Merry Christmas!

Happy Hanukkah!

From the High Alleghenies
Director’s Letter & A Present for You!

In this season of giving, of family times, cozy fires, and of holiday traditions -- we always try to “count our blessings” from the past year.

Here are some of the blessings that we are counting at Friends of Blackwater -- and as a supporter of Friends of Blackwater, these are blessings that you, too, can share and count:

Thanks to years of hard work by many wonderful people, a federal judge issued a trailblazing order restoring our beloved “Ginny,” the West Virginia northern flying squirrel, to federal protection. And now we are fighting to keep that order in place!

This year too, under our leadership, a broad coalition has begun working to protect our public lands from irresponsible gas drilling -- both in the Monongahela National Forest and in our state parks. We know future generations will be glad that we are acting now, before irreparable damage is done.

Meanwhile, our staff has begun organizing work parties of young people to improve water quality in the Blackwater Watershed. These future leaders are helping to restore one of the most beautiful parts of West Virginia.

There is one more huge blessing that we all need to recognize and celebrate. The National Park Service decided this year to study the feasibility of a National Park in the High Alleghenies of West Virginia! Yes, volunteers from across the state and region sent us huge bundles of letters in support of the study -- and West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin listened, and took action!! The study will begin early next year.

Other good things have happened, too--the Blackwater Canyon Rail Trail remains protected, and no further logging has happened in the Blackwater Canyon.

These are real blessings and achievements, that all of us can count and share.

Thanks for your support, and for being part of the Friends of Blackwater family.

Judy Rodd

---

Help “Bat Man” Thomas Kunz Heal!

Please join us in sending good wishes to Dr. Thomas Kunz who has been in Intensive Care after being hit by a car while attending a Bat Conference in Toronto Canada. Tom, a prolific and popular College of Arts & Sciences professor of biology at Boston University, is famous for his research on bats and white nose syndrome and bat mortality at industrial wind facilities. Tom has been invaluable to Friends of Blackwater in working toward getting federal protection for the little brown bat. Messages wishing him a speedy recovery can be sent by visiting http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/tomkunz.
Join “Ginny” and Friends in Holiday Giving

Dear Judy,

Last Sunday, we forest animals in the Canyon had a potluck dinner to support Ginny’s lawyers, as they defend her case. Unfortunately, however, none of us woodland creatures has any real money! But we did put together a bushel of forest truffles, a peck of hickory nuts, and three baskets of pine cones. Will that help?

Ginny told us that her (that is, Friends of Blackwater’s) legal bill to defend Judge Sullivan’s decision in the Fish and Wildlife appeal is $15,000. OMG -- even if we could sell those truffles, that would never be enough!

The Wise Old Owl explained that this is a very important case, and endangered species protections for animals all across the country are at stake.

The Owl also explained that Dr. Peter Weigl at Wake Forest University, who has studied “Ginny” for 50 years stated that the delisting decision that Judge Sullivan correctly overturned was “premature and ill-advised”. Another expert, Dr. Pagels at Virginia Commonwealth University, who helped write Ginny’s official Recovery Plan, says that protection “should continue to be provided at the Federal level.”

Judy, you can pick up the truffles, etc. any time. Meanwhile, tell Ginny’s supporters that we need their help, too!

Much love from Blackwater Canyon

Sally the Water Shrew

Two Letters: Forest Animals Gather in Blackwater Canyon for Potluck Supper” to Support “Ginny’s” Defense

Dear Sally --

Thanks for your wonderful letter. We have raised $7,000 so far to pay for Ginny’s legal bills. Her lawyers, who love Ginny and her species, are giving us a very low rate. They are filing their brief on November 16, and we will post it online.

We are asking all of our supporters to donate specially to help pay for this litigation. We hope they will include Ginny and her babies in their end-of-year giving.

We love you too!

Best wishes,

Judy
NiSource Plan for Pipeline Corridor Could Threaten Species & Public Land

Protect the Monongahela and our rare wildlife! Comment by December 13th!!

NiSource distributes electricity, natural gas and water in the Midwest and Northeast United States. NiSource is being proactive planning for modifications to their gas pipeline in 14 states. NiSource wants an agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Service to allow them to “take” threatened and endangered species in a mile-wide swath, much of it through national forest land. In exchange they will try to avoid rare wildlife or mitigate for their loss. This huge plan is the biggest Habitat Conservation Plan ever done by Fish and Wildlife. We think this agreement is too big, and leaves out important species. Please add your comments to ours. (Sample letter on-line at www.saveblackwater.org)

- The NiSource Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is simply too big to be done right. Currently, it covers 9.8 million acres, in 14 states, over 15,000 miles of pipeline in a mile-wide corridor, and may affect approximately 100 federally listed endangered, threatened, and candidate species. The plan needs to be partitioned into several, more geographically and ecologically cohesive units.

-- The HCP does not address dozens of affected endangered species. The HCP includes discussion of only 43 of some 100 or so species in the project area that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) believes could be affected by the pipeline operation and expansion. Of those 46 species not dealt with in the plan at all, more than two dozen are likely to be harmed in some way without additional precautions, according to the FWS.

-- 50 years is far too long for permits to “take” endangered species. It is impossible for either NiSource or the FWS to know what the impacts of the pipeline, or other threats to species, may be decades from now. It is inappropriate to grant a permit to a company to harm or kill endangered species years into the future, when no one knows what the status of those species may be in terms of climate change, disease, further habitat loss, or a whole host of other factors. The timeframe for the HCP should be reduced to 10 or 15 years.

-- The public is not being given a fair chance to review the complete plan. The NiSource proposal is missing a crucial element: the agreement, called a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among all the federal agencies that will need to be involved with NiSource operations and expansion. This MOU is the plan for how agencies like the U.S. Forest Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and others, will assure that the pieces of the project they approve will adequately protect endangered species. The MOU is still not complete, and thus citizens can't really know whether the HCP will actually be implemented with proper accountability and provisions for conserving species.

-- The NiSource plan is something new, and it needs to be done right. This HCP would set a precedent for other large-scale energy infrastructure projects around the country, both in terms of geographic and temporal scope. If this one gets approved without adequate analysis and protective measures for species, then other corporations will follow suit. There is too much at stake to let this one slide by without close scrutiny.

-- Multiple federal agencies will be involved in implementing the extremely complex HCP, but there is still no agreed-upon plan for how this will work. FWS officials say an Implementation Agreement will be issued at the time of the final EIS, but this offers no opportunity for the public to review and comment.

-- The “no surprises” rule locks the FWS into certain actions that cannot be changed or changed in only minor ways, regardless of unforeseen, new conditions for affected species. This holds for the duration of the HCP, or in this case, 50 years. Again, a more appropriate timeframe for the HCP would be 10 years.

Go to our website for more information and to send comments or send them directly to: Regional Director, Midwest Region, Attn: Lisa Mandell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990, Bloomington, MN 55437-1458, or by electronic mail to permitsR3ES@fws.gov

The above article was written in part by Mollie Matteson of the Center for Biological Diversity.

“We applaud NiSource for their research and planning. However the Habitat Conservation Plan timeframe is too long.” - Friends of Blackwater

The map below illustrates the planned NiSource Gas Pipeline. This pipeline travels through the Wayne, Allegheny, Monongahela and George Washington National Forests.
Our Eastern National Forest Gas Drilling Coalition has had a great success! Nathan Johnson of the Buckeye Forest Council, with support from the Coalition, organized a protest against public gas leasing on the Wayne National Forest. He argued that new forms of gas drilling had not been reviewed by the Forest Service. The Buckeye Forest Council’s position was supported by county and local governments. The proposed lease sale was canceled and a review will now move forward!!

WAYNE LEASING CONSENT RESCINDED

Tuesday, November 15, 2011
By STEVE ROBB Messenger staff journalist

The U.S. Forest Service has rescinded its consent for a proposed leasing of more than 3,300 acres in the Wayne National Forest for oil and gas drilling.

Also, the Forest Service announced it will be conducting a review of the environmental impacts of drilling for gas and oil in Utica and Marcellus shale, according to Jane Cliff, a spokeswoman for the Forest Service’s District 9 office in Wisconsin.

Both actions were recommended Monday by Anne Carey, who became the Wayne National Forest’s supervisor a week ago.

‘Based on this advertisement (for the lease auction), new information and increased public interest in the Utica and Marcellus shale formation has prompted us to review the potential effects that this potential gas exploration and development may have on the WNF,” Carey said in a letter to the regional forester in Wisconsin. “The Wayne plans to prepare a review of new information for natural gas exploration and development in the Utica and Marcellus shale formations.”

Cliff said the regional forester concurred and forwarded the consent withdrawal request to the federal Bureau of Land Management, which had planned a Dec. 7 lease auction. She said any decision to cancel the auction of Wayne leases would have to come from the BLM.

According to Cliff, the original consent was based on an environmental impact statement from 2006, at which time horizontal hydraulic fracturing —a method of shale drilling — was not an issue. The drilling process, called fracking, involves pumping water and chemicals deep underground and then horizontally to fracture shale deposits and release oil and gas.

Opponents of the leasing are concerned because of the potential for drilling accidents that could contaminate the aquifer used by Nelsonville, Athens, Le-Ax Water District and Burr Oak Regional Water District. Industry officials say the process is safe.

Gary Chauncy, public information officer for the Wayne, said Monday that Wayne officials have been gathering information about hydraulic horizontal fracturing.

Massive Bird Kill at Mt. Laurel Wind

Source: Rick Webb, VaWind.org

Approximately 500 birds were killed in October at the AES Laurel Mountain wind energy facility near Elkins WV. This is apparently the largest wildlife mortality event to date at a U.S. wind project. Unofficial reports suggest that the birds died due to a combination of low cloud cover and disorientation caused by lighting at the project’s mountain-top electrical substation.

The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has released a statement concerning this mortality event and other bird kills at WV wind energy projects. The ABC makes the case that mandatory federal operation standards are needed, and notes that recurring bird kills can be avoided when projects are required to shut down during the migration season on nights where low visibility is predicted. Similar remedies have been imposed to protect bats, which are also subject to high mortality at wind projects, typically from effects of spinning turbine blades.

More information, including information on the Blackpoll Warbler, the main species killed at the Laurel Mountain project, as well as photos of the Laurel Mountain turbines and substation, are posted on www.VaWind.org.

Despite mounting evidence for environmental damage caused by mountaintop wind energy projects—including direct wildlife mortality and habitat loss—the wind industry and its proponents continue to press for reduced assessment and regulatory oversight.
Cross-country ski Canaan Valley! Plan your winter vacation around White Grass’ impressive trail system - great views, great food and a great workout!

White Grass Calendar December – January  www.whitegrass.com

December 3-4 2011 30th Annual Jack Frost Celebration - Count on a big turn out as we open up the season in honor of one our favorite snowy characters. Trail work, the celebration, and Sunday brunch with adventure tours round out the weekend. Bring a dish to share Saturday eve and we will provide the refreshments.

Dec 5-23 2011 Locals Ski Free Month - Free area use and discounted rentals and lessons for all that want to ski, try it out, give it a try, snow days and nothing better to do...we want you to experience cross country skiing and/or snowshoeing. We offer good deals on locals season passes as well.

Dec. 24 Snowshoe Discovery Tour 1 pm - A natural history snowshoe walk with Chip Chase as he shares his knowledge about the climate, forest type, and geology of the area. Enjoy a short streamside jaunt that lasts about an hour and covers around a mile of easy rolling terrain.

Jan 1 2012 New Year’s Day Carefree Snowshoe Tour - 10 am Your chance to appreciate the simple beauty of snowshoeing. Natural history and local lore are featured.

Jan 7 Winter Trails Day - Free lessons/clinics and rentals to all first time interested skiers or snowshoers. XC lessons every hour and a 10 am and 2 pm clinic on types of snowshoes, clothing, basic techniques, and outdoor winter snow travel followed by a natural history tour on snowshoes into our neighboring National Wildlife Refuge.

Jan 7 Kids Clinic 9:30-2 pm For Ages 6-10 Morning session from 9:30-11:30. Both beginner and experienced kids will have fun playing games, learning new skills and eating a delicious lunch from the White Grass Café. BB Biathlon 3 PM

Jan 8 Snowshoe Discovery Tour 10 am - Join Casey Rucker for a winter birding outing.

TBA Parent’s Kids Clinic We’ll engage your youngest skier in games and activities that will make them beg you to go skiing again. Plus, parents will learn how to play skill-based games with your little ones. BB Biathlon 1 PM

Jan 16 Snowshoe Discovery Tour 10 am - A natural history snowshoe walk with Chip Chase as he shares his knowledge about the climate, forest type, and geology of the area. Enjoy a short streamside jaunt that lasts about an hour and covers around a mile of easy rolling terrain.

Jan 21-22 NATO Telemark Workshop Vermont’s Dickie Hall and staff come to WG with down to earth telemark instruction. This course will likely leave you with a new bright direction in your skiing.

Jan 22 Snowshoe Discovery Tour - 10 am “This is Your Land,” Are you interested in the history and management of the different public lands in Canaan Valley? Then this is the outing for you! Join Dave Saville for this very informative program

Jan 22 5 Km Snowshoe Walk/Run - 1 pm Well organized by Helvetia, WV distance runner Dan Lehmann this event features a rolling course full of prizes and fun. Snowshoe rentals available for $8.

Jan 29 Snowshoe Discovery Tour - Ecosystems Beneath Our Feet,” Led by biologist Dr. Dave Culver from American University, this outing will take you on an adventure you’re sure not to forget! Snowshoe to some small springs in the area in your quest to discover blind, white bugs.

Jan 29 25K Mountain State Marathon - 1 pm This rolling course never gives you a needed break or settle for a shortened version. Kid’s classes, and great prizes. $20 entry fee. Fully groomed for classic or skate, sweet prizes, website splatter and personal glory.
North Fork Watershed Receives Tucker Community Foundation Grant

Local laborers will be employed by the North Fork Watershed Project (NFWP) working on the Thomas Trails project thanks to a $1,250 grant from the Tucker Community Foundation, part of which was funded by the Rubenstein/Schilansky Endowed Fund. The funds will pay workers to boat materials across the North Fork of the Blackwater to remote areas of the park and construct wooden trail bridges there. The workers will also work on clearing fallen trees from the trails and construction of the trails. In other Thomas Trails news, VISTA volunteer Athey Lutz recently worked with City of Thomas’s maintenance department to replace undersized culverts at the trail’s entrance which were causing severe erosion during spring floods. The City provided a backhoe and laborers while the NFWP provided the culverts with grant funds received from the American Hiking Society and the Oakland Foundation. The City has also helped us get a discount on the bridge materials, which will free up grant funds for future improvements. If you are interested in volunteering on the Thomas Trails project, please contact NFWP at 304-259-5600 or via e-mail at projdir@northforkwatershed.org.

North Fork Watershed Project succeeds in annual Run For It

For the second year the NFWP hosted a successful team in the Tucker Community Foundation’s “Run For It” race during the Leaf Peepers Festival. This year the team grew to 22 members who donated their time, money and effort in the 5k run or 2k walk. Half of all member entry fees, all donations and any of the prize money for the various award categories went directly to the NFWP. In all we raised $735 in unrestricted funds for the project. This included a $300 award for honorable mention in the Best Team Effort award category. Thanks to all the team members who came to the team parade and dressed up as a northern flying squirrel, a brook trout, and a Cheat Mountain salamander. Notable finishes by our team members where a 1, 2, 3 finish in the men’s 20-29 division by Athey Lutz, Ian Beckner, and Jacob Lutz, and a 2nd place finish in the men’s 40-49 division by John Bright of the Purple Fiddle.

Following the race the NFWP hosted an educational acid mine drainage (AMD) tie-dye booth at the Leaf Peepers’ Oktoberfest. T-shirts and other garments were tie dyed in shades of orange and red created with iron oxide collected from an AMD treatment system. Many people stopped by to participate and learn about local AMD pollution and the NFWP and FOB’s great work. Our race team members had a great time enjoying the activities, friends, food and music at the festival. Anyone interested in attending next year, the Run For It coincides with Leaf Peepers on the last full weekend in September. We will be hosting a team again, and it is never too early to donate for our team. More information about the “Run For It” can be found at www.tuckerfoundation.net.
Our “New Home for Liberty” events in Charleston were a huge success!! 150 people came to the historian panel on October 18 and 775 attended the Living History drama that followed!!  This is the second in a series of JR Clifford Project programs to be held during our state’s Sesquicentennial on the theme: Civil Rights, Slavery and the Creation of West Virginia.
Bruce Babbitt Inspires DC Partygoers!
Kickoff of Campaign for High Allegheny National Park Attended by 97 at Potomac Boat House

Judy Rodd & Bruce Babbitt

Senator Manchin aide, Christoph Keller announces National Park study

Board Member Tom Rodd on FOB's mission.

Allan Berger, Katherine Zilk, Host Emily Schoenbaum, James Noel & Cathy Noel

Ginnie Luster & Diane Weatherby

Host John Good with Deborah Rickman

Hosts Donna & Carroll Cook

George & Helen Lynch

Lori Beaston & Ben Grimm

Hosts Bob & Dee Leggett

John Garder, Richard Peterson, Teal Edelen & Eli Bailey

Rives Carroll, Host Pat Munoz & Dickson Carroll

Hosts Chuck & Kim Smith, Judy Rodd
Forest Service Signs Commemorate Highland Heritage

Have you visited the new Blackwater Trailhead signage and resting area in Thomas? We give a huge “thank you” to the Forest Service for creating the kiosk and bicycle rack, plus bench area and dog comfort station, for visitors and us. In the center of downtown Thomas on the riverfront railroad grade, there is a new descriptive six-part sign with photos and a history of Thomas and Coketon.

Reading the signs will give you a brief overview of the industrial history of Thomas and the Coketon area and life in a coal mining town at the turn of the twentieth century. As you read the signs, your imagination takes you back to the sounds of trains, steam engines, the whistles and brake screeches, the smells of a town with 1235 coke ovens, the hustle and bustle of an industrial area with over 2500 people and 9 coal mines along the railroad grade. The main street was a busy center with grocery stores, Opera House, meat markets, department stores, restaurants, bars, churches and schools, paved streets and even running water!

As you walk or bicycle the Rail Trail, look for the old company store and office, the closed mine portals and the coke ovens (1.6 miles from the trailhead.) The trail follows the North Fork of the Blackwater River, which is impacted by acid mine drainage (AMD) from abandoned mines. AMD has colored the river with iron, aluminum and manganese; note the orange rocks. As you continue down the railroad grade for an additional 10 miles through the Blackwater Canyon, you will a beautiful forested area, with waterfalls cascading down the river toward Hendricks.

After returning from your tour of the area, the benches are a pleasant resting place where you can view the river, enjoy birdsong, or have lunch; you can catch your breath after jogging on the rail grade, or rest after hiking or biking the Blackwater Canyon, or after a day of shopping in downtown Thomas.

THANKS, FOREST SERVICE!
Harry Wise
1928-2011

Harry Wise was recently memorialized by Ken McDonald.

Harry Wise hailed originally from Alabama, where he had grown up on a farm. A veteran of World War II, he achieved a Bachelor's Degree from Auburn University, where he was also a member of the football team. Harry came to Virginia to study for his Master's Degree at the University of Virginia, and eventually landed in Charleston, WV where he worked for Union Carbide.

Along the way Harry developed a love for native Rhododendron and Azaleas, often travelling about the Mid-Atlantic region to commune with other lovers of the species as part of the American Rhododendron Society. He joined ARS in 1965, was president of the chapter from 1981 to 1983, served as a Mid-Atlantic director, ultimately becoming Director Emeritus, a position he held at his death. He received the chapter's Bronze Medal in 1984. Harry served as an ARS District Director from 1988 to 1991. He received the American Horticultural Award of Merit in 1997 from the Garden Club of America, presented by the Kanawha Garden Club in recognition of his work for the ARS, the Master Gardeners, and Friends of Kanawha County Parks (Coonskin Park). Harry was unfailingly generous, touched people of all ages, and expanded public awareness of the Rhododendron. In 2004 Harry was honored with the ARS Silver Medal. Harry passed away on January 18, 2007.

If you drive around West Virginia or Virginia, take special note of the Rhododendron growing at places such as West Virginia Wesleyan College, Kanawha State Forest, Sutton Dam, Sunrise Museum, Coonskin Park, Canaan Valley State Park, James Madison University Arboretum, William & Mary College, Blue Ridge Community College, Bland Farm – Virginia State Arboretum, Colonial Williamsburg and Hot Springs, VA - for they were all brought to you courtesy of Harry Wise!

Etta Mae (Wilson) Dumire was born to Joseph and Thelma Wilson in Pierce, Tucker County, WV on April 29, 1926. Extremely proud of her heritage, Etta was a direct descendant of William Hebb (British turn coat and Revolutionary War Soldier) and Jemima Washington, niece of President George Washington. She was a member of the Blackwater Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and an elder at the First Presbyterian Church of Thomas, WV.

Etta married Paul Dumire, who ran the Western Maryland Railroad Office at Coketon. Together they had two children, Joseph and Pauletta. As a devoted wife and mother, Etta sacrificed much to see that her children received a good education and her family was well provided for in life. “Help others” was her life philosophy; she was always there to lend a hand to someone in need.

Etta loved Tucker County and its beauty. She took great joy in sharing that love with her children and husband by taking long hikes through the hills and valleys surrounding Thomas. She also enjoyed working in her garden, and travelling to spots such as The Greenbrier, Hawaii and Cape Cod.

Etta passed away at the age of 85 on May 6, 2011. She was recently memorialized by her son Joe Dumire.

Etta Dumire
1926-2011

Lauretta Payne
1959-2009

Lauretta Payne (known to family and friends as “Retta”) and she has been memorialized recently by her husband, Jeffrey.

A native of New Jersey, “Retta” studied Veterinary Medicine at Ohio State University graduating in 1985. In 1989, she and Jeffrey moved to Somerset County, Pennsylvania, where they both practiced veterinary medicine with “Retta” specializing in small animals, including her beloved collies.

An avid birder, “Retta” participated in the New Jersey World Series of Birding from 1988 until 2009. She and Jeffrey raised over sixty thousand dollars for groups such as the Audubon Society. She had a yard list of birds that included over 198 species, and on her final trip (to Costa Rica) she reached her 1001 life birds mark. Always concerned about the environment, “Retta” worked tirelessly to get better siting regulations put in place for wind turbines.

In addition to Jeff, “Retta” is survived by sons Matt, 22, and Chris, 18.

November 24, 2011 marks two years since the passing of Lauretta Payne. She was recently memorialized by her son Joe Dumire.

Lauretta Payne
1959-2009
Our Donors Keep Us Going!

**PORTER CRAYON SOCIETY**
Donna & Carroll Cook
Annie Dillard
Dr. Florence Kate Millar
David & Beverly Walters

**CROWN JEWEL CLUB**
Peter Bross
William & Patricia Browning
Harvey & Naomi Cohen
Dee Fulton
Eric Glitsenstein & Kathy Meyer
Luanne McGovern
Deborah McHenry & Elaine Moore
Amelia & Bob McPeak
Emma Shelton
Annette H Tanner
Greg & Maria Whiteaker
Patricia, Gary & Danielle Wilmsen

**SUSTAINING STEWARDS**
Julie Adams & Josh Barrett
Robert E & Nancy Douglas
Chris Elfring & Ann Miles
Keith & Christine Garbutt
Cleo & Michael Gewirz
John G Good III & Roberta Good
Jessie M Harris
Brian Henry
Charles & Montague Kern
Robert & Dee Leggett
Suzanne & John Maben
Donald McClaud
Karen Meadows
Phillip & Karin Nelson
Lori Plummer
William & Fran Pope
Mary L. Stone
Charlie & Sandy Walbridge

**BLACKWATER BOOSTERS**
Sally F. Davidson
Kelly M. Dyer, II
William M. Flanagan
Kathleen P. Hayes
Marilyn B. Meyers
The Owens Family
Kristin Ruether
Dr. & Mrs. Wayne Spiggle
Brian Thorniley
Yoshine Uchimura
Richard & Karen Watson
Barbara Wolfert

**PATRON**
Duane & Marianne Alexander
Robert Arnold & Glenn Harman
Cynthia Ashworth
Gail Berlin
Paula Bickham
Joe & Heather Biola
Herb & Pat Black
Ray Boggs
Susan & Joe Brookreson
Nancy & Clark Campbell
Joseph T Carney
Rives & Dickson Carroll
Baker Clay
Craig Close
Robert Cohen & Kathy Abate
Maureen Comiskey
Jane & Wils Cooley
Charles & Diane Davisson
Robert & Janet Deal
Karen M. Dieckes
Charles DiSalvo & Kathleen Kennedy
Arthur & Betty G Evans Jr
Brock Evans & Linda Garcia
Louanne M. Fatora
Walt Fish
Richard D. Flinn
Barbara & Robert Foster
Shirley & Cliff Gay
Bill & Mary Gibson
Emily Grafton
Benton Lee Grimm
Clifford Hackett
Tanya Hall
Steve Holmer
Lynda Holup & David Revell
Patricia C. Hopson
John Huffman
Shary Harmon
Steve & Christine Dolan Keating
Debra Keddie
Shawn Cockrell & Kris Knowles
Beth Koller
Steve & Marjorie Lewellen
Chris Longe
William & Sally Meadows
Tony Milam
Dr. David & Dore Ann Miljour
Joe & Mary Miller
Eugene Nojek
Catherine Pardee
Lee Paules
Bruce Perrone
Lee Petsonk & Susan Brown
Charles Price
Michael & Carolyn Prudich
Betty J Rice
Margaret & Ken Roberts
Delbert Royce
Robert & Lelia Russell
Marie & Rodney Sauter
Robert Schoen
James See & Joan Weber
Paul Sheridan & Kate Fitzgerald
Stanwyn & Elaine Shetler
George & Margaret Smith
Jennifer Soule
Barbara Spicher
Sandra Staggers
Larry & Becky Starcher
Susen & Donley Studlar
Charlotte Taylor
Betty & Larry Thompson
D. McCarty Thornton
Eric Tribbe
Robert & Mildred Tuckerman
Tim Warner & Paula Hunt
Bill Weiss
Stephen L. & Susan Wellons
H. Y. Wilson
Gail Wippelhauser & Robert McIntire
Donald & Linda Wright
James Yenckel & Sandra Lafevre

**FAMILY**
David & Peggy Allman
Allen & Karin Altman
Jane & Steve Andraka
W. B. Andrews
Robert Bastress & Barbara Fleischauer
Roscoe & Diane Beall
Cornelia Belton
Roland & Barbara Bergman
Robert & Constance Bouchard
Janis Boury & Michael Fraser
Charles & Nancy Brabec
Barbara J. Bramble
Bill Brooks
Clinton & Jo Burdette
Stan & Carolyn Cavendish
Carol & Paul Cole
Dornald E. Cometti
Brent Cook
Jo Cox
Linda & David Davidson
Lee & Gene DeFabio
Douglas & Andrea Denton
Jack Ditty
Jack & Margaret Dolly
Sarah Fletcher & Jennifer Snyder
Claire & Paul Gesalman
Sam Golston
Rod & Helen Graves
Diana K Green
Bob & Sandy Gunter
Brian Gurr
Ivan Paul Halliwell
Hedda & Ray Haning
Ron & Jean Hawk
Henry Hoffstot, Jr.
Blaise & Patricia Hollot
E Clifton Hyre
Frank Innes
James & Mary Ellen Ireland
Peter Iscaro
Ronald & Letha Jarrett
Doug & Linda Johnson
Mary Jordan
Robert & Leonora Jordan
Pamela Jowdy
Edward & Judith Joyce
Ken Kaleida & Donna Gunther
Raymond & Janet Keith
Jerry Kickenson
Pat W. Kingman
Elliot & Nancy Kirschaum
Linda & Michael Kolb
Teresa Koon
Erin Kuehn
Dave Lambert
Robert & Mary Lu Latane
Marc Levine
David & Jane Lindsay
Felix & Elizabeth Lockman
John Love
John R Magan
Stephen & Linda Martenson
Mary Massey & Jack Meiners
Leslee McCarty
Elizabeth McClosey
John & Elizabeth McConnell
Warren & Peggy McGraw
Margaret McKevey
William & Denise McNeel
Steve McNeil
Pam & Lex Miller
Mary Alice & Gerry Milnes
Glen & Anna Belle Mitchell
Karyn Molines & Gary Pendleton
Larry E. Morse
Peter Moshein
John & Lynn Mugaas
Sarah & Herb Myers
Joseph & Julia Neenan
Gary & Mary Nelson
Ursula Nottage
Jeanne Odum
George R Ours Jr.
Thank You!

Donald & Joan Pattison  
Noel & Sarah Pavlovic  
Katherine Payne  
Mark & Lois Payne  
Nancy Pietroski  
Jean Perfater Pozega  
Harry Donald Price  
William Richmond  
Paul & Marjorie Richter  
Darrell & Debbie Rolston  
Jim & Melinda Schmitt  
Kathryn & Jane Scott  
Elizabeth P.N. Seaman  
Dr. & Mrs. James A. Smith  
Anna Gale Smithson  
Fred Stafford  
Dr. John Stansbury  
William & Francoise Stauber  
Irving & Gail Stern  
Albert W. Stewart  
Keith Strausbaugh & Ivonne Martinez  
Janet Stone  
J. W. Dumire  
Tom & Alice Eastman  
Dianne English  
Denise L. Ferguson  
Andrea Ferster  
Ian & Margaret Fitzpatrick  
Richard Ford  
Peggy Frankenfield  
Bob Gedekoh  
Kevin Geiselman  
Ken Groer & Lisa Smith  
John & Lesley Gilbert  
Patricia M. Gussey  
Wyatt & Marian Hanna  
Richard Harris & Karen Ford  
Jill Hayes  
Robert G. Humphrey  
Beth & Benjamin Jacob  
William & Christine Jones  
Carol Jori  
Oren Kennedy  
Phyllis H. Law  
Lawrence & Stephanie Lowden  
Lowell & Terri Markey  
Sarah Mattingly  
Cathy McConnell  
Brian McCulley  
Lisa C McIver  
Scot & Lisa Meadows  
James Mosher  
George & Ginny Mozal  
William Murray  
Lucinda Nicholson  
Jim & Lisa O'Donnell  
Ann & John Palatis  
Jeffrey Payne  
Janey Perry  
Ernie Reed  
Don Schwartz  
Betty Schwimmer  
Judy Seaman  
Norma Setteur  
Thomas C. Shaffer  
Donald Shelters  
Bob Smythe  
Jack Steel, MD  
Nancy Steele  
Thomas Stump  
William Styer & Anna Gerig  
Debby & Jon Thoma  
Robert R. Ward  
Jo Weisbrod  
Tessa White  
Judy Williamson  
Doug Wood & Dianne Anestis  
Ed Zahniser & Christine Deuwel  

SENIOR  
Terry Anderson  
Paul Atkins  
Joseph Balassone  
Jo Ann Barlow  
Maurice Barnett  
Joel Bean  
Mary Beard  
Ralph Bell  
Michael Bialas & Megan Bialas-Potts  
Charles & Margaret Biggs  
Marcia Bonta  
Ken Bosworth  
Judy Bright  
William Burger  
Patricia Burkett  
Garnet Byrne  
Frances Cheever  
James & Helen Clark  
Bill Cushtoros  
Marilyn Cuanzo  
Mary Curnutte  
David & Trecla Deterich  
Lillian Dodd  
John Dunn  
Gertrude Ehrlich  
Joanie Ellingwood  
Cynthia & David Ellis  
Tete Evans  
Karen Fedorov  
Dorothy Frank  
Ramsey Frist  
Jesse B. Gandee II  
Lydia Garvey  
Kevin N. George  
Terry Gilbert  
Louise F Gillooly  
Francis & Shirley Gilmore  
Joan Golden  
Hullet & Shirley Good  
Pat Graybeal & Bert Lustig  
Gayle Greene & Wayde Vickrey  
Katharine Gregg  
Betty W. Hall  
Marjorie Hamperian  
Stephen & Brenda Hancheck  
Robert & Vieve Harlow  
Charles & Susan Heller  
Thomas Herr  
Diane Hert  
Janelle Hideg  
John & Judy Hillman  
Cynthia Hintz  
Richard F. Hitchcock  
John H. Hoffman Jr.  
Lew Holloway  

INDIVIDUAL  
Art Abrams  
Cynthia Adam  
Clarence & Shirley Aleshire  
Eric Biemuller  
John & Cathy Booth  
Susan Breiding  
Samuel J Burchfield  
Bruce & Carol Carter  
Robert Coughlin  
April & Jeff Crowe  
James Davis  
Bruce R. Debolt  

Gerald Holmes  
Averill Howard  
William Craig Howell  
Roger & Rose Hutzell  
William A. James III  
Roy C. Johnson  
Ellin Jones  
Sandra Knowles  
John S. Kosticky  
Kathryn Lad  
Dr. Richard Latterell  
James M Jr Lee  
Edith Levine & Thomas Beckman  
Letty Limbach  
Boyd Lively  
Alice Long  
Lois Ludwig  
Robert Lynch  
Brian & Antionette Maggied  
Arthur & Iris Malcom  
John Manchester  
Donna Martin  
Carol McClain  
Cathy McDonald  
John Manchester  
Donna Martin  
Carol McClain  
Cathy McDonald  
John Manchester  
Donald Shelters  
Robert Paviour Jr.  
Peter O. Sellar  
Don & Martha Shearer  
Lawrence Smith  
Judith & Robert Stitzer  
Bruce Sundquist  

November 2011
Nora Sheridan FOB’s winning videographer reacts: “I had a wonderful time visiting Blackwater Falls State Park and collecting footage. Thanks so much to the guys with the North Fork Watershed Project for showing me around, and for their suggestions. Thanks also to Tom Rodd for the banjo accompaniment. I really enjoyed piecing together images and music from Appalachia to create a video that celebrates such a beautiful part of our state, and I’m so appreciative to everyone who voted for it!”

If you haven’t seen Nora’s video, please take a moment to view it at http://youtu.be/BggCFtKrZRE.

Over 1600 folks have seen it so far!!
Frederick Ethan Fischer was an influential and entertaining fixture of the Eastern Panhandle and tri-state arts communities. He was foremost the poet and teacher at Shepherd University, and also a radio dramatist, actor, and reviewer of theater and poetry. To people from various stages of his life, he was Freddie, Fred, Ethan, or “ace detective Johnny Dime, the Poet of Crime.” The latter moniker came from Fischer’s contributions to the popular Rumsey Radio Hour programs produced in Shepherdstown, WV for over 20 years. His book of poetry “Beached in the Hourglass” was published in 2004 by The Bunny and the Crocodile Press. The poems printed here, furnished by his wife Ursula (Uschi) Nottnagel, are from those he wrote since the book’s publication. “New Choir Choice” is the last poem Ethan wrote.

Ethan loved the West Virginia mountains and generously supported our work. We miss him!

**Sung Dynasty Song**
for *Uschi*

Old in this year’s greenest time,
I fall ill, grown weak and thin.

My wife whistles, works to open and close
each day with nourishment.

She dusts until the Sun is sharp again.
She gathers herbs from our own gardens.
Fish swim to her...

I am lucky to live in these
spring and summer shadows.....
Everything she knows.

**New Choir Choice**

Soon perhaps
I shall join
my voice to the
deep choir
thrilling underneath ground.

Our director knows
the soil shifts of music
and directs us down and up.

The audience has grown hungry
but they stay for a while
sensing a legend here
dying or being born.
### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director’s Letter</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Tom Kunz</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginny’s Woodland Potluck and Fundraiser</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NiSource Plan for Pipeline Corridor Could Threaten</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species &amp; Public Land</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Success for Eastern National Forest Gas Drilling Working Group</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massive Bird Kill at Mount Laurel Wind Project</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Grass Recreation</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Fork Watershed Project Update</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charleston Leaders Support FOB Heritage Project</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Babbitt Inspires DC Partygoers</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Service Signs Commemorate Heritage</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Memory</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Donors</td>
<td>12-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BWFSP Video National Winner</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Park Volunteers</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick Ethan Fischer Remembered</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Holiday Order Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Unit Price</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ginny the Flying Squirrel T-shirt</td>
<td></td>
<td>$12.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayaking Ginny T-shirt</td>
<td></td>
<td>$12.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biking Ginny T-shirt</td>
<td></td>
<td>$12.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skiing Ginny T-shirt</td>
<td></td>
<td>$12.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Climbing Ginny T-shirt</td>
<td></td>
<td>$12.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishin’ Blackwater T-shirt</td>
<td></td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Blackwater Canvas Tote Bag</td>
<td></td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuffed Ginny Magnet</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Stuffed Flying Squirrel Toy</td>
<td></td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Stuffed Bat Toy with Book</td>
<td></td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackwater Falls Picture Frame</td>
<td></td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginny Coffee Mug</td>
<td></td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Membership Sale:</td>
<td></td>
<td>$35.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-year gift membership packet – includes a gift card for you to present to the recipient, a stamped card for the recipient to send in to activate the membership, 4 newsletters a year, bumpersticker and magnet ----BUY 2 &amp; SAVE $20 - 2 for $50.00 order 2!!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Subtotal** **$5.00**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shipping</th>
<th>$5.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Total** **$5.00**

---

**Ordered by:**

**Name**

**Address**

**Phone**

**Ship to:**

**Name**

**Address**

**Phone**

---

For additional ship to addresses please include full shipping information on an additional sheet of paper.

Mail completed form and check made payable to Friends of Blackwater to:

Friends of Blackwater

501 Elizabeth St.

Charleston, WV 25311

---

To process credit card orders please visit www.saveblackwater.org