

OAK LEAF

A Newsletter for Members and Friends of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society

VOLUME 49

SUMMER 2024

NO. 1

An Evening Walk to Purple Martin Colony Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 7:00 pm Bandy Experimental Farm

Photo: Sharon Fisher



Join NSVAS and David Carr, Bandy Director, for an observational walk on the gentle trails at the Bandy Arboretum. The walk will include a stop at the Purple Martin Colony to watch evening feeding activities. Meet at the flag pole kiosk next to the main parking lot. Free and open to the public, no RSVP is required.

"A Bird's World" Nature Walk Saturday, July 6, 2024 at 10-11:00 am Sky Meadows State Park

Take a walk with nature at the beautiful Sky Meadows State Park. Meet your host at the trail head of the Sensory Explorers Trail in the picnic area. Without a State Park Pass, per vehicle entry fee of \$10 applies.

Membership News

NSVAS would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Roger Aaron | Michelle Sims |
| Julie Pineiro | Daniel Weingard |
| Christopher Radamacher | |

Thank you for joining our efforts to conserve and protect the birds and wildlife that call the beautiful Shenandoah Valley their home. The NSVAS continues to maintain existing projects and will continue to explore new avenues for public outreach, education, and community involvement. To become a member or renew your membership, the form may be downloaded from our website.

NSVAS Adopt-A-Highway Program joins Trash Free Shenandoah

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society's Adopt-A-Highway program has become a partner with the Trash Free Shenandoah 2024 campaign of the Shenandoah Riverkeepers network. As such, we are now partnered with 16 or so other organizations to help clean up trash from 60+ public access sites on the South Fork, North Fork and Main Stem Shenandoah Rivers along with smaller tributaries from Port Republic, VA. to Harpers Ferry, WV.

To date, the group has collected nearly 400 bags of trash, 172 tires and countless bulk items that don't fit in a bag, for example port-a-potties, drums and construction debris. Our chapter's volunteers collect trash twice a year along a 2-mile section of road, including Locke's Landing, in Clarke County. On April 27, our seven volunteers



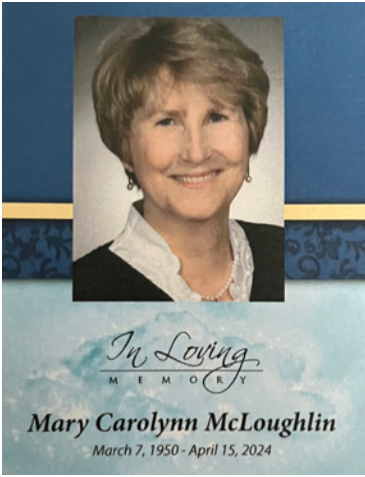
collected over seven bags of trash. The trash was taken to the Frederick County Sanitary Landfill. So far, our chapter has collected over 40 bags of trash and other debris since Spring of 2022.

Left: Dave Borger took the day's haul to the landfill.



Right: A light rain did not stop our volunteers.

Left to right are David Borger, Kaycee Lichliter, Kelli Patterson, Angela Schwarzkopf and Peggy Kenney. Not pictured are Lisa and Ian Byrd. Photos by Kaycee Lichliter.



Loss of Our Friend: Mary Carolynn McLoughlin

It is with a deeply saddened heart that we share with you, our friend, Mary Carolynn McLoughlin passed away on April 15. Mary Carolynn has been a dedicated Shenandoah Audubon/Blandy Bluebird Trail Technician since joining our team in 2005, along with her husband Dennis. Together they spent countless hours caring for our trail. The 2024 Shenandoah Audubon/Blandy Bluebird Trail season is dedicated to Mary Carolynn.

For more information, please visit the link below.

<https://ompsfuneralhome.com/obituary/mary-carolynn-anderson-mcloughlin/>

Visit our Facebook page or our website: www.nsvaudubon.org
Email: shenandoahaudubon@gmail.com

2024 BLUEBIRD TRAIL TECHNICIAN WORKSHOPS

Nestbox trail managers, Kaycee Lichliter and Margaret Wester, held workshops during February and March of this year to train approximately 65 area bluebird trail technicians. If you are interested in participating with nestbox monitoring, please contact them at: kayceelichliter@hotmail.com or margaretwester@hotmail.com. Watch for nesting, productivity and survivorship data results in late October/November Oak Leaf newsletter publication.

Area Bluebird Nestbox Trails

Shenandoah Audubon Bluebird Trail at Blandy Experimental Farm

Trail Manager: Kaycee Lichliter
Funding: Shenandoah Audubon
Location: Blandy Experimental Farm
Number of nestboxes: 132

Shenandoah Audubon Bluebird Trail at Chet Hobert Park

Co-Trail Managers: Margaret Wester and Kaycee Lichliter
Funding: Clarke County Parks & Recreation
and Shenandoah Audubon
Location: Chet Hobert Park, Berryville, VA
Number of nestboxes: 12

Sky Meadows State Park Bluebird Trail

Trail Manager: Margaret Wester
Funding: Virginia Master Naturalists - Shenandoah Chapter
Location: Sky Meadows State Park, Delaplane, VA
Number of nestboxes: 100

Shenandoah Audubon Bluebird Trail at Belle Grove Plantation

Trail Manager: Kaycee Lichliter
Funding: Shenandoah Audubon
Location: Belle Grove Plantation, Middletown, VA
Number of nestboxes: 6

Seven Bends State Park Bluebird Trail

Trail Manager: Kaycee Lichliter
Funding: Anonymous Donors
Location: Seven Bends State Park, Woodstock, VA
Number of nestboxes: 20

Shenandoah Audubon Bluebird Trail at Shenandoah River State Park

Trail Manager: Lee Bowen
Funding: Shenandoah Audubon & Anonymous Donors
Location: Shenandoah River State Park, Bentonville, VA
Number of nestboxes: 107



Photo by John Keim, Clarke County Litter Committee.

Shenandoah Audubon Members assist Clarke County Litter Committee

The Clarke County Litter Committee held its second annual Celebration of Earth Day on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at the Clarke County Fairgrounds. The morning started with representatives from VDOT and Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources giving a brief overview of litter and wildlife issues. The volunteers then formed work crews and dispersed to designated locations across the county to pick up litter for two to three hours. After returning to the fairgrounds, Ms. Christi McMullen gave a glass crushing demonstration while the group enjoyed pizza and drinks. Shenandoah Audubon members, pictured left to right, Margaret Wester, Angela Schwarzkopf, Janet Rigoni and Kaycee Lichliter joined in the effort to help Keep Clarke Clean.

Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society Arboretum

Started in 1999, the Audubon Arboretum within Jim Barnett Park in Winchester now has approximately 150 of between 60-70 species. Recent additions to the arboretum include Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), Paw Paw (*Asimina triloba*), Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), Spice Bush (*Lindera benzoin*), and the first planting within the arboretum of White Oak (*Quercus alba*). Over 100 pounds of mushroom mulch have been added within the arboretum. Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon has also recently purchased 10 cubic yards of hardwood mulch to be spread around the trees.



Continued cooperation between Winchester Parks and Recreation Department and the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society, both of which provide care and management of the arboretum, makes this green space available to the public. Within this space is the Winchester Host Lions Club Sensory Trail and the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener's Pollinator's Garden. Winchester Parks and Recreation Department has submitted a proposal to add a walking trail throughout the arboretum. An additional thank you to the City of Winchester and the following Parks and Recreation staff: Director Chris Konyar, City Arborist Jordan Herring, Operations Manager Robbie Garrett and other workers who continue to help with the arboretum. A special thanks goes to Jim Smith, our former president, who was instrumental in the creation of this arboretum and continues to be involved in much that occurs within this valuable green space. We are all grateful for his continued work with the arboretum.

Donate a Tree to The NSVAS Arboretum

Trees continue to be planted at the Audubon Arboretum within Jim Barnett Park in Winchester. To donate a tree, please contact Jim Smith at 540-303-3983

Shenandoah Audubon Purple Martin Colony at Blandy Experimental Farm

On March 25, 2024, Kaycee Lichliter, Judi Booker and Susan Galbraith added pine needle nesting material to the gourds at the Purple Martin Colony in anticipation of spring arrivals. A big thank you to Larry and Judy Doton for adopting two gourds for the 2024 Season from last year's PUMA Adopt-A-Gourd program.



Photo: Wikipedia

Carolina Wrens nest atop a propane tank at home near Strasburg, Virginia

by Kaycee Lichliter

Carolina Wrens are some of the most entertaining birds to have around our homes. We hear them sing, or scold us, from nearby perches as they build delightful nests, lay their eggs, and raise their young. These are the birds that will seize the opportunity to nest in such places as in a hanging tool apron, in your front door wreath or in an old abandoned boot. I was overjoyed when I found this couple chose to nest atop my propane tank. As the Carolina Wren is a native US bird species, they are protected by The Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It is illegal to destroy a nest that has eggs or chicks in it or if there are young birds that are still dependent on the nest for survival. It is also illegal for anyone to keep a nest they take out of a tree or find on the ground unless they have a permit to do so issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Yes, you can bet that I've spoken with my propane company representative, and my nesting wrens are safe from nest removal by humans during their nesting season. Enjoy these tiny, cinnamon-colored birds as they decorate, beautify and bring our home and gardens to life.



Nest Photo: Kaycee Lichliter.



Left to right: Kaycee Lichliter, Judi Booker, Susan Galbraith lower the gourds at the Purple Martin Colony. Photo by Kaycee Lichliter.

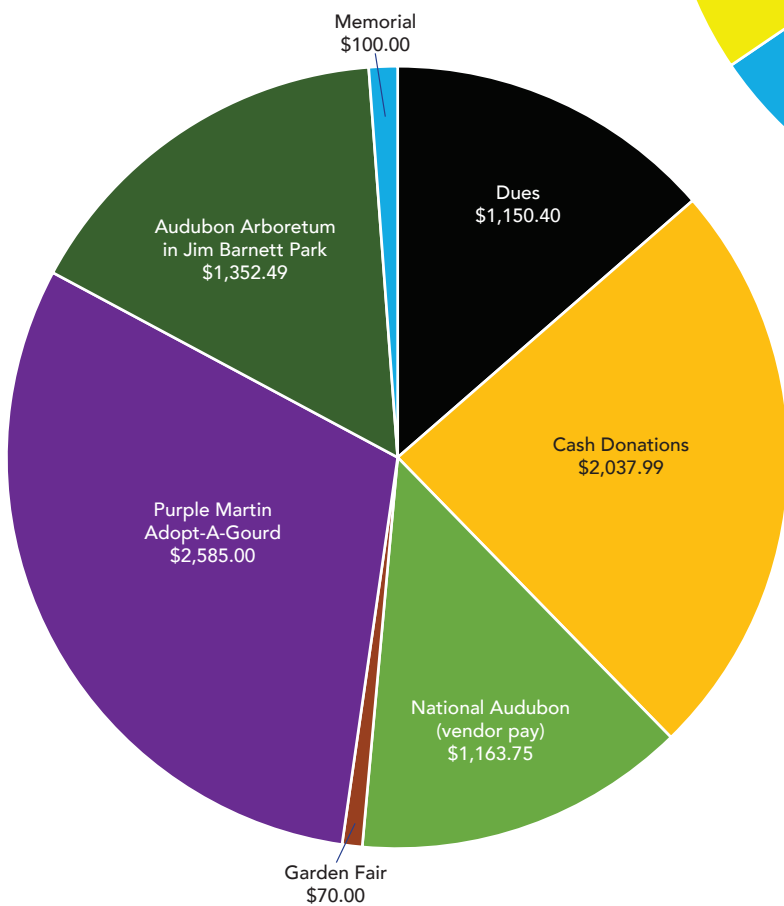
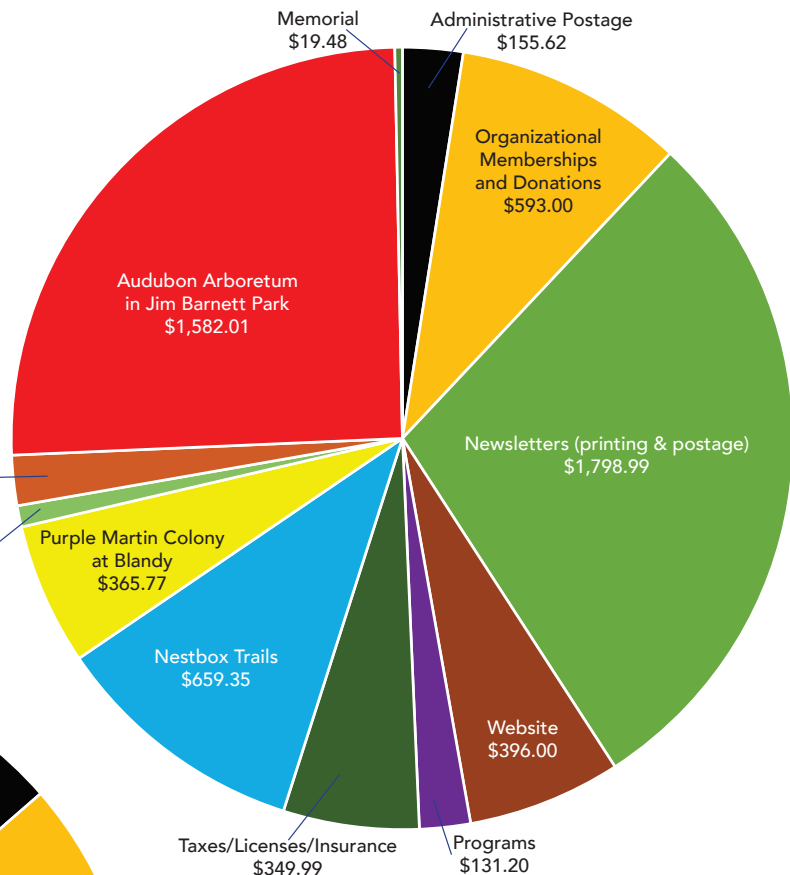
FINANCIAL REPORTS - 2023

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society

2023 Expenses \$6,237.77

Administrative Postage	\$ 155.62
Organizational Memberships/Donations	\$ 593.00
Newsletters (printing & postage)	\$1,798.99
Website	\$ 396.00
Programs	\$ 131.20
Taxes/Licenses/Insurance	\$ 349.99
Nestbox Trails	\$ 659.35
Purple Martin Colony at Blandy	\$ 365.77
Garden Fair	\$ 55.00
Patten Feeder (bird seed/Blandy)	\$ 129.36
Audubon Arboretum/Jim Barnett Park	\$1,582.01
Memorial	\$ 19.48

Total \$6,237.77



The Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society

2023 Receipts \$8,459.63

Dues	\$1,150.40
Cash Donations	\$2,037.99
National Audubon (vendor pay)	\$1,163.75
Garden Fair	\$ 70.00
Purple Martin Adopt-A-Gourd	\$2,585.00
Audubon Arboretum/Jim Barnett Park	\$1,352.49
Memorial	\$ 100.00

Total \$8,459.63

Contact our chapter by mail,
P.O. Box 52, Middletown, VA 22645
or email: shenandoahaudubon@gmail.com

Website: www.nsvaudubon.org

Shenandoah Audubon is a
501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

A copy of our financial statement is available through:
Commonwealth of Virginia, Department
of Agriculture and Consumer Service,
Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs,
P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218
Or call (804) 786-1343

Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

OFFICERS

President	Margaret Wester
Immediate Past President	Dave Borger
Past President Emeritus	Jim Smith
Vice President	Lisa Byrd
Secretary	Judi Booker
Treasurer/Finance	Kaycee Lichliter

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership	Dave Borger
Conservation	Kaycee Lichliter
Education	Open
Audubon Arboretum	Jim Smith
Programs/Public Relations	Mark Bruns
Newsletter	Angela Schwarzkopf
Webmaster/Facebook	Sharon Fisher
Field Trips	Open

ADVISORS

Advisor	Glenny Comer
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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society