

# FRIENDS of BLACKWATER



December 2012

## Here's some exciting news: Friends of Blackwater is "Moving to the Mountains!"

By March 2013 (or sooner, depending on the weather), our main Friends of Blackwater office will be in the Town of Davis, in Tucker County. Davis, of course, is the picturesque and scenic gateway to Canaan Valley -- a popular outdoor recreation center for the High Allegheny region.

Our new solar-powered office in Davis is right next to the beautiful Blackwater River (and also next to a great coffee shop.)

Come by, grab a cup of high-test, get free trail maps, and learn about our projects.



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Moving is a big deal, and more than ever before we are counting on donations from you, our supporters, to make sure that Friends of Blackwater can make this move, and still continue our important environmental and community protection campaigns.

Your donation to Friends of Blackwater will go to work with other donations from people who love the natural world in defense of West Virginia's Highlands. Your gift will:

- Pay local young people to lead nature tours.
- Buy limestone to restore the Blackwater River's headwater streams.
- Monitor National Forest projects -- to protect "Ginny," the West Virginia northern flying squirrel
- Block fracking damage to public land and waterways.
- Expand recreation in the Blackwater Canyon -- and across the High Alleghenies.
- And our Blackwater Canyon and High Allegheny protection projects continue.

It is exciting and inspiring for us -- and we hope for you -- that our new FOB office will be located at the heart of the Highlands. Together, we are creating a circle of love and protection around the landscapes that we love!

Thanks for all you do to protect our present, and build a better future.

*Judy*



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. Gift memberships in FOB are a great present, too -- because they add new people to the FOB circle. View gifts at [www.saveblackwater.org](http://www.saveblackwater.org) or call us for an order form.

## ***Spotlight on Advocacy*** ***Mary Krueger***

Until recently, Mary Krueger worked as a Forest Policy Analyst with The Wilderness Society (TWS), focusing on forest planning and the legal and regulatory framework that guides federal land management. She advised on projects from timber modeling in Alaska to endangered species protection in WV to cultural resource preservation in CO. Prior to her work at TWS, she spent 11 years with the U.S. Forest Service, first as an archaeologist, and then as a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance reviewer and forest planner. Mary served on FOB's Board until November 2012; her new job with the National Park Service means she had to step down. Boo-hoo! Mary has been a stalwart protector of West Virginia's special places, the Monongahela National Forest and the Blackwater Canyon. Mary's infectious laugh and her "can do" attitude kept us all going. We thank Mary for her service, and wish her well in her new position, and we expect to see a lot of her in the Highlands!



### ***Special Donors***

## ***Donna & Carroll Cook of Grant County, WV***

Donna and Carroll Cook grew up in the shadows of the Allegheny Front on small farms in the steep rocky terrain of one of West Virginia's highest mountains. A typical childhood day was roaming the great outdoors and working and playing on their family farm. During the summer, their families ran sheep and cattle on the beautiful high plateau of the Allegheny. The old open range, leased from Western Maryland Railroad and U.S. Government by local farmers, extended from the Old Stoney River Dam to south of Red Creek encompassing what is now the Dolly Sods Wilderness.

Fortuitously, the Cooks had an opportunity to buy a farm near their childhood homes in the early 1990's. Since then, they have worked diligently to protect and preserve the natural beauty of their famous backyard. Above and just south of their farm lay the Dolly Sods and Roaring Plain Wilderness areas in the Monongahela National Forest. The Cooks' greatest joy is riding horses

over this dramatic landscape. In addition to running a beef cattle operation on their farmland, they have horses, donkeys, and a diversity of pets: cats, chickens, and guineas. Nightly, their Great Pyrenees dogs roam the Spurs of the Allegheny guarding the sheep and goats from coyote and bear.

Donna was the cofounder of Friends of the Allegheny Front formed to oppose industrial wind farms that are ruining the scenic views and heritage values on the Front. She is a charter and board member of Stewards of the Potomac Highlands and a long-time board member of Friends of Blackwater. In addition to co-managing the farm, Carroll owns and operates a commercial concrete construction company in Northern Virginia.

Of their generous support to Friends of Blackwater, they maintain: "We give to Friends of Blackwater because we want to protect the natural wonders of West Virginia's high Allegheny Mountains. Donating to support Friends of Blackwater gives us a chance to make a real difference, and we are proud to be part of this success. We enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that our donations will make a lasting difference to the preservation of the Allegheny Highlands."



## ***Foundation Support for 2012***

*American Public University*  
*Appalachian Community Fund*  
*Appalachian Stewardship Foundation*  
*Astrov*  
*AT&T Foundation*  
*Carlson Family Foundation*  
*Citizens Conservation Corps of WV*  
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*Mountain State Bar Association*  
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*R.K. Mellon Foundation*  
*Shepherd University*  
*The Dayton Foundation*  
*Tucker Community Foundation*

*WV Conservation Awards Council*  
*West Virginia Humanities Council*  
*West Virginia Bar Foundation*  
*WV Dept of Education & The Arts-*  
*Sesquicentennial Commission*

*Help bolster our Foundation Support!*

**DONATE NOW!**

# Program News

**New Trails:** In 2012, Friends of Blackwater volunteers completed 5 miles of hiking and biking trails in Thomas City Park, along the North Fork of the Blackwater River. Teams of young people built bridges, wrestled with boulders, and marked trail loops. Thanks to your support, FOB prepared a cool map of these trails, which will be featured on a new kiosk in the Park, built with funds given to us by the Tucker Community Foundation. Now we need to raise funds to create an entrance sign, install trail markers, and start work on a new trail along the Blackwater River at Davis. Please help!



**Save Our Squirrel:** Two federal judges concluded that “Ginny,” the West Virginia Flying Squirrel, needs to be on the Endangered Species list – but that wasn’t good enough, because two other judges ruled against Ginny. Right now, and for the near term, Ginny and her babies have no federal protection – while her mountain home is threatened by logging, gas drilling, and climate change. So it is up to us to be the watchdog for Ginny! Yes, we can do it – with your support!

**Blackwater Canyon Update:** the timber company Allegheny Wood Products is moving ahead with a request to modify endangered species habitat in the Blackwater Canyon. We need to watch this very carefully, and increase our pressure to purchase AWP’s 2,700 acres in the heart of the Canyon. We need your support for

this effort!

**Trout Restoration:** Friends of Blackwater is working with the Monongahela National Forest and the Eastern Brook Trout Initiative to get to remediate damaged mountain streams, and introduce native brook trout. When Porte Crayon first traveled to this area in the 1850’s his party of adventures caught over 150 trout a day. Those days will return – with your help.

**Gas Drilling on Eastern Forests:** Eastern National Forests are sources of clean drinking water for communities, outdoor recreation and contemplation of nature, habitat for rare wildlife, and a buffer against climate change. Our forests need strong advocates. Our coalition is putting together a guidebook on regulating gas drilling and fracking to protect our public lands from unsuitable drilling.

**Upper Greenbrier North Timber Project:** Thanks to Friends of Blackwater’s efforts, the Forest Service is now moving forward with stream restoration and road removal. But timbering and road building in flying squirrel habitat, dozens of log landings, and herbicide spraying are still a threat. We can’t let the unproven label of “spruce restoration” be rhetorical cover for major commercial logging of some of the most fragile wildlife habitat in the East. More than

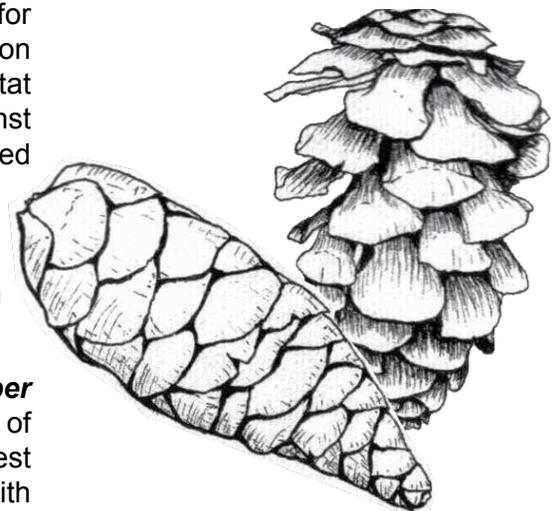


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Brendan Dozier at J.R. Clifford (right), along with Dexter Greene and Brian Crockett perform a scene from “A New Home for Liberty”



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ever, we need your support for FOB scientists -- who watchdog our public lands.



**Bats Batting Last:** The devastating White Nose Syndrome continues to spread, now affecting West Virginia’s little brown bat, the Indiana bat, the eastern small-footed bat, and the northern long-eared and tricolored bats. Friends of Blackwater and the Center for Biological Diversity are partnering to get Fish and Wildlife protection for these creatures.

**JR Clifford and Civil War History:** New Home for Liberty, our exciting play about the creation of West Virginia was put on again at Shepherd University. We had support from the Appalachian Community Fund, AT&T, local law firms and American Public University.

*Help us keep these projects  
moving forward*

**DONATE NOW!**



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# Friends of Blackwater

Read About:

“Moving  
to the Mountains”



[www.saveblackwater.org](http://www.saveblackwater.org)

*Season's Greetings!*

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