

May 2011

Friends of Blackwater




Ginny Wins in Court!

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

501 Elizabeth Street - Charleston, WV 25311 ★ 1-877-WVA-LAND ★ fax 304-345-3240 ★ www.saveblackwater.org ★ info@saveblackwater.org

A Late-Night Conversation With A Special Squirrel (Or Was It A Dream?)

by Judy Rodd



It was a dark and stormy night on Sandy Creek, and we were just going up to bed. The phone by the kitchen door startled me with its late-hour jangling. I picked up the receiver and put it to my ear. "Hello?" I said, and I heard a high-pitched voice in reply, saying: "Judy, we won! We won!"

I recognized the voice of "Ginny," my friend, the West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel, who lives in the heart of the Blackwater Canyon.

Ginny!" I exclaimed. "We've been calling all over, trying to track you down. You're back on the Endangered Species List!"

"I heard the news earlier today, and I'm still ecstatic," said my furry pal. "It sounds like the judge made an important ruling."

"Ginny," I said, "this ruling came just at the right time. The Monongahela National Forest is considering a big timber job that would devastate existing flying squirrel habitat, without scrutinizing the project under the Endangered Species Act."

"Holy Moly, Judy!," Ginny said. "What do they expect us to do when they go after the big old trees that we like to use?"

"Ginny," I said, "so far the main thing the Forest managers have suggested – is for you to "flee." But now that you are restored to the endangered list, we expect a better future for our beloved 'Ginny.'"

"Judy, I am so excited, I could scream!" said Ginny. "But," she continued in a lower voice, "I can't get too loud. It's late here, and I don't want to disturb my babies. They need a lot of sleep on these cold nights in the Blackwater Canyon."

Ginny continued, "And as soon as this rain breaks, I have some serious truffle-digging to do this evening. I'd better hang up."

"Ginny," I said. "We are so happy for you. And we are so grateful for the opportunity to help you and your babies thrive."

"Judy," said Ginny. "I am so grateful, too, to everyone who has supported our case. I love our attorneys -- Jessica Almy, Eric Glitzenstein, and Kathy Meyer. Already several of this year's new mom squirrels are calling their little ones "Jessica," "Eric," and "Kathy!"

"We love you, Ginny!" I said – and we hung up the phone.

P.S. There may be less than 1000 West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrels in the entire world. The campaign to enforce the Endangered Species Act and restore "Ginny" to the Endangered Species List has been a seven-year team effort that we took seriously every day and every step of the way. It is an honor to be a voice for this delicate, elusive creature. Thanks to everyone who worked to make this victory happen, including the Wilderness Society, the Center for Biological Diversity, Wild South, and the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition our partners in this effort! We love you all, too!

Sincerely,


Judy Rodd

Ginny Wins in Court! ... And Glides Back under Federal Protection

Washington DC - On Friday, March 25, 2011, Washington, DC Federal Judge Emmet Sullivan vacated an August 2008 rule issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that removed all Endangered Species Act ("ESA") protection from the West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel. The decision restored federal legal protection for this small nocturnal resident of West Virginia's highest mountains. The lawsuit to restore legal protection for the squirrel was filed by Friends of Blackwater, the Wilderness Society, and Center for Biological Diversity, Wild South, and the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition on November 12, 2009, and was argued in November of 2010.



The federal court ruled that the Service had not based its ruling on the squirrel's recovery plan, which was created in 1990 and amended in 2001. Judge Sullivan's ruling stated, "The court is not persuaded that the agency's decision to meet only the 'intent' of its Recovery Plan criteria for the Squirrel complied with the ESA. The statute unambiguously requires that criteria must be 'objective' and 'measurable.'"

According to Judith Rodd, Director of Friends of Blackwater, the West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel, who has been nicknamed "Ginny" by her supporters, shares its habitat with other rare West Virginia wildlife like the Cheat Mountain sala-

mander, the northern water shrew, and the rock vole. Rodd says that Monongahela National Forest managers are currently planning major logging in an area that contains many squirrels. Rodd said, "The Monongahela National Forest's Upper Greenbrier North Project spans almost 70,000 acres with lots of herbicide use and over 20 million board feet of timber harvest. This Upper Greenbrier North project would have devastated flying squirrel habitat. The Forest managers have suggested that Ginny can 'flee' to escape harm. With this new ruling, we expect a better future for our beloved Ginny." (Read more about the decision and listen to the flying squirrel's song at www.saveblackwater.org.)

Jessica Almy, attorney for the groups who successfully obtained the federal court ruling, said, "This ruling is important not only to conservation of the flying squirrel, but for the proper implementation of the Endangered Species Act. The ruling means that scientifically-based recovery criteria for endangered and threatened species, once having been adopted in the Fish and Wildlife Service's formal recovery plan, cannot be ignored due to political motivation or simple bureaucratic expediency -- in the Service's haste to remove a species from the protections of the Act. Rather, if the agency believes that such recovery criteria are in need of revision (which was not established for the squirrel) then the agency

must do so pursuant to the publicly and scientifically accountable process embodied in the law."

Almy continued, "One would hope that the Obama Administration, which professes an interest in having sound science guide its environmental decision-making, and implementation of the ESA, will accept the wisdom of the court's well-reasoned ruling -- particularly in this era of myriad and unprecedented threats to the survival of at-risk species such as the flying squirrel."

The tiny squirrel who appears to fly with a brown cape when in flight is dearly loved throughout its Appalachian Mountain homeland. Local protectors have worked since 1999 to protect the truffle loving squirrel they affectionately call "Ginny." The effort has caught the attention of some powerful allies. U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and long time supporter of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), conducted two hearings on the issue during the past few years. At a 2007 hearing on the ESA, Rahall said that the U.S. Interior Department "seems bent on abdicating its mandated responsibilities" under the law "to protect God's creatures for future generations." The court ruling was covered by the Washington Post, the Baltimore Sun, the Charleston Gazette and Charleston Daily Mail as well as by The West Virginia State Journal, the Republic in Indiana, The Mountain Express in Asheville, North Carolina, and the on-line environmental newsletters Greenwire and Landline.

Judge: Fish and Wildlife wrongly ignored own rules in delisting W.Va. northern flying squirrel

Excerpts (Washington Post)

By Associated Press, Monday, March 28, 6:54 PM

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — A federal judge says the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ignored its own unambiguous rules when it decided to end more than two decades of protection for the West Virginia northern flying squirrel and remove it from the endangered species list in 2008.

In a ruling in Washington on Friday, U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan sided with five environmental groups that had sued in 2009 to restore the protected status.

The Charleston Gazette was first to report on the ruling, which says the agency's decision to ignore its own rules effectively changed the recovery plan for the species without the required public-input process.

Arguments that subjecting the changes to notice-and-comment requirements "would be 'illogical' and a 'make-work exercise' ignore Congress' explicit instruction that the public be given an opportunity to comment on revisions," the judge wrote.

Fish and Wildlife officials "are reviewing the ruling and looking at what our next steps might be," said spokeswoman Vanes-

sa Kauffman in Arlington, Va. She declined further comment.

The Charleston-based group Friends of Blackwater Canyon said it was excited and gratified by the ruling. Executive Director Judy Rodd noted the delisting was done under the administration of President George W. Bush.

"We can hope there are new people in place who will take this more seriously," she said. "We're very hopeful that this ruling will stick and that Ginny will get additional protections."

Continued on page 4

Visioning a National ParkMoving Forward.

Visioning West Virginia's New National Park began in the fall of 2004. We spent a weekend listening to speakers including famous park visionaries like Brock Evans, Destry Jarvis and Michael Kellett. We arranged tours of the area, studied maps and made plans. The weekend concluded with a worship service at Blackwater Falls State Park's overlook of the Upper Canyon. J Lawrence Smith and fellow minister John Harman lead us in singing hymns and readings from the Bible.

Now in 2011 we know it is time to move ahead



Michael Kellett, Brock Evans and Judy Rodd



J. Lawrence Smith reads scripture during the Sunday Morning service



Sunday service at the overlook at Blackwater State Park Lodge.

with our Park Vision. The Park will celebrate the 150 Anniversary of West Virginia and the 100th Anniversary of the Park Service. Please lend a hand by writing a letter to our Senators. Our goal is 500 letters in 5 weeks. Go on line to send an e-mail letter at www.saveblackwater.org or mail one directly to Senator Joe Manchin at 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC, 20510 Fax: 202-228-0002 or 300 Virginia Street, East, Suite 2630, Charleston, WV 25301

TAKE ACTION!

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Senator Manchin,

Help grow the economy and protect the special natural areas of the West Virginia Highlands by working to create High Allegheny National Park!

To start this process please introduce a national park study bill in Congress working with National Park Sub-Committee Chair Mark Udall (D-CO).

Thanks for protecting the unique heritage and ecology of our High Allegheny Mountains!

Sincerely,

Judge from page 3

After it was sued, the agency argued a "robust" population was sufficient to comply with the spirit of its delisting criteria, which it argued were outdated.

Sullivan ruled that wasn't good enough, noting that Fish and Wildlife had laid out its own criteria for delisting in 1990.

Those rules required evidence that populations are stable or growing in 80 percent of all the designated recovery areas, and that sufficient data be collected to ensure future protection of the animals.

The rules further required that migration corridors be available, and evidence that the forests themselves are not threatened by pests or environmental factors such as acid rain.

The first five-year review of the species wasn't done until 2003, the judge said, and the early drafts of the report didn't recommend delisting. However, after internal editing, the agency altered course and

recommended delisting in 2006, he said.

In that report, the agency said that while the recovery criteria "were deemed objective, measurable and adequate when the plan was approved in 1990 and updated in 2001," it was no longer adequate in guiding decisions because it was 15 years old and too generalized.

Setting aside some of the rules without providing a public notice and comment process effectively rendered the regulations meaningless, the judge said. He rejected the argument the agency met the "intent" of its rules.

"The statute unambiguously requires that criteria must be 'objective' and 'measurable,'" Sullivan wrote. "Using 'robust population' as a criterion does not satisfy the statutory requirement that the recovery plan criteria be 'measurable' and 'objective.'"

**Join Us at
The Harpers Ferry
Outdoor Festival &
Tim Gavin Down
River Race
Saturday, June 18, 2011
at the Harper's Ferry KOA.**
For more information visit
www.harpersferryoutdoorfestival.org

Can't make the festival? Check out these awesome videos of folks bravely challenging themselves and the Blackwater River in kayaks.

- <http://youtu.be/FJeHyDcrDc0>
- <http://youtu.be/FZbJF-kEKps>
- <http://youtu.be/9-YpxnaA-Bc>
- <http://youtu.be/J6a8X64im8E>
- <http://youtu.be/1BEBhCXLUEk>
- <http://youtu.be/HX8-PpLouJk>

Clifford Project premieres Statehood “Sesquicentennial” Program – “A New Home for Liberty”

The Story of the J.R. Clifford Project – What and Why

Since 2004, Friends of Blackwater, through our sponsorship of the “J.R. Clifford Project,” has been telling the story of two “Blackwater Heroes” -- the Tucker County African American schoolteacher Carrie Williams, and her lawyer John Robert “J.R.” Clifford, a West Virginia civil rights pioneer.

In 1892, Williams and Clifford won a lasting victory for racial equality in front of a Tucker County jury, and then before the West Virginia Supreme Court. The court decision in their case protected both the rights of the “colored” schoolchildren whose parents who worked in the Blackwater Canyon region – and the rights of African Americans all over the Mountain State.

When you walk along the Blackwater Canyon Trail, downstream from Thomas, West Virginia, you are walking in the footsteps of families from many lands – Europe, Asia, and Africa. After the U.S. Civil War, these diverse people carved out a new way of life in the West Virginia Highlands.

Telling the story of how these courageous people stood up for human dignity and equality brings pride and strength to our mission of protecting the human and natural resources and communities of this magnificent Highlands region.

The J.R. Clifford Project’s multi-media programs about these “Blackwater Heroes” have educated and entertained thousands of people of all ages -- in schools, libraries, churches, and theaters

– with our “courtroom drama.” Our professional curricular materials, including lesson plans, posters, and coloring books are popular resources for educators. Our heritage tourism maps and posters are distributed in museums and tourist centers across the state.

Thanks to the J.R. Clifford Project, Friends of Blackwater has made many new and empowering alliances and partnerships. Participants of all ages tell us these programs have been moving, educational, and worthwhile. The statewide success of the J.R. Clifford Project’s programs confirms our belief that working for watershed, landscape, habitat, and species protection can and should go hand-in-hand with working for human dignity, community betterment, and heritage preservation.

The multi-year (2011-2015) celebration of the “Sesquicentennial” (150th Anniversary) of West Virginia’s creation during the Civil War gives us a particular opportunity to tell the story of our “Blackwater Heroes” -- and of many other West Virginians, white and black, who built a new home for liberty west of the Alleghenies, when they created the new State of West Virginia.

To tell that story, we have created a new “edutainment” program, that tells how West Virginia’s statemakers – white and black, leaders and ordinary citizens – grappled with the difficult issues of slavery and



human rights, as they sacrificed and struggled to create West Virginia. Our program, titled “A New Home for Liberty,” premiered on April 6, 2011 to an overflow crowd at the Erickson Alumni Center in Morgantown, West Virginia on April 6, 2011. Please see the accompanying article for details. We are planning several more programs for later in the year, details to follow!

Every day, it seems, we face powerful forces that would rather forget and ignore the sacred diversity of the Creation. These forces would like to forget and ignore the challenges faced by “Ginny” the flying squirrel, the Indiana bat, and the many rare species of the Highlands. Too often, also, these forces would like to forget and ignore the sacred diversity of the human family. The animating spirit of Friends of Blackwater is to celebrate and protect the diversity of the entire Creation – human and non-human.

Thanks for being part of that work!

TAKE ACTION!

Please take a minute to let President Obama know that Ginny needs to remain on the Endangered Species List and that junk science is not going to be accepted. You can use our sample letter to the right to send a letter to the President expressing your concerns or you can visit www.saveblackwater.org and send a letter via email. If you choose to send a hard copy please mail it to:

*Friends of Blackwater
501 Elizabeth Street
Charleston, WV 25311*

Dear President Obama,

On March 25th, 2010, Federal Judge Emmet Sullivan restored “Ginny” the West Virginia northern flying squirrel to the Endangered Species List.

“Ginny” is the beloved “signature species” of West Virginia’s highest-elevation boreal forests. But her species’ population numbers are very low -- well less than a thousand in the entire world!

Judge Sullivan’s lengthy and scholarly decision held that the Bush Administration failed to follow or properly amend the established Recovery Plan for this endangered creature.

The Judge also ruled that the 2008 “de-listing” decision by the Bush Administration was not based on any measurable, scientific criteria. The Administration’s “rush to judgment” utterly ignored the opinions of leading experts on Appalachian flying squirrels.

Mr. President, we urge you to support additional research on what habitat is necessary for “Ginny” squirrel to survive and thrive -- and to have the Fish and Wildlife Service and public land managers begin to collect baseline data on squirrel populations, so that any possible future changes in Ginny’s status will be based on sound science and and legally correct principles.

Sincerely,



Gordon Battelle



J.R. Clifford



Granville Hall

A NEW HOME

April 6, 2011 - M

"A New Home for Liberty" uses drama, music, and readings to tell the story of the creation of West Virginia – through the lives of two West Virginians who were born before the new State was created. They are Granville Hall (1837-1934), and J.R. Clifford (1848-1933)..

Granville Hall was born near Shinnston in 1837. His parents were abolitionists who were charged with distributing anti-slavery documents before the Civil War. Hall was active in the new-state movement of 1861, became a successful businessman, and wrote extensively about his role in forming the new State.

J.R. Clifford was born near Moorefield, the child of free black farmers who aided runaway slaves. After Abraham Lincoln signed the West Virginia Statehood Proclamation in 1863, Clifford fought for the Union in the United States Colored Troops, and went on to a career in education, publishing, and the law.

Both Hall and Clifford took pride that West Virginia banned slavery in its first Constitution – and that African Americans in the new "Mountain State" could exercise political power -- as they struggled against slavery's legacy of segregation and second-class citizenship.

Other historic characters in the program include the African American historian (and prominent West Virginian) Dr. Carter G. Woodson; President Abraham Lincoln; and leading state-makers Gordon Battelle, Francis Pierpont, and Julia Pierpont.

The World Premiere of "A New Home for Liberty" took place on April 6, 2011, before a standing-room-only audience of 350 people at the West Virginia University Erickson Alumni Center. Thirty

community members of all ages and professions were in the cast -- along with two singing groups, a step dance performance, and a solo singer, and two world-famous historians! Not to mention a drum corps from Pittsburgh!

You can see lots more pictures from the Morgantown program at www.jrclifford.org. And stay tuned as we develop plans for more presentations of "A New Home for Liberty" around West Virginia during the coming months! Please contact us if you want to be



Pam and Art Dodds as Francis and Julia Pierpont



The lovely Kitty Dooley narrates



Daryl Lee, Dr. Patricia Lee and Judy Rodd



Scene 2 - Featuring Jacque Dooley and Jeron Amoroso as J.R. Clifford



Scene 4 - Featuring Jeron Amoroso as J.R. Clifford



John Steale



Tom Rodd



Otis Cox

FOR LIBERTY

Morgantown, WV



Julia Pierpont



Governor Pierpont



Carter G. Woodson



... and Tom Rodd



The cast with the State



Russell Clawges as Abraham Lincoln



... and John Alexander Williams



Brian McAllister as Granville Hall and Pam Dodds as Julia Pierpont



Hillary Phillips, Tom Rodd and Aimee Duncan



J.R. Clifford and Senior Justice Larry Starcher as Granville Hall



The Audience



Member of The 6th Regiment United States Colored Troops Drum and Fife Reenactment Corps

Introducing the “Save Lucy” Campaign

by Leslie Sturges

The Save Lucy campaign is a web-based nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness of white nose syndrome and its terrible toll on



Little Brown Bat

it means for our nation’s bats and our food supply. I also see that kids are constantly told what’s wrong with the world, but are given few tools to do anything about it.

Just over a year ago, a group of decided individuals and I decided that something had to be done, and we officially launched Save Lucy on March 21. Obviously, we want to generate public interest and compassion for bats and encourage funding and legislative protection for the hardest hit species. But more importantly, we want to encourage young people to become good stewards and give them a platform to make their voices and concerns heard.

To appeal to children, we developed a story that describes a little brown bat’s first year of life and a club kids can join. Club members earn points by carrying out bat conservation ‘missions’ to help Lucy and other bats. We are grateful for the amazing people who’ve helped us. Wildlife artist Lois Auer donated the drawing of Lucy. Illustrator Sarah Kennedy drew caves and sunsets for us. Biologists donated time to fact check, donors contributed to web development costs, and neighborhood children did voiceovers on videos.

We thank Friends of Blackwater Canyon for inspiration from the SOS campaign and for the recent status report for Little Brown Bats.

Please share Lucy and her plight with young people you know, and ask them to contribute their thoughts to the website. One way to help policymakers is to show them that the children of their constituents care about conservation!

For more information about the Save Lucy Campaign, please see the contact information below.

The Save Lucy Campaign
4512 Starr Jordan Dr
Annandale, VA 22003
www.savelucythebat.org
saveLucy@saveLucytheBat.org

Illustration provided by Lois Auer. As a former wildlife rehabilitator and an environmental educator, artist Lois Auer has had a lot of hands-on experience with her wild subjects. Her love and respect for animals and the environment are evident in both her artwork and teaching. Lois donated the portrait of Lucy featured throughout www.savelucythebat.org and on their promotional pieces. For more information about Lois and her artwork please visit www.wildartln.com

North America’s cave-hibernating bats. As a park naturalist and bat rehabilitator, I’ve presented educational programs on bats for 10 years in the Washington DC area. I see firsthand that too few people know about white nose syndrome and what

Sad News for Blackwater Bats

Friends of Blackwater was encouraged last year when Allegheny Wood Products hired Copperhead Consulting to survey two caves in the Canyon, Blackwater Pit and Blackwater Cave, to look for rare bats. The caves are near the river and both have bat populations. The surveys should be done over a longer period of time. The consultants identified little brown bats in both caves but did not handle the bats to verify if they could be Indiana bats.

Indians and little browns look so much alike that only the keel on the calcar (the spur on the ankle joint) separates it from the little brown.

Indiana bats are under federal protec-

tion and must be included in AWP’s Habitat Protection Plan.

The sad news from surveys completed in February is that one of the bats was dead. Lab analysis confirmed that the bat died from deadly white nosed syndrome. We also learned that bats in Big Springs Cave in the Fernow Experimental Forest of the Monongahela had white nose syndrome. The government must do more to protect these critically important bat species from extinction!



Remembering Our Supporters.....

BOB HANDLEY (1928-2011)

It is with deep regret that we inform you of the passing of one of our long time supporters. Robert Hall Handley, 82, of Renick, W.Va., died Saturday, January 15, 2011.

He was born April 21, 1928, in Thomasville, Ga., and was a son of the late Charles Overton Sr. and Nelle Hall Handley.

Bob was driven by his interest in preserving a clean environment for future generations and he supported this interest in many ways. He was the president of The Greenbrier River Watershed Association and held a director position with the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. He was a life member of the Greenbrier Historical Society, where he followed a family interest in maintaining local history. He is most noted for exploring the underground and spent most of his life helping others share his passion. He was a founding member of the West Virginia Association for Cave Studies and the West Virginia Cave Conservancy. He is the oldest person, at 81, to rappel the New River Bridge on Bridge Day. He retired from Union Carbide, Institute, W.Va., as a senior engineer.

Survivors include, one brother, John Handley and his wife, Julie, of Jacksonville Fla.; two sons and their spouses, Scott and Meri Handley of Vancouver, Wash., and Todd and Julie Handley of Parkersburg; four grandchildren, Meghan, Quinn, McKellam and Austin.

A celebration of life will be on Saturday, May 28, at Lost World Caverns.



GLADE LITTLE (1927-2011)

Glade Little, 83, of St. Albans, died at home on April 3, 2011. He was born in Taylorsville, NC, to Charles and Essie Mitchell Little. He was raised in Parkersburg, WV, by Bertha and Jimmy Duvall. He was a graduate of Parkersburg High School and West Virginia University, and had additional formal education at West Virginia State University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and West Virginia University-Parkersburg. Glade was an Army veteran of World War II.

He was a journalist and worked for the Logan (OH) Daily News as a reporter, the Charleston (WV) Gazette as a reporter and night city editor, and spent over 20 years as an information officer for the Virginia Health Department, the Virginia Department of Highways, and Virginia Commonwealth University. Glade was dedicated to many organizations that supported the environment and outdoors, civil liberties, and the humanities, including the Kanawha Trail Club, the Kanawha Forest Foundation, the Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy, the West Virginia Humanities Council; and the Wood County, Kanawha Valley, and St. Albans Historical societies; the Kanawha Valley Poetry Society, and others. He was an avid reader, learner, and conversationalist, and loved cats.



PAUL EDWARD BECKER (1944-2011)

Paul Edward Becker (Pesach Nissim ben Avraham), 66, passed away Thursday, February 17, 2011 in his home.

A lifelong radical who loved his family, music and sailing, Paul was born in New Jersey on March 30, 1944 to Harriet and Abe Becker.

He received a bachelor's degree in political science from Haverford College, a social degree from Bryn Mawr, a master's in industrial hygiene from Wayne State, and a doctorate in industrial hygiene from UMass Lowell.

Paul Becker had the courage and the chutzpa to be strong on the things he believed in. He lived his life in pursuit of social justice and worked to shift society toward kindness, justice, and empathy.

Paul was a member of the WIMPS and the Peace Press political printing collectives, as well as a national organizer for the anti-war movement in the 1960s.

Paul lived out his values in all spheres of his work and personal life, never allowing injustice to occur in silence.

Paul worked at WVU for more than 30 years. He found the Occupational Safety and Health Extension Office, and spent his career improving working conditions and quality of life in West Virginia.

A lifelong musician, Paul passionately shared his musical gifts, playing klezmer, classical and blues piano, and accordion in a number of bands. As a teen, he taught himself to sail on a Styrofoam boat, and spent some of his happiest times sailing traditional wooden boats in Maine and Chesapeake.

Paul was a loving father, husband, friend and comrade. He is survived by his three children, Nina, Abby and Benny, and his wife, Rosalyn.



Collision Course? Excerpts from National Aviary Press Release by Laura Ellis

Researchers Tag Golden Eagles with Satellite Telemetry Devices, Track Migration To Assess Risks of Wind Energy Development in Pennsylvania

Twice yearly, above the Appalachian Mountains in central and western Pennsylvania, a rarely witnessed winged migration takes place. Hundreds of eastern golden eagles – majestic raptors with wingspans that can exceed seven feet -- traverse the state to their winter and summer territories, passing above the mountain ridges through what preliminary research shows to be an unchanging 30-60 mile wide corridor of air space.

It's a spectacular sight, but one that could prove to be fatal.

The eagles' flight path overlaps with land areas that hold significant potential for wind power development in Pennsylvania, setting these majestic birds on a potential collision course with fast-moving turbine blades. In the hope of avoiding such a scenario, a team of researchers at the National Aviary and Powdermill Avian Research Center, the biological research station of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, has come together to track and map the birds' movements. Data collected via satellite tracking will for the first time provide detailed information on where and how individual eastern golden eagles migrate through the entire Appalachian Mountain flyway.

"At present there is little science to



Hawk killed at NedPower Wind Project

guide the development of wind power on Appalachian ridges," says Dr. Todd Katzner, Director of Conservation & Field Research at the National Aviary. "Our aim in conducting this research is to provide the scientific information necessary to allow decision-makers to pursue use of renewable energy sources with environmental benefits, while at the same time developing this technology in an eaglefriendly way. In Pennsylvania we have a unique opportunity to conduct research before turbines are built, allowing the state to develop this technology in the most appropriate way possible."

The research team on this project is composed of a diverse group of collaborators, including Dr. Todd Katzner, Director of Conservation & Field Research at the National Aviary; Robert Mulvihill, Field Ornithology Projects Coordinator, Powdermill Avian Research Center; Mike Lanzone Assistant Field Ornithology Projects Coordinator, Powdermill Avian Research Center; Trish Miller, GIS Coordinator, Powdermill Nature Reserve; Dr. David Brandes, Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Lafayette College; and Dan Ombalski, Director, Tussey Mountain Hawkwatch.

Tracking efforts began in November 2006 when the team trapped and tagged two migrating golden eagles near the town of Central City, Pennsylvania. The birds were outfitted with a telemetry device attached via a nonabrasive harness made of Teflon ribbon. Configured as a backpack, the device is able to obtain highly accurate GPS-quality location fixes and then transmit these data via the ARGOS satellite system. An additional bird was tagged and released in March 2007.

"The data we are collecting from these birds and others that we will tag will not only show the birds' flight paths, but also altitude and flight speed under



Golden Eagle

a suite of climatic and topographical conditions, enabling us to create explicit landscape-scale computer models that predict migration patterns and individual flight behavior during migration," says Dr. Katzner. "These models will enable us to look at the cumulative impacts of many wind farms on eagle movements and identify critical migration bottlenecks where turbine development should proceed with caution. It is essential to have this kind of detailed information before wind power projects are sited and constructed."

Industrial scale wind power development along the narrow ridgetops of the Appalachians, has been shown to present significant threat to flying animals as illustrated by the thousands of bats found dead at turbines in previous years. This project aims to provide managers and planners with the tools to allow golden eagles to avoid a similar kind of fate.

For a live map that tracks the progress of the eastern golden eagles that have been tagged, go to <http://www.aviary.org/csr/v/eaglePA.php>

Fluttering Moonbeams

by J. Lawrence Smith

During a summer night, a small ghostly form may be seen dancing through the trees on wings of palest green looking almost like a fluttering moonbeam. This is the Luna Moth named after the Latin word for the moon which is fitting for this beautiful creature of the night with elongated tails on its hindwings.

The Luna is one of a few large moths found in the Alleghenies and elsewhere over wide ranges. The Polyphemus, named for the one-eyed giant of Greek mythology, is fawn-colored with eye-like markings on the hindwings. The Royal Walnut is a deep red with yellow spots and named for the caterpillar's habit of feasting on walnut leaves. Especially striking is the Cecropia clad in a rich pattern of chocolate brown and red-orange.

When I was a boy, I would find the cocoon of a Cecropia on a bare branch in the fall and bring it home in hope of seeing it emerge in the spring. The process of metamorphosis, the transformation of the caterpillar into the beautiful moth, is one of the wonders of nature.

Once the caterpillar has grown large from gorging on leaves, it spins a snug cocoon of silk around itself as it begins preparation for the winter miracle. The

pupae appears from what was the caterpillar as hormones are secreted that bring into being the colorful moth as the transformation occurs during winter even at temperatures well below zero.

The beauty of the moth lasts only long enough for the female to mate and lay eggs. They have no mouth parts with which to feed and live only as long as in-born energy sustains them. After a few days, the tattered moth falls to the ground never to rise again.

In an effort to check the spread of the Gypsy Moth, a small fly was introduced from Europe as a means of biological control. The fly attacked the intended prey, but also developed a liking for the Mourning Cloak butterfly as well as large silk moths with often devastating results.

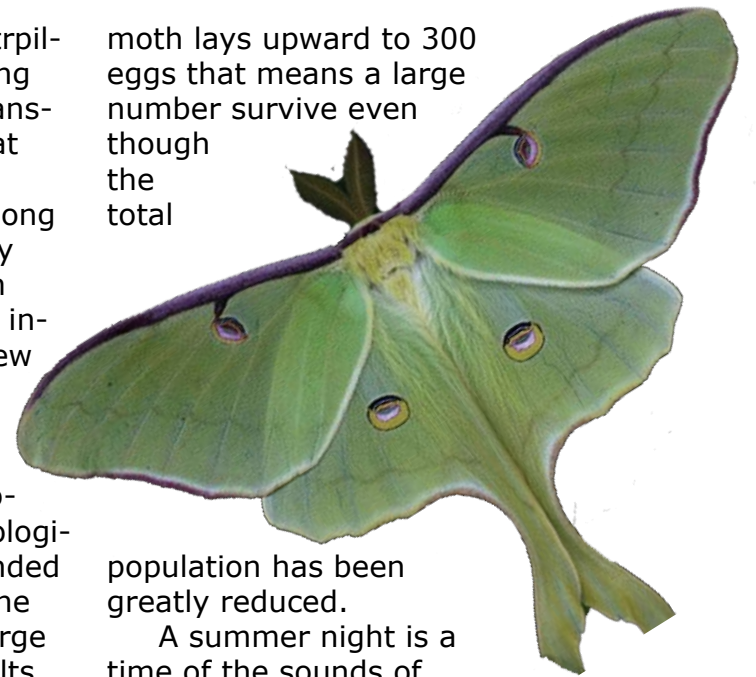
This points out the danger of biological control which is an effort to keep an organism in check through the use of its natural enemies. Unforeseen consequences result when the introduced predator is released and it plays its role whether we judge it for good or ill.

Estimates have been made that upward to 80 percent of Cecropia Moth cocoons are lost to the predatory fly. A somewhat brighter side is the female

moth lays upward to 300 eggs that means a large number survive even though the total

population has been greatly reduced.

A summer night is a time of the sounds of crickets and katydids, but other creatures of darkness move quietly and may go unseen. Your attention may be attracted by fluttering among shafts of moonlight filtering through the treetops. You have encountered a Luna or other striking moth dancing silently through the night.



Letter to the Editor

December 14, 2010

Editor, Friends of Blackwater Canyon,

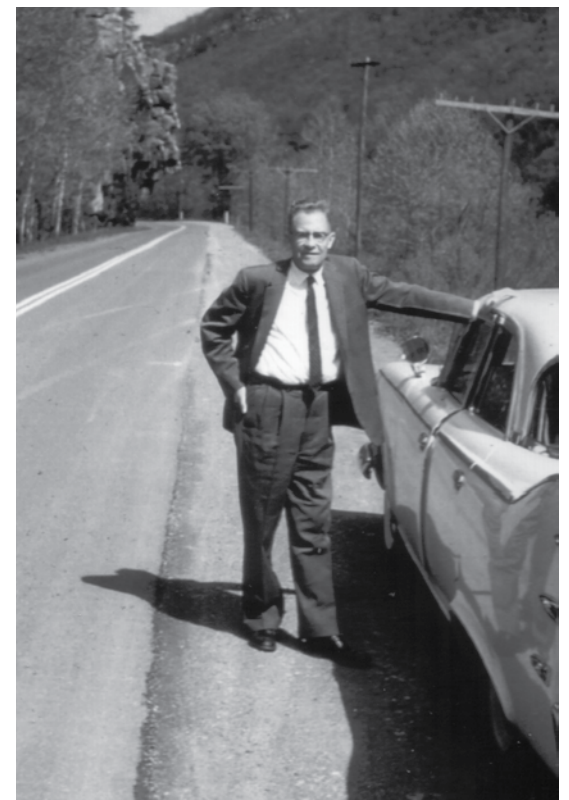
We have all met people who left us with lasting impressions. Earl L. Core was such an individual. He had a certain dignity. His slide lectures contained many moments of humor and self-deprecation. For instance, a colleague named a specimen *Senecia core*. At that time he was about 70-years old teaching his final class in Vegetation of West Virginia. "Old Man Core" was appropriate.

The photograph in the last Friends of Blackwater Canyon was also appropriate. I remember him on the roads in the canyons of our mountain state. A final feature of our class was a field trip to Cheat River Valley, Cathedral State Park with its giant hemlocks, and Blackwater Falls State Park and nearby Dolly Sods.

The article told of many accomplishments of Earl Core: researcher, author, botanist, historian, and curator. But, above all, he was a teacher. And what Earl L. Core taught his students lives on in their memories, including this teacher.

Sincerely,

Carl M. Patsche
Weirton, WV



Earl Core

Friends of Blackwater Canyon

501 Elizabeth Street - Charleston, WV 25311



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