Friends of Blackwater

WHAT IS SO SECRET ABOUT A SQUIRREL?  page 2
VAGUE ANSWERS ON TRAIL EASEMENT  page 3
GET UP! GET OUT! GO PLAY!  page 6-7

Also Inside:
- Water Gap Retreat  page 3
- Keep Dolly Sods Wild!  page 4
- The North Fork Watershed Project  page 5
- In Memory & Honor  page 8
- Nature Notes  page 9
- Blackwater Heritage  page 10
- The Grass Is Greener  page 10
- Volunteers In Action  page 10
- Kids Corner  page 11
- Survey  page 12
- Name the Newsletter Contest  page 12
- Membership Form  page 12

Photo courtesy of G. P. Cooper

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

501 Elizabeth Street - Charleston, WV  25311 ★ 1-877-WVA-LAND ★ fax 304-345-3240 ★ www.saveblackwater.org ★ info@saveblackwater.org
Imagine sitting by a gently flowing river completely immersed in relaxation. Welcome to Water Gap Retreat.

In June 2007, Imagine sitting beside a gently flowing river completely immersed in relaxation. This is the spirit of the Endangered Species Act. The agency says that the public cannot see the 2,325 pages in 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 – for everyone but the species and its habitat! The Forest Service is not following the law because they are proposing the easement without demanding full disclosure of Allegheny Wood Products's 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 will be reviewing their proposal to make it sure it is lawful. We have written letters asking for more information on the proposed logging plans, equipment, and schedules.

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### WE NEED WIND SITING REGULATIONS NOW!

![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/263x184)

Thousands of giant wind turbines have been proposed for the highest ridges of the Appalachian mountains. According to environmentalists, 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 Gatzstein, who represented Friends of Blackwater in our successful court battle to protect the Cheat Canyon area before Congress about one government reports indicate that over three hundred birds are killed annually at the wind farms usually occur by the birds being dismembered when they come into contact with the rotating blades of the turbines. One particular Golden eagle was found in four separate pieces, with the left wing and one leg (apparently twisted together, they could not be readily separated.

According to the report, "traps of injuries observed are: severed beaks resulting in massive hemorrhage, decapitations, either mid-skull or complete, complete mid-body separation, wing amputations or fractures." The report concludes, "in the absence of further federal safeguards, it is inevitable that the nation will, inevitably, result in massive hemorrhage; twisted together, they could not be readily separated.

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 bats, birds and other wildlife - would be carefully scrutinized before decisions are made on whether those impacts should be allowed. West Virginia Rep. Nick J. Rahall has introduced the Energy Policy 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 simply cannot avoid. It will establish a siting facility for locations to avoid "adverse" impacts, including cumulative impacts, on bats, birds, and other wildlife. The provision will establish new standards for evaluating proposals to construct industrial wind-energy projects in West Virginia and elsewhere around the United States.

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### 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/writeertip.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Fax Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John P. Sarbanes, D-MD</td>
<td>(202) 225-9219</td>
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<td>Madeleine Z. Bordallo, D-GU</td>
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<td>Grace F. Napolitano, D-CA</td>
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<td>Solomon P. Ortiz, D-TX</td>
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<td>Nick J. Rahall, Chairman, D-WV</td>
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<td>Mark Udall, D-CO</td>
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<td>Lois Capps, D-CA</td>
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<td>Peter A. DeFazio, D-OR</td>
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<td>Edward J. Markey, D-MA</td>
<td>(202) 226-0092</td>
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<td>Dean Heller, R-NV</td>
<td>(202) 225-5679</td>
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<td>Bill Shuster, R-PA</td>
<td>(202) 225-2486</td>
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<td>Rob Bishop, R-UT</td>
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<td>Bobby Jindal, R-LA</td>
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<td>Thomas G. Tancredo, R-CO</td>
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<td>Jeff Flake, R-AZ</td>
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<td>Steve Pearce, R-SC</td>
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<td>Luis E. Fortaleza, R-SC</td>
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<td>Carla McGovern, D-WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bobby Jindal, R-AL</td>
<td>(202) 225-8811</td>
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<td>Laura Lobaton, R-Washington</td>
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<td>John Barrasso, R-Wyoming</td>
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<td>Mike Enzi, D-WY</td>
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<td>Pat Roberts, R-Missouri</td>
<td>(202) 225-4690</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dean Heller, R-NV</td>
<td>(202) 225-8254</td>
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To contact your elected official: One way is to call the toll-free number of the West Virginia Coal Country Watershed Project: 800-220-9419. Another way is to send a letter to them. The official webpage of the US Government is www.house.gov.
Festival & Tim Gavin Downriver Race June 16th, 2007

Support FOB at The 9th Annual Harpers Ferry Outdoor Scene Tours. Owners Sam Jinks and Diane Baisden have been sharing their love of the West Virginia's High Allegheny region is one of the East's biggest playgrounds. Whether you were lost your 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. His passing was such a 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 Harper's Ferry Outdoor Festival will be held in June at the KOA Campground in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. The race will be held on the Shenandoah River. The race courses traverses Class I, II and III rapids for boaters of all skill levels. So bring your canoe, kayak, ducky, 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 event site 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.

If you're not quite sure how to begin enjoying the exquisite beauty, adventure, and health of the High Alleghenies, there's only one place to start: Highland Scene Tours. Owners Tom 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 skiing rentals, bike tours, horseback riding, hiking and all river services to families in the West Virginia area. Highland Scene Tours has developed packages that include biking, whitewater rafting, kayaking and horseback riding. Highland Inn and Spa offers lodging, exercise classes, country ski rentals, shuttle service, nature/ecology tours, and overnight biking trips. They book multi-day packages that can suit any group or individual. Highland Scene Tours, Diane recalls her first impressions of Canaan Valley. "It felt so healthy here. I knew there was something special about the area. When asked about the origin of Highland Scene Tours, the minute the customer walked into the store, so we have to have its very own feel from the best new gear to the "hot spots". One hundred percent focus on the customer is the experience.

"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 decor. 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 floor shops back 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.

Congratulations! On a successful first year.

Feel like Horsetin’ Around?

Blackwater Falls State Park is named for its five-story falls of the Blackwater River. The park offers superior fishing, camping, biking and hiking along with accommodations that range from hard scramble camping to an outstanding lodge. Other activities available in the park include boating, nature programs, horseback rides and a petting zoo. This year the 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 ceremony at a lookout, a cookout, a wine and a climbing wall.

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

Make the Highland Scene

If you are interested in helping to sponsor this fundraiser can be answered by Mike Moore at (304)676-6853.

If you are interested in helping to sponsor this fundraiser can be answered by Mike Moore at (304)676-6853. You will find a great deal of helpful information on the site including, recipes, activities and what gear you might need. Wouldn’t it be great if FOB members comprised one of the largest sectors of campers? Let’s show everybody a little of the mountain spirit.
Volunteers in Action

CAUGHT IN THE ACT!

Sandy Fisher proves “Experience Works”!

The forgotten my first protest, when it was and what I was rebelling against,” says Sandy Fisher, a seasoned activist, and our new FOB volunteer coordinator. Sandy comes to us at FOB through “A Time for Giving Program,” and is training at our Charleston office. Our main duties are recruiting and organizing volunteers and writing grants, with a goal of achieving long term projects.

Sandy is now in her sixties, Sandy has chosen to take the lead on a new path and develop new skills as part of her sixties and the women’s movement. Sandy participated in the first women’s march down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C.

Since childhood, Sandy has raised money for her favorite causes. 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 for those diagnosed with polio.

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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 a new wisdom, “The grass is greener in the backyard!”

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

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

In this season of memorial, we would like to take a moment to honor all of those who have given so wholeheartedly of themselves to our freedom. The days of our founding fathers, American military personnel have always been the first to give, with honor and valor, to protect our democracy around the world. We proudly remember these men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We honor those currently serving, those that have returned from the battle and those whose fates may forever remain a mystery. Thank you! We are honor-bound!

Sandy Fisher, new Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteers in Action

Rodd & illustrated by Maria Armada.

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Volunteers in Action

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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.

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 product 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 rose 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 at that 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 branches of heather branches to sweep their quarters. The plant was used for bedding and Scotch-Irish immigrants may have brought shrubs to Newfoundland.

Two decades after Allard's discovery, Dr. Roy Clarkson of West Virginia University, visiting 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 little lily with purple bell-like flowers. Somewhat a “companion” of the dwarf cornel that is also called the bluebead lily from the yellow bell-like flowers. Somewhat a companion of the dwarf cornel that is also called the bluebead lily from the purple fringed orchid - Small, delicately fringed, rose-purple flowers appear atop a rather tall stem. Look for this beautiful wild flower in rich woods through early to mid-summer.

YELLOW CLINTONIA - A little lily with 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 of higher elevations.

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

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

NATURE CRAFT

Twig Vase

Summer is here and that means lots of flowers will be blooming. Why not make your own 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, clips, 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.

Nature Notes Projects

KIDS CORNER

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

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.

1. What WV endangered speciesグルス 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?

ENDANGERED SPECIES QUIZ

June 2007

Page 11
Choose a membership level and send your name, address, and e-mail to Friends of Blackwater, 501 Elizabeth Street, Charleston WV 25311

- Porte Crayon Society: $1000
- Crown Jewel Club: $500
- Sustaining Steward: $250
- Patron: $100
- Family: $50
- Individual: $35
- Senior: $20
- Student: $10
- Other: $0

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

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

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

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

- Trail Information
- Watershed Information
- Endangered Species
- Educational Opportunities
- Historical/Heritage Information
- 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
- Writing Articles
- Water Monitoring
- Assist in the Office
- Help with Mailings/Meetings
- 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
- Recreationally Based
- Party
- Family Oriented
- Historically Based
- Other

Please return Survey by August 1, 2007

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). 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: ____________________________________________________________

Please return your completed survey by August 1, 2007.

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

□ Porte Crayon Society: $1000
□ Crown Jewel Club: $500
□ Sustaining Steward: $250
□ Patron: $100
□ Family: $50
□ Individual: $35
□ Senior: $20
□ Student: $10
□ Other: $0

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.

□ My donation is in memory/honor of:

______________________________________________________________

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