

# Mountain State Sierran

Volume 42, Number 5

[sierraclub.org/west-virginia](http://sierraclub.org/west-virginia)

September/October 2016

## New and Improved Chapter Website

*Autumn Long*

The WV Chapter of the Sierra Club is launching a new website. URL traffic will be automatically redirected there from our old site, so Sierra Club members and all interested parties can easily find our new home on the web. The new site's web address is: [sierraclub.org/west-virginia](http://sierraclub.org/west-virginia)

The new site offers several exciting features and upgrades, including an easy-to-navigate activities calendar for all our outings, meetings and other events. Each activity is color-coded by category, and the calendar can also be viewed in map or list form.

Visitors to the website will be able to conveniently sign our Chapter's latest action alert, visit our Chapter store, make a donation, or become a Sierra Club member. Notices of upcoming Chapter events and news items will be prominently announced on the website's home page, and a national Sierra Club news feed continuously refreshes on the home page's sidebar.

The new website contains pages devoted to Outings, our Chapter's Political Committee, our Energy Efficiency Campaign, and our Chapter Newsletter. Each new issue of the *Mountain State Sierran* will be available for download as a PDF file, and the entire newsletter archive will be imported into the new site by the end of August.

Work on the site is ongoing, so be sure to check back often for updates and improvements. We are seeking members' contributions of photos and content to add to the new site. If you have photos or stories from Sierra Club outings, events or campaigns that you have taken part in, please share them with our webmaster.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the Chapter's online activities. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, contact our new webmaster, Autumn Long, at [autumnlng11@gmail.com](mailto:autumnlng11@gmail.com) or 304-796-4677.

**Chapter's Political Endorsements** — see p. 2

**Upcoming ExComm Meetings**  
**Sat, Nov 12:** 79er Restaurant, Burnsville  
**Sat, Jan 14 or 21:** Morgantown (TBD)  
All members welcome. Contact Jim Kotcon for more details, [jkotcon@gmail.com](mailto:jkotcon@gmail.com)

## Groups Unite to Protect Region from Fracked Gas and Related Infrastructure

During the last weekend of July, more than 50 leaders representing 26 organizations from six states gathered at the Southern Appalachian Labor School. They discussed ways to strengthen regional work around issues people face from fracked gas drilling, waste disposal and related infrastructure concerns, and they heard a keynote address from a member of a group that organized to defeat the Keystone XL pipeline.

"All the groups working on these issues know that we have greater power when we work together," said Janet Keating, executive director of OVEC (Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition). Keating was the lead organizer of the meeting. "Landowners face threats of eminent domain for the private gain of pipeline companies, and community members face grave threats to their health from land, air, noise, and water pollution from all aspects of fracking."

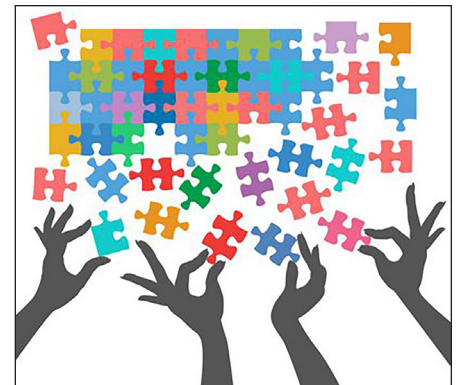
Tom Genung, a landowner and president of Nebraska Easement Action Team, Inc., a division of Bold Nebraska, delivered the inspiring keynote address on how a coalition of unlikely allies, the Cowboy and Indian Alliance, worked together to defeat the Keystone XL pipeline project. Genung stayed for the entire meeting and, as it drew to a close, noted that the meeting was quite similar to early coalition-building meetings held in Nebraska.

"There is no doubt that this meeting was something uniquely powerful. Seeds of resistance are firmly planted in Appalachia and are growing exponentially, providing immense strength," Genung said. "The industry has powers to reckon with that have never existed before, because of unlikely coalitions now evolving. The willingness and planning that has taken place will create an uprising of folks because they will be informed with the truth. Once people have the truth, along with, inevitably, untruth and short sightedness coming from the industry, people will make the right choices and stand up against the industry and its paid-for positions."

"There's a great need for more information on all the issues of pipelines and fracking," said meeting attendee Cynthia Ellis, of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. "One goal coming out of our meeting is to increase the groups' abilities to provide individuals, families and communities with the tools they need to make positive choices and to avoid regrets."

One group of panelists addressed the status of the fracking gas industry and related pipelines in the region (16 major pipelines and hundreds of smaller gathering pipelines are proposed across West Virginia alone). A second panel highlighted some of the successful strategies and lessons learned by groups working to protect their communities from the harms imposed by gas industry activities.

We can make the pieces fit if we work together. Join us to help solve the puzzle faster.



The latter panel included members of a local group, Headwaters Defense, whose organizing in Fayette County led to a county-wide ban on the injection of fracking waste (now being challenged in court). Headwaters Defense's organizing raises awareness of the severe health problems facing people living near a frack waste injection well.

"There are far too many people in this region being put directly in harm's way by the fracking industry. We have to join forces so that we can have a healthy future together in Appalachia and help those that are already harmed," said Brandon Richardson from Headwaters Defense.

Joining Keating in organizing the event were Angie Rosser and Autumn Bryson from West Virginia Rivers Coalition, Laurie Ardison from POWHR, Jim Kotcon from WV Sierra Club, Allen Johnson with Christians for the Mountain, Kirk Bowers with Virginia Sierra Club, and Kate Boyle with Appalachian Voices.

West Virginia groups represented at the event included Christians for the Mountains, Concerned Citizens of Roane County, Eight Rivers Council, Greenbrier River Watershed Association, Headwaters Defense, Indian Creek Watershed Association, Keeper of the Mountains, Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance, OVEC, Preserve Monroe, West Virginia Citizen Action Group, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, West Virginia Rivers Coalition, West Virginia Environmental Council, and the WV Chapter of Sierra Club.

Also in attendance from Kentucky were representatives of Friends for Environmental Justice; from Pennsylvania, Friends of the Harmed, Juniata Watershed People Before Pipelines, and Energy Justice; from Ohio, Friends for Environmental Justice; from Virginia, Va. Chapter of Sierra Club; from Nebraska, Bold Nebraska. Multi-state coalitions represented included POWHR (Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights) and ORCA (Ohio River Citizens' Alliance).

The attendees will be actively recruiting additional groups to join as allies in the ongoing efforts to protect our region's people, air, land, water, heritage, and rights.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

### WV Chapter Endorses Candidates

Jim Sconyers, Political Committee

Have you heard? There's an election coming in November! Just kidding — it's impossible not to know that, given the media attention.

The WV Chapter makes endorsements. Why? The answer is pretty obvious. Our elected officials make vitally important decisions about our air, our water, our health, our communities, and more. Our endorsements identify candidates we can count on to make the right decisions.

We urge our members to go to the polls and vote. It's the way to get pro-environment candidates — who we believe will advocate for clean air, clean water, and more — elected.

We've endorsed strong candidates in races where we can make a difference in improving the Legislature. These candidates need our votes, and our support. In addition to voting for them, we can also contact their campaigns and find out how to help.

Our endorsements listed here include the candidate's name, office, and district. Feel free to clip and save the listing. You are perfectly free to take it with you on election day, Tuesday, Nov. 8.

#### WV Chapter Endorsements

Mike Manypenny  
U.S. House of Representatives District 1

Samantha Foose	WV House 14
Joe Fincham	WV House 17
Kristen Ross	WV House 31
Margaret Staggers	WV House 32
Nancy Guthrie	WV House 36
Larry Rowe	WV House 36
Mike Pushkin	WV House 37
Stephen Baldwin	WV House 42
Richard Iaquina	WV House 48
Tim Miley	WV House 48
Wayne Worth	WV House 48
Mike Caputo	WV House 50
Linda Longstreth	WV House 50
Tim Manchin	WV House 50
Barbara Fleischauer	WV House 51
Rodney Pyles	WV House 51
Evan Hansen	WV House 51
Alan Tomson	WV House 53
Rod Snyder	WV House 67

Stephen Skinner WV Senate 16

If you're not sure of your district or the name of your current delegate or senator, go to the West Virginia Legislature's website at [legis.state.wv.us](http://legis.state.wv.us). Click on House or Senate, then on District Maps.

For more information about candidates, see our Sierra Club Political Committee Legislative Scorecard, which you can find at [sierraclub.org/west-virginia/political](http://sierraclub.org/west-virginia/political). This comprehensive document gives voting records and a percent score on environmental bills for all incumbent West Virginia delegates and senators in the 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions.

### WVEC/WVHC Biennial Joint Fall Conference

Camp Virgil Tate, Charleston, WV  
Friday, Oct. 21 – Sunday, Oct. 23

#### Conference theme — Green Voices

- Presentations on the Clean Power Plan by Downstream Strategies; Birthplace of Rivers National Monument campaign; Effects of Extractive Industries on WV Health and Environment (Dominion Pipeline and more); Blair Mountain; and Clean Elections
- Attendees will be setting WVEC's 2017 Legislative Priorities, with input from groups who return a new questionnaire on legislative priorities mailed out and returned ahead of the conference.
- Silent Auction (please bring auction items), Tabling and Posters, Recreational Opportunities!

Register at the link found at [wvecouncil.org/calendar](http://wvecouncil.org/calendar) or send the information requested to Paul Dalzell at [paul@wvecouncil.org](mailto:paul@wvecouncil.org). Pay at the conference, or pay online at [wvecouncil.org/join](http://wvecouncil.org/join). When paying online, where it asks for "Organization," please write "WVHC/WVEC Fall Conference." Charges are only for room and board. Additional donations welcomed!

*View from the Chair*

— Jim Kotcon, Chapter Chair

### Be 10,000 Votes! Volunteer during Election

Volunteering is its own reward. I have heard it said many times, and it rings true for me. I certainly have enough to do in my own life: work teaching classes and doing research, family, home. So it was with great reluctance that I agreed to serve as Chapter Chair after Liz Wiles stepped down in July.

I have found new opportunities, however, to reach out to our members, who are among the most interesting, fascinating and fun people I know. Sierra Club volunteers share the common ideal of commitment to a cleaner, healthier, greener world. That is what unites us. And it is good to remind ourselves that this ideal is shared by the overwhelming majority of Americans.

Our challenge is to motivate those Americans to act on those ideals, those shared goals of a better life, a healthier future for our children, and a livable planet for all.

Between now and November 8, each of us can take an important step by voting for pro-environment candidates. The WV Chapter Political Committee has identified a select number of key races where an outstanding candidate is trying to make a difference for West Virginia and the nation. You can do your share by voting for those candidates.

"But I am only one vote," you might be thinking. While that may be strictly true, an informed voter has the ability to convince others. Your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, fellow church members, and the people you meet on the street usually share these ideals, but are often uninformed on how to act on them. They are intensely interested in what you know about candidates and their environmental positions.

So tell them!

Talk about which legislators supported clean water and which voted to gut the rules and allow polluters to dump their costs (and pollution) into our water. Talk about which helped to address energy efficiency, and which insisted that taxpayers bail out the fossil fuel industry. See the Legislative Scorecard on the WV Chapter web page. Carry it with you.

As one former legislator told me, by doing this, your vote can become 10 or 20 votes.

You can expand your power further. Volunteer with candidates' campaigns. Make some phone calls, help out with events, spend an afternoon or two going door to door in swing districts. Tell the candidates you are with the Sierra Club! Your power can grow to 100 or 200 votes.

Then, really boost your power! Work with the Chapter Political Committee to help recruit 10 volunteers, and get each of those to recruit five more volunteers. In one month's time, you can be 10,000 votes!

That kind of power wins elections! That kind of power changes West Virginia for the better. Imagine replacing a "Friend of Polluters" with a "Friend of Planet Earth." Corporations can make financial contributions, but they do not get to vote. Only the people do. And an informed electorate focused on one or two key elections sends a message to every other legislator that voting for environmental protection will help them keep their seat. That a Sierra Club endorsement is a coveted prize.

So if you do one thing between now and November, contact the Chapter Political Committee and get involved.

Be 10,000 votes!

#### Book Review

### The Sea Around Us, by Rachel Carson

Richard Mier, Martinsburg

Rachel Carson's "The Sea Around Us" continues to be a compelling read. Published first in 1951, it won the National Book Award for nonfiction in 1952 and remained on the *New York Times* Best Seller List for 86 weeks. It is part of her love song to the sea — she wrote two other best sellers about the sea — and it established her as a gifted writer who could effectively meld science with poetic sensibility.

She writes lyrically about the sea, its beginnings, inhabitants, sunless depths, tides, seasons. She is energized in particular by the unknowability of the sea. Her lyricism, however, is ever tempered with empiricism. Her imagination is framed with an expert's eye.

It is a book full of things to stop one cold. Here's just one: 100 billion tons of water are carried by the tides into and out of the Bay of Fundy twice daily! There are many more.

For anyone who reads about and is interested in the environmental challenges of today, "The Sea Around Us," is like a diary, in a way, written when we were much younger. Some of what she writes is limited by the science of her day — plate tectonics gained credence only in the mid-1950s, for example. She writes about spring bringing the spawning shad and salmon to eastern rivers without knowing — how could she? — that both would be endangered by 2016. She writes about the great California sardine fishery, now collapsed.

There are rumblings in her preface to the 1961 edition, 10 years after initial publication, reflecting her increasingly active environmentalism: "...the sea has been selected as a 'natural' burying place for the contaminated rubbish...of the Atomic Age." Also: "It is a curious situation that the sea, from which life arose, should now be threatened by the activities of one form of that life." I think she's talking about us.

She died in 1964 of complications due to breast cancer, but if she were alive today, I believe she would be saddened, though resolute, by our current circumstances. This resolve showed itself back then in how she refused to be cowed by the intense personal and professional criticism from the chemical industry (and the government) which came her way after her prophetic masterpiece, "Silent Spring," was published in 1962. This was despite having to deal with the metastatic breast cancer that eventually killed her not long afterward.

She ends "The Sea Around Us" with poetry: "For all at last return to the sea — to Oceanus, the ocean river, like the ever-flowing stream of time, the beginning and the end."

DONATE TODAY



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:

[sierraclub.org/west-virginia](http://sierraclub.org/west-virginia)

Join Online

# SierraFest 2016

## SierraFest 2016

October 28-30 — Blackwater Falls State Park

### Schedule of Activities

#### Friday

- 5:00 p Registration opens, cabin/room assignments (Laura Yokochi)
- 5:30–6:30 p Hike/Outing (Mike Price)
- 6:30 p Pizza/snacks, Silent Auction, Conference Center (Regina Hendrix)
- 7:00 p *Blood on the Mountain*, with intro by the filmmaker, MariLyn Evans

#### Saturday

- 7:30–8:30 a Breakfast à la Chef Muir, Dining Cabin
- 9:00 a Opening and Welcome (Jim Kotcon)
- 9:15 a Ice Breakers (Liz Wiles)
- 10–10:45 a **Keynote Speaker:** Dan Chu, Sierra Club  
— *America's Wildlands: Love Them, Cherish Them*
- 11–11:30 a National Park Service: Happy 100th Birthday
- 11:30–12:30 Lunch à la Grillmaster G, Dining Cabin
- 12:30–2 p Hike/Outdoor Leader Training – OLT 101 (Mike Price)
- 1–1:45 p *West Virginia Politics in 2016:* Prof. Robert Rupp, History & Political Science  
West Virginia Wesleyan College
- 2–2:45 p *Pipeline Here, Pipeline There — Fighting Gas Pipelines:* Laurie Ardisor
- 3–3:30 p Take a break, stretch legs
- 3–3:30 p Hike/Outing (Outing Leaders)
- 3:30–4:15 p *Let The Sun Shine In:* Bill DePaulo
- 4:30–6:00 p Conservation Update on Issues being addressed by the WV Chapter  
*Coal: Down but Not Out* (Bill Price, Jim Kotcon, Joe Lovett)  
*Energy Efficiency* (Laura Yokochi)  
*Going Solar, Getting Windy* (Autumn Long, Jim Kotcon, Jim Sconyers)
- 6:00 p Dinner — DIY (on your own)
- 7:30 p Awards (Jim Sconyers)
- 8:00 p Music by Jane Birdsong, with songs from Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie & others, sing-along with your favorites

#### Sunday

- 7:30–8:30 a Breakfast à la Chef Muir, Dining Cabin
  - 9–10 a Hike/Outing (Outing Leaders)
  - 9–11 a Decorate a T-shirt (bring your own) or Make a Poster
  - 11–noon End of Silent Auction (Regina Hendrix)
- Check Out by Noon**

Join old friends and new as we celebrate America's Wild Lands and the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service

### Lodging

We've reserved four 8-person deluxe cabins, which include Wi-Fi and full kitchens, on the north side of the river. Each cabin has two bedrooms with two twin beds and two with queen beds. If you share a room, the cost is \$37 per bed per night. If you want a room to yourself, it's \$74 per night. A roll-away cot is available for \$10 per night and would fit in rooms with queen beds. (Note: Registration for these cabins is being handled by WV Sierra Club, NOT the Park office.)

We urge you to register early as these rooms are subject to availability.

Other choices, on your own, include staying at the BFSP Lodge, campgrounds or other cabins. Lodge rooms will be \$97/night on the parking-lot side and \$101 per night on the canyon side. If you have questions for the Lodge manager, email [lois.a.reed@wv.gov](mailto:lois.a.reed@wv.gov). For virtual tours, photo gallery, maps and directions, see [blackwaterfalls.com](http://blackwaterfalls.com). Lodging is also available in Thomas, Davis and nearby Canaan Valley. There are free primitive campsites along Camp 70 Road in Davis or along the Canaan Loop Road.

### Meals

To encourage socializing, one of the cabins will be designated as our base cabin. Pizza Friday evening, breakfast and lunch Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday are all included with your registration fee. For dinner on Saturday, the lodge has a full service restaurant, and there are many eateries in the surrounding area.

### Registration — Deadline is Oct. 20

To help cover costs for the conference, we are charging a \$15 registration fee per person when paid by Oct. 1, and \$25 for those who register between Oct. 2 and Oct. 20.

For info and online registration, visit [sierraclub.org/west-virginia](http://sierraclub.org/west-virginia), which will include a link to pay for registration and lodging online.

To register by mail, use the registration form below and mail to:  
**Laura Yokochi, 142 Liberty St., Salem, WV 26426**  
Enclose a check payable to: **WV Sierra Club**

Questions? Contact Laura at 304-695-1523 or [lyokochi@aol.com](mailto:lyokochi@aol.com)



## SierraFest 2016 REGISTRATION FORM

### Oct. 28-30, Blackwater Falls State Park

Do NOT register with Blackwater Falls State Park IF you are staying at one of the 8-person cabins we have reserved.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ License plate no. & state \_\_\_\_\_

#### Which of the following do you plan to attend?

- Friday evening welcome with pizza and films
- Saturday evening celebration, silent auction and music
- Sunday morning program and outings

#### Do you want to stay in one of the 8-person cabins that we have reserved?

(\$37 per night if you share a room, \$74 per night if you want a room to yourself)

- I would like to reserve a twin bed and I have a roommate
- I would like to reserve two twin beds and I have a roommate
- I would like to reserve a twin bed and I need a roommate
- I would like to reserve a queen bed and I have a roommate

Name of roommate: \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to reserve a room for myself only

\$15 per person registration fee if paid by Oct. 1

(or \$25 from Oct. 2–20) x \_\_\_\_\_ attendee(s) = \_\_\_\_\_

\$37/person x \_\_\_\_\_ night(s) for shared room x \_\_\_\_\_ attendee(s) = \_\_\_\_\_

Or \$74/person x \_\_\_\_\_ night(s) for private room = \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Cot, \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL CHARGES:** = \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in donating an item to the silent auction?  Yes  No



### With your help we can clean up our water

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

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club  
Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX  
Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

Gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, science-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.95 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



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Enclose a check and mail to:  
Sierra Club, PO Box 421041  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041  
or visit our website: [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

## Solar Open Houses Around State Stir Interest

Autumn Long

The WV Sierra Club's Energy Efficiency Team hosted the third in our ongoing series of solar open houses on Saturday, July 23, at the Monroe County home of Tracy Vaughn and Chapter ExCom member Laurie Ardison.

Twenty people from six West Virginia counties attended the event on a hot and sunny summer day. Tracy and Laurie's off-grid home is situated on a mountaintop with gorgeous views of the surrounding landscape, including Peters Mountain to the east.

The interior of the house stayed cool all afternoon thanks to its passive solar design and the impressive insulation value of its straw-bale construction. Power is supplied by a 32-panel solar photovoltaic (PV) system and stored in a series of 12 interconnected deep-cycle batteries. The home is wired for both AC and DC power, with many appliances, including ceiling fans and refrigerator, operating on DC power to minimize energy loss. Its many other green features include a composting toilet, cork floors, and on-demand hot water.

This latest solar open house coincided with the formation of a Monroe County Solar Co-op by WV-SUN. You can find out more about the solar coops that are forming throughout West Virginia at WV-SUN's website: [wvsun.org](http://wvsun.org).



Free-standing solar panels power the Monroe County home of Tracy Vaughn and Laurie Ardison.

The WV Sierra Club's Energy Efficiency Team will host another solar open house, from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Cheat Lake (Monongalia County) home of Chapter Chair Jim Kotcon and Newsletter Editor Candice Elliott: 414 Tyrone Avery Road, Morgantown. Representatives from WV-SUN's North-central WV Solar Co-op will be on hand to answer questions and distribute information. Come learn about solar PV power, net metering, and the benefits of joining a solar co-op in West Virginia.

For info or to get involved in the WV Chapter's Energy Efficiency Campaign, contact Laura Yokochi at 304-695-1523 or [lyokochi@aol.com](mailto:lyokochi@aol.com).



A window in the wall provides a glimpse of the home's hay-bale insulation.

## MONONGAHELA GROUP

Sat, Sept 17, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Marion County Preparedness Expo  
Middletown Mall, Fairmont

The Energy Efficiency Campaign Team will sponsor a table at the Expo, with demonstrations and information on energy efficiency in the home.

Info: [davidsturm@gmail.com](mailto:davidsturm@gmail.com)

Sat, Sept 17, 1-4 p.m.  
Solar Open House, Mon County  
414 Tyrone Avery Road, Morgantown

Stop by to see how solar power can help save you money while also helping the environment. Find out how to join the next solar co-op forming in north-central WV.

Info: [jkotcon@gmail.com](mailto:jkotcon@gmail.com), 304-594-3322

For October activities, contact John Bird, 304-864-8631, or watch for email announcements from Sally Wilts. To be added to the Mon Group email list for receiving monthly activity reminders, contact Sally at [sallywilts@yahoo.com](mailto:sallywilts@yahoo.com).

## 2017 Sierra Club Calendars

COMING SOON

Info: Candice Elliott  
[celliot2@comcast.net](mailto:celliot2@comcast.net)  
or text: 304-319-2245.



photo by Beth Little

## June 18 in Watoga State Park

Shown are hikers on the bridge over Dragon's Draft into the Arboretum, which is basically the watershed for Dragon's Draft. Several trails in the arboretum provide hiking loops of varying lengths and surroundings. Up on the ridges are relatively open woods with spectacular trees, and down in the coves, descending to Dragon's Draft, are moisture loving flora, such as rhododendron and stinging nettles (long pants recommended) ... and spectacular trees.

We had a lovely time hiking the Honeybee and Buckhorn trails, pausing at the shelter next to Dragon's Draft to chat and munch.

## 2016 WV BROWNFIELDS CONFERENCE

Tuesday, Sept 6, 3 p.m., through Thursday, Sept 8, 2:30 p.m.  
Charleston Marriott Town Center, 200 Lee St E, Charleston, WV 25301

The Conference will include sessions covering all aspects of brownfields redevelopment, interactive workshops, specialty training on remediation, two networking receptions, and the inaugural Central Appalachian Regional Brownfields Summit on Thursday, Sept 8.

The Conference will kick off with pre-conference workshops on Tuesday afternoon, followed by a Networking Welcome Reception. Wednesday will feature programming and sessions focusing on brownfield redevelopment in West Virginia. Thursday will feature sessions covering regional brownfields topics with the Central Appalachian Regional Brownfields Summit.

Info: Andrew Stacy, 304-293-7085

## CRY OF THE EARTH, CRY OF THE POOR

A Climate Dialogue Leading to Action

Friday, Oct 7, 5-8 p.m. and Saturday, Oct 8, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
St. Francis de Sales Church, 1 Guthrie Lane, Morgantown WV

We have to realize that a **true ecological approach** always becomes a **social approach**; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

— Pope Francis, *Laudato Si* #49

SEE the impact of climate change; JUDGE what your faith says about it; ACT within your sphere of influence. Three tracks will be offered: The Ministry track for pastors, staff, faith formation leadership, outreach and worship will focus on Justice in Community; the Daily Life track will discuss how to Live Justice at Home by leading the way in your house, office and community; and the Young Adult track, "The Future Begins Now," is for high school and college age participants, who can get 2-for-1 on registration if they bring a friend.

Registration: \$10 for Friday (dinner included); \$20 for Saturday (lunch included); Activities for Kids, \$10 per family. Scholarships are available.

For lodging, call the Ramada Inn: 877-361-2502. Book before Sept. 23 to receive the special "Climate Change Gathering" rate of \$80+tax per room. Rooms can be shared by up to four people.

Info: Kate Kosydar, CCWVa, [kkosydar@ccwva.org](mailto:kkosydar@ccwva.org)



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

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

[celliot2@comcast.net](mailto:celliot2@comcast.net)  
414 Tyrone Avery Rd  
Morgantown, WV 26508

Deadline for  
November/December issue

October 7

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.

## Sierra Club Liability Policies For Chapter Outings

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

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

Activities are normally held “rain or shine,” but may be postponed at the leader’s discretion for safety reasons in the event of inclement weather. Participants are reminded that all outdoor activities carry a degree of risk, and some take place in locations where professional emergency medical aid may be two or more hours away. People with health concerns should consult a physician to determine the advisability of participating in these or similar activities. The leader is responsible for the safety of all participants, and has the final authority to decide whether or not an individual may participate on a specific outing. Sierra Club safety policy requires that helmets be worn on bicycling outings, and a personal flotation device (PFD) be worn when using personal watercraft such as kayaks or canoes.

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

dogs are not normally permitted, unless an outing is so designated. Minors (under 18 years of age) must be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian, or they must have both 1) a signed permission slip, and 2) the leader’s prior consent to participate in the Club outing. Sierra Club outings officially begin and end at the trailhead.

Travel to the official starting point and back, even from an advertised meeting place, is the sole responsibility of each participant. While the Club encourages car-pooling, such arrangements are strictly between the riders and the drivers, and are not a part of the outing. Participants assume full responsibility and liability for all risks associated with such travel.

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver, which can be viewed at [www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms) or by calling 415-977-5630.

The Sierra Club does not charge for chapter outings, although payment of park entrance fees, a share of campsite rental costs, permit fees, equipment rental charges, etc. may be required from the participants. The Sierra Club practices “leave-no-trace” trail techniques, including hiking and camping on durable surfaces, minimizing campfire impacts, packing out all trash, respecting wildlife, being considerate of other visitors, and leaving the environment as it was found.

The Sierra Club’s California Seller of Travel identification number is CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

*Perspectives on Outings*

— Mike Price, Outings Chair

## Semper Paratus — Always Ready

From day to day, we never know what lies around the next bend. Nature has a way of reminding us with its raw power that our world can be turned upside down in an instant. The recent flooding in our state was devastating. It destroyed many people’s lives. And while our thoughts and prayers go out to those affected, the floods reminded all of us of the importance of being prepared.

Be prepared! In the outdoors, it is imperative that we always be prepared for the unexpected. Accidents happen, and first aid must be administered. The weather changes, and ponchos or wool sweaters come out. You don’t quite make it off the river before dark, so that extra water, energy bar and matches come in real handy when you have to make an impromptu camp for the night. That’s why our outings leaders are First Aid/CPR certified and trained to react to changing events that may affect the people under their care on an outing.

During the recent flooding, the WV Sierra Club was conducting a multi-day outing for Veterans at the proposed Birth Place of Rivers National Monument. Stacy Bare, of Sierra Club Wild Lands; Lornett Vessals, of Sierra Club Military Outdoors; Paul Wilson, from the WV Chapter; Garret Reppanhan, of Vet Voices, and his family; Joe Canavan, a U.S. Army veteran; and others were camping at Tea Creek Campground on Wednesday, June 22, when the storms came rolling in early Thursday morning, around 2:30 a.m.

I’d been keeping a watchful eye on the water levels in Tea Creek and Williams River during the night, and early Thursday morning I advised the group that we needed to evacuate. The water on the low-water bridge across Williams River was about to be unpassable as we left the campground.

We crossed over the Scenic Highway (W.Va. 150) to the Elk River Inn, at Slaty Fork. There, owner Gil Willis offered to put us up for the night. He advised us to park our vehicles across the bridge on U.S. 219, just in case, but told us his bridge had never washed out. Sadly, as we watched, the fork of the Elk River rose rapidly, the bridge began to shake, and suddenly it was gone. The raging waters moved a concrete pier and the large rock to which it was anchored six feet down stream.

Though stunned by unfolding events, as Veterans and Outings Leaders, we adjusted to our changing circumstances. We stayed the night at Elk River Inn and enjoyed a wonderful dinner there. The next morning, we all hiked through the woods about a mile and a half to a logging company’s bridge and log yard. From there, Gil’s son kindly drove us and our equipment to our vehicles. At that point, Garret and his family departed the group, as he was leaving for an outing in Alaska.

The rest of us headed back to Tea Creek and found our campsites still intact and decided to stay there for the night. The rains had stopped so we decided not to let all of this spoil our outing. Paul Wilson gave us fly-fishing lessons along Tea Creek, where the waters had receded somewhat. And that afternoon we hiked at Hills Creek Falls and Cranberry Glades.

While there was no prior warning of the devastating storms before we started our outing, we adjusted to changing events as they unfolded. As outings leaders and veterans, we are trained to make the best of a bad situation. We were prepared with the proper equipment and ready to overcome difficulties. We adjusted our scheduled activities and turned a potentially bad event into an experience none of us will forget.

# OUTINGS

**Sat, Sept 17**

**Day Hike: New River Gorge, Polls Plateau**  
*rated moderate* — This will be a 6- to 7-mile loop hike on the Polls Plateau Trail.

**Leader:** Mike Price, [mikeprice54@suddenlink.net](mailto:mikeprice54@suddenlink.net), 304-400-8354

**Sat, Sept 24**

**Day Hike: Cacapon Resort SP**

*rated strenuous* — This 7-mile loop includes a 1,200-foot elevation gain as we climb up Cacapon Mountain. We will meet at 10 a.m. inside the lodge. This is a dog-friendly hike and will take about four hours. Pack a lunch, as we will eat at the top of the mountain. The park is located 10 miles outside of Berkeley Springs, WV on Rt 522.

**Leader:** Pam Peitz, [pspeitz@hotmail.com](mailto:pspeitz@hotmail.com), 240-818-6554

**Nearest town:** Berkeley Springs, WV

**Sun, Sept 25**

**Bike Ride: Confluence to Ohio Pyle, PA**  
*rated moderate* — Meet at 10 a.m. at Confluence, PA, for a 20-mile round trip. We’ll bike along the Youghiogheny River Trail to Ohio Pyle, for lunch at the park, before returning to Confluence.

**Leader:** Brent Carminati, [brentcar1@frontiernet.net](mailto:brentcar1@frontiernet.net), 703-999-8679

**Sat, Oct 1**

**Day Hike: Upper Youghiogheny River, Kendall Trail**

*rated easy* — This is a short but lovely out-and-back, 4-mile trail along the upper Youghiogheny River that follows a 1890s-era rail bed to an old logging community called Kendall. Frequent puddles and occasional streams trickle across the trail. Deep Creek Dam will be releasing water, so kayakers and rafters will be out by the score. After the hike, we can enjoy a late lunch at the Riverside Hotel.

**Leader:** Ann Devine-King, [atdking@gmail.com](mailto:atdking@gmail.com), 304-594-2636

**Nearest town:** Friendsville, MD

**Web info:** [garretttrails.org/northern-region-trails.html](http://garretttrails.org/northern-region-trails.html)

**Sun, Oct 2**

**Paddle Trip: Tygart River**

*rated easy* — We will paddle from Woods Boathouse in Fairmont, WV, 2 miles downstream to the confluence of the Tygart and North Fork Rivers, which forms the Buckhannon River. Then paddle 2 miles back upriver to Woods Boathouse, for a 3-4 hour outing. Enjoy lunch afterwards at a local restaurant. Bring your own boat, gear, water and money for lunch.

**Leaders:** Mary Wimmer and Autumn Long, [autumlong11@gmail.com](mailto:autumlong11@gmail.com), 304-796-4677

**Mon-Thu, Oct 3-6**

**Paddle Trip: Shenandoah Valley, VA**

*rated moderate* — A 4-day outing in the amazing Shenandoah Valley, VA, from Luray to Front Royal. We will have 2.5 days of canoeing/kayaking on the north-flowing Shenandoah River, which defines much of the Virginia landscape, popular with farmers, songwriters and paddlers. The South Fork Shenandoah exemplifies the river’s scenic beauty. We will paddle 44 miles in relatively calm water with occasional riffles and ledges. Water flow (CFS) and levels will determine swiftness of current. Generally, winds from the south will provide a nice tailwind. There is one mandatory portage around a low-water bridge. We will paddle through a combination of farmland, privately owned forest, and public land, with riverfront primitive camping. The river runs through the heart of the Shenandoah Valley, with the Massanutten Mountain Range rising to the left and the peaks of the Shenandoah National Park rising on the right.

**Leaders:** Annie Balthazar, [riversgal1720@gmail.com](mailto:riversgal1720@gmail.com), 530-902-9740; and Mike Price, [mikeprice54@suddenlink.net](mailto:mikeprice54@suddenlink.net), 304-400-8354

**Sun, Oct 16**

**Day Hike: New River Gorge, Glade Creek**

*rated moderate* — This will be a 6-mile hike along Glade Creek, up to the bridge crossing and back, with a beautiful mountain stream and waterfalls.

**Leader:** Mike Price, [mikeprice54@suddenlink.net](mailto:mikeprice54@suddenlink.net), 304-400-8354

**Fri, Oct 21**

**Day Hike: Sugarloaf Mountain, MD**

*rated strenuous* — This hike will be about 6-7 miles and includes several steep climbs. Sugarloaf Mountain is privately owned by a nonprofit corporation and is located in Barnesville, MD, about 10 miles south of Frederick. We will meet at 10 a.m. in the first big parking lot at the TOP of the mountain after you pass through the entrance and drive up the mountain. Allow 3-1/2 hours for the hike. The park allows dogs on a leash.

**Leader:** Pam Peitz, [pspeitz@hotmail.com](mailto:pspeitz@hotmail.com), 240-818-6554

**Nearest town:** Frederick, MD

**Fri-Sun, Oct 28-30**

**SierraFest: Blackwater Falls SP**

*rated easy to moderate* — There will be three hikes offered at SierraFest, one each day, on trails in the park. See the complete schedule for all SierraFest activities on p. 3 of this issue.

**Leader:** Mike Price, [mikeprice54@suddenlink.net](mailto:mikeprice54@suddenlink.net), 304-400-8354

**Sat, Nov 12**

**Day Hike: Catoctin Mountain Park, MD**

*rated strenuous* — This hike will be 6-7 miles and includes several steep climbs. Allow about 3-1/2 hours. We will meet at 10 a.m. in the Visitor Center parking lot. The park allows dogs on a leash. Catoctin Mountain Park is a national park located near Thurmont, MD.

**Leader:** Pam Peitz, [pspeitz@hotmail.com](mailto:pspeitz@hotmail.com), 240-818-6554

**Nearest town:** Thurmont, MD

**Sat, Nov 12**

**Service Outing: Coopers Rock SF, Autumn Adopt-a-Trail**

*rated easy (hiking) and easy-to-moderate (work intensity)* — Join the fun with the fall trail maintenance for Sierra Club’s adopted Intermediate Cross-Country Ski Trail, at Coopers Rock South. Fall clean-up emphasizes clearing fallen leaves, drainage restoration and trail clearing along a 1.25-mile loop. Volunteers should wear sturdy boots and carry work gloves, water and snacks. Useful tools to bring are long-handled pruners, rakes, and pointed shovels. Adults and adolescents are invited to help. Those under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or 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, [atdking@gmail.com](mailto:atdking@gmail.com), 304-594-2636

**Nearest town:** Morgantown, WV

**Web info:** [coopersrockstateforest.com;coopersrock.org](http://coopersrockstateforest.com;coopersrock.org)

## West Virginia Chapter Outings

Updated outings are listed on the Chapter’s website: [sierraclub.org/west-virginia](http://sierraclub.org/west-virginia), and also on two Meetup.com groups: “West Virginia Chapter Sierra Club” (Morgantown) and “WV Sierra Club-New River.” Outings are added to these sites weekly.



**SIERRA  
CLUB**

**Sierra Club**  
West Virginia Chapter  
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Morgantown, WV 26504  
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(202) 456-1111 Fax: (202) 456-2461  
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(202) 225-7856 (AM)  
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Charleston, WV 25305  
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email: [governor@wvgov.org](mailto:governor@wvgov.org)

**To Contact STATE LEGISLATORS**  
email to WV Legislature:  
[cglagola@mail.wvnet.edu](mailto: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](http://www.legis.state.wv.us)  
has contact information for all state legislators.

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

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