

# THE RIVER RUNS

News from the Cowpasture River Preservation Association

## **Range-wide Study on Rare Songbird Touches Down in the Allegheny Highlands**

*By Laurel Schablein, Conservation Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy*

One of the Commonwealth of Virginia’s rarest songbirds, the Golden-winged Warbler (GWWA), has a population stronghold in Bath and Highland counties. Long sought after by birders, this diminutive species is now the subject of an international study funded by the National Science Foundation. Dr. Henry Streby, UC-Berkeley Postdoctoral Research Fellow, is leading the effort to better understand the range-wide long distance migration of GWWAs, as well as Blue-winged Warblers and hybrids between the two species.



The ‘light-level’ locators (above) track movements between wintering and breeding grounds by calculating the individual’s position using sunrise and sunset times. Each weighs only 0.45 gram.

These days, most animal migration studies employ real-time satellite tracking, but GWWAs are too small to carry even the lightest transmitters. However, recent advances in miniature archival “light-level” loggers called geolocators have offered a solution to tracking birds weighing in at only 8-10 grams (you could mail three with a postage stamp). Dr. Streby’s team initiated deployment of over 400 geolocators across the species’ entire breeding range, visiting 20 sites and working with many collaborators throughout the country.



GWWA shown in the photo was tagged at Chimney Run Farm, owned by Lee Elliott and Bill Jones, a CRPA Board member.

Here in the Commonwealth, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and The Nature Conservancy partnered with Dr. Lesley Bulluck and

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) to capture and “tag” GWWAs in the Allegheny Highlands, including sites in or near the Cowpasture River watershed. At one site, Chimney Run Farm, owned by Lee Elliott and CRPA Board member Bill Jones, the VCU crew deployed geolocators on four male GWWAs. Within two

weeks they had deployed 25 geolocators across both counties, including two on Brewster hybrids. GWWA males show strong fidelity to their breeding sites, and after wintering somewhere in the tropics later this year, the birds will return to be recaptured next spring, their geolocators removed, and the data downloaded. From that data, Dr. Streby’s team will be able to determine more



Drs. Bulluck’s and Streby’s crews at Chimney Run.

specifically where the individual birds spent their winter. This information is critical for land managers linking full life cycle conservation actions for this species on both their breeding and wintering grounds.

### Inside This Issue

- Golden-winged Warblers
- From the President
- Executive Director’s Corner
- Annual Meeting Highlights
- Association News
- Member Spotlight
- Upcoming Events
- Annual Picnic Details
- Member Thank You







## Member Spotlight

### Welcome Dale Perry

#### Where are you from?

I was born and raised in Clifton Forge, with family still there. I left the area to work at Newport News Shipbuilding almost 30 years ago. When I retire from the Shipyard I will be moving back home.

#### What is your connection with the Cowpasture River or area?

Having grown up in Clifton Forge I spent many a day and night fishing, paddling, tubing and just enjoying the Cowpasture. With friends and family having property and camps along the river I always had access. It is a treat when I get a trip home and get to spend a little time on the Cowpasture.

#### Why did you join the CRPA?

I finally found a piece of property to purchase on the Cowpasture in 2012, fulfilling a lifelong dream. My next goal is to build a new camp on the property. It is in the Griffith area. My best friend and his family gave me a membership for my birthday. Owning property on the river means taking responsibility for it, and being a member of CRPA helps achieve the need to keep the river clean and pristine. I want to see the river stay this way.



## Upcoming Events



Members at the spring Walton Tract Clean Up: (front row) Bucky Wells (Potomac Hunt Club), Dale Perry, Lisa Beckstrom; (back row) Dave Peters, Marek Smith, Joe Wood.

**-CRPA Picnic/Family Fun Day** will be held on Saturday, August 1, 2015 at Lynchburg Camp. Details and registration information are listed on page 6 of this newsletter and at <http://www.cowpastureriver.org/events>.

**-Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Training** event will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2015 (rain date is Saturday, August 15, 2015). This training is a collaborative effort with Virginia Save our Streams (VA SOS) and the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) and will help certify some of our current monitors through the VA SOS program and also provide an opportunity for any members interested in getting involved with our monitoring program to learn more! **Limited spots are available for this free training.** Please contact Lisa at [directorcrpa@gmail.com](mailto:directorcrpa@gmail.com) or 704-930-8243 to register.

**-2015 Mid-Atlantic Volunteer Monitoring Conference *Bridging the Water Quality Data Gap*** will be held from August 6-8, 2015 at the Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA. Information about this conference can be found at <https://vcwq.wordpress.com/>.

**-Walton Tract Clean Up**, Saturday, October 24. If you are interested in helping out with this, please contact Lisa at [directorcrpa@gmail.com](mailto:directorcrpa@gmail.com) or 704-930-8243.



# Thank You To Our Loyal Watershed Members

Includes dues and gifts received between November 1, 2014 and July 1, 2015. If you don't see your name listed, it is time to send in your dues. Thanks for your continued support and welcome to our new members. **Bold** = dues/gifts since last issue.

## **Bedrock Patron**

Lissy and Stewart Bryan  
Kent and Ellen Ford  
Tim and Lynn Pistell  
George and Frances Phillips  
Ross Waller and Ann Huebner

## **Wallawhatoola Society**

Betty and Lou Robinson  
Celia and Jim Rutt  
Chip Snead  
Michael Wildasin  
Cynthia and Roger Baroody  
H.B. Thomson, III  
Pam and Lucius Bracey  
Don Thomson  
Jim and Ann McVey  
Nolan and Hope Nicely  
Elizabeth Biggs and Nelson Hoy  
Crossroads Mill Foundation

## **Watershed Steward**

Anne Warner  
Read Lunsford  
Dick and Glovie Lynn  
Allan and Becky Howerton  
Talfourd and Christine Kemper  
Michael and Patricia Christian  
Morrison and Meryl Manner  
Jean Ann Manner  
John and Caryl Cowden  
Bob and Ann Hilton

## **Joan Rule**

## **Headwaters Circle**

Charles and Linda Lunsford  
Jim and Bonnie Fitzgerald  
Leighton and Pinky Houck  
Annette Kirby  
John Percy  
Martha Rule  
Keturah Bracey and Jay Horine  
Walnut Tree Farm  
Puggy and Kathy Farmer  
Jon and Kathy Jencks  
Carrington Pasco  
Mike and Peggy Van Yahres  
Robert and Mina Wood  
Keith Carson and Polly Newlon  
Robert C. Watts, III  
Charles Black  
Wayne Cross  
Jim English and Trisha Noel  
Billy and Susan Frank  
Elizabeth Hereford  
Mac McLaughlin  
Dave and Sandra Peters

The Sutton Family  
William and Barbara Tavenner  
Ten Eyck and Eleanor Wellford  
Anna and Tom Lawson  
David Kirk  
Philip Watt  
Eddie and Sheri Walters  
Norwood and Susan Morrison  
John H. Turner, Jr.  
Mike Crowder  
Paul Higgins  
Marlibba Farms  
The White Family  
**Mary Powell-McDaniel**  
**Martha Manner-Brown**  
**Jeffery and Debra Perdue**  
**Terry and Mary Margaret King**

## **River Guardians**

WG and Maxine Anderson  
Richard Hanlon  
Jon and Betsy Lasley  
Philip Agee  
Donald Arnold  
Clarence "Al" Cleveland  
Mike and Shirley Cunningham  
Mike Goode  
Layton Hulette  
Reverend Carl Pattison and Rachel Johnson  
Mark Koslen  
Edward Metzger  
Mike Light  
Elizabeth and Lloyd Lipscomb  
Jeff and Kimberly Mollohan  
Tommy and Kelly Slusser  
Mr. and Mrs. Bonnie Higgins Carpenter  
Ray Cheseldine  
Michael Brown  
Richard and Suzanne Miller  
Fred and Peggy Paxton  
Lillian McClain  
Bill and Eleanor Washburn  
Dick and Jean Miller  
Alice Buck  
Anne Caldwell and Lou Houff  
Percy and Anne Montague  
Jim and Katherine Morris  
Lang Murray  
Matthew Richardson  
Matt and Katie Howerton  
Mr. and Mrs. William Wilson, III  
Elizabeth Van Lear  
Scott Williams  
Roy Simmons and Sally Branch  
**LCDR John P. DeVenny, Jr.**  
**Layton Hulette**  
**Lois and Gary Johnson**

## **David Ray**

**Michael and Marla Whiteside**  
**Jo Ann Gideons**  
**Rick and Peggy Terrell (New Members)**  
**Matt and Linda Cauley**  
**Tal and Kelly Kemper (New Members)**

## **Individual**

Dee Lobe  
Channing Hall, III  
Dan Miles  
Elsie Slough  
Lynda Davies  
Michael Jamison  
Barbara Keller  
William Mahone, V  
Dale C. Perry  
Adele and James Lambiase  
Frances Wright Wolfe (Robert K.)  
William Lipscomb  
Eddie Stinespring  
Michael Stolar  
Mary Curtis Stolar  
Mead Stolar  
Turner Stolar  
Dr. Susan Virginia Mead  
Mellea Mead  
Otis Mead  
Mary Ellen Plitt and Henry Dickerson  
Jenny Shepherd Bertelsen  
Bill Hardbarger (gift)  
Jim LaVier  
Howard and Nancy Dobbs  
Elizabeth Young  
Morgan Mead  
Christopher Peters  
John Redick  
Bowie Shepherd  
Sally Bingley  
J. Lesslie Hall, III  
Dimmitt K. Houff  
Wade Evans  
James Shelton  
Gilbert Ramey  
Andrew Bostic  
Jim Thomson  
Bruce Thomson  
Rob Thomson  
**Jim Slough (New Member)**  
**Everette Mays, Jr.**  
**Elizabeth and Michael Kemper**  
**(New Members)**  
  
**In Memory of:**  
**Garnett Bailey MoneyMaker**  
**Martha Ruggles**



Cowpasture River  
Preservation Assn.

P.O. Box 215

Millboro, VA 24460

STANDARD  
PRESORT  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 38  
DALEVILLE, VA

**Not a member? Join today!**

- \$20 Individual (minimum annual membership donation)
- \$50 River Guardian
- \$100 Headwaters Circle
- \$250 Watershed Steward  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- \$500 Wallawhatoola Society
- >\$500 Bedrock Patron
- Junior Membership(s): 15 years and under; Cost = 4 hrs./year volunteer service

NAME(S) As You Want Them Published \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY — STATE — ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

- I prefer not to have my name published as a contributor.
- I am interested in becoming a volunteer river monitor.
- I want to help save valuable resources, please send my newsletter by email.