

# M Mountain State Sierran

Volume 40, Number 2

[westvirginia.sierraclub.org](http://westvirginia.sierraclub.org)

March/April 2014

## Energy Efficiency Winter Organizing Workshop inspires new leaders

*Danny Chiotos*

The Energy Efficiency Winter Organizing Workshop (EEWOW) showcased the growth of our campaign for lower utility bills and more jobs across West Virginia.

Strong energy efficiency programs from our electric utilities can reduce bills by hundreds of millions of dollars and create thousands of jobs. Our utilities, especially FirstEnergy, are running much weaker programs here than they are in other states where they operate. West Virginians deserve better, and we are building a community-level organization to win stronger efficiency programs in our local governments and institutions. The EEWOW was an expression of that organizing as we packed the meeting room of the Black Bear Burrito in Morgantown on Saturday, Feb. 1.

More than 20 people from six counties spent their Saturday developing organizing skills and creating plans for their local teams. The number of people who attended this training was double the number who attended the first training in November. Residents of Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Berkeley and Jefferson counties attended the February event and took ideas back to their local teams. Teams will use the ideas developed at this training to determine the goals of their local efforts. Many of the teams attending are having their first meetings to set the goals of their group and build a core group of activists, while others have been discussing these items for months.

It will be exciting to see these teams set their goals and develop a plan to win energy efficiency measures in their local governments. This is the local-level organization that we need to be able to win big changes at the state level. Look forward to seeing the update on the goals set and progress made by these volunteer teams.



A group of more than 20 people from six counties met in Morgantown on Feb. 1 to brainstorm ideas for organizing local community groups to win stronger energy efficiency programs from state and local governments and institutions.

### Where to Find More Info:

#### Facebook

**Sierra Club West Virginia**

**Mon Group of the WV Sierra Club**

**WV Wilderness 50th**

**[www.westvirginia.sierraclub.org](http://www.westvirginia.sierraclub.org)**

## WV DEP Reignites 1980's Garbage Wars

*Jim Kotcon*

Weak solid waste laws made West Virginia a target for out-of-state garbage dumpers during the 1980s, but even West Virginia's business-friendly politicians did not like the image of Wild and Wonderful getting turned into a landfill. A series of laws were passed to provide a comprehensive regulatory framework that became a model for the nation. Statewide environmental standards were developed, and tipping fees were collected on every ton of waste going to landfills by the WV Department of Environmental Protection to fund regulatory programs.

A key component was the establishment of County Solid Waste Authorities, which developed siting plans to identify acceptable locations for landfills, and waste management plans that were designed to meet local needs. Landfill sizes were capped, with most limited to 10,000 tons per month. Approval from the local County Solid Waste Authority was required to expand beyond that limit, and even then, 30,000

tons per month was the largest that could be permitted. And to further assure that such large landfills were designed to meet local needs, a referendum provision allowed local citizens to vote on whether to accept such a large facility.

While the issues remained contentious, and the Legislature has tweaked those laws repeatedly since then, the overall framework has worked well. For example, a proposed landfill for drilling wastes in Preston County was denied siting approval by the Preston County Solid Waste Authority in 2011 when citizens complained the site was too large for local roads, was located near trout streams, and would primarily serve out-of-state industries.

### Marcellus Wastes

The expansion of the gas industry with horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing created increased solid waste volumes. Drill cuttings, drilling muds, and related wastes contain heavy metals, a range of petroleum hydrocarbons,

continued — **Garbage**, p. 2



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Garbage — continued from p. 1

and diverse drilling chemicals. Some contain unsafe levels of radioactive elements such as radium and radon. In the early days of the boom, most of these were abandoned in unlined pits near the well site. The Horizontal Well Control legislation in 2011 mandated that these wastes be disposed of in approved landfills, but little information was available as to the volume of wastes needing disposal. Landfill capacity was quickly exceeded in some areas, with the result that some local landfills reached their monthly tonnage cap early in the month, leaving no room for household waste from nearby municipalities.

WV-DEP's response was to ignore state solid waste laws. In a little-noticed 2013 memo from DEP Secretary Randy Huffman, landfills were told they could accept as much Marcellus wastes as they wanted, as long as they paid the required tipping fees. Local Solid Waste Authorities were not informed, nor was their required approval sought. DEP provided the illogical decision that this Marcellus waste was not "waste" as long as the landfills paid the tipping fees for waste disposal.

The Wetzel County landfill, operated by Lackawana Transport, has been exceeding its 10,000 ton per month cap routinely since that DEP memo was issued. An appeal by the Wetzel County Solid Waste Authority to the WV Public Service Commission is ongoing, but WV-DEP argues that the Legislature set up conflicting provisions by mandating that waste go to landfills when local landfill space was inadequate. DEP justifies their approach as meeting the needs of industry by designating the drilling wastes as a "special waste" limited to specific cells in the landfill.

## Legislation Introduced

But in a tacit acknowledgement on their legal issues, DEP has asked for legislation to "legalize" the procedure in their memo.

SB 474 and HB 4411 would add a new section stating simply:

(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, a commercial solid waste facility may lawfully receive drill cuttings and associated drilling waste generated from horizontal well sites above the monthly tonnage limits of that commercial solid waste facility: Provided, That the drill cuttings and associated drilling waste are placed in a separate cell dedicated solely to the disposal of drilling waste. The secretary may allow solid waste facilities that are actively constructing a separate cell for drilling waste to accept drilling waste until September 30, 2014, without counting it towards the permitted monthly tonnage limits: Provided, That, That under no circumstances may a solid waste facility exclude or refuse to take municipal solid waste until it has reached its monthly permitted tonnage limits.

The bill includes no provisions for monitoring of toxins or radiation, no provisions to require approval from local solid waste authorities, no provisions for citizen involvement, just let it all in. Given that the bill was introduced AFTER the Elk River spill shined a spotlight on the industry-friendly attitudes of WV-DEP, many are wondering if DEP understands why so few citizens trust the agency.

## What You Can Do

Urge your legislators to retain existing tonnage caps at landfills and to continue to require siting approval by local solid waste authorities. Demand that strong monitoring and enforcement provisions be included, and that wastes that contain hazardous levels of toxins or radioactivity be prohibited from municipal waste landfills. These wastes must be disposed of at hazardous waste facilities designed to safely contain the risks. Insist that industry bear the cost of proper waste disposal and that fees be assessed to assure that DEP has the resources and the mandate to adequately monitor and enforce these laws.

## Volunteer Workshop March 29 with FOBlackwater

*Doug Gilbert*

Would you like to help protect the Blackwater River and Canyon?

Friends of Blackwater (FOB), based in Davis, currently has a number of volunteer opportunities available for interested individuals.

FOB will be hosting a volunteer workshop from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 29, in Thomas, in the upstairs conference room of the Thomas Education Center.

The workshop will highlight the many volunteer opportunities available through FOB, which include water-quality monitoring throughout the Blackwater River watershed to measure impacts of fracking, as well as

for other reasons; assisting with the West Virginia Northern flying squirrel hair-snare project with Purdue University; trail building and maintenance; and the creation of the first State of the Blackwater River report, to name a few.

The workshop will include a field trip to the Thomas City trails, a trail project FOB has been instrumental in maintaining, and nearby streams to demonstrate water-monitoring techniques.

Anyone interested in attending the volunteer workshop and serving to protect the natural heritage of the Blackwater River and Canyon should contact Doug Gilbert at [doug@northforkwatershed.org](mailto:doug@northforkwatershed.org).

## WV Sierra Club Outings are Calling

*Russ Flowers*

Calling all people who love the outdoors, conservation and opportunities to meet like-minded people.

Here in West Virginia, we are fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful states in the country and to have so many breathtaking opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Join us for one of our many diverse outings (available at different skill levels) ranging from hikes, bike rides, nature walks, canoeing, cross-country skiing, workshops, service projects, etc.

As the state Outings Leader Chair (OLC), I challenge you to participate in at least one of the many outings we offer. And, remember the outings are open to club members and non-members alike, so you

are encouraged to invite a friend.

After participating in an outing, should you decide you'd like to lead your own, you too can become an outings leader (OL). We are always looking for motivated individuals. To become an OL you will need to complete OLT 101 (online or at a scheduled class), a Basic First-Aid course (offered at local American Red Cross locations or local hospitals), and lead a provisional hike supervised by a current OL.

If you are interested in participating in an outing or in becoming an outings leader, feel free to contact me or one of the many other outstanding outings leaders.

[russwvu@gmail.com](mailto:russwvu@gmail.com), cell: 304-482-7919.

"The mountains are calling, and I must go." — John Muir

## News Brief: Deckers Creek Injection Well

### *Citizens Present Proposed Resolution and Petitions*

*Jim Sconyers*

Individual citizens and noinjectionwell.org took their concerns for the proposed toxic waste injection well near Deckers Creek and Masontown to the Preston County Commission on Feb. 12.

The proposal by Energy Corporation of America would convert a played-out gas well to an underground waste disposal well. If implemented, hundreds of thousands of gallons of toxic and radioactive waste frack fluids would be pumped underground into their old gas well.

Concerns are the proximity of the well to Deckers Creek, the Deckers Creek Trail, and residential areas of the town of Masontown in Preston County. The possibility of spills or leaks is paramount. Transportation of the waste liquids would involve trucking or piping the material across the Trail and Creek. And the site for permanent storage is barely a stone's throw from the Creek and Trail.

The January Elk River spill disaster in Charleston has heightened awareness

of the vulnerability of all our waters — Deckers Creek being a prime example. The Creek, whose water quality was long severely impaired, has been restored through millions of dollars of investment and hundreds of hours of work. Citizens are aware of the frequency of spills and accidents, any one of which could have tragic consequences for Deckers Creek.

The Commissioners were presented hundreds of petitions asking that the disposal site not be built. And they considered a sample resolution affirming the necessity of protecting the Creek from any such toxic waste siting.

Reaction was positive but reserved. Commissioners expressed agreement in principle with the need to protect Preston streams from these threats, but proposed that they wished to study the issue before making any commitment. Petition and resolution presenters came away from the meeting with a sense of guarded optimism. Optimistic about the positive reception by the Commission, guarded to see what may result.

## Chapter Executive Committee Election Results

With a 10-percent return of ballots mailed to WV members, a majority decided that experience was worth keeping on board. The two Jims — Sconyers and Kotcon — both long-time activists with the Club, will continue to serve another two-year term on the Chapter ExCom. Remember, though, these guys won't be around forever. We should start training the next generation of leaders and get some new blood into the mix. Best do that while the old-timers are still around to impart their wisdom. (Just saying. *ed.*)

## New Mon Master Naturalist Classes Start March 20

Ever wonder why certain trees grow where they do? Wish you knew one wildflower from another? Have you asked someone about that insect in your garden? If you love the outdoors and would like to know more, Master Naturalist training is for you.

The Monongahela Chapter of the WV Master Naturalist program begins classes on March 20 in Room 218 Percival Hall on the Evansdale campus of WVU.

To become a Master Naturalist, a student must complete 64 hours of classwork (which may be taken in multiple years) and 30 hours of volunteer service. The classes consist of 48 hours of core subjects such as ecology, mammals, wetlands, trees, vines and shrubs, and many more. Another

16 hours of elective subjects may include fields such as geology, soils, mushrooms and other nature-related topics.

Approximately two-thirds of the course work will be indoors and the remainder will be outdoors. Field trips will explore the West Virginia Botanic Garden, Cranesville Swamp, the Reedsville Rail-trail and other places in north-central WV.

Classes will be held from 6-9 p.m. Thursday nights, with some Saturday and Sunday field trips. Cost for the course is \$60. The Master Naturalist program is administered by the WV Division of Natural Resources.

Info: Ellen Hrabovsky, 304-296-1887, [Ellen1121@comcast.net](mailto:Ellen1121@comcast.net).

**Our WV Forest Watch Chair Beth Little's daughter, Julia Huffman, is trying to raise \$50,000 by March 13 to help her complete a documentary she has been working on called *Medicine of the Wolf*. Beth asks that you visit Julia's Kickstarter fundraising page to find out more about the project, and make a donation if you feel so inclined.**

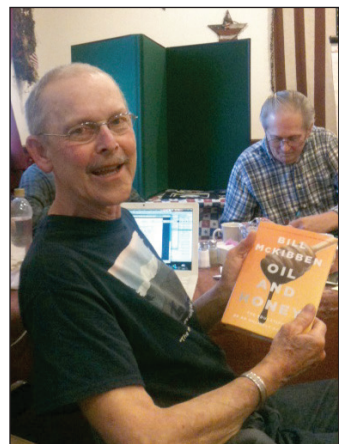
**The Kickstarter link is: <http://goo.gl/BhH5VA>**

Book Review:

## Oil and Honey: The Education of an Unlikely Activist, by Bill McKibben

Richard Mier, Martinsburg, WV

Bill McKibben is an immensely talented, thoughtful and indefatigable writer and environmentalist. *Time Magazine* calls him “the planet’s best green journalist.” With his latest book, “Oil and Honey” (published by Time Books, 2013), he takes us with him on a very personal journey from informed and concerned observer to activist and environmental leader. He describes this as an “education,” and it is an amazing journey.



Jim Sconyers gets a copy of “Oil and Honey” for his birthday at the November ExCom meeting.

Like Terry Tempest Williams, whom he knows and admires, McKibben is a true superstar. His writing has appeared in many publications including the *New Yorker*, *Rolling Stone* and *Sojourners*. He is the Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and

Sciences, and the recipient of the 2013 Gandhi Peace Prize, among many other accolades. He has received a dozen honorary degrees and is listed among the 100 most important global thinkers by *Foreign Affairs* magazine. He has published numerous books, including a children’s book.

Like “Refuge,” Terry Temple Williams’ seminal book (reviewed in the last issue of the *Mountain State Sierran*), “Oil and Honey” tells two parallel and equally compelling stories. In “Refuge,” Williams writes heart-achingly about the personal tragedy of her mother’s struggle with cancer alongside the public environmental catastrophe of the flooding of the Great Salt Lake in 1983. McKibben, too, tells both an inner and an outer story here. The inner story concerns his friend and beekeeper Kirk Webster who works close to the earth near McKibben’s home in Vermont, earning his living as an apiarist who refuses to use pesticides or other chemicals. Connected effectively to this inner story about husbanding the earth’s resources is an outer one, the founding of 350.org and McKibben’s efforts to stop the XL Pipeline, specifically, and global warming, generally.

McKibben describes the treasured quiet days working with the bees and speaking with Kirk and contrasts these with the crazy days leading an international environmental campaign. He makes it clear that each of these two lives informs the other. Since this all began, in 2006, he’s been

arrested, criss-crossed the country, founded 350.org, stimulated a grass-roots movement toward divestiture of fossil fuel investments by colleges and universities and written extensively. “Global Warming’s Terrifying New Math,” published in *Rolling Stone* (7/19/2012), is particularly good. But all this activity has been at a price. “...I’ve changed,” he writes, “and not always for the best.”

The book is, simply put, an inspiration. He exalts in the wins. But he is not afraid to describe his mistakes or reveal his misgivings. He writes in an engaging style. His passion and determination come through clearly. It’s not hard to be impressed by Bill McKibben and harder still not to be impressed by what he writes.

\*\*\*

I’ve now been doing book reviews for about a year in the *Mountain State Sierran*. My plans are to continue reviewing the classics of environmental writing, as well as new books that seem interesting and important. Reviews so far have included “On a Farther Shore” by William Souder, “A Sea of Flames” by Carl Safina, “Earth Works” by Scott Russell Sanders, “Desert Solitaire” by Edward Abbey and “Refuge” by Terry Tempest Williams.

Please let me know if you have comments or suggestions regarding a book you would like to see reviewed in these pages. I may be reached at: [ricardo-y-rita@hotmail.com](mailto:ricardo-y-rita@hotmail.com).

## Another Point of View: Shopping Bags and Crackers

Carol Nix

My New Years’ resolution was inspired by a factoid in my inbox that stated, “Every piece of plastic made still exists today.” Say what? Haf’ta get serious about carrying my own shopping bags! Then a few days later Governor Tomblin in his State of the State fluttered with excitement at the prospect of WV attracting a “cracker” plant. Mercy, is West Virginia always destined to be 50 years behind the times?

Plastic bag bans now exist in San Francisco, Los Angeles, coastal NC, Portland, all of Hawaii, Mexico City, Delhi, Mumbai, Rajasthan, Rangoon, Sydney, and many smaller cities. They are banned in Bangladesh, Rwanda, Zanzibar and Bhutan, taxed in Italy, Belgium, Denmark, Finland and Ireland, and incur a fee in Switzerland,

England, Germany, Holland, China, Portugal, Hungary and Israel. The EU recently made a serious commitment to reducing and eventually banning throwaway plastic. A worldwide consensus is emerging, but our “cracker” plant will produce the feedstuff for what? Right. Plastics.

The most common type of plastic shopping bag—the kind you get at supermarkets—is made of polyethylene, (from ethene, byproduct of Marcellus drilling) which microorganisms don’t recognize as food. As such, they can never be said to biodegrade, but they do photo degrade eventually into smaller and smaller toxic polymers which enter our food chain and eventually, us. 92% of Americans 6+ test positive for BPA, a plastics additive.

Birds and fish starve with bellies full of our waste plastic, and the Pacific gyre

is a floating garbage dump. Awareness is growing that plastics choke wildlife, don’t break down in landfills, add to our demand for oil and aren’t easy to recycle. According to American Plastic Manufacturing, the average U.S. per capita bag use is about 500 bags a year. In Denmark it’s 4! That’s right, FOUR. In Ireland, TWENTY.

They’re a product with a useful life measured in hours and a waste life measured in centuries. Governor Tomblin said in his speech, “Governing, like gardening, takes planning, patience and foresight.” Agreed! Especially foresight. What kind of world are we planning? Is this “cracker” going to be relevant in 20 years, as awareness of plastic pollution spreads? Tomblin also said, “The construction phase of this project alone is expected to create approximately 10,000 jobs” but what of

the operating phase? Estimates for a modern automated plant are only 350-1200 permanent jobs. All to create plastic products that none of us really need or value, and that might be banned or at least shunned in the foreseeable future.

Of course the “cracker” can produce feedstuff for other plastic products besides bags; beverage containers, food wrap, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyester, and chemicals, things we lived quite happily without just 50 years ago. Few of us would disagree that some plastics have their place, but disposable plastics can be thought of as just another example of how the natural gas industry dumps its waste irresponsibly in the environment.

Governor Tomblin, can’t you dream a little bigger?

### Evolution of the Water Crisis

## January 10: “Never Again!” vs. February 15: “Business As Usual”

Jim Sconyers

The water crisis in the Kanawha Valley is easing — not gone by any means, but easing. At least the water is turned back on.

Remember all the high-flown rhetoric by the “leaders”?

- “This is unacceptable!”
- “Every citizen deserves to know that their water is safe and healthy!”
- “We must see that nothing like this can ever happen again!”
- “It’s not coal!”

Proving once again that talk is cheap.

Well, that was then, this is now. Now I hear the tramp of lobbyist shoe leather in the halls of the Capitol. I hear their whispers

in the ears of their favorite lawmakers. I see those lawmakers giving the corporate flacks the warm welcome they’ve become accustomed to. “Come on in, fellas. Tell me what to put in my bill.”

We had hoped for better. We had hoped that, for once, corporate West Virginia would look at something besides their bottom line. We had hoped that “corporate ethics” would finally amount to something more than an oxymoron. We had hoped that poisoning a third of a million of our citizens would wake up industry to a greater responsibility — the responsibility to put our safety and health first. But, we apparently have some slow learners in the boardrooms and legislative offices, and it appears that we were wrong to hope for “lessons learned.”

The bills we’ve seen so far are grossly inadequate. Some barely pass the laugh test. Senator Unger’s bill, at least, applies to all tanks holding anything besides water, anywhere. But beyond that, it is woefully lacking. Governor Tomblin’s bill only applies to some substances, in some tanks, in some places — loopholes big enough to roll a tank full of poison through. It is wonderfully protective — of the coal and gas and chemical industries.

We had hoped for better. We can do better. The time is now for serious, comprehensive regulation, with meaningful enforcement, of all tanks storing anything anywhere in West Virginia. Can we learn the lessons of the Charleston crisis? We must.

## MON GROUP & WVU SSC

*Perspectives on Outings*

— Russ Flowers, Outings Chair

### The Birds Carried My Winter Blues Away ...

**Tues, March 18, 7 p.m.**

**Room TBA, WVU**

#### **Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time**

Hannah Spencer, chair of the Mon Group, will present this award-winning documentary and lead a discussion afterwards about Aldo Leopold's contributions to our understanding of ecology and forest management.

**Green Fire** is the first feature-length documentary about the great conservationist Aldo Leopold (1887-1948). He is the father of the national wilderness system, and a key figure in developing the fields of wildlife management, restoration ecology and sustainable agriculture.

**Info:** Hannah Spencer, [hspencer22@gmail.com](mailto:hspencer22@gmail.com), 304-282-6798.

**Tues, Apr 22, Earth Day**

**Room TBA, WVU**

#### **Climate Change Teach-In**

The Mon Group and WVU SSC will hold a teach-in at WVU on climate change and other environmental topics. Details and program will be available on the new Facebook page for Mon Group of the WV Sierra Club, and will be sent out by email.

**Info:** Hannah Spencer, [hspencer22@gmail.com](mailto:hspencer22@gmail.com), 304-282-6798.

## Mon Group Election and Leadership

The annual election for the Executive Committee (Excom) of the Mon Group produced three new activist leaders who join the two carry-over members. Hannah Spencer agreed to be Group Chair, and Brian Bellew will be Vice-Chair and Publicity Chair. John Bird will be Conservation Chair and Gwen Jones will be the Group representative to the Chapter Excom. David Sturm is active with the Chapter's Marcellus campaign and the noinjectionwell.org campaign. He also serves on the Chapter Excom.

Non-elected Group volunteers include Shirley Rosenbaum as Membership Chair and Sally Wilts as Treasurer. We welcome your participation.

## Fundraising for New Vision Renewable Energy

New Vision Renewable Energy, in Philippi, has started a campaign called Lights for Relief. This campaign hopes to provide 1,000 solar-powered lights to Typhoon Haiyan victims. Nearly 4.3 million people were displaced and many are still without electricity. The Mon Group and WVU Sierra Student Coalition (SSC) agreed to sponsor a fundraising effort.

On Feb. 4, Dr. Chris Haddox, WVU professor of sustainable design, demonstrated one of the solar lights and described his own fundraising efforts for New Vision. Volunteers assemble the lights with materials that are often donated or recycled. More information can be found at [www.nvre.org](http://www.nvre.org).

Consider supporting this humanitarian effort. The online fundraising website is at [www.fundeasy.com/m/1662870/](http://www.fundeasy.com/m/1662870/)

When most people think about winter, they don't normally think about nature and the outdoors. This winter has been exceptionally cold with the polar vortex, Arctic blasts, and crazy snow and ice storms.

Even though it has been a pretty easy choice to stay inside to keep warm, after so many days of staying in, I have been a victim of cabin fever at times. All along I was thinking of ways to get outside and break the fever. Of course, there are the traditional winter sports such as skiing and snowboarding to choose from. Living in the Ohio Valley, we do not have any local resorts near enough, not to mention those subzero temperatures. After some thinking, it came to me that winter offers many other activities for all skill levels and interests.

One of my newer hobbies that I took up a couple years ago is bird watching. This has become my saving grace from the winter blues. Every chance I get, I like to go out with the local bird club or my wife, Sue, on bird walks. These are great opportunities to get outside, observe, and enjoy nature. Besides seeing the typical birds that stay in our area year round, we get to see some migratory birds (especially water fowl). Being relatively new to birding, I really like waterfowl. Besides their beauty, magnificent colors and graceful flight, they are typically larger than most birds and are normally found in large groups. This sometimes makes locating and identifying them easier. As an emerging novice, it is so exciting for me to be able to spot and identify birds. It is like a treasure hunt, finding colorful diamonds in the rough.

Besides the typical migratory waterfowl that annually visit our area, the extreme weather farther north brought some extraordinary jewels to our area. There were two Long-tailed Ducks spotted at the Willow Island Locks and Dam near St. Mary's, WV. These ducks are rare to our area and are normally spotted every few years and in small numbers. A rarer treat was days earlier when a Harlequin Duck was spotted near the Belpre Bridge near Parkersburg. This was only the third recorded sighting of

this duck in West Virginia. It was such a privilege for Sue and me to get to see ducks that usually live in the North Atlantic and Pacific, Canada and the Arctic Circle. They rarely visit our area. I give thanks for our local bird club and other expert birders who identify such rare birds and send email alerts out to members. This affords those of us who are less knowledgeable incredible opportunities to observe species we might otherwise never see.

As incredible as the waterfowl observations have been, I was even more mesmerized by the American Bald Eagles in our area. With the prolonged freezing temperatures, the Ohio River has been almost frozen solid, along with most of its tributaries, for a portion of the winter. This presented a perfect situation and ample opportunities to observe large numbers of these raptors in a close area and range with such limited areas of open water.

Over the last few years, Bald Eagles have been nesting along the Ohio River and its tributaries. These awesome birds of prey primarily eat fish. It was reported by some of my birding friends that more than a dozen Bald Eagles were perched in trees near the Devola Locks and Dam outside of Marietta, Ohio. Normally, in our area and on a good day, one might see three or four together in one place. So when I heard this, it was another incredible opportunity to get back into nature.

The dam's spillway kept the water near the dam unfrozen and teeming with fish. This was a haven for multiple species of birds, as well as the Bald Eagles. When I arrived, there were eagles flying about, both adults and juveniles, like one would normally think of vultures. We are accustomed to seeing Bald Eagles with brilliant white heads and tail feathers. Did you know that they do not look like that until they are approximately three years old? Until then, they are called juveniles. They are pretty gangly-looking and are mostly brown with white mottled spotting. It was so exciting to see the eagles taking turns diving into the open water to snatch a fish for dinner. At one point, I watched an adult dive and grab a small fish with its

talons. I was awestruck, rooting for the eagle to make such a capture. About that time, the eagle dropped the fish back into the water. My heart broke for the eagle's loss and thought how disappointed it must have felt with such a "butter-fingered" move, but within seconds a juvenile swooped right in and got the dead fish. A member of the bird club then told us that the adult was training the juvenile to dive and catch fish. I was in awe of the amazing instincts these magnificent creatures possess, and felt privileged to witness it.

There have been many other, and will be many more, birding adventures throughout the winter. So far, I have enjoyed observing such interesting birds as: Short-eared Owls, Northern Harriers, Rough-legged Hawks and Double-crested Cormorants. Even during this icy cold winter, each one is another jewel to behold in the hidden treasures of nature. I couldn't be more grateful for such winged gems carrying my winter blues away.

Challenge you to look for ways to enjoy your passion for the outdoors. Please take a look at one of our many outings. They are created for all skill levels, and we offer something for lots of different interest areas (hiking, biking, canoeing, nature walks, workshops, service projects, etc.). The outings are a great way to meet up with old friends, meet new ones and to fellowship with like-minded people. Our outings are open to members and non-members, so invite your friends to join you.

If you are interested in participating in an outing or interested in becoming an outings leader, please feel free to contact me or one of our many outstanding outings leaders.

Take to the Outdoors!

### Facebook Page Up for WV Wilderness 50th

Delia (pronounced DELL-ia, or just Del, for short) Delgado is an Appalachian Forest Heritage Area AmeriCorps member working with the Forest Service this year, based in Marlinton. She will be helping to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act on the Monongahela.

Follow us on Facebook:  
Mon Group of the  
WV Sierra Club

Please contact the Editor for submission guidelines or advertising rates. Contributions to the newsletter may be sent to the Editor at:

**[celliot2@comcast.net](mailto:celliot2@comcast.net)**

414 Tyrone Avery Rd  
Morgantown, WV 26508

**Deadline for  
May/June issue**

**April 3**

Opinions expressed in the *Mountain State Sierran* are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Sierra Club. This newsletter is published bimonthly by the WV Chapter of the Sierra Club and distributed to all paid members.

### Maryland Chapter Outings

Our neighboring chapter to the east has an active outings program, with many trips coming into West Virginia or western Maryland. These outings, by highly experienced leaders, range from easy to strenuous, and are open to everyone. Join an outing by checking out their calendar at

**[maryland.sierraclub.org](http://maryland.sierraclub.org)**

### Allegheny Group Outings

Sierra Club members in the Pittsburgh area belong to the Allegheny Group. They have a moderately active outings program as well as links to other local outdoor activities. Visit their website for an outings calendar and more details at

**[alleghenysc.org](http://alleghenysc.org)**

### Potomac Region Outings (PRO)

This is an activity section of the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter, with an extensive outings program run by leaders who live in and around the Washington, D.C., area. A calendar of activities, information and updates can be found on their website at

**[www.sierrapotomac.org](http://www.sierrapotomac.org)**

### West Virginia Chapter Outings

For updated listings of outings sponsored by the West Virginia Chapter, check our Chapter website at

**[westvirginia.sierraclub.org](http://westvirginia.sierraclub.org)**

# Outings — Winter, Spring and Beyond



2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Watch for outings marked Wild 50, celebrating the pristine wildlands in

West Virginia that are protected as Wilderness for posterity.

## Sat, Mar 1 Endless Wall Trail, New River Gorge

**rated moderate** — Join us in this moderate 2.4-mile hike along the Endless Wall Trail and find out why the trail has this name. There will be spectacular views of the New River Gorge and Bridge. We will meet at the New River Gorge Bridge Visitors Center at 9AM. We will visit the center and walk the steps to the observation deck for up close views of the bridge. From there we will carpool to the Fern Creek parking area to begin the hike along the rim of the gorge. For further details and to register, contact trip leader.

**Leader:** Mike Price, mikeprice54@suddenlink.net  
**Nearest town:** Fayetteville, WV  
**Web info:** [nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/endlesswall.htm](http://nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/endlesswall.htm)

## Sat, Mar 8 Bear Pen Loop Trail, Watoga SP

**rated moderate** — Join us in this moderate 4.75-mile hike on the Bear Pen Trail. This loop trail is in the northern section of West Virginia's largest state park, Watoga. Day hiking gear is needed, along with plenty of water. For further details and to pre-register, contact leader.

**Leader:** Mike Price, mikeprice54@suddenlink.net  
**Nearest town:** Hillsboro, WV  
**Web info:** [www.watoga.com](http://www.watoga.com)

## Sun, Mar 9 Jesse's Cove Trail, Watoga SP

**rated moderate** — Join us in this moderate 2.5-mile hike on the Jess's Cove Trail at West Virginia's largest state park, Watoga. The trail follows the Greenbrier River and Rock Run to an original pioneer cabin. Day hiking gear is needed, along with plenty of water. For further details and to pre-register, contact leader.

**Leader:** Mike Price, mikeprice54@suddenlink.net  
**Nearest town:** Hillsboro, WV  
**Web info:** [www.watoga.com](http://www.watoga.com)

## Sat, Mar 22 Valley Falls SP Day Hike

**rated strenuous** — This is a STRENUOUS hike of about 7.5 miles along the Tygart Valley River between Grafton and Fairmont. We will do a loop through the park, and stop to see the waterfalls along the way. There are steep/rocky sections that can be a bit tricky. Bring snack & water; trekking poles can be helpful. Contact leader for start time & rendezvous location.

**Leader:** Aaron Vedock, 540-805-0019, amvedock@hotmail.com  
**Nearest town:** Fairmont, WV  
**Web info:** [www.valleyfallsstatepark.com](http://www.valleyfallsstatepark.com)

## Sat, Mar 29 Half Moon Trail Day Hike, GWNF

**rated moderate** — This is a moderate 6.0-mile hike out and back with beautiful views of the valley at the top. This hike will take approximately 2 ½ hours. Meet up at the Dollar General Store in Wardensville, WV, at 10:30 am. For details and to register, contact trip leader.

**Leader:** Pam Peitz, 240-818-6554, pspetz@hotmail.com  
**Nearest town:** Wardensville, WV  
**Web info:** [www.hikingupward.com/GWNF/Halfmoonmountain](http://www.hikingupward.com/GWNF/Halfmoonmountain)

## Sat, Apr 5 Canaan Mountain Loop Blackwater Falls SP

**rated moderate** — Join us for this 9.5-mile loop hike with 934-foot elevation gain, starting and ending at the Blackwater State Park lodge. Highlights include rhododendron tunnels, hardwood and evergreen forest, peat bogs and Lindy Point Overlook. Spring stream crossings may have more flow and require a change of shoes. Please pre-register with the leader.

**Leader:** Ann Devine-King, 304-594-2636, atdtking@gmail.com  
**Nearest City:** Davis, WV  
**Web info:** [www.blackwaterfalls.com/midatlantichikes.com](http://www.blackwaterfalls.com/midatlantichikes.com)

## Sat, Apr 12 Coopers Rock, Spring Adopt-a-Trail Service Outing

**rated easy** — Hiking and easy-to-moderate work intensity. Join the fun with the spring trail clean-up along an easy 1.25-mile loop that includes the adopted 0.6 miles of the Intermediate Cross Country Ski Trail. Besides general trail clearing, we will clean out and restore drainage ditches and culverts clogged from the winter's mischief. Volunteers should wear sturdy boots and carry work gloves, water, snacks. Useful tools to bring are long-handled pruners, rakes, and pointed shovels. Adults and adolescents are invited to help, and those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Volunteers will be required to sign a standard Sierra Club Liability Waiver and a DNR Volunteer Work Program Agreement. Please pre-register with the leader.

**Leader:** Ann Devine-King, 304-594-2636, atdtking@gmail.com  
**Nearest town:** Morgantown, WV  
**Web info:** [www.coopersrockstateforest.com/coopersrock.org](http://www.coopersrockstateforest.com/coopersrock.org)

## Sat, Apr 19 Long Point Trail Day Hike, Summersville Lake

**rated moderate** — Join us in this moderate 3.2-mile hike on the Long Point Trail at Summersville Lake. Enjoy the wooded trail with many views of the lake. Day-hiking gear is needed, along with plenty of water. For further details and to pre-register, contact leader.

**Leader:** Mike Price, mikeprice54@suddenlink.net  
**Nearest town:** Summersville, WV  
**Web info:** [www.localhikes.com/Hikes/Summersville\\_Lake\\_0000.asp](http://www.localhikes.com/Hikes/Summersville_Lake_0000.asp)

## Sat, Apr 26 Caledonia SP and Michaux SF Day Hike

**rated moderate** — This beautiful 7- to 8-mile hike starts in Caledonia State Park and heads north on the Appalachian Trail, crossing streams (with bridges) and walking through rhododendron tunnels until reaching the Michaux State Forest. We will loop back onto the Hosock and Locust Gap Trails. Allow 3 ½ -4 hours, bring plenty of water and lunch. Meeting time is 10:30am. For details and to register, contact trip leader.

**Leader:** Pam Peitz, 240-818-6554, pspetz@hotmail.com  
**Nearest towns:** Chambersburg & Gettysburg, PA  
**Web info:** [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/caledonia](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/caledonia); [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/michaux/index.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/michaux/index.htm)

## Sat, Apr 26 Hike: Pocahontas Trail and Falls of Hills Creek

**rated easy to moderate** — The West Virginia Sierra Club and our allies in the West Virginia Wilderness Coalition are advocating for an area centered around the Cranberry Wilderness to become a new national monument. Join us for outings that give a taste of why this area is so special. We will meet at the Cranberry Visitor Center, where we explore the informative exhibits. We then hike the Pocahontas Trail to an outstanding showing of spring wildflowers. From there we move to the stunning three-step Falls of Hills Creek. Hiking the trail/boardwalk takes us to the spectacular falls and many photo ops. Beth Little will be our guide. Please pre-register with leader.

**Leader:** Jim Sconyers, 304-698-9628, jimscon@gmail.com  
**Nearest towns:** Hillsboro, WV  
**Web info:** [birthplaceofrivers.org/pocahontascountywv.com/cranberry\\_glades\\_nature\\_center.aspx](http://birthplaceofrivers.org/pocahontascountywv.com/cranberry_glades_nature_center.aspx)

## Sat, Jun 7 Leisure Float/Paddle: Cheat River

**rated easy** — We put in at Holly Meadow in Tucker County, for a leisurely float-and-paddle down the Cheat River to St. George. Enjoy the riverine scenery of forest, farm fields, summer wildflowers, possibly wildlife (bald eagle last

year), and more, with the mountains as a backdrop. The trip is generally flat water, with a few riffles providing brief excitement here and there. Expect to spend about 4 hours on the river. It is suitable for beginners. Boat rentals are available. Kayaks and sit-on-tops are recommended for their shallow draft. The outing depends on warm weather and adequate water level. Personal Flotation devices (lifejackets) are required on Sierra Club watercraft outings. Optional late lunch/snack at local Parsons bistro afterwards. Please pre-register with leader.

**Leader:** Jim Sconyers, 304-698-9628, jimscon@gmail.com  
**Nearest towns:** St. George & Parsons, WV



## Sun, Aug 10 Hike: Cranberry Glades and Beartown

**rated easy to moderate** — The West Virginia Sierra Club and our allies in the West Virginia Wilderness Coalition are advocating for an area centered around the Cranberry Wilderness to become a new national monument. Join us for outings that give a taste of why this area is so special. We will meet at the Cranberry Visitor Center, where we explore the informative exhibits. Then we walk the boardwalk at the fascinating and unique Cranberry Glades, with commentary on the flora and fauna by our guide Beth Little. From there we move to bizarre, mysterious, and funny Beartown, with its convoluted and unique rock formations. Please pre-register with leader.

**Leader:** Jim Sconyers, 304-698-9628, jimscon@gmail.com  
**Nearest town:** Hillsboro, WV  
**Web info:** [birthplaceofrivers.org/beartownstatepark.com](http://birthplaceofrivers.org/beartownstatepark.com); [pocahontascountywv.com/cranberry\\_glades\\_nature\\_center.aspx](http://pocahontascountywv.com/cranberry_glades_nature_center.aspx)



## Sat, Sep 6 Hike: Dolly Sods North

**rated moderate** — Dolly Sods North was added to the Dolly Sods Wilderness in 2009. Come and see why! We'll explore the forest, savanna, streams, and the natural and human history. Dolly Sods North is a high alpine landscape with spectacular scenery, encompassing the headwaters of Red Creek. Our trail distance is approximately 6 miles. Grades are generally moderate, and this hike rates as leisure for difficulty and moderate for length. We will keep a leisure pace with numerous stops to "smell the roses." Our route focuses on the more northerly trails in the upper parts of the headlands. Day hiking gear is needed, along with plenty of water, sunscreen, and weather protection. Please pre-register with leader.

**Leader:** Jim Sconyers, 304-698-9628, jimscon@gmail.com  
**Nearest town:** Harman, WV  
**Web info:** [midatlantichikes.com/id188.html](http://midatlantichikes.com/id188.html)



## Abbreviations Used

AMC	Appalachian Mountain Club
AT	Appalachian Trail
GWNF	George Washington National Forest
JNF	Jefferson National Forest
MG	Monongahela Group
MNF	Monongahela National Forest
NPS	National Park Service
NRA	National Recreation Area
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
PFD	Personal Flotation Device (lifejacket)
SF	State Forest
SP	State Park
SNP	Shenandoah National Park

## Sierra Club Liability Policies For Chapter Outings

Sierra Club outings are open to everyone, members and non-members alike. Each outing is intended to be a wholesome, safe, and enjoyable experience in the outdoors. Participants must have suitable clothing, gear, and stamina, and are encouraged to select activities that match their individual abilities for outdoor adventures.

The Club offers a variety of outings from "easy" to "moderate" to "strenuous" that suit all activity levels. The difficulty of each outing is clearly designated in the announcement. Reservations are generally not required unless noted, but the outing leader may be contacted in advance for questions about the terrain, the difficulty and recommended gear.

Activities are normally held "rain or shine," but may be postponed at the leader's discretion for safety reasons in the event of inclement weather. Participants are reminded that all out-door activities carry a degree of risk, and some take place in locations where professional emergency medical aid may be two or more hours away. People with health concerns should consult a physician to determine the advisability of participating in these or similar activities. The leader is responsible for the safety of all participants, and has the final authority to decide whether or not an individual may participate on a specific outing. Sierra Club safety policy requires that helmets be worn on bicycling outings, and a personal flotation device (PFD) be worn when using personal watercraft such as kay-aks or canoes.

Unless noted in the announcement, Club outings are intended for adults. Children and

dogs are not normally permitted, unless an out- ing is so designated. Minors (under 18 years of age) must be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian, or they must have both 1) a signed permission slip, and 2) the leader's prior consent to participate in the Club outing. Sierra Club outings officially begin and end at the trailhead.

Travel to the official starting point and back, even from an advertised meeting place, is the sole responsibility of each participant. While the Club encourages car-pooling, such arrangements are strictly between the riders and the drivers, and are not a part of the outing. Participants assume full responsibility and liability for all risks associated with such travel.

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver, which can be viewed on the web at [www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms) or by calling 415-977-5630.

The Sierra Club does not charge for chap- ter outings, although payment of park entrance fees, a share of campsite rental costs, permit fees, equipment rental charges, etc. may be re- quired from the participants. The Sierra Club practices "leave-no-trace" trail techniques, in- cluding hiking and camping on durable surfaces, minimizing campfire impacts, packing out all trash, respecting wildlife, being considerate of other visitors, and leaving the environment as it was found.

The Sierra Club's California Seller of Travel identification number is CST 2087766-40. Reg- istration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

**Sierra Club**  
West Virginia Chapter  
PO Box 4142  
Morgantown, WV 26504  
[www.westvirginia.sierraclub.org](http://www.westvirginia.sierraclub.org)

**Change Service Requested**

**March/April 2014**



**NONPROFIT ORG.**  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 87  
Clarksburg WV 26301

## West Virginia Sierra Club Chapter Directory

### Chapter Executive Committee

**Jim Sconyers ('15) Chair**  
304-698-9628, [jimscon@gmail.com](mailto:jimscon@gmail.com)  
**Jim Kotcon ('15)**  
304-594-3322, [jkotcon@wvu.edu](mailto:jkotcon@wvu.edu)  
**Gary Nelson ('14) Vice Chair**  
304-258-6669, [glnelson1@frontier.com](mailto:glnelson1@frontier.com)  
**David Sturm ('14)**  
304-363-7160, [davidsturm@ymail.com](mailto:davidsturm@ymail.com)  
**\* Liz Wiles ('14)**  
206-795-0701, [Liz\\_Wiles@comcast.net](mailto:Liz_Wiles@comcast.net)  
\* Chapter Delegate to National Sierra Club

### Monongahela Group ExCom

**John Bird ('15)**  
304-864-8631, [johnbird@frontier.com](mailto:johnbird@frontier.com)  
**\* Gwen Jones ('15)**  
304-599-5815, [gwenjones23@yahoo.com](mailto:gwenjones23@yahoo.com)  
**Brian Bellew ('15)**  
304-261-2461, [bbellew@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:bbellew@mix.wvu.edu)  
**Hannah Spencer ('14)**  
304-282-6798, [hspencer22@gmail.com](mailto:hspencer22@gmail.com)  
**David Sturm ('14) Vice Chair**  
304-363-7160, [davidsturm@ymail.com](mailto:davidsturm@ymail.com)  
\* Mon Group Delegate to Chapter ExCom

### Other Chapter Leaders

**Archives / Chapter History** Kathy Gregg  
304-473-8124, [gregg@wwvc.edu](mailto:gregg@wwvc.edu)  
**Conservation** Gary Nelson  
304-258-6669, [glnelson1@frontier.com](mailto:glnelson1@frontier.com)  
**Energy** Jim Kotcon  
304-594-3322, [jkotcon@wvu.edu](mailto:jkotcon@wvu.edu)  
**Environmental Education** Gwen Jones  
304-599-5815, [gwenjones23@yahoo.com](mailto:gwenjones23@yahoo.com)  
**Forest Watch** Beth Little  
304-653-4277, [blittle@citynet.net](mailto:blittle@citynet.net)  
**Fundraising** Bonnie Branciaroli  
304-614-3244, [bonnie@markandbonnie.com](mailto:bonnie@markandbonnie.com)  
**Marcellus Campaign** David Sturm  
304-363-7160, [davidsturm@ymail.com](mailto:davidsturm@ymail.com)  
**Marcellus Outreach Organizer** Chuck Wyrostok  
877-252-0257, [outreach@marcellus-wv.com](mailto:outreach@marcellus-wv.com)  
**Membership** Chuck Connor  
304-927-1664, [chuckrayconnor@yahoo.com](mailto:chuckrayconnor@yahoo.com)  
**Newsletter Editor** Candice Elliott  
304-594-3322, [celliot2@comcast.net](mailto:celliot2@comcast.net)  
**Outings Chair** Russ Flowers  
304-482-7919, [russwvu@yahoo.com](mailto:russwvu@yahoo.com)  
**Political** Jim Kotcon  
304-594-3322, [jkotcon@wvu.edu](mailto:jkotcon@wvu.edu)  
**Secretary** Patricia Marroquin  
304-838-0832, [antes@msn.com](mailto:antes@msn.com)  
**SSC, WVU** Brian Bellew  
304-261-2461, [bbellew@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:bbellew@mix.wvu.edu)  
**Treasurer** Sally Wilts  
304-379-7567, [sallywilts@yahoo.com](mailto:sallywilts@yahoo.com)  
**Webmaster** Paul Wilson  
304-725-4360, [pjgrunt@gmail.com](mailto:pjgrunt@gmail.com)  
**Wildlands** Karen Yamell  
304-657-0812, [karen.yamell@fairmontstate.edu](mailto:karen.yamell@fairmontstate.edu)

### **To Contact CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES**

The Hon. John D. Rockefeller  
Joe Manchin  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-6472 (JR)  
(202) 224-3954 (JM)  
Fax: (202) 224-7665 (JR)  
(202) 228-0002 (JM)

White House Comments Line:  
(202) 456-1111 Fax: (202) 456-2461  
Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121

The Hon. David McKinley  
Shelley Moore Capito  
Nick J. Rahall  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-4172 (DM)  
(202) 225-2711 (SMC)  
(202) 225-3452 (NR)  
Favx: (202) 225-7564 (DM)  
(202) 225-7856 (SMC)  
(202) 225-9061 (NR)

**To Contact the GOVERNOR**  
Governor Earl Ray Tomblin  
State Capitol  
Charleston, WV 25305

Dial-the-Governor:  
1-888-438-2731  
email: [governor@wv.gov](mailto:governor@wv.gov)

**To Contact STATE LEGISLATORS**  
email to WV Legislature:  
[cglagola@mail.wvnet.edu](mailto:cglagola@mail.wvnet.edu)  
(Put name of recipient under subject)

Messages for legislators can be left at:  
1-877-565-3447 or 304-347-4836  
Mail address:

Member, WV Senate or  
House of Delegates  
Bldg 1  
State Capitol Complex  
Charleston, WV 25305

website: [www.legis.state.wv.us](http://www.legis.state.wv.us)  
has contact information for all state legislators.

### **Regional Sierra Club Staff**

**Environmental Justice/Beyond Coal** Bill Price  
304-389-8822, [bill.price@sierraclub.org](mailto:bill.price@sierraclub.org)  
**Energy Efficiency Organizer** Danny Chiotos  
304-886-3389, [daniel.chiotos@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.chiotos@gmail.com)



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

**A Will is a Way**

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering  
*Sierra Club* in your will. Your support will help  
others preserve the intricate balance of nature

Sierra Club  
Gift Planning Program  
85 Second St, Second Floor • San Francisco, CA 94105  
(800) 932-4270 • [gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto:gift.planning@sierraclub.org)

**For planned giving in West Virginia, contact Paul Wilson at 304-725-4360**

## Inside this Issue

**1**

EEWOW inspires new leaders • WV DEP reignites 1980's  
garbage wars • Facebook and Web sites for more Info

**2**

WV DEP reignites 1980's garbage wars (continued) • Chapter  
ExCom election results • Master Naturalist classes start March 20 • Friends of  
Blackwater volunteer workshop on March 29 • Call for  
Outings Leaders • News brief on Deckers Creek injection well  
County Commission meeting • Kickstarter project: *Medicine of the Wolf*

**3**

Book Review: *Oil and Honey: The Education of an Unlikely Activist* by Bill  
McKibben • Another point of view: Shopping bags and crackers •  
Commentary: Evolution of the water crisis • Membership form

**4**

Mon Group & WVU SSC events • Mon Group ExCom election results •  
Fundraising for New Vision Renewable Energy • *Perspectives on Outings*: The  
birds carried my winter blues away ... • Next newsletter deadline is April 3

**5**

OUTINGS: Winter, spring & beyond • Liability policy for Chapter outings

This newsletter is printed by Arrow Graphics & Printing in Westover, WV,  
on 100% post-consumer, recycled paper, using vegetable oil-based inks.