

Mountain State Sierran

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March/April 2013

2013 Legislative Agenda: The Priority is Marcellus!

Jim Kotcon

While many environmental issues will face scrutiny during the 2013 session of the WV Legislature, gas drilling issues will be the top priority for organizations working with the West Virginia Environmental Council, including Sierra Club. No bill numbers are available at the time of this writing, but here is a rundown of what we hope to achieve.

Gas Issues

1) Pass strong drilling rules.

The 2011 Horizontal Well Control Act required DEP to propose rules to regulate the gas industry. While the Act left a lot to be desired, DEP rules, issued as 35-CSR-8, form the framework for initial regulation. But several key gaps need to be filled, and the rule must be protected from further weakening by industry lobbyists.

Take Action

Ask your legislators to strengthen the Horizontal Well rule by requiring: on-site monitoring of water withdrawals from streams, pressure testing of well casings, adequate curing time for cement in casings, liners for all pits, and reporting all chemicals discharged into wells or pits. The Legislature should also assure transparency and citizen access to Water Management Plans, reports of flowback water volumes and disposal records, and adequate public notice and comment procedures for all variances from these rules.

2) Plug abandoned wells.

The WV Legislative Auditor reported in September that the WV-DEP was losing ground in efforts to plug abandoned wells. Thousands of wells are no longer producing, and by law must be plugged, yet DEP continues to issue permits for new wells to companies that have not plugged their old ones. While DEP can legitimately claim to be under-staffed, they are also part of the problem because they have not made plugging wells a priority, and there is no incentive for gas companies to do it.

Take Action

Ask your legislators to support bills to require companies to either plug all unplugged wells or enter those wells

into the state's "Bona fide Future Use" program, as a prerequisite for new drilling permits. Operators must either report the production from gas wells (and pay severance tax on that production) or plug the wells.

3) Strengthen monitoring and enforcement.

Even the strongest laws are useless if they are not enforced, and a weak law that is enforced is better than a strong one that isn't. Today, many citizens are discouraged from reporting problems, because nothing ever comes of their complaints. Many citizens assume that legitimate complaints never get inspected; if they do, no violation is ever assessed by DEP; and if it is, the citizen who made the complaint never finds out, perpetuating the appearance that DEP does not enforce the law.

Take Action

Several steps could include: a requirement that all wells be inspected by DEP annually, and that permits be limited to the number that can be inspected with available staff, eliminate the requirement that DEP gas inspectors must have two years of industry experience, require Notices of Violation for all violations discovered, and improve transparency so that all citizen complaints get a response from DEP.



4) Ban gas drilling in Karst areas.

Karst areas are those with limestone geology that forms caves, sink holes, fissures, and underground streams. They are particularly vulnerable to ground water contamination

Other Legislative Agenda Issues

Energy Efficiency

The Sierra Club is supporting two bills to mandate Integrated Resource Planning by utilities, and to require an Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard. These would push electric utilities to implement efficiency measures as an alternative to new power plants, because it is cheaper, faster,

safer, cleaner, and creates more jobs. In addition, we will support rules to update energy efficiency requirements in building codes.

Coopers Rock

Transfer management of a portion of Coopers Rock State Forest from WV Division of Forestry to WV-DNR Division of Parks and Recreation. Our most-visited state forest is much more valuable for recreation and wildlife, than for timber production.

Good Government

Support a resolution to overturn the "Citizens United" decision on campaign finance; support public financing of Supreme Court elections; and support a Severance Tax "Future Fund" where a portion of severance taxes from fossil fuels would be set aside to provide a permanent trust for future economic development.

Renewable Energy

Support a 1-percent Solar Carve-Out in a renewable portfolio standard. The current "Alternative and Renewable Energy Standard" has no meaningful impact on promoting renewable energy, and this bill would require utilities to get 1 percent of their electricity from solar.

Coal

Support legislation to eliminate coal slurry impoundments, and to overturn legislation that weakens West Virginia mining rules and water quality protections.

Other bills we are supporting include a Bottle Bill (again), a "Complete Streets" Initiative, and a Public Health Impact Assessment bill.

Conclusions

This is a very aggressive legislative agenda. But the success of this session will be judged on whether West Virginia finally takes meaningful steps to regulate gas drilling.

One More Thing To Do

E-Day at the WV Legislature — March 14

The annual citizen lobby day for the environment will be March 14, starting at 9:30 AM at the Capitol and going well into the evening for the WVEC annual Awards ceremony. Tell all your friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, and even complete strangers, that Charleston is the place to be. We want to convince legislators that the environment matters.

For more information on any of these issues, contact Jim Kotcon at 304-594-3322.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



The West Virginia Chapter Wants You! Find Your Niche! You Can Help! Pitch In!

To make a Sierra Club Chapter work, there are all kinds of tasks, jobs, needs, and opportunities. Chances are that you have the skill or interest needed to find a niche in the Chapter's work.

No, you don't have to be "in charge." Sure, we need leaders, but we also need regular, ordinary workers, too. You may be thinking, "OMG, I don't know enough to do that job." Rest easy — there are tasks both large and small, and usually someone around willing to show you the ropes. You do not have to personally save the world by the end of the week! Maybe you can stuff some envelopes, take a First Aid class, make a phone call, or take notes at a meeting. Our needs are many and various. The more hands to help, the lighter the load.

And, getting involved is a good way to meet people, make new friends, and make a difference.

Take a look at some of the issues and activities the Chapter is working on. Some are one-time, some are ongoing. Contact the listed lead person and see how you can help. You'll feel good about it!

Outings

We have a very active outings program and are fortunate to live in a beautiful state with so many breathtaking opportunities for enjoyment and education. Join us on one of our many diverse outings (available at different skill levels) ranging from hikes, bike rides, nature walks, kayaking, canoeing, cross country skiing, workshops, service projects, and more. Also, remember the outings are open to all, so invite a friend! Find an outing you'll enjoy on pp. 6-7 of this is-

sue, contact the leader, and get to know some like-minded friends.

More ambitious? You can become a certified Outings Leader (OL) — it's not that hard! You will need to complete OLT 101 (online or at a scheduled class), a Basic First Aid course (offered at local American Red Cross or local hospital), and lead a provisional hike supervised by a certified OL.

For info about leader training or other outings questions, contact our Chapter Outings Chair: Russ Flowers, russwvu@yahoo.com, 304-482-7919

Energy

This is West Virginia, so obviously energy is big with the Chapter. Energy includes coal, gas, power plants, and more. Currently a major focus of the Energy Committee is moving our electric companies to much greater efficiency. The Committee is very active and looking for volunteers to help. Contact our Energy Chair: Jim Kotcon, jkotcon@wvu.edu, 304-594-3322

Marcellus

Every sentient being in West Virginia has heard about the Marcellus gas rush. The Marcellus Campaign is currently our most active, working to protect citizens and the land and water and improve state regulatory regimes. They have lots to do, and are eagerly looking for new volunteers. Contact our Marcellus Campaign Chair: Dave Sturm, davidsturm@ymail.com, 304-363-7160

Events

We have regular annual events — Mon Group's Corn Roast and Ice Cream Social, for example — semi-annual events — like SierraFest — and other occasional special

events. Leaders need help planning and executing these, from planning, to advertising, to handling local logistics. If interested in being part of an event-planning team, contact our Chapter Chair: Jim Sconyers, jimscon@gmail.com, 304-698-9628

Membership

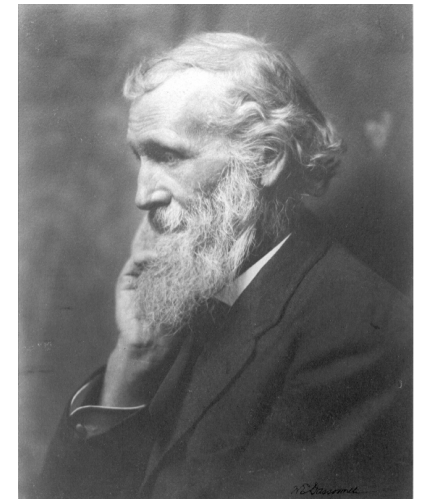
We have a new and ambitious Membership Chair, Ron Liller. Ron is new to the job, and so would you be. You can all learn together! Ron can use all kinds of help: managing lists, sending out welcome letters, providing local contact information, and other tasks large and small. Contact our Membership Chair: Ron Liller, rliller@gmail.com, 304-788-2030

Fundraising

You know what Kermit says: "It's not easy being green." And it's not free either. Our budgets are fairly modest, but they do have to be funded. Currently, fundraising is a "clean slate" for the Chapter. The committee is vacant and needs folks. This is one of those roles that can range from the very small — stuffing some envelopes — to the pretty big — for example organizing benefit events. Can you help? Contact our Chapter Chair: Jim Sconyers, jimscon@gmail.com, 304-698-9628

Secretary

Do your fingers fly over a keyboard? Good, we need you! Our Chapter Secretary position is open, and we need to fill it. This role is very specifically defined, and while it may not seem glamorous, it is a crucial and essential role for keeping the leaders of our Chapter informed and on task. The Secretary takes minutes at four annual day-long Executive Committee meetings and circulates those minutes to the ExCom. The dates



John Muir — Founder of Sierra Club

and locations for this year's meetings are:

- Apr 27** Canaan Valley Lodge
- Aug 3-4** Shot Cherry Cabins (Spruce Knob)
- Nov 16** 79er Restaurant, Burnsville
- Jan 11** Morgantown, Kotcon/Elliott home

Contact our Chapter Chair: Jim Sconyers, jimscon@gmail.com, 304-698-9628

Newsletter

The Editor is always looking for submissions of short pieces to fill gaps in the newsletter. Book reviews, letters to the editor, photos from outings or of people at events, announcements of upcoming events — all submissions are welcome. Deadlines are generally the first Thursday of the month before the issue date, so Apr 4 (for May-Jun issue), Jun 6, Aug 8, Oct 10, Dec 5, Feb 6 (2014).

Contact our Editor: Candice Elliott, celliot2@comcast.net, 304-594-3322

Did I miss anything? Maybe you have your own ideas of things our Chapter could or should be involved with. Make a suggestion, offer your help. We'll put you right to work!

Contact our Chapter Chair: Jim Sconyers, jimscon@gmail.com, 304-698-9628

Sierra Club Launches New Campaign: Obama Climate Legacy

Kicks off 100 Days of Action for climate solutions and clean energy

On January 14 the Sierra Club launched a new campaign demanding that President Obama make the fight against climate disruption a priority in his second term. The **Obama Climate and Clean Energy Legacy Campaign** will bring the organization's 2.1 million members and supporters together to push the Obama administration to tackle the most serious environmental crisis of our age.

"President Obama's second term will be a pivotal four years in the fight against climate disruption," said Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club. "In his victory speech, the President invited a national climate conversation, but we also need swift, decisive action to prevent more erratic weather, superstorms and wildfires."

"As we make critical decisions about how we power our nation and what kind of place we'll leave for our children and grandchildren, the Sierra Club will push President Obama to define his legacy with bold climate solutions and clean energy innovation," said Brune. "Climate disruption is the singular issue of our time for anyone who cares about clean air, clean water, and a safe future for our families."

To demonstrate the urgency of its demands, the Sierra Club launched **100 Days of Action on Climate**, a series of local and national actions focused on bringing climate disruption to the forefront of the national conversation and pressing the President to be a leader in the climate fight. During this period — spanning the President's Inauguration through Earth Day — allies and activists from around the country will host events ranging from inauguration watch parties in New Mexico, to a national climate rally on Presidents Day weekend in DC, to town hall meetings across the nation, highlighting the broad support from Americans for fighting the climate crisis.

The Sierra Club outlined five key actions that the Obama administration must take to curb the country's carbon emissions and address climate disruption. The actions include:

- 1. Hold fossil fuel corporations accountable for their pollution**
- 2. Reject proposals to import dirty fuels and stop the rush of fossil fuel exports**
- 3. Double down on clean energy**
- 4. Protect communities from future climate disasters and ready a robust and just response**
- 5. Protect America's lands, air, water and wildlife from fossil fuel development**

"When our children and grandchildren look back at the climate crisis, what will President Obama's legacy be?" asked Brune. "The American people recognize the impact of extreme weather on their communities and the ever-greater threat climate disruption poses to their children's future. President Obama deserves credit for improving vehicle efficiency standards, creating incentives for clean energy, and passing historic clean air protections. We are, as a nation, slowly beginning to succeed against climate disruption, and we must do everything we can to ensure that President Obama and the federal agencies he leads roll up their sleeves and increase the momentum. We cannot afford to lose a minute in this fight. It's time that we finally establish our American climate legacy."

Visit www.sierraclub.org/climatelegacy to learn more about the campaign.

ExCom Election Results

In December, ballots were mailed to all WV Chapter and Monongahela Group members-in-good-standing to vote for candidates running to fill expiring seats on their respective Executive Committees. A total of 205 Chapter ballots (11.5 percent) and 66 Mon Group ballots (16.5 percent) were returned and counted by the Elections Committee.

Russ Flowers, David Sturm, and Gary Nelson each won 2-year terms to the Chapter ExCom; however, Russ felt his talents could be used more effectively as Outings Chair. The ExCom screened several potential replacements and decided to appoint Liz Wiles to fill out the Chapter's leadership. (Please see Liz's brief bio below.) Ron Liller graciously agreed to take on the responsibilities of Chapter Membership Chair.

In the Mon Group election, Hannah Spencer and David Sturm were elected to two-year terms. Aaron Vedock was appointed to fill the one year remaining on Steve Runfola's term, and Doug Gilbert was appointed to fill the remaining year of Nicole Good's term. Both Steve and Nicole resigned due to additional time pressures in their lives.

Please welcome all of these dedicated volunteer leaders. Their willingness to spend their time advancing the causes of the Sierra Club and providing opportunities for all of us to "Explore, enjoy and protect the planet" are much appreciated.

A Brief Intro to Liz Wiles

I grew up in Fairmont, WV, lived in Seattle for 16 years, and returned to my West Virginia roots at the end of 2011, now residing in Morgantown. I have a B.S. in Biology with a minor in English from Fairmont State University and pursued graduate studies in Florida, studying ecology and evolutionary biology. I have extensive experience in environmental education, working with environmental non-profits, writing grants, coordinating events, and conducting community outreach.

In Seattle, I taught thousands of community members hands-on science at the Pacific Science Center and worked as a volunteer board member for the environmental non-profit Shoreline Solar Project. I also helped raise awareness of Appalachian environmental issues by doing presentations on mountain-top removal coal mining to northwest communities.

In April 2012, I was hired as Executive Director for Friends of Deckers Creek, an organization working to clean up the Deckers Creek watershed and promote environmental stewardship among watershed residents. I am thrilled to be back in West Virginia and to be involved in restoring the natural beauty of the Mountain State. I am tremendously passionate about the environment and working for local communities. I look forward to being a part of this great organization and welcome the opportunity to help lead environmental efforts throughout WV.

Civil Disobedience and Massive Rally in Nation's Capitol Kick Off 100 Days of Action on Climate

On **Feb 13**, in one of the first major actions in the **100 Days of Action on Climate**, history was made as Washington, DC, police arrested Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune, Board of Directors President Allison Chin, and an amazingly broad coalition of almost 50 other climate-crisis activists outside the White House. This protest came, as you know, because the Club's grassroots leadership decided that the obligation to address climate disruption has become so urgent, and the opportunity to attain clean energy prosperity so real, that we had a moral duty to act.

This act of civil disobedience, the first in the Club's 120-year history, was an announcement to President Obama and other leaders that they must take bold action now to address the threat of fossil fuel pollution — with stopping construction of the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline as a critically important first step.

The protest unfolded in the peaceful, purposeful spirit in which

it was intended. The conscientious planning by many paid off with an orderly event, witnessed by over 300 supporters and more than 100 representatives of print, national broadcast, and online media.

Among those arrested were former Sierra Club president Adam Werbach, Nebraska cattle buyer Randy Thompson, labor leader Joe Uehlein, United Church of Christ Reverend Doctor Jim Antal, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., actress Daryl Hannah, and longtime NAACP chair Julian Bond.

On **Feb 17**, the WV Chapter chartered two buses leaving from Morgantown, carrying nearly 100 WV, PA, and MD riders to the **Forward on Climate Rally** in Washington, DC.

Tens of thousands of people and more than 160 sponsoring groups and organizations were expected to gather at the rally to demand that President Obama take immediate action on the climate crisis, beginning with rejecting the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline.

At the time this issue went to press, the **Forward on Climate Rally** was shaping up to be the largest climate rally ever, with Americans from all walks of life demanding that 2013 be the year of climate solutions, and that the President of the United States lead the way Forward on Climate!

Look for stories and pictures from the Rally in the next issue of the *Mountain State Sierran*. And find out what's next in the **100 Days of Action** at <http://sierraclub.org/climatelegacy>



National Club Election Coming This Spring

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Our Chapter Delegate, Gary Nelson, is a good person to start with; his contact info is on the back page.

Or, visit the Club's election website: www.sierraclub.org/bod/2013election

This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, please go to the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If necessary, you will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail.

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SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

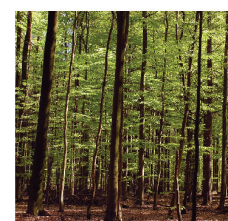
We send out an appeal in March to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget.

When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able - and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible.

Mail your contribution to:
WV Sierra Club, PO BOX 4142, Morgantown, WV 26504



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 Because everyday is Earth Day.



Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (____) _____
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YES! I would like to give an Earth Day gift membership to

Gift Recipient _____
 Address _____
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Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
 Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____
 Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
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

Join today and receive a **FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



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

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Workshop for Citizen Gas Well Watchers

We are running a repeat of last year's workshop for citizen volunteers to become **gas well watchers**. Goodness knows there are enough of them to watch — thousands, in fact — as old as early 20th century or as new as today. This workshop will apply to any completed gas well — Marcellus or otherwise.

Working with George Monk and Molly Schaffnit, the West Virginia Chapter has developed a common-sense online experience suitable for all. The workshop is organized into three sessions, each with its target dates. Each session will include George and Molly's YouTube videos, as well as text material and "homework." Workshop participants will be able to view and read the material on a flexible schedule. A session will be followed up with a conference call for participant discussion and questions-and-answers with project leaders. Conference calls are free to callers, and there will be two date/time options for the conference call for each session. We finish the workshop with a field trip to enable participants to experience the "real thing."

Most of the training is simple and observational. The training will show what to look for, how to "see" a well site, and so on. There is one element that involves an actual scientific test, using materials similar to litmus paper. That session shows clearly how-to-do-it. And we provide the required test materials to participants at no cost.

Once volunteers register for the workshop, they will receive the link to the project website, where all necessary information will be available. In addition, participants will receive the call-in number and code for all the conference calls.

In case a person is interested but unable to access YouTube videos, we can provide alternatives suitable for slower connections. The workshop is in March — just in time for the outdoor well-watching season!

The Gas Well Workshop is open to everyone. We strongly encourage folks to participate who expect and intend to get out in the field afterwards and apply their training to observing and reporting on gas wells.

Workshop Schedule

Session 1

Videos and materials **March 10 – 12**
Conference calls **March 13, 6:00 PM, or March 14, 7:00 PM**

Session 2

Videos and materials **March 17 – 19**
Conference calls **March 20, 6:00 PM, or March 21, 7:00 PM**

Session 3

Videos and materials **March 24 – 26**
Conference calls **March 27, 6:00 PM, or March 28, 7:00 PM**

Field Trip

South **March 30**
North **March 31**

For more information or to register for the workshop, contact Jim at: jimscon@gmail.com or 304-698-9628.

Master Naturalist Groups Forming for 2013

The Master Naturalist Program, run by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, consists of a series of lectures, classes and field trips led by botanists and other nature interpreters. The core mission of the program is to train volunteers to assist government agencies, schools, and NGO's with research, outdoor recreation development, and environmental education and protection. Classes will start this spring in different areas of the state. To find out more about this program, go to www.mnofwv.org. Information about the Monongahela Chapter can be found at monongahelamn.blogspot.com.

Producer Mark Dixon to Show Award-winning Film, Y.E.R.T., at WVU Law School April 3

On Wednesday, April 3, beginning at 6:30 pm, Producer Mark Dixon will present his Award-winning Film, Y.E.R.T. (Your Environmental Road Trip), at the WVU Law School Luger Courtroom and answer questions afterward. Admission is free, and there is ample free parking.

Bewildering predictions about our planet's future? What to do? Film producer Mark Dixon packs his camera and two friends into a car.

Their goal: "50 States. 1 Year. Zero Garbage." Called to action by a planet in crisis, the three friends hit the road, with hope, humor, and all of their trash, to explore America — the good, bad, and weird — in search of innovators tackling

humanity's greatest environmental challenges in this award-winning docu-comedy. (Learn more at www.yert.com.)

Author Jeff Biggers says in Huffington Post, "The Fellini trio of the climate justice movement, the YERT film crew has managed to pull off the impossible in the world of cinema — a deeply absorbing and often hilarious road trip that confronts the badlands of our nation's spiraling descent into dirty energy darkness, only to emerge along the solar roadways and wind-swept plains into the myriad possibilities for new power and sustainable living. By the dramatic end of Your Environmental Road Trip, **audiences will not only cheer, but feel compelled to spring to**

their feet to join an inspiring movement for change. If only our nation's policymakers will watch this important film and do the same."

A dynamic speaker, Mark will also introduce Transition Towns, a fast-growing energy descent and re-localization, global sustainable community movement. Mark is a founder of Pittsburgh Transitions http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transition_Towns

This event is sponsored by the WVU Law School's Center for Energy and Sustainable Development, the Mon Group of Sierra Club, the WVU Student Sierra Coalition, the Community Coalition for Social Justice, YOTT2013 (Year of the Tree), and many others.

SSC Plans March 9 EcoSummit

Hannah Spencer, SSC President

The WVU Sierra Student Coalition has been hard at work this semester. We have two major events planned for the spring and we have experienced an increase in student involvement. This increased student involvement will prove useful for planning and implementing our events.

Our first event, the Eco Summit, will take place on Saturday, March 9, 9AM-4PM, and is co-sponsored with the Mon Group of the WV Sierra. We have scheduled presentations, workshops, and field trips on issues ranging from sustainable agriculture practices to the effects of fossil fuel extraction. Some of our keynote speakers include: Kate Rooth with Appalachian Voices, Dr. Michael Hendryx in Community Medicine at WVU, the Wetzel County Action Group, Elise Keaton with Keepers of the Mountains, and Jon Berger with the Real Food Challenge. The two field trips we have scheduled are going to be guided by the Coopers Rock Foundation and Friends of Deckers Creek. For more information about specific times of programs, please email sscecosummit13@gmail.com.

Our second event is our annual spring fundraiser, the Sierra Swing. This event is held at the music venue 123 Pleasant Street in Morgantown. The event is made up of bands and craft vendors. The specific date has yet to be determined, but those interested in attending can email us at the above email address for more information about this event.

See you at the Eco Summit!

Energy Efficiency Contest! Entries Due April 1

First Energy and American Electric Power say it's necessary for its West Virginia customers (that's us!) to finance the purchase of three antique power stations to supply our energy needs from now until the grandkids grow up. We have to accept this, they say, because our energy demand is projected to grow 1-1.5 percent per year. Well, we say, "We can think of ways to *reduce* our demand by the same percentage each year and that will save us all a lot of money and trouble." (We, the customers, will save a couple billion dollars!)

Here's the contest:

Do you have some imaginative way of saving energy? Something so quirky you wouldn't actually admit to it? Maybe a special way of making the kids turn off the lights? What's your creative energy-saving secret? You can remain anonymous if you wish (for instance, if your idea involves smearing bug juice on light switches), but we hope to share the best ideas in a future issue of this newsletter.

Oh, right, the prize. All we can tell you right now is that there will be one and it will be different. Depending on the number of entries, there may be prizes for different categories and age levels. So, everyone put on your thinking caps!

- * Anyone is eligible to enter the contest.
- * Entries should be received by April 1 (no foolin').
- * Send your ideas for conserving energy to Carol Nix at almostnixie@cs.com with "Energy Contest" in the subject line.

Winners will be notified by e-mail and announced in the May-June issue of the *Mountain State Sierran*.

Save Money, Create Jobs: How Energy Efficiency Can Work for West Virginia

A new report prepared for Sierra Club with funds from the Beyond Copal Campaign can be viewed on our Chapter website. The 28-page report describes how WV utilities could save money for ratepayers and create jobs by investing in energy efficiency.

The report is embedded on our website and available for download at <http://westvirginia.sierraclub.org/announcements/p027.html>

Book Review

Richard Mier, Martinsburg

William Souder begins his recent and lovely Rachel Carson biography recounting a 1962 press conference. It was, in fact, the 42nd one of JFK's presidency and among the questions concerning Nikita Khrushchev, Cuba and Felix Frankfurter's retirement was one regarding "...the possibility of dangerous long-range side effects from the widespread use of DDT and other pesticides..." It was "since Miss Carson's book" as JFK answered, that this issue had edged into national consciousness. It's easy to forget, now, how important her book, *Silent Spring*, was to the nascent environmental movement. This was of course before the EPA, the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. It was before environmentalism and ecology became words of common parlance. This was when the government itself was using organochlorine insecticides by the ton.

At that time, hundreds of atomic bombs had been exploded above ground by the U.S., the Soviets and others, and fears regarding radioactive fallout — despite governmental reassurances — began to compete with fears of nuclear annihilation. I myself remember collecting my baby teeth as a child in St. Louis where a group (which included Barry Commoner) was measuring the radioactivity of deciduous teeth resulting from drinking milk which had become contaminated with strontium 90. The public was, in a way, primed to become concerned about pesticides because of the already existing uneasiness resulting from above-ground nuclear testing.

People were also primed to pay attention as a result of Miss Carson's visibility as a celebrated writer and biologist, though not, up to that point, a writer with a political mission. By the time *Silent Spring* was published in 1962, she had already had three books on the New York Times Best Sellers List (*Under the Sea Wind* published originally in 1941 and reissued in 1952, *The Sea Around Us* published in 1951, and *The Edge of the Sea* in 1955). By that time also she was dying of breast cancer.

William Souder tells her story gracefully and with quiet affection. He is able both to provide us with a vivid notion of this courageous (grace under fire) woman and also to place her and her work in the context of what was occurring at the time. It's a wonderful read.

E-Day at the Capitol March 14, Charleston, WV

The West Virginia Environmental Council's annual **E-Day! At the Capitol** will be held on **Thursday, March 14** from **9:00AM** until **3:00PM**. Display areas will be in the Senate & House hallways, upper rotunda and alcoves this year.

WVEC invites environmental organizations, artists and sustainable businesses to participate. We are focusing on "citizen lobbying" and ask that you encourage your membership and clients to join us as we visit legislators and sit in on committee meetings of interest. Informative displays, demonstrations, and items for sale are permitted. All ideas for more activities are welcome.

Our annual E-Day Benefit Dinner will be held the same evening — Women's Club of Charleston, corner of Elizabeth St. and Virginia Ave., 6-9PM. Please join us if you are able to stay in town.

Please contact us with questions, suggested activities by your organization, and referrals.

Set up time: 7:30–8:45AM

* Enter through the **Greenbrier Street** entrance and guard station.

* Please let the guards know you are there to set up a display for E-Day, and they will direct you around the back circle of the capitol, with easy access to the elevator.

Displays: 9AM–3PM

* We are unable to tape anything to the walls — displays must be free standing, or on tables. **Please bring your own table, chairs / display units. These are no longer supplied by the state capitol.**

Confirm your reservation by e-mailing Kevin Smith, E-Day Chair, at a_clean_wv@yahoo.com or calling him at 304-476-3259.

We need you now more than ever. Democracy is a participation sport. Come out and join us!

On a Farther Shore: The Life and Legacy of Rachel Carson by William Souder

Letters to the Editor

ARE WE TAXPAYERS OR SUCKERS?

Regina Hendrix, Charles Town

Thank you, Sean O'Leary for your "Definition of a Schmuck" article, which awakened me to one more way the WV taxpayer is being ripped off. Subsidies of \$1.57 billion for businesses that have produced no net increase in jobs since 2000! Indeed! We in the Eastern Panhandle are not getting the truth about how our tax money is being spent even though we contribute more than our fair share.

Another big rip-off, which is not so well known in the Panhandle, is the tax dollars being used to clean up after coal mining. Millions of our taxpayer dollars are being spent to build roads and bridges in remote areas of WV for use by the coal industry. Many of the deep mines closed prior to 1977 require constant lime treatments which are being done at taxpayer expense.

As to the MTR sites, the coal companies are splitting out into subsidiaries so that they can be bankrupt when the coal runs out. They leave town and forfeit the woefully inadequate bond money, leaving the state taxpayers to pay the clean up tab in perpetuity. The poverty and bad health of coalfield citizens are costing us a bundle of Medicare and financial assistance money. The coal barons who live in N.Y, Richmond and St. Louis don't care because they don't live here. They just want to keep the big bucks coming. The EPA's war on coal that is frequently mentioned in the media is a myth. There is no war on coal. Coal is waging a war on WV taxpayers.

Meanwhile, we taxpayers in the Eastern Panhandle are picking up the tab and being denied the funding we need for education, roads and decent infrastructure. Are we going to let this continue? If so, we are the suckers.

(Editor's Note: The use of the term "schmuck" is in no way intended to be offensive. Sean O'Leary's complete article may be found at <http://www.the-state-of-my-state.com/2012/12/the-definition-of-schmuck-pub-date.html>)

DEAR SIERRA CLUB LEADERS

David Cooper, Lexington, KY

I am writing to express my deep and sincere appreciation for the Sierra Club's support for youth and student organizing in Appalachia.

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1985, Group Chair for the Bluegrass Group for four years, Chapter Conservation Chair, Program Chair, etc.

My other role during the past decade has been speaking to college student groups about mountaintop removal mining while on the Mountaintop Removal Road Show (which is now on hiatus). I have also been heavily involved with the Mountain Justice group since its inception in 2004, helping organize and mentor young people and students, and keeping this group going.

With Mountain Justice and similar organizations that engage in civil disobedience, we are sometimes limited by our financial situation. We don't have non-profit status (for philosophical reasons) and we don't apply for grants.

But when I look at the aging of the Sierra Club's membership, it makes me pretty nervous. I feel strongly that the Club is wise to be working with and recruiting from the student leaders in groups like Mountain Justice. There are some very smart, high-quality, self-motivated young people working in Appalachia now, and I believe that they are the future leaders of the environmental movement in the region.

So I am very happy to see the Sierra Club's continued willingness to work with these student groups, as well as the resources being put into Appalachia and the Beyond Coal campaign. We also have some excellent Sierra Club staff in the region. I think all this will pay great dividends for the club — and the planet — in the long run.

Thanks again, and I look forward to seeing you all in DC at the Climate Challenge on February 17.

Mountain Justice Spring Break 2013

March 10-17 in
Northern West Virginia

Come to Mountain Justice Spring Break and support grassroots, community led resistance to environmental injustice!

Learn about and take action against the destructive effects of the dirty life-cycles of coal and natural gas!

Stand in solidarity with the communities in West Virginia and southwest Pennsylvania facing the ongoing destruction of coal mining and hydraulic fracturing!

See mountaintop removal coal mining and hydraulic fracturing natural gas extraction up close!

Take direct action against the dirty coal industry!

This March, Mountain Justice Spring Break (MJSB) will bring together coalfield residents, college students, environmentalists and concerned citizens who are interested in learning more about mountaintop removal coal mining and hydro fracking.

On March 10-17, we will spend a week in central WV cultivating the skills and visions needed to build a sustainable energy future in Appalachia. Through education, community service, speakers, hiking, music, poetry, direct action and more, you will learn from and stand with Appalachian communities in the struggle to maintain our land and culture. Mountain Justice Spring Break will also offer a variety of community service projects.

MJSB in West Virginia will be held at a lodge in Doddridge County Park, surrounded by wooded hills and a pretty mountain creek, and lots of fracking for natural gas. The Doddridge County Park is easy to find, off of US 50 about halfway between Clarksburg and Parkersburg, and convenient to Interstates 77 and 79.

For more information about MJSB in West Virginia and to register, go to www.mjsb.org

Questions? Dave Cooper, 941-323-0565

Let's Start a Virtual Book Club

Responses to a recent Sierra Club survey e-mailed to Chapter members indicated an interest in forming a book club on environmental topics. There is a free website, bookclubit.com, that offers space and a format for conducting a virtual book club. Sally Wilts has volunteered to take the lead on getting this book club started, but she will need help. If anyone has experience with book clubs, Sally welcomes your input.

If you are interested in participating, please recommend a favorite book related to the environment, or one you've been meaning to read, along with your reasons for suggesting it. Send your suggestions to Sally at: sallywilts@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Outings — Spring / Summer

Please contact the Editor for submission guidelines or advertising rates.

Contributions to the newsletter may be sent to the Editor at

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

**Deadline for
May/June issue
April 4**

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.



Sat, Mar 9 Aquatic Habitat Workshop

not rated — Join WV Master Naturalists for this fun, interactive, hands-on workshop at one at our member's farm in Ritchie County. Guest Speaker Craig Maines will cover aquatic habitats and discuss the effects of acid mine drainage. Class will be followed by hands-on demonstrations of stream monitoring. The workshop is free of charge and open to members & nonmembers. Please pre-register with the leader, seating is limited. Bring bag lunch. Workshop is from 9AM to 5PM. Contact the Outing Leader for further directions and questions.

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

Nearest town: Ellenboro, WV

Sat, Mar 16 Valley Falls State Park

rated strenuous — This is a **STRENUOUS** hike of about 7.5 miles along the Tygart Valley River between Grafton and Fairmont, WV. We will do a loop through the park and stop to see the water falls along the way. There are steep/rocky sections that can be a bit tricky. Bring snack/water, trekking poles can be helpful. Contact Leader for start time & rendezvous location.

Leader: Aaron Vedock, 540-805-0019, amvedock@hotmail.com

Nearest town: Fairmont, WV

Web info: www.valleyfallsstatepark.com

Sat, Mar 16 Cacapon State Park

rated moderate to strenuous — This will be a 7-mile loop hike with moderately strenuous ascents and descents. Plan on 3.5 hours for hike. Meet up in the park lodge lobby at 9:30AM. For details and to register contact trip leader.

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

Nearest town: Berkeley Springs, WV

Web info: www.cacaponresort.com

Sat, Mar 30 Service Outing — Garlic Mustard Pull Ohio River Islands NWR

not rated — Walk the trails of the refuge along the Ohio River and pull this invasive species between 10AM and 12:30PM. After the pull, enjoy some delicious dishes made from garlic mustard. Conservation Topic: Invasive Species. Meet at Refuge Headquarters in Williamstown at 10AM. Contact the Outing Leader for further directions and questions.

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

Nearest town: Williamstown, WV

Web info: www.fws.gov/northeast/ohioriverislands

Sat, Apr 6 Adopt-a-Trail Spring Clean-up — Coopers Rock SF

not rated — The WV Sierra Club will be leading a spring trail clean-up at Coopers Rock State Forest. Work will be along an easy 1.25 mile loop that includes the adopted 0.6 miles of the Intermediate Cross Country Ski Trail. Much of the activity will be cleaning out and restoring drainage ditches and culverts clogged from winter's processes, as well as general trail clearing. Some moderate intensity work will be necessary; using shovels, rakes, pruners, and moving reasonably sized rocks. Volunteers should wear sturdy boots, and carry work gloves, water, 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. For additional information and to register contact the leader.

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

Nearest town: Morgantown, WV

Web info: www.coopersrockstateforest.com;coopersrock.org

Sat, Apr 13 Terrestrial Habitats & Mammals Workshop

not rated — Join WV Master Naturalists for this fun, interactive, hands-on workshop on Terrestrial Habitats and Mammals at the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge. The workshop is free of charge and open to members & nonmembers. Please pre-register with the leader, seating is limited. Bring bag lunch (fridge & microwave available). Workshop is from 8:30AM to 4:30PM. Meet at Refuge Headquarters in Williamstown at 8:30AM. Contact the Outing Leader for further directions and questions.

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

Nearest town: Williamstown, WV

Web info: www.fws.gov/northeast/ohioriverislands



Sun, Apr 14 Service Outing — Coopers Rock SF

not rated — Join us as we team up with the Coopers Rock Foundation to do some much-needed trail work at Coopers Rock State Forest from 1PM to 5PM. Volunteers seeking community service are encouraged to participate. Focus of this outing, will be to improve drainage on the trails. Tools will be provided, but volunteers should feel free to bring along their own tools (shovels, rakes, pickaxe, etc.). Volunteers should wear sturdy boots and carry work gloves, water, snacks.

Volunteers will be required to sign a standard Sierra Club Liability Waiver and a DNR Volunteer Work Program Agreement. Meet at Coopers Rock Day Use Lot at 1PM. Please pre-register with the leader.

Co-Leaders: Aaron Vedock, 540-805-0019, amvedock@hotmail.com & Adam Polinski

Nearest town: Morgantown, WV

Web info: www.coopersrockstateforest.com

Sat, Apr 20 Half Moon Trail Loop and Overlook — George Washington NF

rated strenuous — This is a VERY strenuous 9.6-mile hike with steep rocky footing and tricky stream crossings. We will do a loop from the forest service parking area up the mountain, crossing Halfmoon Run several times, and then go to the Halfmoon Overlook and down the Halfmoon Trail. This hike will take 5-5.5 hours. Trip leader reserves the option to shorten the hike if the river is too high to safely cross. Meet up at the Dollar General Store in Wardensville at 9:30AM. For details and to register contact trip leader.

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

Nearest town: Wardensville, WV

Web info: www.hardycounty.com/files/documents/Great_North_trails_map-info2011-smres.pdf

Sat, Apr 20 Service Outing — Valley Falls SP

not rated — Join us for our first Service Outing of the year at Valley Falls State Park. Volunteers seeking community service are encouraged to participate. Focus of this outing will be to clear trails of fallen tree limbs, take care of drainage issues, and possibly to blaze some trails. This is a place where a day or two of effort by Sierra Club members can make a huge, positive difference to a cash-strapped state agency by improving the safety of trails for all hikers. Volunteers should wear sturdy boots, and carry work gloves, wa-

Perspectives on Outings

— Russ Flowers, Outings Chair

Greetings from Your New Outings Chair!



My name is Russ Flowers and I'm your new Chapter Outings Chair. I live in Williamstown with my wife Sue, who is also a member of the WV Sierra Club. Being a lifelong state resident, a West Virginia Master Naturalist, and an avid outdoorsman, I am very excited to serve in this position and

hope to continue the high standards set by Dan Soeder.

Dan became my mentor as an outings leader (OL) on my first Sierra Club hike. Afterwards he trained me to lead Chapter outings. This rekindled my love for the outdoors and got me outside again to enjoy our state's beauty and natural treasures. When I saw that Dan was stepping down as Outings Chair due to work obligations, I realized the timing was right for an opportunity to give back to the Club.

Sue and I are currently empty nesters, with a son in North Carolina and a daughter in Colorado. This allows us to see more of the country while visiting them, but also gives us a chance to appreciate our own state. We enjoy taking long weekends and week-long vacations camping and exploring West Virginia.

Our state is blessed with so many beautiful places, such as state and national parks, national forests, nature preserves, etc. We have our favorite spots, such as Dolly Sods, Canaan Valley, and the New River. But we are always excited when we get to explore and discover any of the state's hidden jewels by accident or by talking with the locals. As the new Outings Chair I look forward to getting to know more members while seeing more of the state on more outings.

As Chair, one of my goals is to expand the outings program. One way I hope to do

that is by encouraging all members to participate in at least one of our outings. Outings are created for all skill levels, offered in all seasons, and we offer something for lots of different interest areas (hiking, biking, canoeing, nature walks, skiing, workshops, service projects, etc.). Outings are a great way to meet up with old friends, meet new ones, and to fellowship around like-minded people. Our outings are open to members and non-members, so invite a friend or two.

After participating in some outings, if you should decide you want to lead your own, we'd be glad to arrange a training session. We already have a great team of OL's but are always looking for additional motivated individuals. Becoming an OL isn't that difficult. All one needs to do is complete the OLT101 course, a Basic First Aid course (offered at local American Red Cross or local hospital), and lead a provisional hike supervised by an OL.

Traditionally, the OLT101 course has been offered annually, but we will make the training more accessible by offering it at various flexible times throughout the state. Keep in mind the OLT101 course is also offered online. If you are interested in participating in an outing or interested in becoming an outings leader, please feel free to contact me or one of the many outstanding outings leaders.

Take to the Outdoors!

Upcoming Outings — Spring / Summer



ter, 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: Aaron Vedock, 540-805-0019, amvedock@hotmail.com

Nearest town: Fairmont, WV

Web info: www.valleyfallsstatepark.com

Sun, Apr 21

Nature Hike at North Bend SP

rated moderate — Join the park naturalist for this 5-mile guided hike around the North Bend Lake. Discover the wide variety of flora and fauna as the trail winds along the perimeter of the lake. Conservation Topic: Salamanders. Please pre-register with the leader, number of hikers are limited. Meet at park lodge at 1PM. Bring water and snacks. Contact the Outing Leader for further directions and questions.

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

Nearest town: Harrisville, WV

Web info: www.northbendsp.com/

Sat, Apr 27

Wildflowers & Insects at North Bend SP

rated easy — Join WV Master Naturalists for this fun, interactive, hands-on wildflower & insects workshop at North Bend State Park. After a short class presented by Brad Bond & Emily Grafton, we will leisurely walk the park trails to see and examine the wide variety of wildflowers and insects. The workshop is free of charge and open to members & nonmembers. Please pre-register with the leader, seating is limited. Bring bag lunch or restaurant at park. Workshop is from 9AM to 5PM. Contact the Outing Leader for further directions and questions.

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

Nearest town: Harrisville, WV

Web info: www.northbendsp.com/

Sat, May 4

East Fork Trail of Greenbrier River

rated easy to moderate — The scenic East Fork Trail follows the East Fork of the Greenbrier River through hemlock stands, pine plantations, and past many small waterfalls, extending 8 miles from the Island Campground in Thornwood to Pig's Ear Road (Forest Service Road 254) on Elk Mountain. This will be a shuttle hike. Most of the trail is level with a couple of moderate inclines: some sections of the trail are rocky with tree roots. Hike is okay for beginners, limit: 10 hikers. We will have two leaders, Point and Sweep, because people will want to stop at various places to take pictures, etc. Leader has knowledge of the area. Sturdy footwear suggested. Participants should bring rain gear, snacks, and water. Conservation Topic: Leave No Trace. Meet at 10AM at the Island Campground on Rt. 28 near Thornwood, WV, in the Monongahela National Forest in Pocahontas County. Please pre-register with leader.

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

Nearest town: Thornwood, WV

Sat, May 4

Quebec Run Wild Area

rated moderate — Join us on this 6-mile loop hike just north of Morgantown in the heavily forested Quebec Run Wild Area in Pennsylvania. Rated moderate difficulty for areas of steep incline and decline and a stream crossing. Trip length approximately 4-5 hours. Participants should have previous hiking experience and be able to hike 1.5-2 mph in variable terrain. Bring rain gear, lunch

and water. Car-pool from Cheat Lake Exit off I-68. Car-pooling is a private arrangement among the participants and Sierra Club assumes no liability. Please pre-register with the leader.

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

Nearest town: Bruceton Mills, WV

Web info: www.dcnr.state.pa.us/ucmprd1/groups/public/.../dcnr_002563.pdf

Sat, May 25

Laurel Fork Special Management Area

rated easy to moderate — Hike Bucks Run and Locust Spring Run Trails in the Laurel Fork Special Management Area. These trails have been upgraded in the past two years. This 6-mile loop trail follows old railroad grades along two mountain streams with mini waterfalls and cascades; elevation changes about 700 feet. Most of the trail is easy with a few small creek crossings, some short rocky areas of the trail, and one short switchback elevation drop on part of the trail. Hike is okay for beginners, limit: 10 hikers. We will have two leaders, Point and Sweep, because people will want to stop at various places to take pictures, etc. Leader has knowledge of the area. Sturdy footwear suggested. Participants should bring rain gear, lunch and water.

Conservation Topic: Water-shed area. Meet at 10 AM at the Locust Springs Picnic Area off Rt. 28 at Pocahontas/Pendleton County lines. Please pre-register with leader.

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

Nearest town: Circleville, WV

Sat, Jun 8

Cheat River Leisure Float/Paddle

rated easy — We put in at Holly Meadow in Tucker County for a leisurely float-and-paddle down the Cheat River to St. George. Enjoy the riverine scenery of forest, farm fields, summer wildflowers, possibly wildlife (bald eagle last year) and more with the mountains as a backdrop. The trip is generally flatwater, with a few riffles providing brief excitement here and there. Expect to spend about 4 hours on the river. It is suitable for beginners. Boat rentals are available. Kayaks and sit-on-tops are recommended for their shallow draft. The outing depends on warm weather and adequate water level. Personal Floatation devices

(lifejackets) are required on Sierra Club watercraft outings. Optional late lunch/snack at local Parsons bistro afterwards. Rain or high wind cancels. Please pre-register with leader.

Leader: Jim Sconyers, 304-698-9628, jimscon@gmail.com

Nearest towns: St. George & Parsons, WV

Sun, Jun 16

Upper Blackwater River Leisure Float/Paddle

rated easy — Join us for a leisurely float-and-paddle up the Upper Blackwater and back down. Enjoy lush streamside scenery as we wind our way through high banks, glades, and forest into Canaan Valley. The trip is generally flatwater and very scenic; expect to spend about 4 hours on the river. It is suitable for beginners. Kayaks and sit-on-tops are recommended for their shallow draft. The outing depends on warm weather and adequate water level. Personal Floatation devices (lifejackets) are required on Sierra Club watercraft outings. Optional late lunch/snack at local Davis bistro afterwards. Rain or high wind cancels. Please pre-register with leader.

Leader: Jim Sconyers, 304-698-9628, jimscon@gmail.com

Nearest town: Davis, WV



Sun, Sep 8

Dolly Sods North Day Hike

rated moderate — Dolly Sods North was added to the Dolly Sods Wilderness in 2009. Come and see why! We'll explore the forest, savanna, streams, and the natural and human history. Dolly Sods North is a high alpine landscape with spectacular scenery, encompassing the headwaters of Red Creek. Our trail distance is approximately 8 miles. Grades are generally moderate, and this hike rates as leisure for difficulty and moderate for length. We will keep a leisurely pace with numerous stops to "smell the roses." Our route focuses on the more northerly trails in the upper parts of the headlands. Day-hiking gear is needed, along with plenty of water, sunscreen, and weather protection. Please pre-register with leader.

Leader: Jim Sconyers, 304-698-9628, jimscon@gmail.com

Nearest town: Harman, WV

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.

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

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

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

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March /April 2013



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West Virginia Sierra Club Chapter Directory

Chapter Executive Committee

Jim Sconyers ('13) Chair 304-698-9628
jimscon@gmail.com

* **Gary Nelson ('14) Vice Chair** 304-258-6669
glnelson1@frontier.com

Jim Kotcon ('13) 304-594-3322
jkotcon@wvu.edu

David Sturm ('14) 304-363-7160
davidsturm@ymail.com

Liz Wiles ('14) 206-795-0701
Liz_Wiles@comcast.net

* Chapter Delegate to National Sierra Club

Monongahela Group ExCom

* **Carol Nix ('13) Chair** 304-864-6411
almostnixie@cs.com

David Sturm ('14) Vice Chair 304-363-7160
davidsturm@ymail.com

Hannah Spencer ('14) 304-282-6798
hspencer22@gmail.com

Aaron Vedock ('13) 540-805-0019
amvedock@hotmail.com

Doug Gilbert ('13) 681-285-9867
doug@deckerscreek.org

* Mon Group Delegate to Chapter ExCom

Other Chapter Leaders

Archives / Chapter History Kathy Gregg
304-473-8124, gregg@wwc.edu

Conservation / Energy Jim Kotcon
304-594-3322, jkotcon@wvu.edu

Environmental Education Gwen Jones
304-599-5815, gwenjones23@yahoo.com

Forest Watch Beth Little
304-653-4277, blittle@citynet.net

Fundraising (vacant)

Marcellus Campaign David Sturm
304-363-7160, davidsturm@ymail.com

Membership Ron Liller
304-788-2030, RLliller@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor Candice Elliott
304-594-3322, celliot2@comcast.net

Outings Russ Flowers
304-482-7919, russwvu@yahoo.com

Political Denise Binion
304-669-0247, dbinion@gmail.com

Secretary (vacant)

SSC, WVU Hannah Spencer
hspencer22@gmail.com

Treasurer Sally Wilts
304-379-7567, sallywilts@yahoo.com

Webmaster Paul Wilson
304-725-4360, pjgrunt@gmail.com

Regional Sierra Club Staff

WVSC Outreach Organizer Chuck Wyrostock
877-252-0257, outreach@marcellus-wv.com

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@wv.gov

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



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

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