

March 2018

Friends of Blackwater



photo by Steve Shaluta

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

PO Box 247 - Thomas, WV 26292 - phone: 304-345-7663 - www.saveblackwater.org - info@saveblackwater.org

BLACKWATER WATERSHED RESTORATION WORK

News of Stream Restoration *By Ian Smith*

North Fork of the Blackwater

Pop quiz: what is red and white and weighs 400 pounds?

No, it's not the world's largest candy cane. It's the DAILY weight of dissolved iron and aluminum in the acid mine drainage ("AMD") that is coming out of the underground "Coketon Mine Pool" (old collapsed and abandoned mine workings) and into the North Fork!

It has been four months since Friends of Blackwater staff and our consultants began work on designs for treatment to reduce this pollution. Now our engineering partner, BioMost Inc, has completed an initial analysis. Here are the results.

AMD treatment systems are categorized as either active or passive. Both types use carbonate to neutralize pH and encourage precipitation of dissolved metals. Passive systems have lower long-term operation and maintenance costs, but are limited in their ability to handle high acidity and/or flows. Active systems can be scaled to accommodate any conditions, but they require an ongoing input of fresh carbonate material -- which can drive up costs.

BioMost estimated that constructing a passive system would cost around 8 million dollars, and require nearly 30 acres -- due to the large volume of polluted water -- 2.5 million gallons being discharged from the underground mine pool every day. By comparison, an active system is estimated to cost 1.4 million dollars and will fit on 3 acres. Friends of Blackwater will be pursuing the active system option moving forward, and we are presently looking into funding options.

Due to these findings, reconstructing the non-functioning passive system adjacent to the Blackwater Railroad Grade is not a viable option. Rather than expend significant resources on a pointless endeavor, we will be focusing on steps toward implementing an active system.

Beaver Creek

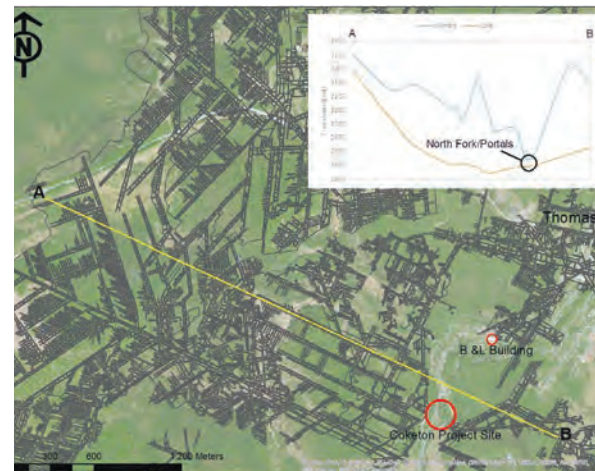
Last year, Friends of Blackwater expanded water monitoring into the Beaver Creek watershed in Tucker County. Beaver Creek and one of its two tributaries are on the WV state 303(d) list of impaired streams for pH, iron and aluminum. Above the confluence with Beaver Creek, the Blackwater River and its tributaries are of high quality, which makes Beaver Creek the uppermost and initial source of impairment for the Blackwater River.

Friends of Blackwater received a grant from

the WV Department of Environmental Protection to develop a Watershed Based Plan ("WBP") for Beaver Creek. A WBP is a coordinating framework to organize efforts to identify, prioritize and then implement activities to address water-related problems. To that end we have been spending significant time and effort to build partnerships with area stakeholders -- including government agencies, private businesses and other non-profits.

At the end of October, we hosted a meeting with more than a dozen individuals to begin exploring the current state of the watershed, the projects currently being pursued by each group, and to lay out our varying visions for the future. One of the first tasks to address was compiling existing data. We are coordinating this effort by hosting, mapping and analyzing data, and will ultimately use this information to develop the final WBP document.

Given its current level of mild impairment and the emerging cooperative partnership, we feel confident that recovering Beaver Creek is an attainable goal. Developing and submitting a Watershed Based Plan will be the first step. Thanks to all the FOB supporters whose generosity and concern is helping to move these streams toward greater health for our community.



The black lines represent the pillars from early mining. Water flows through tunnels, from higher points down to the M29 mine opening (A to B), and into North Fork.



Monitoring water quality

From Raindrops to River Pollution

The water cycle is simple: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, infiltration—and repeat. Simple, but only part of the story. Thanks to the effects of past coal mining, precipitation that "infiltrates" into the Blackwater River can become more than a mix of hydrogen and oxygen. Here's how:

The Upper Freeport coal seam dips downhill towards the North Fork of the Blackwater. Mining tunnels in the North Fork valley created a subterranean maze of straightaways and hard angle turns. As the maze expanded, miners would encounter groundwater, which flows along the interconnected tunnels and "pools" at low points in the network. During mining, pooled water was pumped to the surface, but once the coal mine was abandoned, the Coketon Mine Pool began to form.

That pooled water became acidic from sulfur-containing minerals, dissolved iron, aluminum, and manganese. As the pool grew, its surface reached the same elevation as the mine opening or portal, and the water had a pathway back to the surface—and into the Blackwater River.

Today, if a drop of rainwater falls in the North Fork watershed, there is a chance that its destiny is to become acid mine drainage pollution. Over hundreds of years, the supply of pyritic material in the mine pool will be exhausted. Until then, acid mine drainage will continue to form—and if not corrected, will keep the river from becoming the life-sustaining resource it should be.

That project – of neutralizing the acidity and removing the pollutants – is a main task of our North Fork Watershed project. Thanks to FOB supporters who make this work possible!



Dissolved minerals color the North Fork

KIDS KONNECT WITH KITCHEN KLIMATE SCIENCE

Published in

THE RECORD DELTA

Buckhannon, WV

February 21st, 2018

By Amanda Hayes

BUCKHANNON — Science students at Buckhannon-Upshur High School spent Monday learning about how the choices they make impact their environment and the future of the planet.

Tom Rodd, director of the Allegheny Highlands Climate Change Impacts Initiative, donned his chef hat for this program called Kitchen Climate Science in the B-UHS Library. The Allegheny Highlands Climate Change Impacts Initiative is a program from Friends of Blackwater, a longtime West Virginia conservation group working in the Allegheny Highlands. Rodd is also a board member of Friends of Blackwater.

"We started doing a program about four or five years ago on the impacts of climate change in the highlands, because there are a lot of sensitive species like Brooke trout and red spruce," he said. "In parts of the highlands, the economy like the ski industry is very important."

"One of the things we learned is a lot of people don't really have any understanding at all about what climate change is and is not and what global warming is and is not," Rodd said. "We started doing programs and found various hands-on activities. We have presented at several science teacher conferences and we get invited to do programs by science teachers who are teaching earth sciences."

For the Climate Change Impacts Initiative, Rodd said, "We don't try to teach about politics. We just teach about what is going on in the atmosphere and why it is going on." The program touches on biology, chemistry and physics.

"We try to teach about the atmosphere and how human beings have changed the atmosphere and what is at stake if we don't rein in or change our behavior," Rodd said.



Students do the "greenhouse boogie" at Buckhannon-Upshur High School

Students start studying earth science in eighth grade and the system is already geared up for them to learn about the atmosphere and the mixture of atmospheric gas.

"Most students are very concerned about climate change in my experience," Rodd said. "Climate change is real. Global warming is real. What to do about it is a tough problem. The first thing in terms of figuring out what to do is to understand the problem. We are glad to contribute to that understanding."

Funding for the initiative comes from a small grant from the Appalachian Stewardship Foundation.

Beatrice Burnside's biology I and II classes attended the program held in the B-UHS library, and Burnside said she thought the information was beneficial for her students.

"His end result is to have the students understand they have the choice — that it is to this future generation to be responsible for caring for their earth," she said.

"Thanks to Mrs. [Angie] Snyder-Westfall, who found him and orchestrated this program," Burnside said. "A lot of good things are happening here in the library and she has been spearheading it all."

Bear Cubs In Spring

Bear cubs like the one on our cover are usually born in January or February, but only emerge from their den after the spring thaw in late March or early April. The cubs are actually born while the mother bear is still sleeping through hibernation. Although they are initially blind and hairless, cubs develop quickly, and by the summer they are weaned and ready to start foraging. By their second winter, the former cubs will have reached maturity and be ready to live on their own.

The West Virginia Department of Natural Resources has conducted extensive studies on black bear demographics and biology, beginning with the population recovery efforts in the 1970s, helmed by former Friends of Blackwater advisory board member Joe Rieffenberger. Since those days, bears have made a steady comeback in West Virginia, with current population estimates hovering a bit above 10,000. With the bear population healthy again, the state animal is a common sight for West Virginians.

The cover photo is by Steve Shaluta. If you want to check out more of his photography, visit www.steveshaluta.com.

March 2018

THE INDUSTRIALIST AND THE MOUNTAINEER: A GUNFIGHT IN PARSONS, WEST VIRGINIA

Book Review by Tom Rodd

Ronald Lewis, a distinguished historian at West Virginia University, has written a colorful new book that tells an exciting tale of human conflict from the early days of Tucker County's timber industry.

The central incident in Lewis' book, "**The Industrialist and the Mountaineer**," published by West Virginia University Press, is a "Wild-West-style" gunfight in Parsons in 1897, when an exchange of pistol shots in a passenger car on the West Virginia Central and Pittsburgh Railroad left one man dead and another wounded.

The dead man was a wealthy sawmill owner, Frank Thompson, age 35, who had prevailed in court against the wounded man, Robert Eastham, a rough-and-tumble logger and farmer who led the crew that cleared the land for the Town of Davis.

Eastham was a Confederate guerrilla who moved to Canaan Valley in 1876 and became a renowned hunter and woodsman. Frank Thompson, the



The Thompson family, pictured in Davis, WV circa 1907

man Eastham killed, was part of a New Hampshire timber business family who came to the region to join in the industry that Henry Gassaway Davis began.

Eastham tried to use the courts to keep the Blackwater River open for his logs, but Thompson won the case – so Eastham used dynamite to blow up Thompson's dams. Lewis' book is based on court and newspaper records that document the longstanding feud between the two men.

On March 18, 1897, after a trial in Parsons, Eastham struck and insulted Thompson. Thompson drew and fired a pistol. Eastham was ready for the exchange, and fired back through his coat pocket. When the smoke cleared, both men were wounded, but only Eastham survived.

Eastham was prosecuted for instigating the shooting. High-powered lawyers represented both sides, and the courtroom antics were almost as exciting as the shoot-out. After Eastham was

convicted of a lesser charge, he escaped from the Tucker County Jail and fled to Virginia, where he lived to a ripe old age.

Lewis presents the case as "modern business type" Thompson versus the "old-time traditionalist" Eastham. But Eastham was hardly an admirable character; he comes across as a lawless bully whose violent temper and racism led him to kill an African American Union Army veteran in Virginia.

Frank Thompson's family lost their son, but they continued to have strong Tucker County business interests. Thompson's sister Sarah Maude donated 3,149 acres in Tucker County to the State of West Virginia, which was the genesis of Canaan Valley State Park.

Appalachian feuds, with their prickly ideals of honor and violent duels, are a staple of historical writing. This Tucker County feud story that Lewis tells is readable and exciting. Pick up a copy and enjoy!





THE CAPLINGER FAMILY'S STATE PARK JOURNEY

by Ken Caplinger Jr.



The Caplinger family, gathered around a plaque honoring Ken Caplinger Sr. at Blackwater Falls State Park

In 2017, Dave Caplinger retired as Supt. of Pipestem State Park. Dave's thirty five year career also included assignments as Asst. Supt of Lost River, Supt. of Seneca State Forest and Supt. of Cass Scenic RR. This marked the end of a remarkable fifty seven year direct involvement of the Caplinger family in WV State Parks. The journey began in 1960 when Dave's father, Ken Caplinger Sr., became a WV Park Ranger. In that year, Ken and his wife Doris took their children Carol, Kaye, Sue, Ken Jr., and Dave to live at Babcock State Park. Prior to that, following combat service in WW II, Ken had been a Conservation Officer for the WV Conservation Commission, the forerunner of the Division of Natural Resources, and a private businessman. After training at Babcock under legendary Supt. Clyde Crowley, he was assigned as Watoga's Asst. Supt. in 1962. In 1964 he went to Cass Scenic RR as Supt., where he and Doris welcomed their new son Michael into the family. He became Blackwater Supt. in 1968 where he remained until his 1979 retirement.

The same year Ken Sr. retired, Ken Jr. became Asst. Supt at Watoga. He served there five years and then moved to Pipestem as Asst. Supt. and later Supt. In 1991 he went to the Parks' central office as Deputy Chief. In 2006 he was entrusted with the position of Chief of Parks and served until his 2013 retirement after thirty five years of service.

When asked about the impact on them of their upbringing and involvement in WV state parks, the six Caplinger siblings embrace the words on a plaque at Blackwater Lodge dedicated to their father. The inscription says that his, "Commitment to the Preservation of West Virginia's Natural Beauty Lives On In All Those Who Look Upon The Earth With Awe, Respect, and Unbounded Curiosity." On behalf of their father and mother and themselves, they thank the people of West Virginia and its great state park system for a lifetime of memories.



Ken Caplinger Jr., Pipestem State Park circa 1991



Pipestem State Park Superintendent Dave Caplinger, circa 2015



Three Deputy Chiefs of WV Parks :Kermit McKeever, Cordie Hudkins, & Ken Caplinger Jr.



Ken Caplinger Sr., Superintendent of Blackwater Falls State Park, circa 1976

Our Campaign to Save West Virginia's State Parks

State Parks News Round-up

What have people from around the state been saying about logging in state parks?



“Fact: Cutting trees does not prevent forest fires. It might increase their probability.”
-Retired forester Turner Sharp, published in the Charleston Gazette-Mail on February 12th

“Taking timber from mature forests in our parks to pay for their maintenance is the very definition of selling ourselves short.”
-Keena Mullins, published in the *Huntington Herald-Dispatch* on January 27th

“...as we all know the devil is in the details, and the real intent of the bill is hidden in the tricky wordplay used to write it.”
-Charlie Striesel, published in *The Hampshire Review* on January 31st

“The bill limits cutting to no more than an average of four trees per acre that are 16” or greater in size. That is NOT good forestry...Over time all of the valuable trees are taken and the land is left with a ragged stand of culls, small stems and unmarketable species.”
-Retired member of the WV-DNR and current member of the Society of American Foresters Robert Beanblossom, published in *The Record Delta* on February 7th

“The payoff from harvesting timber within the parks will do more harm than good in the long run.”
Agriculture Commissioner Kent Leonhardt, quoted in the *Charleston Gazette-Mail* January 23rd

“WVDNR’s very own ‘WV State Wildlife Action Plan’ lists adverse impacts caused by logging... Over mature is a term used by loggers to describe trees that are too old to be good saw logs. ‘Over mature’ trees can live for hundreds more years.”
-Frank Gifford, published in *The Pocahontas Times* on February 14th

“Appalachian old-growth forests are arguably the finest temperate hardwood forests on Earth, exceptionally rich in biodiversity. There are only scattered fragments of these forests remaining. Our state park forests are in the process of returning to this condition of old-growth magnificence...”
-Jim Waggy, published in *The Charleston Gazette-Mail* on January 22nd



“Why would the Secretary insist on putting our parks at risk when there are other viable revenue options that are consistent with the purpose and mission of our state park system?”
-Chad Cordell, quoted in the *Princeton Times* on January 26th

“Wise management of this highly valuable resource is the responsibility of the DNR. Let us not add the title of ‘lumber salesman’ to this state agency.”
-Tony Humphreys, published in the *Williamson Daily News* on February 1st

“I wouldn’t do anything to harm the beauty or aesthetics of this state. As the bill stands now, I would not vote for it.”
-Sen. Prezioso (Marion County), quoted in the *Exponent Telegram* on January 25th

“Bill allowing logging in state parks falls apart”
-Headline on MetroNews on February 23rd

“This body had the foresight to protect state parks. Are we more desperate than they were in 1929 and 1931 that we need to timber these parks?”
-Sen. Woelfel (Cabell County), quoted in the *Exponent Telegram* on January 18th

“A few million dollars in fees from loggers would be no bargain if it came at the expense of millions lost from visitors because parks were made less appealing.”
-Editorial in the *Wheeling Intelligencer*, February 7th

“We felt it important to add our voice to this issue because West Virginia State Parks are a world-class treasure and the current bills will not result in ecologically and socially responsible public forest management.”
-Dr. Zander Evans, Executive Director of the Forest Stewards Guild, in a statement released to the press on February 21st

“To get to those trees, loggers would have to bulldoze roads and skid landings along the forest floor. Proponents say the disturbed earth would be reseeded with wildlife-attracting plants, and the reclaimed areas would create nature-viewing areas that would help parks attract even more visitors. Color me skeptical.”
-Outdoor columnist John McCoy, published in *The Charleston Gazette-Mail* on January 27th

“The bottom line is that by allowing logging in state parks, SB 270 effectively violates state code.”
-Dylan Jones, writing for *Highland Outdoors Magazine* on January 19th

“There are many good reasons to continue the 80-year policy of preventing logging in our state parks, and one, very personal reason for me is the fact that my small business depends upon having these special forests to teach in.”
-Doug Wood, published in *The Daily Mail* on January 24th

“The biggest threat to forest health in WV comes from invasive species, and most forest health management does not require commercial timber management.”
-Professional forester Amy Cimarolli, in an open letter to legislators published online on February 5th

Friends of Blackwater Sparks Broad Coalition to Defeat Commercial Logging in West Virginia State Parks

On December 25 2017, Rick Steelhammer of the Charleston Gazette-mail reported that “[a] suggestion by state Commerce Secretary Woody Thrasher that logging be allowed in West Virginia’s state parks to produce revenue for needed repairs and improvements has drawn fire from the conservation group Friends of Blackwater.”

The December story continued, “‘State parks are beloved by the people of West Virginia,’ Judy Rodd, Friends of Blackwater’s executive director, said Friday. ‘People who come to the parks don’t want to see logging taking place, and West Virginia code says you can’t log in state parks, except to clear land to build something. You would have to have the Legislature change the code to allow this to happen.’”

“‘[This] is not the Christmas present we were expecting from the governor,’ Rodd said. ‘We would like him to take it back. We have been asking people to call the governor and express their concerns.’”

It was the middle of the Holiday season – but Judy immediately began sharing this news with other conservation groups. She met with Governor’s Justice’s staff, accompanied by former State Parks director Ken Caplinger. But despite their warnings, in January 2018 a bill was introduced that would allow commercial logging in the Parks.

Almost overnight, a broad-based citizens’ movement arose. FOB supporters, conservation groups, and citizens across the region started speaking out, loudly! Thousands of calls, letters, e-mails, petitions, and visits brought enough pressure on Legislators to keep the Governor’s bill from coming out of committee.

Information obtained by a Freedom of Information Request shows that the DNR and WV Division of Forestry was eyeing 41,798 acres of land at Babcock, Lost River, Watoga, and Holly River State Parks for the chopping block in their

initial proposal. Maps indicate that about 90+ % of the park area would have been considered for logging, with only the developed recreation areas being excluded.

FOB raised funds to hire a seasoned lobbyist to work on Park protection at the Legislature. FOB staffer Kate Leary did social media outreach, community meetings, and mobilized phone calls and letters. Newspaper editorials blasted the plan, and the head of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture was interviewed on TV criticizing the plan. John McCoy, outdoor writer for the Charleston Gazette-Mail came out against the logging.

Facebook posts with videos of beautiful state parks urged action and meetings with committee members including one with Senator Sypolt at Blackwater Falls State park increased the pressure. The bill was shrunk to a pilot project but still included changing the way parks are managed. With opposition continuing, the bill never made it out of committee. As we go to press Senator Mike Woelfel (D-Cabell) has declared the bill dead.

Thank you to Doug Wood of the West Virginia Scenic Trails group, Chad Cordell from the Kanawha State Forest Coalition, Angie Rosser of West Virginia Rivers and Justin Raines of the Sierra Club (and many others) for their effort and leadership in organizing this campaign.

Thank you to our members who called, wrote letters, attended meetings, and donated to keep this campaign going. We couldn’t do this work without you.

***There are still more ways to support state parks! A bill to dedicate funds for parks improvement (SB 438) has passed the West Virginia Senate and is moving forward in the House of Delegates! Contact your representatives and tell them to support this plan!**



CHARLESTON – Senator Mike Woelfel, D-Cabell, today issued the following statement about Senate Bill 270, which would have authorized the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources implement a timber management program on state park lands:

“It is my belief Senate Bill 270 is as dead as an old chestnut tree. Our state parks were created in 1931 to preserve scenic and aesthetic areas of West Virginia. The Governor’s Bill would have granted legal authority to loggers to ‘manage’ timber in state parks. As we all know, however, these pristine areas have ‘managed’ themselves quite well long before the existence of bulldozers or chain saws. The compelling testimony of former Watoga State Park Administrator Ken Caplinger before the Senate Natural Resources Committee likely extinguished the legislation’s potential for passage.

In fairness, the proponents of Senate Bill 270 were knowledgeable, acting in good faith and clearly well intentioned. They brought long overdue attention that state parks suffer from a protracted lack of adequate funding sources.

In the end, spirited and effective citizen opposition via petition, email, telephone, and personal contact with legislators carried the day.

Liquidation of the forests that make West Virginia’s parks unique would have been a grave mistake. It’s amazing what good can occur when citizens engage and actively participate in the legislative process.”



LOBBYING FOR THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

This Valentines Day, Friends of Blackwater showed some love for Endangered Species by lobbying West Virginia’s congressional delegation in Washington DC. Executive director Judy Rodd and former Monongahela National Forest ecologist Kent Karriker visited five offices on capitol hill, meeting with staffers for Sen. Moore Capito, Rep. Jenkins, Rep. Mooney, and Rep. McKinley, as well as Sen. Manchin and his staffer Elliott Howard. All the staffers seemed very interested in our message and goal, and we encouraged them to come see Blackwater Canyon for themselves.

The goal was to educate legislators about the importance of the Endangered Species Act, and encourage them to protect the Act by passing “clean” legislation with no harmful riders. A puppet of “Ginny” the flying squirrel came along, to demonstrate the impact of the Act on West Virginia’s wild and wonderful creatures. Other rare West Virginia species include the Indiana Bat, the Virginia Big-Eared Bat, the Cheat Mountain Salamander, and the Cheat Snail. The same message of protection was delivered to the Department of the Interior during a meeting with Gary Frazer, the Assistant



(left to right): Kent Karriker, Senator Joe Manchin, Judy Rodd (with Ginny) and Corry Westbrook, Endangered Species Coalition.

Director of Ecological Services for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Thank you to Corry Westbrook of the Endangered Species Coalition for being our guide to capitol hill and reminding us of our ‘ask’! Stay tuned for more updates on protecting this bedrock environmental law.



Judy Rodd and Kent Karriker on Capitol Hill

MAY EVENT: Two Steps to Pedal Powered Adventure!



Step 1: find an amazing combination of natural wonders, historic sites, and small mountain towns.

Step 2: add in a mix of lonely gravel roads, converted rail trails, and freshly built singletrack connecting these areas.

What do you get? The Blackwater River watershed -- a perfect bike touring destination!

For those who love seeing the world from the seat of a bike, Friends of Blackwater is excited to offer the opportunity to join a free guided tour exploring the Blackwater watershed from Canaan Valley to Blackwater Canyon, including the many water restoration, trail and history projects we are presently working on.

This event will be held over two days during Memorial Day weekend, May 26-27, 2018.

Each day will consist of 25-30 miles of riding on mixed surface roads and trails. While you don’t need to be an expert rider, this taste of adventure cycling requires a moderate degree of technical and physical ability. All are welcome if they have experience. Due to the terrain and route, vehicle support and cellular service will be limited.

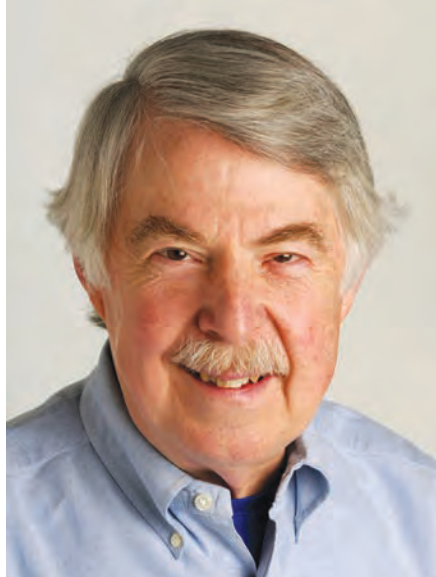
If interested, contact Ian at ian@saveblackwater.org or at (304)-345-7663 for further details.



IN MEMORY AND HONOR

Celebrating a Champion of the Highlands

Paul Nyden, a prize-winning reporter for the *Charleston Gazette-Mail*, died



Paul Nyden

in January of 2018. He was a great supporter of Friends of Blackwater, and loved the Blackwater Canyon and Allegheny Highlands.

Paul wrote about stream pollution on Beaver Creek by construction companies building Corridor H, acid mine drainage in the Cheat and Tygart rivers from strip mining, and many more environmental issues. He is best known for his writing about the coal industry.

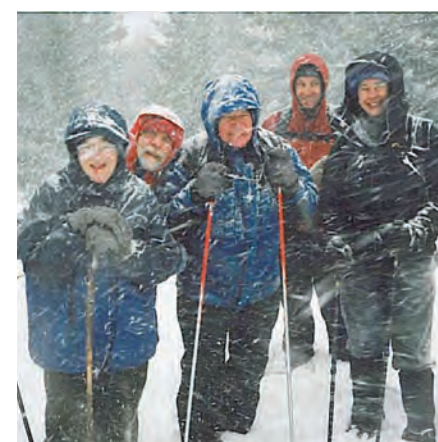
An obituary for Paul quoted United Mine Workers President Cecil Roberts: "[Nyden's] clear-eyed, insightful coverage of the coal industry over his entire career was focused on the people who did the hard work of mining

the coal, their families and their communities. He let others sing the praises of the bosses, the owners and how much money they made, for he knew the truth: The most precious resource in every mine is the miner, not the coal. He told the miners' stories, and he told them exceptionally well."

Paul's love of birdwatching and opera reflected his sweet and caring soul. We are proud that two of Paul's children, Carrie Mandela Nyden and Katherine Allende Nyden, worked for Friends of Blackwater in our Charleston office. And we are also proud of the many journalists who learned from Paul Nyden. Like them, Paul's life inspires us to continue his work.

Remembering Peter Shoenfeld, Lover of the West Virginia Highlands

Friends of Blackwater is grateful to Peter S. Shoenfeld, whose financial support for FOB programs was substantial, and invaluable. Peter died on November 13, 2017; he was



Peter Shoenfeld center

History Day at the WV State Capitol

On February 22nd, historical organizations from across the state gathered in the capitol building in Charleston to celebrate West Virginia's rich history. Although there were many unique signs and artifacts on display, the history gathering was

partly overshadowed by the first day of the teacher's strike. With all 55 counties represented, the strike was historic in its own right, and the capitol rang with their chants. Some teachers even took time out from protesting to stop by Friends of Blackwater's table. There, they got information on Tucker County railroad history, and African American history, as exemplified by the early civil rights work of J.R. Clifford.

At left: Teachers assemble outside the capitol.



77. We deeply appreciated his confidence that we would use his contributions wisely and we know he wanted our work to protect the entire Blackwater Canyon to continue. Peter's love for the outdoors and the Highlands was passionate and he embraced environmental advocacy. Peter and his wife Marilyn have been active members of the Canaan Valley/Tucker County conservation community. Peter earned a Master's degree at Howard University and a Ph. D in Mathematics from the University of Maryland. He enjoyed backpacking and orienteering, loved swimming in wild rivers and lakes, and spent as much time as he could at his cabin outside Franklin, West Virginia. Thank you, Peter, for being part of our FOB family.

OUR WONDERFUL DONORS

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Ken Kaleida and Donna
Gunther
Heidi Kammer
Marie and John Kilcarr
Sara King
Pat Kingman
Elliot and Nancy Kirschbaum
Beth Koller
Lenna Leeson
Douglas Lesar
Richard Losh
Stephanie and Larry Lowden
Betty Justice and David Miller
Arthur and Iris Malcolm
Julian Martin
Margaret McKelvey
Patrick McCann
Pat McGinley and
Suzanne Weise
Warren and Peggy McGraw
Susan and Steve McNeill
Mary McPherson
Tony Milam
Mary Alice and Gerry Milnes
Karyn Molines and Gary
Pendleton
Carol Mollohan
James and Kathryn Morrow
James Murray
Linda and Takeo Nishioka
Lee Paules
Jeffrey Payne
Jean Perfater Pozega
Anne Marie Pleska and
Luc Cayet
Alice Rathbone

David and Martha Reitman
Russ and Mary Rhoads
John and Melanie Richard
Paul and Marjorie Richter
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Delbert Royce
Nicholas and Monica Rumsey
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Marius and Ellen Schwartz
Betty Schwimmer
Ralph Scoville
Craig Sease
James See and Joan Weber
Anne and John Sills
William Blaine Stevens
and Karen Kelley
Susan and Donley Studlar
William Styer and
Amber Gerig
Lawrence Smith
Fred Stafford and
Krystyna Jaffe
Sandra Staggers
Jack Steel
Bruce and Maral Strathearn
Thomas Stump
Charlotte Taylor
Sidney and Barbara Tedford
Frank and Annette van Hilst
Gregory Wagner
Kathy Warren
Diana Weatherby
Jo Weisbrod and Hanno Kirk
Judy Williamson
Alice Young

Family Level (\$50 to \$99)

David and Peggy Allman
Ralph and Molly Anderegg
Joseph Balassone
Mary Beard
Grant and Dee Beauchamp
Gail Berlin
Brent Blackwelder
Jeb Booth and Simon Lollis

Franklin and Jennifer Boteler
Robert and Constance
Bouchard
Charles and Nancy Brabec
Wilson Bradburn
T. Krolikowski Buck
Samuel Burchfield
Richard Butler
Gloria Chepko
Craig Close
Nancy Costerisan
Robert Coughlin
Suzanne Covello
Linda and David Davidson
Robert and Janet Deal
Bruce and April Debolt
Marcia Denton
Al and Barbara Deynzer
Jack and Margaret Dolly
Sharon Durr
Evelyn Ebbert
Patricia Emmer-Lawson
Karen Fedorov
Frank and Bridget Fico
Bill and Angela Fincham
Frank and Nancy Fitzpatrick
Sarah Fletcher and
Jennifer Snyder
Richard Ford
Doris Frissell
Leslie and Joni Grady
Julie Graham
Rodney Grandon
Rod and Helen Graves
Richard and Audrey Gray
Diana Green
Katherine Gregg
Patricia Gussey
Dorothy Guy
Janice Hall
Stephen and Brenda
Hancheck
Richard Harris and
Karen Ford
John and Barbara Haynes
Kent and Rosalyn Hedman
Gertraud and Caulton Irwin
Marshall and Bunny Jarrett

FROM DECEMBER 2016 TO FEBRUARY 2018

David Hostetter and SunI Johnson	Paul Sheridan and Kate Fitzgerald	Sargent Cheever	Roberta Allison	Ellesa High	James Valencheck
Pete and Sienna Johnson	Donna and Kenneth Showalter	Lt. Col. (Ret.) and Mrs. David Deterich	Danny Baker	John and Judy Hillman	John Vielkind
Edward and Judith Joyce	Frank Slider	Alan Dolan	Alice Bartholomew	William Craig Howell	Michael Webb
Mimi Kibler and Alain Kieny	Jean and John Smith	Eve and Thomas Firor	Nancy and David Bateman	Robert Humphrey	Stephen and Susan Wellons
Michael and Carrie Kline	Bob Smythe	Steven Garske	Barbara and James Beer	Alan Jenks	Kaye Widney and Kaye Caplinger
Gordon Knight	Denny and Luella Sorber	Loise Gillooly	Roland and Barbara Bergman	Richard Johnson	Nick Williams
Stephen and Elizabeth Lawson	James Speicher	Joan Golden	Joe and Heather Biola	Charles Karnack	Robert Williams
Helen Lohm	John Stansbury	Hullet and Shirley Good	Joan Breiding	Carole Lynn Keller	Bruce and Jeri Wilson
Bob and Millie Lynn	William and Francoise Stauber	Ruth Gross	John Brown	John Kosticky	Ronald Wilson
John Magan	John Stealey	Walter Harbison	Johnny Brooks	Charles and Gail Kramer	Virginia Winston
Brian and Antionette Maggied	Judith Steel	Barry and Sassi Harel	Brent Carminati	Letty Limbach	Peggy Wright
Lowell and Terri Markey	Irving and Gail Stern	Barbara Howe	William and Alexandra Carrico	Stephanie Lovelady	
Deatra Markham	Leah Stern	Carol Jackson	Dayle and Susan Chapman	Charlotte Lowe	Student Level (\$10 to \$19)
Brian McCulley	Mary Stone	Doris Jarrell	Caroline and John Charonko	John and Pamela Lutz	Debra Brinker
David and Marge McCutcheon	Keith Strausbaugh and Ivonne Martinez	Greta and Steven Johnston	Francis Cheever	Robert Lynch	Marietta Buckley
Lisa McIver	Ronald and Sharon Tebben	Raymond and Janet Keith	Fred and Donna Coleman	Donna Martin	Alex Coffman
Suzanne McLaughlin	Charles and Robin Thompson	Sandra Knowles	Charles and Kathryn Conrad	David Maxwell	Adele Cole
William and Denise McNeel	Paula Tremba	Charles and Adella Langham	Bill Csutoros	Michael McCauley	Jason Cyr
Scot and Lisa Meadows	Irma Ullrich	Robert and Mary Lu Latane	James Decker and Karolyn Schalk	Cathy McConnell	Mike and Sherry Deskins
Josie Merritt	Robert Ward	Ann Martin	Katie Davis	Cathy McDonald	Sara Gann
Kathi and Mac Mestayer	Jon and Donna Weems	Kent Mason	Bernard DeMartini	John and Jeanine Meszaros	Vic George
Nathaniel Miller	William Wegener	Kim McMichael	Harriet Dickerson	Duane Nichols and Carol Sue Miles	Mark Giese
Ruth Myers	Nicholas Winowich	Thomas and Judith McHugh	Stephen Dorsett	Paul Minton	Elizabeth Hestick
Sarah and Herb Myers	Harlan Wilson	John Nelson	Sally Egan	John Mooney	Jane Jaron
Suzanne Offutt and Michael Zagarella	Dick Wolfe	Dennis Parsons	Gertrude Ehrlich	Kevin and Susan Moore	George and Cindy Joseph
John and Roberta Overholt	Barbara Wolfert	Ann Persinger	Joanie Ellingwood	Carol Nix	Alison Love
Kent Parker	James Yenckel and Sandra Lefevre	Elizabeth Read	Karen and Steven Ervin	Ursula Nottnagel	John McConnell
Del Parris	Charles Yoho	Thorn Roberts	Sigo Falk	Ann and John Palaitis	Anne Mealey
Vernon and Joanne Patterson	James and Mary Anne Young	Michael and Elizabeth Ross	Jean and Rick Farley	Marvin and Jane Parsons	Laura Moul
Noel and Sarah Pavlovic	Michael Young	Larry Rowe and Julia Beury	Timothy Finney	Sharon Pauley	Michele Moure-Reeves
Katherine Payne	Mathias Zahniser	Mark Sagin	William Donald Ford	Robert Paviour Jr.	Nancy Myers
Carl Pryor	Individual Level (\$35 to \$49)	Michael and Constance Schmotzer	Jesse Gandee II	Betty Pier	Jeanne Odom
Paul and Marsha Rexrode	Art Abrams	Judy Seaman	Lydia Garvey	Charles, Donna and Ali Printz	Don Olmstead
Rich Rieger and Diana Simonton	Cynthia Adam	Stephanie Smoot	Sam Golston	Perrie Lee Prouty	Jerry Payne
William Ridgely	Michael Arenth	Patty Snow	Jeff Goodman	Rose Marie Riter	Elaine Sapp
John and Betty Roberts	Paul Atkins	Eric Tribbey	Betsy and Geoff Green	H. John Rogers	Veronica Staron
Alan Rudley	Maurice Barnett	Margaret Trott	Mary Grey	Susan Sailer and Tom Miles	Liz Stout
Frank and Jan Samargo	Thomas and Cynthia Beres	Shirley Vasy	Gina and Mary Griffith	Walt Shupe	Stephen Strothers
Jim and Melinda Schmitt	Ken Bosworth and Mary Hofle	Jerry and Jean Wagener	Benton Lee Grimm	Joan Sims	Andy Stump
David and Linda Schoyer	Dennis Boyles	Beth Warnick	Walter and Sharon Guinn	Betty Spear	Kim Williams
Don Schwartz	Jean Bray	Buddy Watkins	Clifford and Eleanor Hamrick	Mary Jo Starkey	
Neal Secrist	Jo Bailly Brown	Barbara and Alan Yandek	Roger Hanna	Maria Startari-Stegall	
Donald and Jeannine Seibert		Mary Young and John Landolt	Mary Hardey	Ed Steers	
Darrell and Kathryn Shahin			Aubrey Harris	Kaila St. Louis	
			Amanda Hayes	John Taylor	
			Jill Hayes	Darlene Thompson	
			Diane Hert	Waino Tuominen	
		Senior Level (\$20 to \$34)			
		Martin Albert			



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**Read about our Campaign
to Stop Logging in State
Parks on page 6 and 7!**



Winter Film Festival

Friends of Blackwater held their annual winter film festival and charity raffle on February 8th at White Grass Ski Touring Center in Canaan Valley. Attendees watched films about winter adventure sports, bid on raffle items donated by local businesses, and sang along with live music during dinner. It was a fun evening, and we’re grateful to everyone who participated. Another big thank you goes out to the local businesses who donated raffle items: The Purple Fiddle, Big Bear Lake Trail Center, Tip-Top Coffee Shop, Wild Ginger and Spice, East-West Printing, Sirriani’s Café, the Highland Market, Front Street Grocers, Star Pottery, and Healthberry Farms.



White Grass Ski Center



Having Fun at the FOB Film Fest