderie at the membership meetings; the most enjoyable, fun and educational field trips; the Birding 101 classes; and the wonderful mornings and evenings at Yankauer Nature Preserve. What a treasure we have there! I joined a birding group and gained life-long friends.

Thank you all for everything! *Diana Cummins*



-Field Trips continued from page 1

annual, mid-summer count, modeled after Christmas Bird Counts, is sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association. For more information or to register and receive directions, contact Nicole Hamilton (540) 882-4839 or nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org.

Saturday, September 4 – 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES AND WILDFLOWERS AT THE BLUE RIDGE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
Join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Potomac Valley Audubon Society on a general, natural history walk (about three miles long) at this beautiful preserve in northwestern Loudoun County. We should see butterflies using the late summer wildflowers as well as early migrating birds. The Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship is located on Harpers Ferry Road, Rt. 671, a few miles south of Harpers Ferry and the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. We will meet at the Neersville Volunteer Fire Station on Rt. 671 at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Ken or Patsy Hunter at 304-725-3936 or phunter@npca.org.

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
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Membership Chair, PVAS

P.O. Box 578

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<http://potomacaudubon.org>

DATED MATERIALS

MAIL TO:

June 2005

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Volume 23, Issue 9



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.-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)	
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PVAS Wildlife Rescue Coord:	Diana Mullis	304-267-3482 & 304 724-4500(day)