

Friends of Blackwater Canyon

March 2005

501 Elizabeth Street Room 3, Charleston, WV 25311 • 304-345-7663 • www.saveblackwater.org • info@saveblackwater.org

Crocus Blooms: West Virginia Legislature To Consider National Park Resolution

Every year, like clockwork, we encounter the early signs of Spring – the tiny, colorful blossoms of crocuses, the delicate catkins of the hazel nut, and the exotic song of the woodcocks

This year, there's another "sign of Spring" – the West Virginia Legislature, which opened its 2005 session in early February.



Senator John Yoder

For lovers of the Blackwater Canyon, 2005's West Virginia



Senator Brooks McCabe

Legislative session includes one very positive development – a resolution authored by Senator John Yoder of the Eastern Panhandle, calling for a study of a new National Park for the High Allegheny

Region – including the Blackwater Canyon area! **Senate Concurrent Resolution 38** is also co-sponsored by Senators McCabe, Bowman, Hunter, Unger, Bailey, White, and Foster.



Here is some of the great language from the resolution:

WHEREAS, the High Allegheny Region of the State of West Virginia, comprising portions of the Monongahela National Forest, Blackwater Falls State Park, Seneca Rocks, portions of Canaan Valley, the Blackwater Canyon area, and the environs, is an exceptional and important natural, cultural, economic, and recreational resource in the State; and

WHEREAS, the High Allegheny Region of West Virginia is a highly significant resource in West Virginia, and has substantial exceptional natural areas and habitats, included substantial areas of protected public land that are under a diversity of management, and these important areas and lands are and will be a long-term asset to the people of the nation and the State of West Virginia... *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:* That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby requested to study the desirability and feasibility of a High Allegheny National Park;...

Unsound Claims Refuted New Report Shows Economic Benefits of National Park

If you have been around Tucker County lately, you may have seen claims in print that the public lands in the region are holding back economic development and a good local economy. These claims also charge that looking to public-land-based tourism, recreation, and retirement and second-home industries for local taxes and jobs is unwise and unsound.

What's the story on these accusations? Are these claims grounded in fact? Are they honest mistakes? Or are they misleading propaganda, put out by anti-public lands extremists on behalf of big companies who want to keep Tucker County mired in an extractive-industry past?

The answers to these important questions can be found in a new report issued by Friends of Blackwater, "The Economic Impact of the Proposed High Allegheny National Park in West Virginia." The Report includes citations to a number of economic studies, and lots of statistics.

The Report shows that a new National Park in the High Allegheny Region will actually bolster county coffers and strengthen the local economy – by providing more money from federal landholders, creating new jobs for local residents, helping local tourism-related businesses, and increasing property values in existing private lands.

In short, High Allegheny National Park

will not only solidify the area's reputation as the most beautiful region in the Mid-Atlantic, but will make it an economically prosperous one as well.

You can have a copy of the Report by e-mailing Friends of Blackwater at info@saveblackwater.org, or call 1-877-WVA-LAND.

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Urgent - Act Now!

If you are a West Virginia resident, **help get this resolution passed** by calling your Senator at 357-7800 or 877-565-3447 to tell them you support Senate Concurrent Resolution 38 to study a new High Allegheny National Park.

All of us who love Blackwater (including non-West Virginia residents) should call Senator John Yoder (at the above number) and leave a thank-you message! He's our hero! Go to our website for the full text of Senate Resolution 38 and list of sponsoring Senators. www.saveblackwater.org

Director's Update

Signs of Spring

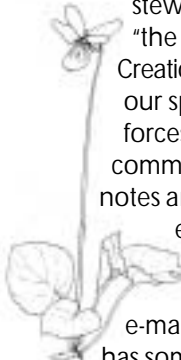
all around us give us hope for change in the new year. We hope for a rebirth of love for the land. We hope for

stewardship and the protection of "the commons" and God's

Creation. It's often hard to keep our spirits up — to challenge the forces of unrestrained greed and commercialism. But your wonderful notes and letters inspire us anew

every day. It's good to be part of a network of hope and love. Please keep writing and

e-mailing us. Our Spring Newsletter has some exciting news:



Keeping track of all these projects and agencies, and pressuring officials to keep the Blackwater Canyon from being degraded, is a tall order. We need your help to get the work done. Signs of Spring give us renewed hope, and we know that it is possible to prevail. We are honored by your support.

Julie A. Reed

Great News for Bird Watchers: Bald Eagles Spotted at Canaan

In February, Ken, Amy, Erin and Julie Dzaak got the surprise of their life on their drive back home after a day of hiking.

On Camp 70 Road toward Davis at around 3:00 p.m., perched in a tree were two adult and two juvenile bald eagles! With excellent views for about 15 minutes, the Dzaaks saw the juveniles in what was probably their first year of flight soaring just above their heads. The Dzaaks referred to this event as "A definite WOW moment!" Special thanks to Cynthia Ellis for passing this information on.

■ Senator John Yoder has introduced a Resolution calling for a study of a National Park in the West Virginia Highlands. Read the Newsletter's front page story to see how you can help.

■ We recently met with federal and state highway officials about the hiking/biking trail through Blackwater Canyon. We are pleased with their enthusiasm for this project. We discussed the importance of using Fish and Wildlife Service and Forest Service studies. We have told these officials that bulldozing the current Trail to create an industrial roadway for motorized vehicles — for example, logging trucks or "tour buses" — would be illegal under several federal laws. It would also severely damage the Trail's historic stone bridges and the natural habitat of many rare species. And such a cockamamie scheme would utterly destroy the scenic, intimate charm and the long-term value of the current hiking/biking pathway. Most importantly, we made it clear at this meeting that NO ONE who loves the Canyon wants the scenic heart of the Blackwater Canyon or the Trail to be owned or used for private, for-profit timber/condominium purposes. *Our motivation, purpose, and goal is and always will be public ownership of the entire Canyon* — including the Canyon Trail — with fair compensation for private landowners.

■ We are preparing ads and brochures to refute and counter the Tucker County Development Authority's petition asking for no more public land in Tucker County. These materials explain the economic importance of public land to funding local schools and roads.

Join Canyon Kids Club and enter contest!



It's almost Earth Day—A time when children are learning new things about the environment. Earth Day is a perfect time for your child or grandchild to learn about the natural world and West Virginia's rich natural history.

Enroll your child or grandchild in the Friends of Blackwater Canyon Kids Club before April 22 and he or she will be entered in the Kids Club Earth Day Drawing!! Everyone who joins the Canyon Kids Club will receive a

membership card and a Blackwater Ecology Booklet. As a card carrying Canyon Kids Club member, your child or grandchild will be eligible for gifts and prizes while learning about the unique ecology of the Red Spruce Forest in the Blackwater Canyon. Our Canyon Kids Club website will feature activity pages they can print from their computer. And they will develop new friendships with Ginny the Flying Squirrel, Sally the Salamander, Billy the Brook Trout, Indy the Indiana Bat, and other members of the Blackwater critter family.

Attention parents and grandparents!

Mail to: FOB Canyon Kids Club, 501 Elizabeth Street, Charleston WV 25311

Prize drawing deadline is April 22, 2005

Child's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(School) _____ (Birthdate) _____

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Board Highlight: Larry Groce

When Larry Groce first visited West Virginia, it was to administer an arts program. That was 1972, and he never left. He fell in love with the State's gentle, rolling landscapes and the freedom and joy of camping within them.

In coming to know his new home, he soon discovered the perils it faced.

Larry's first brush with land preservation began in 1990 when he opposed a mega-landfill project in Barbour County. By forcing a referendum, Larry and a core group of environmental activists saved Barbour County and much of the State from becoming a dumping ground.

As an established recording artist, Larry found other niches for preserving West Virginia's rich mountainous heritage through his role as host and artistic director for West Virginia Public Radio's Mountain Stage. Larry has been with the show since its beginning in 1983.

In 1991 Larry produced, directed and composed music for a radio version of "Gauley Mountain", a collection of 81 historical poems by the late WV Poet Laureate Louise McNeill. In 2003 he

produced a three-hour audio version of five short stories written by Louise's father, G.D. MacNeill, in his book, "The Last Forest: Tales of the Allegheny Woods." Larry was born in Dallas, Texas and became interested in music in elementary school. Larry attended Principia College on the bluffs of the Mississippi River in southern Illinois and during the summers he traveled around America and Europe playing wherever he could: coffeehouse clubs in Boston, private parties in LA, nightclubs in Athens, the streets of Pisa.



After college he moved to New York, where he landed a recording contract with RCA's Daybreak Records, and headed to Los Angeles. Since then, Larry has made twenty more albums and scores of singles, extended plays and collections for Daybreak, Warner-Curb, Disney and independent labels. They have ranged in style from Americana to gospel to children's music. His Disney recordings have earned him a gold album and five platinum albums and a Grammy nomination. In all, 36 of his songs have been included on Walt Disney Records. Larry has toured in almost every state as well as Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, France, Belgium, England, Italy, Greece and Russia.

In 2000, Friends of Blackwater board member Sandy Fisher invited Larry to be an advisory board member. He graciously accepted, because he believes that Blackwater Canyon—just like Gauley Mountain and the Allegheny Woods—must be preserved for future generations to learn about and enjoy.

Larry is married to Sandra Armstrong, who is principal viola in The West Virginia Symphony and The Montclair String Quartet. They have a daughter named Virginia and they are expecting another child in August. Virginia is hoping for a sister.

THE LAST FOREST: TALES OF THE ALLEGHENY WOODS

Three one-hour programs based on the short stories by G. D. McNeill

This collection of short stories, written in the late 1930s, takes us back more than a century ago, to the virgin forest. One hundred years ago the traditional lifestyle of the Allegheny Mountains was utterly devastated by a mighty wave of timbering, a boom and bust experience which left environmental devastation, economic and social dislocation in its wake. The Last



Forest captures a poignant moment in West Virginia history when people were becoming aware that their lives had forever changed. The themes of these stories—the meaning of wilderness and the uses of nature—are a universal thread

throughout human history and will resonate with people across a nation ever more pressed for open space. Five of the tales are presented in this three-part radio series. The tales include: The First Camp Fire, The Mystery at Gauley Marsh, The Duke of Possum Ridge, The Battle at the Whirlpool, and The Last Campfire. They were adapted for radio by Michael Frasher and

engineered by Francis Fisher, husband of FOB board member, Sandy Fisher. To order, send your request and \$20.00 to: Pocahontas Communication Cooperative, Route 1 Box 138, Dunmoore WV 24934, or fax order to 304-799-7444

Cleaning of Potomac River must begin in the North Fork of the Blackwater in Thomas

A network of 100-year-old abandoned and collapsed coal mining tunnels honeycomb the hills to the north and east of the Blackwater Canyon. This underground network of rubble-filled tunnels, now saturated with groundwater, is known as the "Kempton/Coketon Mine Pool." Dissolved minerals and acidity from the Kempton/Coketon Mine Pool affects local springs, wells, streams, and rivers – including the North Fork of the Blackwater River below Thomas and the Potomac River at Kepmpton. Ongoing mine pool subsidence also injures dwellings, roads, and farmland.

Friends of Blackwater has been working, through our North Fork Watershed Project, to assess this mine pool problem and to work for its remediation. Near-term remediation efforts and longer-term diversion programs can restore this watershed to full health. Remediation strategies include drainage and groundwater diversion; *in situ* groundwater treatment; mine

A closer look at the Coketon/Kempton Mine Pool Problem

help achieve this consensus, over the past two years the North Fork Project has held educational workshops in the schools and in the community; done research and publish reports on water quality in the North Fork Watershed; organized tours of the North Fork pollution sites with the help of the West Virginia DEP; written articles for the local paper; created a website (www.northforkwatershed.org); and developed a local advisory board. We are planning messages for the media on this issue, and to train young local OSM/Vista volunteers. We are also planning to bring together citizens, political and community leaders, regulators, and scientists to work on solutions. Seminars and strategic planning sessions will facilitate partnerships between citizens and Maryland and West Virginia state regulators, to pool



Emily Samargo, former Vista Volunteer and employee of Friends of Blackwater conducts water sampling tests on North Fork of Blackwater River

backfilling with alkaline grout, passive stream treatment; constructed wetlands; anoxic limestone drains; injection of ammonia gas into collection ponds; and streambed grouting.

Abandoned Mine Land funding should be available for this work, if a political consensus on the issue is developed. To

knowledge, experience and funds to tackle these cross-border groundwater pollution problems. Friends of Blackwater and our North Fork Watershed Project are working to enhance West Virginia's "Crown Jewel" – the Blackwater Canyon and environs! Your support is making this work possible. Visit www.saveblackwater.org.

Clifford Honored, Program Set for Parsons in April



Admirers and relatives of J. R. Clifford pose with Supreme Court Justice Larry Starcher in front of a photograph of J. R. Clifford and a plaque honoring him that now hang at WVU's College of Law

West Virginia University's College of Law unveiled a plaque in February to honor the life and work of West Virginia's first African-American lawyer, J.R. Clifford, Clifford lived from 1848 to 1933 and was raised in Williamsport (once Virginia, now West Virginia) in Hardy County.

Friends of Blackwater's interest in J. R. Clifford heightened when they learned of an 1898 landmark civil rights case that arose in the Blackwater Canyon town of Coketon. Clifford argued in *Williams v. Tucker County Board of Education* that Tucker County African-American teacher Carrie Williams was entitled to teach children of color and earn wages for the same amount of days per year as other teachers. Clifford won the case in Tucker County and again in Charleston at the Supreme Court.

A re-enactment of this case will take place at the Tucker County Courthouse in Parsons on Monday, April 11, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

Ilene Evans, from Thomas, WV, will play the role of Carrie Williams, and Joseph Bundy will play the role of Clifford, who traveled through the Blackwater Canyon in 1894 to represent Carrie Williams.

This is a free, family-friendly event with good music. So come out. Refreshments will be provided by Visiting Homemakers and Friends of Blackwater.

For information call Mimi Kibler at 304-478-3410 or Friends of Blackwater at 304-345-7663.

Dolly Sods Campaign Mission Statement

Friends of Blackwater is working to protect the scenic and heritage viewsheds, special habitats and endangered species of the West Virginia Highlands. To that end, we are working at the state and federal level to create enforceable siting criteria for the wind industry.

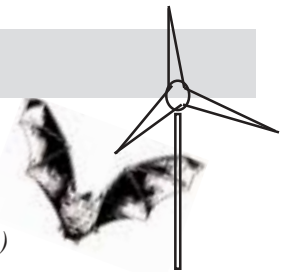
Abandoned Mine Land Funds at Risk, Urgent Action Needed

Please call your Congressional Representatives before June 30, 2005 and tell them to reauthorize the Abandoned Mine Land Funds. If the program is not reauthorized, funding for the Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative (ACSI) will be lost, which includes cost-share grants to local watershed groups. Miles of streams may never be cleaned of acid mine drainage, including the North Fork of the Blackwater River. ACSI provides challenge grants to remediation efforts, through the Office of Surface Mining. To take action, go to www.easterncol.org.

Keep Dolly Sods Wild Update

Merlin Tuttle, President, Bat Conservation International, Speaks Out on Bat Deaths and Wind Turbines

(Excerpted from Bat Conservation International memo; January 4, 2005)



Wind power offers a remarkable source of renewable, pollution-free energy. However, it also can be extremely hazardous to bats. In the eastern U. S., only three wind farms on wooded ridge tops have been investigated for bat kills (in Pennsylvania, Tennessee and West Virginia), but all have killed alarming numbers. Because bats are essential to the balance of nature and human economies, they are already in decline and have exceptionally low reproductive rates, we are deeply concerned.

There is a rapidly growing body of evidence indicating that bat fatalities at wind power facilities are considerably higher than previously estimated. We anticipate that, unless solutions are soon developed, high kill rates can be expected wherever wind power plants are built on wooded ridges. More than 600 turbines have already been proposed for construction at such sites within a 70-mile

radius of the Mountaineer, West Virginia and Meyersdale, Pennsylvania sites where large numbers of bats are already being killed. Based on an extremely conservative estimate of 48 bats per turbine per year killed at Mountaineer (Kerns and Kerlinger, 2003), completion of already proposed turbines in just this one small area could kill close to 29,000 bats annually. My best personal estimate is closer to double this number (Tuttle, 2004). Clearly, further construction of wind farms on wooded ridge tops, prior to finding solutions to prevent or minimize bat kills, poses potentially devastating cumulative threats to bats and to ecosystems that rely on them. Prudence suggests great caution until solutions are found. Failure to act immediately to conduct research needed to protect bats and find solutions for industry could prove extremely costly for all concerned. For a full report, go to batcon.org/wind/2004progressreport.pdf.

Help Protect the Cheat River Canyon Degradation Continues, Log Roads Visible

The wild and scenic Cheat River and Cheat Canyon continues to be degraded. Logging is ongoing in the Beech Run area with the land stripped of trees and raw earth exposed and eroding.

In 2003, Allegheny Wood Products (AWP) — the same company that in 1997 bought the remaining private land in the



Fawn

Blackwater Canyon — began logging in Cheat Canyon, just above the Cheat River, in recognized endangered species habitat.

The company is ignoring requests from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct surveys to protect rare species — including the Cheat snail and the Indiana bat.

Boaters on the Cheat have witnessed road construction and logging along the Allegheny Hiking Trail, a cross-state trail that has been in continuous public use since 1970. Flyovers confirm a network of haul and skid roads near Even Nastier rapids and Beech River. AWP bought 5,000 acres of the Canyon in May of 2003.

This conduct by AWP is a major test of the Endangered Species Act in West Virginia. Illegal logging in the Cheat Canyon cannot be tolerated — and the unique Cheat Canyon ecology must be protected for future generations.

A coalition of conservation groups has committed to raise funds NOW to cover



Ruffed Grouse Chick

The Cheat 3-tooth, flat-spined, land snail found in the Cheat Canyon exists nowhere else in the world



expenses for a lawsuit — to see that sensitive areas in the heart of the Cheat Canyon are protected.

Please donate NOW to support this important cause. The Cheat River is where West Virginia's whitewater industry got its start — and it is a touchstone for wildwater enthusiasts world wide.

Mail donation checks payable to Friends of Blackwater, 501 Elizabeth St., Charleston, WV 25311 — and put "Cheat Canyon" on the memo line, or donate from our website, saveblackwater.org, and put "Cheat Canyon" in the message box. All donations go to lawsuit expenses, not for organizational costs. And please go to saveblackwater.org and click on the "Cheat" button for more information on the Cheat Canyon Campaign.

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Thanks to all of our
members from the
bottom of our hearts

Father, Daughter and Blackwater Area Resident Capture Wins in First Blackwater Canyon Photography Contest

Special thanks to Bruce Haley, Steve Shaluta, David Fattaleh and Steve Payne for judging 65 entries from 18 photographers in our first-ever Blackwater Canyon photography contest.

Contestants from four states entered their work, and with the judges having no information on their identities, the classic "Like Father, Like Daughter" came about when the judges learned that grand prize winner Charles Stout was the father of Amy Stout, winner of two of the three categories. Living proof that the apple does not fall too far from the tree!

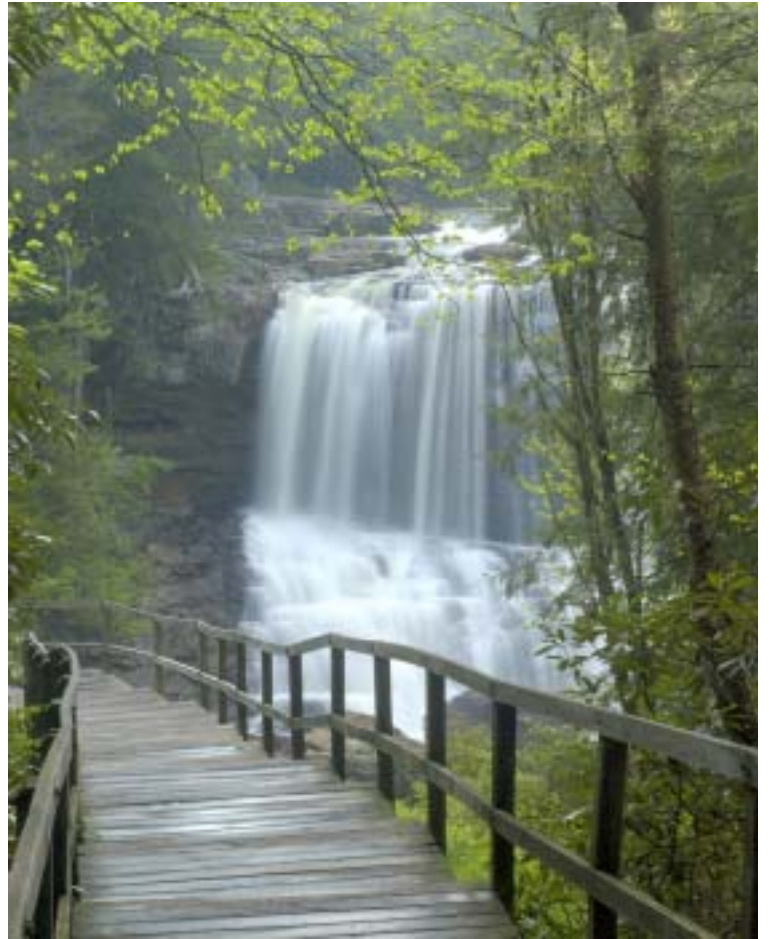
Congratulations to both of them, and to Beth Spencer of Parsons, winner in the recreation category.

First place winners were given a certificate and \$50, and the grand prize photo was awarded \$100.



Top left:
First Prize in
Botany and
Wildlife Category:
Moth on Flower
by Amy Stout,
S.Charleston, WV
Canon G4 Digital

Bottom left: First
Prize in the
Recreation
Category:
**Wading in Big
Run** by Beth
Spencer, Parsons,
West Virginia
Olympus C-4000Z
digital



Top right:
Grand Prize: **Blackwater Falls**
by Charles Stout, Hanover, Virginia
Nikon D 70



Bottom right: First Prize in
Landscapes and Vistas Category:
Ekala Falls by Amy Stout,
S.Charleston, WV
Canon G4 Digital



Blackwater Recreation

"Be prepared to take a chairlift to upper elevations if you want to find snow," I (Mary) wrote to the 12 members (Kathy, Caroline, Sara, Bozena, Liz, Fred, Ralph, Lee, Greg, Eleana, Ladin and Doug) of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Ski Touring Section (PATC-STC) as late as four days before my scheduled Feb. 11-13 trip, "Or bring your hiking boots and nature guides, as this trip will go regardless of snow conditions." The weather was warm and the snow was melting fast. Two days before trip departure, staff at Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge told me that the ground was bare. Then, miraculously, snow on Thursday and Friday returned the Park to its winter wonderland status. Hooray! It seemed to be just enough snow that we could ski the lower elevations of Blackwater rather than finding snow via chairlift. The less experienced breathed a collective sigh of relief! After a great

building plans we had heard about that morning. I suggested participants come back in the spring to mountain bike the rail trail on the other side of the river from Thomas to Hendricks and especially to see the rhododendrons and mountain laurel *in bloom* along with other spring wildflowers.

Ravens, turkey vultures, squirrels and deer put in real-time appearances along



others (Bozena, Ralph, Caroline, Lee) opted to ride the Canaan downhill area lift to get to the Weiss Knob vicinity, and

Hooray! We found snow!

By Mary Vogel and Doug Lesar

breakfast presentation on Friends of the Blackwater's goals by Valerie Little (who very graciously went out of her way to travel many hours in poor road conditions to reach Blackwater Park from Charleston), we gratefully donned skis on Saturday morning.

Most of the group headed out with me for one of my favorite trips: the Dobbin House Trail in the Monongahela National Forest. We stopped first at Pendleton Point with its stunning view of the Lodge and the Gorge, to let the scene reinforce what Valerie had told us—that this special place deserves National Park status. The snow-draped hemlock, rhododendron and mountain laurel made our trip down this Noth Rim of the Blackwater trail seem like a lavish reception line with our greeters dripping in diamonds. Along this trail, just beyond the turn for Dobbin House, there is another special viewpoint where we took off skis to climb out on a great rock cliff. Here we could see the impressive juncture with the North Fork of the Blackwater. As the magic of the place engulfed us, we were saddened to imagine the logging and condominium

our path that day. But we also saw tracks for wild turkeys, fox, rabbit and maybe weasel in the freshly fallen snow. We stopped to admire all the healthy Red Spruce seedlings and saplings coming in along one area of the Dobbin House Trail—an area that had obviously been through a significant disturbance. Further on, we wondered at what first appeared to be 18" evenly spaced palm trees along the strip-mined area. A closer look showed that they were actually some rather oddly-shaped long-needled pine seedlings struggling along. The half-dead 8" seedlings of the same species a little further down the trail made me wish out loud that WV had a stronger forest practices act requiring restoration with multiple native species.

The four inches of snow, having fallen on warm earth was barely adequate when we first started out, but by lunchtime it was melting fast, making our trip a bit more rushed than I would have liked. I reminded those moaning about the snow conditions that at least there were *snow* conditions. Tomorrow we could find the real snow via chairlift.

This author (Doug), Mary, and four

to find our way back down through White Grass trails. Somehow, we managed a car shuttle for six people and all their ski gear with just TWO cars, an accomplishment that should make military logistics top dogs like Halliburton flush with embarrassment. That smooth operation contrasted, however, with the author's brazen broad-daylight assassination attempt on unwitting Bozena while entering the chair lift (bet she will never pair up with me again!). This ugly incident was forgotten with the free treat of hot cider at the top of the lift and the snow-covered spruce / hardwood forest on the knob. The National Nordic trails proved eminently navigable and very pretty. Even though the sun-exposed south slope of the pipeline was half-bare, the north facing portion was quite skiable. Mary and I met, by accident, visiting STSers Mitch, Jack, and Greg, and adventure follows those guys like shadows. Our introduction to the "section line" downhill run through trees occurred due to a misunderstanding on my part as to where Mitch, Jack, and Greg were going, but Mary and I survived just fine (we usually do).

In Memory



In memory of **Arnold F. Schulz** by Barbara Schulz – Arnold was a leader of the West Virginia Wildflower Pilgrimage for many years. He worked as a wildlife biologist for the U. S. Forest Service in Elkins. He was a botanist, a birder and a great lover of the Blackwater Canyon.

In memory of **Betty and Bob Gow** by Raymond Godwin – Betty and Bob Gow were like second parents to me. Bob was a pediatrician and Betty was a nurse, and their daughter, Martha Gow Giddings was one of my best friends. The first time I read the Friends of Blackwater newsletter, I thought of them, because they absolutely loved Tucker County and all of the beautiful nature it has to offer.

In memory of **Earl and Isa Miller** by Adele Cole – My parents grew up in Preston County and they enjoyed hiking the great outdoors. They loved the mountains and the rivers.

In memory of **Sayre Rodman** by Arthur and Betty G Evans Jr. - Sayre was an inspirational leader who taught me much of what I know about the great outdoors.

In memory of **Judy Webb** by Michael Webb – I liked to fish, but Judy, she mostly liked taking care of her grandchildren. We would take them to Blackwater and hike all over. We'd play in the water, do some bird watching, go over to Dolly Sods and just have a real good time. We would go for a week in the summer and a week in the winter. It was our favorite family fun thing to do.

In memory of **Marjorie Charlton Hathaway** by Gardner, Charlton and Taylor Hathaway - Our mother cared a lot about the environment and people. She cared deeply about the gift of nature and how all life should be respected.

In memory of **Yvonne H. Esser** by Karl Esser - Because the Blackwater Canyon was one of Yvonne's favorite places. She loved nature and cared deeply about protecting it.

In memory of **Raymond Travis Marusi** by Marc Levine

In memory of **Wesley Nicholson** by Bonnie Moats

In memory of **Lois and Willard VanValkenburgh** by Diana Simonton - Lois was a community activist and Willard was an insurance agent from Alexandria VA. They started visiting West Virginia and the Blackwater Falls area in the 1950s and continued going for five more decades. They had three children who always went along and grew up to be lovers of the outdoors and strong supporters of the environment. Lois and Willard told my family about the beauty of Blackwater Falls, so the six of us started going there, as well. I know that they would be happy with the work Friends of Blackwater is doing to preserve the Blackwater Canyon.

In memory of Lu Schrader by Doug Wood

The West Virginia trails community lost a great advocate on November 8, 2001 when Lu Schrader passed away. Thanks to him, the WVRC will continue to pay a lead role in implementing the Statewide Trail Plan. Thanks to Lu's extraordinary vision for the Mountain State, West Virginia's trail system will become one of the best in the nation. His personal faith and commitment to family, our trail network will be a legacy left to future generations. He and his wife, Midge, were the first private landowners to offer their property as a host for the Mary Draper Ingles Trail. For all of these things, I will remember Lu Schrader, and one more thing: He was a good friend.



In Honor of Paul Teter by Donna Cook

My dad taught me, as a child, to see and appreciate the beauty and natural wonder of the Allegheny Front. He was a hard worker, and he expected the same of his team of horses. On a hillside farm in the Allegheny Fore Knobs, he raised cattle, sheep, pigs and goats, and he grew oats and corn. But, Sunday was the Sabbath, and a day for relaxation—horses included.

Sunday afternoons were for exploring the wilds of the Allegheny, to check the cattle, salt the sheep, or look for



The picture of Paul Teter was taken in the 1960s on his farm near Maysville, WV, off Jordan Run Road — against the foreknobs of the Alleghenies.

huckleberries in the plains. I went with my Dad at every opportunity and inherited his love for the mountain.

Usually on foot, sometimes on horseback, we would follow a foot path through laurel thickets, past beaver dams, and islands of spruce trees from Sugar Ridge to Bear Rocks.

Sometimes, we were tourists, too, on a Sunday afternoon dusty drive up Forest Road 19 South of Streby to Laneville.

Congratulations FOB Work Wins Award

Judy Rodd will be presented with the 2005 Laura Forman Grassroots Activist Award by the West Virginia Environmental Council during their annual Dinner and Reception on March 30. The dinner will be at 1311 Virginia Street East in Charleston from 5:30 to 9:30. Music will be provided by Steve Himes. For more information, contact Denise Poole with the West Virginia Environmental Council at 346-5905 or send her an email at deniseap@earthlink.net.

Friends of Blackwater Welcomes Jennifer Hughes

Jennifer Hughes from Parkersburg, West Virginia has joined the staff at Friends of Blackwater. Jennifer is a graduate of Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland Oregon, and she obtained her bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and Geology from Oberlin College in Ohio. As a member of the W. Va. State Bar, Jennifer's expertise in legal research has helped tremendously in developing our latest study, "The Economic Impact of the Proposed High Allegheny National Park in West Virginia." We are very happy to have her helping us in this critical stage of our organization's growth.



Signs of Spring

By John Lawrence Smith



The calendar marks the date of the vernal equinox, usually March 21, as the first day of spring. Early signs of the season are found in the forest, field and marsh weeks before the "official" date. Spring is the season when birds are busy with the routine of nesting and raising young. The Great Horned Owl is really an "early bird" at nesting and will often have eggs in the nest in February.

Listen for the deep voice of the owl — hoo, hoo, hoo, hah-hoooo — during hours of darkness when it is abroad on silent wings. The big owl begins nesting when smaller birds are often seeking to survive the last weeks of winter.

The little gray Tufted Titmouse is among the first birds to begin singing as it offers its wistful peter, peter, peter in the gray, leafless woods. It was once called "sugar bird" since it became vocal about the same time for making maple sugar.



The American Woodcock, a dumpy bird with a long bill, will be performing its fascinating courtship flight, or "sky dance," at dusk before the end of February.

The male bird, to attract the female, springs into flight

and spirals upward with his wings making a twittering sound before tumbling to earth.

The presence of a woodstock can be detected by listening for the nasal "beep" of the bird in an opening or field near woods after sunset. The bird will often be faintly visible in the gathering darkness as it rises in flight.

The fee-a-bee of an Eastern Phoebe will be heard along a stream in early March where the little flycatcher sits bobbing its tail. The nest of mud and moss will be built on a rock ledge, under a bridge or on a beam inside a barn.

March hardly seems the time for butterflies, but the Mourning Cloak with dark wings edged in gold will often be seen. The butterfly spends the winter in somewhat a state of hibernation and emerges with the coming of warm days.

The Wood Frog is rather aptly named and spends much of its life away from the totally aquatic environment of most frogs. Even so, it must lay its eggs in water and their "barking" will be heard around a pool where they are breeding.

The emerging stalks of Skunk Cabbage will be pushing upward from boggy ground near where Wood Frogs may be heard. If you bend close to the plant, the unpleasant odor giving the plants its name can readily be detected.

The fragrance of the little bell-like flowers of Trailing Arbutus is pleasant compared to Skunk Cabbage. Arbutus, with its fleshy, evergreen leaves, is among the first flowers to bloom where its blossoms add color to mats of moss.

A sound of spring in the high mountains is the mellow tooting of the Saw-whet Owl. This diminutive owl is found in spruce forest and mixed evergreens-hardwoods across Canada and along the lofty ridges of the Appalachians.

Evidence of spring will be found many places well before March 21 and the calendar seems tardy in marking the appearance of the season.

In honor of Helaine Rotgin

by Maureen Crockett

I made a donation to Friends of Blackwater in honor of Helaine, because she means so much to the Kanawha Valley. From all of her hard work with the legislature to her dedication as an activist, Helaine Rotgin is a role model for young women. I admire her immensely.

Helaine Rotgin receiving an award from former West Virginia Governor Arch Moore



Friends of Blackwater

www.saveblackwater.org
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Eating Out at Blackwater



For a taste of heaven in the mountains, visit Amelia's Restaurant in Canaan Valley, WV. Amelia's Restaurant is dedicated to the memory of Amelia Earhart, one of the world's first female pilots. Amelia's is the only restaurant in West Virginia that can boast its own airstrip and resort community. Pilots can fly in for a delicious multiple course meal or a quick "hundred dollar burger."

Amelia's Restaurant is not limited to pilots. With its beautiful views of the valley and famous homemade cuisine, it is quickly becoming a local favorite. The restaurant offers a full menu for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Breakfast favorites include the "WV Hearty Breakfast Platter" with eggs, home fries, choice of breakfast meat, & toast or a homemade biscuit—sure to fill any mountain momma's appetite. For folks on the go, the breakfast croissant is a favorite. Wherever your journey may take you, Amelia's is sure to give you a great start to your day.

Lunch items include a variety of appetizers, salads, & sandwiches. Amelia's is known for its homemade cuisine for all meals and lunch is not an exception. Hand-

cut French fries, homemade soups, and desserts are just a few of the delectable choices.

Dinner offers something for every appetite and budget. Chicken, steak, pasta, ribs, seafood, vegetarian dishes, & sandwiches are all available on the dinner menu. Some entrées unique to Amelia's Restaurant include Chicken Cordon Bleu with the traditional chicken, ham, & Swiss cheese, but with a creamy spinach & ricotta filling smothered in a smoky roasted red pepper sauce. And Rabbit Habit which includes an assortment of vegetables sautéed in olive oil, garlic, & other seasonings and tossed with vermicelli pasta. This dish is a favorite among vegetarians as well as meat eaters. Saturday night is BBQ Rib Night. Featuring St. Louis Style BBQ Ribs chargrilled and basted with Norma's homemade BBQ sauce available for only \$12.99. Amelia's offers a fine selection of beer and wine to compliment any dinner entrée.

Though the décor of the restaurant is largely based on aviation, there is also something for the art enthusiasts, antique



collectors & those simply looking for souvenirs. Canaan Trading has livened our dining room with their unique treasures. Lamps, pictures, furniture, seasonal decorations all contribute to the unique dining atmosphere and are available for sale.

Amelia's Restaurant is located at the Windwood Fly-In Resort Complex on Cortland Lane off of Route 32. For more information visit windwoodresort.com or call 1-888-359-4667. We look forward to serving you.

Written by Katrina High

From Davis, take Route 32 South to Canaan Valley (about 10 miles), turn left onto Cortland Road. Travel about 1 mile, turn left to Windwood Fly-In Resort.

If traveling North on Route 32, just past the Canaan Valley Exxon station, turn right onto Cortland Road. Travel about a mile, turn left to Windwood Fly-In Resort.