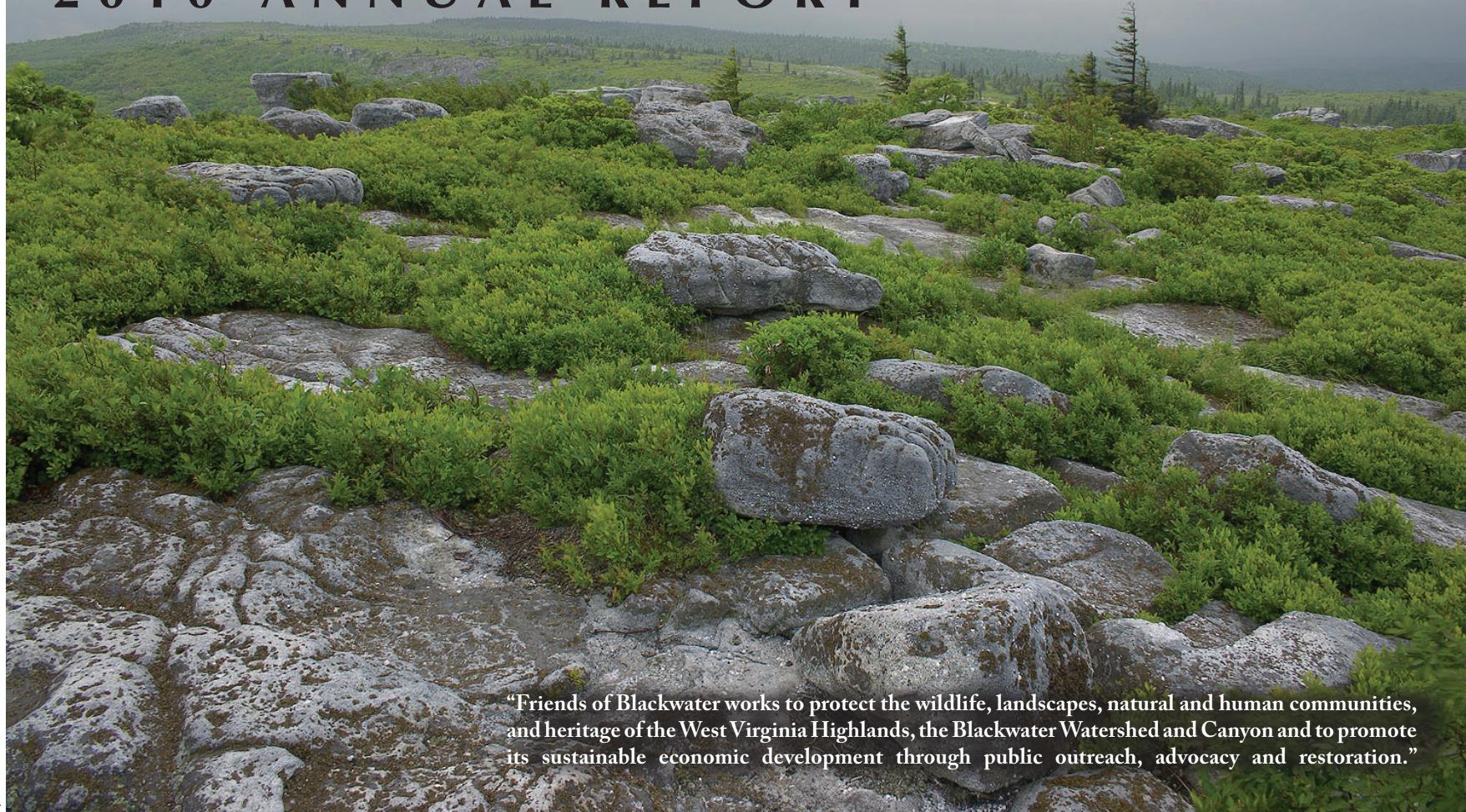




Friends of Blackwater

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



"Friends of Blackwater works to protect the wildlife, landscapes, natural and human communities, and heritage of the West Virginia Highlands, the Blackwater Watershed and Canyon and to promote its sustainable economic development through public outreach, advocacy and restoration."



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PROGRAMS

Purchasing Blackwater Canyon
Save the Blackwater Canyon Rail Trail
Save Our Squirrel
North Fork Watershed Project
Keep Dolly Sods Wild
WV Bats in Peril
The J.R. Clifford Project
A New Home for Liberty
Gas Drilling on Public Lands
Save Cheat Canyon
High Allegheny National Park

FINANCES

OUR SUPER VOLUNTEERS

Photo Credits



FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER MAKES PROGRESS ON OUR CORE MISSION – MOVING THE PRIVATE LAND IN THE BLACKWATER CANYON INTO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP



In 2009, the major private landowner in the Canyon (about 2300 acres) agreed in principle to sell its land to the government. Former West Virginia Governor Manchin had the West Virginia legislature set aside \$5,000,000 for the purchase. FOB is continuing to work with Senator Manchin to finalize the purchase. Meanwhile, FOB is working to enforce a Habitat Conservation Plan in which the US Fish and Wildlife Service has required the private landowner to conduct surveys of all Canyon caves and endangered species including the Cheat Mountain Salamander and the West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel.





FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER WINS A BIG VICTORY -- PROTECTING THE BLACKWATER CANYON TRAIL



In July of 2010, the US Forest Service declared that the scenic and historic ten-mile-long Blackwater Canyon Rail Trail would not be given to a timber company to use as a logging haul road. This victory was due to more than nine years of pressure from citizens, community leaders, business owners, and conservation and historic preservation groups. The decision protects four rare species in the Blackwater Canyon — and the historic coke ovens, bridges, and cut stone archways that line the National Register-eligible historic Trail.





FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER WINS ANOTHER BIG VICTORY -- RESTORING "GINNY" TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST



"Ginny," the West Virginia northern flying squirrel, is the most unique mammal of the Allegheny Highlands, and the signature species of the Blackwater Canyon. On March 25, 2011, Federal Judge Emmett Sullivan ruled that the US Fish and Wildlife Service had violated the law when they removed Ginny from the Endangered Species List. The judge's order restoring Ginny to federal protection reverses an anti-science decision that threatened large areas of pristine Highlands habitat.





FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER CONTINUES OUR SUCCESSFUL STREAM RESTORATION PROGRAM



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The North Fork Watershed Project works to remediate acid mine drainage in the North Fork, a tributary of the Blackwater River. The Project presents programs on water quality to students, community groups, Boy and Girl Scouts, and 4-H Clubs. The Project is working with the town of Thomas to build a trail system in the Thomas City Park along the North Fork. Our 2010 summer Vista Volunteer, Evan Supak, studied streams in the Blackwater Watershed with potential for reintroducing native brook trout.



FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER PREVENTS BIRD AND BAT KILLS FROM INDUSTRIAL WIND TURBINES



When Friends of Blackwater learned that mortality studies at the Mountaineer Industrial Wind Project, just north of the Blackwater Canyon, revealed massive numbers of bat deaths, we got involved. FOB fought the NedPower project at Dolly Sods which is killing raptors and bats on the Allegheny Front. We support education, research, and networking to prevent and mitigate damage to communities, citizens, and wildlife from industrial wind turbines in the Highlands.



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FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER ADDRESSES A NEW ECOLOGICAL THREAT IN THE HIGHLANDS – WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME



The widespread and fatal “white-nose syndrome” affects many bat species. FOB funded a “listing” petition for the little brown bat, a formerly common species that is being decimated. FOB was joined on the petition by the Center for Biological Diversity, Bat Conservation International, and Dr. Thomas Kunz and the Center for Ecology and Conservation Biology at Boston University. Negotiations with the Fish and Wildlife Service on an emergency listing have begun. The Service is using the FOB-funded analysis of Dr. Winifred Fink and Dr. Kunz as the basis for their proposed listing.





FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER PROMOTES HERITAGE PRESERVATION IN THE HIGHLANDS



Historic coke ovens at Coketon, WV



In 2003, Friends of Blackwater learned the remarkable story of the Blackwater Canyon's Coketon Colored School, and two "Blackwater Heroes" – attorney John Robert "J.R." Clifford (1848-1933), and Tucker County teacher Carrie Williams. These two African American trailblazers won a nationally recognized victory for minority students in West Virginia. Out of this discovery grew FOB's "J.R. Clifford Project," a unique melding of environmental and community protection and diversity, reconciliation, and citizen empowerment. The Project does presentations on Clifford's life and message to school assemblies around the state. Nine thousand posters on the Project have been distributed to high schools, museums, libraries and visitor centers around the state.



FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER CELEBRATES WEST VIRGINIA'S "SESQUICENTENNIAL" (150TH BIRTHDAY)

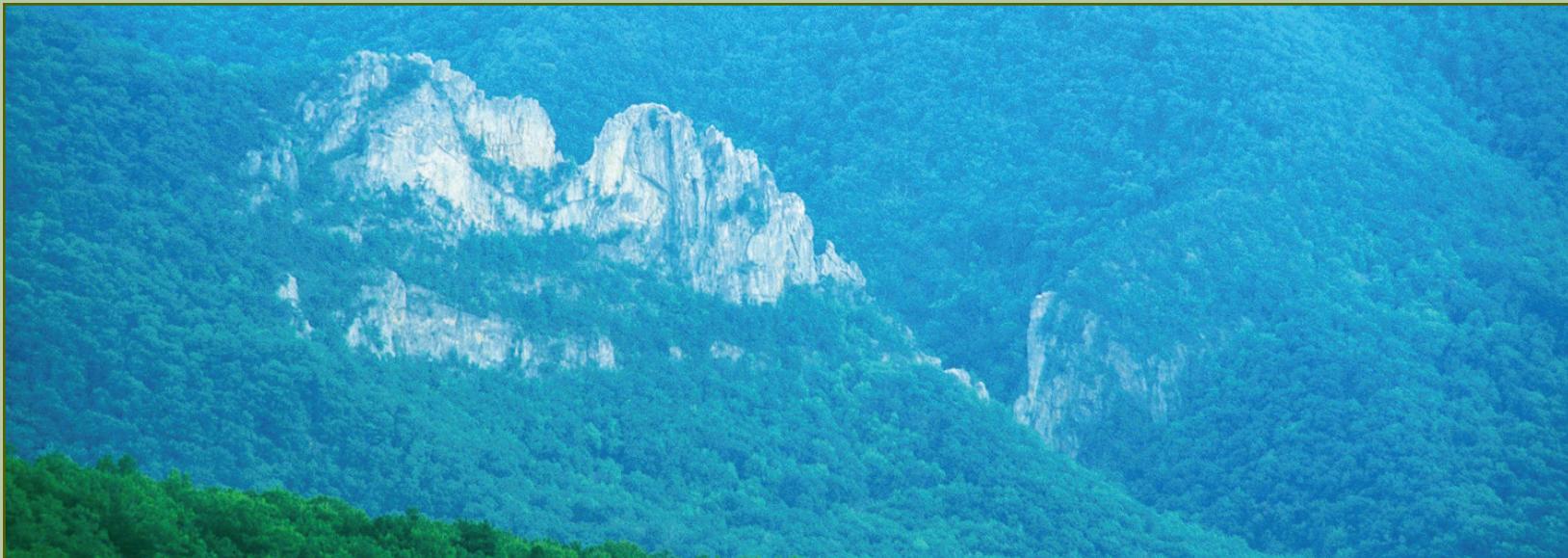


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Our new J.R. Clifford Project initiative is called "A New Home for Liberty," and explores the creation of West Virginia, one hundred and fifty years ago, using "Living History" programs. The initiative will develop a website linking to original source materials on the topic and create a video and slideshow to supplement the program. Our programs bring to life the soldiers, entrepreneurs, clergy, abolitionists, farmers, free blacks, and slaves who united to help create a new State, where greater equality for all people could flourish. The purpose of these programs about the creation of West Virginia is to generate pride in the human courage and spirit that founded the Mountain State — a spirit that can animate our efforts for change today.



FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER RESPONDS TO NEW GAS DRILLING PROPOSALS IN STATE PARKS AND THE MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST



FOB challenged and stopped three federal gas lease sales: at Brushy Run a native trout stream near Seneca Rocks—and on Laurel Run and Gandy Creek near Spruce Knob and at Roaring Plains. We recently intervened in a lawsuit seeking to drill in Chief Logan State Park. We continue strategic planning with regional partners on this issue.



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FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER SUPPORTS CHEAT CANYON AND COOPERS ROCK PROTECTION



We are finalizing a settlement on our Endangered Species Act lawsuit that established 1,400 acres of protected Cheat Snail preserves in the Cheat Canyon; and we have hired a consultant to "ground truth" the preserve locations. We have been advising the Coopers Rock Foundation on snail protection on state land in the Canyon.





FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER IS CREATING THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE – HIGH ALLEGHENY NATIONAL PARK



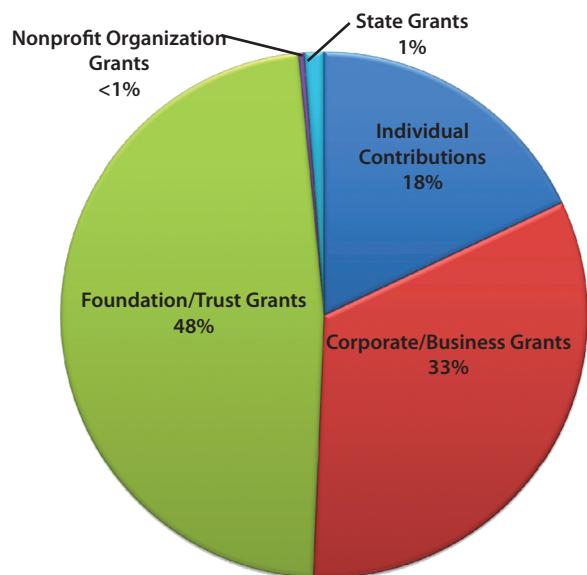
Friends of Blackwater has long advocated for a new National Park in the Blackwater Canyon region. We recently received a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation for an educational campaign to create High Allegheny National Park. We have created an Advisory Board, a strategic plan, and educational materials to share with decision-makers. We are working with Senator Manchin to get a Special Resources Study passed by Congress. The West Virginia Tourism Board has endorsed the Study bill.



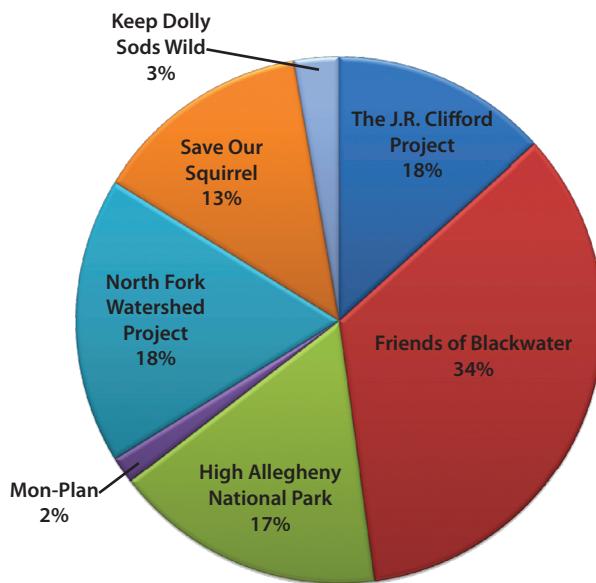


FINANCIALS

SUPPORT BY TYPE



EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT



SUPPORT FOR 2010

Individual contribution	\$49,419.90
Corporate/Business Grants	\$90,000.07
Foundation/Trust Grants	\$131,605.00
Nonprofit Organization Grants	\$1,000.00
State Grants	\$3,271.22
TOTAL SUPPORT FOR 2010	\$275,296.19

EXPENDITURES FOR 2010

Salaries	\$106,857.29
Professional Fees	\$73,723.01
General and Administrative Fees	\$66,837.49
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2010	\$247,417.79

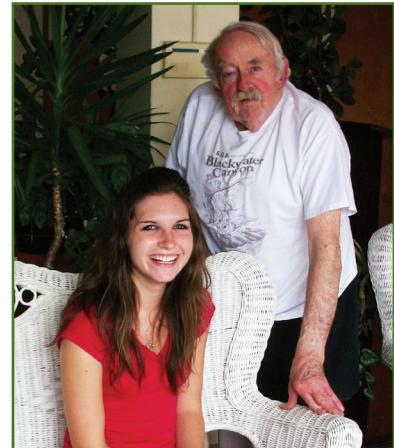


OUR SUPER VOLUNTEERS

Megan Lowe & J. Lawrence Smith

Megan Lowe was our Vista volunteer in the Charleston Office from September 2009 to September 2010. Megan's adventurous spirit lead her from one side of West Virginia to another speaking to school groups on JR Clifford, West Virginia's first African American lawyer and a Blackwater hero. She was also taking pictures of historic buildings for our African American Heritage Map. She was always cheerful and organized and got the job done! Megan is back in Iowa and going to graduate school soon but she keeps in touch and supports our projects from afar.

Sitting with her is our long time volunteer and inspiration J Lawrence Smith who died on December 31st and is sorely missed. John was West Virginia's premier nature writer at the time of his death and wrote countless articles for the Friends of Blackwater newsletter. He kept us on task with the newsletter encouraging us with weekly phone calls. He also went to events as our FOB representative, met with the Governor on our behalf and attended our Open House in Davis in his wheelchair. His writings stand as a testament to his love of the Highlands, his spiritual home. His fondest wish was for a National Park there.



Megan Lowe and J. Lawrence Smith



Julie Zickafoose

Julie Zickafoose has been helping Friends of Blackwater since 2002 when she donated three of her bird sketches to help with our Keep Dolly Sods Wild Campaign. Julie is a wildlife artist with a home and studio in Ohio and is also a naturalist commentator on Public Radio. Many of her bird paintings have appeared on the cover of Bird Watcher's Digest Magazine. Last fall she donated her painting "Swamp Angels – Eastern Bluebird for the cover of our winter newsletter.

Julie Zickafoose





Blackwater River in Canaan Valley

Photo Credits:

Cover: Jonathan Jessup

Page 3: Blackwater River - Paul Corbett Brown ; Cheat Mountain Salamander - Kent Mason

Page 4: View from Blackwater Canyon Trail - Dave Watson; Big Run Archway - Bradley Nolen

Page 5: Blackwater Canyon - Paul Corbett Brown; WV Northern Flying Squirrel - Steve Shaluta

Page 6: North Fork of the Blackwater River - Janel Farron; Water Monitoring - Tyler Elliott

Page 7: Heath Barrens - Jonathan Jessup; Golden Eagle - Three Rivers Avian Center

Page 8: Cave - David Miller; Little Brown Bat - Craig Stihler, WVDNR

Page 9: Coke Ovens - Jonathan Jessup; J.R. Clifford Logo - Garrett Burrell

Page 10: Independence Hall, Etc. Graphic - Garrett Burrell; "A New Home for Liberty" - Jim Barnes

Page 11: Seneca Forest - Jonathan Jessup; Brook Trout - Chris Shockey

Page 12: Coopers Rock - Jonathan Jessup; Cheat Snail - Ken Hotopp

Page 13: Allegheny - Kent Mason; HANP Logo - Staff

Back Cover: Ludovic Moore

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