

Friends of Blackwater



Photo credit: Steve Shaluta

Working to protect West Virginia's High Alleghenies, Blackwater River & Blackwater Canyon.

PO Box 247 - Thomas, WV 26292 - phone: 304-345-7663 - <https://saveblackwater.org> - info@saveblackwater.org

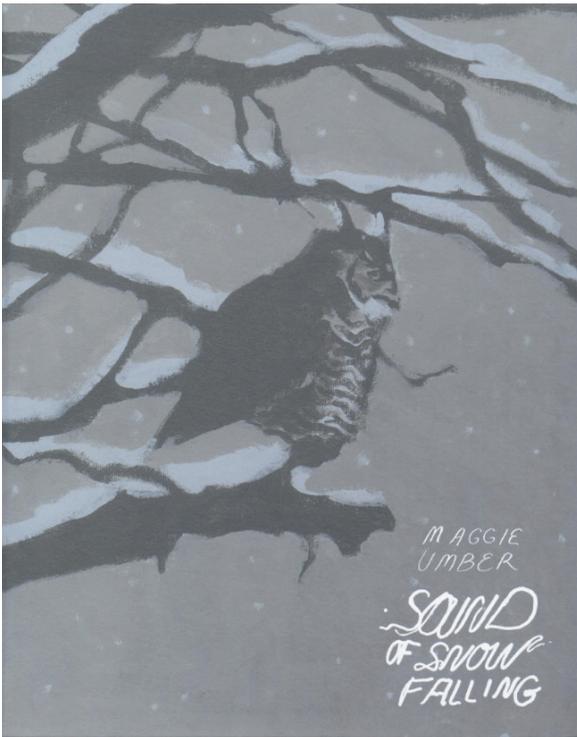
Book Review: Sound of Snow Falling



Maggie Umber

"Sound of Snow Falling", a graphic novel by Maggie Umber, is a unique take on the life of winter wildlife. With simple but

moving paintings, the story follows a pair of great horned owls bringing up three chicks. By carefully sticking to cool dark colors, the book attempts to take readers inside the owl's perspective, capturing the muffled feeling and muted light of a snowy evening.



Candy Darter listed as Endangered

The candy darter, a small colorful fish found only in West Virginia, has been added to the Endangered Species list by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The candy darter gets its name from its bright red stripes, and is found in the Bluestone, Greenbrier, Gauley and New Rivers. It was first documented in 1931 in Pocahontas County.

Sedimentation, increasing water temperatures, habitat fragmentation and other environmental factors have contributed to the decline in candy darter population, although hybridization with the variegate darter is usually identified as the leading threat. This listing will create a larger mandate to protect the candy darter's habitat, including controlling activities that contribute to erosion and sedimentation in the area surrounding occupied waterways.

This could impact the proposed Big Rock timber project on the Monongahela National Forest, which includes timbering in a watershed occupied by the candy darter. Friends of Blackwater has submitted comments on this project highlighting the potential negative impact of erosion and sedimentation, and we will be interested to see what impact the listing decision will have on the Forest Service's decision making process.

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) is already making plans to protect the candy darter. A proposed change to DNR



Candy Darter

regulations would ban anglers from collecting or using bait fish in waters considered important habitat for the candy darter, to prevent the introduction of variegate darters. Anglers would still be able to use non-fish live bait.

Affected waters would include the upper Greenbrier River watershed, from the confluence of the East and West forks upstream into all the tributaries; the Gauley River watershed upstream from the Curtin bridge, including the Cherry, Cranberry, Williams and upper Gauley rivers and all their tributaries; and the Camp Creek and Manns Creek watersheds in southern West Virginia.

DNR officials will no longer stock brown trout in those streams, because brown trout have been known to feed on candy darters. Other trout species will still be stocked.

Congrats to our friends at the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, who were part of the petition to list the candy darter, along with Appalachian Voices and the Center for Biological Diversity.

On the Cover: Owls

Barred owls, like the one on our cover, lay their eggs in spring. Barred owls are cavity nesters, usually making their nest 20 to 40 feet above the ground in a large tree. They typically lay 2 to 4 eggs, which will hatch about 4 weeks later. After the chicks have hatched, it will take them 4 or 5 weeks to be ready to leave the nest. Like many animals, barred owls favor unfragmented blocks of mature forest, which provide cavities for nesting and a diversity of prey.

Winter Film Festival

Thank you to everyone who attended our 2019 Winter Film Festival! There was more snow in the films than outside on the evening of February 7th, but we still had a great time. In addition to the film screening, we had live music by Tom Rodd, an update on our programs from Judy Rodd, and an auction of items donated by local businesses.

Thank you to Whitegrass Ski Touring for hosting the event again this year, and thank you to everyone who donated to the auction: Lori Haldeman, Deb McHenry, Scott Meyer, Seth Pitt, Samantha Stumpf, and Purple Lizard Maps.



Film festival at Whitegrass

Holiday Reception

Thank you to everyone who attended our holiday reception on December 14th! It was a great evening, with live music and lots of fun. The Buxton and Landstreet Gallery was a festive venue, and we would like to thank the Vandalia Heritage Foundation for partnering with us on this event.

We also had the chance to present Ashton Berdine of the West Virginia Land Trust with an award for his work on purchasing the Yellow Creek Preserve. Friends of Blackwater has been a long-time advocate of this purchase, which will protect beloved recreation areas like Moon Rocks in Tucker County. We have stayed engaged with this project behind this scenes, and were excited to see the Land Trust's hard work paying off.



Ashton Berdine receives award

History Day

On February 21st, Friends of Blackwater participated in History Day at the West Virginia legislature. In honor of Black History Month, we highlighted our J.R. Clifford Project and the history of civil rights in West Virginia. It was great to meet with so many history enthusiasts, and we gave out many copies of our J.R. Clifford coloring book and posters.



History Day at the capitol

Join us for these fun events!

March 14th: West Virginia Scenic Trails Association meeting, March 14th, 6:00 p.m. at the DNR office in Elkins. More information available on <https://www.wvscenictrails.org/>

March 23rd: Help Friends of Blackwater with trail work! We are partnering with the WVU Soil Science Club for a trail day, and welcome additional volunteers. For more details, email ian@saveblackwater.org

March 26th and 27th: Mine Drainage Symposium in Morgantown, at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel. There will be a presentation on Friends of Blackwater's North Fork Project on the morning of the 27th. Full schedule at <https://wvmdtaskforce.com/symposium-program/>

April 28th: Canaan Valley Half Marathon. Friends of Blackwater will have a table at this exciting new event. More info at <https://www.canaanvalleyhalfmarathon.com/>

May 3rd and 4th: Cheat Fest. Friends of Blackwater will have a table at Friends of the Cheat's annual celebration, taking place along the Cheat River in Albright. More info at <http://cheatfest.org/>

May 9th to 12th: Wildflower Weekend at Blackwater Falls State Park. Check out tours and workshops, or just enjoy the spring blooms. More information at <https://wvstateparks.com/event/annual-wildflower-pilgrimage/>

May 25th and 26th: Artspring. Friends of Blackwater is planning a history tour as part of the city of Thomas' Artspring celebration. Details are still being decided, so more information will be coming via email and social media.

June 15th: Canaan Mountain Bike Festival. There will be a variety of guided bike rides available this weekend, including one by Friends of Blackwater. Stay tuned for more details.

March 2019

Not in Our Canyon Campaign: Pumped Storage Project

Thank you to the *more than one thousand people* who submitted comments to FERC objecting to the dangerous proposal to build a massive "pumped storage" complex of reservoirs, transmission lines, and tunnels adjacent to the Blackwater Canyon.

Just before this issue went to print, we found out that the Monongahela National Forest has rejected the study permit for this project, which would have allowed core drilling, collection of samples, and other survey activity on the Forest. The Forest Service found that these activities were not consistent with Forest Service standards and guidelines, citing Big Run Bog (a National Natural Landmark) as a particular area of concern.

On these pages we have listed numerous concerns about this project, but we are now hopeful that many of these negative impacts may never come to pass. Thank you to everyone who has spoken out about this proposal. You can find more resources, including the rejection letter from the Forest Service, on our website at <https://saveblackwater.org/pumped-storage-project/>

Negative Fishing Impacts: The proposal would dewater miles of streams, including Mill Run, a high-quality brook trout stream. The WV Division of Natural Resources states that the lower reservoir would "reduce the flow within Mill Run to a point where a viable trout fishery cannot exist". The construction process could also harm Wolf Run and Dry Run, two other native brook trout streams in the area.

Public Access Impacts: This project would result in the loss of between 1,061 and 1,200 acres of National Forest land. The Forest Service states in their comments that this loss of land "would likely have adverse effects on vegetation diversity, wildlife habitat, streams, and fish and wildlife species". This land would also no longer be available to visitors for hiking, hunting and other forms of outdoor recreation.



Photograph of Mill Run, provided by Joe Dumire, and brook trout from USFWS (inset)



Volunteers help Friends of Blackwater improve Canyon Rim trail, near the proposed site of the upper reservoir.

Rare wildlife: The project would be located within the range of the federally listed Virginia big-eared bat, Indiana bat, and Cheat Mountain Salamander, as well as within the range of the WV Northern Flying Squirrel protected on the Monongahela National Forest. These sensitive species will be impacted by the project.



Flying Squirrel, Cheat Mountain Salamander, Virginia big-eared bat

Threatens Public Lands and Natural Resources



View from Lindy Point



View from Blackwater Falls State Park,



Big Run Bog

The Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation has found evidence of mining in the Finley and Tub Run watersheds. The Upper Freeport Coal Seam drops from an elevation of roughly 800 feet at Finley Run to 600 feet at Long Run. It is reasonable to assume that the mine workings lie within this footprint. As the above image shows, the proposed siting for the upper reservoir is in extremely close proximity – possible directly over/within – the footprint of these undocumented workings. At a minimum this presents significant engineering and cost challenges that could make the project untenable. Furthermore, placing nearly 40 billion gallons of water within the footprint of these unstable earthworks – which are known to be linked to acid mine drainage formation – opens up the possibility for even greater ecological degradation and human safety risks from flooding down gradient.

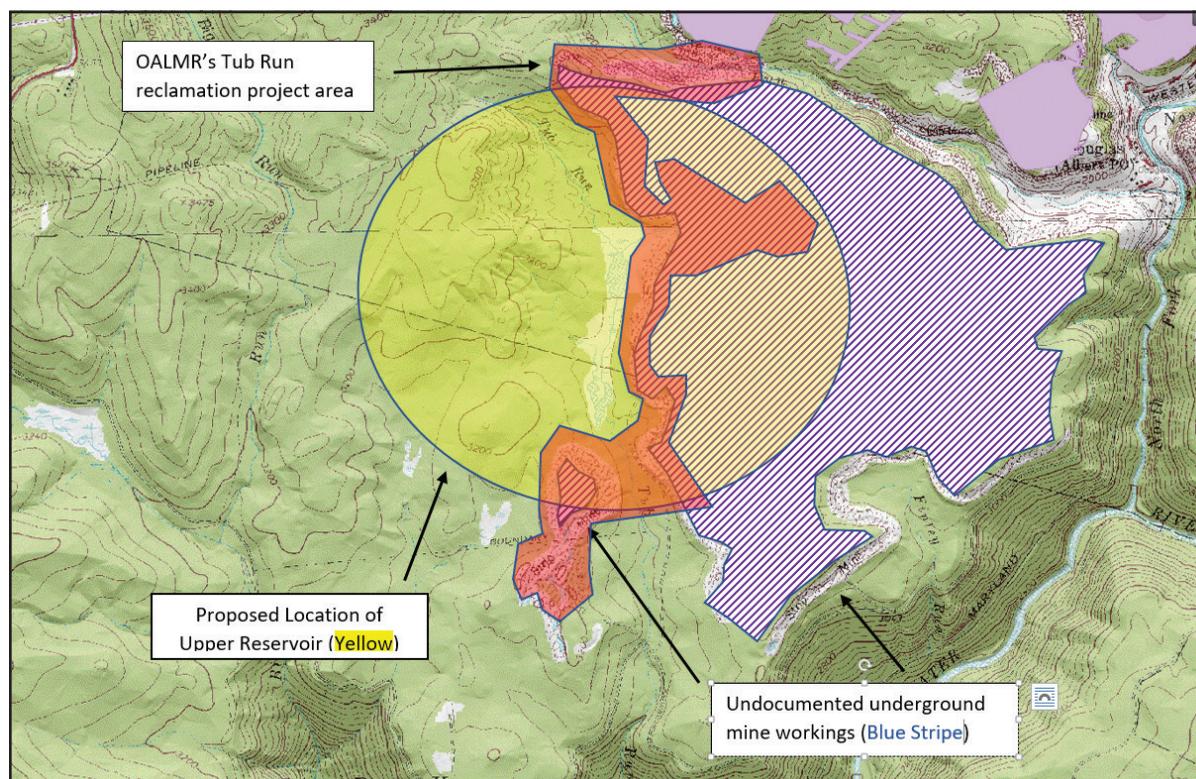
Impacts to Scenic Views: Initial viewshed analysis from WVU indicated that the upper reservoir could be visible from overlooks in Blackwater Falls State Park, including Lindy Point, as well as from the Olson Fire Tower. A highly visible industrial facility will alter the scenic appeal of the area.

National Park Service Protected Area: The Big Run Bog is a designated National Natural Landmark, known for its unique ecosystem and rare species. This project would involve running pipes that are 12 feet in diameter and filled with pressurized water under the bog. There are too many unknown factors at this point to say what effect this could have on the delicate ecosystem of Big Run Bog.

Negative Impacts to the Cheat River: Filling the reservoirs will require well over 36 billion gallons of water, which will likely be taken from the Cheat River. The WV Division of Natural Resources stated in their comments that “such a large withdrawal of water would threaten the stability of an already stressed watershed”. Water loss due to evaporation means that even once the facility is in operation it would still need additional water. The developer has indicated that this additional water would be drawn from wells, but has not yet provided details on well locations or expected volume.

Acid Mine Drainage Pollution and Flooding: Friends of Blackwater has been monitoring water quality in the North Fork of the Blackwater River for 17 years, and we are now in the early stages of a project to remediate acid mine drainage that has severely impaired the lower portion of the North Fork.

The proposed upper reservoir appears to be located so that it will be at least partly built on land that has been subject to both subsurface and surface mining. Not all of the mine tunnels in this area have been mapped, but we do know that the tunnels in the Coketon area have filled with acid mine drainage. This raises significant concerns about the structural integrity of the area. In addition, construction work may disturb contaminated materials that were capped as part of a reclamation project conducted by the WV DEP in the Tub Run drainage.



Growing up with Grandpa in Thomas: Stories from Stuart Thayer

Friends of Blackwater is working on a new set of historical markers, including at the Sunrise Sanitation site, which was once home to a coal mine, tippie, machine shop, and power plant. As part of our historic research, we got to hear some family stories from Stuart Thayer, the owner and founder of the Sunrise Sanitation.



A view of the town of Thomas. You can see the power plant that used to be on what is now Sunrise Sanitation.

Stuart Thayer's childhood was spent in a duplex behind the Buxton Landstreet Company Store in Thomas WV. His grandparents lived on one side of the house and he his parents and sisters lived on the other.



Blaz Pausek, with the Buxton and Landstreet building and the Davis Coal and Coke administrative building in the background.

His grandfather Blaz Pausek was a coal miner, who has born in Yugoslavia in 1886. After coming to America, Blaz first went to work in the timber industry in North Carolina, where he heard about the existing immigrant communities and coal mines of West Virginia. He moved to Thomas, and worked in the mines for 40 years.

Yugoslavian was just one of 17 nationalities in Thomas, and on some streets you might not even know English was the national language. Blaz did not let his children speak Yugoslavian outside the house, because he wanted them to be fully American, and he placed a small American flag on the porch every morning. To honor his grandfather, Thayer now has the biggest American flag in Tucker County flying at his Sunrise Sanitation site.



Grandpa and Grandma Pausek



Blaz and Stuart



Flag at Sunrise Sanitation

Music was an important cultural touchstone for many groups in Thomas, and you could often hear music from the town orchestra or small bands rehearsing up in the flats. Another old country tradition was wine-making, and the batches in progress were kept in the basement, leading to an early mishap. When Thayer was 5 he went down to his grandfather's basement and drank some of the "grape juice", falling asleep and worrying his family, who were searching for him.

From the 1880s to the 1950s, coal was extracted from numerous deep mines in and around Thomas. In the days before mechanization, the work was done with pick and shovel, and the coal hauled out by mules. Grandpa Pausek did this kind of work. Sometimes the tunnels were so low that the



Young Stuart

An early mine that began on what is today the Sunrise Sanitation site was dug back into the hill, running towards the town of Davis, and another mine near the site had a main shaft that went down 200 feet. 300 men would have worked in the area of the Sunrise Sanitation site when the mines were active, and a tippie carried coal straight down to the railroad tracks next to the North Fork. Some mines in the area ran from Thomas to the area of the landfill between Thomas and Davis, and continued on past Pendleton Run. Slag and rock from mines was sent across the North Fork on a trestle and dumped on the opposite bank.

Mining was difficult, sometimes dangerous work. Outside of disasters like the Thomas Number 25 mine explosion in 1907, there were still many lesser occupational injuries for workers to worry about and Grandpa received many injuries. Workers compensation is a relatively modern innovation, and miners who were unable to work due to illness or injury simply didn't get paid in the early days. Blaz was lucky enough to make a deal with a fellow worker and get on the day shift, which allowed him to care for his children in the evenings and help his wife, who was ill.

Payday meant going to the Davis Coal and Coke Company Engineering Building across from the company store which was defended by armed guards, with a machine gun at the third floor window. Miners from outlying communities like Pierce, Benbush

miners couldn't stand up to work. Miners used blasting caps to loosen the coal, and sometimes kept the blasting caps near their own homes. Rats were fed part of the miners' lunches underground. They acted like "the canary in the coal mine". Rats sensing gas that could lead to an explosion left the tunnels followed by the miners if they had time.

and Douglas would all take to the passenger train to the Thomas Depot (actually located at Coketon) to go to the company headquarters, or shop at the nearby Buxton and Landstreet flagship store. The Buxton and Landstreet Company was a subsidiary of Davis Coal and Coke, and sold everything from groceries and clothing to furniture and tools.

The company duplexes where most workers lived were not always well-maintained. Stuart remembers holes in the roof and the cold wind blowing through the house. Before modern safety regulations, there was a lot of trouble for a kid to get into in Thomas. As the mines gradually shut down, children explored abandoned mines and even went swimming in water that pooled in the mine openings. While the trains were still running, Stuart would hitch a ride from friendly engineers, going up the Francis grade to mines above the North Fork and then back to the company store.

Grandpa was Stuart Thayer's role model for life who inspired him to go to college and to start his business. Sunrise Sanitation has now operated for 40 years and serves seven counties in West Virginia and Maryland, with six recycling centers in Tucker and Grant Counties.



Engineering Building



An example of the type of train that would likely have been seen near Thomas



A coal mine opening near Thomas



Stuart in High School

March 2019

Land and Water Conservation Fund

On February 26th, the United States House passed a comprehensive public lands bill that included permanent authorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The bill also included an official designation of the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area in West Virginia. The Senate had passed the same bill on February 12th.

All of West Virginia's congressional delegation supported the bill, which had broad, bipartisan support. Thank you to West Virginia's Senators and Representatives for supporting public lands! In the Senate, it passed 92 to 8, while in the House it passed 363 to 62. The bill now only needs the president's signature to become law.

Friends of Blackwater has been keeping a close eye on LWCF reauthorization, including updates on it in some of our emails, and posting about it on social media nearly a dozen times last year. We also work as part of the West Virginians for Public Lands coalition, and successfully got the town of Davis to send a letter in support of LWCF to the West Virginia congressional delegation. Thank you to all our members who were engaged on this issue and help support our work!

This is a massive bill with many different provisions, most of which are beneficial, and permanent authorization of LWCF is a big part of those benefits. West Virginia has received \$241 million from LWCF so far, for over 500 projects in 54 of our 55 counties. The connector trail from the town of Davis to Blackwater Falls State Park was purchased with LWCF funds, and a large part of the funding for the Davis boulder park came from LWCF.

Even after reauthorization, additional legislation will be needed to ensure that LWCF receives adequate funding and can continue to support outdoor recreation for future generations. Over the years, funds from LWCF have gotten diverted to non-conservation projects, and only once in 50 years has the full allocation gone to conservation and recreation projects.

Following the vote, a spokesman for the LWCF coalition said "Today's vote is a major win for conservation. LWCF's funding continues to be low and erratic, creating uncertainty for landowners, stakeholders and community partners that rely on LWCF for multi-phase, highly leveraged projects. Our fight will not be over until LWCF gets permanent, full and dedicated funding." Friends of Blackwater will support bills that can guarantee full, dedicated funding to LWCF, and will share opportunities to get involved.



Blackwater Falls State Park



State Legislature Update

We have been watching the West Virginia legislature closely for bills related to public lands and outdoor recreation. Here is a recap of a few key bills and where they stand as we near the end of the legislative session.

FOB Continues to Work on Responsible State Park Funding

We worked throughout the session to try to provide additional funds for state parks by dedicating a small percentage of the revenue from the new internet sales tax to parks. After last year's fight over logging in state parks, it became clear that the park system was facing a serious maintenance backlog, and we thought that additional funds might prevent the legislature from proposing more misguided "solutions", like timbering or entrance fees. Despite our best efforts, it doesn't look like this solution will be implemented this year. However, by next year there will be better information on the impact of the new internet sales tax, and we will be able to make a more informed proposal. We will keep working to protect and responsibly fund state parks!

Off-Road Vehicle Bill Hits a Roadblock

SB676 was a surprise bill, originating in the Natural Resources committee late in the session. This broadly worded bill directed the Division of Natural Resources to assess roads and trails on West Virginia's public lands and determine which would be suitable for off-road vehicle (ORV) use, as well as creating a fund for improvements to the ORV-compatible roads and trails. There were many unanswered questions on the bill related to cost and scope, and very little time for debate in committee. However, when the bill went to the general Senate, Senators Beach (D-Monongalia) and Hardesty (D-Logan) offered a sweeping amendment that removed most of the bill, leaving just improvements to mapping of roads and trails. Senators Woelfel (D-Cabell) and Hamilton (R-Upshur) also spoke on behalf of the amendment, which was adopted 18 to 15. This bill has now passed both the Senate and House without any additional substantive changes.

Multiple Trail Bills Proposed

HB2420 and SB317 were two bills this session proposing slightly different approaches to accomplishing the same goal – authorizing and setting up a structure for multi-county trail networks in West Virginia. We were initially most excited about HB2420, which specifically targeted our part of the state, and expressed the hope of connecting trails in northeastern West Virginia to national trail corridors like the Great Allegheny Passage. However, as things turned out it was SB317, a more generic bill authorizing any 3 adjacent counties to form a trail network and governing structure, that was moving faster. As a compromise, SB317 was amended to incorporate some of the more specific goals from HB2420, and is on track to easily pass by the end of the session.

Progress Continues on New Mine Drainage Treatment System for North Fork

When our engineering team temporarily drained the old Wetland Anoxic Limestone Drain (WALD) system that was designed to improve water quality on the North Fork of the Blackwater River, they got some good news.

The overwhelming majority of the existing limestone is in excellent condition and there appears to be no problem in recycling it to use in a more modern replacement treatment system, saving both time and money while reducing waste. With any luck we may even have some extra limestone that can be used to repair the potholes along the rail-trail!

Friends of Blackwater will be working with the US Forest Service and our contracted engineers to finalize the design of the replacement system over the remainder of the spring. As an added bonus, Bob Hedin – lead designer of the new system – has been invited to present our project at the WV Mine Drainage Task Force conference in Morgantown on March 26th and 27th. Hopefully, the extra spotlight will bring some added attention to the restoration work being done on the North Fork and the importance bringing it back to life. Thank you to all the FOB supporters who enable this important work!



Limestone from the old WALD

FOB to Train Students in Water Monitoring

Friends of Blackwater is combining a grant from The North Face® and another from the WV Department of Environmental Protection to install a series of automated water quality monitors with help from students and volunteers.

Automated monitoring systems have significant advantages over more traditional sampling methods. These systems combine one or more sensors, a data recorder – commonly referred to as a datalogger – and, when possible, a cellular or radio transmitter to remotely collect water quality on a near continuous basis. The main issue with these systems has been cost with complicated systems costing upwards of \$10K per site... until recently that is.

Stroud Water Research Institute has developed a DIY datalogger called the Mayfly. Magnitudes cheaper than traditional proprietary dataloggers, the Mayfly is a user-programmable micro-processor board that is compatible with the popular Arduino® IDE software used by DIY electronics hobbyists. Al-

though some programming effort is required of the user, this will allow us to build a sensor station for less than \$1,000 and expand upon its capabilities as needed over time. We are excited to be implementing this state-of-the-art technology on the Blackwater, and we will update you as our work progresses.

For now, we'll be connecting a CDT (conductivity, depth, temperature) sensor to each Mayfly and are looking into the possibility of adding a pH sensor as well. These systems will be used to monitor Beaver Creek and the North Fork of the Blackwater River, as well as our restoration projects as we build and design

them.

Friends of Blackwater will be partnering with local high school and college groups over the spring to program and construct the first set of monitoring stations for deployment this summer. If you are interested in learning more or helping install the stations over the summer months, contact our project manager at ian@saveblackwater.org.



Update on the Beaver Creek Watershed Based Plan

After 18 months of development, with more than a dozen partners, Friends of Blackwater has completed its first-time ever Watershed Based Plan for Beaver Creek. Now we will wait for comments from the regional EPA office for final approval. While some changes are expected, we hope to move forward with the restoration strategy laid out in the Plan as early as this fall. In the meantime, you can find a copy of the current Watershed Based Plan on the Friends of Blackwater website for your reading pleasure and comment. Thanks to FOB staffer Ian Smith for his many hours in creating this important document, and to FOB supporters who made it possible.

J.R. Clifford Website Relaunch

We have just completed our update of the J.R. Clifford project website. The new site will be a much more useful tool for celebrating West Virginia's civil rights history. We've fixed the broken links, updated the look, and made changes "behind the scenes" so we can grow the site in the future. We hope you enjoy the new version of the site, which you can visit here. A big thank you goes to Kelly Mears, who worked with us on the site rebuild. Any feedback on the site's new look should go to [Kate Leary \(kate@saveblackwater.org\)](mailto:kate@saveblackwater.org).

Thank you for your support!

Student: \$1 to \$19

Adele Cole
Ann Wakeford
Barbara and Albert Yandek
Christian Bonaffon
David Callahan
Diana Masso
Don Spencer
Elaine Sapp
H. John Rogers
Joe and Mary Balassone
Joseph Martin
Karen and Steven Ervin
Karen Ahn
Kelly Bowyer
Kyle Hetzer
Les Wright
Lori Haldeman
Maria Startari-Stegall
Mark Giese
Paul Breitenbach
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Teresa McGonigle
Thomas Corrigan
Tom Prall
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Kaila St. Louis
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Linda Reeves
Liz Leshin
Lois Ludwig
Lydia Garvey
Margaret Trott
Mark D. Leeson

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Stadler
Marvin and Jane Parsons
Mary Alice and Gerry Milnes
Mary Monge and Steven
Miracle
Mary Quattro
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Schmotzer
Michael R. McCauley
Michael Webb
Mimi Kibler and Alain Kieny
Nancy Spillane
Nathaniel Miller
Nicholas Winowich
Pat Graybeal and Bert Lustig
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Philip and Evelyn Petry
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Rebecca Park
Robert and Janice Hardman
Robert Paviour Jr.
Ronald Wilson
Rose Marie Riter
Sally Egan
Samuel J. Burchfield
Sandra Knowles
Sargent Cheever
Sharon Durr
Stephen L. and Susan Wellons
Susan S. Sailer and Tom Miles
Terri Sabo
Thomas and Jim Strobe
Virginia L. Winston
Waino Tuominen
William G. Wegener
William Moore
Woody Naas

Ed Zahniser and Christine
Deuwel
Elizabeth M. Read
Ernest McDougal
Helen and Lejay Graffious
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Michaela Oldfield
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Paul Sheridan and Kathleen
Fitzgerald
Robert and Mary Lu Latane
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Charles and Kathryn Conrad
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Charles Yoho
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Jane Seegar
Janice Hall
Jean Bray
Jean Evansmore
Jeb Booth and Simon Lollis
Jim and Melinda Schmitt
Jo Weisbrod
John and Roberta Overholt

Senior: \$20 to \$34

Adam Webster and Kendra
Hatcher
Alan Dolan
Allison Love
Ann Martin
Barbara Howe
Barry and Sassi Harel
Benton Lee Grimm
Betsy Bassan
Betty W. Hall
Bob and Joy Markley
Bonni McKeown
Carol Jackson
Carol Nix
Cathy Dennler
Charles Karnack
Charlotte Lowe
Craig Sease
Cynthia and David Ellis
Darlene Thompson
David and Alcinda Santonas
David D. Maxwell
David Downs

Individual: \$35 to \$49

Alan and Carol Kuhlman
Alan Rudley
Barbara Tedford
Betty Justice
Betty Schwimmer
Charles Heller
Colleen Leyrer
Denise L. Ferguson
Diana Niskern
Donna Green and Wayde
Vickrey

Family: \$50 to \$99

Abe and Pat Levy
Al and Barbara Deynzer
Alice and Bruce Parker
Alice Young
Allen and Karin Altman
Alyssa Hanna
Ann and John Palaitis
April and Jeff Crowe
Barbara Wolfert

Thank you for your support!

March 2019

John and Barbara Haynes
John Kovacs
John R. Magan
Jon and Donna Weems
Joseph Vitunic
Joshua Barrett
Josie Merritt
Juliana Serafin and Albert Liu
Katharine Gregg
Katherine Payne
Kathi and Mac Mestayer
Kathryn Stone
Kathy Warren
Kent and Rosalyn Hedman
Kent Parker
Laura Schmidt
Lawrence Smith
Leslie and Joni Grady
Linda and David Davidson
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March 2019



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BREAKING NEWS: MONOGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST REJECTS STUDY PERMIT FOR PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT

Big Attendance for FOB Climate Conference



Tom Rodd and keynote speaker Emily Calandrelli

On December 1, 2018, more than 200 people “packed the courtroom” at the West Virginia University College of Law in Morgantown for Friends of Blackwater’s fourth major conference on climate change issues. The keynote speaker was Emily Calandrelli, “the Space Gal,” a Morgantown native who is both an MIT-trained astrophysicist and an Emmy-award-nominated TV science presenter.

It was exciting and inspiring to see so many people spend a Saturday engaging with top scientists to better understand the climate crisis and its solutions. Thanks to all the FOB supporters who made this event possible – and especially to the Appalachian Stewardship Foundation and the College of Law’s Center on Energy and Sustainability.

It has been an honor for FOB to work with many distinguished scientists and educators to help raise public awareness of the climate challenge. Because this issue is not going away, FOB has

just founded a new “West Virginia Center on Climate Change,” headquartered in Morgantown, to expand this vital educational effort. Logan Thorne, who co-ordinated the Morgantown conference, will direct the Center.

We are very grateful to everyone who attended our conferences, and to all our other supporters who participate in our campaigns – it’s you who make this work a success. If you want to keep the momentum going and contribute financially, mark “climate change” on your extra donation -- and it will be matched by an anonymous donor!

And watch this space for news in the coming year of more climate change programs. We can do this!



*FOB wishes
Man Forest
Supervisor Clyde
Thompson best of luck
on his retirement.*