

FRIENDS of BLACKWATER



December 2014

Dear friend –

At Friends of Blackwater, we are proud of our accomplishments this past year – and excited about our current educational and land protection efforts in Tucker County and the High Allegheny Mountains of West Virginia.

Our most significant success in 2014 was the permanent protection of 4,000 acres in the Cheat Canyon as a public land preserve dedicated to rare species habitat – featuring a public trail and world-class kayaking and rafting on the river. This was a first for the State of West Virginia and we are very proud of our leading role.



©Kent Mason

More than ever before, we are counting on donations from you, our supporters, to make sure that Friends of Blackwater can continue our important environmental and community protection campaigns. Your donation will:

- Pay young interns to collect “Ginny” the northern flying squirrel’s hairs in the field, as part of cutting-edge research on this rare, high-elevation species.
- Buy water testing supplies for volunteers to monitor the Blackwater River’s headwater streams, and promote acid mine drainage treatment to improve stream health.
- Pay for experts to monitor and engage professionally with Monongahela National Forest projects, like the proposed Big Mountain logging project, and the proposed Dominion pipeline -- to protect “Ginny,” the West Virginia flying squirrel, the Potomac headwaters near Seneca Rocks and the Upper Greenbrier River.
- Support coalition-building to resist fracking damage to public lands and waterways -- with science, law, and public opinion.
- Publish maps and guides to help expand recreation in the Blackwater Canyon -- and across the High Alleghenies.

And much more!

It is exciting and inspiring for us – and we hope for you -- that our new main FOB office is located in the heart of the Highlands. Together, we are creating a circle of love and protection around the landscapes that we love! Please donate as generously as you can afford -- so we can go into the New Year encouraged and empowered. Thanks for all you do to protect our present and build a better future.

Have a Happy Holiday and a wonderful New Year!



P.S. Along with your donation, this season of giving is a great time to give Blackwater Gifts -- like t-shirts, tote bags and stuffed animals and gift memberships. See page 7.

Program Highlights

Lots to Report, Thanks to Your Support and Participation in Our Campaigns

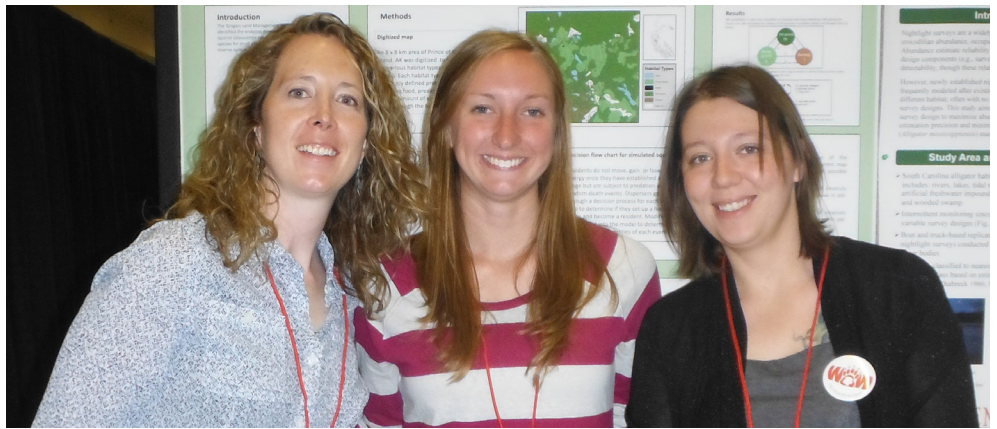
Cheat Canyon Now Fully Protected

Our endangered species protection lawsuit to protect endangered Cheat snail habitat – we began way back in 2004, and fought tenaciously for years – led to the creation ten years later, in 2014, of a new form of state-owned land in West Virginia -- a wildlife management area dedicated to habitat conservation for the benefit of rare and endangered species. Hurray! We did this!!



Blackwater Canyon Trail Protection

Friends of Blackwater continues to protect and improve the federally-owned Blackwater Canyon Rail Trail. We distribute trail maps and have them on our website. We designed and printed a brochure on the coal and coke industry of historic Coketon along the Trail, which we hand out at our Davis, WV Office. We initiated the Thomas City Trails System, which will link to the Rail Trail at Thomas. We did this, too!



From l to r: Dr. Liz Flaherty, Steph Trapp and Briana All - the "Squirrel Girls"

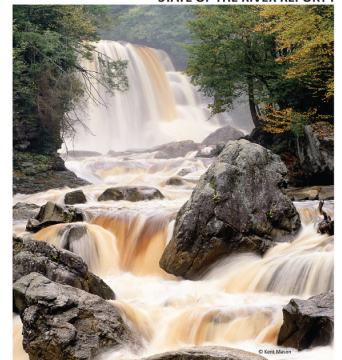
Ginny and the Squirrel Girls ("Save Our Squirrel")

"Ginny," the West Virginia Flying Squirrel, is the most unique mammal in the Allegheny Highlands, and the signature species of Blackwater Canyon. In partnership with Purdue University, we hired active young interns to set up and monitor non-invasive "hair snares" in Blackwater Falls State Park and the Monongahela National Forest. Hair samples collected contain isotopes from foods eaten by the "Ginny," and these isotopes will be analyzed at Purdue's lab to help understand Ginny's diet. DNA analysis will also help us better understand population size. Bears, foxes, red squirrels and raccoons also visited the hair snares! Lots of hiking in all weathers by our fabulous "Squirrel Girls," Brianna All, Steph Trapp. Professor Liz Flaherty and Carrie Jamieson.

Blackwater Watershed Project

The North Fork of the Blackwater River is negatively impacted by acid mine drainage pollution from old underground mines. Our volunteers monitor water quality in the North Fork once a month. We recently expanded this program to the whole watershed. In 2014, we put together a report on our data for the watershed, with maps showing both the good and bad water. With help from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection we charted the state's mine reclamation efforts. This top-quality report highlights the beauty of the area, and celebrates our young Americorps Vistas who made this program possible. We recommend more

THE BEAUTIFUL BLACKWATER WATERSHED
STATE OF THE RIVER REPORT I



Produced by: Friends of Blackwater
501 Elizabeth Street
Charleston, WV 25301

remediation to improve water quality. Our volunteers also reported on a fish kill in the river, and helped agency folks with documentation and clean-up. We did this!



Blackwater History: Lime Rock

We did research on the historic railroad community of Lime Rock in the Blackwater Canyon, a town created with the railroad in 1888. This research led to working with the Tucker County Historical Society to hold a reunion of descendants of families that lived at Lime Rock. This wonderful gathering in Hendricks City Park had food, music, speakers and a three-dimensional map of the town. Volunteers led tours up the old railroad grade to the Lime Rock Cemetery.

Monongahela National Forest Protection

Friends of Blackwater continued the dialogue on fracking through the Eastern National Forests Gas Drilling Working Group, working with advocacy groups in seven states to review and object to problematic gas drilling proposals on public land. We collaborated on an educational website on fracking on public lands. We also reviewed and commented on the Big Mountain timber proposal that could impact endangered and rare species on the Mon, and damage the Potomac headwaters near Seneca Rocks. We have been researching the potential impacts of the proposed Dominion pipeline on the Monongahela National Forest, in partnership with the Allegheny Blue Ridge Alliance.



Allegheny Highlands Climate Change Initiative

We held the first ever West Virginia conference on climate change, in June of 2014, with featured speakers on the impacts and risks to the Allegheny Highlands from climate change. Held at Blackwater Falls State Park, the conference was attended by 168 people, including scientists from the U.S. Forest Service, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, and professors from WVU, Marshall, and Penn State. We have followed up on this exciting event with talks around the region, a new website and soon to be published Report on the proceedings.



*Help us keep these projects
moving forward*

**DONATE
NOW!**

Angela Anderson of the Union of Concerned Scientists and Pat McGinley of WVU College of Law.

First Yellowstone photographer also shot

The pioneering landscape photographer who exposed the world to the first images of the Yellowstone country and other iconic landscapes of the American West also captured some of the earliest images of West Virginia's Blackwater Canyon and the town of Davis.

After mustering out of his Vermont infantry regiment near the end of the Civil War, William Henry Jackson traveled by rail as far west as possible, which was then the western plains of Nebraska. From there, he joined a wagon freighting business working on the Oregon Trail and by 1867, saved enough to open a portrait photography studio with his brother in Omaha.

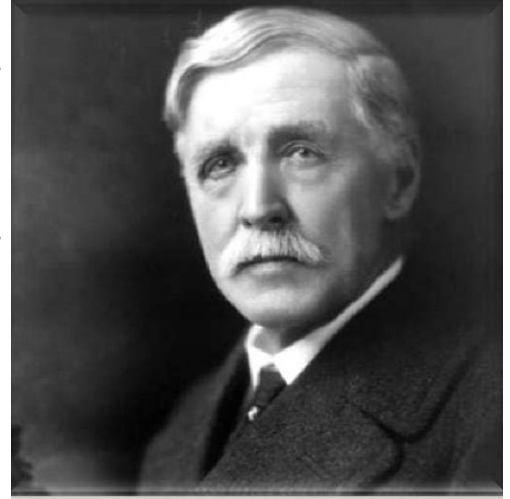
"Portrait photography never had any charms for me, so I sought my subjects from the house-tops, and finally from the hill-tops and about the surrounding country, the taste strengthening as my successes grew greater in proportion to the failures," Jackson wrote.

In 1870, armed with his mammoth glass plate camera, he joined the U.S. Geographical and Geological Survey, accompanying geologist Ferdinand V. Hayden on an expedition across Wyoming. On the journey, Jackson's party followed the Green River, traversed the Grand Tetons, and entered the Yellowstone country. Jackson's photos of the Old Faithful geyser, Yellowstone Lake and waterfalls on the Yellowstone River were credited with playing a key role in the Congressional vote in 1872 to make Yellowstone the nation's first national park.

Other western scenes first captured on the huge glass plates of Jackson's cameras include the vast Native American cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde in New Mexico and the Mount of the Holy Cross in Colorado, the rocky peak with a crucifix-shaped series of crevices and benches that retains snow year-round. In all, Jackson took nearly 80,000 images of the American West, which came in handy, since he is credited with inventing the picture postcard. He lived to the age of 99 -- long enough to be one of the oldest surviving Civil War veterans and to serve as a technical adviser for the movie "Gone With the Wind."

Jackson opened a commercial photography venture in Denver in 1879, and in 1881, landed the first of several jobs with railroads to help them advertise cities and attractions along their routes. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad commissioned him to photograph the eastern rail line and several of its spurs in 1892, including numerous points of interest in West Virginia. But based on research done by Canaan Valley resident David Miller, it appears Jackson made an earlier photo trek through Tucker County in 1885.

In the October issue of the Chronicles of the Tucker County Highlands History and Education Project, Miller took note of the fact that in June 1885, Jackson photographed the national meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers in Deer Park, MD, 30 miles north of Blackwater Falls, where he may have encountered coal operator, railroad developer and former U.S. senator Henry Gassaway Davis. "It is not hard to imagine Davis, the ever-aggressive entrepreneur, securing the services of Jackson



William Henry Jackson



View down Blackwater Canyon



Great Falls of Blackwater

first images of Blackwater Canyon, Davis

By Rick Steelhammer, Staff writer Charleston Gazette

to photograph his new railroad (the West Virginia Central and Pittsburg) and early construction of the town (Davis) he was carving out of the wilderness," Miller wrote.

Miller believes it was during this 1885 trip that Jackson photographed "View Down the Blackwater from the Old Dobbins House," what may be the first image taken of Blackwater Canyon. The photo shows both canyon walls covered by an unbroken expanse of mature forest, which meant the image had to have been taken prior to 1887, when construction of the rail grade through the canyon was known to have begun. Another photo believed to have been taken during Jackson's 1885 visit to Tucker County is "Birth of the City, Davis, W.Va.," which shows a dozen or so new wood frame buildings along the edge of a large stump-studded clearing. Davis, named in honor of Henry Gassaway Davis, was founded in 1884, and nicknamed "Stump Town" in its early years.

While working for the B & O Railroad during an 1892 swing through West Virginia, Jackson photographed "Great Falls of the Blackwater," the state's largest and best-known waterfall, as well as a series of smaller waterfalls on the North Fork of the Blackwater. Along other spur lines serving the B & O, he also captured scenes of logging crews on the Williams River, people on a wooden boat floating through the Trough section of the Potomac River's South Branch, a railroad trestle crossing the Elk River near Sutton, a trestle crossing the Cheat River at Rowelsburg, and a farm with split rail fence on Point Mountain in Webster County.

The "old Dobbins House" Jackson listed as the site from which his "View Down the Blackwater" was taken was a large camp built in the 1850s by George Washington Dobbin, a former Maryland Supreme Court judge who owned a vast tract of land in Tucker County. The camp was unoccupied and in a state of disrepair by the time Jackson visited the site. Today, Dobbin House Trail in Blackwater Falls State Park leads mountain bikers and hikers past the foundation stones of the old building. Members of the Tucker County Highlands History and Education Project believe Jackson took his photo of Blackwater Canyon from a spot about 100 yards southwest of the old camp.

"Visiting that location today one finds the actual land where Jackson stood gone, removed by strip-mining activities years ago," Miller wrote in his "Chronicles" piece. "The natural drainage ravine, apparent in the foreground of Jackson's 1885 image, has been excavated away. Gone is the timber, and even some of the land, present in Jackson's image."

"'View Down the Blackwater' may stand as the only visual record we have of the region before the extensive changes brought on by timbering and coal extraction," Miller concluded. "While the canyon has not fully recovered from these activities, we are certainly privileged to be able to enjoy the beauty, and the history, that exists here today."

Dozens of West Virginia scenes captured by Jackson and collected by the U.S. Library of Congress can be viewed by visiting <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/search/?q=William%20henry%20jackson%20west%20virginia>. Reach Rick Steelhammer at rsteelhammer@wvgazette.com, 304-348-5169 or follow @Rsteelhammer on Twitter.



Birth of the City, Davis, W.Va.



Falls of the North Fork of the Blackwater

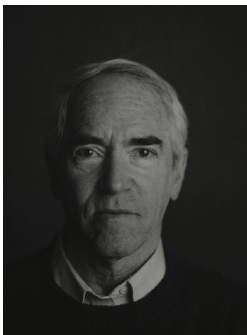
Our People

Carrie Jamieson

Carrie Jamieson has been the FOB Flying Squirrel Technician and Davis office intern since September and is finishing her time at FOB with the coming of the winter season. Carrie graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife & Fisheries Resources from West Virginia University, and is working to become a Wildlife Biologist. Her past work has included hawk monitoring, stream surveying, and small mammal trapping. She now lives in Morgantown, West Virginia, with her fiancé, and aims to put down life-long roots homesteading in the Mountain State. Her ultimate career goal is to work internationally conducting research, management, and conservation of wild cat species. Until then, she hopes to continue to find work understanding and conserving the wildlife and natural resources of West Virginia for the benefit of all who live here, including the future family she hopes to build.



Peter Miller



Our cover image of Blackwater Falls, titled "It All Comes Down to This," is a photograph taken and printed as a photogravure etching by Pittsburgh native Peter Miller. The image, says Miller, seems to him to convey the transcendent powers of Nature, both mighty and fragile.

We are very grateful for Peter's Miller's donation of two stunning, large-format prints of this image of Blackwater Falls. We hope to have them framed very soon, and to offer one as part of an auction to raise program funds. The other, Miller specified, is for our Friends of Blackwater office – to remind us of what we are working to protect!

Miller's distinguished work in photogravure spans a 25-year period beginning in 1989. He is one of the few contemporary practitioners of the 19th-century printing technique, which involves etching an ultra-violet-exposed resist on a copper plate, and printing with an etching press on hand-made Japanese washi paper.

The unique depth, texture, and tonality of photogravure seek to realize the multiple possibilities of our everyday experience. Miller's workshop is in Kamakura, Japan, but his prints are exhibited and collected world-wide by museums and private collectors in Japan, Europe, Russia, and America. Examples are viewable at <http://kamprint.com/> and <http://kamprint.com/xpress/>.

Roberta Allison

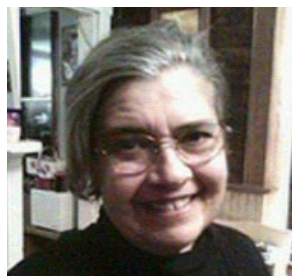
Roberta is a longtime Friends of Blackwater donor. A native of Monroe County, she attended Berea College and WVU and taught children with dyslexia. She and her husband



Alvin lived at Nursery Bottom in Parsons where he ran the tree farm. Their favorite place to take visitors was to Blackwater Falls. The unborn Roberta went to the voting booth with her Mother when women won the right to vote in 1920. She was born 5 day later on November 7th.

Happy 94th Birthday Roberta!

Glenda Marshall



Glenda lives in Davis, where she has housed and provided for FOB volunteers and technicians for the last 3 years. Her husband Lon Marshall is a state-certified water tester, and she proudly donates him and his time to FOB as well. Glenda is our Earth Mother, great cook and caretaker with a lilting, musical accent.

John Arnold

John Arnold grew up in Tucker County and can remember the trains pulling into Thomas. He is a dedicated mountain biker and trail repair man. He lived in Germany and did tours of duty in Iraq before retiring from the US Army. He designed our "Ginny" the flying squirrel balloons and helped distribute them at Leaf Peepers and the Forest Festival with help from his daughter Amelia. He would like to see more trail partnerships in the Blackwater Area.



Ron Hollis: New Canaan Valley National Refuge Manager



Ron, his wife Ana, and two sons Isaiah and Miles moved to West Virginia from Arkansas. Before becoming an employee with the National Wildlife Refuge System Ron was a high school science teacher and coach. Hollis enjoys woodworking, remodeling homes, teaching, hunting, fishing, participating in outdoor activities and spending time with his family. "I want to be on the ground working with the community to engage in meaningful conversation that leads to reachable goals. Being able to work with the youth is something I want to focus on. My hope is to become a part of a great place to live, work and play!!!" Ron Hollis can be reached at ron_hollis@fws.gov.

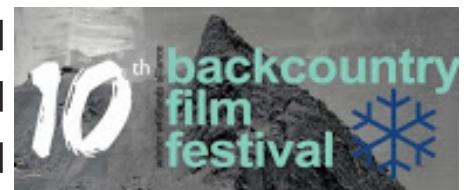
Foundation Support for 2014

Appalachian Community Fund	WV Stream Partners Program
Appalachian Stewardship Foundation	The Pittsburgh Foundation
Astrov	The Dayton Foundation
Blue Grass Community Foundation	Tucker Community Foundation
Colcom Foundation	West Virginia Humanities Council
Community Participation Program of the WV Legislature	Wheeling National Heritage Area Corp
Evim Foundation	WVDEP - 319 AGO grants
Harpers Ferry Outdoor Festival	WVEA-WV Foundation for Education Improvement
Marpat Foundation	
New York Community Trust	
Patagonia	
Pyles & Turner Foundaton	

Help bolster our Foundation Support!

DONATE NOW!

Save The Date!



February 14, 2015

Tip Top Cafe



Holiday Order Form

Description	Quantity	Unit Price
Save Blackwater Canyon Bat T-shirt M - L - XL	_____	\$20.00 _____
Ginny the Flying Squirrel T-shirt S - M - L - XL - XXL	_____	\$20.00 _____
Kayaking Ginny T-shirt S - M - L - XL - XXL	_____	\$15.00 _____
Biking Ginny T-shirt S - M - L - XL - XXL	_____	\$15.00 _____
Skiing Ginny T-shirt S - M - L - XL - XXL	_____	\$15.00 _____
Rock Climbing Ginny T-shirt S - M - L - XL - XXL	_____	\$15.00 _____
Fishin' Blackwater T-shirt M - L - XL - XXL	_____	\$20.00 _____
Friends of Blackwater Canvas Tote Bag	_____	\$15.00 _____
Ginny Hand Puppet	_____	\$10.00 _____
Small Stuffed Bat Toy with Book	_____	\$12.00 _____
Christmas Membership Sale: Save \$20 when you order 2 !!	_____	\$35.00 _____ 2/\$50.

1-year gift membership packet – includes a gift card for you to present to the recipient, a stamped card for the recipient to send in to activate the membership, 4 newsletters a year, bumpersticker and magnet ----BUY 2 & SAVE \$20 - 2 for \$50.00

Total _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Mail completed form and check made payable to Friends of Blackwater to:

Friends of Blackwater
501 Elizabeth St.
Charleston, WV 25311

FRIENDS of BLACKWATER

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**HAVE A "BEARY"
MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



Season's Greetings!