

# Friends of Blackwater Canyon

Summer 2004

501 Elizabeth Street Room 3, Charleston, WV 25311 • 304-345-7663 • [www.saveblackwater.org](http://www.saveblackwater.org) • [info@saveblackwater.org](mailto:info@saveblackwater.org)

## BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK RECEIVES NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

Senator Robert Byrd, D.-WV was one of several dignitaries who congratulated Blackwater Falls State Park for being named a "21st Century American Heritage Place" by a national conservation group.

At a July 23, 2004 ceremony at the Park Lodge near Davis, WV, Tom St. Hilaire, Director of Americans for Our Heritage and Recreation, presented the award. Hilaire read a letter from Byrd in which the Senator said, "The beauty of the park has provided countless people with a taste of satisfaction and happiness that may tincture their aesthetic remembrances for life. One of my fondest memories was when I



Ken Caplinger, J.R. Pope, John Hunter, Tom St. Hilaire, Rob Gilligan, Judy Rodd and Stan Shaver

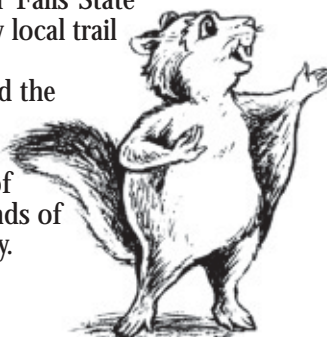
visited the park with my grandson, Michael. I put him on a pony and he loved it. It is a memory that I shall never forget."

Blackwater was chosen for the national award because of the Park's ability to provide 'close to home recreation and a variety of recreational opportunities like hiking, fishing, swimming and horseback riding,' according to St. Hilaire.

Park Superintendent Rob Gilligan displayed a map of 500 acres of new Park land acquired with the help of the Land and Conservation Fund.

West Virginia State Senator Jon Hunter, speaking on behalf of Governor Bob Wise, commented that the new Park land connects to the Town of Davis, ensuring access for local residents. Also in attendance were West Virginia Delegate Stan Shaver, Parks Chief J. R. Pope, Deputy Chief Ken Caplinger, and Blackwater Falls State Park Assistant Director Melissa Brown. The ceremony was attended by local trail enthusiasts, conservationists, and other State park personnel.

Judy Rodd, Director of the Friends of Blackwater Canyon, thanked the Wise administration and the group's nearly two thousand members for supporting this addition to Blackwater Falls State Park. Rodd read from J. Lawrence Smith's book, *The High Alleghenies*, describing a new era of stewardship for special places in the Highlands of West Virginia. Friends of Blackwater is working to map trails and plant trees on the new property.



September 10-12, 2004

### Friends of Blackwater Presents Visioning Blackwater National Park

The Canyon, the Watershed, and Beyond

*"There is nothing so American as our national parks. The scenery and wildlife are native. The fundamental idea behind the parks is native. It is, in brief, that the country belongs to the people, that it is in process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us. The parks stand as the outward symbol of this great human principle."*

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

check: [www.saveblackwater.org](http://www.saveblackwater.org)  
for conference updates

Thanks for helping  
Blackwater win the National  
Geographic Poll !!

Maine Woods	33%
Blackwater Canyon	64%
Sonoran Desert	2%

A poll conducted by National Geographic *Adventure Magazine* asking people to choose the next National Park resulted in 18,290 votes. Blackwater won by a landslide!

In this issue:

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## From the Director's Desk

### *Volunteers get the job done!*

*Please mark your calendars for September 10-12, and plan to attend some or all of our Fall Friends of Blackwater Conference at Blackwater Falls State Park outside of Davis and the Thomas Education Center in Thomas, WV. You can go on expert-led tours of the Canyon and the surrounding area. The cost is low, and it's a great chance to recreate and learn in a beautiful setting.*

*Conservation and environmental consciousness are much more than being "against" pollution and land desecration. They are just as much about being "for" giving our children and grandchildren rich opportunities to enjoy the natural world – and "for" using our great public landscapes to grow our economy in a sustainable way.*

*That's why we have a practical and inspiring vision for a new national park, with the Blackwater Canyon as a centerpiece. This will be the theme of the speakers and panels at the Conference on Saturday, September 11. We can make this vision a reality, if we work together!*

*We also want to use this get-together as an opportunity to celebrate all the wonderful volunteers who have worked so hard to bring attention to the Blackwater Canyon. Awards will be given at the banquet on Saturday night.*

*We will need lots of volunteer energy this Fall, to get the message to politicians running for office and to Governor Wise that they must move the 2,700 remaining private acres in the Blackwater Canyon into public ownership. We will be mounting a media campaign, to send this message loud and clear. Please sign up to get postcards filled out, and to send e-mails to your personal list, when we begin this campaign in September.*

*See you at the Conference!*

*Judy Rodd*

This photo of 21-year-old Judy Rodd proves that she would cross the Sahara to save Blackwater Canyon!



*OSM/VISTA volunteers sharing office space with Friends of Blackwater from left to right: Jim Mahrer with ECRR, Amy Stout with OSM/VISTA Watershed Team and Brian Bausley with OSM/VISTA Watershed Team.*

Last year Friends of Blackwater began sharing office space with the OSM/VISTA program..Great News! One project was extended for another year and a new one was added: The OSM/VISTA Watershed Team administers a group of 30 Americorps Vista Volunteers in seven states who organize litter clean-up and stream monitoring programs and AMD remediation, and lead education and outreach programs in the community. In addition, the Eastern Coal Regional Roundtable researches and distributes funding information to watershed groups in 13 states, maintains a website for easterncoal.org, and organizes ECRR steering committees.

### Wind Update

We have exciting news!! Congressman Alan Mollohan and Congressman Nick Jo Rahall have asked the General Accounting Office to study the effect of wind projects in the Midatlantic on migratory birds and to see if the Migratory Bird Act is being enforced. This is a wonderful development that could lead to enforceable federal siting criteria to protect ecologically sensitive areas, scenic viewsheds and wildlife from industrial wind developments. Please write these West Virginia representatives and thank them for taking this action:

Representative Allan B. Mollohan  
2302 Rayburn Building  
U.S. House of Representative  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-4172 FAX 202-225-7564  
<http://www.house.gov/mollohan/>

Representative Nick Rahall  
2307 Rayburn Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-3452 FAX 202-225-9061  
<http://www.house.gov/rahall/>

## J. Lawrence Smith

*"When one experiences wind, water and woodlands — the things of the wilderness — he touches the outward signs of something of importance that is inner, unseen and that goes on forever."*

- J. Lawrence Smith

John Lawrence Smith was writing about the tragedy of losing the beauty of the West Virginia high country nearly thirty years before Friends of Blackwater director Judy Rodd sought out this veteran author to serve as one of our advisors. Following is a highlight of his life:

John Smith was raised in the industrially polluted city of Nitro, West Virginia, where he was deprived the pleasure of clean mountain air. During his boyhood, he became interested in the natural world and set his career goal as a nature writer. Upon his arrival at college in Morgantown, he discovered a brighter — and better smelling — picture of his state. On weekends, he would set off for the Potomac and Allegheny Highlands to further satisfy his increasing interests in ecology and bird watching.

He expanded his horizons to include history and heritage studies, and in 1968 he wrote his first book, *The Potomac Naturalist*. His appreciation for wild areas in contrast to where he came from, eventually led him to Blackwater Falls State Park and to his second book, *Blackwater Country*, published in 1972. Since then, he has authored two more: *The High Alleghenies* in 1982 and *Birds of the Kanawha Valley* in 1996.



J. Lawrence Smith

Accompanying his work as a naturalist and a writer, John served pastorates in the Methodist Church from Huntington to the mountain highlands. Now that he is retired, he can focus full time on his West Virginia research and writing. His current project, *Land of Blackwater*, is a combination of the natural heritage and the rich history of Blackwater Canyon and Dolly Sods. Most of the proceeds from the new book will benefit Friends of Blackwater. John's decision to take on the project came out of his strong desire to preserve these areas for future generations.

On September 11, John will join a panel of experts at the Friends of Blackwater conference in Tucker County to discuss *Land of Blackwater* and its subtitle, *Place of Wilderness Spirit*.

### Board of Directors

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Sheila McEntee

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Deborah McHenry, Esq.  
J. Lawrence Smith  
Rafe Pomerance  
Joe Rieffenberger  
Steve White, Esq.  
Christopher Wood

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John M. Brown  
Valerie Little  
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## North Fork News

The North Fork Watershed Project welcomes our second OSM/VISTA Volunteer -- Ilona Volker!

Ilona was raised in Jefferson County, West Virginia, and has a degree in computer science from WVU. She now lives in the town of Thomas, W. Va. and has been working at the Alldredge Academy. Ilona is an outdoor enthusiast who is glad to be working for the watershed group.

Ilona will be working in the community to promote understanding of the threats facing the North Fork of the Blackwater River, and coordinating environmental restoration projects. She has begun working with Blackwater Falls State Park on a project to plant native trees along the Blackwater River, on new park property near the town of Davis. Tree planting will stabilize the stream bank and serve as a visual screen, blocking the Davis water treatment pond. Ilona is also working with Valley Ridge The-



Ilona Volker

atre in Thomas to showcase oral histories, local legends, and river stories.

The North Fork Watershed Project will host its "second annual" **Acid Mine Drainage Tour** – starting at noon on Saturday, September 18. The tour will meet and depart from the Bank parking lot on Front Street in Thomas.

Last year's tour was a big success, and this year's is sure to be even better! There will be games for children, a presentation on the Coketon Mine Pool, large-scale area maps, and a history tour – all with expert leadership! Following the tour (about two hours), there will be a chance to socialize with watershed group members at a picnic dinner (we provide the food!).

It is not necessary to make a reservation for the tour, although we encourage people to call ahead of time at 304-463-4068, to get any more information you need and let us know you are planning to come (or email at [info@northforkwatershed.org](mailto:info@northforkwatershed.org)).

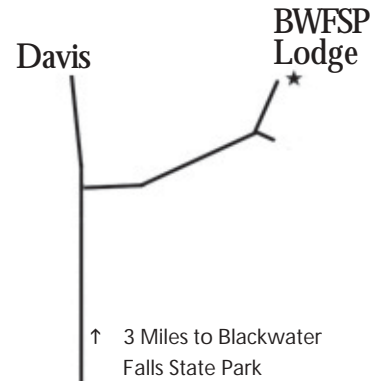
# Schedule

# Friends of Blackwater Visioning Blackwater the Canyon, the Water

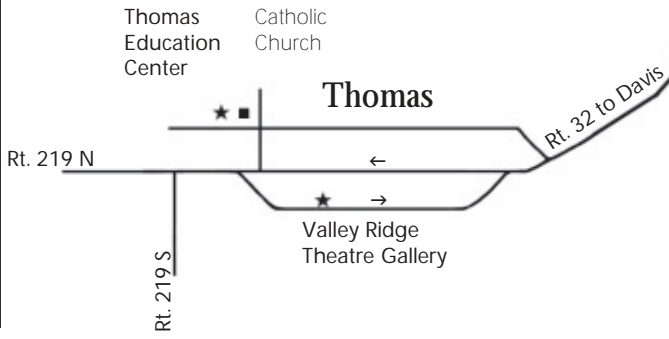
September

at Blackwater Falls State Park

<b>Friday</b>	1pm - 7pm	Register at North Fork Office, Thomas, WV
	7pm - 8pm	Wine and Cheese Reception at Valley Ridge Theatre Gallery, Front Street, Thomas, WV*
<b>Saturday</b>	7am	Bird Walk at Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge
	9am	Registration in Music Room at State Park
	10am	Tours**Starting at Park parking lot; bag lunch provided
	1:30pm	Tours**Starting at Park parking lot
	5 pm	Open House in Thomas at North Fork Office; snacks provided
<b>Sunday</b>	6:30pm	Banquet at Thomas Education Center with Speaker, dinner provided
	7pm	Speakers on: Ecology, History, Recreation, Tourism, Economics, Spiritual Values National Park Speakers and Discussion
	9pm	Purple Fiddle for late evening entertainment
	7am	Bird Walk at Park Lodge
	9:30am	Service at Park Lodge with music at the Overlook (weather permitting)
	10am	Group discussion in Park Lodge Music Room until noon; coffee, muffins and fruit provided



**\*RECEPTION: "An Intimate Portrait of Blackwater."** This exciting exhibit reveals the tiny jewels hidden in rugged Blackwater Canyon. Photographs by Paul Corbit Brown, nationally known photographer, and pen and ink drawings by Anna Hess, naturalist and artist, combine for a fabulous show. The opening reception will be held at 7:00 pm Friday, September 10 at Valley Ridge Theatre Gallery in Thomas.



**Registration** Please send us your registration form and fee **NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration fee and meals: \$35 Saturday Dinner Alone: \$15**

Number of people attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Friends of Blackwater about scholarships. Friends of Blackwater is subsidizing this conference. Your registration fee goes back into the local community. Save time register on-line at [www.saveblackwater.org](http://www.saveblackwater.org)

Contact us at 1-877-WVA-LAND  
 Mail registration form to:  
 Friends of Blackwater  
 501 Elizabeth Street, Room 3,  
 Charleston, West Virginia 25311

Please select the tours that you plan to attend on Saturday.

morning	afternoon
<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> E
<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> F
<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> G
<input type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> H

Day-long tours:

- I Tucker Co. van tour (\$20)
- J Mt. Bike tour (\$20)
- K Canoe Float (\$45/\$50)

Blackwater Presents

# Water National Park

Catchment, and Beyond

October 10, 11 and 12

Blackwater National Park and Historic Thomas

## Presenters

**Michael Kellett** is the executive director of RESTORE, a non-profit organization working to create the 3.2-million-acre Maine Woods National Park, recover extirpated and imperiled wildlife, and recovering and protecting the wild forests of New England.

**Destry Jarvis** has spent more than thirty years as a parks advocate. In 1998, after serving for five years as assistant director of the National Park Service, Destry was appointed by President Clinton to serve as senior advisor to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Destry is currently the director and founder of Outdoor Recreation and Park Services in Hamilton, Virginia.

## Tours\*\*

### 10:00am - 12:30pm

**A North Rim of the Canyon hike and drive:** Olson fire tower, Big Run Bog and the Canyon Rim Trail. Moderate hiking and climbing.

**B Thomas' Historic District walk:** Walk the streets of Thomas with Walt Ronalli. Easy walk.

**C Bike the Blackwater Canyon Trail:** A peaceful way to experience the entire Canyon. Rent bikes (\$19) or bring your own. Easy.

**D Botany tour:** Botanize with WV Native Plant Society at the Camp 70 area of Canaan Valley.

### 1:30pm - 4:00pm

**E South Rim of the Canyon hike and drive:** Enjoy Canyon vistas from Blackwater Falls State Park. About .75 miles of easy hiking.

**F Railroad Era and the North Fork of the Blackwater River**

**G Tour the State Park's new land:** Hike along the Blackwater River and to Pase Point for an unbeatable view of the Canyon. Moderate hiking.

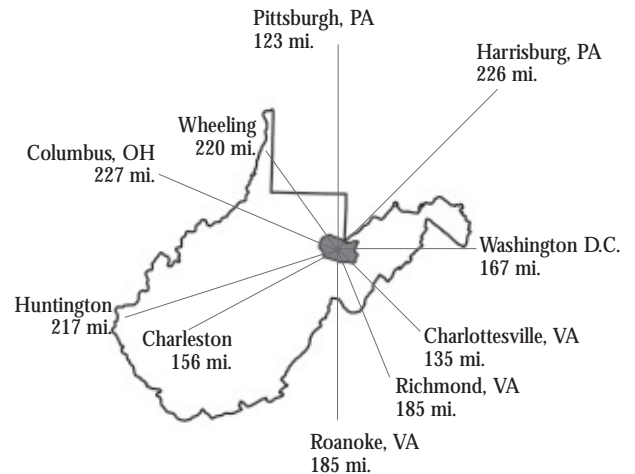
**H Hike the Blackwater Canyon Trail:** Enjoy 7 waterfalls as you walk the gentle grade of the Railroad grade.

### All Day Tours (10:00-4:00)

**I Tucker County van tour, scenery and shopping.** Will stop for lunch. (\$20)

**J 25-mile guided mountain biking trip.** (\$20 with bike rental and box lunch.)

**K 4-mile or 6-mile canoe float on Cheat River.** (\$45/\$50/per boat includes shuttle, canoe and equipment)



## Lodging

Apartments	Village Inn Motel	304-866-4166	CanaanVillage.com	\$100
Bunkhouses	TimberlineResort	304-866-4801	TimberlineResort.com	\$10
Cabins	Black Bear Resort	800-553-2327	BlackBearWV.com	\$295-\$355
	Blackwater Falls State Park	800-225-5982	blackwaterfalls.com	\$785 per week
	Golden Anchor Luxury Log Cabins	304-866-2722	goldenanchorcabins.com	\$180-\$280
Cabins/Houses	Canann Valley Realty Sales & Rentals	800-448-0074	CanaanRealty.com	\$400-\$1000
Camping	Blackwater Falls State Park	800-225-5982	blackwaterfalls.com	\$15-\$19
	Monongahela National Forest	304-636-1800	FS.fed.us/r9/mnf/	\$0
Condominiums	Deerfield Village Resort	800-342-3217	DeerfieldWV.com	\$140
Rooms	Black Bear Resort	800-553-2327	BlackBearWV.com	\$110
	Blackwater Falls State Park	800-225-5982	blackwaterfalls.com	\$80-\$98
	Bright Morning Inn	304-259-5119	BrightMorningInn.com	\$75-\$105
	Budget Host	304-259-5551		\$67
	Canaan Valley Resort State Park	800-622-4121	CanaanResorts.com	\$99-\$113
	Cedar Lodge Bed and Breakfast	703-491-7788		\$90
	Davis Alpine Lodge	304-259-5245		\$67
	Highland Inn and Spa	304-866-4455	highlandscenetours.com	\$65
	LadyBug B & B	304-463-3362	LadyBugBandB.bizland.com	\$50
	Fiddler's Roost B&B	304-463-4040	PurpleFiddle.com	\$49-\$99
	Tallyho Mountain Lodge	304-463-4114	Tallyho-tel.com	\$54-\$90
	Village Inn Motel	304-866-4166	CanaanVillage.com	\$55-\$60

## The Bats of Blackwater



As they forage in tree tops and fields and skim over streams and rivers, the thousands of bats who live in the Blackwater Canyon help keep insect populations in check. Let's meet some of these furry friends!

The Red Bat (*lasiurus borealis*), Hoary Bat (*lasiurus cinereus*) (North America's most common tree bat), the Silver-haired Bat (*lasiorycterus noctivagans*), and the Indiana Bat (*myotis sodalis*) are forest dwellers. They hang from loose foliage or hide under bark in the summer months.

The Little Brown Bat (*myotis lucifugus*), the Eastern Pipistrelle (*pipistrellus subflavus*), the Virginia Big-eared Bat (*corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*), the Big Brown Bat (*eptesicus fuscus*), and the Long-eared Bat (*myotis septentrionalis*) tend to roost in caves, hollow tree cavities and buildings.

The Indiana Bat and the Virginia Big-eared Bat are endangered species that have been documented feeding in the Blackwater Canyon (through tape recordings of their echolocation sounds.)

Almost all bats feed on flying insects, which are not available in the winter at northern latitudes. Bats inhabiting such areas have two options for survival: hibernation or migration.

The Little Brown Bat, the Indiana Bat, the Eastern Pipistrelle, and the Virginia Big-eared Bat hibernate in nearby caves, selected by evolution over countless generations for temperatures that are warm enough to prevent the bats from freezing, and cool enough for them to keep their metabolism low -- to avoid draining their fat reserves, which must last the entire winter to avoid starvation.

In the Fall, many Red Bats migrate to the southeastern states, following much the same route as birds. Here they hibernate, wrapping themselves in their furry tail membranes to withstand below freezing temperatures. They may come out of hibernation temporarily to pursue insects when the temperature goes above 55° F. Some Red Bats hibernate in hollow trees as far north as Ohio.

Hoary Bats in the East overwinter in the southeastern states from South Carolina to central Florida, where they may hibernate in the open, again protected from the cold by their densely furred tail membranes. Some may fly as far as islands in the Caribbean.

In comparison to other mammals of similar size, such as rodents, bats are long-lived and have relatively few young. Red, Hoary and Silver-haired female bats give birth to an average of two young per year and live an average of 6 or 7 years. The Indiana Bat and the Eastern Pipistrelle can live between 15 and 33 years, a remarkable life span for such small animals. The Indiana Bat has only one young per year; Pipistrelles have two.

Ecologists know that relatively long-lived animals that reproduce slowly, like bats, are particularly vulnerable to heavy episodes of mortality. This is one of the reasons that intensive logging and industrial wind farms pose a serious threat to these fascinating creatures. The bats of the Blackwater Canyon are counting on us to protect their home!

### In Memory and Honor

**Leff Moore:** The Board of Friends of Blackwater mourns the passing of Leff Moore, a passionate advocate for Blackwater protection, wise advisor and true populist.

**In memory of Yvonne Esser by Karl Esser** – Yvonne was born in Washington D.C. When we decided to build a home in the mountains, we looked no further than West Virginia. Yvonne loved the state's mountainous region, and aside from Pendleton County, — where we bought our land 25 years ago — the Blackwater Canyon was one of Yvonne's favorite places. She loved to garden. She loved nature and cared deeply about protecting it.

**In memory of Sandra Kaye Millikin by Derek Springston:** "Sandra passed away on October 4, 2003. She left my twin brother and the rest of our family and friends with very fond memories of a beautiful, talented person. She loved all people and the world with all of her heart and she graciously showed this through her many talents. She

was a member of the Baha'i Faith. She was a multi-instrumentalist who played fiddle, mandolin, guitar, and piano. She was an accomplished fiber artist who made intricate bobbin lace, traditional family quilts, Shetland sweaters, hats, and gloves among other things. She was bilingual, speaking French and English, and she traveled to France, Scotland, Ireland on several occasions. She was a dear guidance counselor in high school and middle school settings, and most importantly to me, she was my Mom. She was born and raised in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania but moved to West Virginia and stayed here the rest of her life. My contribution is in her name based on her love for West Virginia."

**In memory of Bill Maisel by Steven and Carol Schimpff**

**In honor of Diana Post of the Rachel Carson Council by Daniel Solomon**

*more memorials will appear in the fall newsletter*

## Tim Gavin



1961-1998

### In Memory of Tim Gavin by Mike Moore:

Tim was born in Rockville, Maryland. The family moved to Harper's Ferry when his dad, Bill Gavin, bought the Cliffside Inn. The whole family worked there. Tim was just learning to boat when he took a canoe down the Blackwater in 1984. He traveled all over the world boating. Tim was the senior boater in the area and taught me how to kayak. He had a larger than life personality and was held in high regard in the boating community. He took me to the Upper Youghiogheny in Maryland and to the Blackwater. We kayaked it together at least 150 times. I was with him the day he died. We were approaching the rapids called Sticky Fingers. We planned our approach and split up. He went around the rocks to the right and I to the left, but he didn't reappear below. He had been sucked into a sieve. I went back and tied a rope to the boat, but it was hopeless. He was 37 when he died on March 29, 1998. The floods of 1996 had changed the river so that 60% of the flow goes under that rock now. Tim called that rapid 'Just a Matter of Time.'

## Harper's Ferry Boat Race Honors the Memory of Tim Gavin

For Tim Gavin, kayaking in the gushing rapids of whitewater was one life adventure after another. But in March 1998, while kayaking the Blackwater River, Tim was pinned under a rock and time stopped for the 37-year-old who was not only an enthusiast for the great outdoors, but an advocate for preserving local natural resources.

In honor of Tim's memory, the paddling community of the greater Harpers Ferry area hosts a festival to support four organizations dedicated to watershed protection: Friends of the Shenandoah River, The Potomac Conservancy, Friends of Blackwater Canyon and Friends of the Cheat.

Jeff Cogle and Mike Moore are two of ten organizers of the Tim Gavin Downriver Race & Rodeo — an annual event that grew into the Harpers Ferry Outdoor Festival. The groups mission is to promote the conservation and restoration of American whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely.

When Jeff Cogle accepted the responsibility as president of the festival, he wasn't sure if he would be able to participate as a competitor, but the logistics of organizing the event went so smoothly that Jeff not only competed, he earned a few medals. While almost all of the attendees are contestants, Jeff and Mike expect that the festival will grow in the years to come.

Mike Moore had always participated in the river events, but he could never handle the stress of being an organizer until this year.

"The race has always been a fun thing to do, but it took me a while to come on board as one of



*Tim Gavin in his element, "creeking" in West Virginia*

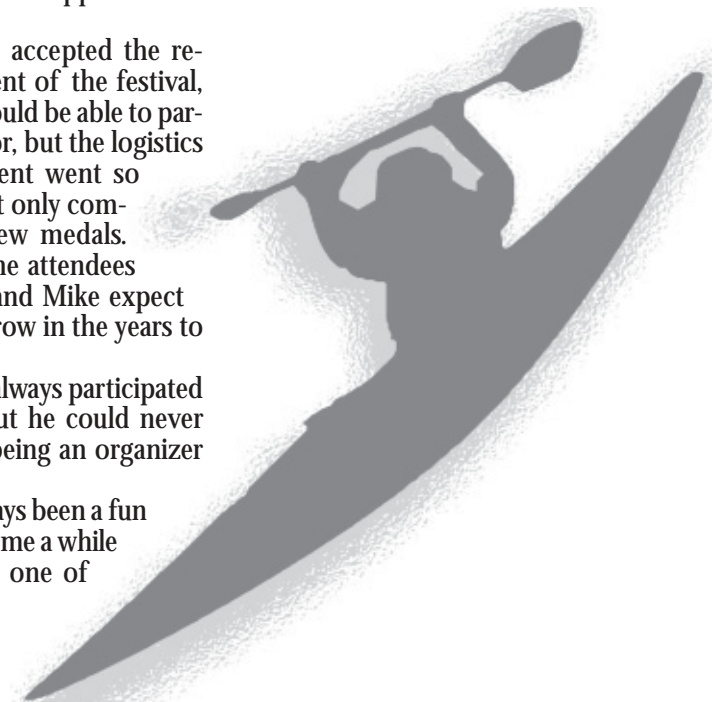
its organizers. I'm glad the festival is a success, I'm happy to raise money for the places Tim loved, especially the Blackwater, but I would much rather have him here," he said.

Mike headed up the sponsorship committee for this year's festival and plans to continue helping in the future.

"Each year we add events and the list of volunteers grows, but the size of the festival is not as important as its continuation," Jeff commented when asked about the event's rising popularity.

"For most of us, it's all about the celebration of nature and Tim's life. We had a great day. The weather was good, the river conditions were excellent and it was an honor to have Tim's son, Eric, to start the race," Jeff added.

Forty other contestants whose ages ranged from their teens to their senior years participated in this year's race on June 26. To check the winners and to learn more about the event, visit [www.harpersferryoutdoorfestival.org](http://www.harpersferryoutdoorfestival.org).



## Friends of Blackwater

www.saveblackwater.org  
501 Elizabeth Street, Rm 3  
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- \$50 Family
- \$35 Individual
- \$20 Senior
- \$10 Student

To purchase FOB gear  
and books visit

[www.saveblackwater.org](http://www.saveblackwater.org)

## Songs of the Blackwater Spruce Forest

The often entangled boughs of evergreens and deep shade beneath make seeing birds difficult. A number of characteristic birds of the spruce have distinctive songs. Listen for these songs in searching for birds in that bit of the North Woods along the Alleghenies.

A bubbling and trilling voice will be heard beneath the spruce that almost seems will not end! This is the song of the little Winter Wren that has almost a mousy appearance as it dodges among moss-covered boulders.

From a tangle of rhododendron will come the half-hearted notes of the Black-throated Blue Warbler in sharp contrast to the Winter Wren. It seems to say lay, lay, zeeee or "I am lazy."

The Black-throated Green Warbler will offer its rather wistful notes from higher up in the forest overstory. Its song is a dreamy zee, zee, zee, zo-zee. The name of this species and the Black-throated Blue are descriptive with the "blue" and "green" on their backs.

Listen for an almost flute-like song that seems to drift upward among the trees. The notes have an airy quality that is

stirring to hear. This is the voice of the Hermit Thrush, which is often considered the most beautiful song of the spruce forest.

From high in a spruce will come the warble of a Purple Finch whose plumage will stand in contrast to the evergreens. Not really purple, he has more the appearance of being dipped in strawberry juice.

To experience the thrill of listening for these species of birds and the peace of a morning concert in the spruce forest of the Blackwater Canyon, join Friends of Blackwater in Tucker County on September 11 and 12, as we stroll along the spruce forest

paths in search of a great birding adventure.



## Don't Forget about the Blackwater Photo Contest!

Deadline is November 15 check [www.saveblackwater.org](http://www.saveblackwater.org) for details