



Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

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Fall 2022

President's Perch

Inside this issue:

Autumn is a spectacular time of year to be outdoors taking advantage of backyard birding as the leaves begin to change into a panorama of colors. It can also be a fleeting time as the temperature drops and days grow shorter. Birds have mated, taken care of their offspring and many are gearing up for their long journey south.

From a birding perspective, spring and fall migrations can be very exciting times. On a recent outing, I heard an individual express that bird migration reminded him of the Beetle's song "Hello, Goodbye." In the fall, we say goodbye to flycatchers, orioles, hummingbirds, thrushes, etc. and say hello to juncos, snow geese, white-throated sparrows, pine siskins, etc. It was a novel way of expressing his viewpoint on migration. Migration can also provide us with an opportunity to see some birds we might not otherwise have a chance to view.

Sometimes our best birding days depend on being at the right place at the right time. Part of this can be attributed to basic understanding of birds, but also weather patterns. Last year I mentioned some tools that can help with migration patterns. One was [Birdcast](#), created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It was recently updated to include a Migration Dashboard. Type in the name of the county or state and it will provide some additional information including a list of nocturnal migrants. Another tool is called [The Migration Explorer](#), by Audubon. Rather than a real-time instrument, it is an interactive map that can track over 450 species of birds in the Americas. You can track individual birds or species that travel over specific locations, like your backyard. It also discusses conservation challenges that birds are exposed to during their travels.

Although the Harford Bird Club is currently searching for a Field Trip Chairperson, we were able to schedule several trips for the fall. Please check our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) for current listings. It does require some time, but if we can divide it up in smaller chunks, it would take a lot less time. Maybe co-chairs, one for spring and one for fall? Any thoughts on this would be greatly appreciated.

Speaking of field trips, an article entitled ["8 Great Places to See the Mid-Atlantic's Migrating Birds"](#) was recently published by the Washington Post. A popular location referenced in the article close to us is Turkey Point, Elk State Park, Cecil County. On a recent field trip there, we enjoyed observing a nice variety of warblers and other songbirds. It is also noted for its raptor sightings. I'm sure we all have our favorite places to view birds! But for so many of us, the most important thing is carving out the time to do it with such busy schedules.

Happy Birding!

~Joe Stevens, President

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Plan Ahead!

- **Sat, Dec 31, 2022**
Christmas Bird Count
- **Fri, Jan 13, 2023**
Virtual Meeting, *Birding the Low Countries*,
Presenter: Gary Van Velsir
- **May 12—21, 2023**
MOS 75th Annual
Convention, Wisp Resort,
Garrett County, MD

Be there.

Bird Droppings



Club News?

Have news the club should know about? Births, deaths, marriages, or any other notable events that belong in the newsletter? Please contact Secretary

Deb Stewart: 410-879-2364 or debstewart1307@gmail.com.

New Members

A warm Harford Bird Club welcome goes out to the following new members:

Brenden Biondi, Towson
Gabrielle Feldman & Megan Perry, Uniontown, PA
Cyle Griffith & Jennifer Chappell, Delta, PA
James & Dana Hollcroft, Delta, PA
Judith Margulies, Kennett Square, PA

Anna Campbell, Whiteford
Jack Fuller, Forest Hill
Katie Haines, Bel Air
Erline Kingsbury, Forest Hill
Bethany Peck, Abingdon



Thank you for joining. We look forward to seeing you out there on our birding trips and at our meetings!

Membership dues for the September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023 year are past due.

Please complete [the online form](#), or print and fill out the form on page 12. and mail your dues to Eric Vangrin. Remember The Harford Bird Club is a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society. Paying online or by check to Eric includes you on the club roster for both the Maryland Ornithological Society and the Harford Bird Club.

HARFORD BIRD CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD

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A Huge Harford Bird Club Thank You!

Congratulations Tom Gibson and great big thank you for your 15 years of leadership as HBC Field Trip Committee Chair.



HBC President Joe Stevens presented Tom Gibson with a Certificate of Appreciation at the HBC November 4th Meeting.

Songbird Hybrid Discovery in Western PA

A combination of the rose-breasted grosbeak and bright colored scarlet tanager was discovered by Penn State researchers in Lawrence County, PA in June, 2020. The bird was identified with genomic sequencing and song analysis. It's the first documented bird of its kind. The confirmation was published in combination with researchers from the University of Pittsburgh and the National Aviary.

Learn more by [reading the October, 2022 Pittsburgh NPR News Station article.](#)

Remembering Raymond "Jerry" Strickroth



Raymond G. "Jerry" Strickroth, age 86, of Bel Air, Maryland passed away on August 28th at his home. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, he was a veteran of the U.S. Army National Guard where he retired as Chief Warrant Officer in December 1995 after 42 years. He was a member of St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Hickory where he volunteered as a maintenance worker since 1975. He was the first gardener in the grotto at the church. Jerry enjoyed taking care of many gardens around the house. He also enjoyed watching football, fishing, crabbing and spending time with his family.

Jerry was a member of the Harford County Birding Club, where he perfected his photography skills through many trips throughout the country. He was a huge asset to the Harford Bird Club; his engineering and design skills made things easier for everyone at the Eden Mill Banding Station. He designed the "Bird Hotel" that is still used to transport birds back to the station. He designed the system to hold the net poles so they don't fill with dirt between seasons. Most importantly, he filled the station with love and laughter. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jerry's family.

Field Trip Reports

Bombay Hook—July 17, 2022

David Larkin

Three Harford County birders made the trip to Bombay Hook. The day was overcast and relatively cool for Maryland in July. The cloudy skies kept the temperature down, but more importantly made for good seeing light at Bombay. On our way to Bombay, we stopped at Woodland Beach where we had good views of Marsh Wren and Barn Swallow. The Fall shorebird migration had begun and the ponds at Bombay had a nice collection of shorebirds including Pectoral Sandpiper. There was also three Black Skimmers on one of the ponds which were nice to see. A small group of Wood Duck in Eclipsed plumage were also an interesting sight. Overall, we had 51 species for the day.

Ma & Pa Trail—September 5, 2022

Susan Hood

Ten of us had a nice stroll along the Fallston section of this popular paved trail which passes through farm fields along a shelter belt, past Winters Run and a few small ponds, through woodlands and along a small stream. It was a calm and mild morning, and we observed most of the usual residents plus a few migrant warblers (Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler), a stray Chimney Swift, a couple Purple Martins, a White-Eyed Vireo (my first there) and several Warbling Vireos, which are usually present and singing in good numbers, but not always this late in the season. I was very happy to hear another first for that site, a Blue Grosbeak singing near Winters Run, and was glad to locate the bird at the top of a young Sycamore tree with a female just a foot below. Just minutes later, another exciting sighting was an American Bittern flying by, not too far from the trail. A Great Egret was hunting at an adjacent pond on the golf course, and a Killdeer was also heard. A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were energetically feeding, and several Gray Catbirds were quite active, and many Eastern Bluebirds were enjoyed in different molts. American Goldfinches were particularly numerous and noisy. We counted 44 species on this beautiful day.



Walk to Falling Branch—September 21, 2022

Dennis Kirkwood, Ed.D

The Harford Bird Club joined the Harford Land Trust for a birding walk from Eden Mill to Falling Branch. Five Land Trust participants joined 5 club members on a beautiful last day of Summer. Unfortunately the birds were rather scarce but we did have a nice Red-tailed Hawk fly over, a pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks on their southward migration, and a decent look at a fall-plumaged Bay-breasted Warbler. We totaled 15 species but the interesting scenery and flora of this stream valley kept our attention in between bird sightings.

****[Review Harford Bird Club Field Trip Policies](#)****

Rock Run Christmas Count—Save the Date



It's almost time again for the annual Rock Run Christmas Bird Count (RRCBC), being held December 31st! The RRCBC is a great time to blow off the winter blues and get some quality time outdoors. Teams attempt to count every bird in sectors divided up from a 10 km radius from the Rock Run Mill in both Harford and Cecil Counties in a single 24-hour period. Traditionally, individuals who counted sectors previously have preference for returning to them again; however, we appreciate all the help we can get and we often have open sectors that are not counted. [Learn More](#) by visiting the Audubon website. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Mark Johnson by calling 410.692.5978 or [email](#).

Chimney Swift Habitat Project

Debbie Bowers

Many birds have lost habitat due to the destruction of forests, and this includes the chimney swift. As forests diminished, and settlers increased, these birds found chimneys to be close replicas of tree trunk cavities. So long as chimneys were no longer being used in the springtime as the swifts arrived to North America, they served the purpose for nesting. But now, as the use of wood for heat has diminished, homeowners have capped their chimneys to keep out critters such as squirrels and bats.

But if a chimney in your home no longer has an entrance into a home interior, please consider uncapping. I have a volunteer ready to perform this task if you [email me](#).

Slate Roof

Have a slate roof? No problem, the volunteer is bonded and insured, and has experience on slate roofs. It is wonderful to hear chimney swifts in a chimney during the nesting season, and especially to see a flock entering a chimney at dusk. The bird club may have an opportunity to witness this spectacle if a certain location in Havre de Grace is active. We will keep you informed.

Chimney swifts are described by Cornell as an “enigmatic little bird” that “spends almost its entire life airborne.” Swifts don’t perch. They have to cling to vertical surfaces.



Interested in Hosting?

If you don’t have an old unused chimney, would you consider hosting, on your property, the construction of a “roosting tower” for chimney swifts? We can determine whether your site would be a good location. Or, do you know of a place where such construction could occur? Roosting towers are free standing, and about 12 feet tall. Please get in touch with me for more information or explore chimney swift conservation on the web.

75th Annual MOS Convention—Save the Date!



MOS (Maryland Ornithological Society) is busy planning the annual convention for next year, to be held **May 19 - 21, 2023** at the [Wisp Resort](#) in Garrett County, MD. [Check the convention website](#) to keep up with the latest information! Volunteers are needed for registration check-in and leading field trips.

If you are interested in volunteering, please [send an email](#) to MOS and provide your name, email address, phone number, and area of interest.

Harford Bird Club Grant Update

By Kim Andreen

Next time, you walk the Joe K. Loop Trail in Havre de Grace, keep an eye out for a new wood duck box placed by 8th grade Girl Scouts, Faith Andreen, Olivia Marcello, and Sarah Weitzel. Thank you to the Harford Bird Club for donating funds to order a wood duck box kit for the girls to construct. They worked hard to research, raise funds, assemble, and place the box in the Frank's Pond. It was an adventure for them along the way and they look forward to future wood duck families using it!



Audubon's The Birdsong Project

-A movement inspiring bird conservation through art-

The Birdsong Project initiative celebrates the joy birds bring to our lives and brings attention to the message they have for us about the environmental threats we all face.

As what has happened to so many during the pandemic, Randall Poster, a New York resident, discovered birds in his community when sheltering at home because of Covid-19. Together with colleague and executive producer Rebecca Reagan, they decided to invite artists and musicians to create art with a foundation in birdsongs inspired by the beauty of these amazing creatures.

The project has grown into a collection of 242 original songs and poems about birds. Through this effort, people can help share the important messages that birds matter, are endangered, and need our help.



[Listen to the September interview by NPR's Bob Boilen.](#)

[Stream the music collection.](#)

Harford Birdlife

by Monroe Harden



Summer birding often winds down as the migrants move on and the breeders hunker down and raise their new young. Then summer leads to fall and we get more migrants. The first few arrived during this reporting period, which covers the period from June 1st through August 31st, 2022.

Swans, Ducks, Herons, Ibises, Gulls, Cuckoos

MJ reported the continuing pair of Trumpeter Swans in the marshy areas near the Edgewood Home Depot on July 1st. They were reported by others throughout the rest of the period. MJ also saw a male American Black Duck at Susquehanna State Park on July 6th. He also saw a female at Swan Harbor on July 7th. CK saw a male there on July 6th. JH found 2 Ring-necked Ducks at Mariner Point Park on June 3rd. MJ saw a female Lesser Scaup at the Woodley Road ponds on June 18th. It was reported there through June 24th.



Black-billed Cuckoo, Photographer: Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren

JM saw a Snowy Egret near Chelsea Road on August 11th. MJ reported an adult Little Blue Heron flying over Churchville on June 11th. He also saw a Glossy Ibis at Swan Harbor on July 16th. On June 26th, he saw a Mississippi Kite soaring over Whiteford. JP reported an American Coot at Tydings Park on June 25th. MJ found 3 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Tidewater Marina on August 22nd. They appeared to be in first summer plumage. KEC reported a Caspian Tern at the Gunpowder Marsh on June 26th. JM saw 2 Black-billed Cuckoos near Steppingstone Museum on July 27th.

Goatsuckers, Ravens, Swallows, Warblers, Sparrows, Bobolinks

DB saw several Common Nighthawks flying near her Street home on August 25th. EW reported a Common Raven at Pohickey Farm on June 10th and June 26th. He heard two at Eden Mill on August 17th. MJ saw and heard two soaring together near Lapidum Road on June 20th. GF noted at least 100 Swallows flying near the Havre de Grace Promenade on July 10th. MJ saw a Brewster's Warbler near Steppingstone Museum on August 29th. He and JM saw a Tennessee Warbler near Chelsea Road on August 16th. JM reported a Black-throated Blue Warbler near Falling Branch Road on August 20th. DB saw a Pine Warbler at her Street home on August 26th. BP found a female or immature male Mourning Warbler at Sweet Air Park on August 28th. LH saw a late White-throated Sparrow and a male Bobolink at the Elkridge Harford Hunt Club on June 3rd.



Common Nighthawk, Photographer Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren

Contributors: BP- Brad Phoebus, CK- Colin Krug, DB- Debbie Bowers, EW- Eric Walther, GF- Greg Futral, JH- Jim Hull, JM- John Manger, JP- Jean Palanuwech, KEC- Keith Eric Costley, LH- Lani Hyde, MJ- Mark Johnson

Central Columbia Trip Report

Jean Wheeler

In June, Jane Scocca, Susan and Bob Hood, and I departed for Medellin, Colombia for a long-awaited, twice postponed birding trip to Central Colombia. Yes, that Medellin, which would have been unthinkable just ten years ago. Colombia has improved infrastructure, comfortable and safe lodging, and fantastic birds in phenomenal habitat. We never felt threatened or unsafe, and the people are delightfully friendly. We traveled with five others from California. All had been vaccinated and boosted.



This is a high-altitude trip as the Northern Andes split into three distinct ranges, Eastern, Central, and Western in Colombia. We traveled from the western range to the central and into the eastern range. These are distinct regions and bird life differs in each. We were guaranteed 100% that there would be rain. It did rain every day, but we were never rained out! Our first morning was spent in a small patch of cloud forest at about 6800 ft. The brilliant Red-bellied Grackle was our first endemic. Great looks of Slate-throated Whitestart and Golden Tanager were enjoyed by all. After a couple of hours, we loaded into the van to begin what was supposed to be about 4 -5 hours' drive to Las Tangaras Reserve in the Choco Cloud forest on the west slope of the Western Andes. Road construction and subsequent traffic jams caused major delays and we were on the road about 8 hours, arriving at our lodging well after dark. The next morning, we rode in 4-wheel drive vehicles up to the reserve at 5200-5600 feet. First stop was the upper hummingbird feeders. Rufous-gaped Hillstar, Violet-tailed Sylph, Purple-throated Woodstar were just a few of the many species feeding hungrily. A Toucan Barbet perched for all to see. Lunch was brought up to us from the lodge. We began to notice one of the participants was coughing quite a bit. By the time we returned to the lodge and started to view the hummers at the "lower" feeders, it was obvious this man was quite ill with fever and chills. He didn't test until the next morning when he was positive for COVID and opted to leave the trip.

We went up to the reserve again and enjoyed these wonderful hummers and cloud forest species. We even saw Torrent Tyrannulet fly catching from a rock in the river as we were returning to the lodge. Two more persons tested positive, Jane and Susan. Jane became quite ill and left the trip two days later. While the rest of us soldiered on. Susan had mild symptoms, no one else was ill.

Our next stop was Jardin at 5600 feet. On the way we descended to the lowlands of the Cauca valley where we had a great sighting of a pair of Spectacled Owls. In Jardin we enjoyed great views of Andean Cock-of-the-Rock on a lek. The following day bouncing about in Jeeps we ascended a dirt road to 8000 to 9000 feet. We were so lucky to see a group of about 30 Yellow-eared Parrots feeding in "the flavor of the week" trees. This was no quick fly by look, but long satisfying views of feeding and family behavior, groups of 3 life-long mates with a youngster. The next day plans changed when we ascended to the Yellow-eared Parrot reserve only to find the road blocked by landslides due to the heavy overnight rains. Not to worry. We went back to the lodge for breakfast and a call for heavy road equipment went out. Within about 2 hours the road was cleared, and we had lunch at Casa de Lucia (9100 feet). Surrounded by hummers at the feeding station and some great food and juices.

Con't, p 9

Central Columbia Birding Expedition, continued

The next stop was Manizales where lodging was modern and quite comfortable. The spectacular Rio Blanco Reserve (8275 feet) was our destination for the following day. We had breakfast at the Reserve, which was developed to protect Manizales' water supply. Bird life is abundant, and it is known for its 4-habituated species of antpittas. We saw Chestnut-crowned, Brown-banded, and Bicolored Antpitta. What a treat! Hummingbirds were zooming about feeders, and we enjoyed great looks of Speckled Hummingbird and Tourmaline Sunangel. A pair of White-capped Dippers played on the dam overflow as we were exiting the Reserve.



Chestnut-crowned antpitta, Photographer: Jean Wheeler

That night the Manizales Health Department became aware of our group, and we all were COVID tested early next morning. Everyone except my two friends from California tested positive. These two women opted not to bird with us anymore and went to Pereira for the last three nights. The rest of us were not allowed to stay at the Hotel where the hot springs were, nor could we enter Los Nevados National Park.



*Andean Pygmy-Owl,
Photographer: Susan Hood*

Therefore, before going to Pereira we drove up the road to Los Nevados (13,500 feet) so we could experience the Paramo and see the unique sunflower the Espeletia. The best part of this trip was going to be the last two days and COVID cheated us. We did see some magnificent country and even managed to see a few species in the area including Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager, Black Flowerpiercer, and the Equatorial Antpitta. So even though we couldn't explore the magical area as planned we had a spectacular sighting of an Andean Pygmy-Owl! The pygmy owl call was broadcast to drum up some songbirds, but as luck had it a very responsive owl answered, and Susan's great spotting ability picked it out in a treetop, while the rest of us were looking lower down!! Way to go Susan!

The remaining two days in Pereira were not completely lost as Mark Pretti our guide located some ebird hotspots nearby with the best being the Jardin Botanico of Pereira. We had great looks at Spectacled Parrotlet, Chestnut-fronted Macaw, and Bar-crested Antshrike among many others. We had over 250 species for the total trip!

Field Trip Committee Chairperson Opening

The Harford Bird Club is looking for a Field Trip Committee Chairperson. No future field trips have been scheduled at this time. If you would like to volunteer to lead the Field Trip Committee, or would like more information as to what the position entails, please do not hesitate to contact Tom Gibson and/or Joe Stevens. The committee is also looking for some additional members, who meet two or three times a year to help brainstorm new trip ideas and help set a schedule of upcoming trips. *Please consider volunteering.*

HBC Member Sightings & Sharings



Upper Left: Great Blue Heron, Home, September 29, Photographer: Bob Reynolds

Upper Center: Bald Eagle, Conowingo Dam, October 27, Photographer: Marc Butt

Upper Right: White-breasted Nuthatch, Home, November 4, Photographer: Laura Ashley Cooper

Mid Center: Pintail, Bombay Hook, November 18, Photographer: Kimberly Oliver

Mid Right: Little Blue Heron, Juvenile, Havre de Grace Promenade, September 30, Photographer: Donna Benjamin

Bottom Center: Wood Duck, Big Branch at Eden Mill, September 30, Photographer: Frank Marsden III

****These photos have been shared with the group by posting on the HBC Facebook Page****

Please continue providing pictures on Harford Bird Club's [Facebook](#) page, or [email the Wenderinlins editor](#) to share with the membership. Whether you are a long-time, avid bird photographer or novice, we love sharing everyone's pictures and joy of birding!

**HBC members enjoying a Great Horned Owl,
Photographer: Ruth A Bergstrom**



Virtual Meeting—Save the Date!



Birding the Low Countries

Presenter: Gary Van Velsir

Friday, January 13, 2023 at 7 pm

Please RSVP by 10 am on January 13th if you wish to attend. Everyone registered will receive a link for Google Meet in the afternoon before the meeting. If needed, [review this refresher](#) on how to use Google Meet.

Vice President's Voice

Sue Procell

Silent Migration

Do you feel it? Another great migration is underway and soon will be wrapping up! Just a few short months ago, migrants were on the move from the south, flowing into North America and spreading out to establish territories and regenerate their species in favorite breeding grounds. With a slight nip in the air, and leaves beginning to fall, these same birds, along with their prodigy, are heading back to their southern wintering grounds. There is a difference though. With many more on the wing, the goal of this migration is not to noisily establish territory and breed, but to safely, quietly navigate a multitude of pitfalls on their way back home. If, like me, you enjoy using your Merlin Bird ID app to record the bird song around you, you will have noticed that the birds around you are, for the most part, silent as they move about in the foliage. You'll also notice, once you have them in sight, that their plumage is earthier in tone, allowing them to blend in with their environment as they stealthily feed and move. Yes, it's quiet, but strap on your gear, get out, and cheer on our feathered friends as they silently migrate through our forests and fields, and past our shores. To see what's happening live all around, visit BirdCast at [Migration tools - BirdCast](#). Enjoy!



Trapped! Help!

The other morning my husband, Larry, whipped out his phone to show me a picture of a bird he had found trapped in our garage. To my dismay, and delight, I saw that it was a **Common Yellowthroat warbler, see left**. I rushed to the garage to lend it a hand. The bird was perched at a window, clearly frozen with confusion and fear. I turned off the garage light and opened a large garage door, offering the bird a clear, obvious exit route. The warbler waited until I started to approach it, then quickly made its escape. This was not my first experience this year with a bird trapped in our home.

Earlier in the spring, with our windows and doors opened to the cool air, we had a Tufted Titmouse fly into our home and then wing about quite frantically trying to find a way back out. Again, I darkened the room where I found it and opened up a window to show it the way out. Have you had a similar experience? Did you know what to do? Darkening the environment around the bird, opening a door or window with light behind it, and then settling in for what could be a long effort is how I approach such situations. With patience, the bird usually escapes, or becomes so exhausted that you can carefully, gently collect it and release it. If the bird becomes injured, contact a local rehabber.

Two great local resources to help: [Phoenix Wildlife Center](#) and [Tri-state Bird Rescue and Research](#).



HARFORD BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you would like to join or renew your Harford Bird Club and MOS membership, please print this page and mail the completed form along with a check to:

Eric Vangrin
1100 Barkley Place
Bel Air, MD. 21014

Membership Year - September 1, 2021 - August 31, 2022

- () Individual \$33.00 () Sustaining \$63.00
() Life (see below) () Household \$39.00
() Junior \$10.00

OR

Memberships for those who are either members of another MOS Chapter or are
MOS Life Members.

- () Individual \$13.00 () Household \$19.00

Please indicate your MOS membership status:

- () MOS Life Member (After 9/1/90)
() Member of _____ MOS Chapter

_____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Make checks payable to Harford County MOS)

- () New Harford Bird Club Membership* () Renewal

Please give names below as they should appear on the membership list.

Married couples should give both names.

Name _____

Street & # _____

City, State _____

Zip Code _____ Telephone _____

Email Address _____

- () Check here if this is a new address, phone number or email
() Check here if you object to having your name, address, and phone number listed in the state directory.

*If a new member, how did you find out about the Harford County Bird Club?

An "Individual" membership is anyone 18 or older.

A "Junior" membership is someone younger than 18 whose parents are not members (i.e., not part of a household membership)

A "Household" membership is all persons residing at the same address. (A student who is away at school and wants publications mailed to the school address must be in the Individual class.)

Life Membership dues are: State \$1000.00 and Chapter \$300.00.

New life memberships have the option of paying \$11.00* per year chapter dues in lieu of the \$300.00 lump sum. Life memberships effective prior to September 1, 1990, are exempt from any further chapter dues payment.