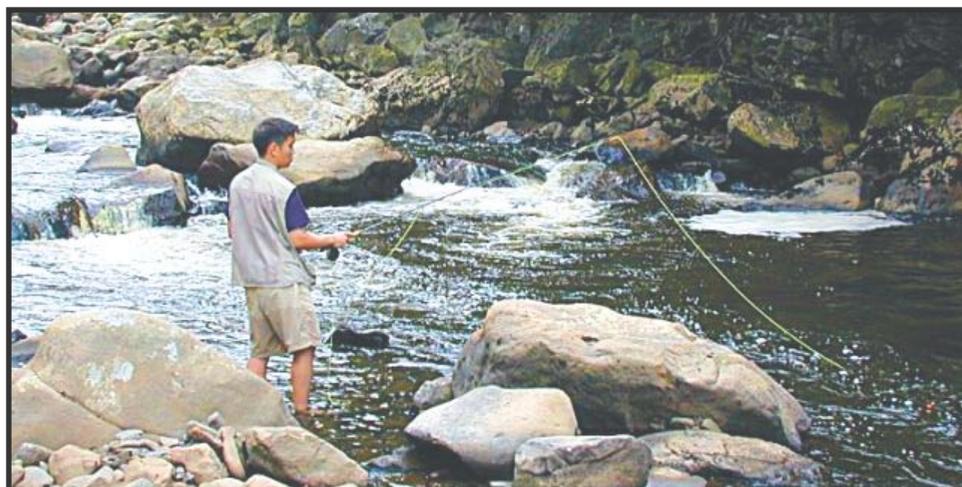


Friends of Blackwater



Inside this edition:

We Love High Allegheny National Park & Preserve	2	North Fork Watershed Updates	8
Director's Letter	3	Bird Smart Wind - American Bird Conservancy	9
D.C. Circuit Judges Hear Appeal of Judge Sullivan's Ruling	4	Frontier Forts Important Sites	9
We Love Ginny and Her Mountain Home	4	In Memory and Honor	10
Love Those J. R. Clifford Project Volunteers	5	Our Super Donors	11
2011 in Review	6-7	Julie Zickefoose Prints for Sale	12
In Davis Our Neighbors Are Tip Top	8		

We Love High Allegheny National Park & Preserve

A "Sampler" of Your Letters to Senator Joe Manchin

I'm a hunter and I'm a landowner in Pendleton County. I'm in strong support of the National Park designation for the High Allegheny Mountains. It is my belief that it will benefit the State and the region, and will leave a positive legacy for future generations. *Jay Hanna, Grafton, WV.*



Please consider this area as a National Park. It would help bring more individuals to see the beauty of the area. Besides protecting the area for the future, the economic benefits would be very positive.

Laura Moul, Milton, WV.

We now know the foresight involved in creating the Mon National Forest. A national park is foresight that will be much appreciated down the road. *Gerald Milnes, Elkins, WV.*

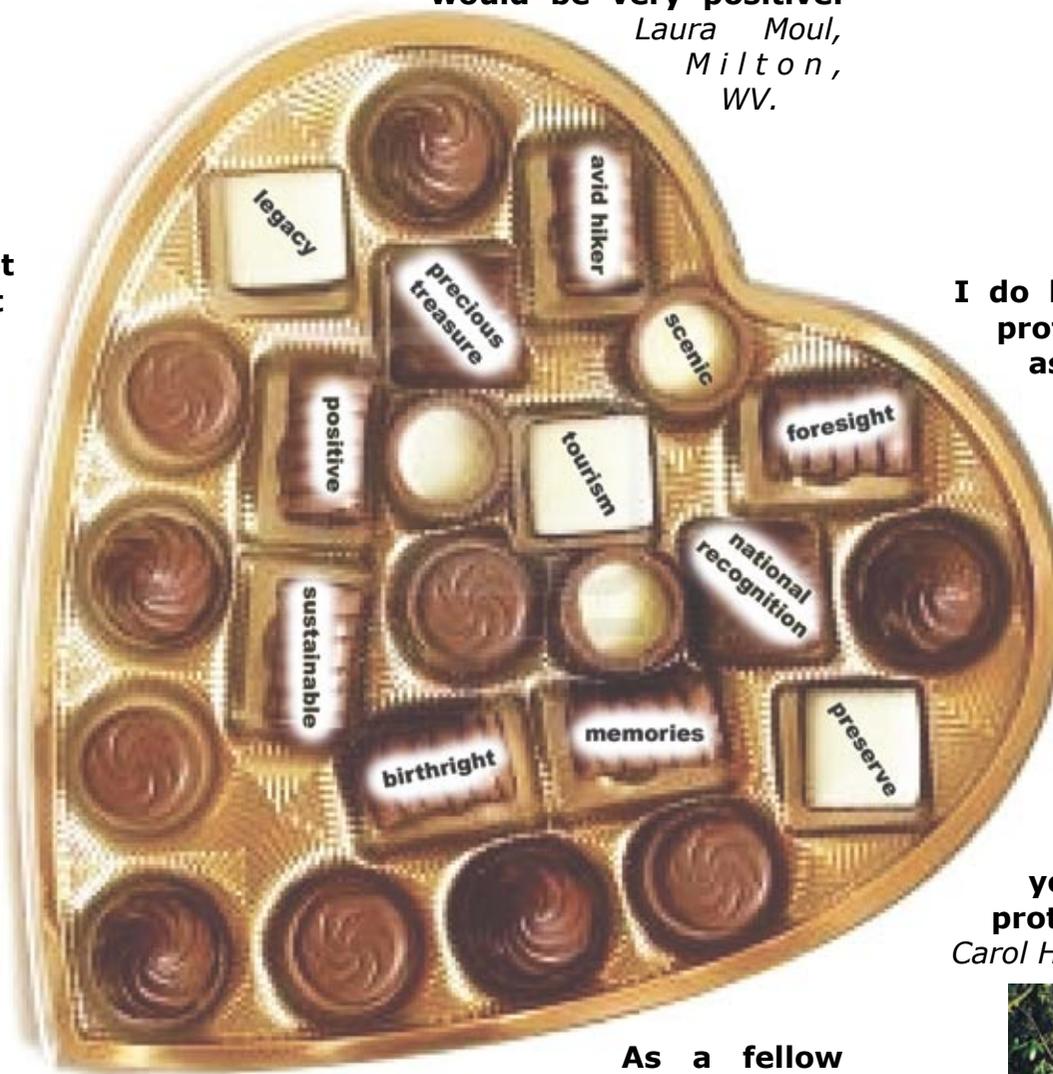
Let's preserve what we have, while we still can. *Independence, WV.*



This National Park would not only preserve our birthright (the land itself) as West Virginians, but provide a boon to our economy in terms of tourism. *Matthew Null, New Martinsville, WV.*

It is about time WV has a Park that will help grow our tourism business for years to come. Tourism is our most sustainable resource. *JB Witten, Elkins, WV.*

This is an idea whose time has definitely come! The natural areas of the West Virginia Highlands are worthy of national recognition for their beauty. Tourism has an outstanding reputation as being helpful to local economies. We in West Virginia are devoted supporters of this excellent idea. *Marian Buckner, Shepherdstown, WV.*



I do believe this area needs protection and recognition as a national park because of its unique natural offerings. Please work to help this wonderful idea. *Carol Lucas, Barboursville, WV.*

My husband and I are avid hikers, and have long enjoyed the natural beauty of our state. If High Allegheny National Park becomes a reality, you would have helped to protect this wonderful area. *Carol Hyre, Elkins, WV.*



As a fellow mountaineer you can understand how I want to save one of the most scenic spots on the East Coast. Please help us, Joe. *Patrick Dante, Augusta, WV.*

As a public health professional, I know and have studied the health value of public open space. This High Allegheny National Park will serve people in our state and beyond. Please help us to create this precious West Virginia treasure. *Bill Reger-Nash, Morgantown, WV.*

My visits to WV have each been highlighted by trips into the northern part of the Monongahela and I look forward to telling the rest of my Florida Hiker friends of a new destination- High Allegheny National Park! *Elizabeth Hoffman, Boca Raton, FL*



This part of West Virginia means a lot to me. It brings back memories of family times with family members who are no longer with us. Please help save this part of West Virginia. *Kathi Braddford, Bruceton Mills, WV.*

Director's Letter



Judith A. Poedel

Dear Friends,

You have done so much to bring the dream of a National Park in the West Virginia Highlands closer to reality. We continue to need your help. Following is an op-ed that I wrote, which ran in the Charleston Gazette. It focuses on the economic value of a National Park to West Virginia, and on all terest groups we would like to involve in our High Allegheny National Park and Preserve campaign.



"National Parks create jobs, increase property values, and anchor vibrant sporting, recreation, retirement/second home, and tourism industries. That's why so many people are excited and working to "create a masterpiece" in the West Virginia Highlands - High Allegheny National Park and Preserve.

Let's look at the facts. Great Smoky Mountains National Park, comparable in size to High Allegheny National Park and Preserve, has an annual budget of \$20.3 million, has created 14,000 jobs, and generates \$799 million each year in surrounding communities. To put these figures in perspective, they are similar to those for a "cracker plant" for natural gas, which the West Virginia Manufacturers Association says "will change the whole economy." Think of the effect of doubling those job figures -- with a National Park and Preserve in the Allegheny Highlands!

Here are some more facts: closer to home, in 1978 our West Virginia Congressional, State, and local leaders joined with the National Park Service to create the New River National River, which today supports 3,550 jobs that generate \$49,000,000 in income, and boasts \$130,000,000 annually in related spending. And now the National River has attracted an exciting new Boy Scout Camp near Fayetteville -- meaning even more good jobs for local people!

High Allegheny National Park and Preserve will be just a few hours from major East Coast cities like New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Charlotte, and Richmond. Sportsmen, outdoor lovers, and families on vacation will come to High Allegheny National Park and Preserve -- to enjoy our world-class hunting and fishing, savor our magnificent scenic views, learn about our historic sites, and take part in our many outdoor recreational opportunities. They will be amazed and delighted by our family-friendly hospitality and entertainment industries - especially in the "gateway towns" of Romney, Thomas, Davis, Elkins, Franklin, Petersburg, and Moorefield. Some visitors will no doubt return to the Highlands many times - others will even settle there.

The facts are clear - the economic benefit of High Allegheny National Park and Preserve to West Virginians will be very, very substantial. High Allegheny National Park and Preserve will have no entry fee and no gates -- and will take no private land. The core of the new Park and Preserve will be federal lands like Seneca Rocks, Spruce Knob, and Dolly Sods - so big bundles of taxpayer dollars are not needed. State-owned facilities like Canaan Valley and Blackwater Falls can fully partner with the National Park Service to provide a diverse suite of affordable opportunities for West Virginians -- and for visitors from across our Nation and around the world.

One hundred and fifty years ago, West Virginia was created in the bloody crucible of the Civil War. Today, High Allegheny National Park and Preserve is a fitting tribute to West Virginia's 150th Birthday -- and continues the vision of Senator Robert C. Byrd, who first introduced a National Park Study Bill in 2000, referring to the High Allegheny region as "West Virginia's Crown Jewel."

The National Park Service is conducting a Reconnaissance Study to identify resources in the region for possible inclusion in the new Park and Preserve. Everyone needs to be at the table -- sporting, recreational, business, scientific, community, and governmental stakeholders - building a common-sense "win-win" outcome for all of us. We can create a vibrant economy in the West Virginia Highlands with a new National Park and Preserve, made for West Virginians!"

Change is coming to the High Alleghenies -- with the completion of Corridor H to Thomas and Davis, at the northern end of the Monongahela National Forest. A National Park and Preserve is the single best way to preserve the special places of this beautiful area of the Mountain State. High Allegheny National Park and Preserve will highlight local nature, history, and heritage -- while creating jobs and a brighter future for our children and grandchildren. Please join in this important campaign!

I WANT HIGH ALLEGHENY NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE!

*Mail completed form to: Friends of Blackwater
501 Elizabeth St.
Charleston, WV 25311
304-345-7663
director@highalleghenynp.org*

Name _____

I WANT TO VOLUNTEER

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

D.C. Circuit Judges Hear Oral Argument on Appeal of Judge's Sullivan's Ruling Protecting "Ginny."

On January 24, 2012, a three-judge panel of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral argument on whether "Ginny," the West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel, should remain protected by the Endangered Species Act, as ordered by federal Judge Emmett Sullivan.

Ginny and her species (there are less than one thousand in the whole world!) live in the high Allegheny Mountains; their habitat is threatened by logging, climate change, and forest pests. The argument in the appeals court focused on whether the government's decision to "delist" Ginny's species harmed the public's right to notice of the new criteria the government was using, and denied the public an opportunity to comment on whether the new criteria were appropriate. Ginny's legal team from Meyer, Glitzenstein and Crystal, represented by Jessica Almy, argued vigorously that the public's rights were violated, and that Ginny's species is endangered and should remain protected.

We expect a decision within a few months; and whatever the result, we will never stop fighting for our furry friend. Ginny and her babies are counting on us!



Buy this fantastic flying squirrel photo by Alex Badyaev at www.tenbestphotos.com

WE LOVE GINNY AND HER MOUNTAIN HOME

"Ginny" is our "pet name" for the endangered West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel -- a tiny nocturnal mammal, with big black eyes, whom we love with all our hearts.

The West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel is the "signature species" of the boreal forests of the High Alleghenies and the Northern Monongahela National Forest. Ginny shares her rare and delicate ecological niche with the Cheat Mountain salamander, the northern water shrew, and the dwarf cornel, blister pine, snowshoe hare, winter wren, oven bird, and black-throated blue warbler.

Ginny's ancestors moved to the ridges of the High Allegheny Mountains during the last Ice Age, and evolved into "high elevation specialists." Ginny lives mainly on ridgetops and heavily canopied north-facing slopes, cooled by mountain streams. Ginny's diet consists primarily of a truffle-like fungus that grows underground in mixed mesophytic forests.

Ginny sleeps during the day in her nest in a tree cavity. At night she saves energy and glides through the forest using her skin flaps (called "patagia") -- soaring down to the forest floor where she finds her food. Unlike many other squirrels, Ginny is active year-round, even digging

through the deep snow to find her favorite fungus. As Ginny travels, she spreads the fungus spores in her feces, improving tree and forest health.

Ginny's babies are born in early Spring in litters of 2-4, although sometimes more. At birth, the tiny baby squirrels weigh between 4 and 6 grams! Their eyes and ears are sealed shut, and they are hairless except for a few whiskers on their snout.

Due to Ginny's unique habitat, it is believed that there are 1,000 West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrels left -- in the whole world! What an amazing creature!!

Ginny and her species are vulnerable to many threats. Fragmentation of habitat can occur when the forest canopy becomes more open, increasing exposure to predators. Fragmentation also limits travel routes and causes population isolation, decreasing access to suitable mates and straining available food supply.

Fungal growth, a large part of Ginny's the squirrel's diet, thrives in the micro-habitats

created by older growth trees -- so unrestrained logging and tree death due to insect infestation or disease can pose serious threats.

Additionally, climate change is sure to shrink Ginny's already limited habitat.

The continued protection of the Endangered Species Act is vital to assure that Ginny's welfare is taken into account by government agencies. And protecting Ginny means protecting an entire ecosystem that make the Highlands such a special place!

We love Ginny -- and we work hard every day to protect her mountain home. Thanks for all you do to support Friends of Blackwater's campaign to protect Ginny the West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel!!



Love those J.R. Clifford Project Volunteers



Christmas Open House

Our Charleston Office hosted an Open House on December 15th at Asbury Methodist Church. We had displays on all our projects and great food including a chocolate fountain supplied by staffer Aimee Duncan. Many members of the cast of "New Home for Liberty" attended as did Sharon Harms who illustrated our new Clifford coloring book.



Caden Chapman checks out the array of goodies at the Christmas Open House.



Anthony Kinzer graciously played Santa for the Holiday Open House

Coloring Book Distribution

After three days of labeling, wrapping, taping and boxing up 7,000 JR Clifford posters and coloring books were delivered to West Virginia RESA (Regional Educational Service Agency) Directors. The RESA network then distributed the packets to every elementary school classroom in the state. RESA III Director Chuck Nichols made it all happen. Thanks to a great crew of volunteers who endured back aches and paper cuts to get these very special educational tools to West Virginia kids for Black History Month.



From left :(front)Eva..., Mary Cash, (middle) Nora Sheridan, Danielle Cash (rear) Brandae Mullins, Ann Fortson, Judy Rodd



Ann Fortson and Danielle Cash package J. R. Clifford posters to be shipped to elementary schools statewide.

Press Conference

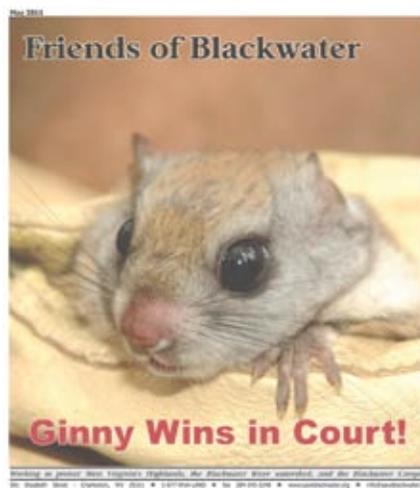
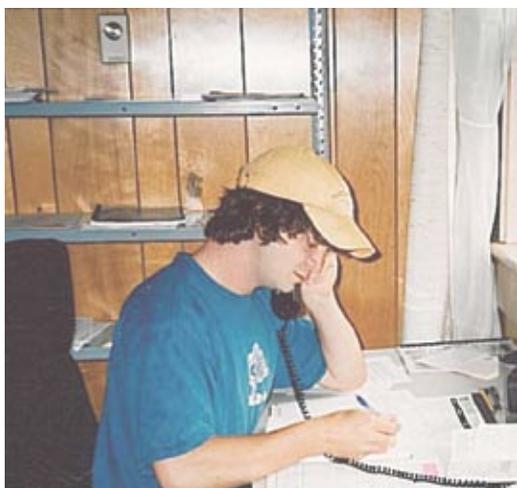


Delegate Charlene Marshall received the J.R. Clifford Spirit Award



On January 20th we held a press conference at the State Capitol to announce the coloring book and poster distribution. Retired Supreme Court Justice Larry Starcher gave Delegate Charlene Marshall of Morgantown the "Spirit of JR Clifford Award" for her help getting the coloring book printed through a Community Participation Program Grant.

From left, Monica Kessel, Jada Kessel, Ann Fortson, Alex Kessel, Danielle Cash, Kitty Dooley, Chlorine Carter, Tom Rodd, & Delores Burton attend the J.R. Clifford press conference.



Citizens Campaign for High Allegheny National Park begin

Judge Sullivan returns Endangered Species protections to Ginny. Work begins on J.R. Clifford coloring book and poster.

NFWP continues water monitoring

JANUARY

FEBRUARY
NFWP debuts Google Earth Watershed Tours.

MARCH

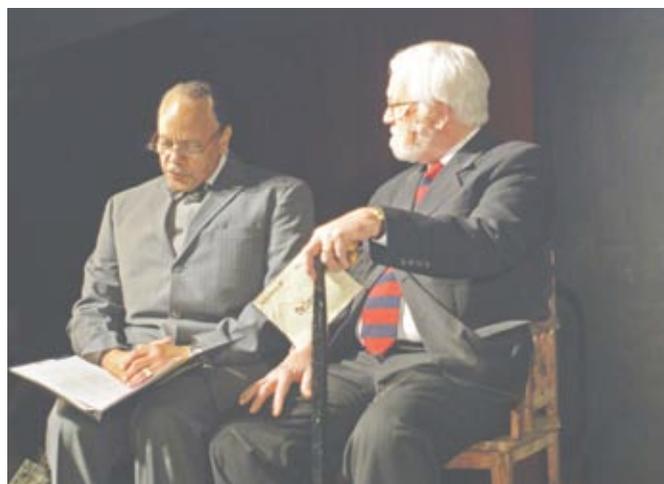
APRIL

"A New Home for Liberty" premieres in Morgantown, WV

MAY

JUNE

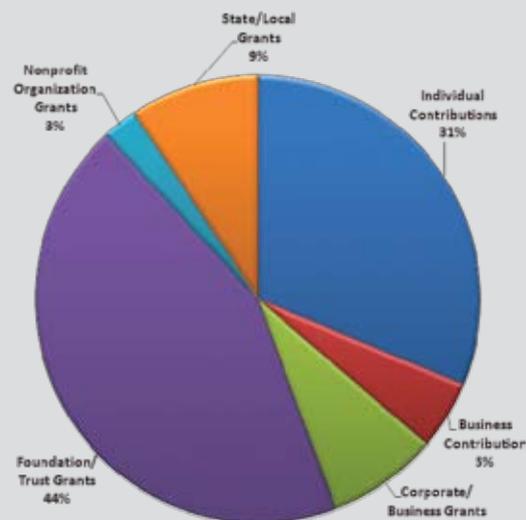
Eastern Forest Gas Drilling Coalition (EFGDC) is formed. John Davis and TrekEast visit the Highlands Region. NFWP works on trout restoration project.



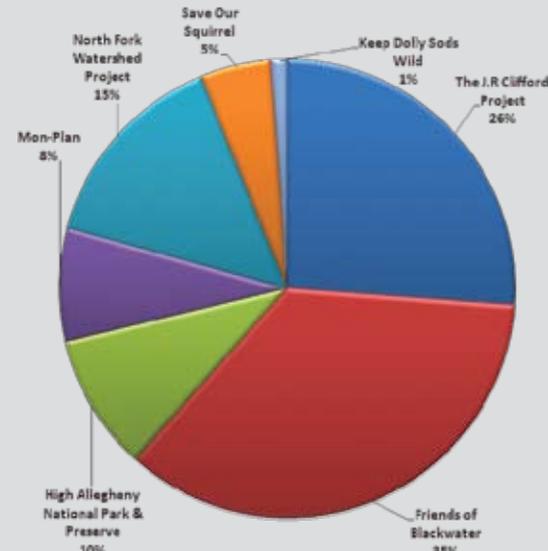
FINANCIAL

CARRY OVER FROM 2010
\$ 90,000.00
TOTAL INCOME
\$ 223,701.15
TOTAL EXPENSES
\$ 277,375.20

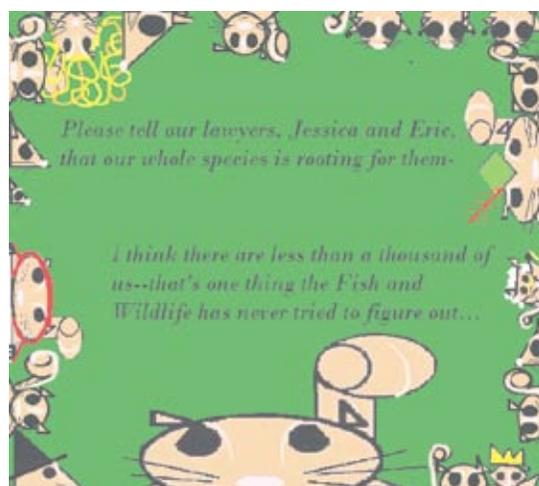
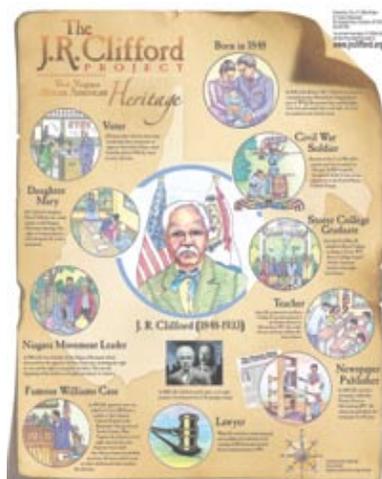
SUPPORT BY TYPE



EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT



REVIEW



USFWS challenges Ginny's return to Endangered Species List.
JULY

J.R. Clifford Poster finished. FOB takes to YouTube with Ginny plea and Ginny Tailz Videos
SEPTEMBER

Nora Sheridan's video about Blackwater Falls State Park wins Sony's America's State Parks contest.
NOVEMBER

AUGUST
High Allegheny National Park and Preserve Campaign works toward Reconnaissance Study.

OCTOBER
"A New Home for Liberty" plays to a packed house at the Charleston Civic Center. EFGDC signs on to letter protesting gas leasing on the Wayne Nt and also signs on to letter requesting ban on horizontal drilling on the George Washington NF

DECEMBER
EFGDC writes comment letter on NiSource Multi Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Holiday Open House.



Alan & Barbara Mollohan appearing in "A New Home for Liberty"



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In Davis Our Next Door Neighbors Are Tip Top!



In WV's highest incorporated city, Davis, Hypno Coffee, the place to get a great cup of coffee, meet friends and have a delicious bowl of soup or cookie, has changed their name to "Tip Top."

Cade and Carrie Archuleta, owners of Hypno Coffee for the past year and a half, will be growing and making additional changes soon to what has become a popular place for tourists and locals alike.

Tip Top will be moving in March, to a new location on Front St. in Thomas, WV which will give the business room to grow and expand, as they have "outgrown" their current location. The new space will double their seating capacity with forty plus seats and be a combination of new modern equipment and old décor. They will be extending their hours and adding many new foods and features. Among the changes will be a bakery and specialty dinners three or four evenings a week with a guest chef on Saturday nights. The specialty dinners may be a night of Appalachian cooking or tapas meals (small appetizer meals) or other specialty dinners designed by the chef. All meats, which include pork, beef and chicken are from local farms. Served with your dinner you may have wine, beer



Above: Oliver, Carrie and Cade Archuleta - our neighbors!

or one of the specialty cocktails new to the menu. To quote Cade "We are more than just a coffeebar." With the many changes to Hypno Coffee, including a new coffee brand called Forty-Weight, Cade and Carrie felt the name needed to change. They are now Tip Top.

For all of us who love coffee and our lattes and delicious teas or smoothies, the coffeebar will remain the main focus of Tip Top.

Cade and the whole crew have been wonderful neighbors to us and we will miss them terribly!



North Fork Watershed Updates

Open House



Lori Haldeman presents a check to the Blackwater Ministerial Association for the Davis Food Bank.

The North Fork Watershed Project recently held a month long fundraiser and food drive to benefit the Blackwater Ministerial Association Food Pantry. The drive began with a Holiday open house at the North Fork Watershed Project office on December 23. Visitors came to the office for holiday food and drink, to discuss the NFWP's ongoing projects, and to buy raffle tickets for the fundraiser. Many area businesses generously donated prizes to the raffle. Raffle tickets sales and food collection continued until a second open house held on MLK day to celebrate a nationwide day of service to commemorate Dr. King's service to our country. The event ended with a raffle drawing to distribute the great prizes. In the end the events raised \$300 in cash and four large boxes full of food items for the food pantry. We would like to extend

a big thank you to Siriannis Café, Tip Top Coffee Bar, Tangled Up Hair Salon, The Trail Mix, Seth Pitt of the White Room Art

Gallery, My Grandpa's Attic, Mountain Made, The Studio Art Gallery, Mountain Mist Florist, Colabrese General Store, and Canaan Trading for their donations to this great cause. We would also like to thank Shop-n-Save of Davis for helping us set up food donation boxes and ticket sale tables in their store.

Welcome Ben! Our New VISTA.

Ben Wiercinski, will be joining the North Fork Watershed Project team as our newest AmeriCorps VISTA through the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team. Ben originally hails from Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania near Philadelphia, where he has lived the majority of his life. Ben attended Virginia Tech where he double majored in Economics and Applied Economics Management, specializing in International Trade and Development. During his time at Virginia Tech, Ben grew to love all the outdoor activities that living in Appalachia allows. Ben does warn that he is a diehard Philadelphia Phillies fan and friends can usually tell by his mood if the Phillies are winning or losing.



Ben's tenure with us will begin in mid-February so please take a few moments to stop by the Davis office and welcome him to West Virginia.

“Bird Smart Wind” - An ABC Campaign



The American Bird Conservancy (“ABC”) is publicly calling for regulation of industrial wind projects, to reduce bird mortality. West Virginia provided a prime example of the toll that such projects can take on wildlife in an article in ABC’s “Bird Conservation Magazine,” Winter 2011-2012.

All three industrial wind turbine projects operating in West Virginia the state have had major bird kills, on foggy nights during fall migration. Kelly Fuller, ABC’s Wind Campaign Coordinator, wants people to know that this is a problem that can be solved with regulation. ABC has submitted a petition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service calling for a permitting process to make industrial wind “bird smart;” and Friends of Blackwater has signed on to ABC’s petition.

Additional coverage of West Virginia’s bird kills was featured in E&E reporter Lawrence Hurley’s Jan 26, 2012 article in Greenwire, titled “Obama Admin Sweats Legal Response as Turbines Kill Birds.”

Below a photo of the Nedpower Industrial Wind Project near Mt. Storm Lake, Lawrence writes: “The turbines, positioned just so to harness the wind, are dead in the path of hawks, yellow billed cuckoos, wood thrushes and other migrating birds. One night last September, Mount Storm turbines killed 59 birds when a light was left on in one of the towers. Such mass bird kills represent a dilemma for the Obama administration. Can it promote renewable energy development and still enforce laws that protect wildlife?”

Friends of Blackwater Board member Donna Cook was profiled in the article, as she toured the industrial wind project with the reporter:

“On a recent gloomy day at a gasoline station near the top of the ridge, she sat in her red pickup truck to keep warm as snow swirled around the turbines. For her, the lack of enforcement of the migratory-bird law by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which could alert DOJ to potential prosecutions, is a damning indictment of the government’s role as cheerleader for the wind energy industry. ‘It’s very upsetting to me,’ she said. ‘If you can’t

get the Fish and Wildlife Service to support you, it’s never, ever, ever going to be enforced.’

“Meanwhile, high-profile bird kills continue to drive complaints made by organizations like the American Bird Conservancy (ABC), and provides fuel to residents who mount opposition to proposed wind projects in their neighborhoods.

In West Virginia alone, the killings at Mount Storm were overshadowed by another incident a month later, when an estimated 484 birds were killed at the newly constructed Laurel Mountain facility, operated by AES Corp.

“Last month, ABC made its views clear when it filed a petition with the Interior Department asking the government to consider a permitting scheme similar to the one required under the Endangered Species Act (Greenwire, Dec. 14, 2011).

“Kelly Fuller, ABC’s wind campaign coordinator, is adamant that there must be something more than voluntary guidelines.

“Incidents like those in West Virginia ‘simply beg for law enforcement and for mandatory federal standards to prevent such unnecessary deaths in the future,’ she said. ‘Otherwise, if there are no consequences, we can expect more legally protected birds will be killed when their deaths could have been easily and inexpensively prevented.’

David J. van Hoogstraten, director of policy and regulatory affairs at BP Wind Energy, North America, grudgingly said: ‘I suppose it could be done.’ Earlier in the discussion, he said his favored approach was to amend the migratory bird law. ‘There are an awful lot of migratory birds, he said. ‘A permitting system would bog us down.’”



George Washington’s Frontier Forts Are Important Sites for the High Allegheny National Park and Preserve Resource Study

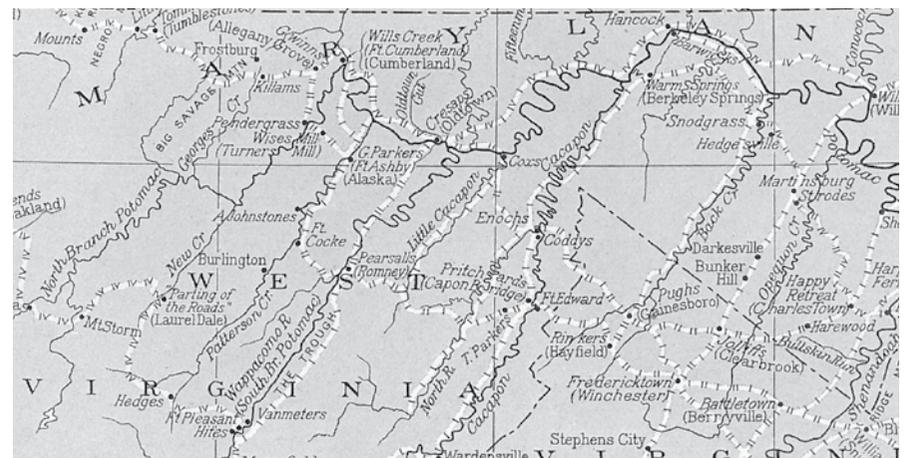


During the early settlement of what is now West Virginia, pioneers moving westward built homes that could act as forts -- in the event of hostilities with Native Americans. Many of these forts were located in Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Grant, Pocahontas and Pendleton Counties.

In October of 1756, then-Colonel George Washington began a survey of the colonial frontier, with an eye toward building new forts, expanding old ones, and stationing Virginia soldiers in them. Washington’s chain of forts played a key role during the French and Indian Wars. Some of the most important were Fort Edwards, Upper Settlement Fort, Fort Defiance, Fort Pleasant, Fort Enoch, and Fort Ashby. Additional forts in the Greenbrier drainage were Fort Warwick and Fort Gay.

Forts were located on the Cacapon River, the North River, and Lunice and Patterson Creeks; and along the North and South Branches of the Potomac. (See the accompanying map, taken from William Ansel Jr.’s excellent book, “Frontier Forts Along the Potomac and its Tributaries,” published by McClain Press in Parsons, WV.)

The story of these early West Virginia settlements, and life on the frontier of the 1800’s, will be documented and preserved by High Allegheny National Park and Preserve. Friends of Blackwater’s 2012 newsletters will feature the rich history of the High Allegheny region -- including George Washington’s travels, and the trips of David Hunter Strother (Porte Crayon) -- as chronicled by Phyllis Harman in her article “Antebellum Travelers in the Highlands



In Memory and Honor.....



Joshua Whetzel

Joshua Whetzel, Jr., a longtime member of FOB, passed away on January 24, 2012 at his Harbor's Edge home in Delray Beach, FL.

Born and raised in Squirrel Hill, PA Mr. Whetzel was one of three children in the family of Joshua Clyde and Gladys Porter Whetzel

Josh was a nature lover who was enthralled as a teenager with the Grand Canyon and Zion National Park on a family road trip. He went on to lead the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, where he spearheaded the purchase of large tracts of land in Pennsylvania for conservation. One of his first projects was the creation of the Rails to Trails program in Pennsylvania by purchasing the original right of way of the West Maryland Railroad that would become the Great Allegheny Passage. As president of the board of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, he became focused on state and federal efforts to protect the environment of the country he loved and served, said Cynthia Carrow, vice president of government and community relations for the Conservancy.

John Oliver, a past president of the Conservancy, recalled Mr. Whetzel's commitment to numerous conservation efforts, including the Mountain Streams Project, where 9,300 acres in Westmoreland County are now part of Forbes State Park. "We worked together for 26 years," Oliver said. "He was one of the unsung heroes of the renaissance of Pittsburgh. He had an ability to see the future of land and water conservation."



George Smith donation by Peggy Smith

George Smith, was a 6th generation descendant of his family who had been raised on the family property in Mt. Lebanon, PA. After graduating from Mt. Lebanon High School in 1943, he joined the U.S. Navy and was sent to the Radio Material School at the Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C., then stationed at the Quonset Point Naval Air Station, Rhode Island. He used the G.I. bill to finish bachelor's and master's degrees in chemical engineering at the University of Pittsburgh, then received his doctoral degree from Carnegie Mellon University. For the major part of his career, he worked for the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation He was for almost 60 years a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the American Chemical Society, and the Society of the Sigma Xi, and was a long-time member of Southminster Presbyterian Church, where he had served on the Board of Elders. He was a renaissance man with broad wide-ranging intellectual interests - quiet, soft-spoken, deep-thinking, generous and witty.



Richard A. "Dick" Lewis donation by Shoshanna Schwimmer

Richard A. "Dick" Lewis died on Tuesday, November 1. He was seventy-five. He leaves his wife Judie, daughters Nancy and Marcy, sons Michael, Scott, and John, eleven grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Quite a living legacy, and there's more.

Dick was a retired Accountant, a U. S. Army veteran, Vice President of the Master Gardeners, a board member of the WV Writers, Inc. serving as Treasurer and 1st VP, and a member of the Toastmasters Club. In his retirement Dick and Judie hosted many at their Bed and Breakfast, The Stone Manse Inn.

Dick was one of us. He was a writer. His stories are compelling and well crafted - a fascinating storyteller and living proof is his collection, Naked Man's Rock.

I guess it was Dick's nature to give back and he gave back to this organization ten-fold. As a regional rep, I sat in on board meetings and when Dick offered his two cents on an issue, it was solid gold. As treasurer his wisdom kept the executive board on the straight and narrow, even past his term. Unless you are an executive board member and witness firsthand what these members give of themselves to the group, you will have to take it from us who the real heroes of West Virginia Writers are. Dick Lewis was such a man.

Dick was awarded the J.U.G. - Just Uncommonly Good! Jug Award at the 2010 Awards Banquet for what he'd given of himself to West Virginia Writers.

(from WV Writers, Inc. blog, written by Terry McNemar)



Gene Carte donation by Anne Garcelon

Gene Carte, 64, of Charleston and Seebert, WV, died February 27, 2010, at home.

Gene was born on January 28, 1946, in Charleston, the only child of Dorothy Virginia and Gene Carte Sr. He was raised in Smithers, graduated from Montgomery High School in 1963, West Virginia University in 1967 and the West Virginia University College of Law in 1970.

He served in the US Navy and the US Army, attaining the rank of Captain in the US Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. In January 1974, he received the Joint Service Commendation Medal from the Department of Defense for "meritorious service in the performance of his duties as Chief, Legal Assistance Branch, Office of the Judge Advocate, Civil Law Division, United Nations Command/United States Forces Korea/Eighth United States Army."

He practiced law for 20 years in Fayetteville with James Blankenship and served 14 years as a Fayette County Commissioner. Prior to that, he served as an assistant prosecuting attorney. At the time of his death, he was serving as counsel to the WV Senate Committee on Economic Development, a position he had held since 2000.

Gene was an avid reader, a tennis player, a philosopher and poet, a trout fisherman, and an adventurer and traveler. He was a friend to many, an aficionado of James Joyce and anything Irish and a seeker of knowledge.

Next to being at his cabin on the Greenbrier River, he was happiest when playing with his tennis groups at Edgewood County Club and the Tennis Indoor Center, participating in his reading and philosophy groups, or exploring new places.



Nadya Brisken donation by Ginnie Luster

Nadya Brisken, who passed away in 1997, was a dear friend to Ginnie Luster, who recently donated in her name. Ginnie says, "was a close friend who introduced me to the beauty of West Virginia years ago, inspiring me to visit Blackwater Falls, Seneca Rocks and Dolly Sods. Nadya was born and grew up in Huntington and attended Marshall University. With her family, she visited almost every state park in WV, and I know she would be thrilled to learn of plans for a national park."

Our Super Donors



F.K. Millar & Emma Shelton

Dr. Florence K. Millar and Emma Shelton are some of our most outstanding donors and supporters.

As the story goes, Emma had worked in West Virginia previously but they had come, with friends, to one of the early meetings of the Highlands Conservancy in 1967. That meeting was held along Roaring Creek Road near Onego and before they were finished camping, hiking and canoeing that weekend they had joined the group. They didn't come back to the area for nearly five years, until one afternoon a cousin was talking about buying land in West Virginia in order to escape from the hustle and bustle of Washington, D.C. They had looked in the Moorefield area but had found nothing that they really liked. So they got a newspaper and upon finding an advertisement for over 200 acres of land in Onego made arrangements to travel from D.C. to take a look around.

As serendipity would have it the land was located along Roaring Creek Road, where they had camped some five years earlier. It was a rainy, foggy day in autumn and as they made their way over the property, they fell in love despite the inclement weather. As a matter of fact, they bought the land right then and there and by the end of the afternoon were already planning where to build the house. They have since given the land to the Nature Conservancy while maintaining the right of usage for themselves.

When asked why Blackwater Canyon was so important to them, they replied that while they would like to support everything, it is nearly impossible. Blackwater Canyon however is in their backyard and it is well worth saving. They especially love to visit in the winter, even though neither skis, just for the beauty and serenity.



Above: Emma Shelton and F.K. Millar at our September 2011 DC Party

Ken Bosworth

Even though Ken Bosworth now lives in Idaho, and has scores of local wilderness and environmental organizations that he supports, he still contributes to Friends of Blackwater. Considering that he is 2000 miles removed from the Allegheny Highlands we consider this quite a feat.

Ken first became aware of FOB because of a flier he received from us, several years ago. He had been through the Blackwater Canyon area once, back in 1990, when he was working at the Chesapeake Biological Lab, and his wife and 2 yr. old son were exploring West Virginia and Western Maryland area, looking for wild and undeveloped areas.

Ken says, "We (the American people) need such areas, as Wallace Stegner said in his now famous wilderness letter: "Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed;..."

Many years went by between our first wintry sight of Blackwater Falls in the 1950s and our return trip with Judy Rodd on an autumn day early in this century. While we were impressed both times by the beauty of the Canyon, the trip with Judy left us in awe, especially at the view from Lindy Point and the striking fall colors. But, we also saw the streams, turned yellow from leached mine water, and learned about the threats to the Canyon. It was clear back then that much hard work lay ahead to save this special place. For at least ten years since that introduction, we have been thrilled to watch the progress of the Friends of Blackwater and happy to have been part of the effort. In addition, our support of the High Allegheny National Park stems not just from a desire to see these beautiful mountains and valleys protected, but also from the enjoyment we have taken from our own place on Roaring Creek - the creatures, the mountain views, the unobstructed sky, and the stream itself. - F.K. Millar & Emma Shelton



Above: Ken Bosworth and Psi-Star.

Friends of Blackwater

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Julie Zickefoose Prints for Sale!! 25% of purchase price goes to Friends of Blackwater!