

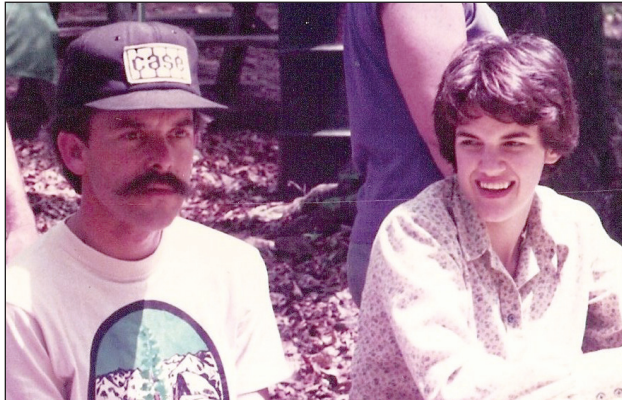
M Mountain State Sierran

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September/October 2014

Blast from the past



These two WV Chapter founding members attended the first "SierraFest" 31 years ago. Both will be joining us at this year's celebration of the Chapter's 30th anniversary. * (If you don't recognize them, their identities are on p. 6)

SierraFest 2014, Sept. 19-21 Blackwater Falls State Park

Register now for a fun-filled weekend of entertaining and educational workshops, music, food and reminiscence. Several guests and "celebrities" from the early days of the Chapter will be on hand to offer insights to the "next generation" on how to organize a movement.

Registration through Sept. 5 is only \$15/person. After that, it is \$25/person through Sept. 12, when registration closes. A limited number of rooms have been reserved at reduced prices. Online payment is available.

For details, see the July/August newsletter, or visit westvirginia.sierraclub.org and click on the SierraFest link.

Items still needed for the Silent Auction

If you have items to donate, contact Regina Hendrix, 304-725-0223 (home), 304-590-4943 (cell), or regina.hendrix@comcast.net.

Election News: Water villains falling!

Based on voting records and bills sponsored, 34 water villains were recognized in the West Virginia Sierra Club's legislative scorecard (available at westvirginia.sierraclub.org under "Announcements").

WV Delegates Ted Tomblin and Larry Kump lost Primary election races, and Delegate Suzette Raines withdrew after questions arose about her residency and failing to file campaign finance reports. Several others have retired. Learn how you can help elect a better Legislature by contacting the Political Committee, at 304-594-3322.

WV Environmental Council Oct. 17-19, Ripley Cedar Lakes Conference Center

Mark your calendars now for the annual WVEC Convention, learn about key environmental issues, celebrate 25 years of protecting the environment, and help set the agenda for the next session. Details at wvecouncil.org.

WV Sierrans make presence felt at D.C. and Pittsburgh EPA hearings

Regina Hendrix

The Sierra Club sponsored a bus that took 29 representatives from WV's Eastern Panhandle to the Tuesday, July 29, EPA Clean Power hearing in Washington, D.C. The bus stopped in Martinsburg and Charles Town before proceeding to EPA Headquarters.

I was pleased with the turnout on a Tuesday, in the middle of the week. This is the best turnout of supporters that I've seen since I moved to the Eastern Panhandle five years ago. Of the 29 citizens who traveled to D.C. with Sierra Club, 11 testified in favor of the proposed regulations. The other 18 supported the enactment of the regulations and a push for energy efficiency.

U.S. Rep. Shelley Moore Capito attended the hearing and expressed her opposition to the EPA's plan to reduce power plant pollution.

Graham White, of Martinsburg, spoke in regard to the viability of renewable energy and its efficiency. White said there are more jobs available in renewable energy than in the coal industry.

Daniel Chiotos, Sierra Club's Energy Efficiency organizer, agreed that the proposed plan would provide more jobs within the state, and he said those jobs should be union jobs.

I spoke of my decision to leave my home in Charleston, WV, because of the polluted air and water. I now live in Charles Town. Excerpts from my testimony are reprinted here:

"Good afternoon, my name is Regina Hendrix. I was born in the Kanawha Valley in Southern WV into a family of eight. Six of my family members have had cancer. Through the years, numerous friends and

relatives have suffered with cancer, asthma and other maladies brought on by the poisoned water and air in the coalfields. I became so concerned about the pollution from chemicals and the extractive industries that I left the area in 2009 and came to live in the Eastern Panhandle.

"As a West Virginian living in the Panhandle I'm free of the polluted air and water; however, I'm not free of paying the price of clean up for our extractive industries, which are being allowed to externalize the costs of mining. The cost of mining is being passed on to taxpayers because there is insufficient bond put up by the companies at permit time. The companies then spin off their subsidiaries into separate entities. When the coal is gone the company is bankrupt. They forfeit the bond and leave a large clean up bill for the taxpayer. Many of these sites will belch out selenium, mercury and all forms of acid drainage in perpetuity.

(...)

"This EPA rule means we finally do something serious to control greenhouse gases. It will save thousands of lives and is justified by the health benefits alone. We can help bring prosperity back to WV with the jobs created by our investment in energy efficiency and renewables."



(above) The Eastern Panhandle group gathers for a photo, in Washington, D.C.

(right) A group of WV Sierrans joined other groups at a press conference and rally in Pittsburgh, then marched to the hearing. While a large street protest by United Mine Workers generated lots of press, supporters of the Clean Power Plan out-numbered opponents at the hearing.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

EPA's new carbon limits and what they mean for West Virginia

Sandra Fallon

West Virginia has the opportunity to diversify its energy sources, help ensure affordable electricity prices for attracting new industry and develop thousands of new jobs in the energy efficiency sector by implementing the Environmental Protection Agency's new Clean Power Plan, according to experts who spoke at a July 15 public forum in Morgantown. About 30 people attended the event, which was co-sponsored by the West Virginia University Sierra Student Coalition (SSC), League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia, and the Monongahela Group of the WV Sierra Club. SSC Secretary Catherine O'Hearn moderated the discussion.

The Clean Power Plan offers the first-ever guidelines for reducing carbon dioxide emissions — the chief cause of climate change — from existing electric power plants. James Van Nostrand, associate professor and director of the WVU College of Law's Center for Energy and Sustainable Development, and Mary Anne Hitt, with Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, offered their analyses.

Van Nostrand explained that the EPA

has the authority to regulate carbon dioxide as a pollutant under the Clean Air Act, and it proposed standards for carbon emissions from new power plants in January 2014. Then, on June 2, the agency released the Clean Power Plan for existing power plants. After a 120-day public comment period (comments can still be submitted through Oct. 16), the EPA will issue the final rule in June 2015. Each state will submit an implementation plan to the EPA by June 2016.

Clean Power Plan strategies to reduce carbon emissions

The Clean Power Plan offers four building blocks that states can use: making fossil fuel power plants operate more efficiently; using lower carbon-emitting power sources such as natural gas instead of coal; transitioning to more zero- and low-emitting power sources, including renewables, nuclear and other non-carbon emitting sources; and using electricity more efficiently through, for example, energy efficiency programs that allow homes and businesses to use less electricity.

By 2030, West Virginia is expected to lower carbon dioxide emissions by 20 percent, a lower percentage than many other

states. Van Nostrand said West Virginia will achieve the greatest carbon reductions by implementing energy efficiency programs for homes and businesses and increasing the development of renewables, including hydropower, followed by increasing energy efficiency operations inside the plant. However, the WV Department of Environmental Protection, who will develop the implementation plan, appears to be focused only on increasing efficiency inside the plant. Ignoring the other building blocks will make it more difficult and costly to achieve compliance, says Van Nostrand. To take advantage of all the building blocks, the DEP, the state's air regulator, and the Public Service Commission, the state's energy regulator with authority over utility rates and energy efficiency programs, must communicate with each other.

Implementing the Plan Will Improve Health and Create Jobs

According to Hitt, the EPA has both the authority and the obligation to regulate carbon dioxide emissions to address the threats climate change poses to human health and well-being, including respiratory problems, infectious diseases, rising sea levels and increasing wildfires.

She said West Virginia's electric utility companies are capable of creating many more energy efficiency programs for customers, which would help lower electric bills and create almost 20,000 manufacturing, installation and energy-audit jobs.

It's important to realize that the Clean Power Plan is an incremental step toward reducing carbon emissions, she said. It does not eliminate coal production. The Sierra Club is working closely with organized labor to address the economic transition for workers who may be affected.

What You Can Do to support the Clean Power Plan

The Clean Power Plan will face Congressional opposition and legal challenges before being finalized. West Virginia already joined 11 other coal-friendly states in early August to sue the EPA over the proposed regulations. It's important to voice your support for the Clean Power Plan by contacting Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin and the West Virginia DEP, writing letters to state and federal representatives and letters to the editor, and talking to your neighbors.

Nominations sought for Executive Committees (ExCom) by Nov. 1

Both the Monongahela Group and the state Chapter need candidates for their respective ExCom elections this December. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in helping guide the Club's direction over the next two years, or want more information about what the position entails, please send your name, contact information and interests to Sally Wilts: sallywilts@yahoo.com.

Save the date:

Water & Wellness Conference 2014 Oct 3-4, Charleston

The West Virginia Chapter of Sierra Club and other environmental organizations are planning and promoting the 2014 Water & Wellness Conference, to be held in Charleston, Oct. 3-4. The goal of the event is to illuminate the adverse health effects of the fossil fuel industry on our water and our lives.

This third annual conference features two North America Goldman Prize winners, 2014 winner Helen Slottje, of New York, and our own Maria Gunnoe, the 2009 winner.

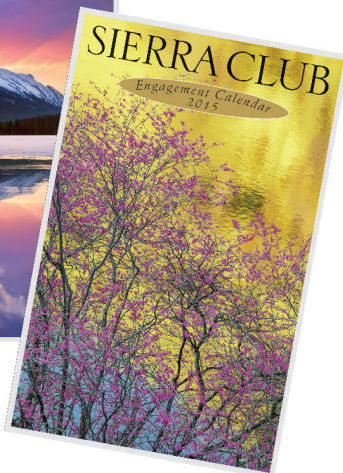
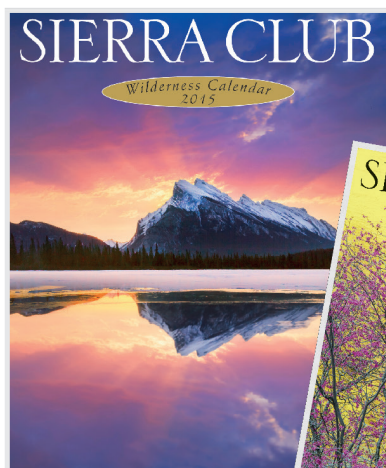
Also on the keynote speaker list is Executive Director of the Kanawha/Charleston Health Department Dr. Rahul Gupta, a key medical advisor during the January chemical spill in Charleston.

The event will be at the Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, in Charleston, and kicks off Friday night with musical entertainment. Check marcellus-wv.com and ohvec.org soon for updates, or contact Chuck Wyrostok, at outreach@marcellus-wv.com or 877-252-0257, or Robin Blakeman, at rrobinjh@gmail.com.



Enjoy, explore and protect the planet

2015 Sierra Club Calendars



Order Form

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Calendars may also be ordered online at store.wvsierraclub.org or by contacting Candice Elliott, celliot2@comcast.net, 304-594-3322



Help your Chapter stay strong for the hard work we do to keep West Virginia wild and wonderful. Make a quick and easy donation from the Chapter's home page: westvirginia.sierraclub.org

Book Review

The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History
by Elizabeth Kolbert

Review by Richard Mier, Martinsburg

The other night I happened to be watching a very good nature show that featured, among other beautiful animals, the Amur leopard. This beautiful carnivore lives in Siberia and because of the usual things, including hunting and habitat loss, is now critically endangered. Perhaps only several dozen remain in the wild, perhaps fewer. After my sad, but brief, mental tsk-tsk, I became distracted as the show went on to other beautiful things, including animals that weren't endangered. The poor Amur leopard receded into the background.

Reading "The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History" brings the process of species loss to the forefront, rounding it up in a process of geological proportions. We live now in the Anthropocene, an epoch of our own making. We are changing our planet in degrees, similar to the dramatic changes Earth has experienced before. What we are doing is no different from what asteroids did 65 million years ago. Huge species die-offs occurred then and are occurring now — too many to document on television shows.

Elizabeth Kolbert tells this story clearly, in well-written chapters that explore different times and spaces. They include a history of the notion that loss of species does occur, something that no one apparently had thought about until the 1800s. And once accepted — that species loss occurs — she describes the history of the ideas that attempt to explain why, pitting the "catastrophists" against the "uniformitarians."

The story is full of idiosyncratic characters, such as Walter Alvarez. Walter, a geologist, noticed something strange while working on plate tectonics in Italy in the '70s: that the limestone from the late Cretaceous period, right before the Fifth Extinction, had abundant fossilized foraminifera, tiny ancient sea creatures, but in the clay above it, there were none. Luckily, an Italian colleague who was an expert on foraminifera pointed this out to him. Also luckily for Walter, his father,

Luis, was a Nobel prize-winning physicist who was as fascinated by all this as his son and suggested that they check the level of iridium in this clay strata. Though rare on earth, iridium is more abundant in meteorites. When the clay level was found to be loaded with iridium, father and son reasoned that a huge meteorite was responsible for the late Cretaceous loss of a large number of species, including the dinosaurs. Though initially ridiculed, they were eventually found to be right.

In addition to journeys in the past, she takes us also on journeys in the present, to Castello Aragonese, The Great Barrier Reef and the Peruvian rain forest, among other places. Each trip is a travelogue that teaches a lesson. The lessons come with wonderful descriptions of exotic places and include lucid and understandable conversations with the scientists involved in the investigations. She writes about bat die off from white nose syndrome and frog loss from chytrid fungi and about efforts at zoos and other places to save species on the edge. She successfully takes a specific organism, sea urchins for one, in its own niche and leads us carefully to an explanation of why it is in trouble and what that trouble teaches us about other species in trouble.

Kolbert is not only a wonderful science writer but is also a wonderful storyteller. She is often funny and earthy. The book comes with a bibliography, explanatory notes and references, and a detailed index. It is well researched and thoughtful. In addition, she is trying to help us see the forest for the trees. The particularity of seeing one species lost, like the Amur leopard, portrayed movingly on one television show sometimes distracts us from understanding that this is an ongoing global catastrophe. It is not as if we are about to face mass species extinction. In fact, we are in the midst of mass extinction right now. Understanding this is central to doing something about it, and that is why this book is a must-read.

View from the Chair

Jim Sconyers, Chapter Chair

Useless Birds of a Feather

Some get flamingoes;
we get ostriches

Tacky, useless lawn ornamentation

I'm pretty sure you've seen them. In fact — excuse me if I step on your toes — maybe you have some yourself. My son in Boston has a couple in his garden that used to be his front yard. Why? Useless ornamentation.

Sometimes they're found as individuals. Sometimes they like to get together in flocks.

Now you know what I'm talking about, don't you? Right — those cute, endearing, basically useless plastic flamingoes. Depending on your point of view, they're either tacky or an eyesore — but basically harmless.

We get ostriches

Some people get flamingoes. Here in West Virginia, we have ostriches. Actually, we have a surprising number of them. They're big, having worked their way up the food chain. For flightless birds, they get around — some spend a lot of time in Washington, D.C.; some, in Charleston.

These are not just ordinary ostriches. These have a special propensity. Our ostriches spend much of their time with their heads buried in the sand! That's right — heads buried in the sand!

What a sight! Almost hilarious!

Darwin would have been fascinated. To him, every behavior has evolved as an adaptive advantage. What advantage could there be in this kind of behavior? If you get close enough to one for it to hear you, you may start to understand. You have to shout at them to be heard.

"Hello down there! What do you think about global climate change?"

"Never heard of it. All this sand is getting in my ears."

"What do you think of all this data showing our climate is on the way to catastrophe unless we reduce the carbon we put into the atmosphere?"

"No data to see here. I got a lot of sand in my eyes, you know."

"What do you plan to do about the problem?"

"What problem?"

In behavioral biological terms, this is known as playing to your base.

Again, depending on your point of view, it's unlikely you'd call these critters cute. You might call them useless; we do call them incumbents, but unfortunately, they're not harmless.

Darwin described behaviors in terms of natural selection. Perhaps we have here a bad case of unnatural election.

Ice doesn't lie: Melts at 32 degrees
Always has, always will

Part 3 in an educational series on climate change

John Bird, johnbird@frontier.com

Melting ice and snow where perpetual glaciers, ice sheets, sea ice and snow cover have existed for millennia illustrates the reality of global warming. Ice is melting all around the world; therefore, the whole earth is warming.

Arctic Ocean sea ice melts in summer until early September, when the ocean starts to re-freeze. The extent of sea ice just before re-freezing, when it's at its smallest area, has declined from about 2.7 million square miles, in 1980, to about 2 million square miles, in 2012. The remaining ice is thinner. Less sea ice reflecting sunlight means the Arctic Ocean absorbs more light energy, adding to the heating of the earth (nsidc.org/cryosphere/sotc/snow_extent.html).

Snow covers the north of the northern hemisphere. Satellite photos taken in June 1979 to 2012 show a decline in snow-covered areas on the order of 20 percent per decade. Snow melts when it is warmer.

Ice sheets cover large parts of the earth. The Greenland Ice Sheet (GIS) is about 660,000 square miles and 1 to 2 miles thick. From 1992-2012, the GIS lost approximately 3 trillion tons of ice, averaging 150 billion tons per year. The rate of loss is increasing. During the last year, 2012, about 400 billion tons of ice melted. Computer models predict Arctic temperatures to increase by 5-15 degrees

Fahrenheit, thus accelerating the melting speed (Fifth Assessment Report of IPCC).

The Antarctic Ice Sheet (AIC), divided into East and West ice sheets, is also melting. The EAIS appears to be stable and increasing in size. The WAIS is losing more ice than the EAIS adds, for a net ice loss in the Antarctic. Much of Antarctic ice rests on land below sea level. As snow falls and builds up ice sheets, the ice starts moving into the ocean. Warming ocean waters have melted the underside of the Amundsen Sea area glaciers, which now move at a fast rate. As they float out into the ocean, they will melt in the warmer ocean waters. The glacial retreat there "appears unstoppable," said Rignot, lead author of a joint NASA- University of California-Irvine paper that used 40 years of satellite data and aircraft studies (Fifth Assessment Report of IPCC; cnn.com/2014/05/12/us/nasa-antarctica-ice-melt).

Glaciers shrink and disappear when warm temperatures melt them faster than snowfall can build them up. Some glaciers in special topographic and/or climate areas remain stable or are enlarging, for example, in Norway, Chile and the Karakoram range in Asia. Most glaciers are melting, and the worldwide loss is about 250 billion tons of ice per year (Fifth Assessment Report of IPCC).

Glacier National Park has lost more than 100 glaciers since it was formed a century ago. The remaining 25 will probably melt by 2030.

A cool summer or very cold winter causes some to doubt global warming. But ice does not lie: The earth is heating up.



With your help we can clean up our water

Sierra Club Water Sentinels are the first line of defense of America's waters. We live on the water planet. However, water is a finite resource with only about 1% of the world's water actually being available for human consumption. Water pollution & over-use are threatening both the quality & quantity of our water resources at an alarming rate.

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3rd Marcellus Academy trains new state leaders, in June

Chuck Wyrstok

In June, WV Sierra Club held its third annual Marcellus Academy at WV Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, with a wide array of informative workshops, the West Virginia premier of "Triple Divide" and a healthy mix of learning, concern and fun. Activists from around the state soaked up all manner of information and tactics.

Industrial-scale Marcellus shale gas drilling sites are causing major problems to our water, land, air and health. Families and communities around West Virginia are constantly affected by the onslaught of unwanted noxious incursions into their lives.

The goal was to show attendees how to organize others and help guide local leaders toward environmentally sound Marcellus policies.

Bill Hughes, of the Wetzel County Citizen Action Group and Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (OVEC), rolled out a series of valuable tactics, including plotting locations on Google Earth, using courthouse tax maps and identifying trucks and equipment. His resources are an asset for all of us.

A spirited session on using "old school media" was presented by OVEC's Vivian Stockman. She emphasized how the art of writing op-ed pieces, attracting media coverage and writing good letters-to-the-editor are still important pieces of the messaging toolbox.

Kirk Jalbert, from the FracTracker Alliance, showed us how to use FracTracker maps and information services to examine gas activities in our community. FracTracker.org is an excellent web-based tool for tracking and visualizing data about oil and gas extraction operations.

George Monk, of WV Sierra Club's Marcellus Campaign Committee, walked us through the West Virginia laws that relate to oil and gas activity. Especially illuminating was an eye-opening look at WV DEP's record of enforcement, industry's compliance and what more is needed.

And while everyone should know their



photos © Chuck Wyrstok

Bill Hughes of Wetzel County Action Group and OVEC imparts his experiences with hydraulic fracturing.

WV Sierra Club's George Monk answers questions during his workshop on West Virginia Laws and Regulations for the Oil and Gas Industry.



Jody Mohr, of WV Sierra Club, advises attendees on self care for activists.

rights while witnessing or recording activity in the gas fields, many are not sure what's legal and what's trouble. During her section of the Academy, Kim Ellis, of Radical Action for Mountains & Peoples Survival (RAMPS), laid out the crucial information you need to know.

It's easy to get stressed out with the challenges of environmental activism. Just ask anyone living in the gas fields. Jody Mohr helped us by describing the symptoms and warning signs and explaining how to care for yourself. Jody lives in Doddridge County, where fracking is rampant. And David Sturm, chair of WV Sierra Club's Marcellus Campaign committee, gave a solid rundown on how PowerPoint can be a powerful tool for activism in your community.

The Saturday evening treat was the screening of the investigative documentary "Triple Divide," about fracking in the Marcellus Shale. The filmmaker/ journalists Joshua Pribanic and Melissa Troutman, who are taking their movie on a nationwide tour in a Tesla Model S, a long-range, all-electric family sedan, joined us. The trip will test the manufacturer's nationwide Supercharger system, where electric cars can be quickly recharged for free. This is a beautiful car ... 300 miles on a single charge and half an hour to completely recharge.

The film's website is tripledividefilm.org. Marcellus Academy was the first stop on the U.S. tour.

Academy attendees will become part of the growing number of West Virginians creating a strong, intelligent response to the challenges of Marcellus drilling. They will be looking for helpers in their counties to assist in organizing and people to pass their new knowledge along to. To get in

touch with them, email us at outreach@marcellus-wv.com, or call 877-252-0257.

To keep up with Marcellus notices, ask to be added to our email list at outreach@marcellus-wv.com. See more at marcellus-wv.com. And, be watching for announcements for next summer's Marcellus Academy.

AUGUST OUTING EDUCATES



photo by Beth Little

Despite rainy weather, Carl Werntz (left), Donna Ford-Werntz, their daughter, Shannon, and Martha Mullet, all of Morgantown, learn about Cranberry Glades and Beartown from Beth Little, on Aug. 10 outing.

Please contact the Editor for submission guidelines or advertising rates. Contributions to the newsletter may be sent to the Editor at:

celliot2@comcast.net

414 Tyrone Avery Rd
Morgantown, WV 26508

**Deadline for
November/December issue
October 9**

Opinions expressed in the *Mountain State Sierran* are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Sierra Club. This newsletter is published bimonthly by the WV Chapter of the Sierra Club and distributed to all paid members.

Perspectives on Outings

— Russ Flowers, Outings Chair

Outings Leaders Wanted!

Calling all people who love the outdoors, conservation and opportunities to meet like-minded people.

If you have ever thought of becoming an outings leader (OL) or had questions about the outings program, here is your chance to get answers. From Sept. 19-21, the WV Sierra Club is holding its annual SierraFest at Blackwater State Park, near Davis.

In addition to discussing conservation campaigns and celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Chapter and the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, SierraFest will also include the training required to become an OL.

Outing Leader Training (OLT) 101 will be offered Saturday morning, Sept. 20. This will be a 2-hour interactive training. You will learn how to properly lead outings and about the program itself. You will also learn that outings are for all skill levels, offered in all seasons and pertain to 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 share fellowship with like-minded people. The outings are open to members and non-members, alike.

Another requirement to become an OL is to have your basic First Aid/CPR certificate. We have made arrangements with a local certified instructor to teach this class on Saturday afternoon. This will be a great opportunity to complete the two major requirements of becoming an OL. Also, if you have taken OLT 101 in the past, but never got your First Aid/CPR certification, here is your chance. The certification is only good for three years, so if yours is about to expire, please plan to attend.

There is a nominal fee for the First Aid/CPR certification to cover the cost of the instructor. The fee is based on the number of attendants, but should not exceed \$20/ person.

It is my hope that by offering both the OLT 101 and Basic First Aid/CPR classes at one convenient time and location, more members will be encouraged to become OLs. Our members have so much love and knowledge of our great state. What a great opportunity being an OL is to share that with others. We already have a great team of OLs, but we're always looking for additional motivated individuals.

If, by chance, you cannot make it to SierraFest and are interested, please let me know so I can make arrangements to teach OLT101 at another time and place. 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 other outstanding outings leaders.

"The mountains are calling, and I must go."

— John Muir

Outings — Autumn

Sat, Sept 13

Workshop/Field trip: Soils & Reptiles/Amphibians

not rated — Join WV Master Naturalists for this fun, interactive, hands-on two part workshops on Soils and Reptiles/Amphibians Workshops at the North Bend SP. The workshop and fieldtrips are free of charge and open to members & nonmembers. Please pre-register with the leader, seating is limited. Contact the Outing Leader for further directions and questions.

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

Nearest town: Williamstown, WV

Web info: northbendsp.com

Sat, Sept 20

SierraFest: Outings Leader Training 101 & Basic First Aid /CPR

not rated — Join us for all of SierraFest 2014, at Blackwater State Park, Sept 19-21. On Saturday morning, Outings Leader Training (OLT) 101 will be offered to anyone interested in becoming an Outings Leader (OL) or just wanting more information. In addition, a Basic First Aid/CPR class will be offered in the afternoon, on Saturday. These are two of the requirements to become an OL. There is a nominal fee for the First Aid/CPR certification, and is based on the number of participants, but will not exceed \$20/person. Please pre-register with the leader; seating is limited. Contact the Outing Leader for further information and questions.

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

Nearest town: Davis, WV

Web info: blackwaterfalls.com/location.htm

Sat, Sept 27

Bike ride: Mon River Rail

rated moderate — Join us for a moderate bike ride along the Morgantown riverfront. Length of bike ride will depend on the desires of the group, but expect a ride of about 15-20 miles.

Bring along some water, don't forget your helmet, and make sure your tires are properly inflated.

Contact outing leader to register for this outing and get meeting location.

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

Nearest town: Morgantown, WV.

Web info: montrails.org

Sat, Oct 4

Wild Walks Weekend: Hike between the Parks — Blackwater SP to Canaan SP

rated moderate — This is a non-Sierra Club-sponsored outing, but is organized through Blackwater and Canaan SPs. Join this family-friendly 8-mile hike between Blackwater and Canaan SPs during prime fall foliage. There is a fee of \$25 for adults and \$15 for ages 6-12. The fee covers shuttle service and a cookout lunch at the 4-mile mark. Pre-registration is required. Contact OL or Canaan Valley SP for more info.

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

Nearest town: Davis, WV

Web info: canaanresort.com/13/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/wild-walkswknd_2014-regform.pdf

Sat, Oct 11

Workshops: General Ecology & Nature Photography

not rated — Join WV Master Naturalists for this fun, interactive, hands-on two-part workshop on General Ecology and Nature Photography, at the Ohio River Islands NWR. The workshops are free of charge and open to members and nonmembers. Please pre-register with the leader; seating is limited. Bring bag lunch (fridge & microwave available). Workshops are 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@gmail.com

Nearest town: Williamstown, WV

Web info: fws.gov/northeast/ohioriverislands

Sat, Oct 11

Hike: Lumberjack Trail-Seneca Creek Loop

rated moderate — This is a 10.7-mile loop hike with a 996-foot elevation gain, in the Spruce Knob area of the MNF. We'll get any early start at 9:30AM from the trailhead. Consider camping Friday and Saturday nights at Seneca Shadows Campground. Reservations are recommended, and sites can fill fast. I reserved one site to share, with a 2-tent capacity. Sunday, we have an optional 2.6-mile out-and-back hike at Seneca Rocks before going home. Contact leader to register.

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

Nearest town: Seneca Rocks, WV

Web info: midatlantichikes.com; recreation.gov/welcome.do

Sat, Oct 18

Hike: Buckhollow/Mary's Rock, SNP

rated strenuous — This 10-mile hike is very strenuous, as it involves a 2000-foot elevation gain. Views from the top of Mary's Rock are outstanding. Allow 4 hours for this hike. We will meet up at the Walmart in Front Royal, Va. Register by contacting trip leader.

Leader: Pam Peitz, 240-818-655, pspeitz@hotmail.com

Nearest town: Flint Hill, VA

Web info: nps.gov/shen/index.htm

Sat, Nov 8

Hike: Cacapon Resort SP

rated strenuous — This 7-mile hike is rated strenuous, as it involves a 1200-foot elevation gain. Sections of the trail are very steep, rocky and slippery when wet. Allow 3 1/2 hours for the hike. We will meet at the lodge in the park. To register, contact trip leader.

Leader: Pam Peitz, 240-818-655, pspeitz@hotmail.com

Nearest town: Berkeley Springs, WV

Web info: cacaponresort.com

Sat, Nov 8

Workshops: Mammals & Terrestrial Habitats

not rated — Join WV Master Naturalists for this fun, interactive, hands-on two-part workshop on Mammals and Terrestrial Habitats, at the Ohio River Islands NWR. The workshops are free of charge and open to members and nonmembers. Please pre-register with the leader; seating is limited. Bring bag lunch (fridge & microwave available). Workshops are 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@gmail.com

Nearest town: Williamstown, WV

Web info: fws.gov/northeast/ohioriverislands

Sat, Nov 15

Hike: Valley Falls SP

rated moderate — Join us for a moderate hike at Valley Falls SP. We will do an out-and-back hike on the Rhododendron Trail. We'll see the "hidden" waterfall at the end of the trail. This is a short hike of about 4 miles, with some steep sections. Bring your camera, as there are some great photographic opportunities. Bring along some water; sturdy foot-wear is highly recommended; trekking poles can be helpful. Contact the Outing Leader to register for this outing and get directions to the rendezvous point.

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

Nearest town: Fairmont, WV

Web info: valleyfallsstatepark.com

Sat, Nov 15

Service outing: Coopers Rock Fall Adopt-a-Trail

rated easy (hiking) to moderate (work intensity) — Join the fun with the fall trail

maintenance for Sierra Club's adopted Intermediate cross-country ski trail at Coopers Rock South. Fall clean-up emphasizes clearing fallen leaves, drainage restoration and trail clearing along a 1.25-mile loop. Volunteers should wear sturdy boots and carry work gloves, water and snacks. Useful tools to bring are long-handled pruners, rakes and pointed shovels. Adults and adolescents are invited to help, and those under 18 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-King, 304-594-2636, atdtking@gmail.com

Nearest town: Morgantown, WV

Web info: coopersrockstateforest.com; coopersrock.org

Sat, Dec 13

Hike: Gambrell SP

rated moderate — This is a moderate 6-mile hike at one of the few places that does not allow hunting this time of year. Allow about 2 1/2 hours for the hike. We will meet at the trailhead in the park. To register, contact trip leader.

Leader: Pam Peitz, 240-818-655, pspeitz@hotmail.com

Nearest town: Frederick, MD

Web info: dnr2maryland.gov

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 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.





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email: governor@wvgov.org

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email to WV Legislature:
cglagola@mail.wvnet.edu
(Put name of recipient under subject)

Messages for legislators can be left at:
1-877-565-3447 or 304-347-4836
Mail address:

Member, WV Senate or
House of Delegates
Bldg 1
State Capitol Complex
Charleston, WV 25305

website: www.legis.state.wv.us
has contact information for all state legislators.

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A Will is a Way

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

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

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* Page 1 photo, May 1983: The man with the handlebar mustache is none other than our current Chapter Chair, Jim Sconyers. The woman to his right is Chris DeChristopher, our first Chapter Chair and mother of "Bidder 70" climate activist, Tim DeChristopher.

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