



the Thrasher

Newsletter of the Richmond Audubon Society

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010 VOLUME 37, ISSUE 6

2010 Silent Auction and Potluck Dinner



November 18, Thursday at 6:00 to 8:00 PM at St. Luke Lutheran Church (at Custis Rd. and Chippenham Parkway)

This is our yearly fundraising event. We will be having door prizes, a raffle, and a silent auction. Educational walks/trips and field experiences are usually our biggest hit with attendees and this year we have many for the auction. Eagle boat tours, guided field trips, eco themed birthday parties, and many more trips and quality items await your bid. Anything a bird watcher or lover of outdoors and wildlife might want to give a hearty donation while walking away with something at the same time.

Donate, Volunteer, and Attend

This is a great event and is not to be missed. This year people will present their favorite birding pictures of the year & the stories behind them while eating some great potluck foods and of course fun fellowship of conservation & wildlife awareness. This is a great way of supporting a local non-profit conservation organization. This is our main fundraiser to keep our field trips, conservation programs, kid education programs, and all of our operating functions. So bring your potluck dish, your favorite bird photos on disc (or email them to potluckphotos@RichmondAudubon.org), and have a great time! For more info visit www.richmondaudubon.org. There is still time to donate for the auction or volunteer for the event. If you would like to donate or volunteer please contact: **Steven Dunn, Membership Chairperson, Richmond Audubon Society, membership@richmondaudubon.org, 804-647-0208.**

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Thrasher illustrations
© Carl "Spike" Knuth

Auction/Pot Luck Dinner

Gini Quarles and Lou Reza

hospitality@richmondaudubon.org,

Please join us before the auction in November for a pot luck dinner. Bring a favorite side dish or dessert (serving 4/6, **we do not** have access to an oven for heating dishes.). RAS will provide turkey, ham, drinks, plates and utensils. This meal is different from our pre-meeting dinners: there is no charge. Please label your serving dishes, if you wish them returned to you. If you have any questions about what to bring call Gini Quarles 272-6512. This is a wonderful time to meet old and new Audubon friends and share a meal. Its also a good time to invite a friend or neighbor to come along. Just send an email to RAS hospitality@richmondaudubon.org or call Gini at 272-6512, to let us know you can join the fun that evening. *THANKS and Bon Appétit!*



Richmond Audubon Society

The Richmond Audubon Society promotes the enjoyment, understanding, and preservation of birds, other wildlife, and habitat through education, advocacy, and fellowship.

Important Notices

RAS membership meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of the month except June, July, August and December. Meetings are at 7:00 PM, and are held at St. Luke Lutheran Church at Custis Road and Chippenham Parkway unless notified.

RAS Board meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday on alternate months starting in January (except June and August). In July, the Board has its annual strategic planning retreat. RAS members are welcome to attend board meetings, but let the President or Secretary know due to space considerations. Meeting locations vary; contact the President or Secretary for location details.

Richmond Audubon Society is also a chapter of the Virginia Society of Ornithology and the Virginia Conservation Network.

Richmond Audubon Society
P.O. Box 26648
Richmond, VA 23261

(804) 257-0813
www.RichmondAudubon.org

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President's Message

Earth Aid

Lewis Barnett



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As members of Richmond Audubon, we are all aware of the precarious environmental situation birds and other wildlife are facing today. Richmond Audubon pursues many avenues to address this situation. Many of us also take individual action to reduce our impact on the environment, and our home consumption of energy and water is one area where we have at least some measure of control. I'd like to draw your attention to Earth Aid (www.earthaid.net), an innovative tool for monitoring your consumption of electricity, gas and water that can ultimately pay you back for your conservation efforts. The Earth Aid web site provides members with a central "dashboard" where they can monitor their utility usage and compare it with average consumption in your local area, region, and with the country as a whole. The site leverages social networking technology by letting you create or join groups of users and compare consumption within the group. After being a member for a year, you can receive rewards in the form of coupons for local businesses based on reductions in your consumption of electricity, gas, and water from your levels of the previous year.

The rewards are nice, but to me, the monitoring and comparison features are the compelling aspect of Earth Aid. I like the fact that I have an easy way to look at my month by month consumption, and that I can look at anonymous or not-so-anonymous comparison groups to see how I'm doing. Simple awareness is a great motivator for changing my behavior, and Earth Aid combines powerful monitoring tools with a rich set of resources for discovering ways to improve my home's energy efficiency. The city of Richmond and Richmond Audubon have agreed to partner with Earth Aid to raise awareness of this interesting service. If you participate in the city's electronic billing option (which in itself preserves natural resources), then your water/wastewater and natural gas data is available. Likewise if you have an online account with Dominion Virginia Power, your electricity data is available.

I encourage you to have a look at the Earth Aid web site and read

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Publication Schedule

The Thrasher is issued six times a year. Submit articles no later than the 15th of the month before each issue. Deadlines for each issue are listed here >

- December 15th for Jan/Feb issue.
- February 15th for Mar/Apr issue.
- April 15th for May/Jun issue.
- June 15th for Jul/Aug issue.
- August 15th for Sep/Oct issue.
- October 15th for Nov/Dec issue.

Email articles to:

thrasher@richmondaudubon.org.

Images to accompany articles are encouraged, and should be at full size with a resolution of 300 dpi.

Presidents Message continued from page 2

about their services. They have a relatively strong privacy policy (part of their revenue plan depends on advertising, so they will share some information with third parties, but they do not share personally identifiable information in this way), and have a track record in a number of cities around the country, as well as endorsements from a number of environmental organizations. Before signing up, you should, of course, read through the Terms of Service. If you decide to join, be sure to sign up for the Richmond Audubon group that I've set up. We've been challenged to an Earth Aid smackdown by the Richmond Sierra Club – let's show 'em what we've got!



Field Trips

Art Baker, Field Trip Chair

These are all the RAS trips that have been submitted as of the publication date. Check the RAS listserv (if you don't subscribe the archives are at www.freelists.org/archive/va-richmond-general/) or the RAS website for any late breaking news about field trips (www.richmondaudubon.org/ActivFieldTrip.html.)

November 7th, Sunday, Bryan Park with Sue Ridd, 7:15 AM.

Come see Bryan Park from a different point of view. Each season has its own cast for your birding interests! Meet at Shelter #1. There is a Bryan Park trip on the first Sunday of each month, starting about 1/2 hour after sunrise. For more information, call Sue at (804) 270-5365.

November 13, Saturday (rain date for this trip is November 20), Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, 8:00 AM to 9:45 AM. Members FREE; Special Non-Member Cost: \$6.00. Contact: Tyler Turpin at (804) 317-9478 or tylerturpin@earthlink.net.

Sunday, November 14, Curles Neck Farm, 6:45 AM. Call or email John Coe to register for the trips. (804) 276-1397, johnwcoe@verizon.net.

Saturday, November 20, Mathews County Beaches, 7:30 AM. Join us for a walk along the Chesapeake Bay beaches in Mathews County. We will visit South Haven Beach, Bethel Beach Preserve and Piankatank River Landing. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. Bring water and dress for windy conditions. Meet at Bottoms Bridge Park and Ride lot on US60 east of Richmond at 7:30 AM. Call or email Art Baker to register for this trip. (804) 730-9127 albaker1@earthlink.net

December 5, Sunday, Bryan Park with Sue Ridd, 7:45 AM. For more information, call Sue at (804) 270-5365.

Sunday, December 19, Hopewell Christmas Bird Count. Call or email Arun Bose to sign up or get more details. (804) 335-8813, arun1bose@gmail.com.

Officers / Committee Chairs and Co-chairs for 2010-2011

President	Lewis Barnett	president@richmondaudubon.org	804-320-7898
1st Vice President	Robert McLemore	vicepresident1@richmondaudubon.org	804-556-2757
2nd Vice President	Caroline Coe	vicepresident2@richmondaudubon.org	804-276-1397
Secretary	Pete Walker	secretary@richmondaudubon.org	804-387-1071
Treasurer/Finance	Pam Dummitt	treasurer@richmondaudubon.org	804-929-3899
Past President	Pam Dummitt	pastpresident@richmondaudubon.org	804-929-3899
Auction	Vacant	auction@richmondaudubon.org	
Bird-A-Thon	Lewis Barnett	president@richmondaudubon.org	804-320-7898
Development	Vacant		
Thrasher Editor	Arun Bose	thrasher@richmondaudubon.org	804-335-8813
Education	Kim Harrell	education@richmondaudubon.org	804-282-3419
Hospitality	Gini Quarles/ Lou Reza	hospitality@richmondaudubon.org	804-272-1145
Conservation	Lori Kam	conservation@richmondaudubon.org	804-310-9014
Legislation	Eileen Geller	legislation@richmondaudubon.org	
Field Trips	Art Baker	fieldtrips@richmondaudubon.org	804-730-9127
Membership	Steven Dunn	membership@richmondaudubon.org	
Cyberspace	Bob Schamerhorn	cyberspace@richmondaudubon.org	804-929-6568
Programs	Sandy Wynne	programs@richmondaudubon.org	804-276-5520
Publicity	Diane Jadowski	publicity@richmondaudubon.org	702-308-1953
Youth	Robin Ruth	RASkids@richmondaudubon.org	804-231-5949
IBA /VAC Rep	Margaret O'Bryan	IBA@richmondaudubon.org	804-262-1656

Richmond Audubon Receives Two Grants for “RAS Kids” Activities

Mary Arginteanu

North Face gave \$2,500 for an “Outdoor Adventure” project with Church Hill youngsters. This gives us an opportunity to work with Peter Paul Development Center (PPDC), a vibrant after-school and summer program. Working with the PPDC staff we will organize outings such as fishing, kayaking, tree climbing as well as RAS specialties such as visits to see the heron rookery, nesting Ospreys and Owls.

Several “RAS Kids” volunteers have been working with PPDC staff and youngsters AND with Tricycle Gardens over the past Spring and Summer. We’re glad to be able to expand our partnership with PPDC.

Salisbury Garden Club received a \$1,000 “Living Art Garden” grant from the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs. The funds will be used to develop an

“Impressionist Garden” at Swansboro School. This “garden” will complement the native plant garden and the student-planted garden of “crops” and flowers.

These gardens are increasingly used by teachers and students for academic lessons and for fun.

Grant funds such as these help “RAS Kids” expand activities, BUT they are no substitute for the generous financial support from the RAS budget and from individual RAS members. It is these funds that give us the flexibility to purchase the necessary materials to build activities

for the kids: for example, bird seed for the feeders, thermometers for measurement exercises, colorful worksheets for scavenger hunts etc. We continue to need the core support from RAS that comes without the strings that accompany other funding sources.



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Chapter Membership Application
Yes, please enroll me (us) as a **new** member(s) of both National and Richmond Audubon Societies at the address below, **at the introductory rate**. A subscription to the NAS magazine, **Audubon** is included.
 Individual/Family Member(s) \$20 enclosed
 Student/Senior Member \$15 enclosed

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Make check payable to **National Audubon Society** and write “COZX530Z” on the check. Send your check and application to:
Richmond Audubon Society,
P.O. Box 26648, Richmond, VA 23261
COZX530Z



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