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## Bringing Nature and the Community Together

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# Welcome to the Eidolon Nature Preserve!

This 354-acre nature preserve, operated by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society in partnership with The Nature Conservancy in West Virginia (TNC), has been set aside as a special place for those who appreciate the natural world and seek to learn from it. **WELCOME!**



## The Eidolon Story

An old ridgetop property that was originally part of an 18th century Fairfax grant, this land belonged for nearly 60 years to the Zapoleon family, who used it as a weekend and summer retreat. They named it "Eidolon," after phantom women of Greek mythology who were created by Zeus from mist and light.

Eidolon was willed to The Nature Conservancy in West Virginia by Mrs. Marguerite Zapoleon. TNC took title to it in 2006 and enlisted the Potomac Valley Audubon Society to become the local stewards of the property the same year.

It was Mrs. Zapoleon's vision that this land be preserved as she and her husband, Louis, had always known it: a place for the enjoyment and study of nature, and for quiet contemplation.

The Nature Conservancy, the Potomac Valley Audubon Society, and volunteers, partners and

friends from the Morgan County community are committed to fulfilling this vision. We invite visitors from near and far to enjoy the Zapoleons' legacy.



## Wander the Trails

Several miles of marked trails will carry you through Eidolon, and there is much to see. The elevation at the preserve's highest point is about 1,650 feet, and there you will find sweeping views to the east and west.

Elsewhere, the preserve is mostly forest, with oaks and maples predominating, and it provides habitat that supports a wide variety of plant and animal species.

But like much of the land in this area, Eidolon has been used heavily over the centuries. So you will come upon stone piles where fields were cleared long ago for planting crops, the remains of old quarries that provided stone for the C&O Canal in the 1840s, and the track of an old coach road that dates back to the 1780s.

We hope you will take time to fully explore the beauty and history of this special place, the Eidolon Nature Preserve. **ENJOY YOUR VISIT!**

## Location & Directions

Eidolon is located on Sideling Hill about 10 miles west of Berkeley Springs.

The directions to the preserve from Berkeley Springs are as follows: From the intersection of Routes 522 and 9 downtown, take Route 9 west over Cacapon Mountain and through the village of Great Cacapon until you reach Detour Road (a total of 7.6 miles). Go right on Detour Road for 9/10s of a mile to Orleans Road. Go right on Orleans Road and follow it up Sideling Hill for 2.1 miles; the entrance to Eidolon will be on your right—a light-green metal gate flanked by two square stone pillars.

Those who visit are asked to park outside the gated entrance and proceed into the preserve on foot.

## Please Help Us Keep Eidolon Clean & Safe!

- Please be sure to carry out any trash and leave the preserve as you found it.
- Because of the potential for injury and damage to the environment, the use of ATV's or other motorized vehicles and horseback riding cannot be permitted on the property.
- For the safety and comfort of others and to protect sensitive habitats, please leave dogs at home.
- Because forest fires can be devastating, camping and campfires cannot be permitted.
- If you smoke, be very careful for the same reason.
- For liability reasons, possession or use of alcohol cannot be permitted.
- We encourage observation of plants and animals; we discourage collecting.
- Hunting is permitted in season, and specific notices regarding hunting rules will be posted.