

# Friends of Blackwater



Photo by ©Kent Mason

*Working to protect West Virginia's High Alleghenies, Blackwater River & Blackwater Canyon.*

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## "SALLY" THE CHEAT MOUNTAIN SALAMANDER IS AT RISK

"Sally," the Cheat Mountain salamander (*Plethodon nettingi*) lives in the Blackwater Canyon, sharing her habitat with "Ginny," the West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel. The cool, moist north-facing slopes of the Canyon are an ideal habitat for both the squirrel and the salamander.

"Sally" is a lungless salamander which means she breathes through her skin. She only ventures out from her rotting log home when the air is moist, because the moisture allows oxygen to pass through her skin and into her lungs. Sally and her partner ("Sammy?") guard their babies, in their egg stage, by wrapping their bodies around them.

Sally has a special niche in the High Allegheny Mountains. Her species has evolved to live at high elevations, where other salamanders can't survive. This reduces competition for food. Sally is protected by the federal government because her species is very rare. However, the population of Cheat Mountain salamanders has been shrinking, and a warming climate may be one of the causes.

**Another threat to Sally's home in the High Alleghenies is forest fragmentation. On September 17, 2015, the United States Forest Service wrote to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to express concern over a Dominion pipeline route that could fragment Sally's habitat on the Monongahela, and negatively impact Sally's cousin, the Cow Knob salamander, on the George Washington National Forest.**

Friends of Blackwater is very concerned about potential pipeline impacts on both Ginny and Sally, and we are glad that the Forest Service is standing up for our natural heritage!! You can show you care, and support our work, buying a new SALLY THE SALAMANDER T-SHIRT (see order form or our on-line store at [www.saveblackwater.org](http://www.saveblackwater.org)).

## TRAIL SURVEY AND PLANNING - THANK YOU, ZACK ADAMS!

Thanks to everyone who filled out our questionnaire on the trail improvement project on the Monongahela National Forest from Thomas to the Olson Fire Tower. We got comments on creating more loops and connectors between trails, the need for clearing and removing downed trees, more signage and mile markers, and planned outings to introduce people to the trails. A number of people wanted the Olson Fire Tower fixed up, Big Run Bog to get more protection, the North Fork water quality improved, and more historic interpretation. There were comments asking that motorized use on the rail trail be separated from non-motorized, and many people commented on the beauty and wildness of the area. As we move forward, we will take these comments into serious account.

We are working with trail planner Zack Adams, who has created a work plan for the Canyon Rim and Limerock Trails that we will put into action next Spring. Zack is the trail boss for the Heart of the Highlands Trail Plan, and a member of the new Blackwater IMBA Chapter in Tucker County. Zack has lots of experience and has very high standards for creating sustainable trails. His detailed trail log is a work of art, and a practical tool to get these important trails back into shape. Please let us know if you are interested in helping on a volunteer trail repair crew, as a leader and or worker! And thanks all to FOB supporters, for making this work possible!

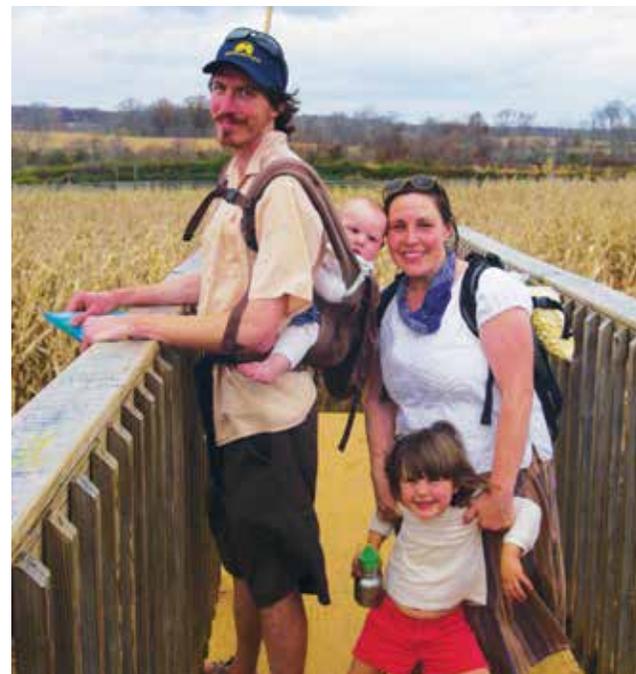


*Zack Adams, is more than an expert on trails, he is also a competitive mountain biker.*

## INTRODUCING: DAVID YOUNG: FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER'S NEW PROJECT DIRECTOR

While driving through the night to the Dinosaur National Monument put-in for a multi-day Yampa river trip, the USGS streamflow reading and the distance in miles to our destination seemed inversely proportionate. As we got closer, the river levels got higher. Upon our arrival at 3 a.m. we found the flood waters spilled over the bank and inundated half of the parking lot. Our high beams failed to illuminate the scale of the water flowing in front of us, so we parked on the dry end of the lot and tried to sleep. Finally from the east, over the Park Range emerged a light grand enough to capture the Yampa's girth. As fate had it, our travels over land had confluenced with the snow melt waters (peak) from the likes of Mount Werner and beyond...

As a river guide I was fortunate enough to catch the wave of the Yampa and experience many of the nation's most famous rivers. In fact I followed the lore of West Virginia's rivers to guide on the New and Gauley. There my river guiding career ended, but the West Virginia highlands has since provided place for exploring rivers, sharing my passion of teaching, and investigating environmental science. Initially focused on headwater streams I educated students about the importance of these source areas and watershed management at The Mountain Institute. Then, as a graduate research assistant at WVU I investigated the impacts of land use disturbance and climate change on headwater streams. Currently my career interests are focused on ecological restoration, watershed scale land management, and citizen-government cooperation. As a resident of Tucker County I look forward to exploring the hills and canyons with my partner and two daughters.



*David and his life partner, Elizabeth Gutierrez, enjoy the corn maze with daughters, Luna and Petra.*



*David travels over Wonder Falls on Big Sandy.*



*Boating is a family affair. David and daughter, Petra.*

## "GIVE THANKS - GIVE FOOD" SUPPORTS LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

Friends of Blackwater held a Thanksgiving "Give Thanks- Give Food" food drive for the Blackwater Ministerial food pantry in Davis. We were able to place donation boxes at Canaan Valley Institute, The Highland Market, Shop N' Save, Buxton and Landstreet Gallery, St. John's Lutheran Church, and Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church Rectory. On top of the donation boxes we were able to table for donations at the local Shop N' Save in Davis. These businesses and places of worship truly helped us increase our collection and we would like to thank you.

We would also like to thank everyone who donated food to any of the locations. With everyone's help we were able to fill 8 boxes and collect \$23. These generous donations will help 60 families in the area.

If anyone would like to donate in the future please do not hesitate to contact our office at (304)-345-7663.



*Monica gahers donations for the Blackwater Ministerial food pantry.*

# "CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE HIGHLANDS – SCIENCE, IMPACTS, PREPAREDNESS, COMMUNICATION, AND SOLUTIONS"

122 persons attended "Climate Change and the Highlands – Science, Impacts, Preparedness, Communication, and Solutions," FOB's October 2015 Conference at Blackwater Falls State Park.

We reached out to college and high school students, offering them scholarships to cover the registration and housing at the State Park. About 25 students took advantage of this offer.

We also used scholarships to encourage young people of color to attend, with support from the Appalachian Community Fund. This worked well, with a half-dozen young people from Upward Bound in Charleston attending. This wide range of ages and backgrounds at this event is something we can be proud of!

The October Conference brought together top experts in our region to share their knowledge with each other and with the public, a type of event that is all too rare. Many people from agencies, schoolteachers, and concerned citizens attended. As a result of the Conference, we added several hundred people to our e-network of interested persons.

Thanks to the Appalachian Stewardship Foundation and private donors for making this event possible. The main portion of the Conference program was in the daytime Saturday, with three blocks of 1.5-hour-long panels, some of which were repeated to improve audience choice.

We also had well-attended climate video showings and Kitchen Climate Science programs on Friday and Saturday nights, a fun square dance Saturday night, and nature and heritage outings on Sunday morning. Thanks for your support of Friends of Blackwater's climate impacts work!



*Emily Linn of the USEPA discussed the Clean Power Plan Dr. Amy Hessl of West Virginia University.*



*Tom Rodd presents Kitchen Climate Science with the assistance of Kelcie Mullins, Mike Harman, Shawn Shamshiry and Logan Seals*



*Dr. Winstoan Smith presented on the Impacts of Climate Change on the Northern Flying Squirrel.*



*Upward Bound Scholars from West Virginia State University attended the conference.*

# CELEBRATING PIONEER AFRICAN AMERICAN EDUCATOR CARRIE WILLIAMS WITH AWARD TO HER DESCENDANTS

A public program at the West Virginia University College of Law on October 30, 2015 celebrated two "Blackwater Heroes," the pioneer West Virginia African American educator Carrie Williams and her lawyer John Robert "J.R." Clifford.

The program included remarks by Senior Supreme Court Justice Larry Starcher and a book-signing by Tom Rodd, Clifford Project co-director and author of the new book, "Stories from West Virginia's Civil Rights History."

Attorney James "Butch" Boggs, Esq. portrayed Clifford and WVU employee Cathy Jasper played Williams, in a dramatic re-enactment of Clifford's famous 1898 equal rights argument for Williams and her students before the West Virginia State Supreme Court.

Morgantown Chamber of Commerce President Dan Kimble, Esq. portrayed Judge Marmaduke Dent in the drama. Dent authored the landmark court opinion in the Williams case that guaranteed equal pay and equal school terms for Williams and other black schoolteachers in the era's racially segregated schools. Former Morgantown Mayor and House of Delegates member Charlene Marshall will also appear in the drama, along with Delegate Barbara Evans Fleischauer, Esq.

Friends of Blackwater staffer Brandae Mullins presented an award to the descendants of Carrie Williams, who traveled from Chicago and until this year were unaware of their ancestor's famous case. Following the Law School event, they toured Tucker County visiting the Court House where the case was first presented, the site of the "Coketon Colored School" and the grave of Carrie Williams's daughter Nevada.

Sponsors of the October 30 event include the Mountain State Bar Association, the WVU Black Law Students Association, the West Virginia Humanities Council and the J.R. Clifford Project.

Other participants in the October 30 dramatic program included WVU Law School staffer Elissa Momen and her children Avant Evan and A'Nya Evan, Morgantown attorney Brian McAllister, Esq., WVU Law Professor Atiba Ellis, Esq., Veronique Vernot, President of the WVU Black Law Student Association, and Huntington attorney David Duffield, Esq.



Attorney James "Butch" Boggs, Esq. portrayed Clifford and WVU employee Cathy Jasper played Williams, in a dramatic re-enactment of Clifford's famous



FOB staffer Brandae Mullins presents Curtis Smith with a plaque honoring his great grandmother, Carrie Williams, on October 30, 2015 during the dramatic reenactment at WVU College of Law. Williams was the African American educator whose case ensured equal education for all students in West Virginia.



Descendants of Carrie Williams at the Tucker County Courthouse in Parsons, WV

# MY LIFE AS I REMEMBER AT LIME ROCK, WEST VIRGINIA

By Carole Bright Kendall

As I recall....it was a pretty rough life for my mother and father back then, they had to work hard for what they had. My name is Carole (Bright) Kendall. My mother and father's names were Garber and Evelyn Bright.

I was born in Lime Rock in 1936. My first memories of my childhood there was around 6 or 7 years old. All in all there were 9 of us.... 7 girls and 2 parents. We lived in what was once a 2 room schoolhouse. My father worked for the B&O Railroad and my mom of course stayed home and cared for the kids and the house.

The railroad ran right by our house and my sisters and I would stand at the fence and watch the passenger train pass by. Sometimes the engineer would slow the train and when it went by would toss a bag of candy into our yards. The freight train ran by us too. Then they still had the coal engines to run the train. I believe part of our yard was fenced in and just outside the gate was a pipe where spring water came out of the mountain. We carried water into our house from that pipe. The little creek that ran down beside our house produced really cold water for us. My mother used to take her large crocks of milk and set them in the creek to stay cold or anything else she wanted to keep cold. We also had an underground cellar where we would keep potatoes, some canned foods and such. They stayed fresher longer.

My father was a great hunter so we ate a lot of wild meat. My mother would preserve it by canning it. We had some animals at the homestead. A couple cows and a horse, plus some chickens. I always hated it when mom told us to get the cows home because I was afraid of getting lost. The milk and homemade butter were so good though.

My dad was a moonshiner in those times. He also made his own beer. I watched him do the beer lots of times, but the moonshine was done in secret because he could have gotten into trouble if he was caught.



We had to walk to school and that was tough. We walked down the railroad tracks into Hendricks, then on to the elementary school. Imagine a first grader and a couple of older siblings walking the tracks to school. We knew

how to avoid oncoming trains. I failed my first year and could not get there a lot of the time. The winters were pretty bad. One of my sisters almost froze to death, but the other two sisters managed to get her home safely.

We never knew anything about Thanksgiving or Christmas. We were very poor so there were no decorations or gifts. It was just another ordinary day to us. I was eight or nine before we had Christmas and that was thanks to my older sisters who had already left home. At that time we had left Lime Rock and moved to Douglas where my mom started working as the head cook at the Old Hotel in Thomas. She was the bread winner because my father was injured on the rail road and could not work there anymore.

We didn't have fancy toys to play with so we made our own. I remember using one of the drawers from my mom's sewing machine with a string

ties to the knob and I would pull it around the house. I cut people out of the catalogue and set them in the drawers and imagined it was a car.

At other times I would take my mother's canning jar lids and make mud pies in them. I would mix up some water and dirt to make the mud then put them in the lid to dry and then take it out and there would be a mud pie. I lined them up on a rock. Later when World War II was going on I remember the soldiers being on maneuvers in the hillsides around our house. I would go outside and



*Carole's father Garber Bright*

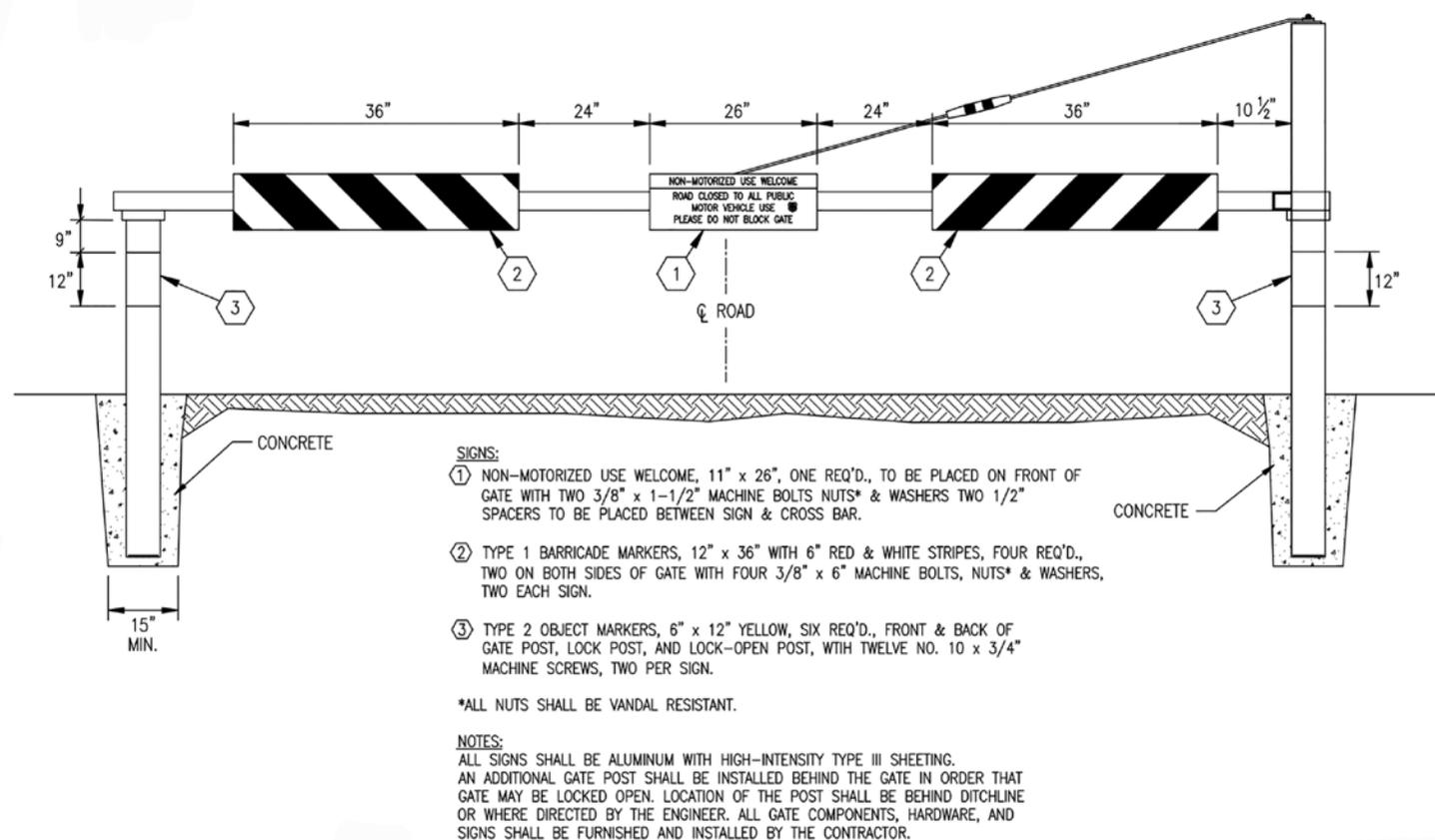
find empty shell casings, canteen containers where they ate and other items. Eventually that ended. Of course I didn't understand it all so to me I wasn't afraid.

We eventually moved out of Lime Rock into Hendricks. We lived there for a while then moved to Douglas just below Coketon by a few miles where I went on to school.

I am now retired with my loving husband and live near eastern shores of Maryland. We have 5 children between us, I have three and he has two. We have six grandchildren and enjoying our life very much.

## LIMEROCK CEMETERY GATE

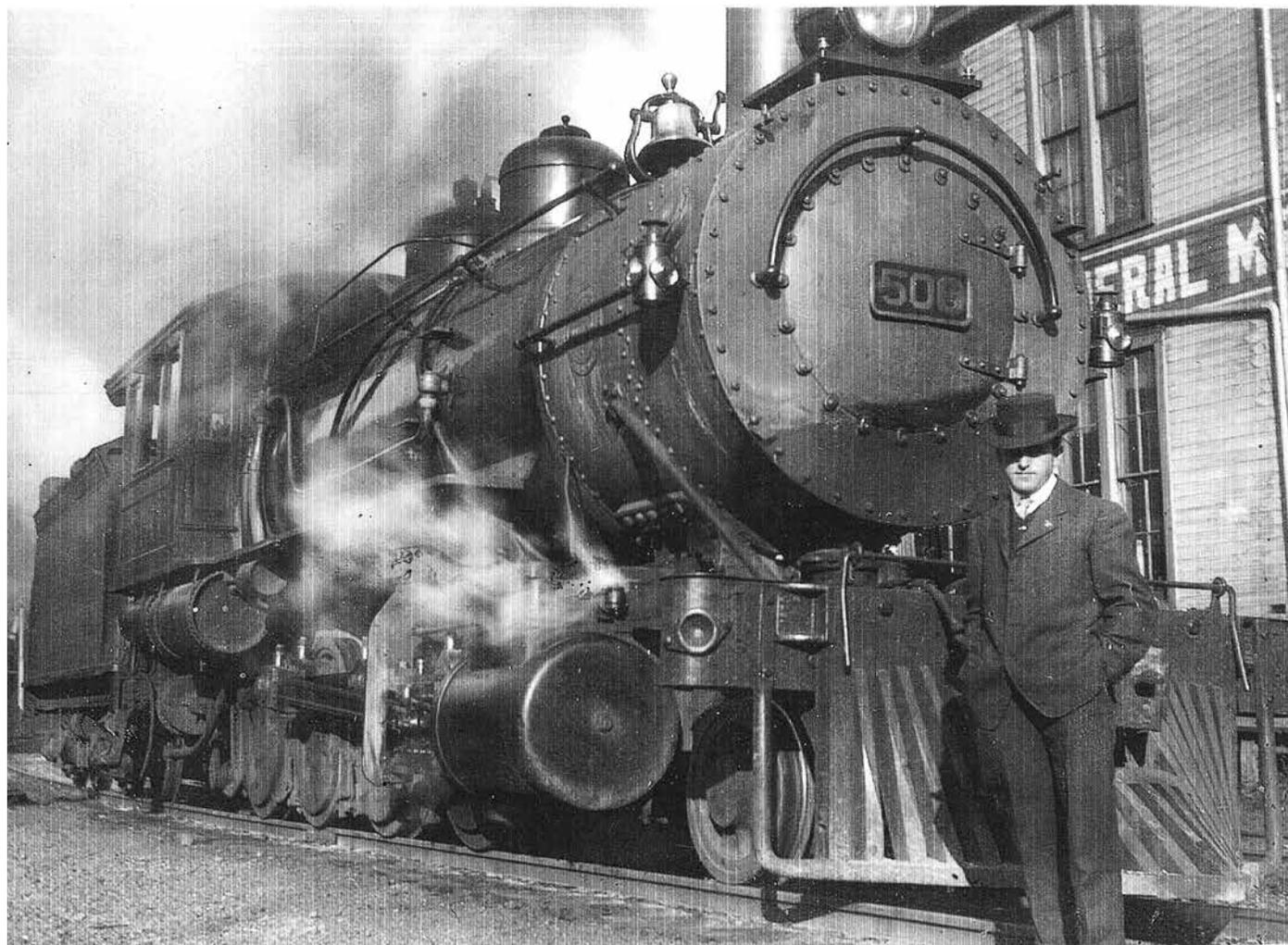
Friends of Blackwater is working with the Cheat Potomac Ranger District of the Monongahela National Forest to put a gate along the Blackwater Canyon rail trail east of Hendricks going uphill to the Limerock Cemetery. This gate will mark the historic road to the Cemetery and have a sign acknowledging its significance. We are planning a reunion for descendants of the settlers that lived at Limerock (and their friends) on August 13th of 2016 to be held at the Hendricks City Park. At that time we hope to be able to get folks up to the Cemetery on the historic road using motorized vehicles. **Please help us pay for the new gate and sign and support this Tucker County Heritage effort.**



## WV'S RAILWAY TOURISM INITIATIVE

Friends of Blackwater attended the Railway Tourism Initiative at Davis and Elkins College on November 16th. It was a great event bringing together promoters of excursion trains, train museums, rails to trails advocates and managers of historic train sites. The goal was to create a unified voice for heritage tourism focused on West Virginia's railroads. Our interest in protecting the Parsons train depot and getting a steam engine and railroad museum in downtown Thomas fit right in. The picture to the right shows a train that would have travelled through the Blackwater Canyon at the height of the railroad era. For more on the Initiative and the D&E curriculum on Railway Tourism contact:

James D. Porterfield, Director  
Center for Railway Tourism  
Robert C. Byrd Conference Center  
Davis & Elkins College  
100 Campus Drive  
Elkins, WV 26241  
porterfieldj@dewv.edu  
c814/574-5586, w304/637-1307





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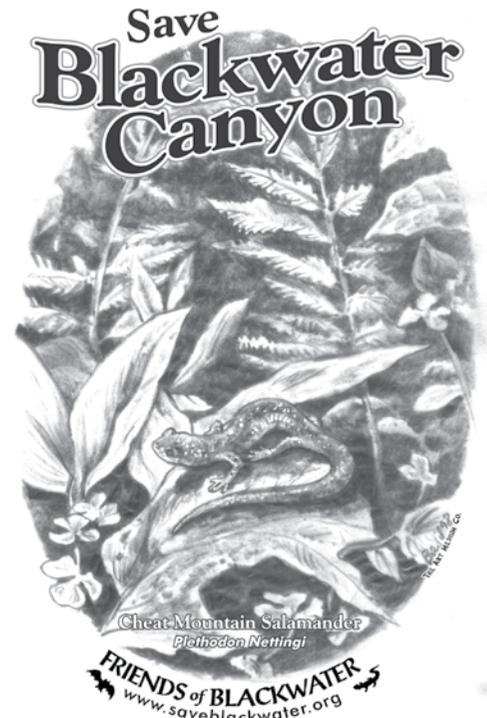
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## GIVE GIFTS AND PROTECT THE HIGHLANDS!

<i>Description</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Unit Price</i>
NEW! Save Blackwater Salamander T-shirt S-M-L-XL-XXL	_____	\$20.00
Save Blackwater Canyon Bat T-shirt S-M-L-XL-XXL	_____	\$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" the Northern Flying Squirrel Puppet	_____	\$20.00
Small Stuffed Bat	_____	\$10.00
Christmas Membership Sale: Save \$20 when you order 2 !!	_____	\$35.00 2/\$50.
<i>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 &amp; SAVE \$20 - 2 for \$50.00</i>		
<i>Total</i>	_____	_____



*Name* \_\_\_\_\_

*Address* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Phone* \_\_\_\_\_



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

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