



Friends of Blackwater Canyon

Blackwater Rail-Trail Campaign Delivers Powerful Message



Judy Rodd, accompanied by Ginny the Flying Squirrel, Billy the Brook Trout and Indy the Big-Eared Bat, delivers 1,800 comment cards to Bill Shields of the U. S. Forest Service on February 6.

Friends of Blackwater kicked off the New Year with an energetic campaign to protect the Blackwater Canyon Rail-Trail. FOB supporters

generated more than 5,000 comments to the Forest Service. The Forest Service wants to allow the publicly-owned trail to be

“reconfigured” into a logging haul road.

FOB sent out mailings and action alert e-mails, ran twelve newspaper ads, got statewide newspaper and radio coverage, and support from several national groups: American Lands, American Rivers, Defenders of Wildlife, and The Wilderness Society.

FOB prepared a detailed legal comment letter with the help of Wilderness Society’s Mary Krueger. The letter was co-signed by Friends of the Earth, American Lands, the West Virginia Rivers Coalition, the West Virginia Environmental Council, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, Heartwood, the Rails to Trails Conservancy, the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, and Wildlands CPR. FOB submitted a legal opinion written by Deirdre Purdy, an attorney for Bailey and Glasser.

Letters and comments were delivered to Bill Shields at the Monongahela National Forest Service headquarters in Elkins.

Thanks so much for supporting Blackwater Canyon Rail Trail protection!

EPA Joins FOB, Questions Forest Service Trail Plan!

On February 17, 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a stinging criticism of the Forest Service plan to turn the Blackwater Canyon Rail Trail into a logging haul road.

EPA’s comment letter in the Federal Register asks: Why wasn’t helicopter logging, which AWP used 4 years ago, considered as an alternative? Why wasn’t resort development along the Trail described and its impacts evaluated in the U.S. Forest Services’ Draft

plan? EPA states that the Forest Service’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement contains insufficient information. EPA also expressed concerns about potential impacts on aquatic and terrestrial habitat, threatened and endangered species, and cultural resources.

The experts at the EPA agreed with thousands of citizens who wrote comments to the Forest Service: “Do the plan over, and do it right!”

In this Issue

- Trail Comment Message 1
- EPA Supports FOB Position 1
- National Park Bills Introduced 1
- Director’s Update 2
- Pomerance Honored 2
- Dancing Timberdoodle 3
- OUR John Brown is THE Pioneer ... 3
- Christmas Sweepstakes Winner 3
- Baloney Man at Vandalia 3
- FOB Represented at WVU Parade ... 3
- 2005 Members 4,5
- 2005 Supportive Contributors 6
- In Memory and In Honor 6
- North Fork Watershed News 7
- Keep Dolly Sods Wild News 7
- Cheat Canyon Project News 7
- Clifford-Niagara Project News 7
- Skiing Blackwater Falls State Park... 8
- FOB Membership Form 8
- National Park Ad Campaign 8
- Harper’s Ferry Outdoor Festival 8

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www.SaveBlackwater.org

WV Legislators Introduce Bills for National Park

Delegate Sharon Spencer and Senator Randy White sponsored High Allegheny National Park Study Bills during the 2006 Regular Session of the West Virginia Legislature. The bills asked the Joint

Committee on Government and Finance to study the feasibility of a National Park in the High Allegheny Region of West Virginia. The bills stated that a National Park would increase county revenues, increase

employment, increase tourism and retirement and recreation industries, decrease local and state burdens for managing public lands, and improve management of key natural areas and protected public lands. Other

Delegate sponsors of the House legislation were: Delegates Caputo, Longstreth, Manchin, Martin, Paxton, and Thompson. Thanks so much, Delegate Sharon Spencer and Senator Randy White!



Delegate Sharon Spencer



Michael Caputo



Tim Manchin



Brady Paxton



Linda Longstreth



Dale Martin



Rick Thompson



Senator Randy White

Director's Update

Friends of Blackwater has now been in existence for five years! We have grown from 2,000 activists to 9,000; from 330 donors to 2,000; and from a budget of \$35,000 to \$235,000! We have protected 675 acres in Blackwater Canyon, obtained support from 15 statewide political candidates for Blackwater protection, and worked to have National Park study bills introduced in the West Virginia Legislature.

We have also taken on Cheat Canyon protection and industrial wind siting. We are supporting heritage tourism with the J.R. Clifford project and recreation at the Park. Our Trail campaign brought in over 5,000 comments and validation by EPA.

We are your voice for the Highlands. For more on our work, view our annual report online or order a copy from FOB's Charleston office.

Here are some of those voices:

Comments on Trail from our Supporters

Mr and Mrs Tony Lambrino, Douglas, WV. "We live at the head of the trail and we do not want the noise pollution."

Michael Hanna, Mammoth, WV. "Our wilderness is dwindling at a rapid pace. Must you allow another greedy lumber company and developers to ruin Blackwater Canyon?"

Phil Minninger, Paoli, Indiana. "I grew up in Harman, WV in Randolph County and know intimately the threat this proposed action poses. I am writing to declare my protest and commitment to work for the removal from office of those officials who support this proposal."

Christina McAtee, Reynoldsville, WV. "I just don't understand why you would want to do something so horrible to such a beautiful area. If you have never been there to see it in the spring, summer, and/or fall you would not understand. Please do not do this to the trails I have hiked as a kid and the trails I would like to someday take my kids to."

Robert Gedekoh, Elizabeth, PA. "Please note that I live out of state and that I care passionately about this trail and the entire Blackwater Canyon. I travel routinely to the Blackwater

Keep the Rail-Trail Protection Campaign Going, Send Letters to:

Governor Joe Manchin III
West Virginia State Capitol
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305
Fax: 304-342-7025

U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510
Fax: 304-343-7144
(Charleston Office)

WV Senator Jon Blair Hunter
1265 4-H Camp Road
Morgantown, WV 26508-2458
Email: senhunter@mountain.net

Editor
Charleston Gazette/Daily Mail
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Charleston, WV 25301
E-mail: letters@wvgazette.com

Please note that letters to the Editor must be less than 200 words and include your name, address and phone number. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published.

region to kayak, hike, and cross-country ski. When I travel I often spend money on lodging and almost always spend money at the restaurants, shops, gas stations and other businesses. Please do not support the destruction of this pristine recreation "magnet" that draws visitors like myself to your wonderfully wild state to invest in your economy. People will not come to visit a logged out, condo-infested valley... we have plenty of those we can visit locally."

Tom Samples, owner, **Canyon Rim Outdoors**, Thomas WV. "As a local business owner who operates a bike rental company in Thomas, it appalls me to see the USFS solicitously cater to the interests of big business. Closing the trail through the week for logging activity and then opening it on the weekends for recreational use is almost comical - who wants to recreate in a logging site in which large trucks have been hauling trees out on the very trail that one is supposed to be riding his or her bike or hiking?"

John Krouse, Morgantown, WV. "I'm bewildered that the U.S. Forest Service would even consider selling, let alone giving, part of our Blackwater Canyon over to commercial development. Is nothing sacred except the rights of business? Do we have no God other than profit?"

Michele Book, Bunker Hill, WV. "My family for years has enjoyed the scenic Blackwater Rail Trail. We look forward to our annual family gathering in the fall. The beautiful fall foliage, the peace and tranquility of the forest and the Blackwater River."

G. Ballard, Bruceton Mills, WV. "I have traveled this trail and it is spectacular...I have also taken members of Boy Scout Troop 64 from the Mountaineer Council on a spectacular bike ride from the Olsen Fire Tower down to Douglas and then down this trail to Route 72. It is an experience I wish to continue each year with new scouts as it is one of those experiences that they never tire of talking about. Please don't take this opportunity away from our youth."

Jeff Stine, Martinsburg, WV. "I have hiked and biked this trail many times. It is a naturally beautiful location that lends itself to total natural enjoyment. I am not an activist nor an environmental wacko. I am a hardworking father and husband that enjoys the beauty of this special place."

Darynann Ellis, Foster, WV. "Please save our forest...I am only 16 and would like to have it there when I'm 30 to take and show my kids...like my mother did me."

DD Moran of Eglon, WV. "Once the land is gone, it may never come back."

Richard Drabish, Elkview, WV. "My wife and I are both retired and own a second home in Canaan Valley. For 30 years I worked in the Canaan Blackwater area for a major resource company. During that 30-year period, I became very familiar with this area, falling in love with its beauty and cultural history. We would hate to see a piece of that destroyed forever. In short, we are totally against any plans

on your part to give away or sell any part of the Blackwater Canyon and/or the surrounding area for commercial development. You guys ought to be ashamed of yourself for even thinking such a thing!"

Cynthia Webster, Shepherdstown, WV. "Let's hang on to the integrity of our beautiful state. As a West Virginia educator, I teach my students about the natural treasure this state holds for each of them. They are excited to explore the rivers and trails that they have read and heard about. They will be the ones to carry on the pride in the natural beauty of our state. Do we want to destroy this enthusiasm and support? I am proud to be a mountaineer. Are you?"

William DePaulo, Esq., Charleston, WV. "The Forest Service's proposed action is consistent with the Bush Administration's long and sorry history of abdication of public responsibility in favor of politically connected cronies - all at the expense of the public. Coming on the heels of the disclosure that the Mine Safety and Health Administration discarded proposals for equipment to protect miners that might have saved the lives of miners at the Sago and Logan mines, it is a pathetic reminder that this administration is committed to government of, by and for commercial interests."

Pomerance Honored at DC Fundraiser



At our Washington, D.C. fundraiser last fall, Friends of Blackwater gave Rafe Pomerance our Board Member of the Year Award.

The ceremony included speeches by comrades in arms from Rafe's past in the environmental movement. Brock Evans of the Endangered Species Coalition and Bill Meadows of the Wilderness Society praised Pomerance's perseverance and diplomacy and Claudia Schechter reminisced about Rafe's creative thinking. The most memorable speech was given by Brent Blackwelder, who dressed as the head of the Army Corps of Engineers complete with hardhat, whip and sponge epaulettes. Brent

recalled years of working to protect the rivers of the United States with Rafe as the strategic genius of the campaign.

In addition to the Award ceremony, an auction of West Virginia items was held. Auction donations were made by Timberline Four Seasons Resort, Patagonia, Jim Clark, Beth Koller, Alan Kienny, The Purple Fiddle, and Bright Morning Inn. Thanks to Sam and Joe Hermann for the music and homemade blankets and hats from Hampshire County wool. Jessie Harris brought her beautiful wild flower photographs to sell, with part of the proceeds going to Friends of Blackwater. It was a great night!

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Dancing Timberdoodle

By: J. Lawrence Smith



at sunset and at dawn. The dumpy, brown bird with its long bill seems hardly handsome, except in the eyes of another woodcock.

One place you are almost guaranteed hearing a bird performing is in Canaan Valley. Drive along the roads at sunset until you hear a nasal or buzzy sound somewhat like zeeeeep! coming from the edge of a meadow or boggy opening. A cock bird may be at an interlude in his performance.

Soon the bird will spring into flight and begin an upward spiral to a great height with a whistling of its wings. After an interval of silence, a chirping and clucking will be heard as it tumbles to earth. When there is a full moon, the woodcock will often sky dance throughout the night.

With the unfolding of spring and the beginning of nesting, the urge to engage in the instinctive ritual becomes more infrequent. Even so,

many cock birds will turn to the courting flight off and on throughout the summer.

Even though the cock performs the courtship ritual with enthusiasm, there is no real pairing as birds of different sexes have their own territory. The female gives little attention to nest building which is a sparsely lined depression on the ground where the four buffy eggs are laid.

Preferred nesting habitat is early stages of succession or the regeneration of plant life. Such situations were rather abundant in the early decades of the last century with the abandonment of much farmland. The young become active soon after hatching and make short flights at two weeks.

An abundant woodcock population nests in Canaan Valley where it was the subject of an extended study by state wildlife personnel for a period of years. Here habitat such as alder thickets and

adjacent bogs have remained largely in a state of equilibrium over time.

The valley offers a vast area of prime conditions for essentially one great nesting ground for the tremendous number of birds found here. The number of woodcock in the valley at the end of the nesting season is estimated at well over a thousand.

The valley is one of three sites, along with Cape May, New Jersey and Cape Charles, Virginia, where birds gather by the thousands during the fall flight from Canada and the northeastern states. An estimated twenty thousand spend some part of their southward migration in the valley.

The woodcock remains largely unseen and unheard throughout the year, when it remains hidden in a thicket or has migrated. The "timberdoodle" returns with spring to set the twilight hours abuzz with its aerial efforts at romance.

The cheerful song of a robin at dawn is considered a sign that spring is moving across the land and winter is ended. Another sound that is just as much a part of the season is the nasal beeping of the American woodcock during twilight hours.

Perhaps while hiking through open woods or across a damp meadow, a bird springs from underfoot and flies away with a bubbling sound. You have met a woodcock, which is called "timberdoodle" for its bubbling alarm notes!

Early spring is when the male woodcock turns to aerial romancing and performs a "sky dance" after

Congratulations to Holiday Sweepstakes Winner Bob Wilson



New faces at Friends of Blackwater Charleston Office



Kim Broughton

Blackwater Canyon a hit at WVU Homecoming Parade in Morgantown



Friends of Blackwater is the quarterly newsletter for the members, donors and network activists of Friends of Blackwater, Inc. To receive this publication on a regular basis, call 304-345-7663, or read it online by clicking on the NEWSLETTERS button at www.saveblackwater.org.

Visit Baloney Man at 2006 Vandalia Festival and Help Support Friends of Blackwater

Charlie Black, a.k.a. Baloney Man, will be serving up delicious sandwiches and fruit cobblers this Memorial Day at the annual Vandalia Gathering. Charlie will donate a portion of his earnings to Friends of Blackwater. The Festival runs from May 26 through May 28 at the State Capitol.



Brandae Mullins

Friends of Blackwater's John M. Brown: The Glenville Pioneer

When Friends of Blackwater's technical advisor, John Brown enrolled at Glenville State College, the energetic computer guru went center stage at the school's athletic events as its mascot. Go John!





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Emma Shelton
Marianne J. Skeen
George/Margaret Smith

Margaret/Jay Stern
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Helen F. Thalheimer	Bruce R. Debolt	Ric MacDowell	Catherine Tebay	Marian Cox	Thomas Klus	Kathryn/James Stone
Richard/Nancy Treat	James T. Decker	Steven D Mace	Lori Thornton	Bill Csutoros	Sandra Knowles	Bruce D Strathearn
Margaret/Jim Trott	David Denton	John R Magan	Irma Ullrich	Mary Jarvis Currence	Mary Ellen Koenn	Jim/Mary Sullivan
Peter Turkaly/Kim Panzarella	Douglas/Andrea Denton	Jim Mahrer	Ron Ulle	John/Thelma Dalmas	Charles/Adella Langham	Bruce Sundquist
Barry Tuscano	Dominic DeVincenzo	Alta I. Mainer	Annette van Hilst	John Davidson	Robert/Mary Lu Latane'	John C. Taylor
Jim/Judy Van Gundy	Ann/Gary Devine-King	Lowell/Teryl Markey	Jack VanValkenburgh	James Dentinger	Phyllis H Law	Sidney/Barbara Tedford
Riley A. Vann/Dawn M. Bell	Robert/Elizabeth Dickey	Michele Marston	Mark Vieno	Dolores/Gerald Devaul	Patricia Lawson	Charles/Elizabeth Tewksbury
Blaire VanValkenburgh	Kristin Douglas	Kent/Ruth Ann Mason	Mary E. Vogel	Adolph/Barbara Deynzer	Lenna Leeson	Adele Thornton
Frank Venezia	J. W. Dumire	Allan/Alice May	William Walton	Charles Dobbins	Sandra Lindberg	Harriet Tucker
Richard, Janet/Jason Walls	Tom/Ajax Eastman	Bill McCabe	Frank Webb	Lillian Dodd	John/Jane Lindsay	Waino Tuominen
Robert R. Ward	David A. Eckhardt	Bert/Maxine McClain	Michael Webb	Alan Dolan	Margaret/Ronald Lindsey	Jerrold/Jean Wagener
Dawn Warfield/Michael Knight	David A. Eckhardt	Cathy McConnell	Scott/Laura Welch	Mary Douglas Krout	Judge/Mrs. Thomas Lohm	Buddy Watkins
Tim Warner/Paula Hunt	Ira Eggleton	Joyce McConnell	Bob Wilson	Douglas/Lynn Downs	Karen Maes	Diana Weatherby
Elizabeth Weimer	Karl Esser	Brian McCulley	Suzanne Wolfe	Tom Dressman	Jeanette Malson	Jon/Donna Weems
Howard/Beverly Wellman	Paul Fantetti	Benjamin/Stacy McKean	Carol Wolff	Margery Edington	John Manchester	William G. Wegener
Daniel/Jodi Welsch	Denise L. Ferguson	Margaret McKelvey	Doug Wood/Dianne Anestis	Gertrude Ehrlich	Laura Beth Marion	Ron Wilson
Greg/Maria Whiteaker	Frank/Bridget Fico	Suzanne McLaughlin	Karen Woodfork	Eula L. Elliott	Walter R Marria	Teresa F. Wilson
Mae Ellen Wilson/Julian Martin	Ian Fitzpatrick	William/Denise McNeel	Sandra Woods	March Enders	Frank/Ann Martin	Thomas E. Windsor
Rusty Wilson	Jane P. Fleming	Thomas McPherson	Erik Yoder	Chally Erb	Elizabeth McCloskey	Wayne Wolfram
George Wood	Donna Ford-Werntz	Jennifer Meinig	Karl Yoder	James/Tete Evans	Virginia McCormick	Josephine Wood
Donald/Linda Wright	Cheryl France	Elizabeth Mertz	Mike/Katrina Yoder	Boo Falk	Kenneth McDonald Jr	Jean R. Worthley
Del/Linda Yoder	Peggy Frankenfield	Martha Douglas Milam	Charles Yoho	Lawrence/Margaret Fanning	Helen McGinnis	Barbara/Albert Yandek
Hugh/Alice Young	Susan Fromme	Mary Miller	Michael Young	Pauline Farmer	Harry McMahon	
	Alvan Gale	Michael/Kimberly Moore	Ed Zahniser	Titi/John Ferguson	Stephanie Mendelson	
	Jessee B. Gandee II	Larry E. Morse	Carter Zerbe/Maureen Conley	James A. Fowler	Vaughn Michael	
	Sara Gann	George/Ginny Mozal		Scott Frame	Nathaniel Miller	Students for Blackwater
	Bob Gedekoh	Ronald Mudry		James/Helen Frashure	Ron/Mary Kay Miller	Corrinne Valerie Brong
	Helen/Neil L. Gibbins	Robert/Elizabeth Mueller		Raymond/Sarah Gagne	Glen/Anna Belle Mitchell	Clayton/Anna Burger
	Richard/Mary Gillett	Bart Murtaugh	Seniors for Blackwater	Gordon V Gay	William Montgomery	Patricia Carnes
Individuals for Blackwater	Raymond Godwin	Stacia Murzyn	C. Douglas Adams	Doug/Janet Gebler	Mary Moore	John Charonko III
Art Abrams	Carolyn Del Grande	Joy Oakes	Florence Adams	Lillian Giese	William/Elinor Moore	John Fleshman
Donna Acord	Constance McPeak Green	Jerry Oland	Glenna Adams	Terry/John Gilbert	Mary/James Morgan	Rebecca Fore
Betty Anne Adams	Katharine Gregg	B Kent Parker	Silas/Loretta Adkins	Del/Barbara Gillespie	James Mosher	Roland Foss
Felicia Adams	Benton Lee Grimm	Nathan Parr	Marilyn Aikman	Louise F Gillooly	Douglas/Margaret Neale	Diana K Green
Anthony Allred Jr	Molly Blake Gunther	Steve Pavlovic	Clarence Aleshire	Francis R Gilmore	Andrew O'Brien	Tia Harris
Ralph/Molly Anderegg	Patricia M. Gussey	Robert Peak/Jennifer Carpenter Peak	Hubert Allman	Olga Gioulis	Sam/Kim Olivio	Michael D. Harvey
Colleen Anderson	Dorothy M. Guy	E. Gail Pitchford	Joanne Amberson	Robert, Marie/Patsy Glottfelty	Marilyn Ortt	Kathy Hastings
Martha/Jim Anderson	George Hall	Lucia Pollock	Hazel Anderson	Hullet/Shirley Good	Bradford/Bernadine Owen	Keith Hoover
Richard Apperson	Walter Harbison	Dale A Porter	Mary Anderson	Joan/Milton Gottlieb	Thomas A./Alice Anne Pareti	Joseph Hovious
Zeke Applegate	Phyllis A. Harman	Dick Pratt	Terry Anderson	Richard/Audrey Gray	Del Parris	Chandra Inglis Smith
Calvert/Ted Armbrecht	Robert/Susan Harpold	Sue/Roy Price	Thomas Angotti	Pat Graybeal/Bert Lustig	Barbara/Arthur Pavlovic	John S. Kosticky
Robert Arnold/Glenn Harman	Joseph Harris	Perrie Lee Prouty	Mary Ashcraft	Roianne/Thomas Hackett	Brinda/Don Price	Mary Kyle
Edward L. Ash	Patti Harrison	Paul Reid	Paul Atkins	Neil Hadley	Mr./Mrs. Alex Primm	Ann Ours
James S. Baczuk	Shawn Hartje/Mary Sackett	Bill Richman	Jim/Wynona Bailey	Betty W. Hall	Beverly Prince	Debi B. Page
Susan M Baker	Charlton Hathaway	Paul/Marjorie Richter	Elizabeth Bare	Clara Mae Hall	Alice Rathbone	Sharon Pauley
Nikki Barone	Jay Hayes	Sally Roberts	Mary Beard	Carol Howe Hamblen	Karen/Gerald Ready	Emily Pilachowski
Brett/Anne Basham	Diane Hert	Thorn Roberts	Ralph Bell	Marjorie Hamperian	Shirley/Alfred Rectenwald	Jane Rector Donaldson/ Susan Breiding
Dave Bassage	Richard F. Hitchcock	David Rodgers	Mitchell/Constance Berk	Marjorie Hamperian	Randall Reyer	Linda Reeves
Henry Battle	Craig A Holberger	Sharon Roon	Charles/Elsie Bernstein	Stephen Hanchek	John/Betty Roberts	Clarke Ritchie
Allen Belden Jr	Shannon Holliday	Shirley Rosenbaum	Bruce/Marcia Bonta	Roger Hanna	Jean Rodman	Cassandra Sperringer
Beth Benckart	John Hooper	Frank/Barbara Ross	Robert E. Boone	Laura L Harbert	Jeremy/Phyllis Rogel	Derek Springston
Tristan Bond	Barbara Howe	The Roth Family	Ken Bosworth	Robert/Janice Hardman	H. John Rogers	Susan Stone/Jeremy Kelley
Lee Bowen	Hollie Hubbert	Alan Rudley	George H Breiding	Barry/Sassi Harel	Helaine K. Rotgin	Sarah Taggart
Kelly/Jeff Bowyer	Janis Hurst/David Elkinton	Glenn Ruskin	Robert/Deborah Bretzfelder	H. Milton Harr	James/Roberta Roush	Jon Thoma
Mary Boyd/John Henning	Joe Hussion	Joan Ryan	Eileen Brown	Bill/Jean Hartgroves	Daniel Salomon	Tia Triplett
Ann L Brown	E Clifton Hyre	Catherine Samargo	Gary/Bonnie Brown	Robert/Kathleen Hayes	Daniel Salomon	Jann Whitehair
Jo. Baily Brown	James Ireland		Helen/Charles Brown	Carol Headley	Paul Salstrom	Doll Whitman
Rose Ann Browning	Jerry Jenkins				Stanley/Ethel Schiff	
Dave Bruner	Claire A. Johnson					



Supportive Contributors

Sally Anderson
 Martha O Bell
 Peter & Jane Boone
 Ruth Boyd
 Kevin & Dana Brake
 Tom Brody & Patti Reum
 Kristin Carter
 Randall Chew
 Adele & Robert Cole
 Caroline Coleman
 Scott Coston
 Megan Curtis
 Larry Brent Dadisman
 Diane H Deci
 David & Trecla Deterich
 Jack Ditty
 Maxine Duckworth
 Linda Eddy
 Karen Fedorov
 David Ferguson
 Eve Firor
 Richard Folden
 Dana Fry
 John & Lesley Gilbert
 Marvin Gilmore
 Lee Gordon
 Marla Zelene Harman
 Cheryl & Marc Harshman
 Lois Hedges
 Kent & Rosalyn Hedman
 Than Hitt
 Faye Hoffman
 Pete & Pat Holman
 Joan Kalso
 David Kauffman & Mark Benninghoff
 Hugh T Kemper
 Arnold N. Kramer & Emily Carton
 Markus Kung
 Charlotte Lanham
 Thomas & Shirley Locke
 John & Pamela Lutz
 Terence Major
 Carli D. Mareneck
 Dallas & Ann Martin
 David D. Maxwell
 Maggie McCarty
 Jim McIntyre
 William & Sara McVay
 Jim Miernyk
 Lucile Miller
 Donna Mitchell & William Roody
 John & Betty Mitchell
 Mike Moore
 Marilyn Morton
 Diana Mullis
 James Murray
 Elsa Nadler
 Rob & Vickana Norton
 Robert Paviour Jr.
 John D. Perdue
 George & Jean Pozega
 R. Gilbert & Jann Randell
 Marc A. Resnick
 Paul & Marsha H Rexrode
 Ronald & JoAnn Richardson
 Ritchie Robb
 Laura & David Roberson
 Margaret & Ken Roberts
 Anne Romance
 Ken Schaal
 Merle & Ruby Schaeffer
 Steven H. Shepard & Robin C. Coakley
 Diane & Michael Sherwin
 Darlene Simmons
 Hobert & Patricia Smith
 Jim Smolka
 James Snyder
 Kristine Bobo Specht
 Sharon Spencer
 Margy Stewart
 Magdalene Straw
 Dain & Vera Trafton
 Jim Wagner
 Jean H. Washburn
 James & Kristie Welch
 Ruth & Robert Wilkinson
 Nicholas Winowich

Bonnie Jones was full of heart, intelligence, humor and zest for life. Last October, hundreds of people were shocked and saddened at her death due to domestic violence. She was an administrator in a tough Chicago high school. She loved art, and was an artistic and generous beader. She loved reading, good conversation, travel and old time music and dance. She biked, camped, ran marathons and loved living near the beach of Lake Michigan. Bonnie's favorite time of year was each August when she spent two weeks outdoors in the beauty of the West Virginia hills. A dear friend, Betty Schwimmer of Greenbrier County, made a donation to Friends of Blackwater in her memory.

A donation was given in memory of **Wilma Csutoros**, by Bill Csutoros, her husband. Wilma had been coming to the Blackwater Canyon since the early sixties: Camping, fishing, and sight seeing in the place she loved so well. She was indeed a friend of the Blackwater Canyon.

Hazel Oliff of Hyattsville, MD, donated to Friends of Blackwater in memory of her husband **Clarence L. Oliff**. Clarence was a bus driver when the two met in 1946, and Hazel worked at the University of Maryland and later at the National Park Service. In addition to traveling out west, the couple would go visit Hazel's sisters who lived near the Blackwater Canyon. They'd ride the train down the mountain. They'd also pick huckleberries and apples, and make apple butter. Hazel also made a donation in memory of a neighbor, Paul Teter, father of Friends of the Allegheny Front activist Donna Cook.

Jane and Doug Hockom, skiing instructors at Timberline, were honored by a donation by Rose Ann Browning, Jane's mother. Rose Ann says, "My daughter was living in an apartment in Thomas and working as an actress at the Valley Ridge Theatre under the direction of her professor at Ohio University. When Jane decided to marry and stay in the Blackwater area, I bought her a lot at Black Bear Woods with a spectacular view of the Canaan Valley. Jane currently works in acting with Voices from the Earth."

Stephanie Golightly Lowden of Madison, WI, sent a donation in memory of her father, **William Golightly**, a native of Davis. As a child, she visited Blackwater Falls State Park while visiting her father's family.

In Memory and Honor

Tragically, her father died when she was nine and she didn't return to the area until she was 18, and not again until almost 30 years later, with her husband Lawrence and daughter in spring 1996. "I'd forgotten how the elevation affected the weather," she wrote. "Instead of landing in southern climes we found ourselves surrounded by about an inch of snow one morning!" Stephanie and Lawrence hope to return to the area soon. She writes, "I am thrilled that your organization takes such care of a magical place that will forever be imprinted on my memory. Thank you for the work you do."

Lenna Leeson of LaVale, MD, donated to Friends of Blackwater in memory of her husband **William Leeson**, the first director of the WVU Arboretum in the early 1950s. He was working on his masters in botany just as the arboretum was being founded, and took a group of students around the state collecting plant specimens to grow there. They moved to the Cumberland area, and often came to Blackwater, staying in a cabin, hiking and enjoying all the birds, plants and trees. "He was such a nature lover," says Mrs. Leeson, "and he tried to impart that to his students and to our children."

John Abraham donated in memory of his wife, **Loraine James Abraham**, who died Sept. 29, 2004. Loraine grew up on Location Road at St. George, near the Canyon. Her father was John James, and her mother, Malvina Lipscomb, lived to be 98 and was honored as the area's oldest resident. Loraine moved to Michigan during WWII—"we were both farm kids and understood each other," says John. "Spring houses where we cooled the milk, even an outhouse with Sears catalogs." When the James family farm fell into debt, the Abrahams bought it, along with 100 acres next to it, and planted 16,000 evergreen trees on it. "We used to take our children and grandchildren to Blackwater. It was a favorite spot," he says.

David Deterick and his wife Trecla, of St. Joseph, MO, donated to Friends of Blackwater in memory of **Clark Miller**, Trecla's father. Mr. Miller worked at the Musselman plant in Inwood, WV. He spent his free time in outings with Brooks Bird Club and taking his children and Scout troops on nature walks. The Detricks, both WVU graduates, often visit friends in the Blackwater area.

"Trecla has many fond memories of being outdoors with her dad in West Virginia," says David.

Cleo Mayfield of Columbia, TN, donated to Friends of Allegheny Front in memory of her husband **G.R. Mayfield**, a doctor and longtime bird bander. Ralph Bell, the 90 year old dean of West Virginia bird banding who was featured in Friends of Blackwater's October 2005 newsletter, helped young G.R. Mayfield get his masters' permit to band birds. Cleo still keeps in touch with Mr. Bell, and with the birds that fly and live in the Appalachians, from her post at the Big Bald Mountain bird banding station in Tennessee. Their son, George Radford Mayfield III, of Ellenboro, NC, has his banding permit now, along with a masters degree in ornithology. Grandfather George Mayfield I helped found the Tennessee Ornithological society in 1915. As part of a long line of naturalists, G.R. II "disliked the idea of a wind farm at Dolly Sods," Cleo said of her husband.

Deatra Markham sent a donation to honor fellow Charlestonian **Margaret Calwell** on her 90th birthday. As Blackwater friends might remember, Margaret is the author of the colorful history of the town of Davis: *Speak to the Past: A Memoir Fat with Words*.

Lillian Dodd of Charleston, age 84, sent a donation in memory of her husband of 57 years, **William L. Dodd Jr.** who died Jan. 3, 2005. William worked at Libby Owens glass plant and for the AFL-CIO. He would often take the family to Blackwater Canyon. He also served a term in the legislature in 1977-78, and a crucial vote came up at the Capitol while he and the family were in the Canyon. A state helicopter was dispatched to Blackwater Lodge to pick him up for the vote and redeposit him to continue vacationing, which caused great excitement among the guests, she remembers.

Marci Ruth Anderson, niece of H. John Rogers of New Martinsville, had a severe case of the birth defect spina bifida, and at age 4 was not expected to live long. She could smile and raise her head, but had to wear a shunt to keep from choking when she breathed. Nevertheless her family took her everywhere. Her health seemed to be on the upswing in 1986 when they planned a trip to Blackwater Canyon, but she took a sudden downturn.

When the family was at the head of the canyon, she suddenly passed away. Marci's uncle, known for his wild and crazy political columns in Graffiti, donated to Friends of Blackwater in her memory. H. John has written many letters to public officials for Blackwater, and has taken a bicycle to the Canyon, noting its remarkable steepness. "I think it's the most beautiful place in West Virginia," he says. Since a flood in New Martinsville in 2004, the Rogers family has been in the same boat as Katrina survivors, living in a FEMA trailer. All of which causes H. John to yearn more for the Canyon, which he compares to Longfellow's phrase, "the forest primeval." We send good wishes to H. John and all the others who are recovering from floods and family tragedies.

Alex Primm lives in the Ozarks in Rolla, MO and enjoyed hiking and fishing when he was stationed with the military in Beckley during the Vietnam War. He says the woods of West Virginia resemble the Ozarks. Alex donated to Friends of Blackwater in honor of his West Virginia-based brother in law and sister, **Sara and David Kovanik** of Hurricane. "About 25 years ago, the Army Corps of Engineers proposed a dam here in eastern Missouri. It was eventually defeated in a regional referendum," recalls Alex. "These issues take a long time to get settled. The key is to educate and inspire people. Friends of Blackwater seems to be doing that very well."

Margy Stewart of Junction City, Kansas, donated to Friends of the Allegheny Front on behalf of her local environmental group, **Friends of McDowell Creek**. She reports that her group aims to protect Flint Hills, the last stand of the tallgrass prairie that used to cover the entire Great Plains. The latest threat is huge numbers of wind turbines planned for the ridgelines, over 80 windmills on one ranch alone. In addition to destroying the timeless Plains horizon views, she says that digging the foundations would tear up the root and soil ecosystem essential to the prairie plants, and destroy underground water tables now used for a sustainable cattle industry. "These huge turbine structures are outdated technology," she says. "Some good miniature windmill prototypes are now available. But the way the tax credits are set up now, the bigger the structure, the more the subsidy." She adds, "If we don't go to bat for our special places, like our tallgrass prairie and the Blackwater Canyon, they'll disappear."

North Fork Watershed Welcomes Meredith Ballard

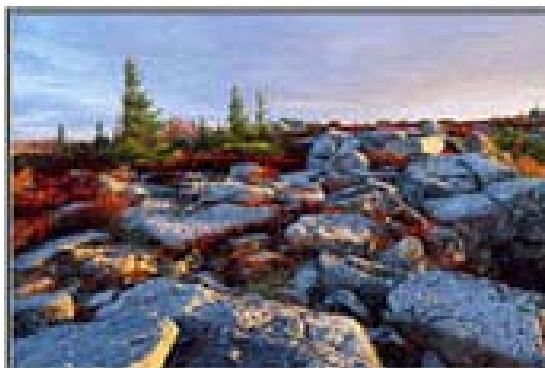


Mapping lady, snow camper and future hydrogeologist joins the team.

Assaults Continue on Dolly Sods, Spruce Knob, Highland Scenic Highway Viewsheds

Citizens Rise Up!

Concerned landowners in Grant, Tucker, Pendleton and Tucker Counties are organizing to stop



Dolly Sods photo by Jonathan Jessup.

industrial wind projects in their backyards and in some of West Virginia's most scenic viewsheds. The NedPower project just north of Dolly Sods is being challenged in court.

Citizens in Pendleton County are intervening before the Public Service Commission against the

Jack Mountain project, just south of Spruce Knob.

Greenbrier County residents sent 1,500 comments opposing the Cold Mountain Project in the viewshed of the Highlands Scenic Highway and the Cranberry Wilderness. Citizens for Responsible Wind Power has filed for the reopening of U.S. Windforce's case file at the PSC. Windforce's project is just north of Canaan Valley, next to the Mountaineer

Project on Backbone Mountain, where up to 5,000 birds and bats are being killed each fall.

Spruce Knob, the state's highest peak at 4,861, is sacred ground for West Virginians who camp, hike, bike, hunt, boat and fish in its shadow and climb the windy viewing tower to look out upon ridge after ridge of mountains stretching out to the far horizon.

This inspiring view reminds us of the enduring majesty of our mountains. But with industrial wind projects planned to the north, south, east and west of our most famous peak, how long will we be able to enjoy this famous view? Please don't allow the view from Dolly Sods, Spruce Knob and the Highlands Scenic Highway to be destroyed. Join the campaign to create siting regulations to protect West Virginia's special places!

Cheat Lawsuit Heats Up, Help Needed



In spite of nine months of intense negotiations between citizen groups and Allegheny Wood Products, the timber company insists that they will go ahead and log in sensitive areas of the Cheat Canyon. These areas are home to the endangered Indiana bat and flat-spined three-toothed land snail, and many other sensitive species like the green salamander. This flagrant breaking of the law has forced the Sierra Club, the Cheat Lake Environment and Recreation Association, and Friends of Blackwater to move forward with litigation under Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act. A trial date is set for September of 2006. Please help the campaign to protect the unique Cheat River Canyon by sending donations to Friends of Blackwater, 501 Elizabeth St., Charleston, WV 25311; or online at www.saveblackwater.org.

Clifford-Niagara Partners with Friends of Blackwater

Maria Armada and the Clifford-Niagara Project are the newest additions to the Friends of Blackwater office in Charleston. Maria is a graduate of Marshall University, and she is excited to help coordinate the celebration of J.R. Clifford's civil rights legacy in West Virginia.

J.R. Clifford was West Virginia's first African American attorney. Maria is working to develop programs designed to raise awareness about Clifford's life and celebrate the rich history that surrounds it.

One of Clifford's clients, Carrie Williams, taught at the colored

school in the Blackwater Canyon. Clifford represented her when she sued and won against racial discrimination in the education system. A performance of "J.R. Clifford and the Carrie Williams Case" will be staged in Keyser, WV at the Potomac State College Church-McKee Arts Center on March 21, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. It will be a memorable performance for the community because many of Clifford's relatives live in the area.

On April 26, there will be a wonderful show in Morgantown, WV for the upcoming Niagara Centennial Celebration. It will take place in the historic Metropolitan Theatre on High Street. The performance will include a full choir and an all-star community cast. Tickets went on sale February 25 and are selling quickly. Revenue from this event will pay for West Virginia youth to attend the summer Centennial in Harpers Ferry. To order tickets, call Maria at 304-345-7663 or send an email to info@Clifford-Niagara.org.

The Niagara Centennial Celebration in Harpers Ferry will

take place August 16-20. The Niagara Movement was founded in 1905 by a group of 32 African Americans, led by W. E. B. Du Bois, John Hope, and J.R. Clifford. They called for full civil liberties, an end to racial discrimination, and recognition of human brotherhood. The inaugural meeting took place in Fort Erie, Ontario, July 11-14, 1905. Their second meeting was held at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, the site of John Brown's raid. The Niagara Movement became the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1909.

We are thrilled to be a part of this exciting celebration of a Civil Rights milestone that occurred right here in West Virginia and to help showcase a great Blackwater hero, JR Clifford, West Virginia's first African American lawyer.

Meet Project Manager Maria Armada



This newsletter is available online at www.SaveBlackwater.org

Skiing Blackwater

Choose a membership level and send your name, address, and e-mail to Friends of Blackwater, 501 Elizabeth Street, Charleston WV 25311 **Join!**

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Porte Crayon Society ___ \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family _____ \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crown Jewel Club ___ \$ 500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual _____ \$ 35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Steward ___ \$ 250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior _____ \$ 20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron _____ \$ 100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student _____ \$ 10 |



The next time you head to Blackwater Falls State Park for a little recreation, plan on seeing a familiar face at the concessions building.

On February 15, one of Tucker County's favorite local business owners, Sam Jinks from Highland Scene Tours, took over the operation of the Park's Nordic Center. Sam won the five-year contract to manage activities on the ski trails, snowboarding courses and sled hill.

"Winter recreation is a wonderful experience. From mastering the trails to relaxing by a fireplace at the warming hut or sharing a hot chocolate around a late-night bonfire, Blackwater Falls State Park is an amazing family adventure, I am glad to be a part of it," said Sam.

In the summer, Sam will manage operations of the paddle boats,

coordinate biking trips on the Blackwater Canyon Rail-Trail, and offer family-style, flatwater kayaking on the Blackwater River.

Sam and his experiences in running a successful business are great additions to the Park. Not only is he doing what he loves, but he is surrounded by State Park personnel who have welcomed him to the Blackwater Family.

"Superintendent Rob Gilligan, Assistant Superintendent Melissa Brown and the Blackwater Falls State Park staff have been very helpful in welcoming our company into the Park, and I am very glad for this opportunity," Sam added.

Blackwater Ads Highlight National Park Campaign

Friends of Blackwater ran ads showing the value of a High Allegheny National Park in West Virginia. The ad campaign was made possible, in part, by a grant from Temper of the Times, a foundation dedicated to protecting

the environment through the media. The ads were well received bringing new people into our organization. This year, 203 new people donated to Friends of Blackwater and 1,183 joined our network of activists. Thank you Temper of the Times!

Save the Blackwater Canyon Rail Trail

The United States Forest Service wants to *give away* a world-class hiking and biking Trail—*on our public land*—in the heart of the scenic Blackwater Canyon, West Virginia's premier natural treasure. Citizens who love the Blackwater Canyon region must speak out. Tell the Forest Service, NO! to public land giveaways.



©Kenneth Garrett

COMMENT
to the Forest Service
by February 6, 2006 at
www.SaveBlackwater.org

To Protect Blackwater Canyon Forever
SUPPORT
High Allegheny National Park



©Sam McCormick

Friends of Blackwater
1-877-WVA-LAND

Harpers Ferry Outdoor Festival Set for June 17



For eight years, the paddling community of the greater Harpers Ferry area has hosted a kayak race/festival in memory of Tim Gavin. Tim was a resident, friend, and avid paddler who lost his life in a kayaking accident in March 1998 on the Upper Blackwater River. Tim was an outdoor recreation enthusiast and supporter of preserving our local natural resources for future generations. Since whitewater was such a large part of his life, the Festival donates a portion of their proceeds to Friends of Blackwater. because of the roles we play in conservation, preservation, and monitoring resource quality.

This year's race will be held on the Shenandoah River at the KOA Campground in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. The race course traverses Class I, II, and III rapids. This is a fun race for all skill levels of boating, so bring your canoe, kayak, ducky, or raft. An awards ceremony, silent auction, great food, and live music will highlight the close of river events. Plenty of camping space is available so bring a tent or stay in one of the cabins on site. For more information, visit this website: harpersferryoutdoorfestival.org or call Mike Moore at (304) 676-6853.