National Parks are a uniquely American idea, rooted in our nation’s history. Our first National Park, Yellowstone, was created by act of Congress in 1872 and signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant. Teddy Roosevelt created five national parks between 1902 and 1906. In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson created the National Park System. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt embarked on ambitious expansions of the park system. In 1933, he signed the order transferring sites such as Civil War battlefields and the Lincoln Memorial to the care of the Park Service, in one stroke of the pen enlarging the national park idea to include the nation’s history. His work led to the creation of nine new parks -- including the Great Smokies. America’s National Park System is admired around the world. From their beginnings 150 years ago – America’s Presidents and her people have built a National Park system that is a national showcase of natural beauty and wonder, providing enriching and affordable cultural and recreational opportunities for Americans - Now it is West Virginia’s turn to be home to the nation’s newest park - HIGH ALLEGHENY NATIONAL PARK!!

What Will High Allegheny National Park do?

High Allegheny National Park will give national and global recognition, stature, and attention to the natural and cultural wonders of West Virginia’s High Allegheny Region, including the scenic grandeur of Dolly Sods, Canaan Valley, Spruce Knob, Seneca Rocks and the Blackwater Canyon. Some areas will be in the Park and others buffered by the Park.

High Allegheny National Park will draw tourists to the region from around the Nation and world; and will provide great recreational facilities for West Virginians and our neighbors.

High Allegheny National Park will be a jobs engine for the Highlands region, raising property values and public tax revenue; and improving regional natural and cultural resource management, with assistance to counties, towns, and cities.

High Allegheny National Park will promote clean watershed development and protect the pristine headwaters of the Potomac, Monongahela, and Greenbrier rivers; and will protect endangered species and sensitive ecological habitats.

How Will High Allegheny National Park Be Created?

No new public land is necessary. High Allegheny National Park can be created from existing federal lands, with hoped-for participation by the State of West Virginia. Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area will anchor the Park. Other public land in the region will be joined together in common management, providing a rich and coordinated tapestry of outdoor experience for visitors from across the Nation. Millions of dollars in revenues and investment will flow to gateway communities around the Park area -- including the towns of Franklin, Elkins, Petersburg, Davis and Thomas. National Park designation will turn this complex of underutilized public lands area into a national treasure and vacation destination. This is a spectacular proposal for the State of West Virginia’s First National Park.

On Our Cover - Steve Shaluta, West Virginia’s Photographer

The exciting photo of 2 bald eagles on our cover was done by Steve Shaluta, a member of Friends of Blackwater. Steve became interested in photography in 1978 when he began taking nature photographs. In 1985 after nearly 15 years working as a locomotive engineer in his hometown of Grafton, WV, he resigned to become a full time photographer. Steve’s primary photography job for 21 years has been as a staff photographer for the West Virginia Division of Tourism. He has also published books including "COVERED BRIDGES IN WEST VIRGINIA", "THE STATE PARKS OF WEST VIRGINIA", "WONDERS OF WEST VIRGINIA" in collaboration with Jeanne Mozier and "West Virginia Impressions" with photographer Bryan Lemasters. Go to Steve’s website www.steveshaluta.com to purchase a copy of the Bald Eagle photo.

The Bald Eagle- Our Nation’s Patriot Symbol- would be protected in High Allegheny National Park -- Right now West Virginia’s Bald Eagles are nesting in the snow!
HIGH ALLEGHENY NATIONAL PARK will protect and buffer key natural areas, while bringing visitors to enjoy these areas. National Park visitors want a wide range of hospitality and other recreational attractions in the area. With the brand of a “National Park” on the West Virginia natural and cultural treasures in High Allegheny National Park -- who could resist a visit, a family vacation, or even the purchase of a second home in the Highlands? Among the existing public land highlights of High Allegheny National Park -- that will now attract and enchant visitors from around the world -- are:

- **Magnificent Spruce Knob** – the highest peak in West Virginia.
- **Superlative Seneca Rocks** – a sheer, 1000 foot rock face challenges climbers.
- **Beloved Blackwater Falls** – a West Virginia treasure, now open to the world.
- **Awesome Otter Creek Wilderness** – a pristine mountain stream valley.
- **Spectacular Smoke Hole** – a series of fascinating caves along the Potomac’s South Branch.
- **Cherished Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge** – the gem of the Valley.
- **Distinguished Dolly Sods** – Canadian tundra and heath amid superlative, wild landscapes.

For almost 100 years, the United States National Park Service (NPS) has professionally managed America’s greatest natural areas. Our National Parks are America’s -- and the world’s -- most popular vacation destinations. It is time to add High Allegheny National Park to this list.

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Here’s How We Are Going to Create A Masterpiece -- High Allegheny National Park

**We Need Your Help! Please Join the Effort!!**

1. **Step One – A National Park Service Resource Study.** The National Park Service documents the resources in the region, measures the feasibility and benefits of a Park, and develops a list of options.

2. **Step Two – Develop Final Park Proposal.** Local communities and state and federal stakeholders develop final Park plan.

3. **Step Three – Congressional action creating the new Park.**

   We need your help to demonstrate substantial public opinion in favor of High Allegheny National Park at every step of this process. Please join us as we build a network of Park supporters – especially in the region where the Park will be located. If you want to be in this network, please contact us by phone at 304-345-7663, send an e-mail to info@saveblackwater.org or mail us a letter to 501 Elizabeth St. Charleston WV25311. We think Friends of Blackwater supporters will find a lot to like in High Allegheny National Park.
On December 31, 2010, John Lawrence Smith, age 69 -- our friend, mentor, conscience, and a faithful writer for the Friends of Blackwater newsletter -- passed away. John, who lived in Hurricane with his wife Nancy, was a self-proclaimed “traveling United Methodist preacher, an observer of God’s creation and a recorder of Mountain heritage.” He was born on January 24, 1941, in Charleston, to the late Stanley Lawrence and Margie Edwards Smith of Nitro. He was an alumnus of Nitro High School (1958) and West Virginia University (1962). He received a master’s degree in divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary in 1965.

In 1966, John was ordained a pastor in the West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. His service took him over most of the state, starting in the Potomac Highlands of Pendleton, Hardy, and Grant counties, where he served eight churches, and concluding in 2001 with Montgomery and Boomer United Methodist churches in Fayette County. He was the author of many books on the natural history of West Virginia, including The Potomac Naturalist, Blackwater Country, The High Alleghenies, and The Birds of Pendleton County. Many of his articles on the state’s history appeared in Wild, Wonderful West Virginia. John was a Volunteer Supreme; he recruited new members, gave talks, sat at our booth on Environment Day at the Legislature, came to our Open House in Davis to celebrate our new office, visited the Governor with us and wrote constantly about saving Blackwater and the West Virginia Highlands by creating a National Park. We dedicate our new High Allegheny National Park Campaign to his memory.

Below are some of our favorite quotes from his writings:

From Blackwater Country:

“It is when we are away from the things of the earth that we realize our need for them to find refreshment for our body and soul. When one experiences wind, water and woodland … the things of the wilderness … he touches the outward signs of something of importance that is inner, unseen and that goes on forever.”

“The Blackwater Country can never again be as it was when seen by the adventures of the last century; time and the hand of man have seen to that. It can be what it is today for centuries to come, but it will come about only when value is placed upon the sound of rushing water, the solitude of the deep woods and the sight of a raven over the abyss of a gorge.”

From High Alleghenies:

“On the way to the top of Gaudineer late on a June afternoon, I stopped at the spring for a drink. As I bent down to catch in a cup a draught of the clear cool water that flows unceasingly from the mountain’s side, from across the ages the words came to me, “My cup runneth over.” Man will indeed be blessed if he has ears to hear and eyes to see. I am not trying to preach, there is no need of that. If a person is blind and deaf to the value and meaning of the simple things of the earth, then he is the one poor and will remain so regardless of what worldly riches he may boast. As I raised the cup to my lips the voices of both a hermit and Swainson’s thrush drifted through the trees above the spring. Evening had come and it was time to be on my way to the mountaintop now that the thrushes were beginning their vespers.”

“The Alleghenies were in many ways bypassed as civilization made its headlong rush across America. Left behind was a land whose time has come to take its rightful place as an enclave of yesterday. The mountains and all that are part of them almost seem a treasure that was somehow overlooked. This land is not only in many ways the last frontier, but a last great wilderness of the East as well. Now is the time for a new sense of pride among the people that will overcome what has been an uncalled for embarrassment of the past. Even as the sun has risen endlessly over the mountains, the light of a new day is dawning across the high Alleghenies.”

“From Spruce Knob, the only barrier that seems to obstruct the ability to see the utter ends of the earth is the shield of the horizon. Soaring rock cliffs, clusters of farm buildings and other distant objects become part of a Lilliputian landscape. The mountain heights of the Potomac headwaters seem to tease the curiosity of naturalists, botanists and birders where adventures and even some exciting discoveries are waiting. There can be little doubt that among these mountains and valleys there is a rich and fascinating diversity of natural things. Viewing the rolling ridges, you may find yourself wondering what lofty islands may yet await discovery.”
On December 14, 2010, Friends of Blackwater filed a formal request asking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine if little brown bats, once the most common bat species in the Northeast, need protection under the Endangered Species Act because of a fast-spreading, fatal disease called white-nose syndrome. The disease has already killed more than a million bats in the United States and scientists say it could wipe out little brown bats in the Northeast within the next two decades.

“The little brown bat is in imminent danger of extinction in its northeastern core range due to white-nose syndrome and the species is likely in danger of extinction throughout its entire range,” said Dr. Thomas Kunz, a biologist at Boston University who co-authored a study published in the August 2010 issue of Science on the impacts of white-nose syndrome on the little brown bat.

With support from Friends of Blackwater Kunz and another bat scientist, Dr. Jonathan Reichard, conducted their own status review of the species that was submitted along with the request to the Fish and Wildlife Service. The review found that the little brown bat is at grave risk of disappearing from the region because of the impacts of white-nose syndrome, a disease first documented in upstate New York in 2006 and which has already spread throughout the eastern U.S. and Quebec and Ontario. In some affected bat colonies in the Northeast, mortality rates from white-nose syndrome have been nearly 100 percent.

The bat die-off has caused significant concern among biologists and conservation groups, not only because of potential extinction of one or more species, but also because the night-flying mammals play a critical role in keeping insect populations in check. Scientists and conservation groups urged the Fish and Wildlife Service to place the little brown bat on the federal endangered species list as an emergency measure, until the agency can complete its own assessment and make a final ruling.

"If the little brown myotis, one of America’s most common and widespread bats, is facing regional, and possibly total, extinction, imagine the threat to less adaptable and far-reaching species," said Nina Fascione, executive director of Bat Conservation International. "More than half of the 46 U.S. bat species are potentially susceptible to white-nose syndrome. We must protect the survivors before time runs out."

Groups signing on in support of the status assessment request are Kunz and Reichard’s Center for Ecology and Conservation Biology at Boston University, Wildlife Advocacy Project, Bat Conservation International, Center for Biological Diversity, and Meyer Glitzenstein & Crystal.

### Shocking Wind Turbine Related Bird Deaths

**Friends of Blackwater Notifies NedPower of Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Endangered Species Act Violations**

After the Fish and Wildlife Service produced shocking pictures of dead birds killed at NedPower’s industrial wind turbines, Friends of Blackwater and the Allegheny Front Alliance sent a letter to the company warning that they could be in violation of several federal statutes. NedPower is the largest wind project in the eastern US with 259 turbines. Built on a migratory bird pathway on the Allegheny Front in West Virginia the project documented the death of 553 bats and 131 birds over 38 weeks. Fish and Wildlife Service has notified the company of their concern and stated that there “is no question that many birds and bats are being killed”. The Service points out that the numbers killed “appear to be underestimated” and “estimates that 37,875 birds and 174,200 bats will be killed over the life of the project. The conservation groups are also concerned that the proposed AES New Creek Industrial Wind Project, one ridge to the east, will also lead to unacceptable bird and bat deaths as these small creatures are chopped up by turbine blades. Go to our website saveblackwater.org to read the whole letter.
In High Allegheny National Park, our West Virginia Hospitality will be on display, as we invite folks to:

**ENJOY** our wildlife viewing (black bear and white-tail deer, flying squirrels and golden eagles) at Spruce Knob.

**TOUR** our Civil War Battlefields, old lumber camps, CCC cabins at Kumbrabow, the historic coke ovens at Thomas, the Mansions of Elkins, working farms, and frontier forts from the French and Indian War.

**RIDE** our rugged and scenic mountain bike trails, and our tourism railroads like the Durbin Rocket Excursion Railroad, Cheat Mountain Salamander Run, and Tygart Valley Flyer Excursion Railroad.

**LISTEN** to great Appalachian Music at the Augusta Heritage Festival, the Purple Fiddle, and Mountain State Brewing Company.

**CLIMB** our world-famous Seneca Rocks, Champe Rocks, and more.
KAYAK AND CANOE the South Branch of the Potomac, the Blackwater, and Seneca Creek.
HIKE Spectacular Mountain Trails on Dolly Sods.
FISH the Shaver’s Fork and Brushy Run.
HUNT on designated public land adjacent to core Park lands.
SKI the Cross Country Trails of Otter Creek Wilderness and Whitegrass.

DINE at Muttley’s, Sirianni’s, the Cheat River Inn, or Graceland.
VISIT the museum at Beverly and shop the small town main streets of Durbin, Frank, Parsons and Franklin, Davis and Thomas.
ENJOY an evening of culture at Boiler House Theater on the Davis and Elkins Campus, the American Mountain Theater and the Old Brick Playhouse.
SHOP for the work of local artists and artisans at galleries like the West Virginia Highlands Artisans Gallery, Artists at Work and Mountain Made.
A New Home for Liberty - from the J.R. Clifford Project

One hundred and fifty years ago, brave Mountaineers, black and white, slave and free, risked their lives and fortunes to create a new home for liberty in the United States - the State of West Virginia. Working without a script, West Virginia’s founders carved out a new political space for their descendents. “A New Home for Liberty” illuminates and explains the real motivations of the leaders and ordinary citizens who “seized the time” and will show what Statehood meant for ordinary people then and now. This program tells the dramatic and exciting story of how famous state-makers and ordinary citizens grappled with the tough issues of human rights and slavery as the Civil War raged around them - and how these heroes added the West Virginia star to “Old Glory!”

To help commemorate the Sesquicentennial of West Virginia’s Statehood, the J.R. Clifford Project, building on eight years of successful programs that celebrate West Virginia’s civil rights heritage and the rule of law, will partner during 2011 - 2013 with educators and community groups to present a series of educational programs about the creation of West Virginia. These programs will range from academic presentations and discussions - to entertaining living history programs.

These programs present the story of the creation of West Virginia - informed by high levels of scholarship, and accessible to a lay audience. They deal with tough issues and celebrate the human imagination, courage, idealism, diversity, and enterprise that lay at the center of the State-creation process. Participants and audiences will acquire a fresh and inspiring understanding of West Virginia’s unique history and see how radically differing social perspectives were visible in the lives of the real, passionate people who created our great state.

“Heaven forbid that a desperate faction of slaveholding criminals should succeed in their infamous endeavors to quench the spirit of liberty, which our forefathers infused into those two sacred charters of our political faith, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States.” -H. Helper, The Impending Crisis (1857)

“But let all the West, on due consideration, conclude that slavery is a pernicious institution, and must be gradually removed; then, united in our views on all the great interests of our West Virginia, we shall meet the approaching crisis with inflexible resolution; and West Virginia can and must succeed in her approaching struggle for her rights and her prosperity.” -The Ruffner Pamphlet (1847)

“We won our laurels on the bloody battlefields and saved the union along with hammering the shackles off our heels to the number of four million, and with folded arms and calm silence, they have allowed us to be disfranchised, lynched and burnt at the stake.” -J.R. Clifford (1916)

“Slavery was a monstrosity - at once a crime and blunder. The shadow of it fell with the baleful umbrage on the minds of men throughout the republic... Now men are able to see with clear eyes and unconstrained minds, in the light of truth which they are no longer afraid of, what cowards and slaves they themselves used to be.” -Granville Hall (1901)

"A New Home for Liberty"

Human Rights, Slavery, and the Creation of West Virginia
A Dramatic Living History Program Sponsored By
The J.R. Clifford Project & West Virginia University

Wednesday April 6th, 2011 - 7:30PM
Erickson Alumni Center
West Virginia University
Morgantown, WV

Free admission and parking. Seating is limited. Reception after the performance.
For directions and more information: admin@jrclifford.org (304) 345-7663
On a gorgeous fall afternoon, a young George Spencer Roberts, nicknamed “Spanky,” saw the kick pleat of a beautiful, young girl’s skirt disappear around the corner of the library of West Virginia State College and fell in love. The year was 1938 and young “Spanky” was 19 years old…and had already graduated the previous year, having started college at fifteen. Because of his tender years, and being African-American, having a college degree in engineering definitely did not guarantee him a job. So his mother, a teacher, asked the college president if her son could stay another year. That was the year he met my mother, Edith Norle McMillian, a 19-year-old sophomore, who was spending her first year living on campus. She was a music major with a beautiful singing voice and a love of dance; he had a tin ear and two left feet. That was also the year that the Civilian Pilot Training program (the precursor to the now famous Tuskegee Airmen) was initiated in six historical black colleges, West Virginia State being one of them.

Ah, but “Spanky” was a clever individual; after all he had graduated from college at 18! He knew he really had nothing in common with the lovely Edith, but was determined to do everything he could to win her over. So he decided to treat her differently from all the other boys on campus by being arrogant, overbearing and, generally, obnoxious. He took a job as the maintenance man for the campus because that way he would be allowed in the women’s dormitory and she would constantly see him. He roomed with other music majors who could talk to Edith about how wonderful he was. Edith’s roommate was a psychology major, so “Spanky” took some psychology courses, so her roommate could tell her how wonderful he was. She sang, so he built the campus radio station for her to give her someplace to perform. The college president, or “Prexy” as the students called him, treated his students, and especially the young George, like his own children. J.C. Evans, the head of the Engineering Department, was young George’s mentor, so he decided to help him with his campaign. Edith needed a job (it WAS the depression years), so J.C. gave her the job of switchboard operator and assigned “Spanky” to teach her how to use the board because of his engineering background. His instructions lasted approximately five minutes and by the time he left, she was so mad, she was ready to spit nails. Oh, he was irritating; but cute.

Slowly, he began to wear her down. Probably showing up with a perfect rose every morning before going to breakfast didn’t hurt his case. Of course, after a few weeks, the campus gardener informed “Spanky” that breaking off a blossom from the presidential rose garden really wasn’t too good of an idea, even though he realized he was using the blossoms to woo his lady faire, so that had to stop. Yet, when “Spanky” got his private pilot’s license after only 30 hours of lessons, the first person to go up in the air with him was…Edith. As “Spanky” proudly flew Edith over her grandmother's house in Charleston, little did he know that, after Edith excitedly told her grandmother of the accomplishment, her grandmother’s response was, “You are going to break your fool neck following around behind that boy!”

And, as they say, the rest is history. Edith waited for “Spanky” to complete his Tuskegee training and married him on the graduation day of the first class in 1942. They were happily married for 42 years before his death and produced 4 children…and “Spanky” never did learn how to carry a tune or dance!
In Memory and Honor............

Bill Belton, Self-Taught Ornithologist, Died at 95

by Judy Rodd with excerpts from 11/4/09 NY Times article By MARGALIT FOX

I met Bill Belton at his home in Great Cacapon, West Virginia 14 years ago when working for the West Virginia Land Trust. He was a member of Friends of Blackwater for ten years. We are saddened to learn of his death in October of 2009. An internationally recognized ornithologist, Mr. Belton was almost single-handedly responsible for the current body of knowledge of the bird life of Rio Grande do Sul, the southernmost Brazilian state. His field recordings and specimens from the region are today in the collections of major research institutions. His two-volume study of the birds of the area is widely considered seminal.

Mr. Belton’s accomplishments are all the more unusual in that as an ornithologist, he was completely self-taught. An American diplomat who served in high posts in Latin America and elsewhere before embarking, in retirement, on an ornithological career of more than 30 years, Mr. Belton died on Oct. 25 at 95. His death, at his home in Great Cacapon, W.Va., was from congestive heart failure, his son Hugh said.

Mr. Belton’s recordings, many of which can be heard online, embrace the firm boink-boink-boink of the dark-billed cuckoo, the amiable squik-squik of the white-eyed foliage-gleaner, the wistful rising halftone — D sharp, E — of the solitary tinamou, and much else. On most recordings, the voice of Mr. Belton can also be fleetingly heard.

William Henry Belton was born on May 22, 1914, in Portland, Ore. He earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Stanford in 1935 and in 1938 joined the Foreign Service. Over the next 32 years his assignments included Cuba, the Dominican Republic, South America, Australia and Canada, where he became interested in birds through a neighbor who was an ornithologist. Mr. Belton’s field recordings have tremendous value for scientists, conservationists and educators, his colleagues said. But they are important for another, simpler reason: they can be lovely to listen to.

Tom Allen

Tom Allen’s spirit took flight Monday, August 9th 2010 to join the creatures he loved to study, rescue, and render in his art. For those of us who knew Tom, every bird, bee, butterfly, and burrowing owl we see, will be a reminder of all that he taught us and more!

Tom Allen was born in Boston and received his education at the University of Maine, earning a B.S. degree in entomology and a master’s degree in wildlife management. For 32 years he served as a wildlife research biologist for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, where he conducted research on a number of species, including deer, raccoons, black bears, wild turkeys, and ruffed grouse to name a few.

Tom was fascinated with butterflies since early childhood. During his tenure in West Virginia, he studied the butterflies of that region and wrote a best-selling field guide, The Butterflies of West Virginia and Their Caterpillars, published in 1997. Tom moved to South Florida in 2003 and worked for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on burrowing owls. He was also a research associate for the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity in Gainesville, and worked on rare and threatened butterflies in South Florida.

Tom enjoyed rearing butterflies from all across the U.S., studying their life history and photographing the various stages of development. He worked with Friends of Blackwater moving the rare two spotted skipper from under a powerline near Davis, West Virginia to the safety of Blackwater Falls State Park. Tom was also a famous wildlife artist. His artwork can be seen at the website www.tom-j-allen.com
Open House Food Drive

North Fork Watershed Project Staff held a holiday open house at the office Saturday Dec. 18th to raise public awareness of our work and raise money for a local food bank. The open house celebrated completion of our Google Earth educational mapping project and coincided with the end of our raffle to benefit the Davis Food Pantry. Visitors enjoyed hot mulled cider and homemade snacks while learning about our work and exploring the mapping project on the new public computer. Following the open house, we held a raffle at Hypno coffee shop. Local businesses generously donated gifts and we sold raffle tickets for $1 or 2 cans of food. We raised $540 and two boxes of food for the food pantry to make sure needy families in the area have enough to eat this winter.

Winter Water Monitoring

With another snowy winter in full swing, North Fork staff and volunteers have turned to cross country skis to complete monthly monitoring of acid mine drainage in the North Fork. Volunteers braved the weather in December and January to complete the monitoring. Cross country skis allow us to access snowy sites that are inaccessible by vehicle in the winter and add a fun twist to the monitoring events. Winter time brings a unique beauty to the river, the clean white of the snow contrasting with the iron stained, orange rocks and aquamarine water of the North Fork. The river does not freeze due to the high temperature of mine pool water that enters it. We will continue monitoring by cross country skis until the snow thaws, come out and join us!

Google Earth

We recently created an online GIS project using Google Earth that displays water pH and acid mine drainage problems across three watersheds. Funded by generous support from the MARPAT Foundation, the project shows users stream pH by color, mining permits, Acid Mine Drainage discharge sites, underground mine pools and water quality monitoring locations. The project is designed to visually draw the connection between land use and water quality and give users a visual way to experience the widespread problem of acid mine drainage. Another goal is to display our citizens AMD monitoring program online. This allows our volunteer water quality monitors to access the water quality data they have been collecting, gain a spatial, watershed context for the work they are doing, and share their work with friends. Google Earth is free software and the project is hosted on our website, making it accessible to anyone online. Online visitors can explore the project on their own or take virtual tours of the three watersheds with audio commentary.
Monongahela National Forest Gas Drilling Problems Reviewed in New Report:

The scientists at the Fernow Experimental Forest (part of the Mon) tried to stop drilling in their research plots and raised concerns about impacts on endangered bats in Big Springs Cave system which now has well casings through the middle of it. The report documents how waste water from the drill pit killed plants it was sprayed on, and continues to harm the environment near Blackwater Canyon.

Go to www.saveblackwater.org for the full report.

We welcome Phoebe Schoyer McPeak into the world....

a sign of new life and hope for Spring. Phoebe’s mother is a generous donor to Friends of Blackwater. Go to bbcearth.com Life is New to see other babies in the wild.

Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On Our Cover</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America’s Great Idea Comes to WV</td>
<td>2 - 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Memory of J. Lawrence Smith</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extinction for Little Brown Bat</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shocking Wind Turbine Related Bird Deaths</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Allegheny National Park - Let’s Create a Masterpiece</td>
<td>6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A New Home for Liberty</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Match Made in Heaven - NOT</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order Form</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Memory and Honor</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update: North Fork Watershed Project</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>