



# OAK LEAF

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

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## GRASSLAND & SHRUBLAND BIRD SYMPOSIUM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2012

Join The Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, American Bird Conservancy and The Piedmont Environmental Council for a Virginia Working Landscapes presentation of lectures and discussions on the ecology and conservation of grassland and shrubland birds in our area.

Many North American birds that use early successional habitat like grasslands and shrublands are in serious decline, largely due to habitat loss. In Virginia, species of concern include Northern Bobwhite, Golden-Winged Warblers, Grasshopper Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks, and more.

The program will include lectures by four ornithologists, a landowner roundtable and an optional morning field trip. Presentations will focus on wildlife & working land conservation issues. The registration fee is \$20 which includes lunch.

### Optional Morning Birding/Habitat Tour: 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Oxbow Farm  
Rock Hill Farm Road  
Front Royal, VA 22630

The farm is regionally renowned for its grassland bird population including breeding Bobolinks.

### Symposium: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute Auditorium  
1500 Remount Road  
Front Royal, VA 22630

Enter through Gate 3 along Route 522 and follow signage.



### Register today!

Visit [www.pecva.org/events](http://www.pecva.org/events) for more information, or contact PEC's Sustainable Habitat Program Manager James Barnes at (540) 347-2334.

# Thank You!

*A SINCERE THANKS to all who renewed their membership, became new members, and/or made extra contributions to us recently. Your continued support helps promote local environmental awareness!*

Not much is free these days. Why not take advantage of these FREE opportunities to soak up some stimulating, quality education?

Our scheduled fall program meetings focus on local lands, resources, and conservation.

**Monday, September 10, 2012 - 7:00 PM**  
**The Forests of Frederick County: The First 16,000 Years**

By Gerald R. Crowell

In April 2010, Gerald R. Crowell investigates the blaze that damaged ► 28 acres of the Appalachian Trail.

Gerald graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Forest Management in 1974. That same year, he started his career with the Virginia Department of Forestry in Tappahannock, Virginia. He transferred to Winchester in 1977. He covers Frederick and Clarke Counties as an Area Forester. His duties include providing forest management plans, management practices for private landowners, forest fire suppression, law enforcement, education, and insect and disease diagnosis for both forest and landscape trees.

Gerald has two grown sons, one living in Washington D.C. and one attending Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. He lives in Winchester with his wife Cheryl and a three-legged, one-eyed cat.



**Monday, October 15, 2012 - 7:00 PM**  
**Solid Waste, Pollution and Avian Habitat: What You Can Do**

By Michael "Recycle" Neese

How does the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" motto relate to birds; specifically concerning the areas of water quality, local hunger issues, and littering? Michael's presentation will answer this question and cover other related topics.

Michael is head of the recycling program for the city of Winchester. He studied Natural Resource Management at Lord Fairfax Community College and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Sustainable Enterprise Management from the University of Phoenix. He recently completed a program through the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute and is a local expert on composting, landfill education and the Adopt-a-Stream program. He is also the founder of Winchester's Community Garden Program and many local seed exchange programs.

In his free time, Michael enjoys hiking, bird watching, and spending time outdoors. Don't miss this FREE opportunity to meet him and pick his brain!

▼ What are Bald Eagles doing at the Frederick County Landfill?



***"We're all in this together."***  
**—Michael Neese**

These program meetings will be held in Room 102 of Shenandoah University's Bowman Building. The Bowman Building is located in downtown Winchester at 20 S. Cameron Street, between Cork and Boscawen. There is ample free parking in the lot behind the building which is accessible from either Cameron or Kent Streets.

As always, the meetings are FREE and open to the public. Hope to see you there!

THINK GLOBALLY,  
DISCOVER LOCALLY!



## Nature Walks

at Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve  
Winchester, VA

Discover fall beauty in the heart of Winchester with Jim Smith as he points out unique fall foliage and migratory birds.

From late September to early November, Jim will lead walks every other Saturday and discuss the changes in the environment from week to week.

Walks begin at 8:00 AM, last approximately 2 hours and are non-strenuous. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, and/or cameras. Participants are also encouraged to bring water and dress for the weather.

The walk dates are **September 22nd, October 6th, October 20th and November 3rd.**

Interested walkers should meet in the Children of America parking lot off of W. Jubal Early Drive, approximately 1/2 mile west of Valley Avenue. Park at the west side of the lot by the woods. If you arrive a few minutes late, simply walk the path until you catch up with the group.

**All of Jim's guided walks and hikes are FREE and open to everyone. In the case of inclement weather, these events will be cancelled. For more information, contact Jim Smith at (540) 303-3983.**

## Fall Bird Walk

at Sky Meadows State Park  
Delaplane, VA

Saturday, October 6, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join naturalist Margaret Wester for an educational walk on the Woodpecker Lane trail at Sky Meadows State Park.

The focus will be on Red-headed Woodpeckers, a near threatened species which thrives amongst the park's groves of dead trees.

Daily parking/State Park fees apply (\$4.00 per vehicle). Interested walkers should meet at the Visitor's Center. In the event of inclement weather, there will be a lecture on the same subject as the walk at the Carriage House. Please contact Margaret with any questions at [margaretwester@hotmail.com](mailto:margaretwester@hotmail.com) (preferred) or (540) 837-2799.

## Hawk Watch Hike

at Snickers Gap/Bears Den  
Bluemont, VA

Saturday, September 22, 12:00 PM

Following the early morning walk at Abrams Creek, naturalist Jim Smith will lead a hike at Snickers Gap. This area is an official Hawk Migration Association of North America counting site where over 19,000 migrating raptors have been spotted in a single day!

This moderate hike begins at Snickers Gap and follows the Appalachian Trail to Bears Den overlook. There Jim will point out woodland birds, ravens, and migrating raptors. Wear good hiking shoes and bring binoculars, scopes and cameras. You can even bring a bagged lunch and a folding chair if you wish.

Interested hikers should meet in the parking lot at Snickers Gap on Rt. 7 and Blue Ridge Mountain Road at 12:00 PM.

## Pick-Your-Own Apples

at Marker-Miller Orchards  
Winchester, VA

This land has been in the Marker-Miller family since 1908 and is currently being farmed by fourth and fifth generations.

By purchasing fresh produce and fruit from this local farm, you are putting your dollars back into our community. And, it doesn't get any fresher than picking the apples right off the tree!

Approximate ripening dates:

**SEPTEMBER 2 - 8:** Honeycrisp, Empire, Yatika Fuji

**SEPTEMBER 12 - 15:** Golden Delicious, Red Delicious

**SEPTEMBER 20 - 25:** Ida Red, Rome, Crispin, Nittany

**OCTOBER 1 - 10:** Stayman, Fuji, York

**OCTOBER 15:** Cameo, Granny Smith

**NOVEMBER 10:** Pink Lady

Directions: Take I-81 to Exit 310, then 37 North 2 miles to Opequon Exit. Turn left on Rt. 622 (Cedar Creek Grade) and proceed 3.25 miles. The orchards will be on the left.

Open weekdays 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Saturdays 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM and Sundays (September and October only) 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM.

OCTOBER 13 & 14 • 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM • RAIN OR SHINE

# 19TH ANNUAL ARBORFEST

Celebrate autumn in the Arboretum at ArborFest, the State Arboretum of Virginia's annual fall festival.

In addition to a selection of plants divided or propagated from the Arboretum grounds, ArborFest includes a variety of plants and fine items for sale by carefully selected high-quality vendors. Attendees can sample long-forgotten "heritage" apple varieties with the Old Time Apple Growers, and kids can make their own scarecrows (bring kid size old clothes). There will also be guided Arboretum walks and hay rides.

All activities are FREE! Admission is \$10 per car, so bring a friend or two and enjoy autumn at the ArborFest!

**We will have a booth at ArborFest** and need volunteers to help staff our table. If you think you could donate a few hours of your time to help, please contact Rosemary Rogers at (540) 323-7627, or email us at shenandoahaudubon@yahoo.com. **Volunteers may waive the \$10 entrance fee!**



**SHENANDOAH AUDUBON  
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## QUACK FOR THOUGHT

Sometimes the best journeys aren't necessarily from east to west, or from ground to summit, but from heart to head. Between them we find our voice.

-Jeremy Collins

### NEW UPDATED WEBSITE!

Thanks to the hard work of secretary Jeannie Senter, our newly updated website is up and running. We have streamlined the links to information for a clean look and added a PayPal option to accommodate online renewals and donations. Check it out today!

**AUDUBON-NSVAS.ORG**



Please recycle.

