

Mountain State Sierran

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November/December 2015

WV DEP to collect input for Clean Power Plan compliance

State Implementation Plan is due in September 2016, but State may fight requirements

Jim Kotcon

A recent letter from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has asked the WV Chapter of Sierra Club to provide input, data and suggestions for what to put into a State Implementation Plan (SIP) to comply with the greenhouse gas restrictions required by EPA's Clean Power Plan (CPP).

Clean Power Plan background

In the final rule, announced August 3, the Clean Power Plan requires significant reductions in carbon dioxide from electric power plants, with amounts varying by state. West Virginia is required to reduce CO₂ emissions by 29 percent of the 2012 baseline amounts, by 2030. Without the CPP, EPA projects that West Virginia's emissions would actually rise by 13 percent. Even with these reductions, the emissions rate from West Virginia's power plants would be among the highest in the nation.

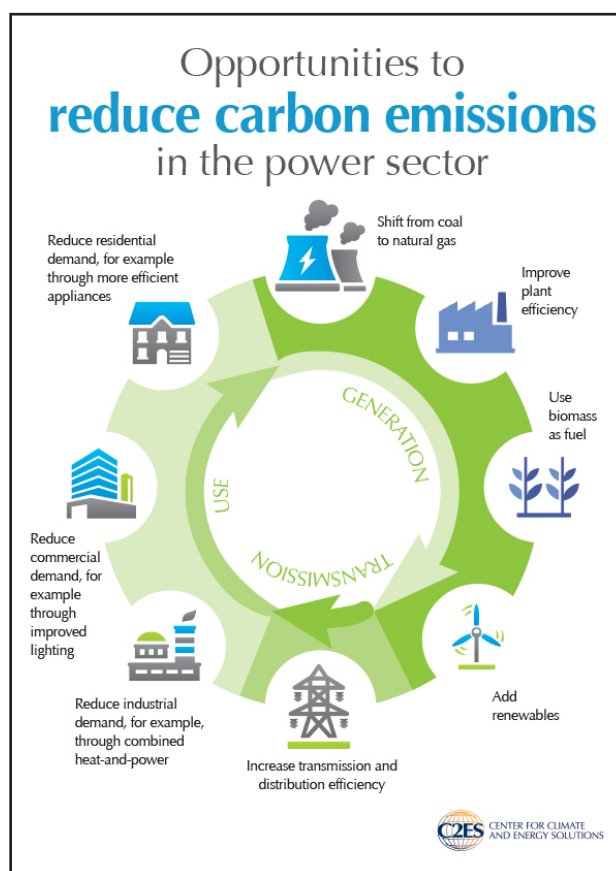
To achieve these reductions, EPA requires states to submit a State Implementation Plan (SIP) that specifies what reductions will be imposed on each power plant in their state. States must also involve the public and address low income and minority community concerns. A SIP can obtain emissions reductions by using four strategies: 1) improvements in power plant efficiency; 2) switching to alternative, lower-emitting fuels such as natural gas; 3) increasing generation from renewable sources such as wind, solar or biofuels; or 4) adopting consumer energy efficiency and demand reduction programs.

Benefits of the Clean Power Plan

The CPP is a major step in the fight against climate change. By 2030, it will reduce emissions by 870 million tons. That equals the emissions of 166 million cars (70 percent of America's passenger vehicles). By itself, that is still not enough, but it is a critically important step in the right direction.

But the CPP also brings huge health benefits. These reductions will also reduce other air pollutants, including 318,000 tons of sulfur dioxide and 282,000 tons of nitrogen oxides each year. According to EPA, those reductions will prevent about 3,600 premature deaths, 90,000 asthma attacks and 300,000 missed days of school or work. The health benefits alone add up to as much as \$54 billion per year.

A new report from Synapse Energy says that transitioning to clean energy would actually create more jobs than



are lost, while saving consumers \$78 billion per year in electricity, heating and transportation costs. Jobs created in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries far exceed the number lost from declining fossil fuel production by 2030. The report is available at synapse-energy.com/sites/default/files/Clean-Energy-Future-15-054.pdf.

Tight Timelines for DEP

The Legislature passed HB 2004 earlier this year, which requires WV-DEP to submit a study to the legislature within 180 days as to whether a SIP is feasible, and to get legislative approval before any plan can be submitted to EPA. At the same time, the final CPP rule requires "meaningful engagement with communities and other stakeholders during the initial and final plan submittal processes. Meaningful engagement includes outreach to vulnerable communities ... and also includes providing the public the opportunity to comment."

EPA requires an initial submittal by September 6, 2016. States may either submit a final SIP, or an initial SIP with a request for a two-year extension. But any request for an

extension must include details on the approach the State will take to achieve compliance, and must document the state's public involvement processes.

WV-DEP has indicated that they will start the clock on the 180-day deadline when EPA publishes the final rule in the Federal Register, expected to be mid-October. Our preliminary assessment is that the report would be submitted sometime after the next regular session of the Legislature. WV-DEP must complete its analysis and report to the Legislature, conduct the public input processes, including public meetings and response to comments, develop a SIP, get Legislative approval (possibly during a Special Session), and submit the Plan by September 6. HB 2004 does not specifically address whether legislative approval is required for an initial submittal, which is the minimum needed to get a two-year extension, but that may also be necessary.

What if DEP does not submit a SIP?

Several state and federal leaders have argued that states should refuse to comply with EPA. In that case, EPA would impose a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) on states and has indicated that the same emissions reductions and deadlines would apply. EPA is currently taking comments on a draft model FIP rule and expects to finalize it by the end of 2016.

A key distinction is that states are encouraged to include energy efficiency programs in their SIPs, but the FIP will leave that up to utilities. We expect that West Virginia utilities will continue their practice of minimal emphasis on efficiency programs. Thus, a FIP would likely cost consumers more than a SIP, especially if the SIP emphasizes cost-effective energy efficiency programs.

Since energy conservation typically costs half as much as electricity generation, an aggressive energy efficiency requirement would help utilities meet their CPP emission limits while saving money for consumers and creating thousands of jobs in West Virginia.

Clean Energy Incentive Program

EPA is offering a Clean Energy Incentive Program (CEIP) to reward early investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency. States that voluntarily make early reductions in emissions by implementing wind, solar or energy efficiency projects will earn emissions reductions credits. Further credits will be awarded for energy efficiency projects in low-income communities.

But the CEIP will open first in states that have submitted a final State Plan. Projects in states with a Federal Implementation Plan are not eligible until after September 6, 2018.

Clean Power Plan — continued on p. 2



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sierrans testify at hearings on stream protection

Jim Kotcon

More than a dozen Sierrans participated in hearings by the U.S. Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) in September on proposed rules to protect streams from surface impacts of coal mining. The proposed rules are intended to replace a "Buffer Zone" rule that was adopted 32 years ago but never enforced.

Under the 1977 Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA), OSMRE adopted a "Buffer Zone" rule in 1983 prohibiting mining activities within 100 feet of a stream. After a 1998 court decision ruled that the Buffer Zone rule applied to valley fills and mountaintop removal mining, the Bush Administration introduced a rule change to allow mining companies to dump fill in streams. A second court decision overturned the Bush rule, but the Buffer Zone rule was not being enforced by states anyway.

OSMRE's proposed rule allows valley fills, but imposes strict monitoring and water quality standards. The Sierra Club urges support for further strengthening of the rule to assure that citizens, communities and streams are protected, as SMCRA intended.

With support from the Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, a bus trip brought a dozen Sierrans from Morgantown and nearby communities to the Pittsburgh hearing. Several WVU students spoke eloquently about the need to protect our water. Betsy Jaeger was particularly effective as she related her personal experiences with coal mining in her backyard and the lack of enforcement by WV-DEP.

The proposed rule is an important step toward cleaner water, but more needs to be done.

Thanks to these dedicated volunteers who took the time to speak up for their homes, their community and our environment.

HELP WANTED

Nominations for Executive Committee (ExCom)

Both the Chapter and the Monongahela Group are looking for a few good people to be leaders and decision-makers for their respective governing bodies. Two terms are expiring at the Chapter level and three terms will expire on the Mon Group ExCom (see Directory on back page to see whose terms will be up). We try to have at least two more candidates on each ballot than there are positions to fill so the election can be more than just a pro forma exercise. Since ballots must be mailed in December, **nominations are needed by November 7.**

Chapter ExCom members must keep abreast of various conservation issues, attend four meetings around the state each year, and participate in occasional conference calls and emails to make decisions for the Chapter. The Mon Group ExCom concentrates on conservation issues in a five-county area that includes Monongalia, Marion, Preston, Taylor and Harrison counties. They also try to hold monthly meetings on various topics of interest to members and coordinate local outings.

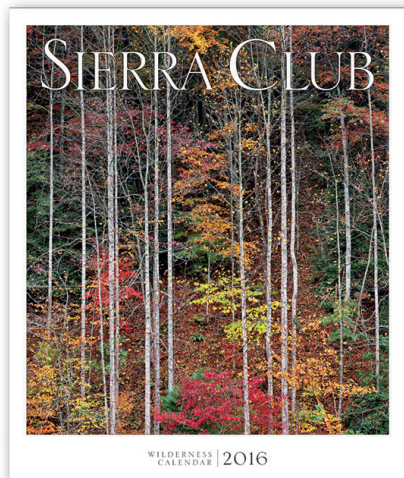
Participating on either of these ExComs is a good way to get familiar with the politics of environmental issues in West Virginia and to have a voice in promoting change for the better. It's also a good way to meet new people with similar interests.

To nominate yourself or someone else, or to get more details about what the position entails, please contact Nominating Committee Chair, Sally Wilts: sallywilts@yahoo.com or 304-379-7567.

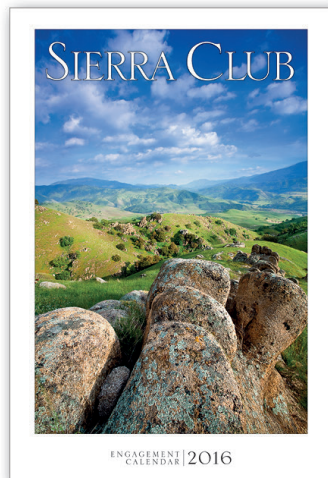


Enjoy, explore and protect the planet

2016 Sierra Club Calendars



Wilderness Wall Calendar



Engagement Calendar

Item	Cost	Qty	Total	Ship To:
Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>	\$13.00	_____	_____	Please make checks payable to "WV Sierra Club" and mail to Candice Elliott, 414 Tyrone Avery Road, Morgantown WV 26508
Wilderness <input type="checkbox"/>	\$12.00	_____	_____	
Subtotal:			_____	Name _____
Sales Tax:			_____	Address _____
Shipping:			\$5.00	City _____ State _____ Zip _____
GRAND TOTAL:			_____	Phone (_____) _____
				Email _____

Clean Power Plan — continued from p. 1

Opposition to the Clean Power Plan

West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin and Attorney General Patrick Morrissey have appealed the CPP in court, although a September ruling denied their request for an emergency stay of the deadline for a SIP. All three of West Virginia's House of Representatives members (David McKinley, Alex Mooney and Evan Jenkins) wrote to Tomblin in June urging him to "just say no" to EPA by not submitting a SIP. Senators Capito and Manchin have co-sponsored the ARENA Act, which would give states the right to "opt out" of compliance with the CPP. At this point, however, Gov. Tomblin has said he still has not made up his mind. The issuance of the DEP letter calling for input from the public suggests that the governor may be following a two-track approach: preparing for court appeals while also preparing a SIP.

What information does WV-DEP want?

The October 2 letter from WV-DEP to the Sierra Club (a similar letter went to a wide range of other stakeholders) asks for input and comments on both the feasibility study and the SIP.

DEP's feasibility study must analyze whether changes are needed in state law to implement a SIP and assess 11 factors specified in HB 2004 to determine whether creation of a SIP is even feasible, and if it is feasible, whether a SIP can be completed before the deadline, assuming no extensions are granted.

DEP also requests input on which particular means of

compliance with the emissions reductions would be best, any changes in state law that would be needed to implement that compliance approach, and any economic analyses that may be relevant. DEP asks that we respond by the end of December.

What is best for West Virginia?

A SIP that emphasizes energy efficiency seems likely to be best for West Virginia consumers. Increased investment in renewables is also essential to meet the emissions requirements.

The market competition of coal versus natural gas for electricity generation will be a significant debate. Natural gas development is only a short-term fix at best, as a gas-fired power plant requires gas wells, pipelines and compressor stations, all of which impose additional environmental impacts. The WV Chapter of Sierra Club believes that, while existing gas infrastructure should be maintained in the interim, no new investments in fossil fuel infrastructure should be made, and we must eventually phase out use of natural gas as well as coal.

What You Can Do

1) Contact the WV Chapter's Climate Action Team. We need help with the research and development for our responses to DEP. Contact Jim Kotcon: jkotcon@gmail.com; 304-594-3322.

2) Ask local legislators and the Gov. Tomblin to support the Clean Power Plan and to move as aggressively as possible to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

3) Write letters to the editor urging support for a clean energy future.



Join Online

Help your Chapter stay strong for the hard work we do to keep West Virginia wild and wonderful.

One fee covers membership in the national Sierra Club, the West Virginia Chapter and, if you live in the designated region, the Monongahela Group.

Make a quick and easy donation or join "the Club" from the Chapter's home page:

westvirginia.sierraclub.org

View from the Chair

— Liz Wiles, Chapter Chair

Recycling Plays Key Role in Combatting Climate Change

During a recent conversation on possible recycling activities for Climate Action days, someone asked, “Can we tie recycling to climate?” My answer, “Absolutely!” Recycling plays a key role in combatting climate change by addressing the other, and often overlooked, side of the energy equation.

We all know that reducing the amount of electricity we use in our homes by making our homes more energy efficient is a good thing — less electricity equals fewer fossil fuels burned to make electricity. But what about the indirect energy we use when using consumer products? This is where recycling comes in and is actually the last step in decreasing this indirect energy consumption: Reduce, reuse, recycle.

A lot of energy is required to make all the products we use on a daily basis: energy for manufacturing, energy for transporting them to the store, and energy for disposal. Now think about all the energy going into the thousands and thousands of products that are specifically designed for single use. When we re-think how we consume products, we can make a huge dent in overall, worldwide energy demand.

A big part of this is simply moving from single-use products to reusable ones. Take a moment to look around your home to see where you can do this. Paper towels and paper napkins can be replaced with cotton hand-towels and cloth napkins. This doesn't have to be expensive — my parents bought a bunch of cheap, white washcloths they use for their daily napkins. How about dryer sheets? Reusable dryer balls and other products eliminate the need for those.

Instead of buying hand-soap in its own dispenser, buy sturdy dispensers and re-fill with liquid hand soap bought in bulk. And this can be done for lots of products in the home. I recently bought a big jug of olive oil and re-fill the small, glass bottle I used to buy. Several years ago I needed travel-sized shampoo and conditioner bottles; I still have them and re-fill from the big jugs I have in my home. There are even reusable feminine hygiene products.

And for goodness sake, if you have to have a Keurig, definitely

buy the reusable filter that goes with it. The creator of Keurig now regrets his invention because of the huge amount of waste it creates!

Where else can we make the switch from single-use? Reusable shopping bags, obviously, and let's not use them only at the grocery store but at every store where we shop. Many stores offer discounts for customers using reusable bags. (Of course, I'd argue that they really should be charging to use their plastic bags instead.) Do you like water and/or coffee? Make the commitment to use reusable water bottles and take a reusable coffee mug to your favorite coffee shop. Again, many of those places offer discounts for reusable mugs.

There are sturdy, reusable items for work lunches (utensils, plates, to-go carriers) instead of plastic utensils, paper plates and Styrofoam containers.

Looking for other reusable options? Check out reuseit.com for all kinds of awesome products and ideas.

There also is now a huge cottage industry of products made from reclaimed materials: purses made from old hardcover books, jewelry made from old camera parts or old skateboards (yes, I've seen them and they are COOL!), the list goes on and on. Want to find some of these? Search on Etsy under “recycled materials.”

Recycling is incredibly important for the climate because it takes less energy to make items from recycled materials than from raw materials. But before we even begin to recycle a product, we should first look for ways to REDUCE the overall use of the product, REUSE the product as much as possible and only then, when something can't be reused again, we RECYCLE.

Making these changes in our daily lives is something we all can do, and can do inexpensively. And think of all the money you'll save by not buying single-use products!

Critics often claim that renewable energy cannot meet our current energy demands. However, if we eliminate all the wasted energy used to make, transport and dispose of single-use and unnecessary products and truly re-think consumption, we can generate all the energy we need with clean, renewable resources.

Book Review

Review by Richard Mier, Martinsburg

North of the Land of North Wind was the Land of the Hyperboreans, or so believed the ancient Greeks. They knew, even then, that the world was of course round and conjectured mightily, though without evidence, on what the icy top of our orb was all about. The Arctic is an evil place, some thought, full of dangerous bear-like people who ate raw meat. Or, alternatively, the Arctic is a land fertile, graceful and sweet, peopled by peaceful, three-meter giants.

Since then, the fascination and the guesses have continued. In “Arctic Dreams,” Barry Lopez takes us there. Now firmly part of the canon of great environmental writing — it won the National Book Award in 1986 — “Arctic Dreams” is an investigation into the Arctic, its inhabitants, history and natural history. It is also an exploration into the Arctic as a state of mind, an extended riff on how landscape affects human language ... on how landscape makes us who we are.

He takes us there by being there — he did many extended trips to the Arctic over a five-year period — and many paragraphs begin like these: “When I walk along the floe edge...” “We had been hunting seals intensively for three days without success...” “Three of us stood in the small open boat about a hundred

Arctic Dreams by Barry Lopez

miles off the northwest coast of Alaska....” After an introductory chapter, he uses each of three subsequent chapters to explore the worlds of three iconic Arctic denizens: the muskox, the polar bear and the narwhal. He is able to so effectively describe their worlds because he writes in the first person of his experiences sharing these worlds.

He is knowledgeable, encyclopedic really, not only about the birds, mammals, flora, geography, ice and weather of the Arctic but also about the people he lived with, the indigenous people, the scientists, and the workers on the Alaskan Pipeline. He takes us into the minds of the 18th and 19th century explorers from Europe and the U.S. as they searched for wealth and adulation and national prestige, oftentimes with fatal outcomes for them and their crews.

The Arctic is a big place and Lopez travels to its myriad corners, geographically and philosophically, to cover it all. With Lopez as guide, we visit archeological prehistory, fata morgana, American landscape painting in the 19th century, Frank Boaz, the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle and why indigenous Arctic peoples don't get scurvy even though they never drink orange juice. We learn important words of the indigenous, such as “quiniutuq,” which means deep patience and is used to describe what is necessary while waiting by a breathing

hole in the ice for the seal to surface. Or “nuannaarpoq,” used to describe the extravagant pleasure of simply being alive.

He tells stories well and oftentimes his writing his luminous: “In the reprieve at the end of a day, in the stillness of a summer evening, the world sheds its categories, the insistence of its future, and is suspended solely in the lilt of its desire.” Describing the difference between our culture and indigenous Arctic culture, he writes, “(W)e have irrevocably separated ourselves from the world that animals occupy.... For many of them, to make this separation is analogous to cutting oneself off from light or water. It is hard to imagine how to do it.”

To read “Arctic Dreams” is to bridge this separation and return to this world. As we face continued pressure from climate change and industrial development to this vulnerable place and its inhabitants, it's a good book to read more.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Blowing in the Wind

It's time for America to get smart about energy and become less dependent on fossil fuels. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

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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	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

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or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

Check out our new national logo



SIERRA CLUB

Mon Group News

Annual holiday social set for Dec. 12 in Morgantown

Members and non-members alike are invited to a potluck holiday social from 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at the home of Jim Kotcon and Candice Elliott, 414 Tyrone Avery Road, Morgantown.

This annual event provides an opportunity for folks to gather in a casual setting to celebrate the year's successes and gear up for the new year's challenges. New and potential members are especially urged to come see what the WV Sierra Club is all about.

Please bring a dish to share and invite a friend. Families are welcome. Call Jim or Candice at 304-594-3322 for more info or directions to the house.

WVU SSC News

SSC launches petition drive for solar energy at WVU

WVU's Sierra Student Coalition has launched a petition drive asking WVU President E. Gordon Gee to install solar panels on at least one building by the end of the current academic year. The drive kicked off October 15 as part of the People's Climate Movement Day of Action. Students collected signatures and provided fresh-baked cookies. The overall goal is to have WVU begin to offset its carbon emissions.

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
January/February issue**

December 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.



Like us on **Facebook** to get more up-to-date information about our "doings."

**Sierra Club West Virginia
Mon Group of the WV Sierra Club
WVSC Marcellus Shale Campaign**

Marcellus Tour 2015 explores Wetzel County



A stunning view of the huge MarkWest plant in Mobley.

photos by Jim Sconyers

Fifteen folks — including students from Virginia Tech and researchers, as well as interested and concerned citizens — gathered recently for Marcellus Tour 2015, in the Lewis Wetzel Wildlife Management Area and the community of Mobley in Wetzel County. Led by Bill Hughes, well known as one of the most knowledgeable people on West Virginia gas, the group learned about past and present drilling and fracking, how a drill site is created from raw land to drill pad to producing well, and much more. Bonus: we got to experience the blocked roads just as local citizens do, when giant sand trucks appropriated the right of way on the road we were traveling. These trucks deliver the sand that is a component of the frack fluids pumped underground during fracking.



Bill Hughes, our tour leader, knows seemingly everything about gas in West Virginia.

Solar Open House in Roane County features DIY solar



People gather to hear about an off-grid solar system at Don Alexander and Mary Wildfire's house at Hickory Ridge, in early October.

For more pictures and additional information about going solar in West Virginia, visit spectrumz.com/solar-open-house.

photo by Vivian Stockman

In early October, Don Alexander and Mary Wildfire hosted a Solar Open House at their land trust on a ridge outside Spencer. Robin and Brenda Wilson showed visitors how grid-tied arrangements work, and Robin gave a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate many details about solar power. Don and Mary have an off-grid system a short walk away. Both systems use a yard-mounted array supported by pressure-treated wood, which Don designed and which has been copied by others.

A website at spectrumz.com/solar-open-house has a photo gallery of pictures by Vivian Stockman from the Solar Open House, a copy of the "First Steps to Solar" talk that Mary gave each group, and Robin's PowerPoint presentation. The group discussed passive solar features in their homes

and other sustainable-living topics before concluding the tour with an optional walk through the gardens.

Despite a little rain, about 35-40 people still showed up on Saturday, thanks in part to publicity by the WV Sierra Club, OVEC and others. At the last minute, a second session on Sunday was added, to which another 10 people came. Countless questions were answered, and likely several households crossed the decision threshold to install solar. Plans are already in the works to repeat the solar open house next year.

It's worth noting that the 30-percent federal tax credit for solar installations expires at the end of 2016, unless Congress renews it, so you might want to get your solar panels installed by then to take advantage.



The electronics — inverter, charge controller and meters — for an off-grid system are accessible from inside the house.

Thanks, and Farewell

Looking back, it is hard to believe it has been three years since I became the Chapter's Outings Leader Chair. It has been a great three years, and I'm happy to have had the opportunity to serve the Chapter. It was a perfect fit; I love the outdoors, meeting people, and my beautiful home state of West Virginia. We are so fortunate that our Chapter has such a wonderful membership. It is the dedication of our many outings leaders that makes this job easy and enjoyable.

In the past three years, our outings leaders led more than 150 outings. The diverse outings opportunities have ranged from hiking in the Cranberry Wilderness; cross-country skiing in Canaan Valley; bird watching along the Ohio River; trail improvement service projects at Coopers Rock; kayak float-paddling down the Cheat River; blueberry picking at Dolly Sods; and a train ride on the Cass scenic railroad. There truly has been something for everyone with offerings at various skill levels.

Because they are always open to members and non-members, these outings have been a great way to meet up with old friends, make new ones and share fellowship with like-minded people, all while soaking in the natural beauty of our incredible state.

During this time we have trained

more than a dozen new outings leaders (OLs), recertified a half dozen more, and even held an OL retreat. Another milestone was incorporating Basic First Aid/CPR training with the Outings Leader Training (OLT) 101. This greatly improved the efficiency of completing the OL certification process. We also streamlined the posting of the outings on the club's website. So outings submitted after the newsletter deadline can still be advertised in a timely manner. All in all, the past three years have been very successful and enjoyable.

Unfortunately, with my ever-increasing job responsibilities, I am not able to dedicate as much time as I feel is needed to be an effective Outings Leader Chair. That being said, this will be my last article as the chair, and on December 31, I will resign my position. However, I will still remain an outings leader because I strongly believe in the importance of the outings program to the club and to the State.

So if anyone is interested in becoming the next chair, or has questions on the roles and responsibilities of the position, please feel free to contact me or Liz Wiles. I will be glad to answer any questions and help you transition into the position. It is a great opportunity to serve the club and it is a really rewarding experience.

In closing, I personally wish to thank our outings leaders who led outings and to all who participated. They are the ones who make this program a success and bring a personal connection to the Club. I offer each and every one of you a standing ovation.

As always, thanks for your support of the WV Sierra Club Outings Program as we look ahead to the New Year.

Take to the Outdoors!

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

alleghenyssc.org

Potomac Region Outings (PRO)

This is an activity section of the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter, with an extensive outings program run by leaders who live in and around the Washington, D.C., area. A calendar of activities, information and updates can be found on their website at

www.sierrapotomac.org

West Virginia Chapter Outings

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

westvirginia.sierraclub.org

Sierra Club Liability Policies For Chapter Outings

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

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

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

Unless noted in the announcement, Club outings are intended for adults. Children and

dogs are not normally permitted, unless an out- ing 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 chap- ter outings, although payment of park entrance fees, a share of campsite rental costs, permit fees, equipment rental charges, etc. may be re- quired from the participants. The Sierra Club practices "leave-no-trace" trail techniques, in- cluding 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. Reg- istration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Sat, Nov 14 Autumn Adopt-a-Trail Service Outing: Coopers Rock SF

rated easy hiking: easy to moderate work intensity — Join the fun with the fall trail maintenance for Sierra Club's adopted Intermediate Cross Country Ski Trail Saturday, November 14 at Cooper's 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, snacks. Useful tools to bring are long handled pruners, rakes, and pointed shovels. Adults and adolescents are invited to help and those under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian. Volunteers will be required to sign a standard Sierra Club Liability Waiver and a DNR Volunteer Work Program Agreement. Please pre-register with the leader.

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

Nearest town: Morgantown, WV

Web info: coopersrockstateforest.com; coopersrock.org

Sat, Nov 14 Workshop: Ecology & Mammals North Bend SP

not rated — Join WV Master Naturalists for this fun, interactive, hands-on, two-part workshop on Ecology & Mammals at North Bend State Park. The workshops are free of charge and open to members and nonmembers. Please pre-register with the leader, seating is limited. Workshops are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meet at the park lodge at 8:30 a.m. Contact the outing leader for further directions and questions.

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

Nearest town: Harrisville, WV

Web info: northbendsp.com

Sat, Dec 12 Workshop: Nature Art & Nature in Winter, North Bend SP

not rated — Join WV Master Naturalists for this fun, interactive, hands-on, two-part workshop on Nature Art & Nature in Winter at North Bend State Park. The workshops are free of charge and open to members and nonmembers. Please pre-register with the leader, seating is limited. Workshops are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meet at the park lodge at 8:30 a.m. Contact the outing leader for further directions and questions.

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

Nearest town: Harrisville, WV

Web info: northbendsp.com

Openings for Volunteers

Chapter Secretary — Takes Minutes at the four annual ExCom meetings around the state, the next one being January 9, in Morgantown. Distributes Minutes to the rest of the ExCom in a timely manner. Keeps track of decisions made and tasks assigned at meetings. Contact Liz Wiles.

Chapter Outings Leader Chair — Arranges for training and certification of Outings Leaders. Approves proposed outings and prepares a list of outings for submission to the newsletter every two months. Adds outings to the Chapter website. Is familiar with Sierra Club policies regarding outings. Likes the outdoors and being around people. Contact Russ Flowers or Liz Wiles.

Chapter and Mon Group ExCom Members — Help make decisions about the Chapter's or Group's conservation priorities. Involved with all aspects of keeping the Chapter/Group vibrant and productive. **Nominations are due November 7.** Contact Sally Wilts.

Contact info can be found in the Directory on the back page.



**SIERRA
CLUB**

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

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West Virginia Sierra Club Chapter Directory

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To Contact STATE LEGISLATORS

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

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

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

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

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Preserve the Future

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

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

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

For planned giving in West Virginia, contact Paul Wilson at 304-279-1361

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