

# Mountain State Sierran

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September/October 2017

## Atlantic Coast Pipeline Escalates Public Concern

*Justin Raines*

The public comment period for Dominion Energy's proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) 401 water quality certification permit application to the WV DEP closed the first week of August with a pair of well-attended public hearings in Buckhannon and Martinsburg. Several residents and local citizens voiced their concerns about the potentially harmful impacts of the proposed 42-inch high-pressure line. They faced off against a smaller group comprising mostly industry representatives from across the state who touted dubious promises of economic opportunities.

Many Sierra Club members living in the affected areas spoke out against the threat posed by the construction project. They focused mostly on the impacts to their waters, but also addressed the claims of industry representatives and spokesmen regarding the safety and economic benefits of pipeline construction.

Kevin Campbell, of Upshur County, mentioned that the line is slated to cross the Buckhannon River and its tributaries in nine separate locations. "That's nine chances to contaminate our single source of water," Campbell said. "The best engineering in the world cannot guarantee that our water will not be contaminated. The only way to avoid contamination with this pipeline is to not build it."

Other community members and organizations also spoke against the project during the 401 hearing and pushed against industry spokesmen touting economics. Paul Richter, of the Buckhannon River Watershed Association, said, "This hearing is about only one item — whether the state of West Virginia should issue a 401 certification to the ACP project. That's the issue — not jobs, not profits, not a lot of other things."

Many citizens pointed out the similarities between this proposed project and application and similar lines such as the Stonewall and Rover pipelines, which ended up significantly damaging the waters of West Virginia with numerous violations and sedimentation events.

Others addressed gas company representatives' claims directly. Justin Raines, of Lewis County, read an excerpt of the U.S. Senate testimony of Sissonville resident Sue Bonham, who survived the explosion of a pipeline in her town that shot flames for hundreds of feet and consumed two lanes of Interstate 77. Raines, who has 12 years of experience in the natural gas drilling industry, informed listeners that "there is no such thing as safe, clean natural gas. This is not going to make us rich; they want to bury a bomb in our backyard."

Opposition speakers were largely employees of the industry, with at least one paid Dominion spokesman touting the environmental and safety accomplishments of the company without disclosing that he was an employee of it.

Both hearings saw a similar mix of concerned local citizens and industry personnel. It is now left to the state Department of Environmental Protection whether to issue the 401 water-quality certification permit, or not.



Seeds of Resistance by Cool Revolution, CC

Augusta County, Va., No ACP group has been catalyzing community action and awareness.

## Morgantown City Council Adopts Paris Climate Resolution

*Emily McDougal*

On August 1, Morgantown City Council voted unanimously to adopt the Paris Climate Resolution supported by the Morgantown Municipal Green Team, Sierra Club and other area activists.

When President Donald Trump announced on June 1 that he would be withdrawing from the Paris Climate Agreement, Morgantown residents knew they needed to act. A resolution from the National Mayors Climate Action Agenda was identified as a model by the Morgantown Municipal Green Team. The resolution, adopted by the Morgantown City Council, means that Morgantown will join more than 300 cities nationwide in creating a Climate Action Plan to meet the greenhouse gas reduction goals in the Paris Climate Agreement. The city has already developed a greenhouse gas inventory and now will explore cost-effective policies and programs to deal with climate change.

Sierra Club activists spent nearly six weeks of lobbying and petitioning to generate a crowd of supporters at Council

meetings on July 25 and August 1. While opposition came from outside Morgantown, from the West Virginia Coal Association, area residents were overwhelmingly in favor.

Implementation of this resolution is a large first step to fight climate change and will help this city provide a healthy physical and fiscal environment for its residents and visitors.

Citizens from across West Virginia are encouraged to propose and lobby a resolution to their own city councils to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change with the rest of the world. A sample resolution is available at <http://climatemayors.org/>. For information on how to start a campaign for a Paris Climate Resolution in your area, contact Jim Kotcon, at [jkotcon@gmail.com](mailto:jkotcon@gmail.com).

### Upcoming ExCom Meeting

**Sat, Nov. 4: Buckhannon**

All members are welcome.

April Keating for details, [apkeating@hotmail.com](mailto:apkeating@hotmail.com)



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# Public Lands are Your Lands

*Matt Kearns, West Virginians for Public Lands*

### Your National Monuments

A review ordered by President Trump of 27 national monuments established since 1996 by presidential authority under the Antiquities Act continues. It has been reported that three national monuments — Craters of the Moon, Hanford Reach, and Missouri Breaks — have passed review with no changes. But the news from Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke for Bears Ears National Monument in Utah isn't so good. In his Interim Report, the Secretary recommended that the boundaries of Bears Ears be reduced and calls into question overlapping management prescriptions, like wilderness areas, within the national monument.

The final report is due August 24, and it is expected that Secretary Zinke will encourage Congress to settle any disputes, with the chance that such intervention could weaken the provisions of the Antiquities Act or the Wilderness Act. To ensure that the Administration and Congress are held accountable to the 2.7 million public comments received, the Wilderness Society is crowdsourcing their own review. You can sign up to help review comments at <https://goo.gl/pJvhqo>.

### Making Your Voice Heard

To make sure our Congressional representatives know that West Virginians overwhelmingly support our public lands and national monuments, members from the Mon Group of Sierra Club met with Senator Manchin's staff in his Fairmont office on July 20. They had the opportunity to speak with Frank Jezioro, the Senator's liaison for Natural Resources, and share their stories and concerns about our public lands. Mr. Jezioro emphasized Senator Manchin's opposition to any public lands sell-offs or transfers and his support for improved access to our public lands with tools like the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which just gave \$44,000 to West Virginia for the preservation of the Shepherdstown Civil War Battlefield.

With Congress in summer recess, there may be opportunities to interact with legislators and staff as they travel the state to visit fairs, festivals, etc. Please contact West Virginians for Public Lands' new Outreach Coordinator, Megan Hamilton ([mhamilton@wvriivers.org](mailto:mhamilton@wvriivers.org)), for more information on scheduling an "intercept."

### Your National Forest

July saw cause for both sadness and celebration in the Monongahela National Forest. Just before the 4th of July, errant and illegal fireworks on public land ignited a 50-acre wildfire on the north peak of Seneca Rocks. Hard work by volunteers, local guides and inter-agency first responders had the blaze contained within a few days and the popular trail reopened. In happier news, the Cranberry Mountain Nature Center had its 50th Anniversary, on July 29, to celebrate its role in welcoming visitors to the Southern Monongahela since 1967.

Additionally, work toward the "restoration economy," a vision for the Mon shared by Forest Supervisor Clyde Thompson and Marlinton/White Sulphur District Ranger Cindy Sandeno, made multiple headlines. Crews from the Canaan Valley Institute, Trout Unlimited, Forest Service, WV DNR, and local contractors decommissioned unused forest roads and pulled up old culverts. This work is important for controlling erosion and improving native trout habitat, and supports better ecosystem services and forest jobs.

Finally, a thank you to WVPL partner "Friends of Highland Scenic Highway" for organizing a litter clean up, and the annual Trout Unlimited "bucket brigade" that carried 10 tons of limestone sand into the Cranberry River headwaters to help control stream acidification.

Remember, these lands are your lands.

# Destined to Lead: Volunteerism and the Pleasants Campaign Opposing FirstEnergy

*Pamela Ellis, Energy Efficiency Liaison*

You may have heard the Sir Walter Scott quote: "Oh, what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive." This postulate seems applicable to the corporate misdeed being perpetrated on Mon Power and Potomac Edison electric ratepayers by the parent company, FirstEnergy. The scenario must be successfully challenged by those among us destined to lead in, what John Muir referred to while working with the Sierra Club, "the eternal conflict between right and wrong."

This case, # 17-0296-PC, stands before the WV Public Service Commission (PSC) with a \$195 million purchase price for the Pleasants power plant, another dirty, coal-fired power plant that can't compete in a declining unregulated market for coal-generated electricity in Ohio. So why would West Virginia ratepayers be expected to pay for it? Renewable energy and gas electricity sales continued to drastically outpace new generation by coal suppliers through 2016. According to Cathy Kunkel, of the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, "a \$1 million investment in energy efficiency supports, on average, 14 to 20 jobs. A \$1 million investment in conventional power generation, by comparison, supports about 10 jobs. The average wage for these energy efficiency jobs is nearly \$5,000 above the national median income."

In addition, WV ratepayers do not receive the higher-quality energy efficiency programs obtained by FirstEnergy's Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania or New Jersey customers. In such states, but not West Virginia, FirstEnergy customers may have the following rebates and discounts:

- Appliance Recycle Turn-In Program, \$50 for refrigerators or freezers
- Energy Star-certified refrigerators, \$150; clothes washers, \$100; clothes dryers, up to \$50
- Energy Star-certified CFL Fixtures, \$10
- Energy Star-certified Heat Pump Water Heaters, \$500
- Central Air Conditioning, up to \$900
- Air-to-Air Heat Pump, up to \$1,125
- Heat Pumps Tier 2, \$360
- Multi Zone, \$540
- Geothermal Heat Pumps Closed Loop Water-to-Air, \$1,620
- ENERGY STAR Tier 3 Closed Loop Water-to-Water, \$1,620

It seems that FirstEnergy is specifically raiding the wallets of West Virginia. We need the WV PSC to stand up to this company and protect the economic future and investments of the state's tax base. By requiring FirstEnergy to instead meet energy efficiency and renewable energy targets to ensure projected capacity demands, as is done in other states, our citizenry would prosper from increased expansion of the fastest-growing market sector of new, well-paying jobs in energy. Additionally, large companies will be attracted to our state because of market advantages of renewable energy investments. Other benefits accrued by denying this proposed contract include a reduction in pollution to the environment and improved health outcomes for families and communities. For these and other reasons, urge the WV PSC to reject FirstEnergy's proposed bid.

Each of us should consider it our sacred duty to deny FirstEnergy another win. We are still paying off the \$565 million purchase price for the Harrison plant transfer with rate increases of more than 12 percent, according to FirstEnergy's 2015 Annual Report. To register your protest and send the Pleasants Power Plant purchase request to the prison chamber where it belongs, take action this week with a letter stating your objection via the online petition web link:

<http://www.psc.state.wv.us/scripts/onlinecomments/default.cfm>

Attend one (or more) of the three PSC public hearings coming up and plan to speak out against the transfer. Hearings are scheduled for 6 p.m. Sept 6 in Parkersburg; 7 p.m. Sept 11 in Martinsburg; and at 6 p.m. Sept 12 in Morgantown. Not only will Sierra Club legal intervenors be presenting our cause, but we are also ably aided by valiant communicators writing OpEds, posting on Facebook event social media, and sending electronic phone calendar reminders of hearings deployment; using the weaponry of today that we need to display heroism and regain rightful honor toward Victory!

## Nominations sought for state and local Club Executive Committees

The two-year terms of several Chapter and Mon Group leaders will expire at the end of this year. Executive Committee (ExCom) members listed in the Chapter Directory on the back page of this newsletter with a ('17) after their names are up for re-election or replacement this December. Some will run again, but others have opted not to or are restricted from running due to recently added term limits in the Chapter's Bylaws. To ensure that our members can select the best candidates to help shape West Virginia's environmental policies, we need willing and qualified candidates to add their names to the ballots. Any member of the WV Chapter may have their name placed on the ballot along

with a short statement (100-120 words) expressing one's interest, experience and qualifications.

The Monongahela Group is also looking for eligible candidates for their ExCom, which addresses environmental issues specific to its local area. Members residing in Monongalia, Marion, Harrison, Preston or Taylor counties are encouraged to consider putting their names in the hat for the Group ExCom election.

If you know of any likely people or are yourself interested in serving, please contact one of the members of the Chapter Nominating Committee: Laura Yokochi, April Keating or Emily McDougal (contact info is in Directory on back page).



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## Blowing in the Wind

It's time for America to get smart about energy and become less dependent on fossil fuels. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

**Giving's a Breeze. JOIN Sierra Club.**

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<b>Special Offer</b>	<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

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or visit our website: [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

*View from the Chair*

— Jim Kotcon, Chapter Chair

## EPA's Science Integrity Leaves Much to be Desired

Shortly after Scott Pruitt took over the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), he offered comments on CNBC that "more debate" is needed as to whether CO2 is a primary contributor to climate change. In response, the Sierra Club filed a formal complaint with the agency's Inspector General demonstrating that he violated EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy through his televised denial of established science: the fact that carbon pollution plays a strong role in fueling the climate crisis.

In response, a decision by the EPA's Office of the Science Advisor, unfortunately, provided a fundamentally flawed reading of the Scientific Integrity Policy. The decision fails to address many of the areas of the policy to which the Sierra Club had called attention, relies on partial quotes from the policy, and provides Pruitt with special protections afforded to actual scientists working at the agency, although he is — quite obviously at this point — not a scientist.

Specifically, the Scientific Integrity Policy cites a section protecting scientists' opinions, but also states that "policy makers shall not knowingly misrepresent, exaggerate or downplay areas of scientific uncertainty associated with policy decisions." It is this

latter section that was the focus of the Sierra Club's complaint.

With his many close ties to the fossil fuel industry, Pruitt's statements were clearly a politically motivated attempt to obfuscate basic facts that EPA scientists have studied and verified for years. Pruitt was expressing an opinion that has already been thoroughly debunked through peer-reviewed science.

In short, Pruitt's behavior is just the type of behavior the Scientific Integrity Policy should be protecting against.

While the Trump Administration has been relatively ineffective at moving major policy changes, Pruitt at EPA has been very focused on repealing many of the environmental rules that have protected our health and safety. Pending budget cuts will eliminate much of the enforcement arm of the agency. Our fears of wholesale rollbacks at EPA do seem to be coming true.

You can be sure that Sierra Club will continue to advocate for clean air and water, and we invite you to join us in those efforts.

*These comments are excerpted from a Sierra Club press release by Elena Saxonhouse and Adam Beitman, on EcoWatch.*

## Sierra Club Opposes Rate Increase for the Grant Town Power Plant

*Jim Kotcon*

The Grant Town Power Plant, a small, coal-fired electric generating plant in Marion County, asked the WV Public Service Commission (PSC) to approve additional payments in May, insisting that the plant would close if they did not get more money from WV ratepayers.

The Grant Town plant has a "circulating fluidized bed" that allows it to burn "waste" coal, especially coal that has a very high sulfur content. It was constructed in the early 1990s to take advantage of federal laws requiring local utilities to purchase power from "co-generation" plants. That means the plant generated electricity AND used waste steam heat for other purposes. Although Grant Town originally proposed several industrial facilities, none were ever actually built.

The Grant Town plant is owned by American Bituminous Power Partners (AmBit). AmBit continues to claim eligibility because it is using waste coal from gob piles. In fact, at least some of the coal being burned there is newly mined. AmBit claims that the extra money now needed is justified because of the "environmental benefits" offered by burning gob and reclaiming these old waste coal piles, even though they are creating new mine sites.

AmBit also claims that the use of the coal ash for mine reclamation is a benefit, although it is not clear that these uses provide any benefit other than coal ash disposal. The Club's attorneys have asked for actual data demonstrating water quality improvements. And while some data on stream pH has been provided, no evidence from water draining any of the sites "reclaimed" has yet been provided that assesses the heavy metals and other toxins in the ash. Use of coal ash for mine reclamation is a common practice in West Virginia, but those sites are poorly

monitored by WV-DEP, and they often do not assess the toxins of greatest concern.

Finally, while the circulating fluidized bed boiler does remove some of the sulfur pollution from the air, it is nowhere near as efficient as conventional plants with scrubbers. The Grant Town plant currently has the highest emissions rate of sulfur dioxide of any power plant in West Virginia.

AmBit is joined in its request by our local electric utility, Mon Power. It is not clear what benefit Mon Power hopes to gain by assessing higher electric rates for that electricity. When pressed, Mon Power simply cites the environmental claims from AmBit, but asserts that it is not responsible for whether those benefits really exist.

AmBit also claims that the higher electricity rates are justified because of the number of people employed at the Grant Town plant. But the rates proposed are substantially higher than for electricity from wind, and industrial-scale solar would be competitive. These renewable energy sources would provide Mon Power with some diversity in generation sources, which is now almost exclusively dependent on coal. That may have made sense when coal was the lowest-cost source of electricity, but not if it costs more than other sources. Renewable sources create more jobs than coal for the same amount of money.

### What You Can Do

Write a Letter of Protest to the PSC, asking them to reject the AmBit proposal. Be sure to cite Case # 17-0631. Tell the PSC that you support REAL clean energy, and that it is time for polluting dinosaurs to close.

**DONATE TODAY**

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

[sierraclub.org/west-virginia](http://sierraclub.org/west-virginia)

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

## WV E-Council to collect input on Legislative Priorities

Check your e-mail soon for a survey from the WV Environmental Council seeking to identify environmental priorities for 2018. This survey is an effort to increase member input in determining the legislative goals for the environmental community in West Virginia. This is your chance to rank the many opportunities and identify which matter most to YOU!

Also, mark your calendars for the WVEC Fall Convention, Oct. 27-29. Details will be available soon.

## News from the Mon Group

*Autumn Long, Group Chair*

The Mon Group of the WV Sierra Club spent a busy summer exploring, enjoying and protecting the environment in our five-county region of Monongalia, Marion, Harrison, Taylor and Preston counties. Read on to find out what we've been up to, and what is on tap for fall.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, Mon Group Conservation Chair, Emily McDougal, recaps the successful Morgantown climate resolution. Be sure to read all about it!

In June and July, Mon Group members joined Matt Kearns, of West Virginians for Public Lands, to visit local field offices of Senators Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin. The purpose of these visits was to let our Senators know how much ordinary West Virginians value and cherish our state's public lands. We asked

Capito's and Manchin's staff to oppose any sell-offs of public lands; to oppose any attempts to alter recent national monument designations; and to support full re-authorization and funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

It is vital for citizens to engage with our political representatives, and to let them know how we feel about issues that matter to us. Participate in democracy by calling or emailing your elected officials, or visit a local field office in person.

The Mon Group works hard, but we like to play, too. Case in point: On Aug 24, we held our annual end-of-summer corn roast at Krepps Park in Morgantown. Chapter Chair and sweet corn aficionado Jim Kotcon supplied abundant ears of Silver Queen — in Jim's opinion, the only corn worth munching. Summertime potlucks are the tastiest.



Brent, Joe, Tracy, Katie, Tracy and Ann pose on Dunkenberg Creek, in Dolly Sods, on a Sierra Club hike in July. Everyone had a great time.

## Upcoming Group Events

**Sun, Sept 10**  
**Adopt-A-Trail service outing at Coopers Rock**

See description under Outings on p. 5.

**Tues, Sept 12, 6 p.m.**  
**Public hearing on FirstEnergy power plant transfer case, Morgantown**

The WV Public Service Commission has scheduled a series of public hearings on FirstEnergy's proposed transfer of the Pleasants power plant to Mon Power and Potomac Edison. Make your voice heard in Morgantown! Attend the public hearing at the Mon County Judicial Center, Judge Tucker's Courtroom, 3rd Floor, 75 High Street, Morgantown WV.

(Hearings are also scheduled for Wed, Sept 6, 6 p.m., at the Parkersburg Municipal Building; and Mon, Sept 11, 7 p.m., at the Martinsburg City Building.)

In addition to the hearings, you can submit a public comment in writing to: Ingrid Ferrell, Executive Secretary, PO Box 812, Charleston WV 25323. All written comments should be marked with Case No. 17-0296-E-PC. Public comment may also be made online at <http://www.psc.state.wv.us> by clicking on "submit a comment" in the left column and following the directions provided.

Find out more about why we must stop this pending power plant transfer by visiting <http://www.sierraclub.org/west-virginia/firstenergy-fact-sheet>.

## Sierra Club Presents Awards at Chapter Leaders Retreat

This year during our Chapter Leaders Retreat, held at Cacapon Resort State Park on Aug 4-6, three of our members were recognized for exemplary service.

The **Founders Award**, given to an individual who has helped the Chapter further its goals of getting industry to respect the environment and people's health by moving away from fossil fuels and toward a green energy future, was presented to **Jim Probst**.

Jim has been a dedicated environmentalist for many years. He would like to see a fee put on all fossil fuel use that generates carbon dioxide in this country. This would make CO2 more expensive and discourage its use, thus slowing climate change. The fee would be collected and split, with each family in the country getting an equal share. He believes this is a better way than the cap and trade scheme because low-income families would receive money to offset the higher prices that may result. To further this goal, he is working to build local groups of the Citizens Climate Lobby, a national organization.

The **Mountain Laurel Award**, given to a volunteer Chapter member who has contributed to the Chapter's success, was presented to **Pam Peitz**.

Pam has been an admirable and prolific Outings Leader since starting with the chapter in 2010, striving to meet her goal of leading one monthly outing. Pam was appointed to fill the vacancy left on the Executive Committee when former Outings Chair Mike Price passed away, but before she could serve, health issues forced her to curtail much of her active participation in the Chapter. Unable to attend the retreat, she was presented with the award in her home by Outings Chair, Ann Devine-KIng. Pam expressed her sincere thanks to her friends in the Sierra Club.

The **Jim Sconyers Memorial Award** is given to a volunteer Chapter member who has shown leadership in environmental activism. The inaugural recipient of this award was **April Pierson-Keating**, a member of our Chapter Executive Committee.

April has been tireless in her work to protect the environment against the pollution and degradation caused by the fossil fuel industry, often working 50-60 hours per week. She founded and leads the Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance and is also involved in various environmental organizations in addition to the Sierra Club. These include ORCA, WVHC, WVEC, POWHR, OVEC, Friends of Water, Lewis/Upshur LEPC, SUBA, Create Buckhannon, Mountaineer Voices for Change, Upshur Indivisible, and the Buckhannon River Watershed Alliance.

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 November/December issue October 7**

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.



Sierra Clubbers stand atop the Lion's Head at Dolly Sods, on a July outing.

# OUTINGS

## Thur, Sept 7 Backpacking Basics: Pathfinder in Morgantown

**Description:** Two-hour intro to beginning backpacking. Topics will include trip planning, choosing the right gear, personal first aid, the 10 essentials, trail etiquette, Leave No Trace ethics, getting ready. Pathfinder staff will be available to demo gear and offer advice. Meet: Pathfinder, 235 High St, Morgantown, WV 26505. Contact Ann to RSVP and for more information.

**Instructor:** Ann Devine-King, 304-594-2636, [atdking@gmail.com](mailto:atdking@gmail.com)

**Nearest Town:** Morgantown, WV

**Additional Info:** See details for Beginner's Backpack, Oct 21-22.

## Sun a.m., Sept 10 Adopt-A-Trail Service Outing: Coopers Rock

**Distance/Difficulty:** 1.25 miles/ EASY WITH SOME MODERATE

**Description:** This will be the summer trail clean-up on our "adopted" Intermediate Cross Country Ski Trail and loop for 1.25 miles at Cooper's Rock State Forest. Much of the work will be cutting back vegetation, cleaning out and restoring drainage ditches/culverts and general trail clearing. We'll have time to ID trees along the way. Some moderate intensity work will be necessary, using shovels, rakes, 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, snacks.

**Meet:** Contact leader for more details and to RSVP

**Leader:** Ann Devine-King, 304-594-2636 or [atdking@gmail.com](mailto:atdking@gmail.com)

**Nearest Town:** Morgantown, WV

**Web info:** <http://www.coopersrockstateforest.com/> and <http://coopersrock.org/>; [wvstateparks.com/community/adopt.htm](http://wvstateparks.com/community/adopt.htm)

## Tue, Oct 3 Mower Tract Restoration Site Tour: Cheat Mountain, MNF

**Distance/Difficulty:** Mileage to be determined/ EASY TOUR

**Description:** Meeting at 10 am and ending at 2 pm, we will have a tour of the Mower Tract Restoration site on top of Cheat Mountain in the Monongahela National Forest. Plan on several short walks, great overlooks and views of the landscape restoration in progress. Bring lunch. This is a co-sponsored outing between the National Forest Service and West Virginia Sierra Club. Jack Tribble, District Ranger for the Monongahela National Forest, Greenbrier Ranger District will be the tour guide.

**Meet:** TBA

**Leader:** Ann Devine-King, 304-594-2636, [atdking@gmail.com](mailto:atdking@gmail.com)

**Nearest Town:** Durbin, WV

## Sat, Oct 7 Mike Price Memorial Hike: Long Point Trail, Summersville Lake

**Distance/Difficulty:** 3.9 miles out & back/ EASY

**Description:** An afternoon hike on Long Point Trail to a beautiful view of the lake from a cliff. This was Mike's last planned hike. We will be hiking it for him. A section of the hike will be held in silence. Optional camping is available at Mike's place on the Kanawha River, Saturday night.

**Meet:** Trailhead Long Point Trail, Summersville Lake, accessed through Airport Rd. Contact leader for more information and to RSVP.

**Leader:** Ann Devine-King, 304-594-2636, [atdking@gmail.com](mailto:atdking@gmail.com)

**Nearest Town:** Summersville, WV

**Additional Info:** <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/west-virginia/long-point-trail>. See companion outing Sun, Oct 8.

## Sun, Oct 8 Mike Price Memorial Day Paddle: Kanawha River

**Distance/Difficulty:** 3.5 miles/ EASY

**Description:** We will launch on the Kanawha River at the Route 60 ramp at Kanawha Falls Sunday morning, and then paddle down river to Deepwater, approximately 3.5 miles. Minimal experience is required. The water will be mostly calm with possible riffles at the shoals area. Participants need canoe or kayak, a PFD and paddle. Always dress according to the weather, it would also be a good idea to have rain gear this time of year. Optional camping is available at Mike's place on the Kanawha River, Saturday night. Contact leader to RSVP and for more information.

**Meet:** Kanawha Falls on Rt. 60.

**Leader:** Daniel Price, [dprice5377@gmail.com](mailto:dprice5377@gmail.com), 304-881-9077

**Nearest Town:** Deepwater, WV and Kanawha Falls, WV

**Additional Info:** See companion outing Sat, Oct 7

## Sat, Oct 14 Day Hike: Laurel Creek South Wilderness, with Fishing/Nature time

**Distance/Difficulty:** 5.1 miles/MODERATE

**Description:** Starting at SW trailhead of Camp Five Trail, hike 1.6 miles to Laurel River Trail, travel south on Laurel River Trail for 3.5 miles, ending at junction FR 14. Trip includes 2 fords on Laurel Fork. Time made for fishing and enjoying nature. Shuttle required. Option for camping or lodging at Middle Mountains Cabins Sat night. Space limited. Contact leader for more info and to RSVP

**Meet:** Middle Mountain Cabins near SW trailhead of Camp Five Trail. Park near locked gates to cabins. Do not block the road to cabins.

**Leader:** Ann Devine-King, 304-594-2636, [atdking@gmail.com](mailto:atdking@gmail.com)

**Nearest Towns:** Harman and Bartow, WV

**Additional Info:** A state fishing license, National Forest Stamp, and trout stamp are required to fish. Resources at <http://www.wvdnr.gov>

## Sat-Sun, Oct 21-22 Beginners' Backpack: Canaan Mountain Backcountry

**Distance/Difficulty:** 3.5 miles with optional 2.2 loop to view. MODERATE if inexperienced, EASY if experienced.

**Description:** Designed with beginners in mind. Saturday: Backpack 1.2 miles along a railroad grade, 200 ft. elevation gain to Adirondack-style shelter for the night. You can choose to use the shelter or set up your tent. Sunday: Break camp, carry those slightly lighter backpacks. Hike 2+ miles to our shuttle vehicles. At the vehicles, option to forgo the backpacks and hike 1.1 miles to one of the most spectacular views in the Cheat Ranger District of the Mon Nat'l Forest, then return to vehicles for an additional 1.1 miles. Footpaths can be narrow, passing through dense rhododendron and mountain laurel. The tread is often wet, with several stream crossings and bog areas and some clear but rocky paths at times. Hiking poles recommended. Total elevation change is less than 500 ft. This requires setting up a shuttle. Minors (under 18 but at least 12) are welcome and must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Dogs are welcome but must be preapproved. Get prepared by attending Backpacking Basics workshop Sept 7. See separate announcement.

**Meet:** Contact leader to RSVP and for additional information.

**Leader:** Ann Devine-King, 304-594-2636, [atdking@gmail.com](mailto:atdking@gmail.com)

**Nearest City:** Davis, WV

**Additional Info:** [www.blackwaterfalls.com](http://www.blackwaterfalls.com), Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide, Backpacking Basics Workshop Sept 7.

*Perspectives on Outings*

— Ann Devine-King, Outings Chair

## Reflections from the Leaders' Retreat

I just returned from a full weekend at the Leaders' Retreat at Cacapon Resort State Park. It's always good to get to know and appreciate the folks who are working in our Club, acknowledge the accomplishments, provide support and grow to together.

During Alison Chin's presentation on the Culture of High-Performing Teams, I thought of our Chapter outings, particularly a work/service outing I was on in Torres Del Paines National Park, in Chile. We worked as a team to restore a section of heavily used trail and rebuild foot bridges, but we also had some free time to hike and explore the beautiful Patagonia Wilderness that we were in.

Here's what made it great: Experienced, good leadership; working as a group on a shared project; respecting each person's value regardless of whether they were the best or the worst with a hand drill; sharing a sense of accomplishment; working to the best of our abilities but not beyond those abilities; being safe and having fun.

What made it not so great? Generally, it was not having the right personal

equipment, either through inattention or lack of planning (this included the two of us who lost our Tourist Cards, which created potential problems checking into our lodging and with custom agents).

Each time we go on a Sierra Club Outing, we become part of a team, with the potential to be high-performing and highly successful ... or not. I find it's helpful to be attentive so that each outing group has what it takes to be great: good leadership, respect and value for the individual, working together toward a common goal (e.g., everyone getting safely to camp for the night), each person performing within their abilities and not exceeding those abilities, being safe and having fun. And, of course, good leadership is not limited just to the outings leader.

Speaking of good leadership, congratulations to the nine individuals who completed Outdoor Leadership Training 101 (OLT101) at Cacapon on Saturday. Be on the lookout for new outings with new leaders coming soon.

## 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](http://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

Updated outings are listed on the Chapter's website: [sierraclub.org/west-virginia](http://sierraclub.org/west-virginia) and also on two Meetup.com groups: "West Virginia Chapter Sierra Club" (Morgantown) and "WV Sierra Club-New River." Check these sites weekly for new outings.



**SIERRA  
CLUB**

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West Virginia Chapter  
PO Box 4142  
Morgantown, WV 26504  
[sierraclub.org/west-virginia](http://sierraclub.org/west-virginia)

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email: [governor@wvgov.org](mailto:governor@wvgov.org)

#### **To Contact STATE LEGISLATORS**

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(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)  
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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## *Preserve the Future*

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering Sierra Club in your will. There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

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

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