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

I need your help right now!!!
Ginny’s Cry for Help

Dear Judy and everyone at Friends of Blackwater:

Last night I glided down into the forest clearing for a night of digging for truffles, and my old friend, Mrs. Raven, called out to me from her roost in a nearby hemlock tree.

"Ginny," she said, "You’d better watch your back! The Fish and Wildlife Service has appealed Judge Sullivan’s decision to put you and your babies back on the Endangered Species List."

When my sister Tucker arrived in the clearing a few minutes later, she had heard the same news.

What a shock! What a disappointment!

Thanks to Judge Sullivan’s decision, for the past few months all of us West Virginia flying squirrels have been so happy. We could raise our babies in peace.

And now -- everything that we have worked for so long is at risk again!

Judy, we know you and our friends will not give up the fight!

Please tell our lawyers, Jessica and Eric, that our whole species is rooting for them. (I think there are less than a thousand of us -- that’s one thing the Fish and Wildlife has never tried to figure out.)

And please ask all of our supporters to write or e-mail Interior Secretary Salazar and the new Fish and Wildlife Director, Dan Ashe -- right away!

Tell them that this appeal is just wrong. Tell them that all of the independent scientists said it was a mistake to take us off the endangered list; and that the process Fish and Wildlife used was not what the law requires.

Judy, this may be our most important battle. We can’t hold back one bit! Help save my babies and our mountain home.

Your friend,

"Ginny" the West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel

Dr Kunz on the value of Bats to the Economy

“White-nose syndrome (WNS) and the increased development of wind-power facilities are threatening populations of insectivorous bats in North America. Bats are voracious predators of nocturnal insects, including many crop and forest pests. We present here analyses suggesting that loss of bats in North America could lead to agricultural losses estimated at more than $3.7 billion per year. Urgent efforts are needed to educate the public and policy-makers about the ecological and economic importance of insectivorous bats and to provide practical conservation solutions.”

So begins an important research article by Dr. Tom Kunz, the “bat man” of Boston University.

While the Fish and Wildlife Service collects bat population data as part of their scientific review for a possible emergency listing of the little brown bat, hundreds of thousands of these bats continue to die. This harms agriculture across the nation. Bat deaths in West Virginia could cost farmers as much as $51,263,862, mostly from the increased need for pesticides. In Illinois the cost is $1,675,507,926. To learn more about Dr. Kunz’s analysis and see a map of the impacts read the story “Holy battered bats! Double Menace Threatens Farmers’ Helper!” at http://www.harvestpublicmedia.org. To view the map at right in a larger format please visit http://www.fws.gov/whitenosesyndrome/maps.html

Sarah Summers’ flying squirrel reacts to the news that the Fish and Wildlife Service will appeal Ginny’s protections!
Judge Sullivan Put “Ginny” Back on the Endangered Species List... Salazar to Take Her Off?

We were shocked to learn that the US Fish and Wildlife Service plans to appeal Federal Court Judge Sullivan’s ruling putting the West Virginia northern flying squirrel back under federal protection. A court scheduling order has been set and the Government’s first brief is due on September 19th.

This is a surprising development in light of the Obama Administration’s commitment to good science and the rule of law. The removal of “Ginny” from federal protection under the Bush Administration was based on bad science and failed to follow the procedures set up in the Endangered Species Act. The court ruling in March corrected an error of the past administration and set a reasonable and responsible precedent. It was the first time that a critter was removed and then returned to the Endangered Species list. We believe this important decision should stand. Please help us pressure the US Department of Interior (DOI) to do the right thing! Tell them to:

**STOP THE APPEAL AND SAVE THE SQUIRREL!**

Comment:

Send a letter to DOI Secretary Salazar and to new Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe through our website at http://www.saveblackwater.org/save_Ginny.html; or call or write to them at:

- **Director Dan Ashe**  
  1849 C Street, NW  
  Washington, DC 20240  
  1-800-344-9453

- **Secretary Ken Salazar**  
  US Department of the Interior  
  1849 C Street, N.W.  
  Washington, DC 20240  
  (202) 208-3100

Donate:

**Urgent funds needed to pay for Ginny’s Appeal!**

We need to raise $15,000 to cover the legal costs of responding to the Fish and Wildlife Appeal. Our wonderful lawyers at Meyer, Glitzenstein and Crystal give us their discount rate in the business. But even idealistic lawyers can’t live on truffles! If you can afford any donation large or small to help cover Ginny’s legal bills ---- please go to www.saveblackwater.org or use the enclosed return envelope. Thanks!!

Historic Vote on ESA

Rahall Continues his support for “God’s Creation”

News from Endangered Species Coalition:

“Wednesday July 27th was a big day for wildlife. The U.S. House of Representatives voted on a measure introduced by Rep. Norm Dicks (D-WA) and co-sponsored by Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA) and Rep. Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI) to strip the 2012 Interior funding bill of the aptly named Extinction Rider. If left intact, that proposal would have devastated wildlife and drastically undermined the Endangered Species Act.

When the votes were counted, 224 Members of Congress voted to protect the Endangered Species Act. 202 voted to put hundreds of species such as Pacific walruses, wolverines and Rio Grande cutthroat trout on the fast-track to extinction.”

West Virginians are proud that Congressman Rahall voted against the Extinction Rider and continued his support for “Ginny” the West Virginia northern flying squirrel and our state’s other endangered and rare wildlife.
The original Fish and Wildlife Service Guidelines on Industrial Wind Turbine Siting related to wildlife were surprisingly good, although they did not have the force of law. We expressed our support and encouraged the Service to make the guidelines mandatory.

We were joined in our analysis by Save Western Maryland, Mountain Preservation Association (VA), Friends of the Allegheny Front (WV), Blue Ridge Mountain Defenders (VA), Virginia Forest Watch, Friends of Beautiful Pendleton (WV), Allegheny Highlands Alliance, Allegheny Front Alliance, Laurel Mountain Preservation Association (WV), Highlanders for Responsible Development (VA), Virginia Society of Ornithology Conservation Committee, Keepers of the Blue Ridge (NC), Mountain Ridge Protection Act Alliance (NC) and the Maryland Conservation Council.

Several months later, a new version of the guidelines was released. The guidelines had changed completely under pressure from the wind industry and their FACA Committee (Federal Advisory Committee Act). We commented on the problems in the new version, as did the American Bird Conservancy and many others. Shruti Shuresh, our legal representative, attended a DC meeting on the guidelines, pointing out that Fish and Wildlife has a duty to protect birds and bats from turbine deaths and is not doing so. We submitted another comment letter and remain very concerned.

Bird Conservancy’s Bird-Smart Wind Power Campaign

Second Oldest Alaskan Bald Eagle Killed by Power Line

The electrocution death on Kodiak Island, Alaska of the second oldest known Bald Eagle in the entire state – and perhaps one of the ten oldest ever recorded – highlights the threat large birds face from power lines. The risk comes in two forms: electrocution when a large bird comes into contact with two lines or a line and a pole simultaneously; and collisions with the hard-to-see lines. This issue is of particular concern as the nation looks to increase wind energy generation. To meet the 2030 goal for increased wind power, the nation will need to produce about 12 times more wind energy than in 2009, which will dramatically increase the number of power lines required to bring that electricity to the grid and the commensurate threat to birds such as the Bald Eagle. A band retrieved from the dead eagle confirmed that it was the second oldest on record in Alaska. It was first captured, in 1989, soon after the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The oldest known eagle in the United States was a 32-year-old Bald Eagle from Maine.

Dramatic Video Shows Bird Strike at Wind Turbine

In March, ABC showed TV news watchers in the Washington, D.C. area what it can look like when a large bird collides with a wind turbine. Our bird-smart wind power advertisement ran when federal decision makers were watching the news more than usual, waiting to hear if the federal government would shut down due to the budget fight between Congress and the President.

The dramatic video, provided to ABC courtesy of instantlyviral.com, was filmed in Crete by an American tourist in the area. It shows a Griffon Vulture striking a large, modern wind turbine, similar to those commonly in use in the United States. The bird suffered a broken wing and has been in rehab for over one year, still unable to fly. You can watch the ad at www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/110405.html.

For more info, contact Steve Holmer, Senior Policy Advisor, American Bird Conservancy 202-234-7181 ext. 216 sholmer@abcbirds.org
2011 North Fork Watershed Project Summer Work

The summer has been a busy one for the North Fork Watershed Project, full of trail building, acid mine drainage monitoring, brook trout restoration research, and public outreach.

The Project was able to bring on two summer AmeriCorps members, Nick Fiorini and Derek Napenas, to work on a brook trout restoration research project. The project builds on the work of last summer's Americorps member, Evan Supak, who is now supervising the research as a staff member. The research is assessing the acid loading and potential brook trout habitat in eight small tributaries to the Blackwater River. The data will be used to develop a liming and brook trout reintroduction project in conjunction with the WV Division of Natural Resources. The successful lime treatment and reintroduction of brookies in nearby Red Run serves a model of the results we hope to generate through this project. We have found that the study streams have breeding and holding habitat for brook trout, and if they are restored it would establish a high elevation brook trout population network based on protected public lands. This could become vital habitat for the brook trout, as threats from human development and climate change threaten the cold, clean water they need to survive.

Our summer trail building activities kicked off on June 5th, National Trail Day, and 18 volunteers came to continue building the Thomas City Park Trail System. Following hours of hard work, the volunteers and family members were rewarded with a cookout at the park’s riverfront picnic pavilion. National Trails Day, created by the National Hiking Society and other partners, is an annual day of trail work to celebrate our country’s trail systems and the people who work to maintain and expand it. The event also celebrated the North Fork Watershed Project as one of only eight organizations nationwide to receive a 2011 American Hiking Society National Trail Funds grant. In early July, we held another great community trail work day and cookout. Later in the month, North Fork VISTA Athey Lutz led the Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge’s Youth Conservation Corps on an AMD water monitoring field trip along the North Fork of the Blackwater, and in return the youth spent a day helping build the trails. In August, local Boy Scout Logan Lemon completed his Eagle Scout Project on the trails, organizing two work days to build a wooden bridge, culvert crossing and section of trail. Volunteers from the Boy Scouts and the North Fork Watershed Project braved the rain to complete the work and the results looked great. Work on the trails will continue until the snow stops us.

The North Fork Watershed Project office, next to Hypno Coffee in Davis, has been open to the public all summer. Staff has been busy handing out maps and historical brochures, talking about our work, and sharing our educational Google Earth projects on the public computer. North Fork Watershed Project staff also manned educational booths at the Cheat River Festival, Mountaineer Days in Thomas, and the Harpers Ferry Outdoor Festival, to spread the word about science, conservation, history and the important work Friends of Blackwater is doing.
The early explorers who ventured into this area in the mountains wrote about the pristine waters teeming with trout which "Jumped into the frying pan" (there were so many), and the forests thick with spruce, hemlock, cherry, maple, birch and other hardwoods. An early writer describes the spruce region as follows: At the time of the Civil War..., "there was not a stick amiss" in that region. It was one of the most impenetrable forests in the United States. The soil over most of it was composed of moss and humus often a foot, occasionally two feet thick.*

Davis, the highest incorporated town west of the Rockies, in the mountains of West Virginia, was originally developed by Henry Gassaway Davis, who purchased the land while working on the B&O railroad. The area was thickly covered in trees, so he hired "someone" to cut down all the trees and lay out the plans for the town which became Davis. During the earliest years you could go from stump to stump never touching the ground, which gave Davis the name “Stumptown”.

During the later part of the nineteenth century, Davis quickly became a busy industrial town, with a population of more than 3000 people. There were lumber mills, a tannery, a box company, a kindling factory, and other businesses related to the lumber industry, along with 40 miles of standard-gauge railroad and thousands of acres of timberland.

The first people in Davis were from Maine, Pennsylvania,
Michigan and New England - Swedes coming to work in late 1890’s. Some years later in the early 1900’s, Babcock Lumber changed their woods crews to foreign labor, mostly Austrian. The names of people reveal immigrants from almost every European country. Davis was truly a Metropolitan town, with two hotels, many boarding houses, opera houses, a theater, a post office, schools, saloons, stores, two banks and a hospital. Two dentists had offices and at least two doctors worked at the hospital.

Jobs included millwrights, sorters, yard bosses, foremen, paymasters, skidders, carpenters, edgers, masons, sawyers, setters, burners and firemen. The railroad employed wood crews, cranemen, firemen and engineers.

One descendant told of her family, originally from Slovenia, who lived in a wood camp where she was born. The woods crews numbered from 40 to 80 men, called woodhicks, who cut trees with a handsaw. When the trees were down the camp moved to another location taking their shanties with them. Water for washing was hauled from the creek and drinking water was carried from the springs. After six months of living in the camp a trip to town was a welcome diversion. Davis during the boom time was a bustling town with stores, company stores, theaters, rooming houses, hotels, restaurants, repair shops and saloons.

The growth of Davis peaked in 1919, and soon began to decline as the forests were stripped bare and the lumber companies began leaving. By 1929 the lumber industries were gone from Davis. But immigrants continued to arrive from countries already represented – Italy, Poland, Lithuania, Yugoslavia, Germany and Russia. Including a baker, tailor, shoemaker, stone mason, blacksmith, bootlegger, priest and railroad engineer. All were a part of the melting pot which was Davis in the West Virginia Highlands.

*Quote taken from Tumult in the Mountains, by Roy Clarkson.
**From Tumult in the Mountains, by Roy Clarkson
Other sources: Speak to the Past, a memoir by Margaret Calwell; Henry Gassaway Davis biography by Thomas Ross; Tucker County images compiled by Cindy Phillips; History of Tucker County by Fansler; Citizens of Davis and area – from oral history’s done in 2001 (most of the people interviewed are now deceased).
Mark Crabtree - Photographer Extraordinaire! Thanks for Your Help

Mark lives in Morgantown, W.Va. with his wife Kathy Fletcher. Mark has been a photographer for many years. After working for two West Virginia newspapers, MARK started his own photography business around 1980.

His work with historic photographs led to his specialization in panoramic work. Since 1983 Mark has earned his living with his rotating panoramic camera, a #10 Cirkut Camera made by Eastman Kodak in the early 30’s. (You can see them on the web at http://homepage.mac.com/crabtree/panoramic.htm and http://homepage.mac.com/crabtree/ribble.htm)

Now Mark has expanded his photographic interests to publishing on the web. His first effort is a photo story on Coalwood, W.Va. home of the Rocket Boys from the movie October Sky. (This project is viewable at http://homepage.mac.com/crabtree/coalwoodp1.htm)

Mark has a lot of other interests: morel hunting, mountain biking, kayak sailing (not the most practical hobby in W.Va.), and vintage motorcycles. (Then there is his true obsession with West Virginia old time fiddle music.)

The J.R. Clifford Project wants to thank Mark for his wonderful photos of the “New Home for Liberty” re-enactment in Morgantown last spring. The photos are viewable online at http://www.jrclifford.org/jrc_wvstatehood_04062011PHOTOS.html

Nora Sheridan joined Friends of Blackwater and the J.R. Clifford Project for the summer to put together several short videos—which range from a promotional clip about “A New Home for Liberty” to Fairytales about “Ginny” the West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel. Before she leaves, Nora will finish videos on the “S.O.S. Save our Squirrel Campaign”, the “J.R. Clifford Court Room Drama”, and “West Virginia’s High Allegheny National Park” Proposal. Nora is a Charleston native, but returns to Vermont this September where she will be a senior at Middlebury College, majoring in English and American literature with a concentration in creative writing. In Vermont, Nora enjoys snowboarding (badly) and playing Ultimate Frisbee (quite skillfully). The highlight of her summer was visiting Blackwater Falls State Park, where she was treated to a close-up of a black bear cub. Watch the video on our website!

Nora Sheridan - Summer Videographer

“A New Home for Liberty”
Human Rights, Slavery, & the Creation of West Virginia

Tuesday October 18, 2011
Charleston Civic Center Little Theater

Panel Discussion with Historians
6:00 - 7:00 PM in Parlor B
Living History Program
7:30 - 8:45 PM in the Little Theater
Doors open at 7:10 PM
Free Admission, Reception to Follow

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2011
Summit Conference Center
“The Real Meaning of West Virginia”
Continuing Legal Education & History Program & Luncheon
11:00 AM - 12:45 PM

For more information please contact Ainece Duncan at 304-345-7663 or via email at admin@jrclifford.org
The newly-formed Working Group on Gas Drilling in Eastern National Forests met in Canaan Valley, West Virginia on July 23, 2010. Groups represented at the meeting were The Wilderness Society, Friends of Blackwater, WV Trout Unlimited Mountaineer Chapter, Virginia Forest Watch, Allegheny Defense Project, Southern Environmental Law Center, Heartwood, and Wild Virginia. Discussion centered around the growing impact of Marcellus Shale Gas drilling on public lands, and how to meet this challenge. The three National Forests represented -- the Allegheny in PA, the Monongahela in WV, and the George Washington in VA -- all have large reserves of gas under the Forest land, but most of the activity at the moment is in the Allegheny. With 93% of the gas under the Allegheny privately owned, remedies to regulate drilling on this Forest are limited.

The Working Group will create a “Citizen’s Guide to Gas Drilling on National Forests;” and will research strategies for responding to a wide range of threatened negative effects of gas drilling on these important public lands; and will recruit more organizations to take part in the Working Group. Thanks to Cathy Pedler, Ernie Reed, Mary Krueger, Aaron Terr, Sherman Bamford, and Randy Kesling for attending this meeting in person -- and to Ray Vaughan, Esq. and Tammy Belinsky, Esq. for attending by phone. Judy Rodd of Friends of Blackwater is the Working Group Co-ordinator. Send your National Forest gas drilling news and concerns to them at info@saveblackwater.org
Who helped, how many:

Thanks to the many volunteers who made this great win possible!! The top letter getter was Genevieve Heatwole from Romney with 237 letters!!! She was followed by Frank and Judy O’Hara with 137. Others who sent in bundles of letters were Idress Gooden, Pat Munoz, Jerry Payne, Roberta Allison, Mary Elizabeth Woodward, Peggy J. Allman, Kathryn Stone, Joan Eads, Sharon Tebben, Clark Allison, Laura Clark, Caroline Charonko, Claudia Spohnholtz, Sam McCormick, Joshua Sukenick and David Shumate. Many others spread the word and got folks to send in automated letters from our website. Special thanks to Larry Thomas, Dave Umling and Sue Miles for this outreach.

We owe a Special “Thank” You to Senator Joe Manchin for moving this project forward in Washington. Please call his office and leave a thank you message! 202-224-3954.

Senator Manchin has repeatedly shown that he understands the national significance of West Virginia’s High Allegheny region. That’s why he is going to bat for this important National Park Project!

Thanks Senator from all of us here at Friends of Blackwater!

Please continue to send letters to the Senator in support of the Park. We still will need a Special Resources Study passed by Congress and an Authorizing Bill in Congress to get the Park created. Our Goal is High Allegheny National Park by 2013!! In time for West Virginia’s 150 Birthday!!

Go to our website to send an automated letter: www.saveblackwater.org

Call us and we will send you form letter to get signed: 304-345-7663
Thank You, John Davis!

A Man On a Conservation Mission, Trekking the High Alleghenies for National Parks and Protecting and Connecting Wild Lands

John Davis is a “tri-athlete meets John Muir” and co-founder of the Wildlands Network. He is also a lifelong wildlands advocate, conservationist, writer and explorer. His inspiration for TrekEast came while rowing and hiking with his friend, Bill McKibben—the renowned author of The End of Nature—on another regional wildways journey that resulted in McKibben’s book, Wandering Home.

Other inspiration came from editing Dave Foreman’s Rewilding North America, as well as from his mother, the late Mary Byrd Davis, who completed the most comprehensive inventory of remaining Eastern Old-Growth Forest to date.

John’s dream of a trek across the continent was refined as he talked and walked with other friends and colleagues, many of them writers for the journal Wild Earth, which he co-edited from its founding in 1991 until 1996.

John visited the Blackwater Canyon and our office in Davis on July... and discussed High Allegheny National Park. He spent a week in the Highlands exploring Dolly Sods, Canaan Valley, Spruce Knob and Seneca Rocks and created videos of his West Virginia trip which are posted on You Tube, Wildlandsnetwork.org/Trekeastblog and our website.

Folks in the Washington, D.C. Area: Please join us for an evening of music, food and wine, to help preserve and protect West Virginia’s Scenic Highlands with a National Park that includes our “Crown Jewel” - The Blackwater Canyon!

**The Potomac Boat Club**

3530 Water Street  
(beneath K Street Freeway), Georgetown, DC  
Thursday, Oct. 20, 2011  
from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

**Special Honored Guests**

**Senator Joe Manchin, Ill**  
Former Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt

**Hosts**  
Rafe and Lenore Pomerance  
Emily Schoenbaum

**Co-hosts**  
Carroll & Donna Cook  
Tom & Judy Rodd  
Eric Glitzenstein & Katherine Meyer  
Chuck & Kim Smithe  
Phillip & Karin Nelson

Please RSVP  
Phone: 877-WVA-LAND (877-982-5263)  
E-mail: info@saveblackwater.org

Suggested Donations: $75 per person/$125 per couple*  
Sponsorship Levels: $125 (4 tickets), $250 (6 tickets), $500 (8 tickets), $1000 (10 tickets)*
STOP THE APPEAL!
SAVE OUR SQUIRREL!

DONATE

☐ 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
www.saveblackwater.org outreach@saveblackwater.org

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

JOIN THE HIGH ALLEGHENY NATIONAL PARK CAMPAIGN

Volunteer Online at www.saveblackwater.org or call us at 877-WVA-LAND (877-982-5263)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Urgent! Letter from Ginny 2
Little Brown Bats: Update 2
Government Appeals Ginny’s Protections 3
Historic Vote on ESA 3
FOB Comments on Wind Guidelines 4
Update on ABC’s Bird-Smart Wind Campaign 4
2011 North Fork Watershed Project Summer Work 5
Davis, WV - The Lumber Town 6-7
Mark Crabtree - Photographer Extraordinaire 8
Nora Sheridan - Summer Videographer 8
Working Group on Gas Drilling in National Forests Formed 9
Your Letters Did It! Manchin Takes Action on Park Study 10
About John Davis 11
Upcoming Events 11