

Friends of Blackwater

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Photo courtesy of G. P. Cooper

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

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WHAT IS SO SECRET ABOUT A SQUIRREL?

FOB Director Judy Rodd Testifies About Implementation of the Endangered Species Act Before the House Natural Resources Committee

“Ginny”, the West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel went to Washington on May 9th with Friends of Blackwater’s Judy Rodd to testify on behalf of the “SOS! – Save Our Squirrel” Coalition, before the Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives, on the topic “Endangered Species Act Implementation: Science or Politics.” Here are excerpts from her speech:

“We West Virginians are extremely proud of our beautiful mountains, rivers, and rural communities, and we are fierce and zealous in their defense and protection. That is why I am appearing today on behalf of the “SOS! – Save Our Squirrel” Coalition, a consortium of 27 groups that have banded together to prevent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from removing federal endangered species protection for the West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel, (*Glaucomys sabrinus fuscus*). “Ginny” is the “signature species” of our State’s highest mountains. Ginny is a relic of the last Ice Age. When the glaciers retreated, Ginny’s ancestors were isolated on the high mountain ridges of six West Virginia counties (and one in Virginia.) Ginny has evolved a remarkable lifestyle, surviving in a demanding and specialized habitat, feeding at night on underground fungi that grow in the cool, moist, forested mountaintops.

Ginny has been on the federal Endangered Species List since 1985. In the Fall of 2006, officials at Fish and Wildlife announced a fast-track “de-listing” proposal for Ginny. The proposal, developed in secret, without input from official recovery plan authors, is to strip all federal protections from the West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel.

This proposal generated a huge negative public reaction. The agency says that the public cannot see 2,325 pages in the agency’s files on de-listing. Members of Congress -- this isn’t national security. What can be so secret about a squirrel?

The agency’s stealth “de-listing” plan is illegal and absurd – procedurally and substantively. Fish and Wildlife admits it has no idea how many squirrels there are. The threats to Ginny and her habitat are growing, not shrinking. The meager scientific data on Ginny’s habitat and likely future has been “cherry-picked” and mischaracterized, to support a clearly predetermined conclusion. The leading scientist who has studied the squirrel for decades has opposed the de-listing proposal.



More than 5,000 people have sent comments to Fish and Wildlife opposing the plan, and we have submitted a fifty-page comment letter, refuting every assertion in the agency’s proposal. Members of Congress, people in the agency tell us they have had no funding to implement



the recovery plan, and instead they are planning how to scrap the recovery plan altogether. Certainly it would solve a lot of problems – for everyone but the species and its habitat!

It is shameful and shocking to learn that what we are experiencing in West Virginia is a symptom of a greater problem – the attempted rollback of endangered species protection across America – by political appointees who appear to despise the very law they are sworn to uphold. We join with Americans everywhere in saying we will not tolerate any rollback of the protections of the Endangered Species Act.”

For a live video of this presentation go to www.saveblackwater.org and play the videos on our homepage. You can also see the video on YouTube.com!! Once on YouTube put in “squirrel hearing” or the following code: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WPZp08eksY>. For the full written testimony from the hearing go to www.resourcescommittee.house.gov/hearings/ and check on the May 9 hearing.

Analysis of Field Records Highlights Problems with Squirrel Data

A team comprised of interns from The Wilderness Society and FOB’s Brandae Mullins spent many hours analyzing the data from the actual field reports of the captures of the West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel. This analysis was prompted by the discovery of questionable data in the digital database provided by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources.

After the interns painstakingly entered the data into a spreadsheet, Brandae reviewed what was there and was able to determine that there may have been as few as 654 unique captures over the last 22 years, compared to the 1,141 claimed by Fish and Wildlife. Information looked at during this analysis was whether the animals had been recorded as captures or recaptures and whether or not the animals had been tagged during initial capture.



The Forest Service is not following the law because they are proposing the easement without demanding full disclosure of Allegheny Wood Products’s plans. Thank you for your help in blocking this unwise proposal, which will destroy this spectacular recreational resource, damage our Wild and Scenic Blackwater River and the cultural resources of the Blackwater Industrial Complex and destroy endangered species habitat.

We continue to press West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin to step in. We have sent 4,685 petition names to the Governor asking him to support Trail protection. Please let us know if you would like a petition to take to your club or family gathering this summer. Let the politicians know that **THE BLACKWATER CANYON TRAIL MUST BE PROTECTED!!** Call us at 1-877-WVA Land or 304-345-7663 or e-mail us at outreach@saveblackwater.org for petitions.



Imagine ... sitting beside a gently flowing river completely immersed in relaxation or splashing in the river like a child. When was the last time you did that? For that matter, when was the last time you sat around a campfire under clear skies where you could see the stars, singing along with new friends? When was the last time you spent a whole weekend not caring about how you were dressed? Wouldn’t it feel great to know you don’t have to be somewhere in the next minute?

Welcome to Water Gap Retreat. Located just east of Elkins, West Virginia, Louisville, and Richmond. The vision of textile artist, Micheal Davis, the first priority is to help you relax completely in nature to refresh your soul, rejuvenate your mind, and renew your spirit. After many years as a successful artist, Michael was looking for a new creative direction and so he combined his love of the outdoors with his love of art for a new inspiration. Water Gap was conceived as a summer camp for adults who want to get away from the every day hustle and bustle, yet don’t necessarily want to book a weekend at a posh resort where being ‘on’ all the time comes with the price tag.

At Water Gap Retreat, you can be yourself, live authentically and get in touch with your spirit again. Their programs are set up to be interesting, but not hurried, engaging but not overwhelming. And, while the natural landscape refreshes your soul and the instructors engage your mind, the healthy and delicious fare will nourish your body. The lodging is unique, and some of the most creative and generous people you’ll ever meet are ready to welcome you and make you feel comfortable.

For more information about Water Gap Retreat or the weekend packages they offer, please visit them on the web at www.watergapretreat.com or call (304)-704-7867.

VAGUE ANSWERS ON TRAIL EASEMENT ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS BEG CLEAR RESPONSE

Many of you have received a letter from the Forest Service asking if you want a copy of their final plan for the Blackwater Canyon Trail. (We encourage you to say yes.) This Forest Service request leaves one with the impression that the final plan announcement will come out any day on the AWP Easement Proposal for the Trail.

However, we have heard from the Forest Service that they are still reviewing their proposal to make sure it is legal. Mark Rey, Under Secretary for the Department of Agriculture in charge of the Forest Service, indicated in February that there would be another comment period. But word from the Monongahela Forest Headquarters is that they are “moving ahead”. We have written letters asking for more information on the proposed logging plans, equipment, and schedules. So has Congressman Alan Mollohan. Some vague answers have come back, and no one has seen the proposed Deed of Easement. This will not do!! The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) mandates that:

[t]he Secretary shall require, prior to granting . . . a right-of-way, that the applicant submit and disclose those plans, contracts, agreements, or other information reasonably related to the use, or intended use, of the right-of-way, including its effect on competition, which he deems necessary to a determination in accordance with the provisions of this Act, as to whether a right-of-way shall be granted . . . and the terms and conditions which should be included in the right-of-way. 43 U.S.C. § 1761(b)(1).

WaterGap Weekend Workshops

June 15-17	Meet the Artists, Tour Their Studios
June 22-24	Organic Gardening for Sustainable Living
July 6-8	Geological Features and History of The Allegheny Highlands
July 13-15	Creative Felt Making
July 20-22	Forest Meditation
July 27-29	Caves and Related Phenomena
August 3-5	Movement for Health and Centering with Jude Binder
August 17-19	The Nature of Writing
August 24-26	Boxes Upon Boxes: The Art of Origami Containers
September 7-9	Theater for Non-Actors: Grown Ups Acting Out
September 14-16	From the Ground Up - From Hands to Table: Baking, Cooking & Gardening with Mimi Kibler and Scott Weaner
September 21-23	Appalachian Singing
September 28-30	Take it Up a Notch, Move to the Next Plateau: Creative Writing and Guitar



Working in coalition to achieve siting regulations for industrial wind projects in WV, while challenging those projects that degrade special places, like Dolly Sods.

WE NEED WIND SITING REGULATIONS NOW!

Thousands of giant wind turbines have been proposed for the highest ridges of the Appalachian mountains, including some of the most scenic areas of West Virginia. Local citizens, landowners, and wildlife protection groups are concerned that there are literally no siting regulations for these huge machines.

Environmental lawyer Eric Glitzenstein, who represented Friends of Blackwater in our successful court battle to protect the Cheat Canyon snail, testified before Congress about one government report stating that "migratory bird mortalities at the wind farms usually occur by the birds being dismembered when they come into contact with the fully exposed spinning turbine blades." One "particular Golden eagle was found in four separate pieces, with the left wing and one leg so badly twisted together, they could not be readily separated."

According to the report, "types of injuries observed are: severed beaks resulting in massive hemorrhage; decapitations, either mid-skull or complete; complete mid-body separation; wing amputations or fractures." Eric concluded, "In the absence of further federal safeguards, it is inevitable that the nation will, perversely, wind up creating a new

ecological crisis in the guise of addressing another one. Now is clearly the time for Congress to act, before it is too late." Eric quoted scientists with Bat Conservation International who found that 66 turbines at two wind power sites in West Virginia and Pennsylvania killed as many as 2,900 bats in just a six-week study period, an alarming rate that the organization said was simply not "ecologically sustainable."

Political leaders are responding to these concerns. West Virginia Congressman Alan Mollohan created a two-year study of wind turbine siting by the prestigious National Academy of Sciences. The study sets out a new, comprehensive approach for evaluating proposals to construct industrial wind-energy projects in West Virginia and elsewhere around the United States.

Under the study's recommended approach, the environmental impacts of proposed wind-energy projects - including their visual impacts in scenic areas, and their impacts on birds, bats and other wildlife - would be carefully scrutinized before decisions are made on whether those projects should go forward.

West Virginia Rep. Nick Joe Rahall has introduced the Energy Policy

Reform and Revitalization Act of 2007, which includes a provision on wind energy that represents an important first step in enforcing necessary protections for the natural environment impacted by industrial wind energy development.

This provision will put into law what the wind industry and its proponents already profess to support, i.e. the proper siting of facilities in order to "avoid impacts, including cumulative impacts, on birds, bats, and other wildlife to the greatest extent practicable based on data gathered during preconstruction surveys. If your State's representatives sit on the House Committee on Natural Resources, please e-mail or fax them THIS WEEK your support of the bill. Go to www.for a copy of the bill and a form letter to send to members on the committee can be found here: <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/about/#members>.



Burning Wind Turbine

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear (Your Representatives Name),
Please support The Energy Policy Reform and Revitalization Act of 2007 ([H.R. 2337](#)) introduced by Congressman Rahall. In particular support Subtitle D-Ensuring Safety of Wildlife With Respect to Wind Energy that creates industrial wind siting regulations to protect wildlife to be managed by US Fish and Wildlife. The regulations will minimize impacts to birds and bats by protecting flyways, endangered species and special habitat features used by bats and raptors. Two wind power sites in West Virginia and Pennsylvania killed as many as 2,900 bats in just a six-week study period!

Wind power facilities, if properly sited, constructed, and monitored, can be a part of the answer to the global climate change crisis. At the same time, strenuous efforts must be made to avoid creating new ecological crises in the name of solving an existing one. The fact that wind power may prove to be a piece of our energy puzzle does not mean that the wind power industry should get a free pass when it comes to safeguarding wildlife and other natural resources.

Please support Chairman Rahall's bill.

Sincerely

Working to improve water quality, educate the public on the negative impact of acid mine drainage and combine water remediation with historic preservation.



NFWP Awarded OSM Grant



Douglas Falls: The orange color is a result of AMD.

of acid mine drainage that flows into Long Run, a tributary of the North Fork of the Blackwater River. Reduction of the acid mine drainage in these areas is key to the recovery of the the watershed.

NFWP was able to achieve this through the combined effort of staff members and volunteers, along with strong community support.

The North Fork Watershed Project has been awarded ninety-two thousand dollars by the Department of Interior's Office of Surface Mining. This grant is part of a larger package that will also include funds from the the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program and the DEP 319 program. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$232,000. Receipt of this grant should enable work on the project to begin this summer.

The project will rehabilitate previous, inadequate attempts to abate the acid mine drainage in the Albert Highwall Reclamation Project area. NFWP worked directly with DEP staff members to develop the design for the re-engineering of the water treatment systems. The goal of the project is to significantly reduce the amount



A volunteer monitors water along the North Fork of the Blackwater River.

Signatures Collected to Show Support for AMD Rehabilitation Project

When volunteer Ellen Leiby said she was going to get some signatures in support of the North Fork Watershed's attempts to secure funding for the rehabilitation of failed acid mine drainage abatement efforts in the area of the former Albert Highwall site, she meant exactly what she said.

Armed with a stack of petitions and four very adorable helpers, Ellen hit the streets of Davis to gather signatures. With the help of Chloe, Ayiana, Aslan and Rhea, over seventy signatures were gathered in support of the North Fork Watershed Project. Many thanks to Ellen and the girls for all that they have done! This is just the kind of community support and involvement that continues to make the NFWP a success!



NFWP Volunteer mEllen Leiby



Signature collectors from left: Chloe, Ayiana and Aslan (not pictured is Rhea)

Contact Information for Members of the House Natural Resources Committee

Listed below are the fax numbers for all members of the House Natural Resources committee. You may also send them e-mail by going to <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>. This site will allow you to e-mail any of the congresspeople through the official webpage of the US Congress. Or if you like you may send the letter to Friends of Blackwater and we will fax it for you.

Nick J. Rahall, Chairman, D-WV	Fax: (202) 225-9061	Edward J. Markey, D-MA	Fax: (202) 226-0092	Chris Cannon, R-UT	Fax: (202) 225-5629
Don Young, R-AK	Fax: (202) 225-0425	Peter A. DeFazio, D-OR	Fax: (202) 225-0032	Thomas G. Tancredo, R-CO	Fax: (202) 226-4623
Dale E. Kildee, D-MI	Fax: (202) 225-6393	Maurice D. Hinchey, D-NY	Fax: (202) 226-0774	Jeff Flake, R-AZ	Fax: (202) 226-4386
Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, D-AM	Fax: (202) 225-8757	Patrick J. Kennedy, D-RI	Fax: (202) 225-3290	Stevan Pearce, R-NM	Fax: (202) 225-9599
Neil Abercrombie, D-HI	Fax: (202) 225-4580	Ron Kind, D-WI	Fax: (202) 225-5739	Henry E. Brown, Jr., R-SC	Fax: (202) 225-3407
Solomon P. Ortiz, D-TX	Fax: (202) 226-1134	Lois Capps, D-CA	Fax: (202) 225-5632	Luis G. Fortuño, R-PR	Fax: (202) 225-2154
Frank Pallone, Jr., D-NJ	Fax: (202) 225-9665	Jay Inslee, D-WA	Fax: (202) 226-1606	Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-WA	Fax: (202) 225-3392
Donna M. Christensen, D-USVI	Fax: (202) 225-5517	Mark Udall, D-CO	Fax: (202) 226-7840	Bobby Jindal, R-LA	Fax: (202) 226-0386
Grace F. Napolitano, D-CA	Fax: (202) 225-0027	Joe Baca, D-CA	Fax: (202) 225-8671	Louie Gohmert, R-TX	Fax: (202) 226-1230
Rush D. Holt, D-NJ	Fax: (202) 225-6025	Hilda L. Solis, D-CA	Fax: (202) 225-5467	Tom Cole, R-OK	Fax: (202) 225-3512
Raúl M. Grijalva, D-AZ	Fax: (202) 226-6846	Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, D-SD	Fax: (202) 225-5823	Rob Bishop, R-UT	Fax: (202) 225-5857
Madeleine Z. Bordallo, D-GU	Fax: (202) 226-0341	Heath Shuler, D-NC	Fax: (202) 226-6422	Bill Shuster, R-PA	Fax: (202) 225-2486
Jim Costa, D-CA	Fax: (202) 225-9308	Jim Saxton, R-NJ	Fax: (202) 225-0778	Dean Heller, R-NV	Fax: (202) 225-5679
Dan Boren, D-OK	Fax: (202) 225-3038	Elton Gallegly, R-CA	Fax: (202) 225-1100	Bill Sali, R-ID	Fax: (202) 225-3029
John P. Sarbanes, D-MD	Fax: (202) 225-9219	John J. Duncan, Jr., R-TN	Fax: (202) 225-6440	Doug Lamborn, R-CO	Fax: (202) 226-2638
George Miller, D-CA	Fax: (202) 225-5609	Wayne T. Gilchrest, R-MD	Fax: (202) 225-0254		



Tucker County third graders explore and learn about the North Fork Watershed as part of a field trip.

NFWP REPRESENTED AT WATERSHED TRAINING SESSION

Joyce Edgell, summer intern for the North Fork Watershed Project, and Sandy Fisher, Volunteer Coordinator for Friends of Blackwater, participated in a three-day Clean Streams Practicum at Twin Falls State Park in April. This training event was sponsored by the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Project, and included training in both Fiscal Sustainability and Water Monitoring.

Sandy participated in the Fiscal Sustainability sessions and received training in areas such as grant writing, membership and development of fund raising plans. Joyce was active in the hands-on water monitoring sessions, learning about data analysis of stream monitoring and studying another Coal Country watershed project. All of the skills they learned will help build the NFWP into a better organization and allow for expansion beyond current projects.

Both Sandy and Joyce networked with watershed directors from all areas of Appalachia, and we hear that Joyce might be a candidate for Miss Congeniality.

GET UP! GET OUT! GO PLAY!

June is National Great Outdoors Month

West Virginia's High Allegheny region is one of the East's biggest playgrounds. Whether you were the kid who was content to play a solo game of hopscotch or the little daredevil who spent most of their time on the very top of the jungle gym, there is something here for you to do. The only thing lacking is the bully! As spring fades to summer, the activities all start to get under way. So whether you bike, hike, climb or just enjoy being outside, we challenge you to **Get Up! Get Out! Go Play!**

Support FOB at The 9th Annual Harpers Ferry Outdoor Festival & Tim Gavin Downriver Race June 16th, 2007

For nine years now, the paddling community of the greater Harpers Ferry, WV area has hosted a kayak race/festival in memory of Tim Gavin. Tim was a resident, friend, and avid paddler who lost his life in a kayaking accident in March of 1998 on the Blackwater River in West Virginia. He was an outdoor recreation enthusiast and supporter of preserving our local natural resources for future generations. Since whitewater was such a large part of his life, money generated from this event is used to fund local river conservation efforts, including Friends of Blackwater.

This year the 9th annual Tim Gavin Downriver Race and Harpers Ferry Outdoor Festival will be held on June 16th at the KOA Campground in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. The race will be held on the Shenandoah River. The race course traverses Class I, II, and III rapids for boaters of all skill levels. So bring your canoe, kayak, ducky, or raft and get out there and play. After the race there will be an awards ceremony, silent auction, great food, and live music. There is plenty of camping space available so bring a tent or stay in one of the cabins on site.

For more information and to register for this event check out the website at www.harpersferryoutdoorfestival.org or email mike@harpersferryoutdoorfestival.org. Additional questions or interest in helping to sponsor this fundraiser can be answered by Mike Moore at (304)676-6853. We will be there and hope you will too!

Make the Highland Scene

If you're not quite sure how to begin enjoying the exquisite beauty, adventure, and health of the Highlands of West Virginia, there's only one place to start, Highland Scene Tours. Owners Sam Jinks and Diane Baisden have been sharing their love of the outdoors with visitors and expanding their business for over ten years.

Highland Scene Tours offers mountain bike rentals, kayak rentals, snowshoeing and cross-country ski rentals, shuttle service, nature/ecology tours, and overnight biking trips. They book multi-day packages that include biking, whitewater rafting, kayaking and horseback riding. Highland Inn and Spa offers lodging, exercise classes, and 4 types of massage.



Sam Jinks and Diane Baisden of Highland Scene Tours

Sam, originally from Texas, had a career in the US Navy that took him all over the world. Diane, a native of Mingo County, WV, worked as a schoolteacher for the Department of Defense. The two met while stationed in Edzell, Scotland in the late 1990s.

Diane had spent time in Canaan Valley, and she always felt that there was something special about the area. When asked about the origin of Highland Scene Tours, Diane recalls her first impressions of Canaan Valley. "It felt so healthy here. I wanted to use that healthy feeling and share it with other people." Now that Highland Scene Tours has grown to include so many services Diane still views health as her main focus. "People don't always realize it, but that's why they come here - it's a healthy place to be."

For information on tour packages and lodging call - 1-877-223-5388



Feel like Horsin' Around?

So you aren't into the mountain bike scene and you don't care much for hiking, or maybe you are just looking for something different to do? Then perhaps Mountain Trail Rides is the place for you to take a ride back in time.

Mountain Trail Rides, owned and operated by Mike and Kim Bennett, gives year-round guided horseback riding tours in beautiful Canaan Valley, West Virginia. Located on Freeland Road in Canaan Valley, they are less than five minutes from Canaan Valley Resort State Park and Timberline Four Seasons Resort.

The Bennetts have a barn full of horses whose personalities and physical characteristics can be matched to best suit the riders. While specializing in beginners and family groups the Bennetts stress safety and even provide pre-ride instructions and safety rules to all riders. Their well-versed guides take all the necessary steps to make everyone feel comfortable and at ease. Whether you are a veteran rider or have never even been on a horse before, you will find that the atmosphere is comfortable and relaxed and the scenery is breathtaking. In fact Kim and Mike are so sure of this that they stake their reputation on it.

For more information visit them at www.mountaintrailrides.com or by calling 304-866-4652.



Mike and Kim Bennett of Mountain Trail Rides



Blackwater Falls State Park is named for the five-story falls of the Blackwater River. The park offers superior fishing, camping, biking and hiking along with accommodations that range from hard scrabble camping to an outstanding lodge. Other activities available in the park include boating, nature programs, horseback rides and a petting zoo. This year Blackwater Falls State Park will celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary on West Virginia Day Weekend June 15-16, 2007. Celebration events will include a formal dedication of the Harold S. Walters Nature Center, as well as, a ribbon cutting at Blackwater Lodge, a cookout, entertainment and a climbing wall.

For more information visit www.blackwaterfalls.com or call 1-800-CALL-WVA.

Blackwater's Big Adventure

Located in historic St. George, WV, Blackwater Outdoor Adventures, offers

biking, hiking and all river services to families and groups. As a family-owned and operated business with over 25 years experience making sure your outdoor adventure is memorable, they offer safe, quality outdoors experiences.

With access to over 375 miles of the Cheat River, trails, and back country wilderness areas of the Monongahela National Forest, they are able to offer a premium experience. Their professionalism and commitment to quality guarantee that you will leave with awesome memories to reflect upon for many years to come.

In addition, they also have the River Outpost and General Store to provide for all your fishing, camping, whitewater and canoe needs. For more information about their services please visit them on the web at www.blackwateroutdoors.com or call them at 304-478-3775.



Davis' Newest Outfitter Celebrates One Year Anniversary

Highland Prospects was formed in February 2006 by college friends Jeremy Golston and Ben Clark, alumni of Davis & Elkins College. Going to school in West Virginia allowed them to sample and enjoy the incredible recreation opportunities and mountain lifestyle that is the High Alleghenies.



Officially opening their doors in June of 2006, the main goal has always been to become the premier resource for the extensive playground in which they live. In order to do this, they make it a point to be available to discuss everything from the best new gear to the "hot spots". One hundred percent focus on the customer is the name of the game.

"Highland Prospects had to have its very own feel from the minute the customer walked into the store, so we took every measure to make that happen from the merchandise to the in store décor. Our customers will know they have encountered a different type of store" says Golston. These guys aren't kidding! From the warm greeting each customer receives upon entering to the second they go back out the green and yellow door, Highland Prospects offers a unique shopping experience.

For more information or to draw upon their vast resources, visit Ben and Jeremy on the web at www.highlandprospects.com or by calling 304-259-5656.



Ben Clark & Jeremy Golston of Highland Prospects

Congratulations! On a successful first year. May you have many more.



In Memory and Honor...

Scott Smith & Holly Hoffman in honor of parents
 Phyllis A. Harman in memory of Mary Clark from Handbell Choir Emanuel Lutheran Church
 Duane Nichols & Carol Sue Miles in memory of Harold & Miles
 Rachelle Davis in memory of Brad Short
 Stephanie Mendelson in memory of Leonard Chase Ricketson
 Kathryn Makela in memory of Richard S. Jones
 Bruce R. Debolt in memory of Eleanor Rogers Debolt
 Elizabeth Schoyer in memory of Torrance Miller Hunt, Sr
 William & Patricia Browning in memory of Ariana Owen Browning
 Joanne & Homer Masters in honor of Homer Masters
 Barbara Johnson in memory of Richard A. Johnson
 Barbara Schulz in memory of Arnold F. Schulz
 Elizabeth Golden in memory of Ernestine S. Golden



Stan & Nancy Klem in memory of Tom Kelly
 Jerome & Jane Burch in memory of Don Good
 William Burger in memory of The Burgers of Davis, West Virginia
 Martha L. Westgate in honor of your heritage
 Harpers Ferry Outdoor Festival in memory of Tim Gavin
 Derek Springston in memory of Sandra K. Millikin
 Daniel Salomon in honor of Diana
 Post of Rachel Carson Council

Michael & Kimberly Moore in memory of Tim Gavin
 George & Meg Cheever in honor of Mrs. Edward Holyoke Schoyer
 Reba Hutton in memory of Dr. Eugene E. Hutton
 Stephen & Carol Schimpff in memory of Bill Maisel
 Carolyn Welcker in memory of Charlie Carlson
 Deborah McHenry & Elaine Moore in honor of Tom Rodd
 Karl Esser in memory of Yvone H. Esser
 Stanwyn & Elaine Shetler in honor of Stanwyn Shetler
 Suzanne Frantz in honor of Mrs. Edward Schoyer
 H. John Rogers in honor of Justice Warren McGraw
 Lillian Giese in memory of Ernestine Golden
 Mary Douglas Krout in honor of Bobby & Thad
 Tia Harris in memory of James Jenkins Sr
 William & Christine Jones in memory of Stanley Harris
 Midge Schrader in memory of Lu Schrader
 Jean Rodman in memory of Sayre Rodman
 Ira Craig in memory of John Cooper Card
 George & Karen Schnakenberg in memory of Sayre Rodman
 Mary Douglas Krout in memory of your son, Thad
 Barbara Schulz in memory of Arnold F. Schulz
 Arthur & Betty G Evans Jr in memory of Sayre Rodman
 Raymond Godwin in memory of Betty & Bob Gow
 Linda Reeves in memory of Joseph Johnson

Marc Levine in memory of Raymond Travis Marusi
 Maureen & Bill Crockett in honor of Helaine Rotgin
 Bonnie Moats in memory of Wesley Nicholson
 Adele & Robert Cole in memory of Earl & Isa Miller
 Michael Webb in memory of Judy Webb
 Blaire VanValkenburgh in memory of Lois & Willard VanValkenburgh
 Harpers Ferry Outdoor Festival in memory of Tim Gavin
 Karl Esser in memory of Yvonne H. Esser
 Donna & Carroll Cook in memory of Paul Teter
 Gardner Hathaway in memory of Marjorie Charlton Hathaway
 Ann L. Barton Brown in memory of Stuart Brown
 Cleo & George Mayfield in memory of GR Mayfield
 Betty L. Schwimmer in memory of David Schwimmer, MD
 Hazel V. Oliff in memory of Paul Teter
 Mary M. Morgan in memory of Ann Steele Fernster
 Shawn Hartje & Mary Sackett in memory of Paul Clark
 Duane Nichols & Carol Sue Miles in memory of Harold & Ruth Miles
 Samuel J Burchfield in memory of Isabella Burchfield
 Daniel & Sally Jackson in memory of Timothy C. Gavin
 Clayton & Anna Burger in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Guy E. Burger
 John Abraham in memory of Lorraine Abraham
 Rose Ann Browning in honor of Jane & Doug Hockom
 Paul Lansky in memory of Ruth Hofer
 H. John Rogers in memory of Marci Ruth Anderson
 William Burger in memory of Nina Burger
 Catherine Tebay in honor of H. Talbot Tebay
 David & Trecla Deterich in memory of Clark Miller
 Lenna Leeson in memory of William
 Hazel V. Oliff in memory of Clarence L. Oliff
 Lawrence & Stephanie Lowden in memory of William Golightly
 Stephen & Carol Schimpff in memory of Charles E. Schimpff
 Lillian Dodd in memory of William L. Dodd Jr.
 Betty L. Schwimmer in memory of Bonnie Jones
 Margy Stewart in honor of Friends of McDowell Creek "Protect the Flint Hills"
 Madonna Carr in memory of Roy A. Carr
 Midge Schrader in memory of Lu Schrader
 Adele Thornton in memory of Adele & Grayson D. Thornton Sr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Alex Primm in honor of Sara & David Kovanik
 Teresa F. Wilson in memory of Sayre Rodman
 Lillian Giese in memory of Ernestine Golden
 F Ethan Fischer in memory of Mark J. F. Fischer
 Randall Chew in honor of Randy Chew
 Ruth Boyd in honor of Mary S. Boyd
 Bill Custoros in memory of Wilma
 Megan Hash in honor of Megan Hash
 Nancy Costerisan in honor of Tom & Judy Rodd
 Kristiann Germain in memory of The Gordon Lambert Family
 Deatra Markham in honor of Margaret Calwell
 Michael Webb in memory of Judy Webb
 Richard & Frances Latterell in memory of Eloise Clem
 Mike & Sally Brenton in memory of Virginia Lewis Cochran
 Hazel V. Oliff in memory of Charles Emmanuel (Pop) Smith

In this edition we revisit all those who have been memorialized and honored by our members in the past. (Listed in chronological order)

Jane ReCor Donaldson & Susan Breiding in memory of Philip Hlohinec
 Karl Esser in memory of Yvonne H. Esser
 John Abraham in memory of Lorraine Abraham
 Filba Frasher in memory of Roger Martin
 Barbara Schulz in memory of Arnold Schulz
 Linda Reeves in memory of Maxxie Avery
 Clayton & Anna Burger in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Guy R. Burger
 Samuel J Burchfield in memory of Isabella Burchfield
 Jane & John Riffe in honor of Linda Cooper
 Kathryn Makela in memory of Richard S. Jones
 John & Phyllis Fenwick in memory of Lou Schroder
 Nancy & Clark Campbell in honor of Sam Campbell
 Ruth Boyd in honor of Thomas W. Boyd
 Raymond Godwin in memory of Greg Godwin
 David & Trecla Deterich in memory of Clark Miller
 William Burger in memory of Nina Burger & the Burger Family
 Daniel & Sally Jackson in memory of Timothy Gavin
 Catherine Tebay in memory of H. Talbot Tebay, I
 Cleo G. Mayfield in honor of Ralph Bell
 Linda Lee & Dwight Eurich in memory of John Edward Elliston Ph.D.
 Paula D. Poole in memory of Lucille Watchford
 Deatra Markham in honor of Margaret Calwell
 Harpers Ferry Outdoor Festival in memory of Tim Gavin
 Ron & Norma Eckard in memory of Lucille Watchford
 Lisa C McIver in memory of Joe Conetti
 Catherine Samargo in memory of Joe Conetti
 Gardner Hathaway in memory of Susan McClain Hathaway
 Filba Frasher in memory of Ginny
 Thomas Stump in memory of Rita M. Stump
 William Riddle in memory of Jay Phillips
 Bobby Mills sr. in honor of Bobby Mills, sr.
 Marcia S. Fowler MD in honor of James A. Fowler
 Tia Harris in honor of Betty L. Jenkins
 Shirley Marria in memory of Walter Marria
 William & Christine Jones in memory of Martha & Larry Schwab
 Larry Brent Dadisman in memory of Woodrow Paige
 Lois Hedges in memory of Marvin D. Hedges
 Roman Majerczak in memory of George Breiding
 Mary Anne Hitt in honor of Judy Rodd
 Adele Thornton in memory of Grayson & Adele K. Thornton
 John & Phyllis Fenwick in memory of Lew Schrader
 Susan Breiding in memory of George Breiding



We humbly dedicate this edition of our newsletter to those 33 persons whose lives were so tragically cut short and the countless other individuals whose lives have been touched by the events of April 17, 2007. Every one of these persons is in our hearts, our thoughts and our prayers.



BLACKWATER HERITAGE

THE J.R. CLIFFORD PROJECT CONTINUES

The J.R. Clifford Project has been busy in the last year, telling the story of West Virginia's first African American lawyer -- and his client, Carrie Williams, the Coketon/Blackwater Canyon schoolteacher. An April 2007 performance of the Project's re-enactment program raised \$27,000 for minority scholarships at the WVU College of Law, and another program will be held in the fall in Huntington, at Marshall University. The Appalachian Community Fund has just awarded a grant to the Project to develop a curriculum for West Virginia Studies classes. We can be proud that Friends of Blackwater took the lead in researching and telling this story of our courageous forebearers. We can be even prouder of the thousands of West Virginians who have used the Clifford/Williams story to talk about the legacy of slavery and the problems of racism that remain with us. For more information please visit www.jrclifford.org.

This book is available for order from Friends of Blackwater. Please see the order form on page 12.

THE GRASS IS GREENEST IN THE BACKYARD

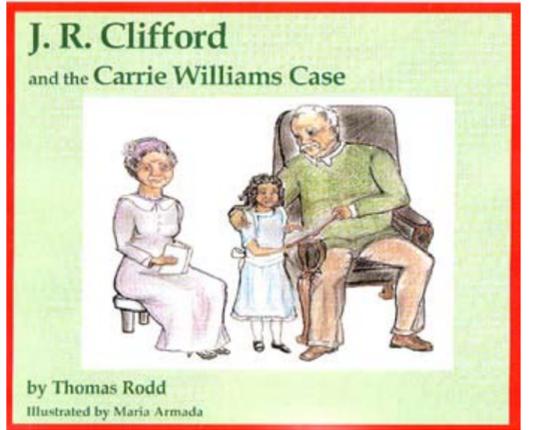


A vast multitude of people live their lives oblivious to the richness of things natural in their proverbial backyard. Many West Virginians give little, if any, thought to the solitude of deep woods and stirring views from mountain heights that are abundant in the mountains.

Many persons live life with what might be called a "grass is always greener" fixation.

The attitude associated with such thinking is that life could be more meaningful and more exciting, beyond the horizon or "somewhere else".

The old adage "Life is what you make it," is a timeless truth. Opportunities for learning and adventure are endless in our "backyard" of the natural world. Might we all pledge to face the future seeking to live with a new awareness and new words of wisdom, "The grass is greenest in the backyard!"



Cover of J.R. Clifford and the Carrie Williams Case, written by Tom Rodd & illustrated by Maria Armada.

Volunteers In Action

CAUGHT IN THE ACT!

West Virginia is a place of many hidden treasures, and one of those is Charleston's own Peggy Cavendar. Always on the go and recently caught in the act, she has chosen to brighten the city block where she lives by "blooming" where she was planted. Peggy's personal mission is to keep the city block where she lives free of litter by cleaning and sweeping up and down the block. She even places trash receptacles along the sidewalks so that others may follow her lead. Peggy has also replanted every bare nook and cranny of her block with small green cascading wild vines.



Peggy Cavendar, keeping it green

Last month she took time out of her busy life to volunteer for Friends of Blackwater by helping with the Save Our Squirrel Campaign.

Thanks, Peggy, for keeping the planet clean and green! and for helping to save Ginny the Flying Squirrel!

Sandy Fisher proves "Experience Works"!



Sandy Fisher, new Volunteer Coordinator

"I've forgotten my first protest, where it was and what I was protesting against," says Sandy Fisher, a seasoned activist, and our new FOB volunteer coordinator. Sandy comes to us at FOB through a Title V program called "Experience Works" and is training at our Charleston office. Her main duties are recruiting and organizing volunteers and writing grants, with a goal of achieving longterm employment.

Since childhood, Sandy has raised money for her favorite causes. She started young. At eleven years of age she organized a carnival in her hometown of Parkersburg, WV to assist with medical care for those diagnosed with polio. Her story was in the local paper, and the rest is history, a history of raising money and organizing people for worthy causes. A lifelong Girl Scout, she was involved in many fund raising projects and even arranged a yearly clothing drive and sale which raised money for her Parkersburg troop.

Enter the sixties and the women's movement. Sandy participated in the first women's march down New York's Fifth Avenue: a march that led her to assume a leadership role in the National Organization for Women.

Now in her sixties, Sandy has chosen to take the lead on a new path and develop new skills as part of the federally funded "Experience Works" program. As for "Experience Works", it has a well defined mission. "The program helps seniors to get the training they need to find good jobs in their local communities." This is a quote by Cynthia A. Metzler, President and CEO of Experience Works.

Sandy has the experience and willingness to learn, now she just needs you. We need lots of volunteers to accomplish our goal to protect Blackwater Canyon from degradation and keep our Blackwater River clean and healthy. Sign up in this newsletter, and help Sandy and FOB meet our goals!

You can contact Sandy by calling 877-WVA-LAND or by sending e-mail to contact@saveblackwater.org.

Nature Notes

A PLANT LIFE PUZZLE

by J. Lawrence Smith

Canaan Valley held a special fascination for Harry Allard. He roamed the rolling expanses and surrounding mountains some years after the land had been denuded from logging. He sought to reconstruct from what evidence remained a portrait of the original forest.



Heather, like what was found in Canaan Valley.

About 1940, near the crest of Cabin Mountain at the Tucker-Grant County line, he found straggling, evergreen shrubs that seemed certainly to be heather. Both Scotch heather and crossleaf heath were found at the site, with their presence creating a botanical mystery, since heather is not native to the New World.

Heather is very much a part of the natural scene throughout much of western Europe and the British Isles, where it is associated with vast and remote moorlands. The landscape that may often appear rather dreary seems to blush when the small rosy bell-like flowers appear.

Heather has been found a number of places in North America and its presence here was a topic among botanists. Evidence existed that at most locations the plant was introduced. Heather may have been established a millennium ago by the camps of Vikings.

Highland soldiers on duty in Nova Scotia often used brooms of heather branches to sweep their quarters. The plant was used for bedding and Scotch-Irish immigrants may have brought the shrub to Newfoundland.

Two decades after Allard's discovery, Dr. Roy Clarkson of West Virginia University,

visited the remote location while undertaking field work before writing his dissertation on the flora of the Monongahela National Forest. There seemed little doubt that the heather was introduced with the shrubs found along an old railroad grade where the rails had been removed long ago.

Clarkson speculates, "Perhaps one of the loggers received a spray of flowers in a package or letter from a relative or friend in the Old Country and when he was through with them, tossed them out or intentionally planted them at their present location."

Having spent his youth in the Pocahontas lumber town of Cass, Clarkson had been prepared by eye-witness experience to write the monumental history of logging, "Tumult On the Mountains." He includes Allard's reconstruction of the magnificent spruce forest in Canaan Valley in his book.

The results of Harry Allard's wide-ranging study of the flora of eastern Tucker County were published in "Castanea," the journal of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Club, in 1952. The publication is a milestone in botanical field research with historical value for notes on the logging industry and railroads.

Abloom in June

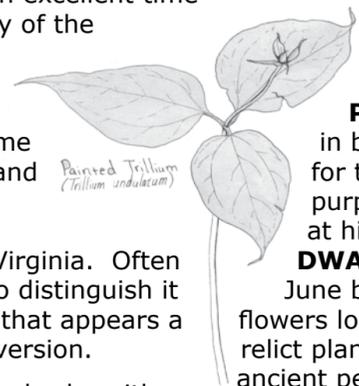
by J. Lawrence Smith

Early summer is an excellent time to observe the beauty of the flowering shrubs and many wild flowers of the Blackwater country. Here are some that can't be missed and some to look for:

RHODODENDRON - State flower of West Virginia. Often called "great laurel" to distinguish it from mountain laurel that appears a somewhat miniature version.

AZALEAS - Flowering shrubs with blossoms looking like honey suckle which is what many

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Painted Trillium (Trillium undulatum)

mountain people call the plants. Their rosy hues add color amid the spruce at Dolly Sods.

PAINTED TRILLIUM - Still in bloom in early summer, look for this trillium with rose or purple in the flowers in woods at higher elevations,

DWARF CORNEL - Abloom in June beneath the spruce with flowers looking like the dogwood. A relict plant that came here with ancient periods of glaciers in the North.

YELLOW CLINTONIA - A little lily with

yellow bell-like flowers. Somewhat a "companion" of the dwarf cornel that is also called the bluebead lily from the small blue berries in the fall.

PURPLE FRINGED ORCHID - Small, delicately fringed, rosy purple flowers appear atop a rather tall stem. Look for this beautiful wild flower in rich woods through early to mid-summer.



KIDS CORNER



Join Today!

And be entered in a drawing to win a stuffed flying squirrel!

Ask your parents permission and have them help you fill out the form below to join Friends of Blackwater's **FREE** Canyon Kids Club. Members of the Canyon Kids Club are eligible to participate in special contests and games throughout the year as well as receiving educational materials related to The Blackwater Canyon, Endangered Species in WV and the North Fork Watershed Project.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Age _____ Birthday _____

School _____ Grade _____

E-mail (optional) _____

Cut along the dotted lines and mail to:

Friends of Blackwater
501 Elizabeth Street
Charleston, WV 25311

RIDDLES

- A. WHAT DO YOU CALL A PLUMP FLYING NOCTURNAL CAVE DWELLER?
- B. WHAT DID ONE MOUNTAIN SAY TO THE OTHER MOUNTAIN?
- C. WHAT ANIMAL NEVER NEEDS A HAIRCUT?

NATURE CRAFT

Twig Vase

Summer is here and that means lots of flowers will be blooming. Why not make mom a unique Twig Vase to show them off? (This also makes a great pencil cup for Dad).

Here is what you need:
An empty plastic jar (peanut butter jars work well), two thick rubber bands, twigs, clippers, ribbon, craft glue or you can use hot glue with adult supervision.

Directions:

1. Clip sticks/twigs until they are about 1 inch longer than the jar.
2. Place rubber bands on jar. One near the top and the other near the bottom.
3. Slide sticks up under the rubber bands to hold them in place.
4. Once you have completely covered your jar with sticks slide the rubber bands to the middle.
5. Very carefully place drops of glue between stick and peanut butter jar. Make sure to use plenty of glue.
6. Let the glue dry.
7. Remove the rubber bands.
8. Tie a piece of ribbon or twine around the "vase" in the center.
9. Add other directions if you want such as charms or beads on the ends of the ribbons or pine cones. You can even glue small pine cones around the bottom of the vase.

ENDANGERED SPECIES QUIZ

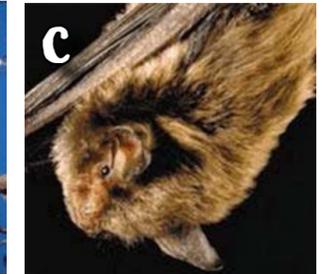
ALL OF THESE ANIMALS ARE ENDANGERED SPECIES THAT ARE FOUND IN WEST VIRGINIA. HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM? MATCH THE ANIMAL TO THE CORRECT QUESTION.



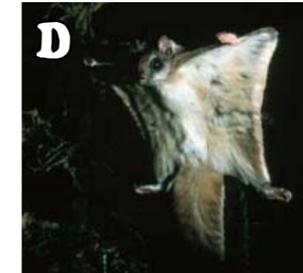
CHEAT MOUNTAIN SALAMANDER



AMERICAN BALD EAGLE



INDIANA BAT



WV NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL



VIRGINIA BIG-EARED BAT

1. WHAT WV ENDANGERED SPECIES GLIDES BUT DOES NOT FLY?
2. WHAT WV ENDANGERED SPECIES IS A BIRD?
3. WHAT WV ENDANGERED SPECIES HAS VERY LARGE EARS?
4. WHAT WV ENDANGERED SPECIES LIVES IN LEAF LITTER ON THE FOREST FLOOR?
5. WHAT ENDANGERED SPECIES IN WV LIVES IN TREES IN THE SUMMER AND A CAVE IN THE WINTER?

ANSWERS: A. A FAT BAT B. MEET YOU IN THE VALLEY C. A BALD EAGLE

ANSWERS: 1-D 2-B 3-E 4-A 5-C

June 2007

TAKE OUR SURVEY!

Be registered to win **FABULOUS PRIZES!**

(Survey is also available online at www.saveblackwater.org)

What interests you about Blackwater Canyon and the greater Blackwater Area?

- Conservation Historic Preservation
 Endangered Species Recreation
 Clean Water Initiatives Other _____

What kinds of activities do you/would you go to the area to enjoy?

- Wildlife Viewing Historical Tours
 Recreation Educational Opportunities
 Shopping Fairs and Festivals
 Other _____

What types of things would like to see more of in our newsletter?

- Trail Information Recreational Information
 Watershed Information Historical/Heritage Information
 Endangered Species Information on Activities
 Other _____

Would you be interested in volunteering? Yes No

If yes please specify:

Where? Thomas, WV Charleston, WV

What types of activities would you like to volunteer for:

- Lead Tours Assist in the Office
 Writing Articles Help with Mailings/Meetings
 Water Monitoring Other _____

Would you attend an FOB Event in the Blackwater Area? Yes No

What kind of event would you be most likely to attend?

- Conference Family Oriented
 Recreationally Based Historically Based
 Party Other _____

Please return Survey by August 1, 2007

YES! I WANT TO JOIN FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER

Choose a membership level and send your name, address, and e-mail to

Friends of Blackwater, 501 Elizabeth Street, Charleston WV 25311

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

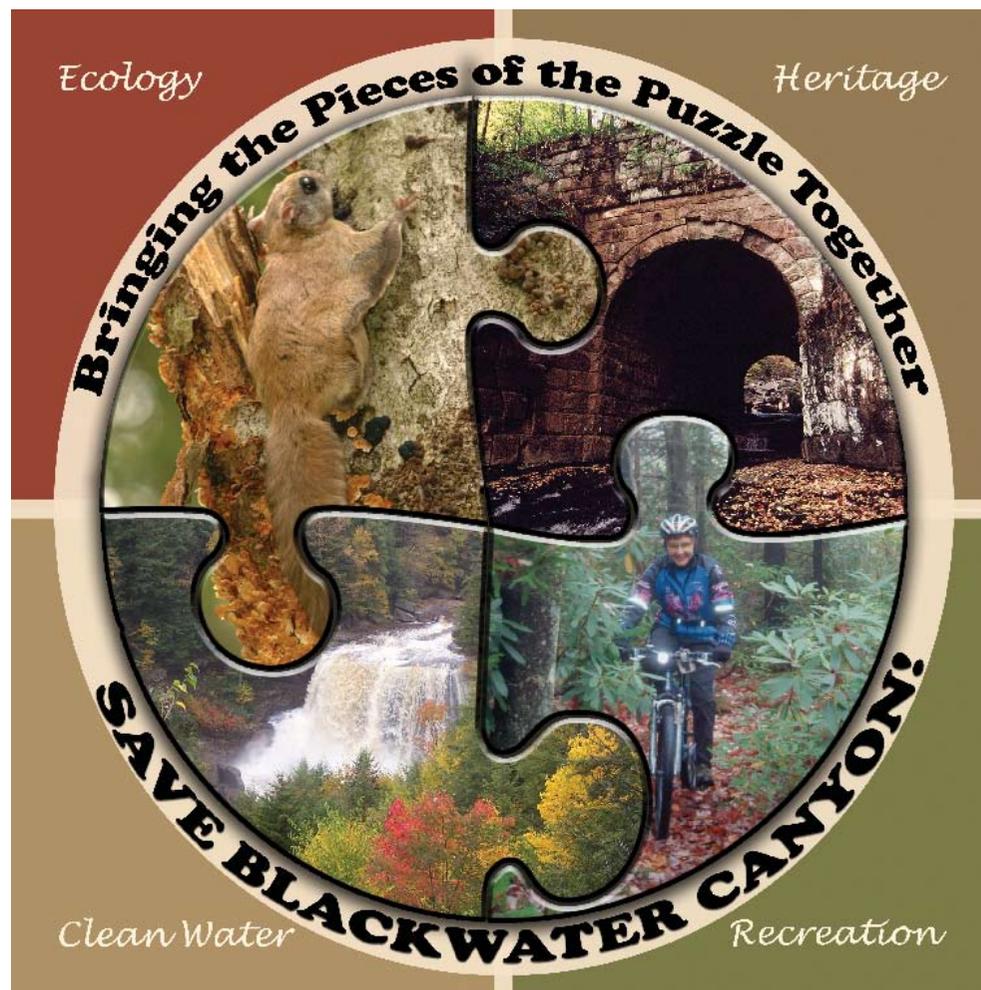
Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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NAME THE NEWSLETTER!

Our newsletter has no formal name. Submit your suggestion today and take a chance to win a prize. Judges will pick the top ten and they will be announced in our next newsletter. Then a la American Idol, we will let the members vote for their favorites (we promise no Simon). So be creative, be fun, be serious, just submit your suggestions. You may submit as many suggestions as you like. You may also submit your entries online at www.saveblackwater.org. (In the case of duplicate entries the entry that was received first will be the entry that is given credit for the suggested name). Entries must be postmarked by August 1, 2007.

Suggestion:

My donation is in memory/honor of: _____

Please send card to: _____

I want to add my name to the Petition to Protect the Blackwater Canyon Rail Trail.

Add me to your volunteer database.

Please send future newsletters only via e-mail.

Please update my personal information.

Please remove me from your mailing list.

Please send me _____ copies of J.R. Clifford and the Carrie Williams Case for 10.00 each (includes postage)

My check/money order for _____ is enclosed.