

# Oak Leaf



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017 · VOLUME 41, ISSUE 1



## SPEAK UP FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT!

As a constituent, you have a unique ability to convey your concerns about issues affecting birds, wildlife, and their habitats—and be heard. Please help us in our efforts to speak up for our Earth and our precious resources.

It is upsetting to watch the current disregard for environmental safeguards and wildlife protection exhibited by many elected representatives. While the general public does not support such direction, somehow nearly every conservation program seems to be under attack by Congress. House of Representatives leadership has advanced efforts to sell public lands and prevent conservation standards from being implemented on public lands, including regulations that prevent mine waste from being dumped into streams.

Please consider contacting Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine to thank them for their efforts to keep destruction at bay. Please urge Representative Barbara Comstock to represent the views of her District and not vote in favor of anti-conservation measures.

If you have time, please mail letters for maximum effectiveness. Audubon.org/takeaction also lists many critical advocacy campaigns and ways to voice your opinion electronically.

Mail your letters to:

Office of Senator [Name]  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Office of Representative [Name]  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN THIS GREAT TIME OF NEED!**

## FRESH FACES

2 recent "at-large" board member additions are **Beth Sitton** and **Scott Kenney**.

**Beth** is an avid birder who moved from Colorado to the Shenandoah Valley 16 years ago. Recently retired from work in Winchester Public Schools, she is planning on traveling and engaging in conservation and nature studies. Beth is a longtime Audubon member and has participated in many Christmas Bird Counts. She enjoys birding year-round regardless of weather, and is well known for her special ability of identifying warblers by ear.

**Scott** has been involved with Audubon activities since the early 80s, and helped with the development of our local Audubon Arboretum on Pleasant Valley Drive. He is a longtime member of the American Orchid Society, the Izzak Walton league, and is a regular participant in our annual Christmas Bird Count. He is the current Perennial and Aquatic Manager at Blue Mount Nursery in Ashburn, VA, and loves birdwatching.



## THANK YOU!

Sally Anderson  
Mark & Dorothy Bruns  
Warren Golightly  
Nancy Cross Hall  
Richard Hansen  
Robert & Patricia James  
Donna Keller  
Robert Lyon  
Jean Massie  
Harry McCoy

Rachel Perkins  
Michael Robles  
Emma Schneider  
Anne Sergeant  
Beth Sitton  
Mary Sitton  
Lowell Smith  
Deborah Tucci  
Sue Walden  
Margaret Wester  
Unitarian Universalist Church of the Shenandoah Valley

Shown to the left are members and organizations who renewed their membership and/or made contributions this year.

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

*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  
At-Large: Beth Sitton  
At-Large: Scott Kenney

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

WEBMASTER NEWSLETTER  
Jeannie Senter OPEN

*Current newsletter/all photos by Tracey Ramsey*





# MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE FREE OUTDOOR EVENTS!

## FALL GUIDED NATURE WALKS AT ABRAMS CREEK WETLANDS PRESERVE

As crisp fall weather moves in, birds begin migrating. Learn more about what's going on during this season of change with Jim Smith during his guided walks at Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve in Winchester.

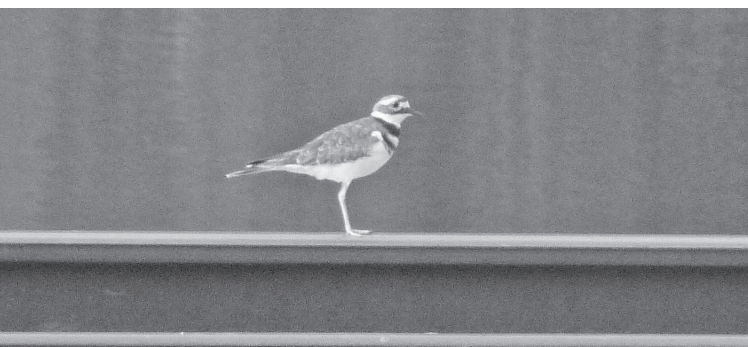
During these leisurely walks, Jim will discuss birds, plants, insects, and just about anything that crosses our path! Migrants and species vary from week to week. Bring your binoculars and your curiosity!

**WHEN:** September 23rd, October 7th and October 21st

Walks begin at 8:30 AM and last approximately 2 hours.

**WHERE:** Walks start in the parking lot in front of Children of America at 631 W. Jubal Early Drive in Winchester. Park at the far side of the lot by the woods. If the group has already departed when you arrive, walk the path- since the group makes frequent stops, you'll catch up to everyone soon!

▼ We cross paths with many creatures during Jim's walks! The photos below were taken at Abrams Creek last fall.



▲ There is so much life to be discovered at Abrams Creek in the morning!

## HAWK WATCH HIKE



On **Saturday, September 23**, 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 North America (HMANA) counting site for migrating birds. Bring binoculars and see if you can spot any!

From 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM, hikers can check in with hawk watch counters to see how many species have been spotted.

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!

▼ Counters watch for migrating raptors at Snickers Gap.



# FALL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



Like all fall walks, hikes and events, these programs are FREE and open to the public.

## CHESAPEAKE BAY FUND RESTORATION PROJECTS

**WHEN:** Thursday, October 5th, 7:00 PM

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

**Robert Jennings** from the Chesapeake Bay Fund (CBF) will discuss the 3 major restoration projects below, and how you can help with their mission.

- *Oyster Restoration Project*  
Detailing the history of oysters in the bay, reasons their numbers have been reduced, and actions taken to bring them back.
- *“Grasses for the Masses” Underwater Grass Restoration Project*  
How restoring underwater grasses provides aquatic habitat, captures sediment, and oxygenates the water.
- *Stream Restoration Project*  
How livestock stream exclusion plus native vegetation buffers benefit the farmer’s wallet, the land, the livestock themselves, and everything downstream.

Come to be engaged and motivated!

*This program is jointly sponsored by Lord Fairfax Community College, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and Trout Unlimited.*

## FARMLAND CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY

**WHEN:** Thursday, November 2nd, 7:00 PM

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

**James Pinsky** from the Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will discuss ways to improve soil and water quality with Best Management Practices.

When properly followed, these practices can:

- Restore problem areas
- Control and minimize erosion
- Conserve water within the landscape
- Restore riparian buffer areas
- Promote wildlife habitat
- Vegetate bare slopes
- Stabilize drainage
- Treat storm runoff



The Lord Fairfax SWCD serves Frederick, Clarke, Warren, and Shenandoah counties as well as the city of Winchester. Their mission is to conserve, protect, and enhance the quality of our region’s soil and water, and promote ecologically sound use of land and water resources.

*This program is jointly sponsored by Shenandoah University’s Environmental Studies Program and the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute.*



## COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS



Shenandoah Audubon helped sponsor 16-year-old **Emma Schneider** to attend the Hog Island Audubon Camp for teens in late June. This educational birding opportunity in coastal Maine included a boat trip to Eastern Egg Rock, where Emma was able to observe Atlantic Puffins.

Emma is very interested in conservation and wildlife. She has had an interest in birds since the age of 4, and has participated in annual Christmas Bird Counts since 2011. We are proud to support her!

**Alyssa Pauley** was the recipient of the annual Tim Melton Memorial/Shenandoah Audubon Endowed Scholarship for Fall 2016/Spring 2017 semesters at Lord Fairfax Community College. Upon completing her Associate of Science degree at LFCC, Alyssa’s goal is to pursue a degree in Biochemistry. Congratulations Alyssa!



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

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**THANK YOU**  
FOR SUPPORTING OUR  
MISSION, ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS!

## **WE WANT YOU!**



**Do you have experience, interests and talents** that could contribute to our conservation efforts? We are seeking help in all areas, including education, membership, newsletter production, and at-large board positions. If you think you could help in any capacity, please contact President Jim Smith at (540) 303-3983- we'd love to have you!

▼ Jim Smith led 2 morning bird walks this summer at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, which were followed by indoor educational presentations. ►

