Thank you so much for your support of Friends of Blackwater!

For twenty years Friends of Blackwater has been a tough, leading voice for conservation, and we need that voice and effort more than ever. Your contributions make that voice and effort possible.

As we all grapple with the covid crisis, our great outdoors, our parks, our wilderness areas, our relationship with wild nature – and yes, our outdoor recreation facilities -- take on even greater importance.

This year, FOB supporters helped to enact support for the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and to pass the Great American Outdoors Act. Legislative champions like Senator Manchin said that this legislation will serve “as a much needed stimulus to combat the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 crisis.”

For the coming year, we have renewed hope of protecting the entire Blackwater Canyon, which Senator Robert C. Byrd called “West Virginia's scenic crown jewel.” This achievement will enormously expand outdoor recreational opportunities in the Highlands.

Please donate to make it happen this coming year!

We promise to put your contribution to good use. Please help celebrate the season with an end-of-year contribution to support Friends of Blackwater’s advocacy, trail, and watershed work, and to keep our heritage programs on track, and to support our Save Blackwater Canyon Campaign!

Alicia
Cheyenne
Judy
Emmie
Sarah
Give the Gift of Conservation this year by purchasing one of our brand new Holiday Gift Sets.

- **Exclusive Member** $130
- **Stocking Stuffer** $34
- **Book Collection** $97
- **Holiday Collection** $60
- **T-Shirt Collection** $110

Quantity: _____
Quantity: _____
Quantity: _____
Quantity: _____
Quantity: _____

Total Items_____
Total Cost_____

Please use our remittance envelope to submit your order via mail. Orders may also be placed online at www.saveblackwater.org/shop/

Please mail your completed form and check made payable to Friends of Blackwater to:

Friends of Blackwater
P.O. Box 247
Thomas, WV 26292

Meet Our Amazing Partners

**Theo Smith**
Theo Smith is the son of Ian Smith, FOB’s former Watershed Manager!

**Clara & Joe Halfin**
The Halfins spoke out at the Parsons public hearing in March against the underground fracking fluid injection well at Horseshoe Run. They continue to watch over this special place. Horseshoe Run, a pristine native trout stream is threatened by potential water pollution from the underground injection well.

**Judith & Queenie**
In sun and snow, from the chilliest February mornings to the warmest July afternoons, Judith and her rescue dog Queenie have joined FOB on water monitoring outings across the Blackwater Watershed this year and helped collect the data needed for our many ongoing and future watershed restoration projects.

**Jason Totoiu**
Jason is a Senior Attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity and has been instrumental in assisting with Friends of Blackwater’s public lands advocacy. Jason is an expert in the Endangered Species Act and has a passion for protecting the unique and threatened Allegheny Highlands.

**Zack Foster**
As director of the ACC-Zach has worked with FOB to help plan and implement the trail improvements on Canyon Rim and Limerock trails this fall! His crew of 6 Americorps spent 40 days camping in Blackwater Canyon while improving these trails on the Mon National Forest.
FOB filed objections to the proposed Big Rock project, a 2,400 acre logging project in the Monongahela National Forest. The timbering threatened the endangered candy darter, a tiny jewel of a fish found near the world-famous Cranberry Glades. Thanks to strong citizen comment, the National Forest withdrew this proposal.

Canyon Rim and Limerock Trails got a face lift this fall when an Appalachian Conservation Corps crew worked to improve drainage, cut out fallen trees, and highlight the beauty of these trails and the Canyon.

Friends of Blackwater was excited to celebrate the passage of Senate Bill 517 in March, which creates a State Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund. This bill provides “the opportunity for citizens and residents of the state to invest in the future of its state parks, state forests, state rail trails, and recreational facilities.”

With the installation of 10 new signs this fall, visitors of Thomas and Davis, WV now have access to 21 professionally designed signs detailing the timber and coal industries that once dominated the landscape and the railroad that stretched across the state, and linked the communities of the Blackwater Canyon.

FOB has begun working with BioMost, a contracted engineer, and the DEP to design an active treatment plant that will capture the major sources of Acid Mine Drainage entering the North Fork of the Blackwater River and continue the effort to fully restore this waterway!

Thanks to funding secured from the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, the iconic Davis Coal & Coke Engineering Building’s basement and first floor have been completely repaired and stabilized. FOB has been very excited about working on this valuable restoration and community bettterment project to grow the heritage infrastructure in Tucker County.

An abandoned mining site, located 5 miles east of Davis and next to Beaver Creek, has been re-opened by Keystone LLC, a mining company who sought to begin mining and reclamation in fall 2020. FOB is dedicated to keeping pressure on Keystone and the DEP to ensure no additional polluted discharge enters the Beaver Creek Watershed that could impact the new fish populations there.

Major funding from WV Abandoned Mine Lands Program will allow us to link Thomas and Davis via the rail trail and a suspension bridge over the North Fork of the Blackwater near Douglas Falls. Our botany project will remove invasive species from the rail trail and replant the area with native trees and shrubs.

FOB and activists around the country accepted the Stop Extinction Challenge on August 20th by signing a letter to tell WV Senators Manchin and Capito to make a renewed commitment to protecting wildlife and safeguarding environmental laws like the Endangered Species Act! We also commented on crayfish, mussels, and rusty patched bumblebee habitat protection.

We celebrated the civil rights work of African American school teacher Carrie Williams whose famous Tucker County case brought equal education to West Virginia schools in 1889. A mural in her honor was painted by artist Ali Printz on the side of the historic Buxton Landstreet Building which houses our office.

WV3 Programs Covering Climate Change in 2020. Webinars on the importance of older trees for storing carbon and conversations between parents and children on the issue of climate change were put on this year with the help of Zoom.
2020 Grants Received
Appalachian Stewardship Foundation  astrov
Appalachian Community Fund  WVDEP
NFF Botanical Restoration  Stream Partners
Dayton Foundation  Southern Partners
Hart Family Fund  WVHC COVID Grant
WVU Foundation  Volunteer WV Grant
NWSA Grant  The Pisces Foundation
Patagonia  WV Humanities Council
Clif Bar  The Duffy Family Foundation
Dunn  Tucker Community Foundation
Tucker County Cultural District

Happy Holidays
(C) Kent Mason