

Mountain State Sierran

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WV Landfills to Take Marcellus Drilling Cuttings

Beth Little

Drilling cuttings are the bits and pieces of “rock” that are removed from the well bore during drilling for gas. The specific contents can vary depending on the formation that the drilling goes through. For Marcellus drilling, the cuttings contain heavy metals, mineral salts, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as petroleum, and naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM). There are also chemicals used in the drilling mud — shale stabilizers, dispersants/ deflocculants, lubricants, spotting fluids, surfactants, defoamers, biocides, detergents, polymers, viscosifiers, pour point reducers, emulsifiers and corrosion inhibitors — same sort of stuff listed for fracking fluids.

For many years the disposal method for drilling cuttings has been to put them in a pit, settle out the solids from the liquid (drilling brine) which is sprayed on the land, and bury the pit on site. Until recently there wasn't even a requirement for the pit to be lined, and the gas industry fought against that requirement.

One of the new regulations that citizens and environmental groups want to see for Marcellus shale drilling is a requirement for removal of the drilling brine and cuttings to hazardous waste facilities. At least we thought they should qualify as hazardous waste, since they can contain arsenic, benzene, lead, and other nasties, not to mention the NORM. Unfortunately, the EPA regulations specifically exclude “drilling fluids, produced waters, and other wastes associated with the exploration, development, or production of crude oil, natural gas” from the definition of hazardous waste. Similar exclusions were created for oil and natural gas development from other federal environmental laws during the Bush administration.

WV code excludes drilling waste from the definition of solid waste, but the WV definition of “hazardous waste” would cover it, if it weren't preempted by federal law. There are seven Class A landfills in WV currently taking drilling waste. They are Meadowfill, S&S, Northwestern LF, Short Creek, Greenbrier Co, Sycamore, and Wetzel Co. All they need to do is apply to the DEP for a “special waste permit.” First they are supposed to get siting approval from the local SWA and hold a public hearing. There has to be a leachate analysis twice a month as part of a landfill's NPDES permit, but it is not clear if they are testing for radioactivity, which could vary with each load.

The Greenbrier landfill was first fined for taking the cuttings without a permit, but then they got permits for the “Disposal of Special Waste” and the “Disposal of Petroleum-Contaminated Materials” and they can now take 7,400 tons of this waste per year. The leachate will go into the Greenbrier River, from which several towns downstream get their drinking water.



The Meadowfill waste facility is seeking a Certificate of Necessity from the WV PSC to build a new cell dedicated for Marcellus drilling waste, which they have already been accepting and mixing with the regular solid waste. They are also seeking a waiver to the Public Notice and public hearing. In their petition they admit that “What this drill mud consists of, and its source, is not clear” and “The addition of the drilling waste is an additional activity that is not explicitly authorized by Meadowfill's current certificate. This additional activity will have an impact upon the public. What this impact will be cannot be predicted at this time. There is not sufficient data to form an opinion.”

A developer is proposing to build and operate a 120 acre industrial landfill to receive drilling waste about 1 mile south of Bruceton Mills, in the Little Sandy and Big Sandy

watersheds of Preston County, which has generated a lot of local opposition. The Big Sandy sub-watershed was the first local area successfully restored from the impacts of abandoned mine drainage (AMD) pollution. A collaboration of partners, agencies, and individuals logged many hours and contributed millions of dollars to bring the Sandy back. A landfill of the proposed size could accommodate over 7 million tons of drilling waste.

There will be more and more of this waste as the Marcellus “play” ramps up, and they will be looking for places to put it.



*Wetzel County is ground zero for Marcellus gas drilling and its impacts on the community.
— photos by Jim Sconyers*

3rd Annual SierraFest
Sep 30-Oct 2
Camp Caesar in Webster County
 Find all the details on **page 3**



CALENDAR

- Sep 8** Mon Group Meeting (see p. 4)
- Sep 30 – Oct 2** SierraFest 2011 (see p. 3)
- Oct 7–9** WV Environmental Council
Annual Conference (see p. 4)
- Oct 13** Mon Group Meeting (see p. 4)
- Nov 5** Chapter ExCom Meeting
— Berkeley Springs
(contact Jim Sconyers for details)
- Dec 8** Next Newsletter Deadline

Join the Fight to Protect State's Environment

Chuck Wyrstock

Extractive industries have plundered our hills and hollows for profit for over a hundred years. Ripping, drilling, spilling, plowing, cutting, and blowing mountains to bits while calling loss of life an act of God. The latest affront is unregulated Marcellus gas drilling. If West Virginia were a person, she would be a scarred, injured victim in a constant state of crisis, hoping for recovery.

If you believe the road to recovery is possible, your voices need to be heard by those in power. We must invalidate the notion that Earl Ray Tomblin, acting as governor, having issued an executive order to the DEP, has waved a magic wand and made the DEP actually become the Department of **Environmental Protection**. Sorry, Earl Ray. Too little, too late. You're not going to head off citizen outrage with a half-hearted ploy.

What is the most effective way to make your voice heard in this fight? If you only read this newsletter every two months, you are missing the timely email announcements that let you know *what* needs to be done *when* it needs doing. You can add your voice to hundreds of others to make a difference in this fight.

Please send an email to outreach@marcellus-wv.com and list your name and county so we can put your email address in our closely-guarded email list. Easy. Make your voice heard.

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 when the *Sierran* goes to press with a link to the Chapter website, where you can view a full-color PDF version of the newsletter. 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

Leadership Continues to Disappoint

Beth Little

Where are the emergency rules on Marcellus gas drilling from Governor Tomblin's Executive Order?

As of this writing, it has been over a month, and nothing has been delivered to the Secretary of State's office so it can take effect.

The Order was an insufficient Band-Aid to the lack of needed regulation to control the impacts citizens are suffering from the drilling boom, but people not directly acquainted with the problems thought it was enough to stop worrying about the threats to our water. Primary among the deficiencies was the lack of any resources for additional enforcement. The best regulations are useless without enforcement.

Another failure of leadership is in the Senate side of the Select Committee instituted to come up with agreement on a bill. The House members held three public hearings and, based on the information gathered, prepared amendments to the legislation that passed out of the Senate during the last session. The Senate members? Contributed nothing, and after voting on some of the amendments, declared "no more amendments" and ended the meeting with no more scheduled.

Let the Governor and Select Committee Senators know that the public demands relief. We want our water protected. And our air and land and health and safety. (See back of newsletter for contact info.)

The Good, Bad, and Ugly of Tomblin's Executive Order on Marcellus Gas Emergency Rules

Jim Kotcon, Energy Committee Chair

The Good

1. Continues the ban on land application of brines or disposal in sewage treatment plants.
2. Directs DEP to file Emergency rules to
 - A. Require Sediment control plans for well sites;
 - B. Requires water management plans including source, amount and timing of water withdrawals, additives used, and waste water disposal. Plans must demonstrate that adequate in-stream flow remains.
3. Safety plans.
4. Casing and well construction standards.
5. Hauling and record keeping requirements for waste water.
6. Public notice for wells within municipalities.
7. Disposal of drill cuttings and mud in approved solid waste facilities.

The Bad

1. No money for additional inspectors.
2. No regulation of air, noise, radiation, truck traffic or other impacts.
3. No assessment of cumulative impacts of multiple wells to the local community.
4. No public comment procedures, and no public notice for wells in rural areas.
5. No protection for karst (limestone) areas.
6. No protection for parks or other public lands.
7. No TDS standard for water.
8. Retains the Oil and Gas Inspectors Examining Board.
9. No change in buffer zones for homes, schools, etc. No increase in well testing requirements.
10. No change in blanket bond loopholes.

The Ugly

Thanks to a Freedom of Information Act request from the *Charleston Gazette*, the public has learned that Tomblin's Executive Order was significantly weakened at the behest of the gas industry. Tomblin justified the changes claiming the industry reps were "consultants." No representatives from the public or from environmental or health groups were "consulted."

In other words, the foxes truly are in charge of the henhouse.

View from the Chair

My Favorite Planet. It's Up! It's Down! It's ... ?
— Jim Sconyers

My favorite planet is Earth, the planet of origin for most — if not all — of us (notwithstanding that "Men are from Mars" and "Women are from Venus," and I won't even mention Uranus in this family publication :-)

My favorite planet has its ups and downs, as we all do.

For example.

Up: Coal now accounts for barely 40 percent of electric production. This is despite the erroneous or downright false rhetoric we hear so often. No matter what your personal belief system (unless it doesn't happen to embrace basic arithmetic), this is an Up, since coal is very dirty and a prime culprit in the global climate change threatening to wreak havoc on our Home Sweet Home.

Down: Sometime this year planetary population passed the seven billion mark. That's a 7 with nine zeroes after it, like this: 7,000,000,000. Woohoo, that's a BIG number! A whole lot of folks needing food, and water, and shelter, and energy, and more. And using Earth's resources, and polluting as they go.

Up: Renewable energy sources — solar and wind and geothermal for example — are predicted to account for anywhere from 40% to 60% of new energy sources between now and 2030.

Down: Glaciers and polar ice are melting ... and fast. For example, our Glacier National Park had 150 glaciers when it was founded; it has 25 today. And soon the centuries-long quest for a "Northwest Passage" around our continent will be a commercial reality. Along with sea rise, warming oceans, and more.

Up: We know what we need to do to turn most of the planet's "downs" into "ups."

Down: We cannot yet, as a race or even as a nation, find the motivation or will to do it.

My favorite planet: T. S. Eliot's Wasteland? Or the Garden of Eden? I know which one I'd pick.

2012 Calendars Coming Soon!

Order Online at: store.wvsierraclub.org

\$11 Wall, \$12 Desk
(15% off retail prices)

Looking for volunteer sellers around the state.

Sell 15 calendars, earn a free one for yourself.

Contact Candice Elliott for more info

celliot2@comcast.net



Bear in mind the consequences.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America's natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Since it was first listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act in 1975, the grizzly bear has made a strong recovery, but there is still more work to be done. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods than being on display.

Get grizzly and JOIN Sierra Club.

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

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

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

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <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	

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

Distinguished Speakers/Guests at SierraFest

Deborah "Deb" Nardone is Sierra Club's national Natural Gas Reform Campaign Director. She directs the Club's national campaign aimed at getting the natural gas industry to fully protect our water, air,

wildlife, open spaces, and communities. Nardone comes to the Sierra Club from the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited where she served as a Coldwater Resource Specialist, developing conservation plans to protect the headwaters of streams from inappropriate development that would destroy water quality and trout habitat.

Bring "Auction for Action" Items to SierraFest

We need items for our silent auction during SierraFest 2011. We had a very successful and profitable auction last year. Here's your chance to help out the WV Chapter again. We are looking for nonperishable food items, sporting goods, household or gardening items in good condition. Last year the weekend contributed by Laurel Lodge was a very popular and profitable item. Maybe you know of a local business that might be willing to contribute a coupon for a meal, lodging, etc.

If you plan to bring something for the auction, please contact Regina Hendrix at: 304-725-0223 (home) or 304-590-4943 (cell) or at rh1936@frontier.com.

Harvard Ayers is Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. Ayers has founded or co-founded several nonprofit organizations, most recently the Friends of Blair Mountain. He is now a plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging the actions of the Department of Interior in taking the Blair Mountain Battlefield off the National Register of Historic Places, where it had earlier been listed.

West Virginian **Kate Long** has worked as a media writing coach with the Charleston Gazette for 22 years. Her fiction, songwriting, video editing, radio production, and newspaper stories have won national awards. She frequently produces programs for West Virginia Public Radio and Television, and teaches writing workshops for teenagers, songwriters, and other groups. Her simple yet thoughtful style of putting life's political, environmental, and social dramas to music has lightened the hearts and raised the spirits of many listeners.

SierraFest 2011 Registration Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Please send your registration form and a check for room reservations and meals, made out to [WV Sierra Club](http://www.wvsierraclub.org) to:

Karen Grubb
SierraFest 2011 Registration
21 Beverly Circle
Fairmont, WV 26554

Alternatively, you may pay online at: <http://westvirginia.sierraclub.org> and e-mail your reservation form to: karen.grubb@fairmontstate.edu

Question about reservations?

Call 304-367-4878 or Email: karen.grubb@fairmontstate.edu

Dormitory style rooms – \$20/night per person
(very limited number of private rooms available for couples)

Please mark room and meal choices.

Cabin Room Reservation:

Friday night \$20 x _____ (number) = \$_____

Saturday night \$20 x _____ (number) = \$_____

Motel Rooms: Mineral Springs Motel (13 miles away at Webster Springs)
For Reservations, call: 304-847-5305

Meals: Cost is \$6/\$7/\$9 for Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Saturday: Breakfast _____ Lunch _____ Dinner _____

Sunday: Breakfast _____ Box Lunch (\$7) _____

Total Room and Meal Charges: _____

SierraFest 2011

Sept 30 - Oct 2

Camp Caesar, Webster County

(on Rt. 20 at Cowen, WV)

Program for SierraFest 2011

Friday – September 30

4 PM + — Arrive, Check-In, Begin silent "Auction for Action!"
6 PM — Informal reception for Ed Wiley (pizza, chips/dip, drinks, etc.)
7 PM — Introduction of featured film, remarks by Ed Wiley
7:30 PM — Film: **On Coal River**, featuring Ed Wiley (81 minutes)
9 PM — Bonfire, improvised music (bring your musical instruments)

Saturday – October 1

Silent Auction for Action continues all weekend, final bids by Sunday morning

8:00-8:45 AM: *Breakfast*

8:45-9:15 AM: Welcome / Ice-Breaker / Kickoff

9:15-9:45 AM: Kickoff Speaker: **Deb Nardone**, Director,
SC Natural Gas Reform Campaign

9:45-10:00 AM: *Break*

10:00 AM: Session 1 Workshops

- 1.1 Outings Leader Training — Dan Soeder
- 1.2a Water Sentinel Program — Tim Gilfoil (45 min),
- 1.2b Dunkard Creek, 90-species wipeout — Ann Payne (75 min)

12 Noon, *Lunch*

1:00 PM: Session 2 Workshops

- 2.1 Outings Gear — Dan Soeder
- 2.2 Legislative Outlook: "Looking Back, and Forward"
— Delegate Barbara Fleischauer, and others TBA

2:15 – 2:30 PM: *Break*

Short Updates

2:30-3:00 PM: Coal and Related Energy Issues
3:00-3:30 PM: Campaign for More Wilderness — Mike Costello
3:30-4:00 PM: Marcellus Shale Gas — Campaign for Regulation

4:00-5:00 PM: *Free Time* — Recreational activities (weather dependent)

5:00 PM: *Dinner*

6:00-6:30 PM: Keynote Speaker: **Harvard Ayers** — Blair Mountain Project

6:30-6:45 PM: *Break*

6:45-7:15 PM: West Virginia Sierra Club Awards

7:15-9:00 PM: "Celebrating Victories" — PATH, People Concerned about MIC, New Hill West Mine, recent legal victories in court

9:00 PM— Party Time! Music, featuring writer/musician **Kate Long**

Sunday – October 2

8:00-8:45 AM: *Breakfast*

8:45-9:00 AM: End of Silent *Auction for Action!*

9:00-9:15 AM: Ending ceremony — Departing Speaker

9:15 AM: *Pick up bag lunch** for field trip or outing*

1. Educational Field Trip: visit a functioning home-sized wind turbine and solar panel array at local resident's home.
2. Recreational Outing / Hike: Dan Soeder, Leader
3. Fly Fishing / Casting: Tim Gilfoil

** LUNCH for these outings will be a "brown bag" lunch prepared by the camp. It includes a meat sandwich on wheat bread and a PB&J on white, cookies, small bag of chips, carrot sticks, and water.

Mon Group Meetings

Thur, Sept 8, 7 PM

Electric-Assisted Bicycles

Meet at Wamsley Cycle at the Seneca Center in Morgantown. Bring a bicycle helmet if you have one. Chip will tell us the pros and cons of electric-assisted bicycles and let us take a spin in the parking lot. For further information: contact Sally Wilts.

Thur, Oct 13, 7PM

Air Pollution from Shale Drilling and Natural Gas Processing

Mon Valley Clean Air Coalition will co-sponsor this meeting. GASP, the Group Against Smog and Pollution, from Pittsburgh will bring the presentation. Location TBA. For further information contact Sally Wilts.

WV Environmental Council

Fall Conference, Oct 7-9, 2011

Camp Pioneer, Beverly, WV

(near Elkins Forest Festival)

WVEC was founded in 1989 to be the legislative arm for the environmental movement in WV.

Please join us at Camp Pioneer for beautiful fall foliage and our special Energy Policy Workshop.

Saturday morning presentations include **Mary Beth Adams**: Land Application of Hydrofracturing Fluids Damages a Deciduous Forest Stand in West Virginia (Fernow Experimental Forest), and **Gwen Jones**: Coopers Rock State Forest Management Policy.

The Energy Policy Workshop on Saturday afternoon provides the tools and background information for citizens who want to become active in promoting energy efficiency, demand response, and other solutions to West Virginia's rising electric rates. We will provide background information on issues that are important to understand when strategizing about how to influence energy policy in the state. We will answer questions like: Where do our utilities get their power? What is PJM and what is its relevance to West Virginia? How does the Public Service Commission work, and how can citizens get involved? How can we provide incentives for utilities to be interested in energy efficiency? This will be followed by an open discussion on regulatory and legislative strategies. Sponsored by: Energy Efficient West Virginia, Coalition for Reliable Power.

A second presentation track on Saturday afternoon will include presentations on Marcellus gas topics, water quality issues and the Chesapeake Initiative.

Saturday evening offers a panel discussion on the critical need for a bill to regulate Marcellus gas drilling, legislators invited.

Sunday morning hear the legislative update by lobbyist Don Garvin and help set our 2012 Legislative Priorities. Elect your regional representatives to the WVEC board.

Perspectives on Outings

The Joy of Wilderness — Dan Soeder Outings Chair

I've been living in West Virginia a bit more than two years now, this time. The last time I lived here was more than 30 years ago, and oh, how some things have changed. Others, not so much. The Morgantown waterfront, for example, used to be nothing but warehouses and railroad tracks in the early 80s. Now it boasts trendy condos, a convention center, nice restaurants and a world class hiking-biking trail. On the other hand, they still haven't widened University Avenue or Beechurst, and the traffic around West Virginia University is worse than ever.

I wasn't as "outdoorsy" back then as I am now. I was a geologist and my profession required me to spend a fair amount of time outdoors, but I had little kids and a wife who preferred to curl up with a book, so we didn't do a lot of outside recreation. We went up to Coopers Rock a few times, and once we went to visit friends down at the Greenbrier Resort, but I didn't see much of wild, wonderful West Virginia in those days except from the platform of a drilling rig. The views were not all that spectacular.

My children are adults now and live on their own, and I have a different wife who isn't afraid to walk in the woods, sometimes leading a goat. (She is trying to train them to be pack animals.) I was delighted to learn that this state has National Forests, and some places within these National Forests are designated as wilderness areas! Why is this such a big deal? Because it is not something you expect in the eastern U.S. The last place I lived that had National Forest and wilderness was Nevada, and that state contains 12,000-foot-high mountain peaks and almost five times the land area of West Virginia. Neither Maryland nor Delaware, where I've lived previously, have any National Forests or wilderness. When I was the outings chair in the Maryland Chapter, I was amazed at the number of outings being run by Maryland leaders into West Virginia to

visit these special places. So being here, with Dolly Sods Wilderness only an hour's drive from my farm, is nothing less than amazing. Roaring Plains, Otter Creek and Cranberry wildernesses are not much farther.

Dolly Sods is fascinating. It is a high plateau on the crest of the Allegheny Front, which makes up some of the highest mountains in West Virginia. The area was heavily logged for red spruce and hemlock in the 19th Century, and the grassy meadows ("sods") were used by a family of German immigrants named Dahle for grazing cattle (hence the name). Serious fires ravaged the area in the early 20th century, burning up wood debris left behind by the loggers, brush, the remaining trees and even the humus soil down to the bedrock. Adding insult to injury, the Army then used the Sods as a target range during WWII, and there are still warning signs at the entrances to beware of live artillery shells.

Even after suffering so much abuse, Dolly Sods returned to life simply by letting nature do her work. It became part of Monongahela National Forest in 1916, and was designated a wilderness area in 1975. The Dolly Sods North tract was added in 2009, making the area half again as large. The Dolly Sods Wilderness now encompasses more than 17,000 acres, with 47 miles of hiking trails. Grassland "balds," huckleberry plains, cranberry bogs and hardwood forests abound. Red spruce and hemlock are coming back. Beavers have built a dam across Red Creek, creating a sizable pond. Tiny wild blueberries and darker huckleberries are abundant in the summer, along with blackberries, cranberries and even a few "teaberries" that taste just like the famous gum. The only remaining human artifacts in Dolly Sods (other than the occasional mortar shell and rotting wooden ties from the timber railroad) are the trail signs for hikers. Some people object to having even those, but I'd rather not get lost up there.

If nature can restore such a ravaged area, she can eventually restore MTR and strip mines, gas well drill pads, oiled coastlines, abandoned industrial sites, old military facilities and brownfields. Dolly Sods gives hope to us all, and it is metaphorically right outside my window. How cool is that?

See you outside!



Sat, Sep 3

Laurel Fork Special Management Area

rated easy to moderate — Join a new leader for a six mile loop day hike on the Bucks Run and Locust Spring Run Trails in the Laurel Fork Special Management Area. These trails have been upgraded in the past two years and follow old railroad grades along two mountain streams with mini waterfalls and cascades. The hike will start at 10:00 AM in the Locust Springs Picnic Area off Rt. 28 at the Pocahontas/Pendleton County lines. Contact leader for details.

Leader: Brent Carminati, 304-567-2865, brentcar1@frontiernet.net

Nearest town: Thornwood, WV

Web info: www.patc.us/hiking/destinations/va_lauref.html

Sat, Sep 10

Laurel Creek Loop, Lockridge Mountain

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, entropypawshed@gmail.com

Nearest town: Marlinton, WV

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

Sun, Sep 11

Spruce Knob

rated moderate — Enjoy a scenic hike atop the tallest mountain in West Virginia. We will explore hiking trails along the crest, and perhaps loop back to Spruce Knob Lake. Camping is available at the lake. Contact the leader for details.

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

Nearest City: Whitmer, WV

Web info: Search Google for Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks to get Forest Service websites.

Sat, Sep 17, repeats on Sun, Sep 18

Kayford Mountain — MTR 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 are 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. **Note:** This is the same outing, led on two separate days to accommodate the expected high level of interest. Sign up for one or the other, not both.

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

Nearest town: Beckley, WV

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

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

Nov/Dec issue

October 13

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.

WVEC Fall Conference, cont'd

Registration: Only \$15 adult / \$10 seniors, students, low income. Youth ages 12 and under free registration.

Lodging: beds in cabins (\$10 per night) and camping (\$10 per tent, per night).

Meals: Breakfasts Saturday & Sunday: \$5 each; Lunches Saturday & Sunday: \$7 each;

Friday dinner: \$7 each; Saturday night dinner — Pot Luck ...Please brings a dish to share. Children under 10: breakfast \$4, lunch and Friday dinner \$5.

The full Agenda for the weekend and registration form will be posted on our website as details are completed. **Please see <http://www.wvecouncil.org>**

Upcoming Outings — Autumn

Sat and Sun, Sep 17–18

Dolly Sods Backpack

rated moderate — Overnight backpacking trip into Dolly Sods Wilderness. Enter at DS North near Bear Rocks. The exact trails and directions will be leader's choice, depending on weather and group size. Please pre-register with the leader; wilderness area has a limit of ten per group. Dolly Sods is noted for extremely variable weather. Participants must supply own overnight backpacking gear, tent, food, etc. — some limited loaner gear is available, contact leader for details.

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

Nearest town: 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 nine miles upstream in a beautiful area that is a possible wilderness candidate. Theme is National Forest Management Plans. Please pre-register with the leader.

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

Nearest town: Bartow, WV

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

Sat, Sep 24

Dobbin House Trail, MNF

rated easy to moderate — Four mile out and back hike to Pase Point on trails in Blackwater Falls State Park and Monongahela National Forest with great views of the Blackwater Canyon. A section of trail borders a reclaimed strip-mine. The hike will start at the Pendleton Point Overlook Parking Lot in Blackwater Falls State Park at 10:00 AM. Contact leader for details.

Leader: Brent Carminati, 304-567-2865, frontcar1@frontiernet.net

Nearest town: Davis, WV

Web info: www.blackwaterfalls.com

Sat, Oct 1

Outings Leader Training at SierraFest

not rated — There will be an outings leader training (OLT) workshop at SierraFest (Oct. 1-2) that meets the requirements of Sierra Club OLT 101. If you are interested in leading Sierra Club outings, this training is required, along with first-aid certification. Please come to SierraFest, and if you have questions about the OLT class, contact Dan Soeder (304-568-2164), Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org

Sun, Oct 2

Outings at SierraFest

rated easy to moderate — The final day of SierraFest will provide time for some local outings, including a hike. Frank Gifford is our chapter outings leader who is the most familiar with this area, and he has agreed to lead an outing on a trail not too far from the SierraFest location in Webster County. Details will be posted at SierraFest, and it promises to be great. Come to SierraFest prepared for a walk in the woods.

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

Nearest town: Webster Springs, WV

Sun, Oct 9

Snake Hill Wildlife Management Area

rated moderate — Acquired in 1996 by the State of WV, the SNWMA is across the Cheat River Gorge from Coopers Rock State Forest. This 6-7 mile loop trail hike with moderate elevation changes will connect with several scenic views, including Table Rock and Cheat View, and also several lesser known views along Snake Hill's canyon rim. Trail conditions will vary from poorly established with vegetation overgrowth, to rocky under footing and blow downs, to clearly established paths and gas well roads. Overall, this is a moderately challenging, exploratory hike with rewarding, little-known views of the Cheat River Gorge. Please pre-register with the leader.

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

Nearest town: Morgantown, WV

Web info: www.coopersrock.org

Sat, Oct 15

Chimney Rock via Appalachian Trail

rated moderate — From the Old Forge picnic area at Waynesboro, PA, the hike will go north up a steep climb on the AT to Chimney Rock, where there is a large rock formation and a view of the reservoir and the valley below. Lateral over to the Tumbling Run Trail to return for a loop of about 6 miles. Meet at the Waynesboro Food Lion on Rt. 16 (Buchannon Trail) at 10:00 AM. Contact leader for details.

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

Nearest town: Waynesboro, PA

Web info: www.midatlantichikes.com/id109.html

Sat, Oct 22

Allegheny Trail

rated moderate — Hike 12 miles from Lake Sherwood Road to State Route 92. Contact leader to register

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

Nearest town: Neola, WV

Web info: wvscenictrails.org

Sun, Oct 23

Ohiopyle State Park, PA

rated moderate — Enjoy autumn foliage on the Great Allegheny Passage trail along the Youghiogheny River at Ohiopyle, plus additional loops in the park. This park has a terrific campground if you want to stay overnight. Contact leader for details.

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

Nearest town: Ohiopyle, PA

Web info: www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/ohiopyle.aspx

Sat, Nov 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. Contact leader to register.

Leader: Frank Gifford, 304-653-4742,

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

entropypawshed@gmail.com

Nearest town: Lewisburg, WV

Web info: www.greenbriersf.com

Sat, Nov 12

Cooper's Rock Autumn Adopt-a-Trail Service Outing

rated easy to moderate — This will be our third 2011 trail maintenance on Sierra Club's adopted Intermediate Cross Country Ski Trail at Cooper's Rock State Forest. The fall clean-up emphasizes clearing the fallen leaves, drainage restoration and trail clearing. Trail length is 0.6 miles and total hiking length is a 1.25 mile loop. Volunteers should wear sturdy boots and carry work gloves, water, and snacks. Adults and adolescents are invited, and those under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian. Volunteers will be required to sign a standard Sierra Club Liability Waiver and a DNR Volunteer Work Program Agreement. Please pre-register with the leader.

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

Nearest town: Morgantown, WV

Web info: www.coopersrockstateforest.com



Sat, Nov 12

South Boundary Trail of Big Draft Wilderness

rated strenuous — 10 miles.

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

Nearest City: White Sulphur Springs, WV

Web info: www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5090648.pdf

Sat, Nov 19

Black Rock and Annapolis Rock

rated moderate — Start at the AT trailhead off White Oak Rd. in Smithsburg, hike up the Thurston Griggs trail to the Pogo Campground, go south on the AT to Black Rock and Annapolis Rock, which both have great views of the valley below. Total distance around 6 miles; some sections with rocky footing. Meet at 10 AM at the Food Lion in Smithsburg, MD.

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

Nearest town: Smithsburg, MD

Web info: rohland.homedns.org/at/state/state_detail/AT_state_detail.aspx?stateID=2%20§ionID=17

Abbreviations Used

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

Sierra Club Liability Policies For Chapter Outings

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

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

Activities are normally held "rain or shine," but may be postponed at the leader's discretion for safety reasons in the event of inclement weather. Participants are reminded that all 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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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

Preserve the Future

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

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

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

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

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