

M Mountain State Sierran

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 4

WINTER 2022

Environmentalists Meet to Look at WV Issues and Opportunities



BY CHRIS CRAIG

Sierra Club volunteers were among 70 environmentalists who met September 24-25 at the WVU Natural Resource Center in Morgantown for the West Virginia Environmental Council (WVEC) Environmental Summit.

This year was the first time WVEC has held a multi-day summit well ahead of the WV legislative session. Linda Frame, WVEC President, cited several reasons for a longer event, including the challenge of promoting conservation legislation in an increasingly hostile legislature, the need to expand diversity among environmental forces, and the absence of the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, which closed its doors in 2021.

KEYNOTE FOCUSES ON WEST VIRGINIA AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Mary Anne Hitt, senior director of Climate Imperative and a Shepherdstown resident, provided the keynote address Saturday morning. Hitt said West Virginia is now seen as “the center of a political universe” by climate activists around the world, because of the importance of Senator Joe Manchin’s negotiations on federal legislation and the outcome of West Virginia vs. the EPA at the Supreme Court.



A force for the environment in West Virginia: Attendees at the WVEC E-Summit in September.
PHOTO BY CHRIS CRAIG.

Hitt cited recent studies that have found climate change makes West Virginia more vulnerable to flooding than all other states, as rainstorms intensify and threaten many roads, fire stations, coal plants, and schools in flood-prone areas. In spite of this, the state continues to worsen carbon levels in the atmosphere with its dependence on coal energy. The state’s Utility Commission has made West Virginians solely responsible

for the upgrade of aging coal plants, costing ratepayers \$370 million more than if the coal plants were decommissioned and cleaner energy sources put in place.

Referring to the Inflation Reduction Act, which was passed last summer by the Congress with the help of Senator Manchin, Hitt said, “The bill is by no means perfect, but it could have been our last chance to act on climate

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[SIERRACLUB.ORG/WEST-VIRGINIA](https://sierraclub.org/west-virginia)

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR: Time to Get Active with the Sierra Club

The “I VOTED” sticker may have just come unstuck from our fall jackets, but another election awaits you in the pages of this publication.



BY AILEEN CURFMAN

Our chapter and group elections take place in the winter, with the new Executive Committees installed in January. This copy of the *Mountain State Sierran* contains this year’s candidate statements and the ballot for the chapter elections. Depending on your location, you may find local candidates and a ballot for your local group as well. This is your Sierra Club, and you owe it to yourself to vote for the ExComm you want. Please take a few minutes to make your selections and send in your ballot.

Like the national Sierra Club, our leadership is engaging in some deep and intensive self-examination. We expect to emerge from these sessions with a strategic plan that will guide us as we promote policies that protect our land, air, water, and people.

One of our greatest strengths is the excellent outings program that we’ve provided for many years. We expect to build on this strength. We’re actively seeking new outings leaders to expand those activities throughout the state.

For our activists, the busiest time of year is just beginning. When the West Virginia Legislature convenes in January, our state senators and delegates will be facing a daunting schedule of meetings, negotiations, and votes. Many legislators have no paid staff, so they will have little time to respond to phone calls and emails. Now is the time to reach out to them with our—and your—concerns.

Some of our chapter’s most exciting work happens while the legislators are in Charleston. We’re already collaborating with our partners in the West Virginia Environmental Council, finalizing plans to educate our legislators. For West Virginia to move forward, lawmakers must understand that our survival depends on an economy based on clean jobs and clean energy. Clean air and clean water will be high priorities too, as we promote plugging of orphan gas wells, reclamation of mines, and safeguarding the water protections of the Above Ground Storage Tank Act.

Our beautiful, beloved West Virginia can maintain its historic leadership in the energy industry and provide our people and our planet with a safe place to live. We’re here to make it happen. We hope you’ll join us in Charleston on February 28—Environmental Day 2023. If you can’t make it, please join a few of our outings. Or pick up the phone and let your legislator know what is important to you. However you choose to get involved, we’re happy you’ve chosen Sierra Club, and we welcome you.

Now, before you set this newsletter aside, don’t forget to cast your ballot for ExComm! 🗳️

West Virginia Sierra Club Chapter Directory

Email contact for all officers and staff: sierraclub.wv@gmail.com

Term ends at first meeting of indicated year.

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The Politics and Money Behind WV's Orphaned Gas Wells



BY BETSY JAEGER LAWSON

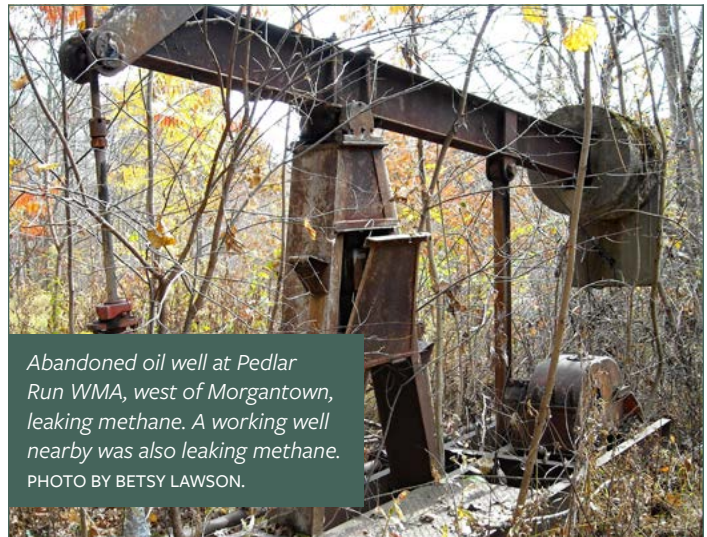
Over the past hundred years in the United States, millions of holes have been drilled deep into the earth to extract oil and natural gas. As a result, a big source of greenhouse gas emissions is lurking in Appalachia that hasn't been getting much attention until now: orphaned and abandoned oil and gas wells.

Orphaned wells are those for which no former owner or operator can be located, while an abandoned well is an unproductive well with a known owner. When a well goes dry, as all eventually do, its operator is required to clean and plug it with cement to stop the pollutants from escaping into the environment.

Unplugged wells are a climate menace: Not only does a great deal of methane escape these deep holes, but the wells can leak hydrogen sulfide, benzene, and arsenic to pollute air, soil, and groundwater. It costs \$100,000 to \$150,000 to properly plug a well. In West Virginia, the bond money posted to do so is \$5,000. (Who wouldn't forfeit the bond money rather than pay to plug the well?) As a result, West Virginia has over 6,500 orphaned or abandoned oil and gas wells.

When the fracking boom began, drilling companies lost interest in the older, less productive conventional wells. However, Rusty Hutson, a native West Virginian and founder and CEO of **Diversified Energy**, bought over 69,000 old wells nation-wide (50,000 in Ohio River Valley states) that generate little to no oil or gas and created a program called Smarter Well Management, which he claimed could make old wells productive again. Called **stripper and marginal wells**, they are oil or gas wells with a maximum daily production below 15 barrels of oil or 90,000 cubic feet of gas per day over any consecutive 12-month period. Diversified now owns more gas wells in the U.S. than Exxon or Mobile, all of them low or non-producing.

According to Ted Boettner of the *Ohio River Valley Institute*, Diversified's business model makes full use of federal and state tax credits, unusual



Abandoned oil well at Pedlar Run WMA, west of Morgantown, leaking methane. A working well nearby was also leaking methane. PHOTO BY BETSY LAWSON.

accounting practices, and extended schedules for decommissioning of wells. The dismal lack of inspectors in Appalachian states means no one has any idea how many of Diversified's wells are producing and how many are just leaking methane and other pollutants.

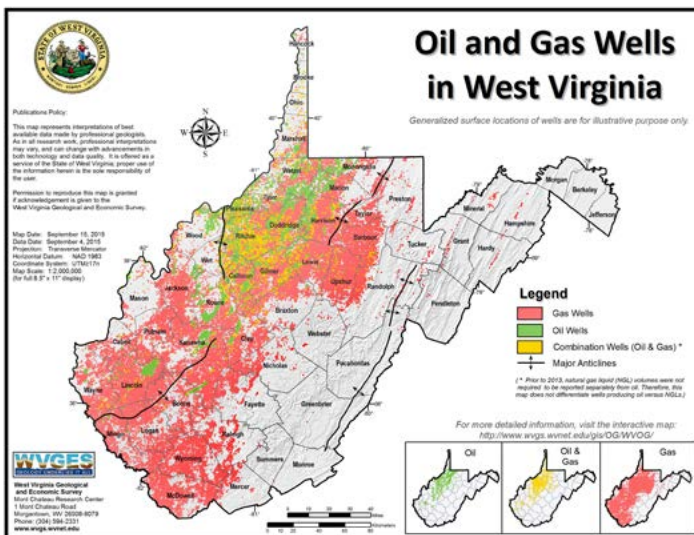
The **Marginal Well Tax Credit** provides funds for qualified oil and gas wells when commodity prices are extremely low. In 2020, Diversified claimed \$80.4 million from this credit. Further, the West Virginia state legislature cut the severance taxes on the lowest-producing wells by half. Diversified, which helped craft the bill, will be the biggest beneficiary. The state has also allowed Diversified to experiment with a less expensive process (\$25,000 instead of \$100,000) for plugging wells than

To take action on this issue visit wvecouncil.org.

For more information, see:

- *An Empire of Dying Wells* tinyurl.com/bloomberg-methane-links
- *Manchin-linked company could reap millions from climate law* tinyurl.com/eenews-manchin
- *Diversified Energy: A Business Model Built to Fail Appalachia* tinyurl.com/orvi-diversified-pdf
- *Stayin' Alive: The Last Days of Stripper Wells in the Ohio River Valley* tinyurl.com/orvi-stayin-alive

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What is NEPA and Why Does Industry Want to Change It?



BY JIM KOTCON

GOOD NEWS FOR OUR CLIMATE: By now most Americans have heard of the Inflation Reduction Act, the landmark energy and climate legislation signed by President Biden in August. That bill is the largest single climate bill in history, and while climate scientists agree that it will not, by itself, be sufficient to prevent catastrophic climate change, it is a very good start.

SO, WHAT'S THE CATCH?

Unfortunately, the Inflation Reduction Act also included some provisions demanded by WV Senator Joe Manchin to extend the life of the fossil fuel industry. These include massive subsidies for carbon capture and sequestration (CCS), as well as requirements to expedite various fossil energy leasing programs.

Worst of all is a side agreement to include so-called “permitting reform” in a later federal budget bill needed to prevent a government shut-down. Because of almost unanimous opposition from Republicans who wanted to deny Manchin a victory, as well as some Democrats who recognized the bill as bad policy, Manchin pulled the language rather than shut down the government.

But what is actually in the permitting reform language, and why is it bad policy? Both Senators Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito have proposed similar permitting reform bills to expedite energy projects. The justification for those bills relies on industry propaganda calling for “regulatory certainty” and weakening the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

WHAT IS THE NEPA?

The NEPA has, for over 50 years, required federal agencies to objectively analyze environmental impacts of proposed projects and to involve the public that will be affected by those agency decisions. This approach is both good science and good public policy. Rational decisions are best made with all the facts, and since agencies cannot be expected to know everything

about the impacts of their proposals, getting input from those with expertise and interest just makes sense.

The NEPA process involves analyzing the environmental impacts (both quantifiable and non-quantifiable) of the proposed project to various resources and comparing a range of reasonable alternatives that might achieve the project need. The act further requires that federal agencies disclose those analyses as a draft to allow the public to comment and help identify errors or omissions in the analysis before a final decision is made. The goal is to identify the “least impacting alternative” that meets a project need. While the approach may differ slightly among agencies, states, and even foreign countries, any logical process developed to consider impacts and involve the public would end up being something like the NEPA.

NEPA rules clearly require that these analyses, called “Environmental Impact Statements” (EIS), be used to help decision-makers in federal agencies consider reasonable alternatives and avoid making decisions before all the facts are in and everyone has a chance to provide input. This approach requires that agencies actually listen to people and consider their concerns. Agencies that listen to people often adjust their analyses, or even consider new alternatives that lessen environmental impact.

WHY DOES INDUSTRY WANT PERMITTING REFORM?

Agencies get into trouble when they try to rubber-stamp a decision already made, before any analysis, rather than objectively considering all the issues and reasonable

alternatives before making a decision. When industry calls for “regulatory certainty,” what they really want is a rubber stamp to get their projects approved, regardless of how badly they might affect local communities or the environment.

SO, WHAT IS IN THE BILL?

Senator Manchin’s permitting reform bill (called the Energy Independence and Security Act) would undermine the NEPA in several key ways. It would limit the time allowed for agencies to review an EIS but does not provide additional staff needed to do so. His bill would mandate that agencies expedite a number of fossil fuel projects, while restricting the rights of citizens to challenge bad projects. Worst of all, the bill mandates approval of the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP), regardless of the impacts imposed, directly contradicting the need to objectively review a project before making a decision.

The MVP is a classic example of this flawed approach. Since first being proposed in 2014, at least four federal agencies have approved a range of environmental analyses to authorize MVP, even though they clearly had not considered all the environmental impacts and were simply rubber-stamping a decision already made. As a result, the Sierra Club and our allies have sued in court repeatedly to force an accurate analysis of the impacts and fair consideration of alternatives.

The claim by pipeline proponents that MVP is needed ignores climate change and the urgent need to wean ourselves from fossil fuels. Forcing ratepayers to

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2023 WEST VIRGINIA Legislative Priorities



BY LUCIA VALENTINE

*WVEC lobbyist and
outreach coordinator*

I am excited to be back on the West Virginia Environmental Council (WVEC) lobby team for 2023, and I will also monitor interim sessions for the remainder of 2022. Reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or ideas, or join me as I talk with legislators! Following are some specific ways you can be involved.

FEB 28: E-DAY

This year's E-Day (Environmental Lobby Day) is February 28, 2023 at the WV State Capitol Upper House Rotunda, Charleston. Our lobby team can help you set up meetings with your legislators and find your way around the Capitol. Groups can sponsor a table at the event. All participation at E-Day is free. For more information, email: info@wvecouncil.org



NOV 21: SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP

If you missed our Environmental Summit (see front page) and want to learn more, join us at 5 pm, November 21 for a virtual follow-up meeting to further discuss and strategize for the upcoming 2023 Legislative Session.

To register, email: lucivaalentine10@gmail.com.

JAN 11: SESSION BEGINS

The 2023 Legislative Session begins January 11. Our 2023 legislative priorities focus on energy issues, clean water, public lands, and free and fair elections. Find the whole list at <https://wvecouncil.org/2023-legislative-priorities>.

Our Energy Campaign, co-sponsored with the West Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club, is one of the priorities. The campaign urges legislators to hold the fossil fuel industry accountable by addressing **unplugged orphaned gas wells** (see article, p. 3), **inadequate bonding of coal mining reclamation sites**, and the **pending bankruptcy of the Special Reclamation Fund**. It's time legislators did more to protect our drinking water and our air quality from irresponsible coal and gas operators.

Volunteers are needed to write op-eds and attend in-district meetings with legislators. We can help you coordinate a meeting and write an op-ed or letter to the editor. Legislators need to hear from their constituents about these issues before heading into the 2023 session. Help us create momentum now. At the WVEC website, you can find a social media toolkit and a call to action (wvecouncil.org/call-to-action). **Contact me at lucivaalentine10@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer.**



Mary Ann Hitt was keynote speaker at the WVEC E-Summit in September. PHOTO BY CHRIS CRAIG.

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change.” The bill will provide tax credits for transition to clean energy and refunds to non-profits who cannot benefit from such tax credits. Loans will be available to areas transitioning away from coal; states and localities can apply for environmental justice block grants. New federal funds will be available for brownfield cleanup, training, and workforce development grants in the coalfields of WV. “We’re a very small state, but we have a very large position to bring about energy transition,” Hitt said. “What a time to be alive!”

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2023

During the Sunday morning session, the focus turned to strategy in the upcoming legislative

session in Charleston. State Delegate Evan Hansen (D-51) and organizational leaders discussed bills that will likely be introduced in 2023. A Community Solar bill would allow people unable to place solar panels on their homes, such as renters and people who live in shady areas, to purchase solar power from providers other than their utility companies. Hansen noted that this bill would follow the passage of four good WV solar bills since 2020, giving him optimism for the new bill's success.

WV Sierra Club's Jim Kotcon introduced the Orphan Well Prevention Act, which would require escrow accounts for gas and oil companies to cover the cost of plugging inactive wells and set requirements

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Rockwool Submits a Modification to its Current Air Permit to the DEP



BY LYNN DELLES

On October 3, Rockwool submitted an application to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to modify its Air Permit to Construct. In this application Rockwool, the insulation factory in Ranson, is seeking to change the permitted operating parameters to match what it built.

NEW CONSTRUCTION? HASN'T ROCKWOOL BEEN OPERATING FOR OVER A YEAR?

This request comes more than two and a half years after Rockwool first announced it did not intend to build or operate its facility as it was originally permitted, and more than a year after it started operation.

This is not how the construction air-permitting process is supposed to work. Facilities are supposed to be built as permitted and, more

These issues were fairly obvious in Rockwool's Annual Compliance Certification, in which the factory had eleven violations, including eight stemming from Rockwool's failure to portray its facility accurately in its initial permit application or follow the permit it was granted. In the cover letter to the Compliance Certification, Rockwool indicated that it would address these necessary changes in the Title V (operating air permit) process, but when that application was submitted, the changes were not included. Instead,



The Rockwool Ranson facility as seen at night with a long trailing plume of smoke. PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY FOUNDATION, INC.

importantly, permitted as they are intended to be built. Instead, Rockwool indicated in its air permit that it would be using similar technology to that in its Byhalia, Mississippi factory, and would require the use of coal. This afforded Rockwool very high emission limits and allowed it to avoid using the best available control technology for regulated emissions from its natural gas burners.

Then, during construction, Rockwool informed DEP that it would start operations without the use of coal in the melting furnace, and it announced to the public that it would be employing "new" equipment at the Ranson facility. The latter admission is important because the emissions data and control technology in the original permit were based on the Byhalia facility technology; if the technology was different, Rockwool should have been required to perform further testing to get the permitting correct.

Rockwool indicated in the application that these changes would be made in yet another application process. Thus, Rockwool is finally seeking to change its air permit two-and-a-half years late and after more than a year of operation.

While this application for modification does reduce the emission limits, we believe that, with its switch from coal to natural gas, Rockwool should be able to reduce its emissions limits to a far greater extent.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Jefferson County Foundation has outlined key points that the public can use in comments on the application until the draft permit comes out. The DEP will then accept comments for 30 days on the draft permit. For more information and to keep up to date on this issue, go to www.jeffersoncountyfoundation.org/modification-to-air-permit-to-construct/ or follow our Facebook page.

KEY POINTS: Rockwool's Air Permit Modification Application...

- withholds critical information as Confidential Business Information (CBI). The permit needs to contain all information "necessary to determine the identity, amount, frequency, concentration, or other characteristics" of air emissions that could impact air quality and to determine appropriate controls for those emissions.
- is still based on estimated emissions data from Rockwool's Byhalia, MS, facility. The permit needs to be based on real emissions data from the Ranson facility, not estimated data from Byhalia, MS, a coal-burning factory.
- does not request a permit that would prohibit the use of coal. The permit must strictly prohibit the use of coal at the Rockwool Ranson Facility.
- includes small reductions in emissions. The permit must further reduce these emission limits.
- does not contain the best available emission control technology (BACT) for natural gas. The permit must require that Rockwool install the best available emission control technology for all regulated emission based on natural gas, including full consideration of low NOx burners.
- does not include an Air Toxics Assessment.
- lacks adequate monitoring. The permit needs to require more monitoring of air emissions.

Nations Need to Recommit to Paris Climate Accords Goals



BY ERIC ENGLE

As I write this, the 27th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will soon take place, November 6-18, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

As at all COPs, nations will discuss their Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs), voluntary emissions reduction efforts meant to meet the goals of the Paris Climate Accords of 2015. We in the Mid-Ohio River Valley, a region long invested in extractive industries, are acutely aware of the importance of these efforts.

Under the Paris Accords, the goal is to limit global warming over a pre-industrial baseline to no more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of this century, with an aspirational goal of limiting warming to 1.5C (2.7F) by the century's end. We are not on an emissions reduction path to achieve these goals at all. Not even close.

A recent NDC synthesis report by the U.N., according to reporting in *The Guardian*, "...showed that current NDCs would lead to an increase in emissions of about 10.6% by 2030 compared with 2010 levels. This is an improvement over last year's assessment, which found countries were on a path to increase emissions by 13.7% by 2030 compared with 2010." The problem here, as *The Guardian* goes on to mention, is that "...the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has estimated that greenhouse gas

emissions need to fall by about 45% by 2030, compared with 2010 levels, to give the world a chance of staying within 1.5C."

A recent report by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) found that under current national pledges, we will see 2.6C of warming by this century's end. Reports released recently by the International Energy Agency and UNEP found that current national pledges barely cut projected emissions by 2030 at all when compared to 2019 levels. Various syntheses of the published research on these subjects released recently show that all new oil & gas development is "incompatible" with a 1.5C target. Bottom line: We're not on a path consistent with a planet that remains inhabitable.

The technology and financing exist to change this trajectory, and the public policy is slowly—too slowly—falling into place as well, but what we really lack here is the political, cultural, and societal will to act on this in the timeframe necessary. That's got to change. We are trying to lead the change in the Ohio River Valley! You can help make that change by responding to some of the action appeals found throughout this newsletter.

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of companies to prevent future abandonment of wells. Kotcon said that the state legislation would complement the \$25 million allocated by the federal Inflation Reduction Act to plug the 6000 orphaned wells presently polluting West Virginia air. ([See related story, page 3.](#))

With recent public attention given to PFAS contamination in drinking water and greatly lowered safety limits for those "forever chemicals" set by the EPA, Hansen believes the time is ripe in WV for a Safe Drinking Water Act. This act would provide training for PFAS response teams to identify contamination sources and develop plans for dealing with them, as well as require manufacturers to clean up the sources.

Two bad bills are likely to reappear in the legislature this year that environmentalists should forcefully oppose, as they have successfully in the past. Cory Chase of the

WV Highlands Conservancy said there will almost certainly be another attempt to allow increased use of ATVs and other motorized vehicles on WV public lands. Requirements set in place for above-ground chemical storage after the massive spill in the Elk River in 2015 have been weakened several times, said WV Waters Director Angie Rosser. And, she expects there will be another attempt to provide cost savings to the chemical companies at the expense of public health for citizens.

In addition to work sessions and a Saturday afternoon panel that featured activists around the state, summit attendees were able to enjoy a hike to the 19th-century Henry Clay Furnace in nearby Cooper Rock State Forest. WVEC lobbyist Lucia Valentine and others serenaded everyone at

a Saturday pizza dinner. And those staying overnight on site rested in the spacious yurts at the WVU facility.

Your help is needed to address the great environmental challenges and opportunities in the state today. Respond to emails on legislative action, contribute to WV Sierra Club and the lobbying efforts of WVEC, and contact Jim Kotcon at jkotcon@gmail.com to volunteer. 🍃



Summit attendees prepare for a hike to Henry Clay Furnace. PHOTO BY CHRIS CRAIG.

Outdoor Experiences are Key to Connection and Activism



To advocate for nature is to live in a reciprocal and balanced relationship with the environment that sustains us.

BY ADRIENNE EPLEY BROWN

We are a part of the natural world, although a society focused on industrial growth often presents nature as something separate — as a place to visit or as an entity apart. Culturally, Western society emphasizes the importance of individuality, independence, and consumerism. These values can have a devastating impact on our balance of mind, body, and spirit, as well as on nature.

Everything is connected in nature. Nothing in nature exists solely for itself. When we see ourselves as separate from nature, we are isolating ourselves from home, family, and our place in the web of life. Many people do not have a relationship with how their food is sourced, how goods are produced, and where their trash goes after it hits the curb. For many, these processes are out of sight and out of mind.

Connecting with nature and connecting with others in natural settings can help to restore balance to our lives. When we work together, we elevate collective awareness of the importance of a reciprocal relationship, and we become a powerful force for good. Without a connection to nature and to each other, we can easily become despondent.

Activism has many faces. During these divisive times, fostering connection is a powerful act of resistance. Creating a sense of community with all of our human and nonhuman neighbors can be an antidote for discouragement and hopelessness. Enjoying time together in our natural world rejuvenates activism. Community hiking and other outdoor activities generate new ideas and approaches to our fight for environmental and social justice. The forest knows that diversity and connection are the keys to survival. We embody this approach on every outing without realizing it. This is why I wanted to become the Mon Group Outings Chair. This is my activism. I hope you'll join us on the trail.



Fall foliage in full display at White Park, Morgantown.
PHOTO BY ADRIENNE EPLEY BROWN.

Mon Group entry into the scarecrow contest at the WV Botanic Garden in Morgantown.
PHOTO BY BETSY LAWSON.



NEW PLAQUE HONORS Ann Devine-King AT COOPERS ROCK STATE FOREST

BY MARY WIMMER



A memorial plaque has been added to the rustic shelter dedicated to WV Sierra Club leader Ann Devine-King at Coopers Rock State Forest. PHOTO BY MARY WIMMER.

Funds donated to the WV Chapter of the Sierra Club in memory of Ann Devine-King, along with significant funds from the Coopers Rock Foundation, were used to construct a memorial pavilion for users of Coopers Rock, one of Ann's favorite places. (See Mountain State Sierran Fall 2020 issue.) The Foundation has now added a memorial plaque to the pavilion.

Ann was a fellow lover of the outdoors: She was in her element on Sierra Club outings of various sorts, from hiking and backpacking to trail maintenance to flatwater paddling, and she often volunteered to lead them. Her dedication to the WV Chapter became a large component of her life. She had assumed the role of Outings Chair when Mike Price passed away in Spring 2017, and she was just getting going organizing and leading outings and training new leaders when a fall at her home took her from us. When I think of Ann, the words kind, gentle, and caring also come to mind. Her immensely positive, endless energy has been greatly missed. [See more of Mary Wimmer's tribute to Ann in the November/December 2017 issue of the *Mountain State Sierran*.]

NEPA | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

pay billions for a project that is not needed and that will be obsolete before it pays for itself, while imposing excessive environmental costs on our air, land, and water, is exactly the kind of bad decision that the NEPA is intended to prevent.

Courts tend to defer to agency expertise on technical issues, except when the agency is so arbitrary and capricious as to violate federal law. The MVP keeps losing in court, not because environmentalists are obstructionists, but because it really is a bad idea, one that violates federal laws meant to protect all of us. The federal agencies that have pushed this have generated NEPA analyses that are so obviously flawed that courts have repeatedly asked that they be redone.

CONCLUSION

Senator Manchin is not giving up, so some kind of regulatory reform bill is likely to be back, either in this Congress or the next. The Sierra Club recognizes that some reform of the NEPA may be helpful to expedite approval of renewable energy projects. Experts suggest that reasonable deadlines should be coupled with adequate agency funding to do the analyses and properly incorporate public input. Such a bill could have more benefits than drawbacks. But in a democracy, legitimate permitting reform would not include language to arbitrarily mandate a single project and prohibit any appeal by citizens. 🍃

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Ensure your environmental legacy by naming Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter in your will or trust. These gifts cost you nothing now. You can hold on to your assets for as long as you need them and you can change your beneficiaries at any time.

If you have named Sierra Club or your Chapter as a beneficiary or would like to discuss doing so, please contact us today

LORI SULLIVAN Director of Gift Planning
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myplan.sierraclub.org

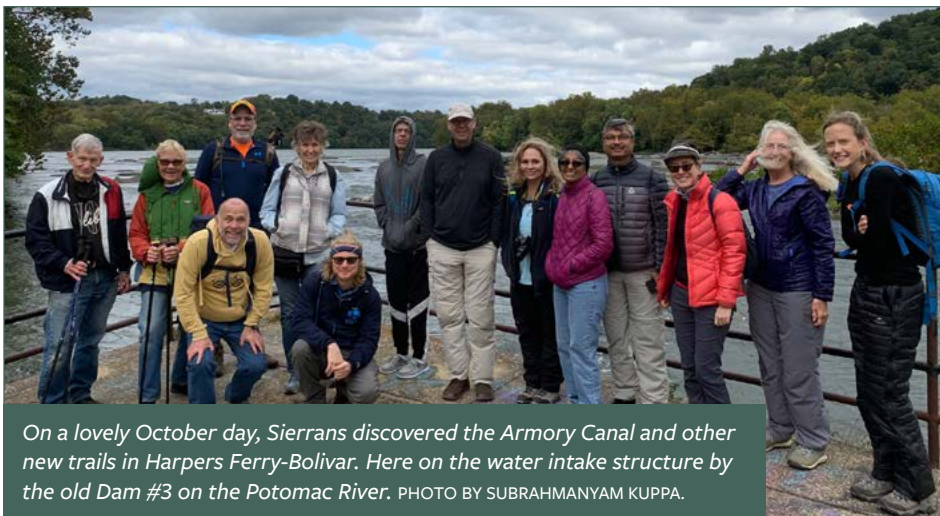


Outings

BY CHRIS CRAIG

Sierrans who love to ski—and those who want to try it—should hold this date: On **January 28** the Mon Group will sponsor a cross-country ski outing at Blackwater Canyon Rail Trail. This full-day outing is perfect for beginning skiers, as it is a gentle railroad grade. Visit one of West Virginia's most iconic wildlands. If there's no snow, this outing will turn into a hike.

Contact Adrienne Epley Brown for final details at: adrienne_epley@yahoo.com or 702-465-9119.



On a lovely October day, Sierrans discovered the Armory Canal and other new trails in Harpers Ferry-Bolivar. Here on the water intake structure by the old Dam #3 on the Potomac River. PHOTO BY SUBRAHMANYAM KUPPA.



Revisiting the precipice at Devil's Nose, on the Tuscarora Trail, Morgan County, WV. August 2022. PHOTO BY CHRIS CRAIG

Saturday, December 10, 2022

DAY HIKE: Appalachian Trail - Snickers Gap to Sam Moore Shelter

We continue our exploration of the AT in Northern Virginia with this early winter walk in the Roller Coaster section just south of Snickers Gap (VA Route 7). There will be plenty of ups and downs but also some nice winter views. Sam Moore Shelter will provide a good lunch spot as well as a turnaround point, and we'll likely have to admire the exterior of popular Bears Den Hostel during its winter closure. This hike will be suitable for adults and children (accompanied by adults) in good shape. Well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcome. There is no charge for this hike, but donations are welcome.

Distance/ 7.2 miles

Difficulty: MODERATE

Duration: 4.5 hours

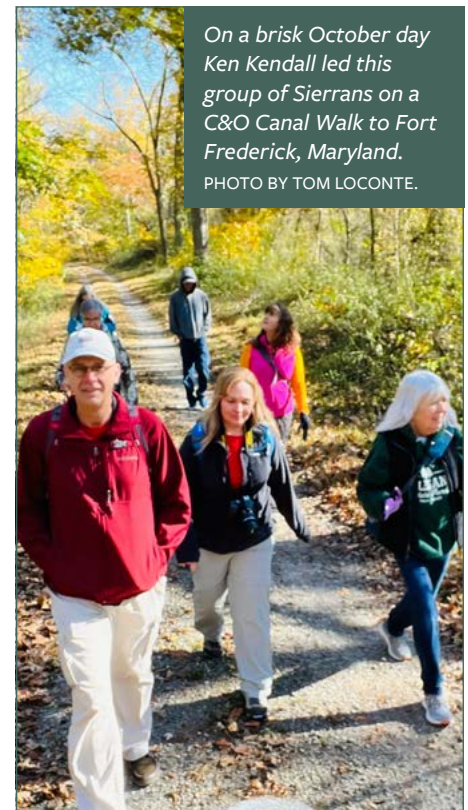
Bring: Water and lunch. Wear layered clothing for a wide range of temperatures.

Meet: 10 am. VDOT Commuter parking lot at southwest corner of the intersection of VA Routes 7 and 601. (Access from eastbound 7 or from 601 south of 7.)

Leader: Chris Craig
ccraig@laurelodge.com
or 304-433-1260

Nearest towns: Bluemont and Round Hill, VA

Cancellation policy: We will cancel in substantial precipitation and if trails are icy.



On a brisk October day Ken Kendall led this group of Sierrans on a C&O Canal Walk to Fort Frederick, Maryland. PHOTO BY TOM LOCONTE.

Sunday, December 11, 2022

DAY HIKE:

White Park Urban Ecotherapy Walk

This hike is open to all. We will take a simple walk and discuss practices to deepen our connection with the natural world. We will take the Lakeshore Trail that connects the White Park parking lot with the Woodland Trail. It is relatively level, with only a few steep inclines and declines. We will then follow the Woodland Trail along the Cobun Creek Reserve, around the southern edge of White Park. A view point over the Cobun Creek Reserve can be accessed at the western end of this trail. We will break at the waterfall and return the way we came.

Distance/ 2 miles

Difficulty: EASY

Duration: 1.5 hours

Bring: Snack, water, and shoes or boots for the varied terrain. Gloves, hat and coat are advised.

Meet: 11 am, at the Morgantown Ice Arena Parking Lot, 1001 Mississippi St., Morgantown.

Leader: Adrienne Epley Brown
adrienne_epley@yahoo.com
702-465-9119

Nearest town: Morgantown, WV

Cancellation policy: This outing will be rescheduled in the case of inclement weather. RSVP in order to receive updates.

Additional information: This 170-acre park provides five miles of wooded trails for mountain biking and winter hiking. Take I-68 Exit 1, continue on US-119 North. Take Green Bag Road to Hite Street. White Park is located on Mississippi Street in Morgantown. There are bathrooms in the vicinity, but not on the trail itself.

Sunday, January 1, 2023

DAY HIKE: Antietam Aqueduct to Mountain Lock (37), C&O Canal NHP

Rain and COVID have kept us from enjoying this New Year tradition for the past three years. Let's hope for better luck in '23. Once again join Sierra Club friends in bringing in a New Year with a walk along the Potomac River on the C&O Canal Towpath. We will meet at historic Antietam Aqueduct and walk downstream to Mountain Lock and back, enjoying winter views of the river and its birdlife along the way. The hike is open to adults and children (accompanied by adults) ready for a winter walk on a level path. Well-behaved dogs on leashes are also welcome. There is no charge for the hike.

Distance/ 4 miles

Difficulty: EASY

Duration: 2.5 hours

Bring: Water and a snack. Dress appropriately for the winter weather.

Meet: 10 am. Antietam Aqueduct, Canal Road, Sharpsburg, MD (3 miles downstream from the Rumsay Bridge over the Potomac). Parking is available along Canal Road.

Leader: Chris Craig
ccraig@laurelodge.com
304-433-1260

Nearest towns: Sharpsburg, MD and Shepherdstown, WV

Cancellation policy: We will carry on in light rain or snow but cancel in ice or heavy precipitation.

Saturday, January 21, 2023

DAY HIKE:

Swallow Falls State Park, Maryland

This hike is open to all. It will be a winter hike along the Youghiogheny River and past several waterfalls. This relatively level hike follows a wooded path. We are likely to have snow cover on the ground, so snow boots or micro spikes are highly recommended. Although this hike may seem too short for a long drive, it offers some spectacular winter scenery. And anyone who wants can join us at one of the local restaurants for lunch afterward. The weather will play a large roll in this hike, so register in advance to be alerted of weather-related cancellations.

Distance/ 1 mile

Difficulty: EASY

Duration: 1 hour

Bring: Water, snacks, and footwear and clothing appropriate for winter conditions.

Meet: 11 am. Swallow Falls State Park, 2470 Maple Glade Rd., Oakland, MD.

Leader: Ken Kendall
kekendall65@gmail.com
or 304-433-9537

Nearest town: Oakland, MD

Cancellation policy: We will cancel for any inclement weather.



Fifteen Sierrans hiked the rugged "Roller Coaster" section of the Appalachian Trail in September. They paused at the state line to mark their progress. PHOTO BY CHRIS CRAIG.



Sierrans explored some iconic and some little-known trails in Harpers Ferry-Bolivar on a beautiful October day. Here, the Armory-Canal Trail is being developed as a bicycle link for the towns.

PHOTO BY TOM LOCONTE.

Saturday, January 28, 2023

DAY HIKE: Fort Duncan, C&O Canal NHP

Fort Duncan is one of the best-preserved and least-known earthen Civil War fortifications in the Harpers Ferry area. Reaching the site will involve walks through the historic town, a stretch of the C&O Canal towpath rich in engineering heritage, and a stretch of untrailed hill through an early iron mine. Hikers must be prepared for two steep hills and surfaces ranging from town sidewalks to rough fields. Winter provides dramatic vistas and the chance to spot eagles and other wildlife along the way. This hike is open to adults and children (accompanied by an adult) capable of handling the varied terrain and distance, but numbers will be limited. It will not be suitable for dogs. There is no charge for this hike, though contributions will be welcome.

Distance/ 6.5 miles
Difficulty: MODERATELY DIFFICULT

Duration: 3.5 hours

Bring: Bring: Water, a bagged lunch, and a snack if desired. Wear footwear and clothing appropriate for a winter hike on varied terrain.

Meet: 10 am. Old Shipley School parking lot, 850 Fillmore Street, Harpers Ferry. (Note, this is not Shipley Elementary School on US340. Instead, it is the old school building in the historical town on Camp Hill.)

Leader: Chris Craig
ccraig@laurellodge.com
304-433-1260

Nearest town: Harpers Ferry, WV

Cancellation policy: We will cancel or postpone in case of ice or heavy snow. Marginal weather may result in avoiding the climb to the Fort and staying on the Canal towpath.

Saturday, February 18, 2023

DAY HIKE: Tuscarora Trail, Sleepy Creek WMA, Morgan County, WV

We will continue our exploration of the Tuscarora Trail in West Virginia on this out-and-back winter hike. We will walk forest roads and trails, with Meadow Branch alongside much of the way. This hike and its parking area are vulnerable to wet or icy conditions, so stay in touch with the hike leader for potential cancellations. It is suitable for adults and children (accompanied by adults) in reasonable shape. Well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcome. There is no charge for this hike, though contributions will be welcome.

Distance/ 5.4 miles
Difficulty: MODERATE

Duration: 3.5 hours

Bring: Water and lunch. Wear clothes suitable for a winter hike and footwear ready for a bit of mud. Poles or a walking stick may be helpful.

Meet: 10 am. Sleepy Creek WMA Lower Campground parking. From WV 9, take Back Creek Valley Road (CR 7) south 7.3 miles. South of Jones Spring, turn right (west) on CR 7/9 for 6 miles, passing Sleepy Creek WMA office and registration point. At the Y intersection, go right 1.8 miles to the end of the road, within view of the dam.

Leader: Chris Craig
ccraig@laurellodge.com
304-433-1260

Nearest town: Hedgesville, WV

Cancellation policy: We will cancel or postpone in case of ice, snow, or very wet conditions.

February 25, 2023

DAY HIKE: Signs of Spring Walk at West Virginia Botanical Gardens

By the end of February, the natural world is waking up in Morgantown. We begin to see buds appearing, birds returning, and possibly frogs croaking. We will celebrate the beauty of this transitional time by searching for signs of spring. This exploration will focus on points of interest around the Reservoir Loops Trail and the Woodland trails. This is a great walk for families due to the recent addition of the children's garden.

Distance/ 2 miles
Difficulty: EASY

Duration: 1.5 hours

Bring: Snack, water, and shoes or boots for the varied terrain, gloves. A hat and coat are advised.

Meet: 1 pm, outside at the lower Education Center porch. The Garden is located at 1061 Tyrone Road, Morgantown.

Leader: Adrienne Epley Brown
adrienne_epley@yahoo.com
702-465-9119

Nearest town: Morgantown, WV

Cancellation policy: This hike is snow/rain dependent so RSVP for updates.

Additional Information Directions, Trail Map and Amenities at <https://www.wvbg.org/>



Crossing the Meadow Branch on a beautiful August '22 hike on the Tuscarora Trail and Sleepy Creek Mountain, Morgan County, WV. PHOTO BY CHRIS CRAIG.

February 25, 2023

DAY HIKE: Appalachian Trail – Washington Monument, Maryland

This hike is open to all. It will be a moderate out-and-back hike along the Appalachian Trail from the Turners Gap parking lot at the Old South Mountain Inn to the Washington Monument State Park. Most of the hike will be in the woods, but there will also be some good views.

- Distance/ Difficulty:** 4 miles
MODERATE
- Duration:** 2 hours
- Bring:** Water, snacks and clothing and shoes appropriate for a winter hike
- Meet:** 10 am. Turners Gap Parking lot at 6132 Old National Pike (Rt. Alt 40), Boonsboro, MD
- Leader:** Ken Kendall
kekendall65@gmail.com
304-433-9537
- Nearest town:** Boonsboro, MD
- Cancellation policy:** We will cancel in substantial precipitation or if the trails are icy.

Saturday, March 18, 2023

DAY HIKE: Appalachian Trail. Snickers Gap to Morgans Mill Road, VA

See in spring with a rugged hike along the AT Roller Coaster in Northern Virginia. We will cover the same ground as our winter hike from Snickers Gap, but quite a bit more as well. Old trail closings forced the AT off the main ridge years ago, resulting in a section of climbs and descents. Our efforts will be rewarded, however, with some good views, walks in mature forests, and some historic cabin sites. This hike is suitable for individuals in good shape. Well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcome. There is no charge for this hike, but contributions are welcome.

- Distance/ Difficulty:** 13.6 miles
DIFFICULT
- Duration:** 7.5 hours
- Bring:** Water, lunch, and a snack or two. Wear layered clothes suitable for a range of temperatures. Poles or a walking stick may be helpful.
- Meet:** 8:30 am. VDOT Commuter parking lot at southwest corner of the intersection of VA Routes 7 and 601. (Access from eastbound 7 or from 601 south of 7.)
- Leader:** Chris Craig
ccraig@laurellodge.com
304-433-1260
- Nearest towns:** Bluemont and Round Hill, VA
- Cancellation policy:** We will cancel or postpone in case of ice, snow, or heavy rain.
- Additional Information** Directions, Trail Map and Amenities at <https://www.wvbg.org/>

The *Mountain State Sierran* is published quarterly by the West Virginia Chapter of Sierra Club and distributed to all paid members—in print (when requested) or electronically. \$1 of each member's annual dues helps offset the cost of producing this newsletter.

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Please contact the Editor for submission guidelines or advertising rates. Contributions to the newsletter may be sent to ccraig@laurellodge.com.

**DEADLINE FOR THE 2023 SPRING ISSUE:
FEBRUARY 4, 2023**

Opinions expressed in the *Mountain State Sierran* are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Sierra Club.

WELLS | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

state regulations require.

According to *E&E News*, Hutson has been cultivating a relationship with Joe Manchin for years and was his biggest campaign contributor in this election cycle. Is it coincidence that Diversified is well-positioned to take advantage of the \$7 million in the **Inflation Reduction Act** (IRA) to plug defunct wells and contain methane leaks or that they could tap into the \$850 million IRA funds to reduce methane emissions from wells and pipelines?

State laws require that non-producing wells be plugged promptly so they don't pollute

ground water or catch fire. But with few inspectors, this is a difficult law to enforce. So, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia cut deals that give Diversified a decade or more to bring roughly 3,000 idle wells into compliance. If the company revives enough of those wells, it's required to plug only 20 unsalvageable wells a year in each of the four states. At that pace it would take about 750 years for Diversified to plug everything it currently owns in the region. This makes Diversified a company "too big to fail." If it goes belly-up, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia taxpayers could be stuck with a billion-dollar mess. (See "An Empire of Dying

Wells" in Bloomberg News, October 11, 2021.)

We must prevent wells from becoming orphaned or abandoned in the first place. Last January, Delegate Evan Hansen (D-Monongalia) introduced House Bill 4054, **The Orphan Well Prevention Act**. It needs to be reintroduced in 2023. It requires companies to deposit funds for plugging their wells upfront before they begin drilling. It's time to prevent oil and gas companies from shifting their economic burden onto West Virginia taxpayers should they abandon or orphan their wells—or sell them on to Ponzi schemes like Diversified Energy. 🌿

2023 WV Chapter ExComm Election

The Executive Committee (ExComm) for the West Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club is the primary decision-making body for the Chapter and approves policies, appointments, and budgets. The WV Chapter ExComm consists of seven (7) at-large members elected from among active state members willing to serve a two-year term. Four terms expire in January 2023, and a slate of four (4) candidates is provided, along with their brief statements. Write-in votes are welcome and encouraged if you or a member you know wants to make a difference in our organization. Please consider your choices, mark your ballot, and return it to the designated address postmarked by **January 5, 2023**.

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS ELECTION,
PLEASE CONTACT: JKOTCON@GMAIL.COM.**

Candidate Statements

CHRISSY SANDY

ADRIAN (UPSHUR COUNTY)

I am excited to be nominated. I look forward to becoming more active in environmental issues in our state and country. I recently joined Buckhannon River Watershed Association and have been an active participant in Buckhannon Riverfest for many years. I attended the week-long extensive Climate Reality Project Training hosted by Al Gore in 2020. I was an active participant in stopping PATH. I look forward to using the knowledge I have gained working to preserve the water supply of my community, as well as on many other issues, such as hemp farming and solar and wind power. Getting my two children involved by attending outings offered by Sierra Club is also an important way to introduce them to environmental issues and to mold the future generation of environmental protectors. I have been a Sierra Club member since 2022.

AILEEN CURFMAN

SHEPHERDSTOWN (BERKELEY COUNTY)

I feel honored to serve on this board of decision-makers and am interested in continuing my service for another term. Our Chapter has recently faced many challenges. I'm proud of our resilience and strength. We're meeting the challenges head-on, and we're standing firm with our fellow West Virginians to support clean air, clean water, clean jobs, and a future safe from flooding and other effects of climate change. I love being a part of this volunteer work force. I hope you will give me a chance to continue. I grew up in West Virginia and currently live in Berkeley County with my husband, David. When I'm not calling my legislators or discussing environmental issues with Sierra Club staff and volunteers, I'm likely to be out walking in the woods, paddling my kayak, or camping in state and national parks and forests.

KEVIN CAMPBELL

ADRIAN (UPSHUR COUNTY)

I have been a member of the WV Chapter ExComm since 2019. I also serve (or have served) in leadership roles for several other environmental organizations, namely, as president of the Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance, president of the Southern Upshur Business Association, vice-chair for Buckhannon River Watershed Association, WV delegate to the Council of Club Leaders for Sierra Club, and as a member on the boards of several other organizations: West Virginia Environmental Council, Upshur County Development Authority, Upshur County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the West Virginia Land Stewardship Corporation Act.

DAVID STURM

FAIRMONT (MARION COUNTY)

A decade or so ago, fracking became an issue that gained public attention around many areas of the state. I wanted to learn about fracking so I could give a presentation to a group that provided lectures and workshops to each other as its organizational purpose. A search for "fracking" hit on a training event called Marcellus Academy, offered by the Sierra Club. Attending it made me more interested in environmental issues and generated a personal interest in the Sierra Club. We put on another Marcellus Academy last summer where one of the biggest problems we identified was low participation in Club activities. One of our highest-priority goals now is to identify clusters of members in areas where there are local environmental problems. It would then be our objective to provide support to help them meet each other and work together on their local problems.



2023 WV Chapter of Sierra Club - ExComm Ballot

Excomm Candidates (vote for up to 4)

_____	Chrissy Sandy	_____	Write-in
_____	David Sturm	_____	Write-in
_____	Aileen Curfman	_____	Write-in
_____	Kevin Campbell	_____	Write-in

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS:

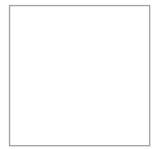
Each individual named on the attached address label is entitled to vote. Single members should use only one column. Joint members may use both columns. To vote, place a mark in the spaces provided for up to four (4) names. After voting, remove the ballot page and EITHER refold the self-mailer, taping all three open sides to reduce jams in USPS sorting machines, OR insert your ballot into a separate envelope and mail to:

WV Sierra Club Chapter Elections
Committee, c/o Candice Elliott
414 Tyrone Avery Road
Morgantown WV 26508-4199

To be counted, ballots must be postmarked by January 5, 2023, and have the membership number visible.

You may either leave your label attached, optionally crossing out all but your member number, or you may fill in the number from your label here: Membership # _____

..... FOLD HERE



**WV Chapter Elections Committee
c/o Candice Elliott
414 Tyrone Avery Road
Morgantown WV 26508-4199**

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STAPLE OR TAPE HERE

Sierra Club members from Morgan, Berkeley, and Jefferson Counties are part of the Eastern Panhandle Group as well as the WV Chapter. **PLEASE VOTE IN BOTH ELECTIONS**, including the membership number from your newsletter label on both ballots. Note that the ballots must be mailed separately, to different addresses.

2023 Eastern Panhandle Group ExComm Election

The Executive Committee (ExComm) for the Eastern Panhandle Group of the Sierra Club is the primary decision-making body for the Group and approves policies, appointments, and budgets. The EP Group ExComm consists of seven (7) at-large members elected from among active Sierra Club members from Morgan, Berkeley, or Jefferson Counties willing to serve a two-year term. Four terms (including one unfilled after a recent resignation) expire in January 2023, and a slate of four (4) candidates is provided, along with their brief statements. Write-in votes are welcome and encouraged if you or a member you know wants to make a difference in our organization. Please consider your choices, mark your ballot, and return it to the designated address postmarked by **January 5, 2023**.

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS ELECTION,
PLEASE CONTACT: EWHEELESS@LAURELLODGE.COM.**

Candidate Statements

ROZ EILER

INWOOD (BERKELEY COUNTY)

I first became a Sierra Club member in Florida and edited the Sarasota Chapter's newsletter. Now I'm here in Berkeley County, and I'm proud to have served as the Eastern Panhandle's webmaster. Environmental issues have mushroomed in importance in this region. The National Sierra Club offers very useful action information for us to help our members make a positive impact for our communities. As COVID has created huge challenges, I hope to offer a variety of ways to link us together in our efforts on both Facebook and our local pages. In my "other life," I kayak and volunteer for the BC BackPack Program and WV Read Aloud, when I'm not at the grandkids' ballgames.

REGINA HENDRIX

CHARLES TOWN (JEFFERSON COUNTY)

For the past several years I have served as Conservation Chair for Eastern Panhandle Sierra Club. I am once again volunteering to serve on the group's executive committee. There is an urgent need for our group and other conservation organizations to closely track the work of Jefferson County Development Authority, as they have in the past invited polluting industries to our region. After the opening of Rockwool with the very permissive license from WVDEP, we cannot afford to allow additional potential hazardous sources of danger to our water and air quality.

MAGGIE LOUDON

HEDGESVILLE (BERKELEY COUNTY)

I have served as the secretary of the Eastern Panhandle Sierra Club, making sure that Sierrans have up-to-date information from our group, the State Chapter and the national Sierra Club. I believe that the mission and the work of the Sierra Club are important, especially today when we are facing an environmental emergency and when forces that would divide us are so loud in our country. I believe our work more needed today than ever, and I would like to serve Sierrans in the Eastern Panhandle by working to continue to spotlight important issues and to be a voice that speaks out against the destructive forces that would divide us.

PAM MCLELLAN

BOLIVAR (JEFFERSON COUNTY)

I recently moved to Harpers Ferry from Oregon, where I was active with the Many Rivers Sierra Club Group and served for several years on its Executive Committee. I trained to be a hike leader and enjoyed co-leading many area hikes and environmental education activities. At the same time, I volunteered through trail maintenance, programming, and special events with other local conservation groups. I am currently semi-retired after a career in museums, historic preservation, and libraries in multiple capacities. In addition to being an active hiker and kayaker, my goal is to help individuals discover their link to nature and the universe, so we can collaborate to make better choices for a world we actually want to live in.



2023 Eastern Panhandle Group ExComm Ballot

FOR MEMBERS FROM BERKELEY, JEFFERSON, AND MORGAN COUNTIES ONLY

Excomm Candidates (vote for up to 4)

_____	Roz Eiler	_____	Write-in
_____	Regina Hendrix	_____	Write-in
_____	Maggie Loudon	_____	Write-in
_____	Pam McLellan	_____	Write-in

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS:

Each individual named on this newsletter's address label is entitled to vote. Single members should use only one column. Joint members may use both columns. To vote, place a mark in the spaces provided for up to four (4) names. After voting, EITHER refold the self-mailer, taping all three open sides to reduce jams in USPS sorting machines, OR insert your ballot into a separate envelope and mail to:

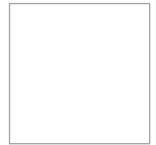
EPSC Elections Committee c/o Ed Wheelless
PO Box 1011, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-1011

**BALLOT MUST BE RECEIVED
BY JANUARY 5, 2023.**

**To be counted, ballots must be postmarked by January 5, 2023,
and have the membership number visible.**

Fill in the number from your label here: Membership # _____

FOLD HERE



**EPSC Elections Committee
c/o Ed Wheelless
PO Box 1011
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-1011**

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Sierra Club

West Virginia Chapter

PO Box 4142

Morgantown, WV 26504

sierraclub.org/west-virginia

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

WINTER 2022

Official Chapter ExComm Ballot Inside
A separate ballot WILL NOT be mailed.
RETURN POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 5, 2023



This newsletter is printed by Progressive Printing in Martinsburg, WV on 100% post-consumer, recycled paper, using vegetable-oil-based inks.

Chapter ExComm Meeting

The next meeting of the WV Chapter of Sierra Club Executive Committee will be held online at
10 am – 3 pm, Saturday, January 14.

Email sierraclub.wv@gmail.com or call 304-314-2709 for more information or to receive the link.

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,250



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Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Joe Manchin (D)

(202) 224-3954
manchin.senate.gov

The Hon. Shelley Moore Capito (R)

(202) 224-6472
capito.senate.gov

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Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. David McKinley (R, 1st)

(202) 225-4172
mckinley.house.gov

The Hon. Alex Mooney (R, 2nd)

(202) 225-2711
mooney.house.gov

The Hon. Carol Miller (R, 3rd)

(202) 225-3452
miller.house.gov

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Washington, DC 20515

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(202) 456-2461

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

WVlegislature.gov has contact information for all state legislators.

(877) 565-3447 or (304) 347-4836

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