



Mountain State Sierran

Volume 37, Number 2

westvirginia.sierraclub.org

March/April 2011

Marcellus Campaign — Chapter Update

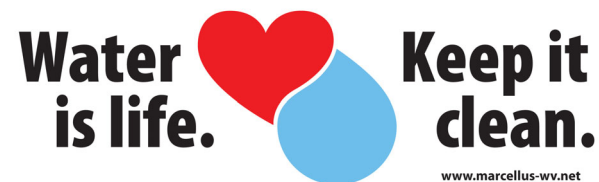
Beth Little WVSC Marcellus Shale Committee

This past spring we formed a Marcellus Steering Committee to direct a campaign for improved regulation of gas drilling in WV (and, in some cases, to fill the vacuum of non-existent regulation). A major aspect of the campaign has been to educate citizens about the impacts of Marcellus shale gas drilling and then to mobilize them to contact their legislators requesting support for better regulation.

Accomplishments so far include:

- Creating a website: www.marcellus-wv.com with in-depth information about impacts, and including links, presentations, slide shows, and research documents
- Hiring an Outreach Organizer, Chuck Wyrostok — outreach@marcellus-wv.com or 877-252-0257 — Send him your email address to keep up-to-date on campaign news.
- Forming county groups to help with outreach
- Screening the Oscar-nominated documentary *Gasland* around the state

- Presenting the impacts of Marcellus drilling to community groups in several counties.
 - Providing written materials about needed and proposed legislation
 - Conducting half-a-dozen *Brunch with your Legislator* events in counties where citizens invited their Senators and Delegates out to eat and discuss Marcellus drilling dangers
 - Producing a “to-die-for” bumper sticker, soon to be available at the Chapter store. (See article at right for more details.)
 - Holding *Marcellus Wednesdays in the Capitol* at the legislative session where citizens are invited to come lobby their representatives, assisted by our Outreach Organizer and other WV Environmental Council lobby team members. Everyone attending receives both a bumper sticker and a “Water is life” button. E-Day on Wednesday, February 9, was a highlight.
- Check the May/June *Sierran*, after the legislative session is over, to see how well our legislators responded.



Bumper Sticker Design Winner

Just look at our lovely bumper stickers! The heart is red and the water drop is blue. (The designs may be viewed in color in the online newsletter at the Chapter’s website.)

Colleen Anderson submitted the winning entry in our bumper sticker contest. You can see more examples of her work at www.motherwitdesign.com.

The bumper sticker is available for purchase from our Chapter store: store.wvsierraclub.org Buy one or several.

We also made the design into a button (pictured at left) for folks to wear during the legislative session.

Both items will be available at various events around the state, or contact Jim Sconyers (info on back page) if you would like to order directly from a Sierra Club member.



The Battle of Blair Mountain Continues

In July 1921, Matewan mayor Sid Hatfield was shot and killed on the steps of the McDowell County Courthouse. Hatfield was a fervent supporter of coal miners and their efforts to unionize. His murder galvanized miners’ simmering frustration into an armed protest to unionize West Virginia’s coal mines. The shooting war that followed in Logan County during August and September of 1921 became known as the Battle of Blair Mountain where 10,000 coal miners rose up against state officials and armed federal troops in an undeclared civil war that lasted ten days.

The coal industry plans to once again bomb Blair Mountain, this time using Mountain Top Removal coal mining. Over the past several years, local citizens, historians and environmental groups, including the Sierra Club have banded together to fight this planned destruction by having Blair Mountain added to the National Register of Historic Places.

That effort was successful when, in March 2009, Blair Mountain was officially added to the National Register, recognizing its significant role in the labor history of the United States. However, within a week the administration of then Governor Joe Manchin moved to de-list it. The state Division of Culture and History said that property-owner objections were improperly counted, and there was enough opposition to remove the mountain from the National Register.

Archeologist Harvard Ayers researched and found that some of the opposition was bogus. He’s a professor emeritus at Appalachian State University who has found more than 1000 artifacts on Blair Mountain. He hired an attorney to research what was going on and the attorney reported that there were holes in the list presented by Culture and History Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith. In any case, the National Park Service went forward with the delisting.

The Sierra Club, Friends of Blair Mountain, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation have filed a suit against the National Park Service to have the de-listing reversed. However, people are not waiting around for a court decision. Plans are currently being made for a march to Blair Mountain to acknowledge the importance of the Battle and to preserve the mountain for future generations. You can be involved in that march. The idea is to reenact the route taken by the miners 90 years ago.

The march is slated for **June 4-11**. You can come for the entire march or come for any period of time, but this is an important event to safeguard not only Blair Mountain, but the history and culture of West Virginia.

For more information contact:

Bill Price, 304-389-8822, bill.price@sierraclub.org

Regina Hendrix, 304-725-0223, rh1936@frontier.com

CALENDAR

- Mar 17** Mon Group Meeting
- Apr 3-6** Week in Washington, DC
- Apr 7** Newsletter Deadline
- Apr 14** Mon Group Meeting
- Apr 15-18** PowerShift
- Apr 30** Chapter ExComm in Ripley, WV
- May TBA** Action at John Amos Power Plant
- June 4-11** 90th Anniversary of March on Blair Mountain



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

View from the Chair

Paying Coal's Cost

— Jim Sconyers

King Coal is clever. He gets others — like you and me — to pay his costs. Economists call this externalization, when costs are off-loaded to entities outside the corporation. In effect, this is a way for us to subsidize the rich and powerful coal industry.

We all know the most visible externalized costs of coal: the destroyed mountains, buried streams, eradicated communities, orange creeks, crumbling roads, and more. But some of the costs we pay are not as well known. Below is the first in a series of pieces about some of these costs. Others will follow in upcoming issues.

Death and Disease from Fine Particle Pollution by Coal Fired Power Plants

The people and land of West Virginia pay many of the true costs of coal. One example is detailed in the report of a new study. These are "externalized" costs, costs created by the coal industry but paid by us in a backdoor subsidy. It is paid in dollars as well as in lives and health.

The Clean Air Task Force commissioned studies in 2000 and 2004, with a new update for 2010. The study is narrow and focused on one dimension of the costs that we as citizens pay: death and disease from fine particle pollution by coal fired power plants. The information is summarized in the table below. The table lists an assortment of power plants around the state, with the deaths and disease incidents attributable to that specific power plant. Note that this is only a partial list of West Virginia power plants.

The data are cold and crisp, but indeed stark. For example, this kind of pollution from Allegheny Energy's Albright plant in Preston County was responsible for 18 deaths and 29 heart attacks in 2010.

Is there a solution? Yes — it's one that's well-known. We should be phasing out coal-fired power plants. We can do this by making new commitments to electric energy conservation and efficiency, while expanding renewable energy and the thousands of jobs it will bring. (The full report is available online at the website listed with the table.)

Power Plant (County)	Deaths	Heart Attacks	Asthma Attacks	Hospital Admissions	Chronic Asthma Bronchitis	ER Visits
Albright (Preston)	18	29	280	13	11	14
Amos (Putnam)	87	140	1400	65	52	70
Fort Martin (Monongalia)	150	240	2300	110	88	110
Harrison (Harrison)	28	45	440	21	17	22
Kanawha (Kanawha)	40	63	640	31	24	33
Mitchell (Marshall)	51	83	780	38	30	39
Mt. Storm (Grant)	47	75	740	35	28	37
Pleasants (Pleasants)	41	66	640	31	24	33
Sporn (Mason)	110	180	1700	84	66	89

Data Source: Clean Air Task Force (Data are for 2010)
http://www.catf.us/coal/problems/power_plants/existing/map.php?state=West_Virginia

PATH Transmission Line Delayed Again

The WV Public Service Commission has again granted a request to delay consideration of the PATH transmission line. The new schedule requires PATH to submit a complete application revision in March with hearings beginning Oct 10 and a deadline for a PSC decision of Feb 9, 2012. In Virginia, the State Corporations Commission denied PATH's request for delays, and hearings are set to begin this spring.

The delays come because new data show much lower electricity consumption than originally

predicted. In addition, recent and proposed upgrades to existing lines reduce the need for PATH.

A further blow to PATH came early this year when the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors designated by US DOE failed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. This means that PATH will not be able to seek approval from FERC if the PSC fails to approve the line within one year.

Help Protect EPA's Ability to Protect Us

Oppose Efforts by West Virginia's Congressional Delegation to Block EPA

Last fall, it was Senator Rockefeller who sought legislation to block EPA from regulating greenhouse gases, even though the US Supreme Court said EPA has that responsibility under the Clean Air Act, and the Senate had refused to act for two years. Then Senator Manchin sponsored legislation to overturn EPA's veto of the Spruce Mine permit due to impacts under the Clean Water Act. Now Representatives Rahall, McKinley, and Capito have offered similar legislation in the House (HR 457).

And it is not just a few coal-state politicians playing to

audiences back home any more. House Energy Chair Fred Upton is introducing similar legislation, and Newt Gingrich is saying that EPA should be abolished altogether. But public opinion polls show that it is these politicians, not EPA who are out of touch with the voters.

A new survey was just released that shows more than three out of four Americans—including a clear majority of Republicans—oppose efforts in Congress to block Clean Air Act updates for carbon, smog and other pollution. Republicans — and most Americans — also want EPA to do MORE,

not less, to clean up our air and water, and to protect lives.

What You Can Do!

Write a letter to the editor opposing the effort to weaken EPA. Urge our Congressional delegation to protect the agency that protects our life and health.

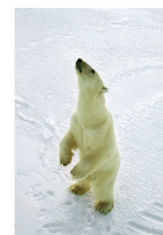
Sign the online petition to President Obama, urging him to support strong EPA standards for clean air and water.

A link to the petition may be found on the Chapter website at www.westvirginia.sierraclub.org For more details, call 304-594-3322.

Sidebar

Sierra Club Issues Notice of Intent on Albright Power Plant

As part of the effort to clean up coal-fired power plants, a Notice of Intent to Sue was sent to Allegheny Energy regarding discharges of toxic metals from coal ash disposal ponds used by the Albright Power Plant in Preston County. If Albright does not eliminate water pollution violations within 60 days, the Club may sue to force protection of the Cheat River watershed.



Don't Get Left Out In The Cold... Join Us!

Sierra Club Outings are a terrific way to meet new people and enjoy the great outdoors. Whatever your interests - hiking, canoeing or birdwatching - there is an outing for everyone. If you are new to the area, let your local Chapter or Group show you around. Join today and become part of America's largest environmental organization with the most enjoyable outings.



Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (_____) _____
 Email _____

YES! I would like to give a Mother's Day gift membership to
 Gift Recipient _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$350
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not 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 for your Chapter newsletters.
 Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org
 F94Q W 5700 1

Time Short to Comment on Proposed Amendments to Sierra Club's 2006 Energy Policy

At the request of the national Board of Directors, a set of proposed amendments to the Sierra Club's 2006 Energy Resources Policy is being circulated for review and comment. After a 60-day comment period, the comments will be summarized, amendments suggested, and a proposal will be put before the Board for consideration this spring.

A background statement and a copy of the Energy Resources Policy with the proposed amendments identified is online at:

<http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/conservation/policy/2006-energy-policy-amendments.aspx>

A link to input your comments on the proposed amendments is also included. The Board is specifically seeking comments on these proposed amendments, *not the rest of the policy.*

The changes deal primarily with the Club's policy on *bioenergy*, and *oil and natural gas*. They also update the policy to reflect our goal of reducing CO₂ levels in the atmosphere below 350 parts per million. The existing 2006 policy addressed these issues, but not in a comprehensive way.

Also, as the Club has launched *Beyond Oil and Natural Gas* campaigns our thinking on these energy resources has evolved. There is also additional language to clarify the Club's commitment to protecting the natural environment and communities no matter what energy resource is proposed, and an update on higher goals for automobile fuel efficiency and green transportation.

Note that the comment period ends on March 31.

Citizen Pleas for Help to Protect Home, History

Gerrardstown, WV As a member of CARE (Citizens Alliance for Responsible Environment) I feel that our local legislators are not listening to the people once again. We do not want the Limited Liability Company, North Mountain Shale LLC, taking down North Mountain in our residential historic village. Once North Mountain is gone, how do you reclaim or rebuild it? It won't happen.

Going on four years, citizens have opposed this industrial strip mining operation. The DEP recently approved the mining and NPDES permits.

Citizens in Gerrardstown, WV, are not alone in trying to fight for our beautiful mountains. West Virginia is being defoliated; mountaintops removed; and water polluted. The cost to our health and sense of well-being is huge. The laws do not protect this from happening. How convenient!

When citizens have approached different members of the legislature and the local County Commission, we have repeatedly been told that if you don't have zoning there is nothing they can do.

The Department of Environmental Protection is not totally at fault. The poorly constructed laws governing the environment (loop holes so big you could fit a train through) in West Virginia are to blame. Who put these laws in effect? Our legislators. The laws do not protect the people or the land. It is once again "Open for Business" at whatever cost to the people.

All the Public Hearings held by the DEP were just lip service. All the educated professionals were not given the time of day, no matter how compelling.

Gerrardstown used to be a haven for tourists who visited here to admire our unique and irreplaceable history and beauty of the mountain. Was that not a profitable business? Or did that take a backseat to a bigger fish, mining. If the landscape and water are ruined will North Mountain Shale LLC pay for it? Their corporation is Limited Liability. It will be on the backs of the taxpaying public. Not to be forgotten — the owner and manager do not even live in WV!

Would someone please help us in preserving our history and our Mountains? This destruction doesn't need to happen. Bad things happen to good people if they let it. Hopefully, we are not finished with this battle!

Gertrude (Trudy) Slater
29 January 2011

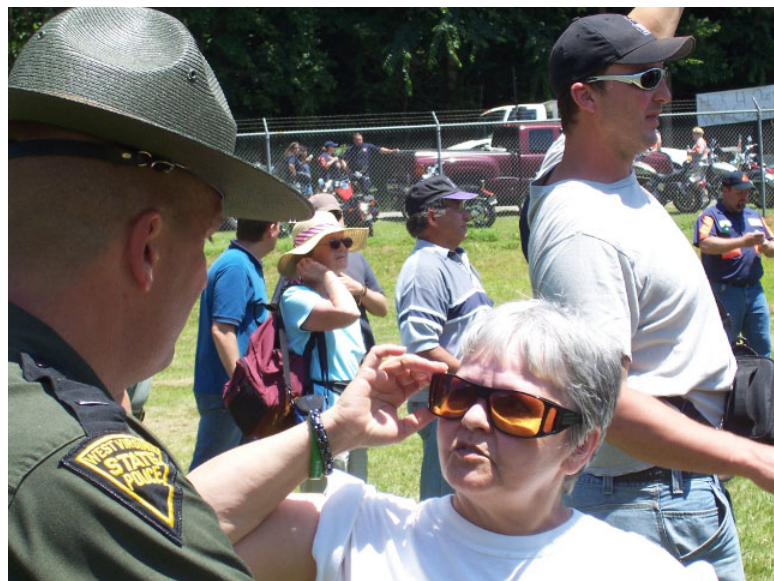
Please contact the Editor for submission guidelines or advertising rates.

Contributions to the newsletter may be sent to the Editor at

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

**Deadline for
May/June issue
April 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.



Judy Bonds questions a state trooper at the Marsh Fork Rally on June 23, 2009. Though she had to look up "at" almost everyone, everyone looked up "to" her.

Judy Bonds: A Hero Passes

Cancer took Judy Bonds' life this year, but her indomitable spirit lives on.

We don't have many heroes these days. Especially not ones who are short, tough, scrappy, fierce hillbilly women. But that's exactly who Judy Bonds was.

Judy fought hard every day for her home, her family, her community in Coal River, her mountains, and for West Virginia. Her last battle was one she couldn't win — a fight against the cancer that killed her on January 3, a cancer that she believed could be laid at the feet of the coal pollution of her air and water.

Judy took no crap from anyone — she told it like it is, always speaking truth to power. She never backed down, even if it meant carrying a gun in the face of threats to her life, or when she willingly faced physical assaults to take her stand against the Mountaintop Removal that she so wholeheartedly detested.

Judy was a hero and an inspiration to all West Virginians. She fought the battles that advanced the war against Mountaintop Removal and the stranglehold of Big Coal, a war that owes so much to her courage.

Good-bye, Judy. And thank you for so much.

Coal Victories and Challenges

Huge MTR Mine Denied Water Permit

Mary Anne Hitt, Director of the Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign

Every week it seems as if there's coal-related news to celebrate and to challenge us.

We celebrated last week's decision from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Lisa Jackson to veto the water permit for the massive Spruce No. 1 mountaintop removal coal mining site in West Virginia.

Administrator Jackson's brave step stopped a mountaintop mine that would have destroyed more than seven miles of vital streams and more than 2,000 mountain acres in an important part of Appalachia.

The fight against this Spruce No. 1 mine lasted 12 years. It was 1998 when a resident of Pigeonroost Hollow, one of the hollows that would be destroyed by the mine, sued the United States

Army Corps of Engineers to revoke Arch Coal's Clean Water Act permit.

"We knew the cumulative impact of all these mines was going to be devastating to the state," said Cindy Rank, Chair of the Mining Committee for the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

"Now EPA has proof and documentation over these past 10 to 12 years of (mountaintop removal coal mining's) serious impact to the land, environment, people and communities around it."

For Chuck Nelson of the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, the permit veto stood for even more. "This is not just an environmental justice issue, but more so a human rights issue. EPA is doing its job; it's following the law and science."

Nelson, Rank, the Sierra Club and many others also hope EPA will go even farther and stop all mountaintop removal coal mining.

"Today, mountains are still being blown up," said Bill Price of the Sierra Club in West Virginia. "We don't need to take a permit-by-permit approach, we need total abolition."

"(Mountaintop removal coal mining) has a negative economic impact. You can't locate a business where you can't drink the water. This has no economic value, it has an economic cost."

Reprinted with permission from Sierra Club Compass blog entry January 21, 2011.

Paper or electronic?

Save resources and costs

If you have an e-mail address, would you consider receiving your Mountain State Sierran electronically rather than by U.S. mail?

You will receive an e-mail notice containing a link to the Chapter website containing a full-color PDF version of the newsletter when the Sierran goes to press. You get your news faster and save the Chapter printing and mailing costs.

If interested, please send an e-mail request with your name and mailing address to:

celliot2@comcast.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 3-6 Week in Washington

Come tell Members of Congress and Administration officials that Mountain Top Removal must be banned. Contact: Bill Price

April 15-18 PowerShift

Join thousands of young leaders in Washington, DC, to stand up for our future. Only \$50 for students for all three day of programming! To register: www.powershift2011.org

May (date TBA) Action at John Amos Power Plant

Action is planned to show all the pieces of the coal cycle and how they affect our environment and health. Watch for more information.

June 4-11 90th Anniversary of the March on Blair Mountain

Come support the preservation of WV History and Culture and save Blair Mountain from destruction. See story on page 1 for more info.

Mon Group

March Meeting

Local Candidates and Issues Forum

Thurs, March 17, 7 p.m.

County Commission Meeting Room, Mon
County Courthouse, Morgantown

In preparation for city elections in April, the Sierra Club will hold a forum presenting the issues facing Morgantown, successes of past city conservation campaigns, and candidates' vision for future conservation efforts. Candidates for the Morgantown City Council will be invited to talk about how they plan to address hot topic concerns, especially environmental issues affecting the quality of life in Morgantown.

April Meeting

Solar Power Possibilities in WV

Thurs, April 14, 7 p.m.

The Book Exchange
Patteson Dr. Morgantown

The Book Exchange will host the Club's April meeting so we can learn about the solar installation on this building and hear from solar installers about possibilities for our own homes.

Exec Committee Election Results

Monongahela Group

With about a 14 percent return rate of the Group ballots, Rodger Dotson and Gwen Jones were the top vote-getters. They began their two-year terms of service in January.

Mon Group officers for 2011 are:

Chair: Sally Wilts

Vice-Chair: Rodger Dotson

Conservation : Jim Kotcon

Membership : Shirley Rosenbaum

Treasurer: Mary Davis

Chapter delegate: Jim Kotcon

(Since Gwen Jones was also elected to the Chapter ExComm and will serve as Conservation Chair for the state, she was assigned no specific group position.)

WV Chapter

With about a 12 percent return rate of the Chapter ballots, the top three vote-getters were Gary Nelson, Frank Young, and Gwen Jones. They began their two-year terms of service in January.

Upcoming Spring Outings

Sat, Mar 5

Greenbrier State Forest – Hart's Run

rated easy — Follow the Hart's Run trail two miles along picturesque Hart's Run in an area of big white pines and mixed deciduous forest. This area offers many possibilities for easy hikes. Meet at Picnic Shelter #1, Greenbrier State Forest at 10 AM. Exit I-64 East at White Sulphur Springs, turn right 3 miles. Theme is climate change. Please pre-register with the leader.

Leader: Frank Gifford, 304-653-4742
entropypawshed@gmail.com

Nearest City: Lewisburg, WV

Web info: <http://www.greenbriersf.com>

Sat, Mar 12

Allegheny Ridgetops

rated strenuous — Follow the old Oliver Mountain trail from Rucker Gap at the state line 12 miles to Lake Moomaw, VA, a beautiful ridgetop hike with amazing views of the Allegheny Mountains. Meet at Young's Country Store, Neola, WV about 14 miles north of White Sulphur Springs, WV. Call for exact directions & to register. Theme is climate change.

Leader: Frank Gifford, 304-653-4742
entropypawshed@gmail.com

Nearest City: White Sulphur Springs, WV

Sat, Mar 19

Maryland Heights Trail

rated moderate — Meet in Harpers Ferry, WV, at 9:30 AM, walk across the bridge to the Maryland side and hike the Stone Fort trail up to the fort, continuing on the overlook trail for a great view of the rivers and Harpers Ferry. This is a 6-mile round trip hike with a steep uphill section that has easy footing. It will take approximately 3.5 hours. Bring snacks and water. Optional lunch at the Canal House in Harpers Ferry afterwards. Please pre-register with the leader.

Leader: Pam Peitz, 240-818-6554
pampeitz@comcast.net

Nearest City: Harpers Ferry, WV

Web info: <http://midatlantichikes.com/weverton-mh.htm>

Sat, Mar 26

Big Draft Loop

rated moderate — Follow the Big Draft Loop Trail 6 miles along Anthony Creek and over Round Mountain. Hike includes areas of old growth forest and amazing views into the Little Creek Valley. Meet at Blue Bend Day Use area, 10 miles northeast of Lewisburg, WV. Contact leader for directions and to register. Theme is climate change.

Leader: Frank Gifford, 304-653-4742
entropypawshed@gmail.com

Nearest City: Lewisburg, WV

Web info: <http://www.midatlantichikes.com/bigdraftwilderness.htm>

Sat, Mar 26

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

rated moderate — Bring your bicycle to exotic Cleveland for a ride on the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail from the industrial heart of town into Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The theme is water quality to see how the "burning river" of the 1960's has been restored to a National Park quality stream. We will depart at noon from the Cleveland Canalway Center at the Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation Park on East 49th street in Cleveland, between Canal Road and Grant Avenue (just off I-77), ride south to Route 82 in Brecksville, and return for a distance of about 20 miles. The first part of the trail is paved; the remainder is packed, fine gravel, suitable for street tires. In case of inclement weather, the backup date is Saturday, April 2. Helmets are required. Please pre-register with the leader.

Leader: Dan Soeder, 304-568-2164
Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

Nearest City: Cleveland, OH

Web info: <http://www.nps.gov/cuva/index.htm>

Sat, Apr 2

Urban hike through Morgantown

rated easy to moderate — Bill Case, long-time resident and urban walker, will guide us on a 5.5 mile urban hike through Morgantown. Beginning at the Old Stone House (Morgantown's oldest existing structure), hike streets, alleys, parks, walking trails and stairways in the central part of Morgantown. Most of the route is on paved roads, sidewalks and outdoor stairways. There are several steep climbs and descents. (There's a 400-foot elevation change from the Caperton Trail to the top of Wiles Hill, mostly on stairways.) Be prepared for broken pavement, crumbling steps and several stretches of narrow road without sidewalks. The hike will begin at 10 A.M. and walking time is 2 to 2.5 hours. There will be an optional lunch stop at a downtown eatery. Children under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Please pre-register with the leader.

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

Nearest City: Morgantown, WV

Web info: <http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=4210082>

Sat, Apr 2

Greenbrier State Forest – Hart's Run

rated easy — See March 5 write-up for details. Meet at Picnic Shelter #1, Greenbrier State Forest at 10 AM. Theme is Marcellus Shale gas drilling. Contact leader to register.

Leader: Frank Gifford, 304-653-4742
entropypawshed@gmail.com

Nearest City: Lewisburg, WV

Web info: <http://www.greenbriersf.com>

Sun, Apr 3

Bike the DC Cherry Blossoms

rated moderate — Bring your bicycle to Bethesda, MD for a 10-mile ride down the Capital Crescent Trail into Washington, D.C. Ride down the National Mall and over to Potomac Park and the Tidal Basin where 3,000 Japanese cherry trees given to the United States by the mayor of Tokyo in 1912 will be in bloom. Parking at the trailhead in the Bethesda municipal lot is free on Sundays. We will push off at 10 AM. Helmets are required; heavy or steady rain cancels. Please pre-register with the leader.

Leader: Dan Soeder, 304-568-2164
Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

Nearest City: Washington, DC

Web info: <http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org>

Sat, Apr 9

Allegheny Trail

rated moderate to strenuous — Hike 12 miles from Jerry's Run to Slab Lick Rd. Meet at Jerry's Run exit I-64 VA. Theme is Marcellus Shale gas drilling. Please pre-register with the leader.

Leader: Frank Gifford, 304-653-4742
entropypawshed@gmail.com

Nearest City: White Sulphur Springs, WV

Web info: <http://www.wvscenictrails.org>

Sat, Apr 16

AT – Annapolis Rocks and Black Rock

rated moderate to easy — This is a 6 mile round trip out and back hike on the Appalachian Trail with only one short steep section. Route will include two rock outcroppings, Annapolis Rock and Black Rock, which both afford great views of the valley. The hike should take about 2 1/2 hours. Bring food and water. Meet at 10 AM along Route 40 east of Hagerstown (exact location to be announced). Please pre-register with the leader.

Leader: Pam Peitz, 240-818-6554
pampeitz@comcast.net

Nearest City: Hagerstown, MD.

Web info: <http://www.nps.gov/appa/index.htm>

Perspectives on Outings

Outings Leadership

— *Dan Soeder Outings Chair*

Sierra Club outings leaders often have people come up to them and suggest certain outdoor activities that they would like to see on the calendar. It might be a special hike, a nature walk, a water trip, or a bicycle ride they think should be run by the chapter or group outings program. I usually respond by telling the person that I'll do my best to see that the particular activity gets added to the calendar. But then I tell him or her my little "outings secret." The absolute best, most sure-fire, guaranteed way to make that outing happen is to offer to lead it yourself.

The most common reaction I get back is, "What, me lead an outing?" Why not? Despite popular perceptions, very few Sierra Club outings leaders are those extreme athlete guys who free-climb at Yosemite, or the outdoorsy women who through-hike the Appalachian Trail with nothing but a box of granola bars. The chapter outings program needs activities for "normal" people, like nature walks, birding, conservation trips, service trips to fix trails, flat-water canoe paddles, family camping trips, dog-friendly hikes, and bicycle rides. Outings are for everyone, not just people who are prepared to survive a week in the wilderness with little more than a pocket knife. I always tell people to lead an outing for an activity they would be doing anyway. If you go on walks or you like to ride your bicycle or paddle a canoe, why not do it as a Sierra Club outing, and invite some folks to come along?

To be an outings leader, you need to be a member, over 18, certified in first aid equal to or better than Red Cross Basic, and take the Sierra Club outings leader training, which I teach a few times a year, or you can take it on-line. Lead one supervised hike and you're in. Contact me if you are interested, and I'll let you know what is needed to become a Sierra Club outings leader.

Love and respect for the outdoors is why most of us joined Sierra Club in the first place. John Muir started the outings program in Yosemite over 100 years ago to show others the magnificent landscape he was trying to protect. I think the conservation or "environmental" aspect of Sierra Club outings provides us with a niche that a lot of other outdoor activity programs don't have. Sierra Club outings are not just outdoor recreation. People expect our leaders to be knowledgeable about the environmental issues in a particular place, and to discuss them during the outing. This is one of our strengths as an organization, and we should use it.

Outings with a conservation theme help the chapter spend foundation money, which can only be used for education. A number of outings in this edition of the newsletter have conservation issues mentioned, and there will be more of them in the future. Don't let that scare you off, however. There's no reason why viewing the magnificent landscapes we are trying to protect can't still be fun. There is an old German saying that the most difficult part of a journey is often just crossing the threshold of your own front door.

So cross that threshold, and I'll see you outside.

Upcoming Outings — Spring

Sat, Apr 23

Little Allegheny Mountain Trail loop

rated moderate — Hike old Little Allegheny Mountain trail in a possible wilderness candidate area. Starts at Laurel Creek and gently climbs Little Allegheny Mountain to beautiful vistas and areas of old growth for a total distance of 7 miles. Theme is Marcellus Shale gas drilling. Please pre-register with the leader.

Leader: Frank Gifford, 304-653-4742 entropypawesd@gmail.com

Nearest City: White Sulphur Springs, WV

Sat, Apr 23

Service Outing at Cooper's Rock State Forest

not rated — The WV Sierra Club will be doing trail maintenance as part of the WV Department of Natural Resources Adopt-a-Trail program at Cooper's Rock and seeks community service volunteers. Connect with an outstanding outdoor resource close to Morgantown that provides recreational pursuits balanced with wildlife and forest management. Maintenance will involve drainage restoration, trail clearing, and trail blazing on the Intermediate Cross Country Ski Trail. Volunteers need sturdy boots, work gloves, water, and snacks. Please pre-register with the leader.

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

Nearest City: Morgantown, WV

Web info: <http://www.coopersrockstateforest.com>

Fri, Apr 29 — Sun, May 1

Hike Las Vegas

rated moderate — Meet in fabulous Las Vegas, Nevada. Not for the shows, the gaming (locals NEVER call it "gambling") or the buffets, but for some spectacular hikes just a short distance from Glitter Gulch. The leader is a former 8-year resident, and will be leading day hikes on easy to moderate trails at Red Rock Canyon, Spring Mountains NRA, Valley of Fire State Park, and Lake Mead NRA. Go on some or all. Trip limited to 12 participants; reserve a space by the end of March. Airfare, hotels and meals are on your own, and

we will split the cost of a rental vehicle. Bargain round trip airfares from Pittsburgh range from about \$250 to \$350; and from Charleston are in the \$350 to \$400 range. Deals can be found online or through travel agents. Hotels in Las Vegas are fairly cheap, especially off the Strip (but be careful about location). Early May weather is usually dry and pleasant, but the last time I led this outing in May, it snowed in the mountains. Plan to arrive by Thursday evening and leave Sunday night or Monday. Please pre-register with the leader.

Leader: Dan Soeder, 304-568-2164 Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

Nearest City: Las Vegas, NV

Web info: <http://www.nps.gov/lake/index.htm>; also try searches for Red Rock Canyon and Spring Mountains NRA.

Sat, Apr 30

Circumnavigation Hike, Cooper's Rock South

rated strenuous — This will be a rather vigorous and strenuous hike to circumnavigate the southern section of Cooper's Rock State Forest. Route will follow Scott Run as it winds toward the Cheat River Canyon through an active rock climbing area, past the massive Henry Clay Furnace, built in 1834, and an impressive log chalet, built by the CCC in the 1930's. Be prepared to cross intermittent steam beds that are wet and rocky. Total elevation change is approximately 2990 feet and distance is 12.1 miles. Start at 9 AM for an 8+ hour hike. Please pre-register with the leader.

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

Nearest City: Morgantown, WV

Web info: <http://www.coopersrockstateforest.com>

Sat, May 7

Greenbrier State Forest — Hart's Run

rated easy — See March 5 write-up for details. Meet at Picnic Shelter #1, Greenbrier State Forest at 10 AM. Theme is Wilderness. Contact leader to register.

Leader: Frank Gifford, 304-653-4742 entropypawesd@gmail.com

Nearest City: Lewisburg, WV

Web info: <http://www.greenbriersf.com>

Sat, May 14

Cranberry Wilderness — Middle Fork Trail

rated moderate — Follow the Middle Fork of the Williams River upstream 5 miles from 3 Forks of Williams and return. This is an amazingly clear stream where one can get a sense of desirable stream conditions in an area undisturbed by humans for 30+years. Be prepared for moderate stream crossings. Meet at 3 Forks of Williams. Theme is WV Logging Sediment Control Act. Please pre-register with the leader.

Leader: Frank Gifford, 304-653-4742 entropypawesd@gmail.com

Nearest City: Hillsboro, WV

Web info: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cranberry_Wilderness

Sun, May 15

New River Gorge — Endless Wall Trail

rated easy to moderate — Hike along the edge of West Virginia's most spectacular canyon. Meet at the National Park Service Canyon Rim visitor center on Route 19 near Fayetteville, on the north end of the famous bridge pictured on the back of the WV state quarter. Step off at noon for a 3.5 mile circuit hike. Heavy or steady rain cancels. Please pre-register with the leader.

Leader: Dan Soeder, 304-568-2164 Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

Nearest City: Fayetteville, WV

Web info: <http://www.midatlantichikes.com/id191.html>

Sat, May 28

Paddle on Cheat Lake

rated easy — Bring your canoe or kayak down to Cheat Lake for an easy, flat-water paddle in several sheltered coves. The big powerboats usually stay out of these, but they are fine for paddlecraft. Launch at noon from the ramp in the small park at the end of Morgan Run Road. Participants must supply their own watercraft, and personal flotation devices (lifejackets) are required on all Sierra Club watercraft outings. Rain or high wind cancels. Contact the leader for details.

Leader: Dan Soeder, 304-568-2164 Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

Nearest City: Morgantown, WV

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

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

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

West Virginia Chapter Outings

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

westvirginia.sierraclub.org

Sat, Jun 4

Greenbrier State Forest — Hart's Run

rated easy — See March 5 write-up for details. Meet at Picnic Shelter #1, Greenbrier State Forest at 10 AM. Theme is Bulldozers. Contact leader to register.

Leader: Frank Gifford, 304-653-4742 entropypawesd@gmail.com

Nearest City: Lewisburg, WV

Web info: <http://www.greenbriersf.com>

Sat, Jun 11

Explore Upper Shavers Fork Area

rated moderate — "Exploratory" 10-mile hike through an area the Monongahela Hiking Guide calls "untouched." Possible Wilderness candidate. Theme is Wilderness. Meet at Cheat Mountain Club; please pre-register with the leader.

Leader: Frank Gifford, 304-653-4742 entropypawesd@gmail.com

Nearest City: Durbin, WV

Web info: <http://www.trails.com/activity.aspx?area=10616>

Sat, Jun 25

Cranberry Nature Center

rated moderate — Follow the old "Cranberry Volkswalk" to Cow Pasture Trail from Cranberry Nature Center. Beautiful 12-mile hike through multiple microclimates around the Cranberry Glades. Meet at Cranberry Nature Center; theme is Watersheds. Please pre-register with the leader.

Leader: Frank Gifford, 304-653-4742 entropypawesd@gmail.com

Nearest City: Hillsboro, WV

Web info: http://www.pocahontascountywv.com/cranberry_glades_nature_center.aspx

More of Frank Gifford's outings

(mark your calendars; additional details later)

Sat, Jul 9: Hart's Run Trail, Greenbrier State Forest, 2 miles, *rated easy*

Sat, Jul 23: Spice Run Wilderness, 12 miles, *rated strenuous*

Sat, Aug 6: Hart's Run Trail, Greenbrier State Forest, 2 miles, *rated easy*

Sat, Aug 13: Jesse's Cove loop, Watoga State Park, 8 miles, *rated moderate*

Sat, Aug 27: Lower Hills Creek bushwhack, 8 miles, *rated strenuous*

Sat, Sep 10: Laurel Creek Loop, Lockridge Mountain, 8 miles, *rated moderate*

Sat, Sep 24: East Fork (trail) of the Greenbrier River, 9 miles, *rated moderate*

Sat, Oct 1: Hart's Run Trail, Greenbrier State Forest, 2 miles, *rated easy*

Sat, Oct 22: Allegheny Trail from Lake Sherwood Rd to State Route 92, 12 miles, *rated moderate*

Sat, Nov 5: Hart's Run Trail, Greenbrier State Forest, 2 miles, *rated easy*

Sat, Nov 12: South Boundary Trail of Big Draft Wilderness, 10 miles, *rated strenuous*



Abbreviations Used

AMC	Appalachian Mountain Club
AT	Appalachian Trail
GNWF	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 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 on the web 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.



Sierra Club

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To Contact STATE LEGISLATORS

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

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