



# OAK LEAF

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 42

MARCH-APRIL 2018

NO. 1

## Blandy Garden Fair



**MAY 11, 12, 13, 2018**  
**State Arboretum of VA**  
**at Blandy Farm, Boyce**

We have a booth at the Garden Fair taking donations for bluebird boxes, handing out brochures, and attempting to answer questions. Birding experience is not required. I can only identify 10 back yard birds, have never been on a bird walk, and I have volunteered there for several years. We need help manning the information table in our tent for 2 or 3 hours on Saturday or Sunday (9 am to 4:30 pm). You get in free and save the \$15 per car admission fee. Contact Lee Bowen 540-671-1906 or email [lbowen@ramseytruevalue.com](mailto:lbowen@ramseytruevalue.com) if you can help.

An annual spring event, the Blandy Garden Fair is full of vendors selling a wide variety of plants and gardening accessories, locally made jams and relishes, and fun Fair food. Traditionally held on Mother's Day weekend, it's a wonderful way to spend part of your Mother's Day weekend and you can pick up a gift for Mom while you are there. The event location is off VA Route 50, east of Winchester (1 mile past the Rte. 340/50 intersection at Waterloo. Look for signs on right.

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

*Do you like to write? You can be the newsletter editor. Gather articles together in Word format and work with our printer for an hour to arrange them in a newsletter format. The printer prints and mails them. We do four a year and it takes a minimum of 4 hours spread over many days to put it together. Contact is Lee Bowen.*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Interested in helping us on the Board of Directors? We meet 8 times a year for an hour. We need a Secretary (minutes take a page doubled spaced), a coordinator for Blandy Garden Fair in 2019, and an Educational coordinator. Contact Jim Smith 540-303-3983.

## BLUEBIRD MONITORING

AT ANDY GUEST

### SHENANDOAH RIVER STATE PARK.

Our bluebird trail here is 50 boxes with 20 more going up in the next two weeks. The trail is split into sections that take about 2 hours to monitor. Watch nests created, blue eggs laid and hatched, and then chicks fledge. Help in the afternoon on Wednesday, or Saturday Sunday. Contact Roxie Leonard 540-635-2263.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

President	Jim Smith
Vice President	Jeannie Senter
Secretary	OPEN
Treasurer	Kaycee Lichliter
At-Large	Scott Kenney
Newsletter	Lee Bowen

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation	Kaycee Lichliter
Education	OPEN
Field Trips	OPEN
Finance	Kaycee Lichliter
Membership	Beth Sutton
Programs	Mark Bruns
Public Relations	Mark Bruns
Webmaster	Jeannie Senter

# *Support Land and Water Conservation Fund*

Since 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has helped protect birds and their habitat by conserving parks, places for outdoor recreation, and areas of cultural significance in every state. The program has historically been bipartisan because it is funded through the sale of offshore oil and gas leases, which means that it comes at no additional cost to the taxpayer. Over the years, the funds have been used to protect national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and battlefields while simultaneously providing grants for state and local parks and recreation areas.

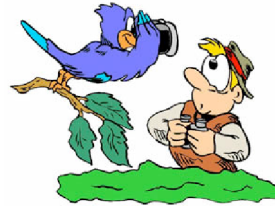
LWCF has had a tremendously positive impact in Virginia. The state has received approximately \$340 million in funding over the past four decades to protect sites like Manassas National Battlefield Park, Shenandoah National Park, and Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts. LWCF has made it possible to walk the Appalachian Trail end-to-end by providing the funding necessary to improve access to hikers throughout the entire stretch. LWCF has also provided the funds for improvements to local, county, regional, and state parks across Northern Virginia.

Unfortunately, LWCF is set to expire at the end of September if no action is taken by Congress to renew the program. There are already bills circulating in the US House and Senate that would permanently renew the program. In the House, over 215 Members have already added their name to the legislation, including a record number of Republicans. Congresswoman Barbara Comstock has publicly expressed her support for LWCF in the past, but has yet to cosponsor this important bill. She wants to hear from her constituents why they feel this program is important and why she should add her name.

Thanks to LWCF, every year we see the expansion of our network of protected land, improvement in our access to outdoor recreation, and more places for birds protected from development. As a constituent, you have a story to tell as to why parks and other public lands are important, and why a conservation program like LWCF deserves to be protected. Share your story with Congresswoman Comstock by calling her office, writing a letter, or taking action at [audubon.org/take-action](http://audubon.org/take-action) and urge her to support permanently renewal of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

## **BIRD WALKS**

Those of you who have been on walks with Jim Smith know that they are always fun and educational. They are a great excuse to get out in nature and breathe some crisp fresh air. Bring binoculars if you have them, and your alert eyes and ears! Upcoming Saturday morning walk dates are: March 17, March 31, April 14, and April 28. All walks begin in the parking lot in front of Children of America at 631 W Jubal Early Drive in Winchester. The walks start at 8:30 AM and usually wrap up around 10:30



AM. If the group has already departed when you arrive, simply walk the path- a large group of birders is easy to find! For more information, call Jim at (540) 303-3983.

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## **TRAVEL TO PERU WITH THE SIMPSONS**

Peru Travelers - the Holbrook online sign up for the Peru trip is ready. Here is the link: [holbrook.travel/simpson-pe18](http://holbrook.travel/simpson-pe18). There is also an extension to the trip. Contact [rob@snphotos.com](mailto:rob@snphotos.com) for more information.



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## **~ A Big Thank You ~**

*and NEWSLETTER CHANGE*

The Shenandoah Audubon Board of Directors wish to thank Tracey Ramsey for generously filling the role as Editor of *Oak Leaf Newsletter* for the past seven years, ColorCraft of Virginia for donating printing services and paper, and WeKnowMail for mailing services. Tracey worked for these firms and has now moved on to other employment and volunteer projects. She and her husband Mike were also trained trail technicians and monitored bluebird trails at Shenandoah River and Sky Meadows State Parks and Blandly Experimental Farm.

You can make our newsletter better by sending us photos from our events, bird pictures from your yard or bird walks, or writing an article for us. No experience is required. Thank you to Commercial Press, Inc. in Stephens City for assisting with this publication!

## NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY AUDUBON ARBORETUM

Audubon Arboretum, within Jim Barnett Park in Winchester, Virginia began in 1999 and 2000 with an agreement between the Winchester Parks and Recreation Department (WPRD), and the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society (NSVAS), to establish and maintain a portion of park property along Pleasant Valley Road for the expressed purpose of protecting a green area that would be a peaceful location where people could appreciate and reflect on nature in general and specifically learn about trees, plants, and shrubs. Today, almost 20 years later and with help from many individuals and businesses, we have over 100 trees planted representing more than 40 species. Our earliest plantings have grown to become beautiful specimens. The 2 Bald Cypress are nearly 30 feet tall. The Red Maple, donated in memory of past Audubon members, has survived severe drought, freezing temperatures, and even some hurricanes. And the Tulip Trees are excellent representations of not only beauty but also of important natural resources. The Oaks are producing acorns, the Crab Apple, Cherries, and Viburnum, when in bloom, add to the Spring flowering, and the Hollies, White Pine, and Arborvitae give us color all year long. All of these trees and plantings quietly contribute to our community in many often forgotten ways.

Currently, NSVAS and WPRD are working with the Winchester Host Lions Club to develop a sensory trail within the Arboretum where tree descriptions will be in braille. And, a Pollination Garden will be planted soon that will add color, assist our insect friends in the important work they do, and provide opportunities for education and learning.

If you would like to plant a tree in memory of a loved one, make a donation, or help out with any of our many conservation projects, please call me at (540) 303-3983. Thank you! Jim L. Smith, NSVAS

### DIRECTIONS FOR PARKING FOR OUR PROGRAM MEETINGS

From Millwood Ave., take University Drive around curve and pass Armstrong Hall. Turn right onto L.P. Hill Drive, then right again onto Wade Miller Drive. There are 3 parking lots on the right, the first and second ones (Lot G and J) are closer to Henkel Hall, which houses Hester Auditorium.

## Buy a Bluebird Box

Looking for the perfect gift for a fellow nature lover? These bluebird boxes are the answer! Built with TLC by dedicated trail monitor and handyman Chris Lewis, these boxes are the same design as the boxes used on our bluebird trails. Constructed using the safest, most preferred specifications, these boxes will happily accommodate many of our native cavity nesters. They are made of unpainted, untreated 3/4" cedar, have a large overhanging slanted roof for shade and ample protection from the elements, no perch, a 1.5" diameter hole, ventilation, drainage holes, grooves inside the front door to aid fledglings in climbing out, and a side door that opens for cleaning and monitoring. Suggested Donation: \$25. If interested, please contact Kaycee Lichliter at [kayceelichliter@hotmail.com](mailto:kayceelichliter@hotmail.com) or (540) 664-9596.

### TIPS:

- Mount on 8 ft., 3/4" diameter galvanized pipe, with the entrance hole 5 ft. off the ground.
- Install a predator guard to keep snakes, raccoons and other predators from raiding nests.
- Monitor boxes at least once a week to check on progress and control House Sparrows, wasps, etc.



Please visit [sialis.org](http://sialis.org) for information on monitoring procedures and suggestions for deterring house sparrows.

## Volunteers Needed

Help the bluebirds at Andy Guest Shenandoah River State Park, Bentonville, VA.

You can see an empty bird box one week, a complete nest the next week, and then a clutch of blue eggs the next week. It takes a few more weeks for the eggs to hatch, then watch the nestlings grow feathers, and then they fledge. Monitors check 25 or more boxes twice a week in the afternoon, on Wednesday and on the weekend, and work in teams of 2 or more. This usually takes 2 hours at the park. If interested contact Roxie Leonard, [roxie822@comcast.net](mailto:roxie822@comcast.net) or Lee Bowen, [lbowen@ramseytruevalue.com](mailto:lbowen@ramseytruevalue.com).





**SHENANDOAH AUDUBON TREASURER**  
**1346 Sulphur Springs Road**  
**Middletown, VA 22645**

## SUPPORT US

*Together we can promote conservation and appreciation of this beautiful place we call home.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Shenandoah Audubon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Membership dues and donations help defer costs such as website fees, materials for bluebird trail maintenance, Shenandoah Audubon Arboretum maintenance, educational programs and more.

Thank you sponsors and supporters!

Save a stamp and envelope and use the PayPal button on our website! Please indicate if your donation is a new membership, renewal or separate donation.

Is your payment a RENEWAL or NEW MEMBERSHIP?  
(please circle one)

MEMBERSHIP (1 YEAR): \$15

Members receive a 1-year subscription (4 issues) of our Oak Leaf Newsletter.

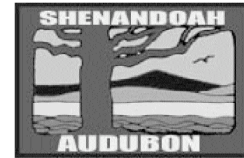
ADDITIONAL DONATION: \$

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \$

CHECK NUMBER:

Kindly remit payment to **Shenandoah Audubon,**  
**c/o Kaycee Lichliter, Treasurer**  
**1346 Sulphur Springs Rd, Middletown, VA 22645**

**Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society**  
**Annual Membership: \$15**  
**per HOUSEHOLD or NON-PROFIT**



Please **PRINT** Legibly      Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_      [www.audubon-nsvas.org](http://www.audubon-nsvas.org)

<b>FULL NAME</b>	
<b>APT / SUITE / UNIT</b>	
<b>PO BOX or STREET ADDRESS</b>	
<b>CITY, STATE, ZIP</b>	
<b>PHONE # (OPTIONAL)</b>	
	<b>LOCAL CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES 4 ISSUES OF OUR OAK LEAF NEWSLETTER</b>
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS: (Required to receive our eNewsletter)</b>	
<b>Request for Printed copy of Newsletter:</b>	Please mail me a printed copy of your newsletter. My membership covers this expense, and I either _____1. do not have an email account, or _____2. prefer to have most of my dues support the newsletter, which reports Shenandoah Audubon programs and other supported conservation activities to it's members.
<b>AMOUNT ENCLOSED:</b>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <b>Local Membership (1 Year):</b> \$ _____   <b>*Additional Donation:</b>     \$ _____   <b>TOTAL ENCLOSED:</b>         \$ _____ </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <b>CHECK ONE:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>NEW MEMBER</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>RENEWAL</b> </div> </div>
<b>WANT TO GET INVOLVED?</b>	_____ <b>NO, NOT AT THIS TIME.</b> _____ <b>MAYBE, PLEASE CONTACT ME.</b>

**Please print and mail the above form with your check made out to NSVAS to:**

**SHENANDOAH AUDUBON TREASURER**

c/o Kaycee Lichliter

1346 Sulphur Springs Road

Middletown, VA 22645



**LOCAL MEMBERSHIP** Local Membership annual dues of \$15 per household/non-profit organization cover basic chapter operating expenses including printing/mailling of the *OAK LEAF* newsletter four times a year, notification of special events, web site fees, and liability insurance. We can only guarantee that our member data base list is accurate for Local Members who have paid the \$15 annual dues and keep us informed of any change of address - our lists are not sold or distributed to other organizations. You do not need to belong to the National Audubon Society to be a Local Member of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society chapter. Dues do not cover Shenandoah Audubon projects (i.e.: Bird Counts, Bird Seed Sale, Audubon Arboretum, Blandy Blue Bird Trail, Bird Nest Boxes at other locations, Youth Birding Workshop), which continue to rely on donations of time, talent and monetary contributions, or projects which are expected to be self-sustaining (i.e.: Scholarship, Youth Camp, Birding Festival, Hawk Watch, field trips). Please return the upper portion of the form with your check to our Treasurer.

**DONATION** All additional donations are greatly appreciated. Refer to our projects list on the reverse side of the Events schedule, or visit our web site at [www.audubon-nsvas.org](http://www.audubon-nsvas.org) for additional information. \*

**THANK YOU** for your interest in and support of the work of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society and for your participation in our activities. Any comments or suggestions, particularly for our public programs, are very welcome.

Questions? Email us: [shenandoahaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:shenandoahaudubon@yahoo.com)

**Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society**  
*A Chapter of the National Audubon Society*  
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\*A copy of our financial statement is available through  
Commonwealth of Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs  
PO BOX 1163, Richmond, VA, 23209  
804-786-2042 or 1-800-552-9963

Thursday, March 22, 2018

## Shenandoah Audubon Meeting:



### Virginia's Breeding Birds Thirty Years Later

Presenter: Ashley Peele Phd.,

Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project Director

In the mid-1980s, Virginia conducted its first breeding bird atlas (BBA) project to assess the status and distribution of Virginia's breeding birds. This is the third year of the current Virginia BBA project. The resulting data has already provided a revealing look into how breeding bird populations have changed over the last thirty years. State Atlas Coordinator, Dr. Ashley Peele, will highlight some of these changes, share interesting species and discussing important needs for the remaining three years of this project. Join us to learn more about this exciting conservation project and how you can get involved.

**Cosponsored by:**

**The Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society**

**and the Environmental Studies Program at Shenandoah University**

Meeting time: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Hester Auditorium of Henkel Hall

Shenandoah University's Main Campus, Winchester, VA

