

Mountain State Sierran

Volume 37, Number 3

westvirginia.sierraclub.org

May/June 2011

Three Cheers for WV Enviro Victories!

compiled by Jim Sconyers and Jim Kotcon

There are frequent and important victories for the environment in West Virginia. Often they are unsung victories. So here we want to share just a few recent victories that should be sung! Hip, Hip, Hooray! Hip, Hip, Hooray! Hip, Hip, Hooray!

PATH

Remember PATH? The multibillion-dollar boondoggle that turns out not even to be needed? After a long campaign, the states targeted by PATH have walked away in disgust. The project — that would have ruined homesteads, and promoted expanded mountaintop removal and dirty coal-fired electric power — is dead.

Methyl IsoCyanate (MIC)

This is the chemical that killed thousands and injured many more thousands at Bhopal. After years of citizen pressure and activism, as well as legal challenges, plant owner Bayer finally and reluctantly agreed that a major West Virginia metropolitan center is not the right place for this lethal toxin. The company has announced that it will no longer store or manufacture MIC in its Charleston-area plant.

Coal Ash

State regulators agreed with area citizens and their attorneys that the massive New Hill West mine, whose ugly presence mars the I-79 portal to the state from the north, is not entitled to go ahead with an expansion, at least not for now. At issue, among other concerns, is the proposed dumping there of millions of tons of toxic coal ash from area coal-fired power plants, with the very real possibility of polluting groundwater aquifers.

MTR

Dubbed the worst ongoing environmental catastrophe in the nation by many, mountaintop removal coal mining has been under intense scrutiny by Sierra Club and other West Virginia groups. Litigation often focuses on the seeming anomaly of the companies monitoring their pollution, recording it and reporting it to the state as required, documenting their own violations of their permits ... and nothing happens. Many legal challenges have been won recently, requiring coal operators to stop unless and until they can mine within the law. What a concept. One recent example: Patriot was required to treat its selenium pollution with a process that will cost them \$45 million.

TransGas Coal-To-Liquids facility

The West Virginia Chapter won another round when the WV Air Quality Board ordered WV-DEP to re-write the air pollution permit for this \$3.6 billion facility. DEP had allowed the company to omit key pollution emissions and underestimate others. This ruling may force TransGas to declare the facility as a "major source," thereby requiring the use of Best Available Control Technology. The company will also have to identify water resources they will use and specify water pollution controls. Coal-To-Liquids is an incredibly bad idea, releasing far more greenhouse gases than the petroleum it replaces. The ruling is one step in the right direction.

Even though the numerous victories for the environment in West Virginia are not always well-publicized, we need to celebrate them ... Three cheers!



Heroes and Heroines: Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due

Chuck Wyrstok, Outreach Coordinator

"In my opinion it takes four things to sustain life: fresh clean water, fresh clean air, fresh clean nutrients, and a good paying job; without these four things life as this great country and state is supposed to offer all of us does not exist."

State Senator **Orphy Klempa** (D-Ohio)

in support of regulation at our Marcellus press conference at the Capitol

Before the dust had settled at the end of the Legislative session at midnight on March 12, it was obvious that a lot of legislators had not listened to Senator Klempa and we were witnessing a massive failure of government. The biggest issue of the session had been sidelined and had become the proverbial elephant in the room. The labors of a number of dedicated Delegates and Senators had gone for naught. It is here that we express our gratitude for their courage and persistence.

Who were the ones that stood out and toiled as if the citizens actually mattered? Some may surprise you. Some did more than others. Let's take a look.

First, the Republicans — yes, you read correctly. Here's a sampling: Thanks go to Sen. **Clark Barnes** (R-Randolph) for offering an amendment to eliminate the hiring of inspectors by the industry-biased examining board and make new inspectors civil service workers like all inspectors. And to Del. **Rick Snuffer** (R-Raleigh) for offering his environmentally friendly amendment requiring the closed loop system for reusing Marcellus wastewater.

BIG thanks go to all the members of House Judiciary Subcommittee A for their ground-work on the bill. They were assigned to hash out details on Marcellus and spent many hours working to draft a strong, comprehensive bill.

Del. **John Frazier** (D-Mercer), chair of the subcommittee, handily moved the bill along. Del. **Mike Caputo** (D-Marion), instrumental in moving the bill out of the joint Interim committee in January, was a strong supporter throughout. Other Subcommittee members were Delegates **Larry Barker** (D-Boone), **John Ellem** (R-Wood), **Michael Ferro** (D-Marshall), **Bill Hamilton** (R-Upshur), **Woody Ireland** (R-Ritchie), **Barbara Evans Fleischauer** (D-Monongalia), **Patrick Lane** (R-Kanawha), **Linda Longstreth** (D-Marion), **Mike Manypenny** (D-Taylor), **Harold Michael** (D-Hardy), **Carol Miller** (R-Cabell), and **John Pino** (D-Fayette).

Del. **Tim Manchin** (D-Marion), who deserves accolades for being a strong voice for Marcellus legislation all along, served as a non-voting member of the subcommittee.

They pulled off a solid bipartisan effort, with both Democrats and Republicans offering amendments to strengthen the bill. We watched as they constructed this vehicle, this piece of work that made so much sense. Our hopes were high. It was almost too good to be true. In the end, it turned out to be just that.

Our appreciation to Del. **Tim Miley** (D-Harrison), the House Judiciary Chair. The bill would not have gotten as far as it did if not for him. And to Sen. **Ron Miller** (D-Greenbrier) for his ill-fated but valiant attempt to get a moratorium on drilling in fragile karst geology ... thank you.

And now ... taking their bows at the end, after all the other cast members leave the stage, are the two stars in this political tragedy, the ones who did the heavy lifting and never retreated from the fight: Del. **Barbara Evans Fleischauer** (D-Monongalia) and Del. **Mike Manypenny** (D-Taylor) worked tirelessly, were not dismayed by the resistance they faced, and carried the fight on until the clock ran out. It is for their devotion, creativity, and persistence that we owe them our special thanks.



Save the dates!

SierraFest 2011

Fri, Sept 30 – Sun, Oct 2

Where:

Camp Caesar
(Webster County between
Cowen and Webster
Springs)

What:

Inspiring Speakers * Great
Workshops * Fun Outings
(in the peak of fall leaf
season!) * Films, Music,
Good Fellowship!

Full registration and schedule
information will be in the July-
August issue of the *Mountain
State Sierran*.

For preliminary information
about lodging and meals, e-mail
Karen Grubb at:

Karen.Grubb@fairmontstate.edu

In addition to the cabin-style
rooms at Camp Caesar, we will
try to have a block of rooms at
the nearby Mineral Springs
Motel, only seven miles away in
Webster Springs. More details
about costs, etc. to follow soon.

Delegates Press DEP for Moratorium on Marcellus Permits

On 18 March 2011, more than 20 members of the WV House of Delegates sent a letter to DEP Secretary Randy Huffman requesting that he use his emergency powers to stop issuing new permits until the drilling industry is properly regulated.

The legislature's failure to pass an effective bill to regulate Marcellus Shale drilling led the group of legislators to call for a moratorium on new drilling permits until regulations are in place that protect property owners and the environment and ensure adequate inspection staffing and enforcement. Even though the DEP only has 15 inspectors to oversee 59,000 active gas wells, the agency has already issued over 900 permits for drilling in the Marcellus Shale.

Since West Virginia's drilling laws have not been updated in more than 30 years, they have not kept up with new technologies being used to develop the Marcellus Shale. These technologies include horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing which cause large increases in surface disturbance, water use, and waste disposal. This shortfall is in addition to the many problems with the drilling and plugging of conventional wells that need to be addressed.

Several of the legislators who signed on are among those who worked the hardest to pass a strong comprehensive bill. During a recent press conference, Del. Mike Manypenny (D-Taylor) said, "No one wants to put a stranglehold on the oil and gas industry." However, he and the other delegates (Democrat and Republican) see a moratorium on new Marcellus permits as the only logical course of action.

The delegates who signed the request are:

Delegates Anthony Barill (D-Monongalia), Larry Barker (D-Boone), Bonnie Brown (D-Kanawha), Ray Canterbury (R-Greenbrier), John Doyle (D-Jefferson), Barbara Evans Fleischauer (D-Monongalia), Nancy Guthrie (D-Kanawha), Bobbie Hatfield (D-Kanawha), Linda Longstreth (D-Marion), Virginia Mahan (D-Summers), Mike Manypenny (D-Taylor), Dale Martin (D-Putnam), Cliff Moore (D-McDowell), Don Perdue (D-Wayne), Dan Poling (D-Wood), Mary Poling (D-Barbour), Ruth Rowan (R-Hampshire), Roger Romine (R-Tyler), Pete Sigler (R-Nicholas), Rick Snuffer (R-Raleigh), Margaret Staggers (D-Fayette), Joe Talbott (D-Webster) and Danny Wells (D-Kanawha).

Mercury: Are You Full of It?

Jim Sconyers

If you're like me, i.e., of a "certain generation," about all we knew about mercury was that it was fun to play with when an old-fashioned thermometer broke in high school Chem lab. My, how times have changed! No more mercury thermometers in the lab — and a lot more information about mercury.

Bizarrely to most of us, it turns out that mercury is all around us. Who'd have guessed? It's in the air, and in the water, and in the soil. In fact, you may have eaten some for dinner last night! That's because mercury accumulates in fish — especially seafood like swordfish, shrimp, and salmon, but also in perennial favorite tuna, and even the fish you catch yourself in our rivers and streams.



Mercury Testing Event A Huge Success

On Thursday, March 31, local residents — mostly women — lined up at Toni's Exquisite Hair in Morgantown to have a small piece of their hair clipped and submitted to a University of Georgia laboratory for mercury exposure testing. The event was well attended by students, moms with young children, and lots of interested women customers in the salon that day. Event attendees expressed concern about the possibility of excessive levels of mercury in their bodies due to environmental pollution. The results of the testing will be forthcoming within the next few weeks.

The Sierra Club sponsored similar events in more than 20 cities across the nation during the month. The national campaign focused on raising awareness of mercury issues as well as urging the EPA to enact strong safeguards for mercury and other air toxins.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that one in six U.S. women of childbearing age has mercury levels in her blood high enough to put her baby at risk of birth defects, including neurological and developmental disorders and learning disabilities. West Virginia has one of the highest rates of mercury pollution from power plants in the nation. While a teaspoon of mercury is enough to poison an entire 20-acre lake, coal-fired power plants in the United States emit hundreds of thousands of pounds of mercury into the atmosphere every year.

Dumbing Down Our Kids

Mercury is particularly dangerous for young women who are, or may become, pregnant. When pregnant women are exposed to mercury from eating fish, that mercury is often transmitted to the fetus, where the child's developing brain is put at risk. The child can have impaired brain function, learning disorders, and, to put it bluntly, lowered IQ as a result.

We're Number One ... Almost

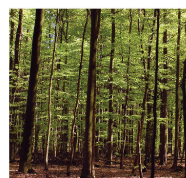
Most of the mercury that we're exposed to comes from coal-burning power plants.

- In 2009, West Virginia ranked fourth in the nation for mercury emissions from power plants, with a total of 6,795 pounds.

- For individual power plants, Dominion's Mount Storm Power Station ranked ninth, with 1,571 pounds, from among hundreds of power plants.

Data Source: *DIRTY ENERGY'S ASSAULT ON OUR HEALTH: MERCURY*, Environment America Research & Policy Center, January 2011.

Full report at: <http://www.environmentamerica.org/reports/toxic-free-communities/stop-toxic-pollution/dirty-energys-assault-on-our-health-mercury>



Surprise someone with an
**Earth Day
Gift Membership**
Because everyday is Earth Day.



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

YES! I would like to give an Earth 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"/> \$15	
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/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

F94QW 5700 1

Morgantown Shows the Way To Energy Efficiency

In 2007, the City of Morgantown adopted the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emission by 6 percent below 1990 levels. An energy conservation contract signed by the City in 2009 was implemented, and recent data shows that the measures are working and saving taxpayers big bucks in the process. In the year since the efficiency measures were adopted, electricity consumption dropped an average of 17 percent from the prior year.

This effort demonstrates that significant additional energy savings are possible. Next up, more efficient street lights and improved vehicle fuel efficiency for the City fleet. An energy efficient purchasing policy and employee incentives for reducing energy consumption are other "low-hanging fruit" that could save taxpayers many thousands of dollars in energy bills.

Mon Group Events

Sun., May 1, 1 pm

Come see the *other* Coopers Rock overlook! Take a walk to visit Raven Rocks, which is the lesser visited of the overlooks at Coopers.

Families are encouraged to attend. The walk will be rocky and possibly muddy. The trail has a very short, steep section near the end of the walk to the overlook.

Meet at the Raven Rock Trailhead. Plan for a 3-4 hour hike. Wear very sturdy footwear and bring water and snacks.

Thurs., June 9, 6:30 pm

Join us for the 25th Annual Ice Cream Social and Potluck at Coopers Rock State Forest.

At this popular family-friendly social gathering, we share food and stories and make our own hand-cranked ice cream to eat at the Overlook.

Bring some food to share with the group. Plates, cups, utensils will be provided.

Call 304-594-3322 for info.

A FAILURE OF LEADERSHIP

Beth Little

After the Legislative session ended, Sen. Mike Green, Chair of the Energy, Mining and Industry Committee, shamed the House for not passing Marcellus shale legislation. But House Judiciary Chairman Tim Miley said the Senate was not willing to compromise, and Speaker Rick Thompson effectively killed the bill in the House by not bringing it up for a vote. Governor Ray Tomblin maintains we don't need more regulation anyway.

What it comes down to is a grand failure of leadership in responding to citizens' concerns about the impacts from Marcellus shale gas drilling. Marcellus impacts are many times greater than the traditional gas drilling impacts for which existing regulations were passed many years ago; Marcellus shale was the biggest issue during the session.

Acting Senate President Jeff Kessler did not overtly join in passing the buck, but he also didn't do anything obvious to get a bill passed. And in a WVEC press conference earlier in the session, he

sounded the mantra that I got very tired of hearing: "We have to do it right." That's what I kept hearing from the legislators that tend to be more concerned about industry profits than citizens' rights and the environment.

The DEP has worked on new guidelines for Marcellus drilling for nearly two years. For the better part of the last year they convened stakeholder meetings with industry, surface owners, and environmentalists, and conducted a comprehensive program review.

Finally, under a charge from former Governor Manchin in September, Secretary Huffman formed a committee to provide input for legislation to be introduced in the 2011 session. The environmental community was dismayed when the make-up of the committee was heavily skewed with seven of nine members from industry. One would think that if the DEP was more concerned about input from industry, the resulting legislative proposal would be more favorable to industry. And, predictably, the results were missing a number of the legislative priorities developed by the

vigorous collaboration of environmental groups.

However, when the resulting DEP bill was introduced in the Senate, it was promptly stripped by 85 percent, and "We have to do it right" became a euphemism for "We can't do anything that industry doesn't like."

There was also a bill introduced in the House that an Interim Committee worked on for months before the session, and a Judiciary Subcommittee worked on late into the night more than once. But it was stalled from getting to the

House floor by pro-industry legislators.

Something did pass: SB465, giving tax incentives to the natural gas industry, but only after additional funding for the DEP to hire more inspectors was removed. Delegate Bonnie Brown asked the pertinent question: "So we're just giving them a tax break before we even regulate the industry?"

There were other positive actions from some legislators. See "Heroes and Heroines" on page 1 for more examples.

A Risky Proposition

Union of Concerned Scientists Report

Paul Wilson

Barbara Freese, author of "Coal: A Human History" (2003, Perseus Publishing) is now a senior policy analyst/advocate at the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) Climate and Energy Program, and in the Spring 2011 edition of the UCS *Catalyst* publication she introduced her new UCS report.

The UCS report, *A Risky Proposition: The Financial Hazards of New Investments in Coal Plants*, shows that changes in the economic fundamentals of power generation could make major retrofits a losing gamble from a financial perspective, as well as for the planet's climate as today's pollution controls do not capture heat-trapping carbon emissions.

The report details the many factors that make coal a risky investment. Such factors include aging power plants, 72 percent of which are more than 30 years old and 40 percent that are over 40 years old. Also, 29 states and the District of Columbia have standards requiring utilities to obtain a growing percentage of the power they sell from renewable energy sources, plus ratepayer funded efficiency programs and natural gas-fired power plants have lessened demand for coal.

There have also been rising costs of coal production and higher costs of power plant construction and operation. The costs of building new coal plants doubled between 2000 and 2008 and have remained high despite the current recession. Pollution control costs have also risen, which makes banks and creditors wary of lending large sums for coal-related projects.

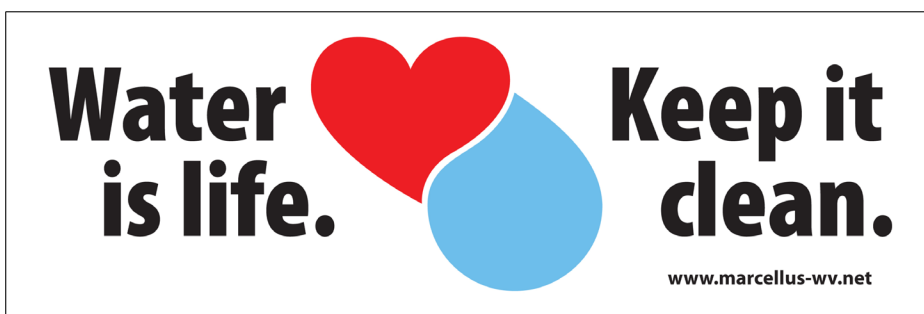
Ms. Freese's *Catalyst* article also has a side bar on the damage done to our communities. Damages we have seen here in West Virginia all too frequently: the increased health costs of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide as well as mercury and coal ash. And there are fish kills and effects on our native waters from vast quantities of water withdrawals.

We cannot afford to let history repeat itself — we went this way in the 1970s when over-building of power plants resulted in the cancellation of 100 nuclear plants and 80 coal plants after years of expenditures. This timely report shows that continued investment in coal powered plants is a risky proposition, whether you live on Wall Street or Main Street, or on the back 40.

WEB RESOURCES:

The *A Risky Proposition* report and more information on clean energy alternatives are at: http://www.ucsusa.org/clean_energy

Back issues of the UCS *Catalyst* publication can be found at: <http://www.ucsusa.org/publications/catalyst>



View from the Chair

A Day in the Life: Citizen Lobbyist — *Jim Sconyers*

This year, a coalition of environmental groups designated Wednesday as Marcellus Day at the West Virginia Capitol. Here is a stream-of-consciousness account of what a typical Marcellus Wednesday was like for one Marcellus citizen activist — "citlob" for short.

Ring goes the alarm clock. Yikes ... it's so early!

Shower, make and drink much coffee, walk the dog, pack handouts and snacks and \$7-Goodwill power suit.

White-knuckle four-wheeling to Morgantown (seemed to snow every Wednesday) to carpool with others from the citlob team.

Pedal to the metal down the Interstate to Charleston.

Arrive Charleston, search for parking, trek to the Capitol.

Duck into restroom to change into lobby uniform — become a Suit.

Meet up with other citlobs and the Environmental Council full-time lobs. Check legislative schedule, make plans.

Whirlwind race around the Capitol. Call on legislators we had appointments with, buttonhole others in their offices or in the halls. Back and forth from Rotunda to Senate side to House side and repeat.

Talk to senators, delegates, their staffers. Make the pitch for basic regulation of the oncoming Marcellus tidal wave.

Drop in to the House or Senate gallery for floor sessions to see and hear them in action.

Grab lunch.

More whirlwind through the afternoon. Check in with the pros — the full-time lobs — from time to time.

Debrief with each other and the pros.

Jump back on the Interstate and head for home.

Pick up from where you had put your life on hold.

Mark calendars — repeat next Wednesday.

Our citlobs and "real" lobbyists worked unbelievably hard for the entire two-month legislative session. The account above may sound like an ordeal, but it wasn't. In fact, it was exciting and exhilarating — even if in the end somewhat frustrating.

As the chant goes at worker and other rallies, "This is what democracy looks like!" Anybody can be glad to have a part in it!

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

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
Jul / Aug issue
June 9

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.

Bumper stickers are available for purchase from our online Chapter Store.
store.wvsierraclub.org

Perspectives on Outings

What's Holding You Back? — Dan Soeder Outings Chair

A few years ago as outings chair in the Maryland Chapter, I had the opportunity to be on the Perfect Outing. The leader was an energetic lady named Helen Daniel, who came on one of my bicycle outings, and told me about a wonderful bike trail in the Washington area that she liked to ride. I convinced her to become an outings leader and plan the activity.

She put some effort into it, getting the OLT101 training, taking first aid, and planning the trip in detail. She rode the route in advance, learned the history of the various places along the way, found the locations of all the restrooms (important), advertised the event locally, and actively recruited participants. About a dozen people turned out for the Capital Crescent trail ride that April, including several long-time Sierra members who had never been on an outing before and several non-members who expressed an interest in joining the Club.

We rode from Bethesda down to Georgetown, and then to Roosevelt Island, a beautiful, nearly wild island in the Potomac across from the Kennedy Center that some congressperson was trying to force the Park Service to sell to developers. We returned to Bethesda for lunch after a total ride of about 18 miles. The outing was interesting, fun, and educational. The participants ranged in age from a 13 year-old girl riding with her mom, to Wil Chase, age 86. Wil did the whole trip, keeping up with the group the entire way, and then he rode home from the restaurant afterward, another 4 miles! I want to be like Wil Chase someday.

Some people think that Sierra Club outings are only for those extreme athlete guys who free-climb Half Dome at Yosemite, or the outdoorsy women who go over waterfalls in little plastic boats. The exaggerated way in which outdoor activities are portrayed on TV and in popular culture is enough to scare off all but the most adventuresome. Extreme outings appeal to a group of athletic, enthusiastic people, and I'm glad that some Sierra Club outings leaders are dedicated to such trips. However, a successful chapter outings

program should offer a variety of activities, such as nature walks, birding, conservation trips, service trips to fix trails, flat-water canoe paddles, family camping trips, dog-friendly hikes, and bicycle rides, as well as the more extreme activities. We try to have something for everyone.

Please consider joining us on some outings. You don't have to be a Sierra Club member to participate (in fact, outings are a good way to recruit new members). Find something that appeals to you, contact the leader for details and come on out. If you are an outdoor neophyte, we've got some easy outings scheduled. If you prefer more moderate to strenuous challenges, we have those as well. And if you have been holding back because you don't know what equipment you might need for certain outdoor activities, simply contact the trip leader and ask. You'd be surprised how far you can get with just a good pair of hiking boots and a modest pack.

Love and respect for nature is why most of us joined the 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. Sierra Club outings are not just for outdoor recreation. 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. This is one of our strengths as an organization.

Almost anyone can lead an outing. 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 an outing and invite some Sierra Club people to come along? Get in touch with me, and I'll tell you how to become a Sierra Outings Leader.

Our outings calendar contains easy hikes, strenuous hikes, bicycle rides, paddle trips, a visit to a mountaintop removal coal mine, a hike by a new leader, and lots of other activities. Don't hold back — you'll be missing out. See you outside!

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, entropypawshed@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 — Family and pet friendly activity. 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. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Pets must be well-behaved and on a leash, and some children might also need to be on a leash. 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: www.midatlantichikes.com/id191.html

Sat May 21 Harpers Ferry to Weaverton Cliffs

rated moderate to strenuous — Meet in Harpers Ferry at 9:30 AM, and walk across the footbridge to the MD side. We will hike about 3 miles along the C&O Canal, and then proceed uphill for about 1.2 miles up to Weaverton Cliffs. The climb is very steep, but the views are beautiful from Weaverton Cliffs. We will return for a total round trip of about 8 miles. Bring water and snacks. Please pre-register with the leader.

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

Nearest City: Harpers Ferry, WV
Web Info: www.cnyhiking.com/ATinMaryland.htm

Sun, May 22 Cathedral State Park — Cathedral/ Giant Hemlock Trail Loop

rated easy — Join a new Outings Leader for leisurely 3-mile hike in an old growth forest with rhododendron, wild flowers, ferns and a mountain stream. Bring food and water. Please pre-register with the leader for start time and exact meeting location.

Leader: Russ Flowers, 304-482-7919, russvuu@yahoo.com

Nearest City: Aurora, WV
Web Info: www.cathedralstatepark.com

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 paddle craft. 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.

Sat, Jun 4 Greenbrier State Forest — Hart's Run

rated easy — See May 7 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, entropypawshed@gmail.com

Nearest City: Lewisburg, WV
Web Info: www.greenbriersf.com

Sun, Jun 5 Cheat River Leisure Float/Paddle

rated easy — Put a boat in the water at St. George off Route 72 in Tucker County and enjoy a leisurely float-and-paddle down the Cheat River to Seven Islands. Get your fill of riverine scenery including forest, farm fields, summer wildflowers, possibly wildlife (bald eagle last year), and more, with the mountains as a backdrop. The trip is generally flat water and suitable for beginners, with a few small riffles here and there; expect to spend about 4 hours on the river. Depending on recent rainfall, we may have to drag/carry a few short places. Participants must supply their own watercraft, and personal flotation devices (lifejackets) are required on all Sierra Club watercraft outings. Rain or high wind cancels. Rentals are available. Kayaks and sit-on-tops are recommended for their shallow draft. The outing depends on warm weather and adequate water level. Please pre-register with the leader.

Leader: Jim Sconyers, 304-698-9628, jim_scon@yahoo.com

Nearest City: Parsons, WV
Web Info: www.blackwateroutdoors.com

Sun, Jun 5 Cheat Lake Hike

rated easy — Suitable for beginners. This will be a short, 2 mile hike on the Cheat Lake trail to explore local history. The trail is wheelchair accessible; rain or thunder cancels. Meet at 7 PM at Pierpont exit off I-68 near Harley Davidson Store. Please pre-register with the leader.

Leader: Cecilia Sherwin, 304-241-1191, jsherwin99@hotmail.com

Nearest City: Morgantown, WV

Sat, Jun 11 Explore the Upper Shavers Fork Area

rated moderate — "Exploratory" 10-mile hike through an area that 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, entropypawshed@gmail.com

Nearest City: Durbin, WV
Web Info: www.trails.com/activity.aspx?area=10616

Sun, Jun 12 Western Maryland Rail-Trail

rated moderate to strenuous — Bring your bicycle to Big Pool, Maryland, just off I-70 near Hancock. Meet at the trailhead of the Western Maryland Rail Trail at 10 AM. This fully paved bicycle trail follows the old Baltimore & Ohio railroad grade along the Potomac River and through the town of Hancock, where the tracks were a favorite target for Confederate artillery across the river. The trail continues out the west side of town with some great views of the river. We'll ride a round trip distance of about 30 miles. Optional stop for lunch in Hancock at Weaver's. All participants on Sierra Club bicycle outings must wear a helmet. Heavy or steady rain cancels.

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

Nearest City: Hancock, MD
Web Info: www.hancockmd.com/WMRT/info.html

Sat, Jun 18 High Rock

rated moderate to strenuous — This hike starts at MD 491 where the AT crosses the road. We will head north on the AT and climb the very steep 2.6 mile trail to High Rock where we will have a beautiful view of the valley below. We will have lunch up on High Rock (don't expect solitude as there is a road to High Rock as well) then return the same way back to the car. Meet at 9:30 AM in Smithsburg and caravan to the trailhead. Please pre-register with the leader.

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

Nearest City: Harpers Ferry, WV
Web Info: www.cnyhiking.com/ATinMaryland.htm

Sat, Jun 18 Mon River Trail North

rated easy to moderate — Suitable for beginners. Start at the Van Voorhis Road access and walk the Mon River Trail North, step into Pennsylvania, then turn around for a 7.6 mile round trip hike. A highlight will be the Long View Power Plant, nearing final construction along the Mon River. Other highlights will be flowers, trees, wildlife and human companionship. Plan on 3½ – 4 hours. Please pre-register with the leader for start time and exact meeting location.

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

Nearest City: Morgantown, WV
Web Info: <http://montrails.org/maps.shtml>; <http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=4396441>

Fri, May 6 — Sun, May 8 Outing Leadership Training Workshop Versailles State Park, Indiana

This weekend workshop fulfills the Sierra Club's OLT 101 and OLT 201 requirements.

For more info: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/upcoming.asp>

Sat, May 7 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 Wilderness. Contact leader to register.

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

Nearest City: Lewisburg, WV
Web Info: www.greenbriersf.com

Sat, May 14 Cranberry Wilderness — Middle Fork Trail

rated moderate — Follow the Middle Fork of the

Outings — Spring / Summer

Tue, Jun 21

Solstice Ride

rated moderate — Celebrate the summer solstice and the longest day of the year with a bike ride on the paved Caperton Trail along the Monongahela River in Morgantown. Meet at 6 PM at the Star City entrance below the Mon River Bridge, and ride north through downtown to the Greer barge dock and return with a side trip up Deckers Creek for a distance of about 15 miles. All participants on Sierra Club bicycle outings must wear a helmet. Heavy or steady rain cancels.

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

Nearest City: Morgantown, WV

Web Info: www.montrails.org

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, entropypawsted@gmail.com

Nearest City: Hillsboro, WV

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

Sat, Jul 9

Washington Monument

rated moderate — This hike is approximately 6 miles round trip and begins at Rt. 40 just east of Hagerstown, MD. Meet at 9:00 AM to hike on the AT up a moderate ascent to the Washington Monument, which was built in 1827 and is part of Washington Monument State Park. There is an observation deck folks can climb up to see the beautiful valley below. This is a good hike for July because most of the trail is shaded. Please pre-register with the leader.

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

Nearest City: Hagerstown, MD

Web Info: www.cnyhiking.com/ATinMaryland.htm

Sat, Jul 9

Greenbrier State Forest – Hart's Run

rated easy — See May 7 write-up for details. Meet at Picnic Shelter #1, Greenbrier State Forest at 10 AM. Contact leader to register.

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

Nearest City: Lewisburg, WV

Web Info: www.greenbriersf.com

Sat, Jul 16

Great Allegheny Passage

rated moderate to strenuous — Bring your bike for a ride on this delightful and challenging rail-trail from Frostburg, MD to Meyersdale, PA and back for a round trip of about 30 miles. The packed-gravel trail is built along an old railroad grade, complete with spectacular views, viaducts and tunnels, including a very cool 3300-footer under Big Savage Mountain. Mountain bike tires are helpful but not required. Meet in Frostburg at noon in the trail parking area on New Hope Road. Heavy or steady rain cancels. Contact leader for details and directions.

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

Nearest City: Frostburg, MD

Web Info: www.atatrail.org/index.cfm

Sat, Jul 23

Spice Run Wilderness

rated strenuous — Spice Run Wilderness is without formal hiking trails. Nonetheless, we will traverse the entire wilderness 12 miles from east to west via wildlife and hunter trails. Theme is wildfire. Meet at Blue Bend Day Use area.

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

Nearest City: Hillsboro, WV

Web Info: www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=NWPS&sec=wildView&WID=750

Sat, Aug 6

Greenbrier State Forest – Hart's Run

rated easy — See May 7 write-up for details. Meet at Picnic Shelter #1, Greenbrier State Forest at 10 AM. Contact leader to register.

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

Nearest City: Lewisburg, WV

Web Info: www.greenbriersf.com

Sat, Aug 6

Blueberry picking in Dolly Sods Wilderness

rated easy — This will be a 4 mile hike in Dolly Sods at a very leisurely pace to allow for blueberry picking. The meeting place will be just off Freeland Rd. in Canaan Valley and we will caravan up to the parking area nearest the wilderness area. The hike begins at the trailhead in the Canaan Institute at 9 AM. There is no shade in Dolly Sods or protection from rain, so be prepared for both. Bring sun protection, rain gear and snacks and a container for your blueberries (unless you intend to eat everything as you pick it). Please pre-register with the leader.

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

Nearest City: Davis, WV

Web Info: www.patc.us/hiking/destinations/dolysods.html

Sat, Aug 13

Watoga State Park – Jesse's Cove loop

rated moderate — Hike 8 miles from the Riverside Campground up Jesse's Cove into areas of old growth forest to the Workman Cabin. Follow the ridge to Ann Bailey Lookout Tower and return via Arrowhead Trail. Theme is Leave No Trace. Meet at Jack Horner's Corner in Seebert, WV. Please pre-register with the leader.

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

Nearest City: Seebert, WV

Web Info: www.watoga.com

Sat, Aug 27

Lower Hills Creek bushwhack

rated strenuous — Hike 8 miles from the end of Hills Creek Rd in Lobelia to the bottom of the Falls of Hills Creek. Climb Point Mountain to Fork Mountain Trail to Upper Falls. Meet at Hillsboro Library. Theme is Leave No Trace. Please pre-register with

the leader.

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

Nearest City: Hillsboro, WV.

Sat, Sep 10

Lockridge Mountain – Laurel Creek Loop

rated moderate — Beautiful 8 mile forest hike with big trees on the side of Lockridge Mountain. Meet at Rimel Picnic Area. Theme is erosion. Please pre-register with the leader.

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

Nearest City: Marlinton, WV

Web Info: www.secretfalls.com/hiking/334-laurel-creek-and-lockridge-mountain

Sat, Sep 17 – repeats on Sun, Sep 18

Kayford Mountain – Mountaintop Removal Up Close

not rated — Visit Kayford Mountain, the site of Larry Gibson's mountaintop compound, surrounded by a mountaintop removal (MTR) operation. Kayford Mountain is one of the few mountaintop removal operations that is not concealed from public view. See for yourself what MTR looks like up close - the moonscape created and left behind. Meet Larry Gibson, a hero of the anti-MTR movement.

Leader: Jim Sconyers, 304-698-9628, jim_scon@yahoo.com

Nearest City: Beckley, WV

Web Info: www.ilovemountains.org/memorial/c251

Sat, Sep 17– Sun, Sep 18

Dolly Sods Backpack

rated moderate — Overnight backpacking trip into Dolly Sods Wilderness. Trails and directions will be leader's choice. Please pre-register with the leader.

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

Nearest City: Davis, WV

Web Info: www.patc.us/hiking/destinations/dolysods.html

Sat, Sep 24

East Fork (trail) of the Greenbrier River

rated moderate — Follow the East Fork of the Greenbrier 9 miles upstream in beautiful area that is possible wilderness candidate. Theme is National Forest Management Plans. Please pre-register with the leader.

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

Nearest City: Bartow, WV

Web Info: www.trailink.com/trail/east-fork-trail.aspx

More of Frank Gifford's outings

(mark your calendars; additional details later)

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*.



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

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

West Virginia Chapter
PO Box 4142
Morgantown, WV 26504
www.westvirginia.sierraclub.org

Change Service Requested

May/June 2011



NONPROFIT ORG.

U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 87
Clarksburg WV 26301

West Virginia Sierra Club Chapter Directory

Chapter Executive Committee

Jim Sconyers, Chair, 304-698-9628
jim_scon@yahoo.com
Heather Heilman, Vice-Chair, 304-520-2807
heatherheilman@yahoo.com
Gwen Jones, 304-599-5815
gwenjones23@yahoo.com
Gary Nelson, 304-258-6669
glnelson@frontier.com
Frank Young, 304-372-3945
fyoung@mountain.net

Monongahela Group ExCom

Sally Wilts, Chair, 304-379-7567
sallywilts@yahoo.com
Rodger Dotson, Vice-Chair, 304-216-1326
bhaddaka@yahoo.com
Gwen Jones, 304-599-5815
gwenjones23@yahoo.com
* **Jim Kotcon**, 304-594-3322
jkotcon@wvu.edu
Shirley Rosenbaum, 304-599-2370
shirley.rosenbaum@gmail.com
* Mon Group Delegate to Chapter ExCom

Other Chapter Leaders

Archives / Chapter History Kathy Gregg
304-473-8124, gregg@www.edu
Conservation Gwen Jones
304-599-5815, gwenjones23@yahoo.com
Energy Committee Jim Kotcon
304-594-3322, jkotcon@wvu.edu
Forest Watch Beth Little
304-653-4277, blittle@citynet.net
Marcellus Campaign Beth Little
304-653-4277, blittle@citynet.net
Membership Kevin Fooce
304-675-6687, fooce@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor Candice Elliott
304-594-3322, celliot2@comcast.net
Outings Dan Soeder
304-568-2164, dsoeder@yahoo.com
Political Regina Hendrix
304-725-0223, rh1936@frontier.com
Secretary Jonathan Rosenbaum
304-599-2370, freesource@cheat.org
Sierra Student Coalition, WVU Miranda Miller
miranda.rae.miller@gmail.com
Treasurer Sally Wilts
304-379-7567, sallywilts@yahoo.com
Webmaster Paul Wilson
304-725-4360, pjgrunt@gmail.com
Wilderness Mary Wimmer
304-598-0136, monwimmer@gmail.com

Regional Sierra Club Staff

Environmental Justice/Beyond Coal Bill Price
304-389-8822, bill.price@sierraclub.org

To Contact

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES

The Hon. John D. Rockefeller
Joe Manchin
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Phones: (202) 224-6472 (JR)
(202) 224-3954 (JM)

Fax: (202) 224-7665 (JR)
(202) 228-0002 (JM)

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

The Hon. David McKinley
Shelley Moore Capito
Nick J. Rahall

US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Phones: (202) 225-4172 (DM)
(202) 225-2711 (SMC)
(202) 225-3452 (NR)

Fax: (202) 225-7564 (DM)
(202) 225-7856 (SMC)
(202) 225-9061 (NR)

To Contact the GOVERNOR

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin
State Capitol
Charleston, WV 25305

Dial-the-Governor:
1-888-438-2731
email: governor@wvgov.org

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

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

A Will is a Way

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

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

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

Inside this Issue

1

Three Cheers for WV Enviro Victories • Heroes and Heroines: Giving Credit Where Credit is Due

2

SierraFest 2011, Sept 30-Oct 2 – Save the Dates • Delegates Press DEP for Moratorium on Marcellus Permits • Mercury: Are You Full of It? • Mercury Testing Event a Huge Success • Morgantown Shows Way to Energy Efficiency • Mon Group Upcoming Events • Membership Form

3

A Failure of Leadership: Commentary • A Risky Proposition: UCS Report • View from the Chair: *A Day in the Life of a Citizen Lobbyist*

4

Perspectives on Outings: *What's Holding You Back?* • OUTINGS Spring /Summer 2011

5

OUTINGS Spring/Summer 2011, cont'd • Outings Liability Policies

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