

# Oak Leaf



## POSITIVE POLITICAL FEEDBACK!

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Our current Programs Chair Mark Bruns is proactive with his local political concerns. He stays on top of who stands where on important environmental issues. After writing Representative Barbara Comstock multiple times about his concerns, he received a letter back from her. Below are the encouraging highlights:

*Dear Mark,*

*Thank you for contacting me regarding conservation funding in the FY2017 budget. You may be pleased to know I joined with a number of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in signing onto appropriations requests in support of State and Tribal Wildlife Grants and the Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), among other conservation programs.*

*The House of Representatives has yet to take up the appropriations bill that would provide the resources for these conservation programs, but I appreciate you providing your views and I will keep your thoughts in mind as we move forward in the appropriations process.*

We are very grateful to hear this, and appreciate the efforts of all who also took the time to write her. If enough voices speak, they will be acknowledged! If you have time, we encourage you to send a letter to commend her on her actions, and ask that she continues to support conservation efforts in the future if she remains in office. Contact information for her offices is listed below.

Barbara Comstock  
Shenandoah Valley Office  
117 E. Piccadilly Street  
Winchester, VA 22601  
Phone: (540) 773-3600

Barbara Comstock  
Washington, DC Office  
226 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-5136

*Shenandoah Audubon, your local Chapter of the National Audubon Society, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. Financial statements are available upon request. Our Audubon Chapter Code is X-54.*

Visit us on the web at  
**AUDUBON-NSVAS.ORG**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### OFFICERS

President: Jim Smith  
Vice President: Jeannie Senter  
Secretary: Lee Bowen  
Treasurer: Kaycee Lichliter



#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation: Kaycee Lichliter  
Education: OPEN  
Field Trips: OPEN  
Finance: Kaycee Lichliter  
Membership: Tracey Ramsey  
Programs: Mark Bruns  
Public Relations: Mark Bruns



**WEBMASTER**      **NEWSLETTER**  
Jeannie Senter      Tracey Ramsey

*All photos by Tracey Ramsey unless noted otherwise.*

**AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP - TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

## HELP WANTED: VIRGINIA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

This spring, efforts began on the second Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas (VABBA2). In the first Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas, volunteers collected breeding bird data from 1984-1989. They confirmed that 196 bird species were breeding in Virginia, and state biologists were able to generate distribution maps showing where these species were occurring around the state. Data collected now for the VABBA2 project will allow researchers to assess how changes to Virginia's landscape have affected bird populations over the last 30 years. This information is critical for identifying the bird species and habitats most in need of conservation efforts.

This project is a massive 5-year undertaking. Any time or effort you could volunteer would be greatly appreciated.

For more information, visit [vabba2.org](http://vabba2.org) or contact Dr. Ashley Peele, Atlas Coordinator, at [ashpeele@vt.edu](mailto:ashpeele@vt.edu) or (540) 231-9182, or Dr. David E. Carr, Director and Research Associate Professor at Blandy, at [dec5z@virginia.edu](mailto:dec5z@virginia.edu), or (540) 837-1758 ext. 235.

*Black-and-white warbler*  
© Wil Hershberger ▶



*"We hope that birders, naturalists, and anyone with an interest in environmental conservation work will consider volunteering their time to VABBA2. A statewide network of volunteers is needed to collect breeding evidence, so please join us!"*

## THANK YOU!

Patsy Aikey  
David Beveridge  
Sharon Caldwell  
Mary Campbell  
James Church  
Joe & Karen Coleman  
Ruth Cumberland

Catherine Dalke  
Kaylee Duval  
Donna Ford  
Elmira Gilbert  
John Gorham  
Nicole Hamilton  
Rose Hughes  
Heather Humphries  
Diane Kline

Ashley Landes  
Debbie Maiorano  
Jean Massie  
Mike & Rosy Osicki  
Jay & Janie Ramsey  
Bobby & Harriet Smith  
Roger & Colleen Williams  
Woltz Winchester Foundation  
Phil & Jan Yount

Shown to the left are members who renewed their membership and/or made contributions over the last few months.

Membership renewals and contributions can be done online securely through PayPal on our website, [audubon-nsvas.org](http://audubon-nsvas.org). Or, send a check payable to Shenandoah Audubon to PO Box 2693, Winchester, VA, 22604. Membership is only \$15 per person.

# AN AFTERNOON WITH JANE CAMPBELL

On April 24, Jim and Eleanor Smith and Mike and Tracey Ramsey had the privilege of meeting with Jane Campbell at Westminster-Canterbury in Winchester. Jane is our oldest member- **she turned 100 on February 21st this year.** Despite her age, she still attends our programs regularly, as long as she can find a ride to get to them!

Jane and her late husband Douglas were introduced to Shenandoah Audubon through Sam and Jean Patten, who were also longtime members with an extensive history of work and involvement.

“They asked us if we wanted to go to meetings, so we did, and we joined.” The rest is history. “We hit it off really well with the Pattens. We had a lot in common with Sam and Jean.”

Though Sam and Jean have both since passed, Jane still keeps in touch with their daughter Laura Patten who lives locally. Laura usually takes Jane to lunch once a month, and brings her to Audubon events when she can.

Jane remembers helping with NSVAS membership and newsletter duties for years. When an educational program was needed, Douglas would put on a presentation with his slides.

“He had 26,000 slides! (laughs) He liked to do slides- he thought they showed things much better.”

Both Jane and Douglas also helped with the annual NSVAS bird seed sale when they could.

Though Jane very much loves life at Westminster-Canturbury, she said she missed her backyard birds. She reminisced about the deck in her backyard, surrounded by large, shady trees, and the garden Douglas would keep.

Jane had 2 trees planted at the Audubon Arboretum on Pleasant Valley Road in memory of Sam and Jean. Jane added, “Recently after lunch, Laura and I drove over there and looked for those trees.”



▲ Spending a few moments talking with Jane Campbell was a real honor.

When asked what her favorite bird species was, she thought for a few moments and replied, “That’s a hard choice to make. There are so many wonderful birds. I used to enjoy when Douglas and I traveled out west. I was always thrilled to see all the western birds that we don’t have.”

“But what about a local favorite?” I asked.

Jane answered, “I suppose one of my favorites is the cardinal, because it stays year-round, is a beautiful bird, and has a beautiful song. It’s got everything a bird ought to have!” (laughs)

Aside from her other achievements and talents, Jane is also an artist. She explained a few of her oil paintings she had displayed on her walls.

“When I went to Spain in the 1960s, I asked my father what he wanted me to bring back. He said, ‘Paint me a picture,’ so that’s it.” (points at painting)

The beauty of one of her paintings shown below is lost in the black and white reproduction of this newsletter, but the colors are gorgeous.

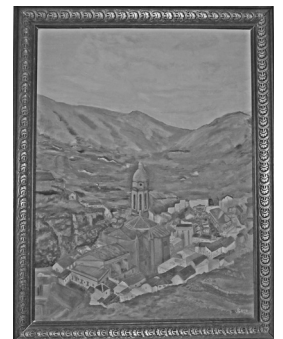
“I don’t do oil anymore. It’s too messy,” she told us.

Jane is a very special person, and an inspiration to many. After our visit, Jim Smith put it best when he noted, “It’s a joy to be in her presence.”



▲ L-R: The late Douglas Campbell, the late Jean Patten, and Jane Campbell showing their support for Shenandoah Audubon, selling birdhouses and distributing educational material.

One of Jane’s oil paintings. ▶



# UPCOMING EVENTS



All Free and open  
to the public!

## GUIDED NATURE WALKS AT ABRAMS CREEK WETLANDS PRESERVE

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:**

**September 24th, October 8th, October 22nd  
and November 5th (every other weekend)**

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.

## HAWK WATCH HIKE

On **Saturday, September 24**, Jim will also lead a guided hike on the Appalachian Trail to Bears Den rocks.

Interested hikers should meet in the parking lot at Snickers Gap on Rt. 7 & Blue Ridge Mountain Road. This area is an official Hawk Migration Association of America (HMANA) counting site for migrating birds. Bring binoculars and see if you can spot any!

Early arrival is encouraged. From 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM, hikers can check in with hawk watch counters to see how many species have been spotted so far.

We will depart at 1:00 PM for Bears Den overlook. This hike is fairly strenuous with rocks and inclines, but the view at the top of the mountain is worth the trip.

Don't miss this unique opportunity for an afternoon of education and exercise!

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## AQUACULTURE AND ITS IMPACT ON NATIVE FISH POPULATIONS

*Jointly sponsored by Lord Fairfax Community College & Trout Unlimited*

**WHEN:** Thursday, October 6, 7:00 PM

**WHERE:** Lord Fairfax Community College / Middletown Campus,  
Science and Health Professions Building, Room 145 (173 Skirmisher Lane, Middletown, VA 22645)

The demand for seafood is increasing worldwide, but there are new restrictions on wild fish harvests. To meet increasing consumer demand, U.S. aquaculture producers require improved efficiencies and sustainable practices while maintaining and improving quality. Currently, diseases limit cool and cold water aquaculture production. Major knowledge gaps exist regarding fish resistance, disease, and the evolution of pathogens.

Our speaker, Greg Wiens of the USDA National Center for Cool and Cold Water Aquaculture facility in Leetown, WV, is an expert on endemic and emerging diseases that limit cold water aquaculture.

"Given the complexity and multidisciplinary nature of these problems, I work in collaboration with other scientists focusing on host resistance mechanisms, microbial genomics, and analysis of host-pathogen interactions within an evolutionary-based framework," Greg explained.

Mark your calendar to hear more about Greg's important research. \_\_\_\_\_

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## VIRGINIA WORKING LANDSCAPES: CONNECTING COMMUNITIES FOR GRASSLAND BIRD CONSERVATION

*Jointly sponsored by Shenandoah University's Environmental Studies Program & the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute*

**WHEN:** Thursday, November 3, 7:00 PM

**WHERE:** Shenandoah University / Winchester Campus, Henkel Hall, Hester Auditorium  
(726 Wade Miller Drive, Winchester, VA 22601)

North America's grassland birds are declining faster than any other bracket of bird species. With more than 80% of remaining grassland habitat on private lands, it is imperative that we optimize the potential of these areas for preserving grassland habitat. Virginia Working Landscapes, a conservation initiative put together by the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, is currently monitoring grassland bird populations across 15 Virginia counties in an effort to understand how land management influences grassland bird communities. This presentation will emphasize the importance of collaboration between landowners, citizen scientists, and other partners to conduct important research and will explain ways that you can help mitigate grassland bird decline.

Speaker Amy Johnson is a PhD student at George Mason University studying grassland bird ecology. The objective of her dissertation research is to explore how land management influences landscape characteristics in grassland communities and to determine the impacts of management practices on grassland-dependent bird species.

Don't miss this evening of insight! \_\_\_\_\_

**SHENANDOAH AUDUBON**  
**PO BOX 2693**  
**WINCHESTER, VA 22604**

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**FALL BIRD WALKS & EDUCATIONAL EVENTS**

SEE INSIDE FOR DATES & DETAILS

President Jim Smith recently gave educational presentations about local birds and our Chapter's mission to 2 local retirement communities.

## **TAKING OUR MISSION ON THE ROAD**

Speaking to a group of retired teachers at  
Westminster-Canturbury in Winchester on May 14, 2016. ▼



▲ Presenting to the Village at Orchard Ridge, also in Winchester, on July 16, 2016.

After the presentation at Orchard Ridge, the group went outside for a brief walk in search of birds. The residents are planning an environmental sanctuary for native plants and wildlife called "The Glen." ▼

