

M Mountain State Sierran

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Opportunities abound to get outside, enjoy nature

Mike Price, Chapter Outings Chair

Although people join the Sierra Club for many reasons, one that has always attracted a large number of members is the Outings Program, providing the chance to share the outdoors with experienced and knowledgeable guides.

The West Virginia Chapter has several such qualified guides in its outings leaders. These volunteers have offered many outings in Wild, Wonderful West Virginia, as well as in neighboring states. Some lead outings every month, while others do so when their schedules allow. As volunteer outings leaders, we take time to offer outings in a variety of places so that members and non-members, alike, can come out and enjoy the great outdoors.

I would like to express my appreciation for the leaders who have offered so many outings over the past few years. Since 2011, Pam Peitz has led more than 35 outings; Ann Devine King has led 30+ outings; Aaron Vedock, 30 outings; former Outings Chair Russ Flowers, 35+ outings; Jim Sconyers, 12+ outings; Brent Carminiti, 10 outings; and others who have contributed to our outings program. Congratulations, Outings Leaders, and thank you so much for volunteering.

On May 13-15, at Blackwater Falls State Park, the Chapter offered Outings Leader (OL) Training for current and new outings leaders. Five people attended the training: Ann Devine-King, Pam Peitz, Brent Carminiti, Mary Wimmer and myself. Though Mary was a "new" outings leader, she has been involved with the WV Chapter since its inception, in 1985. She has led many outings in the past, and we welcome her back as a new, but experienced, leader. Her qualifying outing was June 18, on a joint trip with the Monongahela Area Paddlers (MAP). Ann Devine-King was on hand to assist.

At the OL Training, we covered Sierra Club's OL 101 curriculum to recertify Ann, Pam and Brent, and certify Mary. Outings leaders must be recertified every four years. They also need First Aid and CPR certifications, which are renewed every 2-3 years. This keeps our leaders safe and well trained to take you on outings.

During the weekend training, we covered a wide range of topics, such as trail safety, conservation and different types of trips to offer, and discussed our outdoor experiences and how to improve our outings program. Ann entertained us one evening with a slide show of her trip to Peru. We had a nice, warm fireplace to sit around, where we had many discussions about the outdoors.

Even though temperatures dropped and it even snowed, being outings leaders, we did not just sit indoors. Brent led us on hikes on the trails in this beautiful park. It was a wonderful meeting and we will be planning more in the future.

Since several people indicated they were interested in leading outings but were unable to attend the weekend due to scheduling conflicts, I will be offering OLT 101 again.

One of the greatest needs of our Outings Program is NEW outings leaders — new leaders with new ideas. Volunteering as an outings leader is rewarding. I don't know



Participants of the Outings Leader Training at Blackwater Falls State Park pose in front of Balanced Rock: Mary Wimmer (left), Ann Devine-King, Brent Carminiti, Pam Peitz, Mike Price.

the number of times people have thanked me for leading outings. But it is not just the appreciation that drives us as leaders. It is the love for the outdoors.

The future of our program cannot depend only on the current outings leaders. We need to be able to offer our members more diverse outings, such as short nature walks and visits to historic places, and we need to involve more diverse groups. The Sierra Club has an Inner City Outings Program. It would be great to find some individuals who wish to become outings leaders to start this program here in West Virginia. We offered a Veterans' outing in June, in conjunction with the Sierra Club's Military Outdoors Program.

I would like to introduce one of our newest outings leaders, Annie Balthazar. Annie and her husband reside near Fayetteville, WV. Annie took her OL 101 online and was certified by me on a three-day outing, June 7-9, paddling 35 miles on the Cheat River. An Iraq War Veteran who served as a Major (USAF), 1996-2007, Annie started "Paddle for Peace," a nonprofit she founded to help veterans heal from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) by getting them out into nature, which has a magical way of

healing. In 2015, she paddled 2,200 miles down the Mississippi River to bring awareness to veterans who need help in recovering from PTSD. As a new outings leader, Annie will offer paddling adventures to Veterans, which is a great way to bring in the diversity we need in the WV Sierra Club Outings. You can visit her website: paddleforpeace.org.

On May 30, Annie and I joined about 50 other paddlers on a 3.5-mile float trip to Coonskin Park near Charleston, WV, to help celebrate Matt Kearns' and Adam Swisher's 173-mile journey, "Elkspedition," down the Elk River to bring attention to the proposed Birthplace of Rivers National Monument. Matt and Adam hiked, biked and canoed the distance. They are members of the WV Rivers Coalition (wvrivers.org), a partner with the WV Sierra Club. Matt planned to join us for the June 22-25 Veterans Outing to the Birthplace of Rivers (BPOR) National Monument.

On June 22-25, Paul Wilson, of the Sierra Club Military Outdoors Program, and I led a Veterans outing in the Tea Creek area of the proposed BPOR National Monument. We offered fly fishing, hiking and backpacking in the proposed area. Several veterans had signed up as of this writing, and some staff from the Sierra Club Military Outdoors also planned to join us. Paul Wilson, former WV Sierra Club Chapter Chair, came up with the idea to offer our veterans an outing to visit the wilderness areas of West Virginia and to bring attention to the proposed BPOR Monument (birthplaceofrivers.org). Help us support this proposed National Monument by contacting your elected officials (see *related article on p. 4*).

Another new outings leader hails from the WV Chapter's Monongahela Group. Autumn Long signed up to become an outings leader and plans to get certified with Mary Wimmer on a July 31 paddle trip on the Mon and West Fork Rivers near Fairmont, WV.

On August 25, the National Park Service will celebrate its 100th birthday. The Sierra Club will conduct outings all over the country to commemorate this achievement. Join us on an outing to West Virginia's New River Gorge National River.

New leaders are needed, and we want YOU. If you have a special interest in the outdoors or expertise in a certain area that you'd like to share with others, then please contact Mike Price, mike-price54@suddenlink.net, WVSC Outings Chair, to get on the list for the next offering of Sierra Club's Outings Leader Training (OL 101).

A full list of outings can be found on p. 5 of this newsletter, at westvirginiasierraclub.org and on two Meetup.com groups: "West Virginia Chapter Sierra Club" (Morgantown) and "WV Sierra Club-New River."

New outings are added to the websites weekly. Check them frequently and join us in the outdoors.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Mountain Valley Pipeline would impose \$Billions on local people, communities

“Short and long term losses will be significant in economic development, natural benefits and land values.”

Laurie Ardison

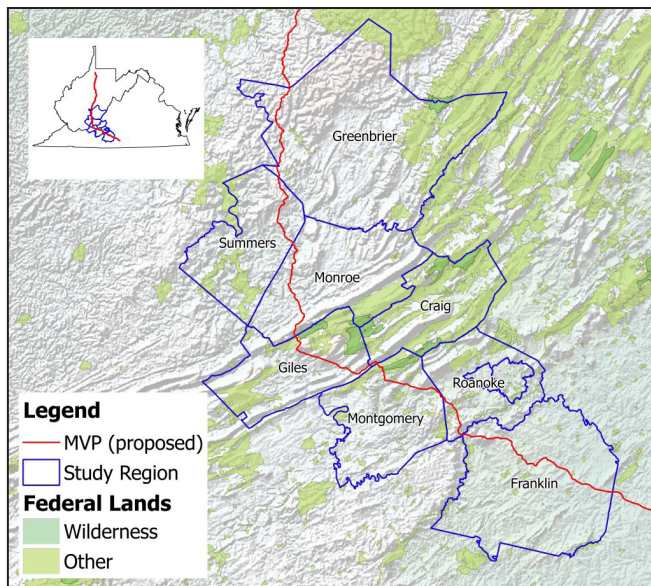
The 301-mile-long Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP), if constructed, would begin in Wetzel County, WV, route through 10 more West Virginia counties before crossing through six Virginia counties, finally ending in Pittsylvania County, Va. This proposed 42-inch transmission line, if approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), is expected to carry 2 dekatherms (2 billion cu. ft.) per day of natural gas, under approximately 1,480 psig (pounds per square inch gauge pressure).

There has never been a project of this magnitude in our region, where the mountainous terrain is entirely unsuitable for these massive lines.

Despite innumerable cautions issued by a steady stream of credentialed experts, WV legislators and gas-industry heads are pushing to industrialize the Appalachian Basin into a gas-industry infrastructure of these behemoth transmission pipelines. Blasting through rock ridges, open trenching on mountainsides, crossing mountain water bodies, building access roads and staging areas, clear cutting forests, and operating compressor stations are all activities inherent in the construction of the MVP, and they would profoundly impact the environment and lives of citizens within these affected counties.

To date, the MVP has not been issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity by FERC, which historically rubber stamps gas infrastructure projects through a flawed process that ignores economic principles and costs to the public. FERC, per its own policies and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines, must not only consider the alleged economic benefits of the MVP — construction jobs and local tax payments — but also the full scope of environmental impacts that would affect the public well-being. FERC has been working on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the MVP since April 2015.

Many county commissions in WV have accepted the promises made by MVP LLC, regarding the annual monetary tax boom and the influx of jobs that the counties could expect. The figure of 1.7 million



dollars annually in tax revenues seems to be the one I've heard most often bantered around from county to county during the dozens of community meetings I've participated in along the 301-mile corridor. Concerned citizens and local governments have struggled, unsuccessfully, to determine the formulas that MVP employed to come up with their numbers, and they seek more information about costs to the landowners and counties.

In the summer of 2015, the POWHR (Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights) coalition commissioned Charlottesville (Va.)-based Key-Log Economics LLC to conduct independent research into the actual costs to eight of the counties through which the proposed MVP would pass. The researched region includes Greenbrier, Summers and Monroe counties in West Virginia and Giles, Craig, Montgomery, Roanoke and Franklin counties in Virginia. The Key Log study provides this missing cost-to-the-public information and highlights the real and extreme costs to counties impacted by the proposed MVP. These “external costs,” which fall into three categories, do not at all affect the MVP LLC “bottom line.” FERC must consider this information when reviewing gas-industry project applications in order to factor in the economic costs/hardships which will be borne by the public.

According to Dr. Spencer Phillips, the lead author of the study, “First, the pipeline would impact property values along the approximately 143 miles of pipeline proposed for the study region. Affected properties are those touched by the 50-foot-wide right-of-

way, within the 1.4-mile-wide evacuation zone, and throughout the view shed of the proposed pipeline.

“Second, construction and the ongoing operation of the pipeline would alter land use/land cover in ways that diminish the value of ecosystem services, such as aesthetics, water supply, and timber and food production.

“Third, and in part due to a loss of scenic and quality-of-life amenities, there would be decreases in visitation, in-migration, tourism, small business development, plus

a loss of jobs and personal income those activities would otherwise support.

“Considering this eight-county region alone, estimated one-time costs range from \$65.1 to \$135.5 million. These one-time costs comprise lost property value and the value of ecosystem services lost during construction. Annual costs following the construction period include lower ecosystem service productivity in the MVP's right-of-way, lower property tax revenue due to the initial losses in property value, and dampened economic development. These total between \$119.1 and \$130.8 million per year and would persist for as long as the MVP right-of-way exists — that is, in perpetuity. (See “At a Glance,” page iii for details.) Putting the stream of costs into present-value terms and adding the one-time costs, the total estimated cost of the MVP in the eight counties is between \$8.0 and \$8.9 billion.”

This research document has been submitted to FERC, docket #CP16-10-000, and it must be considered as a part of the scoping data from which FERC drafts the EIS.

Important to note is the intra and interstate coalition development from grassroots groups, who initiated this necessary and extensive research. Environmental protection and social justice issues belong to us all. Our strength is in our numbers.

The full 70-page report, “Economic Costs of the Mountain Valley Pipeline: Effects on Property Value, Ecosystem Services, and Economic Development in Virginia and West Virginia,” can be found at <http://keylogeconomics.com/wp1/projectsandpublications/mvpcosts/>.

The political season is seemingly endless

We've all survived the Primary season, up to and including the WV Primary election on May 10. You might be surprised to learn, however, that the Primary results had not been certified by the Secretary of State as of June 5, the deadline for this newsletter. Those final, official vote totals will be provided for you in the next issue of *The Mountain State Sierran*.

In the meantime, the Political Committee will be reviewing those results, sending out our candidate survey/questionnaire to all who will be on the November ballot, which includes Primary winners, and determining whom to endorse. Our endorsements will be available to West Virginia Sierrans in plenty of time to use as a voter guide. In addition to endorsements for West Virginia state offices, the national Sierra Club will have endorsed a candidate for president by the next newsletter deadline.

You can help with voter registration

Nothing is more democratic in our republic than the vote; however, one can only vote if she or he is registered. We can help get out the vote by registering folks who are not yet registered.

It's surprisingly simple. If you are interested in helping to register voters, whether it be friends, family or other groups — on a strictly nonpartisan basis — contact Jim Sconyers for guidelines and materials, jimscon@gmail.com, 304-698-9628.

HELP WANTED

Chapter Website Managers

— We are researching different options for creating an attractive website for the Chapter but are not yet certain what software we'll be using. We will need volunteers to accept responsibility for parts of the website. Training will be provided, and Autumn Long has agreed to be the gatekeeper, so she can work with you. If you are interested, we'll keep you informed as progress is made. Please contact Autumn, autumnlong11@gmail.com.

Newsletter Intern

— The editor would welcome the help of anyone with desktop publishing experience, or anyone willing to learn. If interested, please contact Candice Elliott, candice.k.elliott@gmail.com.


Sculpture awarded

The metal sculpture donated to WVSC by Mark Blumenstein was won by Tracey Vaughan, of Greenville, WV. Of the 74 tickets sold, hers was the one chosen during a drawing on April 22.

The WV Chapter thanks the sculptor and everyone who purchased tickets for the drawing. The money collected will be used for our conservation work.



DONATE TODAY



SIERRA CLUB

Help your Chapter stay strong for the hard work we do to keep West Virginia wild and wonderful.

One fee covers membership in the national Sierra Club, the West Virginia Chapter and, if you live in the designated region, the Monongahela Group.

Make a quick and easy donation or join “the Club” from the Chapter's home page:

westvirginia.sierraclub.org

Join Online

View from the Chair

— Liz Wiles

Get kids outside, prepare next gen of nature lovers

While the Chapter's outings are listed in each issue of the *Mountain State Sierran*, this issue's featured article on our Outings Program is intended to remind us of how the Sierra Club began, in 1892, and the important role outings play in all of the Club's other conservation work and campaigns.

All of the work we do to protect wild lands, wildlife, clean water and fresh air, the work to push for a clean energy future, for a fossil-fuel-free transportation system, comes from the fact that most, and more likely all, Sierra Club members have a connection to the outdoors. It is through that connection that we recognize how a healthy environment is essential for our very existence. And only by getting outdoors do we gain the insight and understanding of the interconnectedness of all nature, living and non-living, that leads us to fight to protect it.

This connection usually starts when we're kids. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, over the past couple of decades fewer and fewer children spend quality time outside. If we want to continue the progress Sierra Club has made over its 100+ years, we need to make sure all kids have regular opportunities to get outside and connect with nature, even if it's in a city park or in their own backyard. In doing so, we will help raise the next generation of environmental stewards.

We don't have to talk about the importance of a healthy environment to convince parents, teachers and schools to get kids outside. Over the past 10-15 years, more and more research has shown the myriad benefits to children who get outside, have unstructured play outdoors, have access to greenspace. As adults and members of Sierra Club, we recognize in ourselves how being in nature can reduce stress and calm our minds. We know that being outdoors is good for the mind, body and spirit.

Those benefits are even more pronounced in kids. With regard to the mind, students who have regular lessons outside show improved academic scores, not just in science but across all disciplines. For those administrators and teachers who would argue that they have to focus on teaching the standards, there are many ways most standards can be taught outside through innovative lessons and hands-on activities.

Obviously, kids who get outside are more physically active and, thus, tend to be in better physical health than their peers who sit inside in front of a computer or TV all day. Improved physical health also can help improve academics.

For me, as I learned about this field of research, the most striking benefits were the ones that impacted kids' mental health and spirit. A variety of studies have shown that kids who get outside regularly display more self-discipline and self-control; they are happier and more at peace. They are better able to listen and pay attention. And they cooperate more with, and are nicer to, each other. Think of all the behavioral issues teachers deal with that could be reduced or eliminated by getting students out of the classroom and into nature.

What does this mean for the Sierra Club? The more often kids are outdoors, the more their connection to nature will grow and the more likely those kids will become adults who advocate for a healthy environment, not just for nature's sake but for their own sake.

So take advantage of Sierra Club outings. Check out some of the ones rated easy and take your kids or grandkids, their friends, your neighbors' kids, your nieces and nephews, — you get the idea!



Next generation of nature lovers

Aiden (left) and Rosie check out a dead cicada in a puddle near the Coopers Rock Overlook, during the Mon Group's Ice Cream Social on June 5.

Both are grandchildren of longtime WV Sierra Club members. Aiden is the grandson of Sally Wilts and Duane Lazzell, and Rosie is the granddaughter of John and Virginia Bird.

Good job passing the torch, folk!

Book Review

DARK MONEY: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right, by Jane Mayer

Richard Mier, Martinsburg

Jane Mayer begins "Dark Money" with a quote from Louis Brandeis: "We must make our choice. We may have democracy or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both."

The story she tells here, about how a small number of very wealthy people have tried to obtain control of the reins of government, is not a new one (the Brandeis quote is from the '30s), but an important new chapter of an old one. She begins in 1970 with what she describes as the "weaponization of philanthropy." Despite the moderation of the Republican Party after the Goldwater catastrophe of 1964, a small cadre formed of very wealthy and very conservative people who were determined to fight this moderation and who went to war for their radical right-wing views. They included Charles and David Koch, sons of Fred Chase Koch, a founding member of the John Birch Society; Richard Mellon Scaife, an early benefactor of the Heritage Foundation; and Joseph Coors, of the archconservative Colorado-based brewing family, among others.

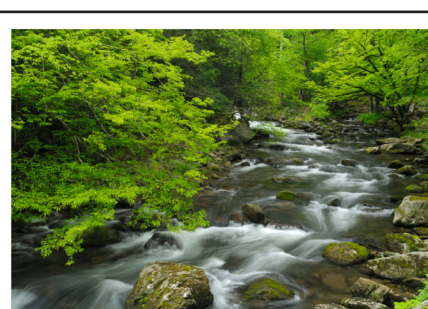
Even before Citizens United, they founded and supported a large interlocking network of right-wing groups by which they have attempted to move the country in the direction they favored. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent on think tanks like the Heritage Foundation, the American Enterprise Institute and the Cato Institute.

University centers like the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, political groups like the Center to Protect Patient Rights and Americans for Prosperity, funding mechanisms to preserve anonymity like Donors Trust, as well as the American Legislative Exchange Council all emerged as parts of the process. The EPA, unions, climate change activities, taxes, Obamacare and even moderate Republicans were perennial targets. Apparently Carl Rove was fond of saying, "People call us a vast right-wing conspiracy, but we're really a half-assed right-wing conspiracy. Now is the time to get serious." And they have. Charles Koch has announced that he is planning on spending \$889 million on the 2016 election, likely to be more than the Republican National Committee itself spends.

Jane Mayer's book is an engrossing, compulsively researched piece of long-form investigative journalism that tells this sadly true story in terrifying detail. It was written despite retaliatory attempts to smear her professionally and despite the efforts of a private investigator retained by Koch Industries to dig up dirt on her (there wasn't any). We all know the basics, but she provides the details, the why of it and the how of it.

Much to our chagrin, we now find ourselves living in interesting times. With tiny numbers of very wealthy people distorting public discourse with larger and larger amounts of money, things are likely to remain interesting for some time to come.

Prepare for the worst. Read this book.



With your help we can clean up our water

Sierra Club Water Sentinels are the first line of defense of America's waters. We live on the water planet. However, water is a finite resource with only about 1% of the world's water actually being available for human consumption. Water pollution & over-use are threatening both the quality & quantity of our water resources at an alarming rate.

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
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Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ / _____
 Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



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Enclose a check and mail to:
 Sierra Club, PO Box 421041
 Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041
 or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

MONONGAHELA GROUP

Sat, July 23, 1-4 p.m.

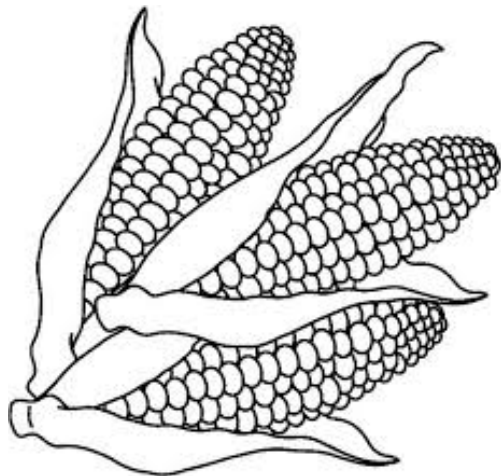
Solar Open House, Monroe County

3031 Lillydale-Back Creek Road, Greenville, WV
Home of WVSC ExCom member Laurie Ardison

Sponsored by the WV Sierra Club's Energy Efficiency Campaign Team, come learn about Laurie's off-grid solar photovoltaic system, as well as her home's many other green features: straw bale construction, composting toilet, water catchment system, cork floors, active and passive solar, on-demand water heater, etc.

From Route 219 south of Union, travel 3.0 miles southwest on Lillydale-Back Creek Road; from Route 122 east of Greenville, travel 3.3 miles northeast on Laurel Creek Road and Lillydale-Back Creek Road. Look for a "Solar Open House" sign, white fence, black mailbox, and trash can holder made out of pallets with a "No Pipelines" sign on it.

For more information, contact Autumn Long, 304-796-4677, autumnlong11@gmail.com.



Sun, July 31, 11 a.m.~ 2 p.m.

Paddle Trip, Fairmont's Three Rivers

Meet at Palatine Park, Fairmont (Marion County)
Be ready to get on the water by 11 a.m.

We will paddle upstream on the Monongahela River to its source, with options to continue upriver on either the Tygart Valley or West Fork rivers (or a short way on both), and then return to Palatine Park. Total trip time will be about 3 hours, depending on the group. This is a joint outing with the Monongahela Area Paddlers (MAP).

For more info, contact leaders Mary Wimmer, mwimmer@hsc.wvu.edu, or Autumn Long, 304-796-4677, autumnlong11@gmail.com.

Thur, August 18, 6:30-9 p.m.

Annual End-of Summer Corn Roast

Krepps Park Picnic Shelter, Morgantown
(Monongalia County)

Join us as we welcome WVU students back to town, meet old friends and make new ones, and enjoy freshly roasted sweet corn grilled in the husk over hot coals. Plates, utensils, water and lemonade will be provided. Bring a dish to share with others.

For info, contact John Bird, johnbird@frontier.com.

The Monongahela Group includes members in five WV counties along or near the Monongahela River: Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston and Taylor.

To receive a monthly email reminder about upcoming events in the five-county area of the Mon Group, send a request to be added to our email list, Calendar for Mon Group of Sierra Club, to Sally Wilts, sallywilts@yahoo.com.



Friendly creatures, Horse and Squirrel, help churn the chocolate ice cream at this year's Ice Cream Social at Coopers Rock State Forest, on Sunday, June 5. Turnout was low due to rainy weather, but we still had fun.

Monument effort gets local and loud

Karen Yarnell, WV Wilderness Coalition Chair

David Lillard, Communications for BPOR campaign

After losing patience with Senator Joe Manchin on legislation to designate the Birthplace of Rivers National Monument, advocates are making an all-out push to urge President Obama to create the monument. The designation, which can be created by legislation or Presidential proclamation, has been a priority for the WV Sierra Club and its sister organization, the WV Wilderness Coalition.

The campaign for White House action has energized local advocates in Pocahontas, Greenbrier, and Nicholas counties. They have formed an organizing committee and are planning activities throughout the summer. Three state activists visited Administration and Congressional staffs on May 18, taking with them more than 1,500 postcards, letters and petition signatures calling for action.

The Birthplace of Rivers area is in the southern end of the Monongahela National Forest. The roughly 122,000 acres includes the Cranberry Wilderness, Cranberry Glades, the Falls of Hills Creek and the Tea Creek Backcountry. It is truly an iconic West Virginia landscape — great trout fish-

ing in the Williams River, the wellspring of the Gauley and the state's whitewater scene, and headwaters of the Elk — the drinking water supply for 17 percent of the state's population.

In May, two young men generated excitement for the monument when they hiked, biked and paddled the length of the Elk to raise awareness of the monument and the connection between public lands and our drinking water.

The area has long been enjoyed by people with varied recreational interests, from hunters and anglers to backpackers, paddlers, equestrians and mountain bikers. These interests don't often work together, but have found common ground for collaboration. The specter of natural gas pipelines has illustrated how quickly threats to our public lands can arise. The pipeline proposals come on the heels of unrelenting efforts in Congress by a handful of senators and representatives to streamline industrial development on federal lands, slash funding and even sell off federal lands to the highest bidders.

This uncertainty over the future of the Mon Forest has created a sense of urgency to create the monument now.

The WV Sierra Club hosted two

events in the Birthplace of Rivers in June. Outings Chair Mike Price and club member Paul Wilson led a fishing and backpacking trip for Veterans in the Cranberry Wilderness, on June 22-25. This event, hosted by the Sierra Club Military Outdoors group, was designed to connect veterans with the healing powers of the outdoors.

On June 11, the Mike Price led a 16-mile bike outing along the Cranberry River in the Cranberry backcountry. The trip began at Cranberry Glades and traveled to the Cranberry Campground, with a shuttle between the two points.

While many WV Sierra Club members have already written letters to the President



Like us on Facebook to get more up-to-date information about our "doings."

Sierra Club West Virginia
Mon Group of the WV Sierra Club
WVSC Marcellus Shale Campaign

about the monument, we urge ALL members to do so. To write a letter online, go to <http://bit.ly/1N5nqdx>. Using this website ensures that all letters are monitored, helping to gauge the campaign's support.

To learn more about the monument, visit birthplaceofrivers.org.

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

celliot2@comcast.net
414 Tyrone Avery Rd
Morgantown, WV 26508

**Deadline for
September/October issue
August 5**

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.

Outing Info & Registration

To register for any of these WV Sierra Club outings, please contact the listed outing leader before the day of the outing. You will be given details about when and where to meet, what to bring, and whether extra equipment is available for you to borrow. Note the difficulty rating for outings that interest you to be sure you are not "biting off more than you can chew." Leaders will help you decide if their outing is right for you.

Wed, July 6

Evening Hike: New River Gorge

Easy — A 5-mile evening hike on the Southside Trail in the New River Gorge includes a beautiful walk along the New River, starting at Thurmond.

Leader: Mike Price, mikeprice54@suddenlink.net, 304-400-8354

Nearest town: Glen Jean, WV

Web info: nps.gov/neri/index.htm

Wed, July 13

Evening Hike: Annapolis Rocks on the AT

Moderate — This after-work, early-evening hike will begin on Route 40, where the AT crosses the road. This 4.4-mile round trip, out-and-back hike, will head north on the AT, climbing a short, steep section of the trail before leveling out. Hikers will be rewarded at the top with a great view of Greenbriar Lake. Contact the leader for details and to register.

Leader: Pam Peitz, pspeitz@hotmail.com, 240-818-6554

Sat, July 16

Day Paddle: Gauley River

Easy — Bring your canoe or kayak for a mostly flatwater paddle down the Gauley River, from Jodie, WV, to Gauley Bridge, WV — about 9 miles.

Leader: Mike Price, mikeprice54@suddenlink.net, 304-400-8354

Mon, July 18-25

Weeklong Paddle: Monongahela River Especially for Veterans

Strenuous — This weeklong to 10-day canoe trip on the Monongahela River will start at Colfax, WV. We will paddle 136 miles of mostly flatwater to Pittsburgh, PA, traveling through many locks and dams with some portages. We will camp along the river.

Leader: Annie Balthazar, riversgal1720@gmail.com

Sat, July 23

Day Hike: Otter Creek Wilderness

Easy — This hike will cover slightly more than 2.5 miles into the Otter Creek Wilderness Area, with lunch at a swimming hole. Return is on the same route, for a total of approximately 5 miles. "Leave No Trace" outdoor ethics will be introduced as the group follows beautiful Otter Creek along a railroad grade trail. Otter Creek Wilderness covers 20,000 acres and lies in a bowl formed by Shavers Mountain and McGowan Mountain. The area was designated as wilderness by the Eastern Wilderness Act, passed by Congress in 1975.

Leader: Ann Devine-King, atdtking@gmail.com, 304-594-2636

Nearest town: Hendricks, WV

Web info: wilderness.net

Sat-Sun, July 23-24

Weekend Backpack: Otter Creek Wilderness

Moderate to strenuous — This backpacking trip will start at the Dry Fork Trailhead, follow Otter Creek Trail 131 to Green Mountain Trail 130, connect with Shavers Mountain Trail 129 to the Mylius Trail 128, and back down to Otter Creek Trail 131 and Dry Fork. We will begin the trip with Ann Devine-Kings day-hikers but continue on and camp overnight along the trail.

Leader: Mike Price, mikeprice54@suddenlink.net, 304-400-8354

Nearest town: Hendricks, WV

Web info: wvhighlands.org/Maps/usfs_mnf/ottercreek.pdf

Sun, July 31

Day Hike: Laurel Fork River

Easy to moderate — The hike will cover about 6 miles and take 3-4 hours. We will use Buck Run and Locust Spring Run trails, which use old railroad grades. There will be several steam crossings, and we will stop along the Laurel Fork River for a lunch/snack break and to enjoy the scenery. Hikers should be capable of hiking a moderate trail with the ability to rock-hop small streams. Beginners are welcome; please dress for the weather, bring water and wear sturdy footwear. There is a vault toilet at the trailhead. We will meet at 11 a.m. at the Locust Spring Picnic area on FR 142 of Route 28, between Cherry Grove and Thornwood, WV.

Leader: Brent Carminati, brentcar1@frontiernet.net, 703-999-8679

Sun, July 31

Day Paddle: Fairmont's Three Rivers

Easy — Meet at 11 a.m. at Palatine Park in Fairmont (Marion County). We will paddle upstream on the Monongahela River to its source, with options to continue upriver on either the Tygart Valley or West Fork Rivers (or both), and then return to Palatine Park. Total trip time will be about 3 hours, depending on the group. This is a joint outing with the Monongahela Area Paddlers (MAP).

Leaders: Mary Wimmer, mwimmer@hsc.wvu.edu; Autumn Long, autumlong11@gmail.com, 304-796-4677

Wed, Aug 3

Evening Hike: Washington Monument on the AT

Moderate — This after-work, early-evening hike will begin at the trail head on Route 40 where the AT crosses the road. The trail climbs south on the AT with a steep ascent to the Washington Monument, which is within the state park. Round-trip mileage is about 6 miles.

Leader: Pam Peitz, pspeitz@hotmail.com, 240-818-6554

Sat, Aug 6

Day Hike: Yew Mountain Center

Easy to moderate — Join us for a hike at this new facility near Hillsboro, WV. Several trails are in this area, and we will hike 4-5 miles before cooling off in a nearby pond. Bring a bathing suit and lunch. We will meet in front of the lodge at 10 a.m. The lodge is not open, but there is primitive camping space for overnighters.

Leader: Beth Little, blittle@citynet.net

Nearest town: Hillsboro, WV

Fri, Aug 12

Day Hike: Little Devils Stairs, SNP

Strenuous — This 5.5-mile loop hike is very difficult, with a steep climb through an impressive gorge along Keyser Run, crossing the stream multiple times. Plan on your feet getting wet. Meet-up details to be determined. Parking at the trailhead requires a Shenandoah National Park pass.

Leader: Pam Peitz, pspeitz@hotmail.com, 240-818-6554

Sat, Aug 20

Day Hike: Spruce Knob-Judy Springs-Seneca Creek backcountry

Moderate — This hike will cover about 9 miles and take 4-5 hours. We will use the Lumberjack Trail, a short section of Huckleberry Trail, Judy Springs Trail and Seneca Creek Trail. Most of the trails are either flat or down slope; no steep declines or inclines. We will stop at Judy Springs along the Seneca Creek for snack/lunch and to enjoy the scenery. Hikers should be able to hike a moderate-rated trail. Beginners are welcome. Please dress for the weather, bring water and snack, and wear sturdy footwear.

Leader: Brent Carminati, brentcar1@frontiernet.net, 703-999-8679

Sat-Sun, Aug 20-21

Backpack: Spruce Knob-Judy Springs

Strenuous — This 16.5-mile backpack trip will begin on the Huckleberry Trail at Spruce

Knob and continue down to Judy Springs to meet up with Brent Carminati's dayhikers. We will continue on the Lumberjack Trail and High Meadows Trail back to Judy Springs, where we will camp for the night. On Sunday, we will hike back up the steep climb to Spruce Knob on the Huckleberry Trail.

Leader: Mike Price, mikeprice54@suddenlink.net, 304-400-8354

Nearest town: Circleville, WV

Web info: www.hikingupward.com/MNF/SpruceKnobSenecaCreek

Thurs, Aug 25

NPS 100th Anniversary Hike: New River Gorge

Moderate — This evening hike at the New River Gorge National River will cover 5-6 miles from the Fayetteville Trail out to Long Point and loop back on the Timber Ridge Trail. This hike is part of the NPS 100th Anniversary hikes that the Sierra Club is offering to celebrate 100 years of the National Park Service.

Leader: Mike Price, mikeprice54@suddenlink.net, 304-400-8354

Nearest town: Fayetteville, WV

Web info: nps.gov/neri/index.htm

Sat, Aug 27

Adopt-A-Trail Service Outing: Coopers Rock SF

Easy to moderate — Work will begin in the cooler morning hours for this summer trail clean-up on our "adopted" Intermediate Cross-Country Ski Trail and loop for 1.25 miles at Coopers Rock State Forest. Much of the work will include cutting back vegetation, cleaning out and restoring drainage ditches/culverts and general trail clearing. We'll have time to identify trees along the way. Some moderate-intensity work will be necessary, using shovels, rakes and pruners, and moving reasonably sized rocks. Anything requiring power tools or heavy lifting is deferred to the Forest Superintendent. Volunteers should wear sturdy boots and work gloves, and carry water and snacks.

Leader: Ann Devine-King, atdtking@gmail.com, 304-594-2636

Nearest town: Morgantown, WV

Web info: www.coopersrockstateforest.com; www.wvstateparks.com/community/adopt.htm; coopersrock.org

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 outdoor 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 kayaks or canoes.

Unless noted in the announcement, Club outings are intended for adults. Children and dogs are not normally permitted, unless an outing 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 at www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms or by calling 415-977-5630.

The Sierra Club does not charge for chapter outings, although payment of park entrance fees, a share of campsite rental costs, permit fees, equipment rental charges, etc. may be required from the participants. The Sierra Club practices "leave-no-trace" trail techniques, including 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. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

West Virginia Chapter Outings

For updated listings of outings sponsored by the West Virginia Chapter, check our website at: westvirginia.sierraclub.org

Outings are also listed on two **Meetup.com** groups: "West Virginia Chapter Sierra Club" (Morgantown) and "WV Sierra Club-New River." Outings are added to these sites weekly. Come join us and enjoy the outdoors.

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
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West Virginia Chapter
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email to WV Legislature:
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
has contact information for all state legislators.

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on 100% post-consumer, recycled paper, using vegetable-oil-based inks.