Working to protect West Virginia's Highlands, the Blackwater River watershed and the Blackwater Canyon.

Friends of Blackwater

SNOWSHOE RESORT HEARTS GINNY? WE DON'T THINK SO!

NEW FACES FOR A NEW YEAR

WV FACING MANY WATER QUALITY ISSUES

BAT DISEASE SPREADS TO WEST VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS

Also Inside:

Salazar: New Broom at Department of Interior
Canyon Purchase Update
The Raven: Winged Symbol of Blackwater Wilderness
Rebecca Harding Davis: Novelist on the Blackwater
Wilderness and the Loving Eye
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I.R. Clifford Honored with Stamp
In Memory of Tom Kelly
Coketon Memories
Salamanders and Tortillas?
Lonely Hearts Club Night at the North Fork
Happy Baby New Year!
New Ginny T-Shirts

Working to protect West Virginia's Highlands, the Blackwater River watershed and the Blackwater Canyon.
Dear Friend:

On January 22, 2009 Ken Salazar, our new Secretary of the Department of Interior (DOI), spoke to Fish and Wildlife Service and other DOI employees about his plans for the agency. The Service has been criticized by Friends of Blackwater and by many other conservation groups and elected officials, like West Virginia Congressman Nick Rahall. Past Fish and Wildlife decisions have reflected a political bias and are not based on good science. It was encouraging that Secretary Salazar made the following statement: “As I told the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee during my confirmation hearing, my priorities are clear and I want to go through them this morning. One of those priorities will be to lead the Interior Department with openness in decision-making, high ethical standards, and with respect for scientific integrity.”

“In the last few years, this Department has suffered because of ethical lapses and criminal activity at the highest level. That doesn’t mean to say that the people of the Department of the Interior are bad people, because they are not. You know how one apple in a bushel can spoil the whole bushel? There has been, essentially, a picture of this department that has been painted unfairly on the backs of the people, because of the actions of political appointees. That era is now changing. A new era starts today. … I pledge to you that we will ensure the Interior Department’s decisions are based on sound science and the public interest, and not on the special interests. I want the public to know that we are proud of the department’s work, and I want those who work for the department to be proud of their service.”

Salazar also spoke hopefully about National Parks, National Rivers, and other public lands administered by the DOI: “President Obama has given us work to do. We will do it right away. In the coming weeks, the new Secretary will have the opportunity to carry that work for the department to be proud of their service.”

February 2009

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Canyon Purchase Update!

Governor Joe Manchin has managed to keep our national park systems and our treasured landscapes to be the best they have ever been. This economic opportunity to do those things people have dreamt about but have simply not been able to do over many, many decades, is going to give us all who are assembled here today and those who are watching across the country a great opportunity to do those things people have dreamt about but have simply not been able to do over many, many decades. For example, think about the Centennial of the National Park system in the year 2016. I want our national park systems and our national forest systems to be the best they have ever been. This economic stimulus package will help us move in that direction in a very important way.”

We will be watching to see if Secretary Salazar lives up to his promises. It sounds like a good beginning!

Sincerely,

Judy Rodd

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REBECCA HARDING DA VIS: NOVELIST ON THE BLACKWATER

by L. Lawrence Smith

February 2009
February 2009

April 2009

The federal Wilderness Act of 1964 recognizes, as the poet William Bronk writes, that "we humans live—always—in what Bronk called "the permanence of ignorance." Human knowledge is temporal and provisional. Temporal: Human knowledge is bound by the time in which we know what we know, and thus it is only true provisionally. But most everything else we think we know is also true. The Wilderness Act applies this humility about how we know things to the land and its community of life. In order to view the grandeur of the great falls, they hiked eight miles the morning before becoming hopelessly lost and then Rose from the piano to fill the room with an air of romance. The place generates a sense of possession: it belongs to you and to nobody else. 

It is to honor the land as it is, to let it be self-willed, and to let it live by its inherent processes, free of manipulation. Wouldn't that be a lovely outcome for Blackwater Canyon?

Wilderness and the Loving Eye

The Wildland Act asks us of a profound humility before wilderness and the wildness it protects. As theologian Sally McFarlane suggests, we need not stay stuck in our subject-object relationship with the world's others. We have the option of relating subject-subject to plural (with) that wonderful Otherness, the whole community of life on Earth that derives its existence from the land's independence.

We must set aside and declare inviolate parcels of our wilderness heritage that are subject to the whim of federal land managers. The fate of wilderness used to be subject to the whim of federal land managers. But under the Wilderness Act, it now takes an Act of Congress to change its boundaries or to change its boundaries or to change its protected status. The Wilderness Act casts a loving eye on the land. It knows and honors the land's independence.

“Blackwater is a wonderful Otherness, the whole community of life, and it is the eye of one who knows how to see.” — Marilyn Frye

DISTURBING: ORDER OF THE DAY

J. Lawrence Smith

A federal Wilderness Act of 1964 recognizes, as the poet William Bronk writes, that “we humans live—always—in what Bronk called “the permanence of ignorance.” Human knowledge is temporal and provisional. Temporal: Human knowledge is bound by the time in which we know what we know, and thus it is only true provisionally. But most everything else we think we know is also true. The Wilderness Act applies this humility about how we know things to the land and its community of life. In order to view the grandeur of the great falls, they hiked eight miles the morning before becoming hopelessly lost. The graves of the past that will be contradicted? The question that untrammeled asks is similar: To what imminent future are we the past that will be contradicted? Having no sure answers, we must be guardians of the wildness and not gardeners. We must protect wilderness at its boundary, not by manipulations inside it. Humility is the portal for entry into any new landscape and it is the loving eye on the land. It knows and honors the land’s independence.

“Blackwater is a wonderful Otherness, the whole community of life, and it is the eye of one who knows how to see.” — Marilyn Frye

The face of our immediate environment of boards, bricks and asphalt is constantly changing. The wrecking ball and the carpenter create a cacophony of sounds as buildings come and go. This frenetic often results in cities that are a disorienting hodge-podge that while utilitarian, hardly projects a pleasing visual impression. At many places the disorder order seems to have become the order. The forms and functions of nature are at peace with one another, but we are in many places we are not ourselves. Of without deliberateness, are inflicting disorder on the natural scene. Nature, while remaining somewhat natural, is often robbed of its vibrancy when it left to the whims of developers.

Ed Zahniser lives in Shepherdstown, W.Va. The Wilderness Act created the National Wilderness Preservation System, which now protects 107 million acres of federal public lands, including 50,832 acres in its areas in West Virginia. To learn more about wilderness visit www.wilderness.net. The fate of wilderness used to be subject to the whim of federal land managers. But under the Wilderness Act, it now takes an Act of Congress to change its boundaries or to change its protected status. The Wilderness Act casts a loving eye on the land. It knows and honors the land’s independence.

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Donna Cook

Donna Cook's primary goal is protecting the natural landscape of the Allegheny Mountain and preserving her rural heritage. Her love of the mountain environment and her commitment to preserving the area led her to purchase a small farm in the steep rocky terrain east of the Allegheny Front. She built a guest house for her family and the farmers summered sheep and cattle on the beautiful high plateau of the Allegheny Mountains through public and private land leases. The farm range extended from the Old Stony River Dam to 1,200 feet above the Blackwater Dam, encompassing what would later become the Dolly Sods Wilderness. A frequent visitor to the mountain range with family and friends, she was instrumental in helping to protect the natural environment. She first met Judy Rodd at a Friends of Blackwater Canyon (FOB) function at the Blackwater Lodge and was inspired and encouraged by Judy's vision, persistence and steadfast determination to protect the Canyon. Since then, she has worked with FOB in preserving the Canyon as well as other special places including Bear Rocks, Black Rocks, Dolly Sods North and the Helmick Run Wetlands. She is co-founder of the Friends of Blackwater and is a charter member of the Stewards of the Potomac Highlands.

Dotty is retired from the Department of Housing and Urban Development where she served as a Management Analyst. In 1989, she and her husband purchased the farm adjacent to her home place. They have since restored the farm and designed and built a stately horse barn with living quarters on the site of the old homestead. She appreciates time spent on her farm with her horses and other pets—cats, chickens, and guinea pigs. She delights in hearing the Great Pyrenees dogs as they roam the spurs of the Allegheny guarding the sheep and goats on the farm and the river. Meanwhile, she is working with land conservation groups to develop permanent preservation easements on her property.

Mary Krueger

Mary Krueger is a Forest Policy Analyst with The Wilderness Society (TWS). Her work focuses on forest planning, the projects that implement those plans and the legal and regulatory framework that guides federal land managers in their work up and down the east coast. Mary works on priority plans and projects across the country in order to ensure unacceptable precedents are not set. Mary is one of TWS’s resident “policy jack of all trades,” working on everything from timber modeling in Alaska to endangered species protection in WV to cultural resource preservation in CO. She also tracks federal policy and regulatory changes and prepares TWS comments on the same. 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. In her spare minutes, Mary adopts older special needs cats and dogs. She can teach you how to give subcutaneous fluids, pill a cantankerous cat and has a million recipes to get elderly animals to eat. Mary first met Judy at a weekly NEPA training session in Vermont in 2001. Before the weekend was over, Judy had Mary engaged in protecting the flying squirrel and the Blackwater Canyon. That work has continued to this day. Mary now also works on keeping inappropriate oil and gas and wind energy development off the Monongahela NF. All this work has caused West Virginia to hold a special place in her heart.

Paul Fantetti

Paul Fantetti of Clendenin, WV is a highly energetic, environmentally conscious business man who has joined the FOB Board of Directors. Paul originally hails from Cincinnati, Ohio and chose WV’s beautiful mountains as the place he calls home. He is a sheep and goat producer in WV and the Blackwater Canyon. That work has continued to this day. Paul now also works on keeping inappropriate oil and gas and wind energy development off the Monongahela NF. All this work has caused West Virginia to hold a special place in her heart.

David Hammer

David Hammer, 45, of Shepherdstown, WV is married to Eille Kallas and the father of three little West Virginians. Besides his family, David is most proud of his work as one of five drafters of the Farmland Protection Act; he smiles just a little more every time another farmland easement is added to the list of 12,000 West Virginia acres now protected under perpetual Farmland Protection easements. David has supported and been involved with the arts and culture in the Martinsburg based law firm of Hammer, Ferretti & Schiavoni. Among his self described endearing characteristics, besides being cantankerous and difficult, says he is naturally stubbid and thus well suited to the task of environmental protection.

Mary Rodd

Mary Rodd is 62 years young and for forty-plus of those years has been married to the Director of Blackwater’s Director Judy Rodd. Mary recently retired from his state job as a Supreme Court law clerk and is back practicing law -- currently at the Cabinet at Stewards of the Potomac Highlands. Tom plays the ball, fish, fun, and likes paddling canoe and kayaks in West Virginia streams and rivers. Tom and Judy have four grandchildren and Tom is a loyal reader of Kayak West Virginia. We will see a turnaround in the policies that have held back development at that legendary river where all of us enjoy. Down the就能 just the well-to-do. Tom’s selfish goal in joining FOB’s Board is to get the entire Blackwater Canyon into public ownership soon so he can spend more time with Judy!

Julie Palas

Julie Palas is the J.R. Clifford Project Manager for Friends of Blackwater and has been with the organization for five years. Her passion and experience about West Virginia’s first African American attorney, acting as the Stage Manager for over 20 performances throughout the state of J. R. Clifford and the Carrie Williams Case while serving as Law Clerk for Justice Larry V. Starcher and the VA Regional Courts for the Supreme Court of Appeals.

Julie received her Doctor of Juridiprudence degree from the Appalachian School of Law in 2001, where she had the opportunity to intern as a law clerk in the Office of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Julie became editor of the school newspaper, advocate for community college students to attend and graduate from collegiate level.

Julie enjoys a variety of careers before becoming a lawyer, such as a painter, photographer, industrial scrap metal artist, legal investigator, teacher for grades K-12, events manager, executive assistant for a famous French restaurateur, administrative director for a non-profit organization, and office manager for a Member of the US Congress.

Julie is an avid reader, spending time with friends and family, watching movies, creating a variety of artwork, seeing justice at work, experiencing her horizons, traveling near and far, eating her share of good food, growing tomatoes and cucumbers, and living in the East End of Charleston with her three cats — White Cat, Black Cat, and Wild Cat.

Holly Ash

Holly Ash is one of the newest faces of the North Fork Watershed Project. As the Public Information Specialist, Holly is a former Communications major at West Virginia University who now attends Blinn College of College Station, Texas. She is currently pursuing her degree in Rhetorical Communication and hopes to someday teach on the collegiate level.

Holly has started working with Tucker County High School students on different projects sponsored by the PLOW and RGP graduate programs. These programs are geared toward teaching children and adolescents the value of community service while helping them to build community awareness. Holly looks forward to continuing the work she began with the project and to intern at all community awareness. In her spare time, Holly enjoys reading, swimming and traveling. As well, we hear that Holly is an avid country music singer.

Come out and join Holly for the Lonely Hearts Club Night for the North Fork Watershed Project.

Lori Halderman

Lori Halderman moved to Helvetia, WV in 1986, where her grandparents settled in the 1860’s. She is currently living in the Thomas, Canaan Valley area and involved with the arts and community service. As a potter, she finds connections with her art and the natural world and is interested in preserving our environment and the health of our planet. Lori supported the campaign to protect Blackwater Canyon for 10 years, becoming the Dolly Sods Wilderness encompassing what would later be South of Red Creek River Dam to south of Red Creek. Friends of Blackwater and we would like to introduce you to our ever growing group of overseers, advisors and employees.
HELP PROTECT BACK CREEK AND THE POTOMAC!!

By Sherri Evasic
The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is seeking to allow discharges into Back Creek in Berkeley County, WV via a new package treatment facility for a 62 unit subdivision called the Sandpiper Fly-In Community.

The site for the facility is in an active karst area that is a sinkhole system, with sinkholes, caves and voids which throughout the year either take in or discharge water, depending on local conditions. The presence of caves gives rise to the risk of collapse and spillage of raw sewage into this fragile watershed. Citizens believe that the trout that are found in Back Creek, every spring require a Tier 3 designation and the additional protections that go along with that.

WHAT WE MAY BE LOST?

Spinning an estimated 100 or more nautical miles Back Creek Valley’s watersheds is a pristine water body/small river known as Back Creek, an important tributary of a pristine water body/small river known as the Potomac. It provides the Potomac as Back Creek, an important tributary of the Potomac. The John Guilday Caves Nature Center in Pendleton County. The John Guilday Caves Nature Center in Pendleton County.

WHAT IS THE EFFECT?

When the group left the cave at twilight, a number of bats were leaving the cave … and the emergence of bats with White Nose Syndrome … was a completely new phenomenon. For example, in our studies in 2008 we were able to document a number of bats emerging from the Back Creek cave. But in 2009 we were not able to document any bats emerging from the Back Creek cave. This was a complete surprise to us. We had not expected this to happen. We had not expected to see this many bats emerging from the Back Creek cave.

WHY IS THIS OCCURRING?

In April of 2008, In April of 2008, the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, and it has been reported at four Pendleton County

HELP!

The Natural Resources: The J.F. Allen Company is a well known and respected national company. They are the owners of the Pond Lick Quarry. They have been mining and extracting stone from the Pond Lick Quarry for many years. They have a long history of mining and extracting stone from this area.

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In memory of our friend Tom Kelly and his love for West Virginia

Connie Rice, Ken Sullivan of the WV Humanities Council and Dave Eiel of the NAACP. The event is free and open to the public.

The story of Clifford’s successful defense of teacher Carrie Williams who demanded that her students receive an education equivalent to white students is a powerful vehicle for education and inspiration about how ordinary people can challenge obstacles, oppression and inequality through courage and persistence. “At this exciting time when we have new leadership in Washington, DC, we look back to what brought us here and where we are today. We find our local hero, J. R. Clifford, who fought for civil rights and equality 110 years ago, participated in the Niagara Movement, precursor to the NAACP, and launched the movement that led to the Brown vs. Board of Education decision and the Voting Rights Act of 1965,” explained Kitty Dooley. Dooley is a Friends of Blackwater Advisory Board member, attorney and mountain State Bar Association Past President who has participated in over 30 J. R. Clifford presentations.

In 1968 Friends of Blackwater worked with RESA III teachers to create instructional materials and lesson plans for grades 8, 10, 11 and 12 through grants from the WV Humanities Council and Appalachian Community Fund. These lesson plans were presented to the WV Board of Education and they expressed support at their January 15, 2009 meeting. The Clifford Project of FOB will provide teacher training on the lesson plans during the WVDOE Social Studies Conference in Bridgeport in July.

In November and December Justice Larry Scharer and Attorney Kitty Dooley presented the J. R. Clifford Curriculum at Riverside High School in Quincy, Woodrow Wilson High School in Beckley, Mount View Middle School in Welch, and Bluefield College in War. Free public community forums were held in Charleston and Welch attended by local elected officials, attorneys, community leaders, and interested individuals. In January, Social Studies Coordinator for the WV Department of Education sent out the J. R. Clifford website www.jrclifford.org to all local schools and teachers in the state so they can download the lesson plans online. Any individual, school, church or civic organization that would like to have a presentation on J. R. Clifford and the curriculum contact Julie Palas at 304-345-7663 or jrcliffordproject@saveblackwater.org.

My grandfather (Antonio Quattrocchi) worked as a coal miner and lived in Coketon, as does my mother's birth certificate. The photo at the top right is a picture of my grandmother Petronilla (DiBacco) Quattrocchi and my mother Eda in Coketon. My mother, their oldest child, was born September 28, 1939. The photo in the bottom right is a picture taken around 1923.

My mother said the reason they moved up here was that my Grandfather had been in a cave-in in the mines and survived unjured. My younger brother told me that the uncle who we visited was that his wife had given him a religious medal to wear while in the mines. He didn't think much of it and put it up on the wall of the mine. That day there was a cave in and he very narrowly escaped being crushed. After that, he always kept the medal with him. My brother still has my grandfather's pick, that we believe he brought from West Virginia and had used in the coal mines.

I was in West Virginia with my parents as a child many years ago. I remember we went to visit my mother's great uncle, although I do not recall his name. I remember the houses being built on the side of a mountain and picking coal up off the ground. I still have a picture of the photo on the bottom right, which we found in my Mother's belongings and learned during a wedding. My grandfather married in 1946 (married for 61 and a half years when My mother passed away this past year). The photo at the bottom left is my mother, her sister, and her brother.

Marc originally contacted Friends of Blackwater via our website looking for additional information about the area, possible family, and Davis Cool and Coca. If you have any information you can share you can email Marc directly at marc@marcd.ca or you can contact Friends of Blackwater at 877-982-5263 or by email at outrauch@saveblackwater.org. If you have a story about your Blackwater related family tree that you would like to share please contact us.
Salamanders and Tortillas?

For those of you out there who still believe that a “hellbender” is a giant salamander found in the cool, clean waters of rocky streams throughout West Virginia and other Appalachian states, it is time to rethink your position. In Davis, WV a hellbender is a large burrito stuffed to overfull with shrimp or chicken, buffalo sauce and blue cheese. While you probably wouldn’t and shouldn’t eat the salamander, you most definitely will want the burrito. Opened by husband and wife team Melissa and Rob Borowitz in 2007, Hellbender Burritos has quickly become a huge hit with both locals and tourists. Melissa, originally of Charleston, WV, and Rob, originally of central Pennsylvania, are both alumni of WVU. (Robert has an economics degree and Melissa has a chemistry degree). They met and started dating in Morgantown in 1997. Melissa moved to DC in 1999 with Rob following in 2002, all the while looking for an opportunity to return to West Virginia. Such an opportunity came on a family vacation to Blackwater Falls in 2004, when Rob and Melissa spotted a building for sale and decided to buy it. With Rob’s twenty years of experience in the business, a restaurant seemed like a sure winner. After more than a year of renovations and travelling back and forth from DC, and then finally making the move, Rob and Melissa moved to their living quarters above the restaurant and Hellbender Burritos was no longer a dream but a reality. And in this case, reality is a very good thing!

Rob and Melissa settled on burritos as the main cuisine because they wanted something that was different from what was already available, yet still complemented the town and the people who live and visit there. No matter what your taste or dietary requirements, you will find something you like among the multitude of burritos named after the various outdoor recreational pursuits available in Tucker County. And if you don’t like what you see you always have the option to build your own. While you wait for your burrito, don’t forget to snack on some of their delicious homemade guacamole or spicy black bean dip with tortilla chips.

For more information about Hellbender Burritos, you can visit them on the internet at www.hellbenderburritos.com.

Ginny Plays Outside...........but how long before those days end?

We are raising funds for our pending lawsuit to restore federal protection to Ginny before extinction becomes a reality. Please help us by ordering a t-shirt with one of the logos to the right. The shirts are 100% cotton and very cool!

Name___________________________________
Address__________________________________
City___________________State_____Zip______

Please indicate number, style and size of shirts you are ordering.

Mail completed form along with a check payable to Friends of Blackwater to:
Friends of Blackwater
501 Elizabeth St.
Charleston, WV 25311

Outdoor Ginny T-shirts
$12.50 each
+ 3.00 Shipping and Handling per order

Kayaking Ginny
S - M - L - XL - 2X
Mountain Biking Ginny
S - M - L - XL - 2X
Rock Climbing Ginny
S - M - L - XL - 2X
Skiing Ginny
S - M - L - XL - 2X

Total # Shirts  x 12.50 =
+ Shipping & Handling 3.00

Total