

The Osprey



June 2010 VOLUME 40, ISSUE 9

<http://somdaudubon.org/>

Newsletter of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society

2010 CONSERVATION AWARD

By Millie Kriemelmeyer

The Alice Ferguson Foundation will receive the 2010 Conservation Award from Southern Maryland Audubon Society. The award will be presented at the SMAS Annual Meeting and Picnic on Sunday, June 6, at AFF's Wareham Lodge in Accokeek.

This year, AFF celebrates 56 years of successfully supporting their mission to "provide experiences that encourage connections between people, the natural environment, farming and the cultural heritage of the Potomac River Watershed, which lead to personal environmental responsibility."

AFF's accomplishments include:

In 1968, donating all of its Potomac River shoreline land (86 acres) to the Department of Interior to establish Piscataway National Park, which was a unique public/private partnership that continues today;

Teaching more than 300,000 students in innovative environmental education programs that give kids hands-on, feet-in experiences in the wetlands, swamps, forests, farm fields, and barnyard of Hard Bargain Farm;

Training hundreds of educators to integrate environmental education across the curriculum in the Bridging the Watershed Program at outdoor sites in the region using hands-on investigative approaches;

In 1988, launching the Potomac River Clean-Up that continues today as the Trash-Free Potomac Initiative using more than 30,000 volunteers, 220 partner organizations, businesses and government agencies to remove 1,022 tons of trash from shorelines in the Potomac River watershed;

Awarding scholarships and loans to college students majoring in education, many of whom continue to teach in area schools;

Managing Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Center by training, managing and providing development opportunities to paid and volunteer staff members who are the heart and soul of all AFF programs.

Please join SMAS in congratulating AFF for 56 years of leadership.

MAY 1 SMALLWOOD STATE PARK "EARLY MIGRANTS"

By Lynne Wheeler

On Saturday, May 1, our group of nine could not have had more perfect weather or greater expertise in attendance. We were very fortunate to have in our group a husband and wife team who traveled up from Fredericksburg, Virginia, Joyce and Mike Bathke. They just moved to Fredericksburg a year ago, were active birders in Missouri, and were working on their Eastern sounds and Maryland bird list. How wonderful to have them in our group. Combining these two with our own SMAS members, Carol Ghebelian, Mary Sokol, Tim McNutt, and Anna Urciolo who came down from Rockville, MD, I knew the day would be fruitful. The addition of Matt Ichniowski from Lexington Park, MD and his amazing seven year old daughter Claire, both big bird lovers, made our group fun and diverse. Claire had her own field notebook which she diligently recorded in. It was so wonderful to see such a cute, sweet young birder! We are finding that our web site is attracting many non-members.

Smallwood State Park has a great multi-habitat to offer birders. The beginning of our day revealed in the parking lot a Blue-winged Warbler, along with the typical bevy of Northern Parulas, Scarlet Tanagers, Red-eyed Vireos, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Chickadees, Cardinals, Common Yellowthroat and Tufted Titmouse. As we continued up to the historic Retreat House we added Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Chipping Sparrows, and American Redstart. The walk continued onto the wood trail for our forest interior dwelling species. Ovenbird and Wood Thrush did not take long to sing out their welcome.

My duties as leader were made more enjoyable to witness our seven year old red-head, Claire. Her face would light up as she listened and learned new species. Unfortunately she was our only red-head, the usual Red-headed Woodpecker was silent and hidden for the day, but Claire found our Ruby-throated Hummingbird. The hummer was seen in the very productive area off the trail where many dead trees, streams, and low second growth trees are encircled by the forest. This area is great for a myriad of species and did not disappoint us. We added Baltimore Oriole, Great-crested Flycatcher, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Kingbird, Pileated and Downy Woodpeckers, American Goldfinch, Eastern Bluebird and many other expected species. As we neared the end of the wood trail the campground area startled me with the song of a Prothonotary Warbler, viewed by myself and Anna Urciolo. He was a very accommodating bird, singing

Continued on page 2

in the area long enough for us to get a view. The wood trail ended and opened up onto the footbridge over the Mattawoman Creek where we enjoyed the show of Ospreys, several swallow species, an Orchard Oriole, Bald Eagle, Canada Geese and Great Blue Herons. Many were excited to hear Louisiana Waterthrush, Hooded Warbler and to add new species to their personal goal or list.

The day ended at the Mattawoman Art Center area and we added a very noisy Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed Vireo, Eastern Towhee, and Prairie Warbler. As we finally sat down at a picnic table with a view of the creek to compile our field list for the day, Carol was able to add (amongst many she added for the day) Double-crested Cormorant. The total for the day was 61 species. A wonderful day for me, and I believe enjoyed by all. I encourage our members to enjoy this park as it has much to offer and enjoy.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

By Millie Kriemelmeyer

The Southern Maryland Audubon Society awarded two full scholarships to the Field Ornithology Workshop on Hog Island, Maine, in June. The two awards were given to:

Michelle Daubon

from CHESPAX, Calvert County
and

Diana Gyuras

from T. C. Martin Elementary School, Charles County

This may be your LAST OSPREY NEWSLETTER FINAL REMINDER

The electronic version of the Osprey newsletter, or a notice that it's available for download, will begin arriving in email boxes after the summer break. The original start date was pushed back to accommodate the slow but steady trickle of replies that have come in over the last few months. After the summer break if you have not responded to the repeated requests, you may not receive any version of the newsletter. If you still need to reply please see the information below about how to contact us to make your preference known. Thank you to everyone who has responded, especially those who responded promptly.

NAME:

MAILING ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

Paper copy of Osprey

Email with notice that new
Osprey is online for download

Email with Osprey
attached as PDF file

If you would like to email your information please send a message to the following email address:

OSPREY@SOMDAUDUBON.ORG

Be sure to include your name, mailing address (so we can keep our database up-to-date), email address and how you would like to receive your future Ospreys.

ANYONE can email their information, even if you prefer to keep getting paper copies of the Osprey.

If you would like to mail in your form please remove this page after filling in your information, put it in an envelope and send it to the address below. And don't forget the stamp!

Osprey Newsletter
C/O Chris Ordiway
2305 Bryan Point Road
Accokeek, Maryland 20607

We'd like to extend a special 'Thank You' to those who responded to last year's request for member's thoughts on the electronic Osprey. It helped to make the Board of Directors job easier knowing members were in favor of the idea.

2010 YARD SALE

A yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, July 10th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Will and Julie Daniel's house located at 6622 Leonardtown Road in Bryantown, MD. A rain date is set for July 24th. Donations are now being accepted for the yard sale (everything except clothes). If you have items to donate or would like to volunteer please contact Julie Daniel at 301-274-5756 or by e-mail at juliemdaniel@hotmail.com Will and Julie are planning on going to the annual picnic, so contact them ahead of time if you want to bring donations to the picnic. Please make sure that all donations are in good working order and are clean. We appreciate your help in raising money for our education fund by supporting the yard sale.

Directions to the Daniel's house from St. Mary's County: Take Route 5 north to Charles County. About 3.5 miles north of Hughesville look for their house on the north side of the road, ¼ mile north of Ted Bowling Drive. If you get to the intersection at Oliver's Shop Road you have gone too far. Their house is an old white farm house with a white board fence around the property.

From Calvert County take Route 231 west to Charles County. In Hughesville take Route 5 north and then follow directions above.

From Charles County go through Waldorf and then take Route 5 south towards Hughesville. In Bryantown make a u-turn ½ mile past Oliver's Shop Road. Go north on Route 5, their house is ¼ mile north of the u-turn. Their house is an old white farm house with a white board fence around the property.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Edward Anderson, Clinton
Darlene Brindley, Lusby
Kenneth Bryson, Fort Washington
Christian Burton, California
Cameron Butler, Issue
Jim Cigno, Brandywine
Arthur Crowfoot, Waldorf
Michelle Daubon, Owings
Calvin Davies, Lusby
Melinda Furstman, Patuxent River
Shamus Gridley, Huntingtown
Samantha Long, California
Dhyana MacKenzie, Lexington Park
Marion Mulholland, Accokeek
Angela Norton, Waldorf
Emily Packard, Fort Washington
Susan Ritter, Owings
Mary Trout, Bryans Road
Danny Yamamoto, Fort Washington

DEAR MEMBERS

I am making a very strong (borderlining desperate plea) for help to keep SMAS functioning at its current level. SMAS provides a varied schedule of events to enhance our interest in nature and its birdlife. All this needs help and we are wearing thin on that.

We have been searching for new directors for the board and have not received any volunteers to date. We need to get new ideas into the management of our group. That comes with new persons serving on our Board of Directors.

We also need help to continue having the number of field trips that many of our members enjoy. Field trip leaders are needed.

These are all continuing needs. Now a desperate need is coming up for someone to help with the mailing of our newsletter. For years, SMAS member Anne Bishop has fulfilled the task of getting the newsletter ready to mail. Anne has informed me that she cannot continue doing this job. We cannot thank her enough for the critical help she has given to our organization.

We are in the process of trying to have less hard copies of our newsletter mailed. Our electronic version is being formulated. Hopefully there will be fewer copies to mail. But, we now need someone to replace Anne. Without a volunteer will may lose the newsletter. This is our source of letting you all know what is upcoming and what has happened in our group. So it certainly seems there has to be someone who will help at this position. No more can be asked of those who now are doing the jobs that keep SMAS a top-rated organization. I am asking for someone to come forward and please volunteer to help on the newsletter mailing!

Happy Birding
Bob Lukinic, President
301-283-6317
rlukinic@peoplepc.com

CHAPTER-ONLY MEMBERS PLEASE RENEW!

If your mailing label reads 06/10, your membership is about to expire and you need to renew it. We try not to mail renewal notices in order to save paper and mailing costs, so please renew your membership without delay. All chapter-only memberships run from July 1st to June 30th. Please use the membership form in this Osprey and mail to:

SMAS
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 181
Bryans Road, MD 20616
Thanks!

SMAS ANNUAL SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS

By Millie Kriemelmeyer

Thank you to the SMAS members who judged science fairs in Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties. SMAS awarded \$50 and membership in NAS and SMAS.

Calvert County Judge: Sue Hamilton

Senior Award
Calvin Davies
9th Grade
Patuxent High School
"Mill Creek Oyster Project"

Junior Award
Shamus Gridley
7th Grade
Plum Point Middle School
"The Sound of Speed: Acoustical Detection of Hummingbird Feeding Patterns"

St. Mary's County Judges: Bev Walker and Ernie & Paula Willoughby

Senior Award
Christian Burton
10th grade
Leonardtown High School
"Levels of Pollution in Chesapeake Bay"

Junior Award
Samantha Long
6th grade
St. John's School
"Polluted Waters"

Charles County Judges: Jean Artes & Lynne Wheeler

Senior Award
Angela Norton
North Point High School
"Effect of Long Term Low Concentrations of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) on Plants"

Junior Award
Cameron Butler
Piccowaxen Middle School
"Which Surface Will Have the Most Runoff?"

Junior Award - certificate only
Kacey Thompson
Milton Somers Middle School
"Earthworm Incorporated"

Elementary Award
Christopher Perrie
Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School
"The Temperature Game"

FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED



Southern Maryland Audubon Society sponsors the banding of nestling birds of prey, or raptors, with serially numbered aluminum bands in cooperation with the Bird Banding Laboratory of the U. S. Department of the Interior, as part of our bird research and conservation activities in Southern Maryland. Limited numbers of Osprey and Barn Owl nestlings become available each year for adoption. The gift of \$10 for an Osprey adoption, or of \$25 for a Barn Owl adoption, contributes to a special fund for the support of raptor research and raptor conservation projects. The foster parent receives:

- A certificate of adoption with the number of the U. S. Department of the Interior band, and the location and date of the banding.
- Information on the ecology and migration patterns of the species, photo of a fledgling, and any other information on whereabouts or fate of the bird that may be available.

Interested? Here's how to become a foster parent of an Osprey or a Barn Owl. Send \$10.00 for each Osprey, or \$25 for each Barn Owl to:

Southern Maryland Audubon Society
ATTN: Adoption Program
c/o Heather Burk
11885 Provident Drive
La Plata, MD 20646-5416



ADOPT A RAPTOR

Name: _____

Address: _____

I wish to adopt (check one):

_____ (number of) Osprey, \$10.00 each

_____ (number of) Barn Owl, \$25.00 each

Amount Enclosed: _____

(Make checks payable to:
Southern Maryland Audubon Society)

JUNE EVENTS

NEW!

For Beginners Only. Custom one-on-one (or two) trips in PG, Charles and St. Mary's Counties. If you feel that you would benefit from some individual attention to ease you up the learning curve of bird identification, we have three leaders who will help you. Contact leaders to make arrangements:

Charles - Jean Artes (301-743-2288, pojartes@aol.com).

Southern PG and Northern Charles – Chris Ordiway (301-203-8014, BirdRamble@strixvaria.org (email use preferred)).

St. Mary's – Patty Craig (eyrie@hughes.net (email only)).

May 23 – Sunday - 9:30 AM

Barn Owls & Breakfast, Charles County – Field Trip

Leader: Mike Callahan (301-259-2162, raptorsrule@juno.com)

Join our Raptor Conservation Committee Chairman Mike Callahan for a new version of B&B. Trip participants will enjoy breakfast before we check a barn owl nest box and possibly band the nestling owls. This trip will take place on private property, so the location is not being advertised. There is a \$3 fee to help cover the cost of food. Sign up with Mike by May 17 at 301-259-2162 so food can be ordered. Expected to fill fast! Limited space available and you will be notified of meeting location upon sign up. *Youths especially welcome!* RSVP required.

Southern Maryland Audubon Society
P.O. Box 181 Bryans Road, MD 20616

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JUNE 6 - SUNDAY – 1:30 p.m.

Hard Bargain Farm, Alice Ferguson Foundation, Prince George's County 2301 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD

ANNUAL MEETING

Potluck Lunch	1:30-3:00
Host's Briefing	3:00-3:30
Election and Business Meeting	3:30-4:00
Bird Walk	4:00-5:00

Bring your family, friends, and a special dish and join us at one of our traditional meeting places. Following the business meeting, enjoy a walk through the woods and fields to Piscataway Creek.

Check our web site <http://www.somdaudubon.org/> or call 301-203-8014 for directions and updated information.

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The deadline for the Osprey is the fifth of each month. Please send all short articles, reports, unique sightings, conservation updates, calendar items, etc. to the above address.

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