On September 4, 2009 Allegeny Wood Products ("AWP") notified the West Virginia Sierra Club that AWP might begin logging operations in the Blackwater Canyon after 60 days from the notice letter. Then, on September 8, 2009, AWP gave the West Virginia Division of Forestry plans for building a logging road along the Blackwater River. The plan includes spraying at Hedrick's Creek, going upstream to cross the river from the Fish and Wildlife Service gate on the Canyon Rail Grade. This action by Allegeny Wood Products violates the intent of the Habitat Conservation Plan agreement AWP entered into with the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2002. Under this agreement, AWP received $165,000 of taxpayer dollars -- to do surveys for the endangered species of the C&O Canal in order to avoid harming them. The plan also calls for avoiding and/or minimizing the effects AWP would have on the species habitat.

Now AWP is apparently abandoning the Habitat Conservation Plan and its taxpaying customers have received no return! By further degrading a portion of this critical species habitat with broad building and logging, AWP would be violating the Endangered Species Act, and undermining the role of the Fish and Wildlife Service in protecting the natural resources of the Canyon.

Logging would also reduce the conservation and recreation value of the Canyon. We do not need any more of the most dramatic, pristine, uninhabited section of wild land in West Virginia to be riddled with roads and tree stumps! West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin, we hope you can act quickly to forestall any further landscape degradation -- by purchasing all of the private land in the Canyon, as soon as possible.

Supported by the Blackwater Canyon, please let Governor Manchin know you want the Blackwater Canyon purchased and brought into public ownership.

"The Monongahela offers a textbook example of how drilling should not be done on a national forest," stated PEER Counsel to sort through complex resource issues instead of acceding to each industry request, no matter how damaging. "In the future, we will not have the luxury of doing away with effects. In the future, we will not have the luxury of doing away with unnecessary drilling. In the future, we will not have the luxury of doing away with unnecessary drilling. In the future, we will not have the luxury of doing away with unnecessary drilling. In the future, we will not have the luxury of doing away with unnecessary drilling."
On October 9, 2009, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources joined the Chief Logan State Park Conservancy, Cordie Hudkins (retired Chief of the WV State Park System) and Friends of Blackwater to announce the launch of a lawsuit against the Heirs of the Lawson Family. The suit, which was filed in the Clay County Circuit Court, seeks to prevent the Lawson Heirs from developing their property at Chief Logan State Park.

The Lawson Heirs – the descendants of one of the first settlers of Logan County – own 50 acres of land in the park. They have been developing the land for residential use, and the WV State Parks System has been trying to stop them.

Cordie Hudkins, who served as Chief of the WV State Park System for 35 years, has been a vocal advocate for the protection of West Virginia’s State Parks. He is known for his passion and dedication to the preservation of the parks, and he has worked tirelessly to prevent the development of the Lawson Heirs’ land.

The lawsuit is a significant step in the fight to protect West Virginia’s State Parks, and it is a testament to the work of Cordie Hudkins and the WV State Park System. The lawsuit seeks to protect the parks from development, and it is hoped that it will set a precedent for other similar cases.

Friends of Blackwater, the Highland Conservancy, and Cordie Hudkins are working closely with Tom Rodd on the project, and helping to put together a plan to protect the parks.

Dooley and Justice Larry Starcher onto their campuses to present about J.R. Clifford. She has also been part of Chief Logan State Park.

Friends of Blackwater, the Highmonds Conservancy, and Cordie Hudkins (retired Chief of the WV State Park System) asked the DNR to join the case, and we are happy to announce that the DNR has done so. This important case could affect other State Parks as well 

Cordie Hudkins Has Still West Virginia’s State Parks in his Heart; Stands Up to Illegal Drilling

An adventure is underway in the forests throughout much of West Virginia that may approach the magnitude of the blight of the American chestnut during the early decades of the last century. The Eastern hemlock has been struck by the woolly adelgid, an aphid unintentionally brought from Asia, that threatens to strike down this beloved evergreen.

The tiny predator sucks the sap from the base of the needles causing the death of the tree within a few years. An area showing the devastation is an infestation is Greenbrier Gap in Grant County. The beauty of this scenario is reversed by the chaotic scene of dead and fallen hemlocks. Other sites showing widespread death of trees are Lost River and Watoga State Parks.

A chemical manufactured by the Bayer Corporation is effective in checking the adelgid when mixed with water and the root system is treated. Individual trees must be treated and this becomes difficult and time-consuming in a large tract of hemlocks.

A search has also been underway for an insect that preys on the adelgid with promise found in a tiny beetle about the size of an end of a pencil lead. It is known among entomologists as Laccophilus and has its usual range of distribution in the Pacific northwest.

The least severe impact on forest cover will be largely east of a line down through the state center going to the Northern parula, the parula in lower and middle elevations and the Blackburnian in higher areas.

A tract of virgin hemlock and Northern hardwood at the WV State Park in the northern part of the state was struck by the woolly adelgid. Concern is being expressed that trout streams will be negatively impacted, perhaps in some cases, radically. Although breeding birds may be reduced entomologists agree that the local distribution with the elimination of hemlock will be beneficial species that are adversely affected are reduced. The parula, the parula in lower and middle elevations and the Blackburnian in higher areas.
A great burden of responsibility had been lifted from the shoulders of George Washington with the defeat of Cornwallis' British Army at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1783. The long struggle of the Revolution was ended and the United States was indeed a free nation!

Bidding his officers and staff farewell was a bittersweet moment, but it would be good to give up guarding, plotting strategy and outwitting the enemy. He needed to return to where his heart was—in the land. No grave duty was his to hold him back and he was as free as a bird to go where he wanted.

After the matter-of-fact in his journal for September 1, 1784, the necessary “to visit my Landed property West of the Appalachian Mountains. . .” After making the necessary preparations he wrote, “I did on the first day of this month September Set out on my Journey.”

Washington’s trek to the west was undertaken for reasons in addition to assessing the condition of his vast land holdings. Much attention was being given to finding a route and means for commerce to flow from the Potomac River across the mountains into the Ohio Valley.

He arrived at the farm of Captain Stroud near Martinsburg on the evening of the 4th and showed him a model of a boat he had built that was propelled by the production of steam. Washington expresses his confidence in the craft by recording in his journal, “That it might be of the greatest possible value in inland Navigation . . .” The building was very much in the identification of trees and the relationship of woodland to certain soil types. Leaving the company of Dr. James Craik and his son, William, he detoured a few miles to visit a forest tract on the evening of the 4th and continued to the home of Gilbert Simpson near Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, before deciding to end his western travels.

He was to enjoy life free of great responsibility for five years until he elected the first president and taking the oath of office in New York City on April 30, 1789. As the years passed, those bright days of Brilliant Young Stature were replaced by the gray days of Age. As the years passed, those bright days of Brilliant Young Stature were replaced by the gray days of Age. As the years passed, those bright days of Brilliant Young Stature were replaced by the gray days of Age.

The trail design and work is being funded in part by a FLOW grant from West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service.

A great thank you to all that turned out to help on this project; we look forward to working more with you in the future. We would also like to send a special thank you to the US Forest Service and the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge for loaning the necessary equipment for the trail and other volunteers to complete this project, and to Mama G’s Pizzeria for providing food.

Meet the Designer
Rich Edwards (pictured at right), who we like to call the Pied Piper for his ability to motivate young people to volunteer, is a nationally respected trail design expert who developed his skills during three years as a leader of the Subalpine/DMBA Trail Crew. Rich has assessed, designed, constructed and maintained trails in more than 30 U.S. states, Canada, the Netherlands, Italy, Wales, Scotland and England.

Rich Edwards, Frank Maguire and Kim Broughton of DMBA (International Mountain Biking Assoc.), will be on hand in Canaan Valley to teach the skills necessary for the trail and other volunteers to complete this project, and to Mama G’s Pizzeria for providing food.

A great thank you to all that turned out to help on this project; we look forward to working more with you in the future. We would also like to send a special thank you to the US Forest Service and the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge for loaning the necessary equipment for the trail and other volunteers to complete this project, and to Mama G’s Pizzeria for providing food.

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On July 10, 2009, Friends of Blackwater held a fundraising event at the Home of Steve and Katy White, in Canaan Valley, WV, after months of planning, dedication and hard work by our hosts and sponsors. With over 200 guests in attendance, including Honored Guests Governor Joe Manchin III and First Lady Gayle Manchin, the evening was a smashing success — raising nearly forty thousand dollars toward our work protecting the Blackwater Canyon and the West Virginia Highlands.

We would like to wish a special thanks to all of those that participated in this fundraiser and especially to the hosts, planning committee members, and business supporters that made made this event so successful.
On September 24, 2009 FOB held a fundraising event at the Potomac Boat Club in Washington, DC, where we honored Congressman Nick Rahall as our “Blackwater Hero 2009”. As a result of months of planning and coordinating, our Washington, DC, where we honored Congressman Nick Rahall as our “Blackwater Hero 2009”. As a result of months of planning and coordinating, our Washington, DC, where we honored Congressman Nick Rahall as our “Blackwater Hero 2009”. As a result of months of planning and coordinating, our Washington, DC, where we honored Congressman Nick Rahall as our “Blackwater Hero 2009”. As a result of months of planning and coordinating, our Washington, DC, where we honored Congressman Nick Rahall as our “Blackwater Hero 2009”. As a result of months of planning and coordinating, our Washington, DC, where we honored Congressman Nick Rahall as our “Blackwater Hero 2009”. As a result of months of planning and coordinating, our Washington, DC, where we honored Congressman Nick Rahall as our “Blackwater Hero 2009”. As a result of months of planning and coordinating, our Washington, DC, where we honored Congressman Nick Rahall as our “Blackwater Hero 2009”. As a result of months of planning and coordinating, our Washington, DC, where we honored Congressman Nick Rahall as our “Blackwater Hero 2009”. As a result of months of planning and coordinating, our Washington, DC, where we honored Congressman Nick Rahall as our “Blackwater Hero 2009”. As a result of months of planning and coordinating, our Washington, DC, where we honored Congressman Nick Rahall as our “Blackwater Hero 2009”. As a result of months of planning and coordinating, our Washington, DC, where we honored Congressman Nick Rahall as our “Blackwater Hero 2009”. As a result of months of planning and coordinating, our Washington, DC, where we honored Congressman Nick Rahall as our “Blackwater Hero 2009”. As a result of months of planning and coordinating, our Washington, DC, where we honored Congressman Nick Rahall as our “Blackwater Hero 2009. Our Washington, D.C. Sponsors: Porte Crayon Society Reafe and Lenoire Pamerance Emily Schoenbaum Donna and Carroll Cook Crown Jewel Club Judith Bell and Dick Goodwin Sustaining Stewards Peter Brosa and Lisa Rarick Sally F. Davidson Brock Evans and Linda Garcia John and Roberta Good Pete and Sienna Johnson Nelson and Suzanne Joyner Charles and Montague Kern Sally and Bill Meadows Pat Munoz and Dorcas Adkins Philip and Karin Nelson Tom and Judy Rodd Bill and Claudia Schechter CRENEER CIIADE By J. Lawrence Smith

The chickadee is a bird beloved by nearly all people especially those who are aware of them as a threat of danger. Individual chickadees may appear frail due to their small size, but winter often seems a season when we are格外 alert to their whistled songs that sound very similar to the call of the black-cap. The Carolina chickadee is often brooding stillness of Dolly Sods and neighboring areas was shattered by thousands of soldiers on maneuvers during World War II in the summer of 1943. The U. S. Army established the West Virginia Maneuver Area in thinly-populated sections of five mountain counties. The similarity of West Virginia terrain to that of southern Europe was one reason the area was chosen to serve as training ground for the invasion of Italy. Dolly Sods and Uncle Sam By J. Lawrence Smith

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Special Thanks to All of Our Donors!

Your support makes all we do possible!

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Your support makes all we do possible!
I know that jobs are important and I feel for those residents in the area who are stung hard by the economy (and who have been stung for years even before the current downturn). I wonder, though, couldn't there be a way to preserve both? The Canyon is such a special place. This area needs special protection. Many of the unique and beautiful western lands are protected and are inspiring to see, but what of those who cannot travel "out west" to see these wonders? We have a wondrous place right here in our own back yards. Just because it is "in the East" does that mean it doesn't deserve the same protections? This area is what West Virginia was, and is, and gives a picture back through time, through the industrial age, the age whenNative Americans considered this a holy place... to the place where time began. Isn't that worth saving?

Please consider saving this land. A public purchase on behalf of the place where time began. Isn't that worth saving?

William “Bill” Grafton
1938-2009

William "Bill" Grafton, 70, of Morgantown, a great friend of the Blackwater Canyon, passed away unexpectedly while at work at WVU on Friday, Sept. 11. He was a great spirit and will be greatly missed by the friends and family of the late Albert and Esta Nutter Grafton. He served in the U.S. Army from 1961-1963. He graduated from WVU with his Bachelor of Science in wildlife in 1961 and his Master of Science in forestry in 1963.

Bill was an avid environmentalist and was considered an expert on the botany of the Appalachian region. He taught at WVU for 43 years, during which time he impacted the lives of many throughout the state and in the College of Agriculture and Forestry. Bill made major contributions to the state’s botanical archives and helped fund the Student Master Naturalist program. He was a constant presence at National IV Forestry contests, WV Forest Industries Camp and Conservation Camp. He was co-editor of the Checklist and Atlas of the Vascular Flora of West Virginia. He was active in the WV Native Plant Society, Wildlife Society, Forestry Alumni, American Forestry Association and The Nature Conservancy. Bill was inducted into the WV Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame and was an honorary member of WVFPA.

In his personal life, Bill was a loving husband, father, brother, uncle and friend. He was known for a wry sense of humor, joyful disposition and steadfast dependability in all aspects. A highly intelligent person, he traveled on five continents during his life and was exploring the world to the end. Known for orchid hunting, Bill was happiest surrounded by his family. He was a friend by his wife, Emily Williams Grafton, in a marriage of 29 years and a son, Daniel Grafton.

50th Anniversary of Allegheny Front Bird Banding

This fall season of 2009 marks fifty years of bird banding at the Allegheny Front in the area of the Red Creek Campground. Gordon Knight, a WVU forestry student at the time, has written an account of his personal reflections on the banding operation for our FOB Newsletter. The other members of the banding team were WVU chemistry professor Dr. George Hall and Ralph Bell of Clarksville, Pennsylvania.

Gordon tells of camping alone for several days at Red Creek, along with inevitable changes after a half century. We believe it is worth of publication in its entirety and plan to share it with readers our next issue.

Mary Bethune Jordan, who provided the following:

Mary graciously provided a sample of Bob’s life and you can check out his pictures at http://canyonrimphotography.blogspot.com .

Bob enjoyed mountain biking, kayaking and hiking, and was a ski instructor at Timberline resort for many years. He also worked at White Grass Ski Touring Center.

Bob’s enthusiasm and zest for life were infectious, and his hearty laugh was unmistakable. He definitely knew how to have fun!

Bob enjoyed photography throughout his life and you can check out his pictures at http://canyonrimphotography.blogspot.com. Bob fought prostate cancer bravely and I know that he would want to encourage men who are age 40 and over to be checked on a yearly basis.

I know that Bob enjoyed his pictures on the Internet and you can find more of his images will continue to inspire us all to preserve our special place. His pictures will continue to inspire us all to preserve this beautiful land.

Regrettably Bob Jordan was memorialized by his wife Mary Bethune Jordan, who provided the following:

Derek, Eryn, Mike and Adam

Albert and Gunn Honican
Doug and Linda Johnson
Doug and Linda Johnson, longtime FOB supporters, of Saint Albans, WV donated in honor of their four grandchildren: Derek, Eryn, Mike and Adam

Bob Jordan
1946-2009

Recently Bob Jordan was memorialized by his wife Mary Bethune Jordan, who provided the following:

Bob Jordan fell in love with Canaan Valley while he was a forestry student at WVU in the 1960’s. Bob began growing traditional claw hammer banjos in the ‘70’s; when he moved to Hampshire County and built a home there, he became known as “Banjo Bob.”

Bob enjoyed mountain biking, kayaking and hiking, and was a ski instructor at Timberline resort for many years. He also worked at White Grass Ski Touring Center.

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GOVERNOR MANCHIN: PROTECT CHIEF LOGAN STATE PARK!

We West Virginians love our state parks -- they’re the crown jewels of our public lands!

But now there is a new threat to our Chief Logan State Park. The largest gas well driller in the nation wants to drill gas wells and develop new gas fields with their roads, pipelines, waste lagoons, and more -- right in this treasured State Park!

Governor Manchin, we come to Chief Logan to hike, picnic, swim, play, meet friends and family, and enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings. Gas development has no place in any State Park -- it would damage all the values we hold dear there.

Please demand that the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection -- and all the power of the state -- act to prevent this damage to this State Park.

YES! I WANT TO JOIN FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER

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

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

Friends of Blackwater
501 Elizabeth St.
Charleston, WV 25311

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

Friends of Blackwater
501 Elizabeth St.
Charleston, WV 25311

You can also view or order any of these items by visiting www.saveblackwater.org

Look for more gift items (picture frames and mugs) coming soon to our website.

E-mail

Yes it is that time of year again. Time to look for unique gift giving ideas and we are glad to help out! Along with our usual T-shirts and tote bags, we have some new items.

We have added flying squirrel magnets and stuffed flying squirrel toys to our inventory. Additionally, we have been blessed with two tomes written by J. Lawrence Smith. They are as follows:

In Land of Blackwater. Smith reflects on his experiences in the area along with the natural heritage and rich history of Blackwater Canyon, Canaan Valley and Dolly Sods. His strong desire to see all measures taken to protect these areas for now and future generations prompted him to undertake this writing project.

The High Alleghenies, a collector item, is the result of twenty-five years of roaming the mountains in search of their history and natural heritage. Smith sees all areas of the Alleghenies as facets of the same gem or pearls on the same strand. He insists the time is always “now” for saving such places as Blackwater Canyon, the “crown jewel,” from exploitation and ruin.

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<th>GIFT ITEM</th>
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<td>$12.50</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle Size(s) Adult: S, M, L, XL, XXL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biking Ginny T-Shirt</td>
<td>$12.50</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circle Size(s) Adult: S, M, L, XL, XXL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skiing Ginny T-Shirt</td>
<td>$12.50</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circle Size(s) Adult: S, M, L, XL, XXL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Climbing Ginny</td>
<td>$12.50</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle Size(s) Adult: S, M, L, XL, XXL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishin’ Blackwater T-Shirt</td>
<td>$12.50</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle Size(s) Adult: S, M, L, XL, XXL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Blackwater Canvas Tote Bag</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuffed Ginny Magnets</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Stuffed Flying Squirrel</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$</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 (includes 4 newsletters a year, bumpersticker and magnet).</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUBTOTAL

$_____

SHIPPING LOCATIONS (Be sure to include shipping information with your order) @ $ 3.00

$_____

TOTAL ORDER

$_____

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

Friends of Blackwater
501 Elizabeth St.
Charleston, WV 25311

You can also view or order any of these items by visiting www.saveblackwater.org

Look for more gift items (picture frames and mugs) coming soon to our website.