

Heartwood

P.O. Box 543
Tell City, IN 47586



heartwood.org

Spring Edition

2017



***America's Southern Forests Are Being Decimated
to Supply Europe With Energy***

by Adam Macon, Our Forests Aren't Fuel Campaign Director, Dogwood Alliance

Hurricane Matthew and the forest fires that wreaked havoc on the Southeast are dramatic examples of the costs our communities have to bear in the face of increased impacts from a changing climate. It is yet another reminder that it's high time we get serious about addressing global climate change and reducing carbon in our atmosphere. But not all solutions are created equal and one in particular is actually making matters worse for the climate, forests and our communities.

In the past 60 years, we've lost 33 million acres of natural forests in the southern U.S. Many of them are coastal wetlands forests, which act as life jackets against hurricanes for coastal communities. These forests would have helped to save homes and lives in eastern North Carolina from the ongoing impacts from Hurricane Matthew—if they were still standing.

The intense European demand for wood pellets has put at risk 15 million acres of unprotected southern forests (about the size of West Virginia), and more than 600 imperiled, threatened or endangered species. It's become abundantly clear: Now is the time to act to protect southern forests.



*Overhead of wetland clearcut in North Carolina linked to the biomass industry.
(image: Dogwood Alliance)*

In 2009 the European Union, in an admirable and necessary effort to increase renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions, passed a new energy policy. This policy considered any and all biomass material as “renewable energy.” It created a major loophole for energy companies, allowing them to now burn forest wood from industrial timber operations in power stations—and receive government incentives to do it. It raised a critical question: Where would Europe get all this wood to feed a growing demand? Energy companies quickly turned to one of the world's largest wood-producing regions: the southern United States. *(continued on page 9)*

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Torched (1990)

During an Earth First! occupation in the Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois, John Wallace, also a Heartwood member, who turned thirty years old that day and was wanted by the Forest Service for entering a closure area illegally, turned himself in by using a kryptonite bicycle lock to lock his neck to a logging skidder. The Forest Service responded by putting an aluminum shield around his head and cutting off the lock with an acetylene torch while John sang, "God Bless America". Photo by Orin Langelle

Heartwood Membership

Join Heartwood simply going to heartwood.org and clicking on "Support" and selecting Individual or Group membership. Please follow the online instructions and select

- Individual - \$25 per year
- Family - \$50 per year
- Frontline Organizations, making less than \$25,000 yr - \$100 per year

Planned Giving: Heartwood is a donor-supported organization. We pride ourselves on our member base and the donations which sustain us. Grab a council member and talk with us about estate planning and arranging living wills, planned giving, insurance, and other methods. It is often advisable to consult an attorney before making the decision that best represents your wishes. Please consider Heartwood in your estate plans.

How to donate to HEARTWOOD

Make a donation by simply going to heartwood.org and clicking on

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OR mailing a check to

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PO 543

Tell City, IN 47586

OR by going to Paypal and setting up monthly payments.

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- Branch \$35
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- Tree \$120 / \$10 per month
- Tree Hugger \$240 / \$25 per month
- Tree Hugger Extraordinaire \$500 / \$45 per month
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Membership Benefits

As a Heartwood Member, you will receive the Heartbeat twice annually. You will also receive discounts on registration rates for the annual Spring Heartwood Forest Council and the Autumn Forest Reunion, and on all Heartwood Merchandise. Perhaps most importantly, as a member, you will become a part of the Heartwood Community—connected with amazing individuals doing amazing work to protect our planet and all the ecosystems within.

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Heartbeat
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Personnel
Web/Tech

Heartwood committees are made up of Core Council, Extended Council, contract staff, and Heartwood members. If you are interested in joining a committee or joining the Extended Council, please contact us.

**We have
a new PO box!**

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What is Heartwood? We are a network of individuals and frontline, grassroots organizations often in rural communities, who work together to share knowledge and experiences that help communities and people protect the places they love.

By sharing, mentoring, educating, and advocating for each other, we strive to create space at our Forest Councils and Reunions for people to feel comfortable and to heal from the ongoing compassion fatigue we experience from protecting our homes, our families, and our environment. We offer unique and valuable support to fellow activists. Join our family.

Members: Rivkah Moore, Debbie Turner, Karen Frailey, Elise Unger, Gail Brown, Linda Richardson, Alice Penwell, Christiane Matheny, Cathy Edmiston, Tara Root, Hugh Muldoon, Douglas Cornett, Jana Faith, Jim and Virginia Wagner, John Noel, Lydia Garvey, Helen Parker, Eszi Waters, Roy Kimball, Jeff Johnson, Johanna Burke, Gail Brown, Susan Jamison, Warren Buckler, Don Scheiber, William and Myra Borchard, Mary Clinton, Ron Cook, Samuel Schwartz, Tom Connelly, Steven Lieben, Winnie Hepler, Eric Daniels, Tristan Quinn-Thibodeau, Marianne Walch, **Valley Watch**, Richard Martin, Gabriel Hahn, Richard Martin, Vince Hunsicker, Janel Rogers, Gail Stratton, Johanna Burke, David Pittman, Mary Krupa, Robert Ludwig, Mary Kay Rothert, Richard Clark, Samantha Buran, Tracy Davids, Mark Steinmetz, John Budrys, Marcia and Tom Ballard, Bruce Bacon, Tolly Peuleche, Jim and Eileen Schenk, Michael Garn, Wayne Lashbrook, Bill Hurley, Dennis Connelly, Mary Ann Stevens, David Govus, Jerry and Catherine Ramsey, Sarah Lewison, Glen Gelinas, Evan Rocheford, C.L. Kellerman, Robert Ludwig, Pom Collins, Scott Krenski & Jackie Olson, Linda Higginbotham & Bradley Leftwich, Thomas Johnson, Adrienne A Scerbak, Dixie Moore, Rachel Kijewski, Shawn Porter, Janel Rogers, Samuel Guskin, Marc K, David Reagan, Kate Pilacky, Ann Berger Frutkin, Samuel Guskin, Mary Clashman, **Concept Zero**, Jillian Bar-av, Janet Kennedy, James L. Jean, Carol Beauregard, James Keown, Steve Chaplin, Jairlyn Leising, Jessica Agee, Alexander Boeglin, Darrell C. Baker, Roger and Ruth Newton, Gail Brown, John Gibson, Sherman Bamford, Peter Hanson, Leah Thill, Anthony Moore, Douglas Cornett, Aaron Politt, Chandra Cruz-Thomson, Rodney Webb, Leah Robling, Richard Martin, Jane and Richard Lewis, T. Peyton Coyner, Charles Morrill, Randy Cunnigham, Dave Cooper, Kenny Karem, Wayne Lashbrook, Ed Lawrence, William P Hurley, Joe Netherland, Ann Berger Frutkin, Ruth Hoak, Jay Needham and Janet Hollis

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Fairview Forever (1990) Earth First!ers (and Ronald Reagan) blockade the Fairview Timber Sale area in the Shawnee National Forest in Southern IL by burying themselves up to their necks. Earth First! occupied the timber sale area for 79 days – at that time the longest occupation in EF! history. The area slated to be cut was rich in biodiversity, a haven for songbirds and loved by the many locals who went there to watch the birds, to camp, or to enjoy nature. The major daily newspaper in Springfield, IL, the state’s capital, called the Earth First! occupation “a popular uprising.” Photo by Orin Langelle

Genetically Engineered Trees Must Be Rejected

By Anne Petermann, Executive Director, Global Justice Ecology Project & International Coordinator, Campaign to STOP GE Trees

Around the world, scientists, indigenous peoples, foresters, activists, attorneys, community organizers, ecologists, and others have taken a stand to reject all genetically engineered trees, including field trials. Protests and direct actions against GE trees have taken place on six continents.

In 2014 a global meeting against GE trees in Asuncion, Paraguay produced a declaration, which states:

“We face unprecedented social and ecological crises across the US and around the world. The planting of genetically engineered (GE) trees in our forests or as tree plantations threatens to worsen these crises and create grave new ones.

Forests are complex, diverse and interactive systems we barely understand. Forests regulate and stabilize water flow and weather patterns, enrich soils, prevent erosion and sequester carbon. They provide critical habitat for wildlife, as well as food, medicine, shelter, fuel, livelihoods, recreation, and sanctuary for diverse peoples around the world. Forests make life on Earth possible.”

Genetically engineered trees being developed by South Carolina-based ArborGen, as well as universities across the eastern U.S. from Michigan to Florida, threaten the very existence of forests and the communities that depend on them. Here are some threats:

• **Industrial Tree Plantations:** In the Southeast US, already one in five forested acres is covered by industrial timber plantations, mostly Loblolly pine. Most monoculture tree plantations grow where native forests once stood. The toxic agrochemicals used on them poison people, water, air, and ecosystems and contribute to climate change. Adding GE trees, transformed to grow faster, resist toxic chemicals, kill insects, or have altered wood chemistry, would worsen the documented social and ecological impacts of industrial tree plantations and create dangerous new ones.

While the dominant plantation tree in the Southeast US is the Loblolly pine, GE tree company ArborGen is developing freeze-tolerant GE eucalyptus trees and requested permission from the USDA in 2011 to plant 4 them commercially from SC to Texas.



*Banner left behind at the “Super Tree Seedling”
Arborgen Nursery in South Carolina*

Eucalyptus trees are not native to the US. They are documented as invasive or potentially invasive in California, Florida, and Hawaii. They are notoriously thirsty and can worsen droughts and/or dry up ground and surface water. Because they can mature in 3-7 years, they require huge inputs of chemical fertilizers and rapidly deplete soils. They are also explosively flammable. The state of California spends millions annually to eradicate eucalyptus due to fire danger.

• **Bioenergy, Synthetic Biology, and the Bioeconomy:** GE trees are being manipulated to become a future feedstock to meet the growing demand for fuels, chemicals, plastics, and other components of the so-called “bioeconomy”. Land and water would be monopolized to grow GE tree plantations to replace a small percentage of fossil fuels with high costs to biodiversity, water, and local communities. The other technologies involved, such as synthetic biology, are also extremely risky with dangers that have not been properly assessed.

*“American chestnuts can live 250 years or more.
How will these GE trees interact with soils, wildlife, birds, insects, or
other trees over time and in the face of environmental stresses
including climate change?”*

• **Contamination vs. “Restoration”:** Not only *could* genetically engineered trees spread into natural forests, it is virtually impossible to prevent them from doing so. Unpredictable changes – common to genetic engineering – may also contribute to new or increased invasiveness or other dangerous impacts.

In the case of the American chestnut, scientists are hoping to use genetic engineering to make the species resistant to a blight introduced from Asia that devastated the species during the last century. Scientists plan to release these blight resistant GE trees directly into native forests in the Eastern US and Appalachians with the specific intent of contaminating as many wild American chestnuts as possible and “restoring” them to the forest.

But American chestnuts can live 250 years or more. How will these GE trees interact with soils, wildlife, birds, insects, or other trees over time and in the face of environmental stresses including climate change? We have no idea what long-term impacts these GE trees will have, and there is no real way to assess these risks.

Research geneticist [Dana Nelson](#) of the Forest Service points out that genetically engineering is “a bad approach for restoration, since that population you produce doesn’t have the genetic diversity to adapt to the variable environment and climate.” (*cont. on p. 5*)

Global Justice Ecology Project will host a workshop on GE trees and the global campaign to stop them at the Heartwood Forest Council in May.

Genetically Engineered Trees Must Be Rejected

By Anne Petermann, Ex Dir. GJEP, Campaign to STOP GE Trees

(continued from page 4) The dangers posed by releasing GE American chestnuts into wild forests could easily outweigh any potential benefits.

Even when not planted directly into forests, contamination of forests by GE trees that have native wild relatives (like pine and poplar) would be virtually guaranteed. Due to the complexity of interactions within forests, it is next to impossible to accurately assess the impacts of this contamination on forests or even to know what questions to ask.

For all of these reasons, outdoor planting of GE trees, including field trials, threatens unpredictable, irreversible, and unacceptable impacts.

- **GE trees and Food Sovereignty:** GE trees are part of the corporate capture and commodification of nature and threaten food sovereignty. Some trees being genetically engineered—including the American chestnut, apple and orange—are sources of food. Additionally, GE trees engineered to produce insecticides would impact pollinators and other non-target insects as well as beneficial predators crucial for food production and the food chain. There would be further impacts on birds, including songbirds.

- **System Change:** As with many other socially and ecologically destructive projects, national policies and international trade regimes largely promote the development and deployment of industrial tree plantations and hence, GE trees, for the short-term economic benefit of a few transnational corporations to the long-term detriment of many. Additionally, global trade has already had devastating consequences for forests in the US in the form of imported diseases, insects, and fungi. Climate change is causing further severe impacts—including insect infestations, droughts, and fires. Rapidly expanding trade in whole logs and wood chips for bioenergy is exacerbating these threats.

For this reason, in addition to rejecting GE trees outright, it is crucial to join the efforts of grassroots constituencies, local communities, indigenous peoples, and civil society organizations who seek, not only to protect forests, but to transform the current unjust economic and political system, and replace it with a system dedicated to social justice, ecological diversity, and the well-being of this and future generations of life on this planet.

Calendar of Events

Wild Virginia's 7th Annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival, three venues, three nights
April 5 Charlottesville, VA
April 6 Harrisonburg, VA
April 30 Staunton, VA
www.wildvirginia.org/recreation/film-festival

April 22, Earth Day, March for Science, Washington, DC
www.marchforscience.com

April 29, People's Climate March Washington, DC
www.peoplesclimate.org

May 20, Mighty Kindness Hoot, Louisville, KY
www.mightykindness.org

May 26-29, Forest Council, Camp Spring Creek. Bakersville, NC
www.heartwood.org/events

June 4-10, Mountain Justice "Resist Trump" Camp, Wiley's Last Resort, Whitesburg, KY

June 24, PA Firefly Festival, Tionesta, PA
www.pafireflyfestival.blogspot.com

July 14-16, Whippoorwill Festival, Lago Linda Hideaway, Beattyville, KY
www.whippoorwillfest.com

August 21, Total solar eclipse path thru the Shawnee Forest, IL-
www.eclipse.siu.edu

September 16, Ferdinand Folk Festival, Ferdinand, IN
www.ferdinandfolkfestival.com

October 13-15, 22nd Annual Heartwood Fall Reunion, Lazy Black Bear, Paoli, IN
www.heartwood.org/events

Peace

by Dale Woodfin, Tennessee Heartwood

Long before murky waters left us un-evolved upon
The shores of our making
Product of the ebb and flow
Long before our hubris gave us dominion over the peace
Before us did grow.
Brightly lit leaves of a yellowy-green shimmering
To a season's ovule awakening
From the canopy to the decay
Falls the seeds of continuance
With the promise of peace in the warmth of May
Woodnotes linger from the darkest shadows
Roots in amber soils are taking
The seed gives way to the tree
A constant reminder of peace that was before us
The peace that will ever be
Time flows by
Constant like the cold waters of the creek
Eroding and forsaking
The ephemeral efforts of the seed
Time repeats a turquoise reflection of drama
Against the verdant foliage of a natural creed
So it shall be
Until there is no more time, only peace



Police overreaction (2013)

Asheville, NC: During a protest against genetically engineered trees, police used pain compliance holds as they pin a protester to the ground. GE eucalyptus trees are being proposed for vast plantations across the US South to feed supposedly "renewable" biomass electricity burners.

The protester in this photo is the son of a West Virginia coal miner, who watched his father die at a very young age. Burning wood instead of coal for electricity production will only worsen pollution and is a dangerous false solution to climate change. Photo Credit: Orin Lange

HEARTWOOD FOREST COUNCIL 2017

In the Southern Appalachian Mountains, Heartwood's roots grow deep. Around thirty years ago, a forest protection movement emerged here that confronted public land managers with a newly empowered public. Using laws and regs to challenge forest resource extraction, a movement sprouted and began putting down roots throughout the east.

Opposition swelled when special places were threatened by industrial logging, chip mills, or mountaintop removal. At times, non-violent acts of civil disobedience had to be employed, sometimes successfully and sometimes not. But regardless of the outcomes of campaigns and past efforts, a community evolved—one that spans state lines and many miles, yet remains connected.

“Strong Roots keep growing. They keep reaching further out, creating new roots. The energy and nutrients still pass from the farthest extremities through the old root structure and up the tree, supporting the whole organism- a part of the bigger community.” ~R.Webb

Although individuals and organizations come and go or fade and merge over time, the actions taken have meaning and merit: the community goes on. Perhaps no organization represents this community better than Heartwood, with the Forest Council being the premiere event where action takes root.

This year's Forest Council theme, 'Strong Roots!' draws on achievements of the past to nourish fresh growth and energize deeper bonds. Our history, our connections, our community make Strong Roots!

The program for the 27th Forest Council weaves together activists and experts from across the Heartwood region and twines them with the history and ecology of the rugged mountains of the Katuah bioregion. Workshops focus on diverse campaigns and challenges, as well as skills for building sustainable communities.



Become a Sponsor

We invite organizations and individuals to help co-sponsor our events, Forest Councils, and Reunions. Funds raised will be used to underwrite the event and make it affordable for those who might otherwise be unable to attend.

Sponsorship Opportunities:

\$500 – Old Growth Sponsor – Organizational logo and recognition on posters, program and at the event; logo and link on Heartwood website and e-mail blasts; food and camping for two for the weekend; opportunity to introduce organization and self and tabling space.

\$200 – Secondary Old Growth Sponsor – Organizational logo on program and at event; food and camping for one for the weekend, tabling space

\$120 – Community Sponsor – Assistance in covering cost of attendance for low-income folks

\$100 – Keystone Species Sponsor – Program listing and shout out (and our deepest gratitude); tabling space

\$50 – Heartwood Organizational or Business Membership – Listing on program; tabling space (as available)

All sponsorship levels include annual Heartwood membership, which includes these benefits:

- Link and logo on Heartwood Webpage
- Listing in Heartbeat
- Heartwood Forest, Climate and Carbon Network Support

Mail checks to: Heartwood, PO Box 543, Tell City, IN 47586
For more information, send email to info@heartwood.org or call

The 2017 Forest Council will take place at Camp Spring Creek, located near the Pisgah National Forest in the Unaka range of the Southern Appalachians. The camp is near the foot of Roan Mountain, famous for its scenic balds and the spruce-fir forests that take root on upper elevations.

Camp Spring Creek

774 Spring Creek Road

Bakersville, NC 28705

828-688-1000

Camp Spring Creek is located near the North Carolina-Tennessee border in the Pisgah National Forest, approximately 1.5 hours from Asheville, NC and just over an hour from Johnson City, TN. The camp's elevation is approximately 3,500 feet, so be prepared for twisty roads, gorgeous views, and unpredictable weather, including the possibility of strong winds, fog, and chilly temperatures.

The Forest Council is **family friendly**—kids of all ages are encouraged to attend. As always, this year's Forest Council will feature great food, using the best possible **fresh, local, and organic ingredients**, cooking provided by Seeds of Peace, live, local music and dancing; the always-entertaining Heartwood benefit auction; and the death-defying merriment of the Heartwood Talent Show.

Weekend Schedule*

*A note on the schedule: as the *Heartbeat* goes to press, we are almost three months out from the Forest Council. This schedule is certain to change during that time. Please check the Heartwood website for updates. We appreciate your understanding.

Friday, May 26

3:00 pm: Registration opens!

5:30-7:00 pm: Farm to Table cooking “Seeds of Peace”

7:00-7:30 pm: Welcome and Introduction to the 27th Annual Forest Council and Camp Spring Creek

7:30-8:30 pm: Keynote from Cherokee Nation, Indigenous Environmental Network

9:00 pm: Carolina Wild Cats, contra dance

Saturday, May 27

7:30-9:00 am: Breakfast

8:45 am: Announcements

9:00-10:30 am: Opening Circle and Council Fire

10:45-12:00 pm: Plenary Session

12:00-1:00 pm: Lunch

1:00-5:15 pm: Workshops

6:00-7:30 pm: Dinner

7:30-8:30 pm Keynote Danna Smith, Dogwood Alliance

9:00 pm: Screaming J’s, Acoustic Piano Boogie Woogie Rag and Roll Trio from Asheville, NC

Sunday, May 28

8:00-9:00 am: Breakfast

9:00-10:00 am: TBA

10:15-11:45 am: Workshops

12:00-1:30 pm: Lunch

1:30- 5:00 pm: Workshops and field trips

4:30-6:00 pm: Free time and Songwriter Challenge

6:00-7:30 pm: Dinner

7:30- 9:00 pm: Heartwood Benefit Auction

9:15 pm: Heartwood Talent Show

Monday, May 29

7:30-9:00 am: Breakfast

9:00-11:00 am: Facilitated group “From Strong Roots to a Stronger Community: Forest Protection in 2017”

11:00-12:00 Douse the council fire and closing circle

12:00 noon: Lunch

1:00 pm: Community Action

About our Keynote:

Danna Smith, founder of the Dogwood Alliance.

For 20 years, she has been at the forefront of forest protection in the US, leading hard-hitting campaigns and negotiating ground-breaking forest protection commitments from some of the largest companies in the world. She is a leading voice connecting the dots between climate change, forest destruction, social justice, and pushing for forest protection in the U.S. at a scale necessary to meet the sustainability challenges of the 21st century. She holds a law degree from Emory University.



Forest Council 2016 “One Hearth, Many Sparks”
Camp Otterbein, Ohio

Workshops

“Genetically Engineered Trees – The Growing Threat”

This workshop will discuss the problem of GE trees in the US –from the proposed GE eucalyptus trees planned for planting along the Gulf Coast, to the GE loblolly pine and poplar trees planned for pulp and paper and bioenergy plantations, to the GE chestnut planned for forest restoration and mountaintop removal remediation, GE trees pose irreversible and unpredictable threats to forest ecosystems, wildlife, water, and communities throughout the Appalachians, the US South, and the upper Midwest. This workshop will discuss these GE trees, their traits and threats, their current status, and what can be done to stop them.

“Our Forests Aren’t Fuel: Biomass and Southern Forests.”

Emily Zucchini is the Community Network Manager at Dogwood Alliance. Our forests store carbon, provide clean drinking water, protection from flooding, and critical wildlife habitat. Unfortunately, these forests are increasingly coming under threat from the biomass industry. Across the South, forests are being clearcut, trucked to facilities, put through an energy-intensive production process to be turned into wood pellets, put on huge ships, and sent across the ocean to Europe where they are burned to produce electricity. The wood pellet industry is bad for the climate, bad for forests, and bad for communities.

“The State of the Forest Movement: Ideas for Strengthening Our Collective Work”

Orin Langel and Anne Petermann will present Ideas for Strengthening Our Collective Work in order to bring in new energy, consolidate and coordinate existing campaigns and efforts, and create a movement powerful enough to stop further devastation of these crucial ecosystems. Both Anne and Orin have decades of experience with forest protection, organization building, and direct action. They now work with the Global Justice Ecology Project.

“Agency Deference Doctrine under Fire: What that Could Mean for Environmentalists”

Panel discussion led by Mary Olsen and Carol Polgrove: Under the deference doctrine, federal courts have often deferred to executive agency decisions. An example is the recent US District Court ruling that gives deference to the US Department of Energy and thus permits the DOE to ship highly radioactive liquid waste from Canada to South Carolina without producing an EIS. The workshop will explain the doctrine and explore current developments, in Congress and the Supreme Court, that are likely to modify the deference doctrine in significant ways. *(continued on page 8)*

"Stinkburgh: Renewing the Fight for Clean Air in Pittsburgh" After waking up one too many times to a foul, acrid, industrial stench in Pittsburgh, Mark decided to do something about it. He bought air quality sensors and teamed up with academics and activists from across the country to get to the bottom of the stench with the goal of eliminating it. While he can't declare success just yet (he's still hopeful, and unwilling to rest while Allegheny County, PA, remains in the "top 2 percent" for U.S. cancer risk from air pollution), he has learned quite a bit about the nature and history of Pittsburgh's air pollution, what is being done to improve it, what is NOT being done, and what you can do to protect yourself and help bring SW Pennsylvania into a modern era of clean air. And, you guessed it, he's making a film about his adventures and will likely screen a few snippets of that project at this presentation.

"USFS Forest Defense and Watch" Davis Mounger's workshop is designed to help regular folks defend their forest. Part one on Sunday morning will be a presentation and discussion of forest law, regulations, agency doublespeak, and how to respond. The afternoon session will be at a nearby timber sale where we will "ground truth" the project from an ecological and legal view. Basic tools for walking a sale will be covered.

Don't Forget....

to pack an auction item for the Silent or Live Auction, always a good laugh, fun times, and it's how Heartwood keeps helping people protect the places they love!

"Medic's Tool Bag" Dave Pike will lead a discussion about staying healthy while risking your neck, preparing for resistance, ways to keep your \$%#! together, and the red stuff inside when engaged in direct action, whether in the street or field.

"Tree Medicine: Forests and Mental Health" Christina Wulf will offer a one-time discussion session on Sunday morning. Researchers are beginning to quantify how forests and nature in general increase our health, happiness, and overall well-being. At the same time, mental health problems of all kinds are on the rise. Environmental degradation and climate change seem out of control. What factors lead us to destroy what can help and heal us—both as individuals and as a society? How do we change?

"Up-cycling Wood Pallets" Dave Cooper offers a workshop on the Wood Pallet Industry as it relates to logging in the region. For the past 30 years, this low-wage, low value-added, wasteful industry has been the largest consumer of hardwoods in America. Learn about the industry and participate in a demo about Up-cycling wood pallets into simple furniture.

"Mycologizing and Botanizing Walk" Joey Allowas will lead a walk , exploring forests around Camp Spring Creek. Joey teaches biology and botony at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College and is former co-owner of Ashville Fungi.

"How to Capture the Movement Moment" A media workshop presented by BJ McManana and Orin Langelles. Activists need to capture historical events that tell our story, not corporate media's "alternative facts." We must not let our history be taken away. The purpose of this skill share and discussion is to provide tips for people with camera phones and cameras on how to shoot videos or still images that are of quality and inspire viewers - and how some images should not be shown or viewed over the airwaves by everyone (authorities included).

THE VERGE

by Megan Hollingsworth

And then thunder
the echo
bombs kill babies
what do trees know?
Wind carries screams
vacant streets
nightmares for dreams.
Children?
We have none so far.
Childhood flees a wartime mother's home,
here
in her arms
where all conflict begins and ends.
And you?
You wept flat on your back
under a storm cloud
Free,
trees washing you clean
while oblivion whistled

Note:

THE VERGE was written summer 2013 with thoughts on conflict in Syria and U.S. intervention. First published at Extinction Witness in 'Refuge In Community', December 18, 2015. Megan Hollingsworth, MS, was born and raised in Indiana among Friends (Quakers). She served on staff and board for Heartwood in the late 1990's after studying applied health science at Indiana University, Bloomington. She now lives in Bozeman, MT with her son. Megan is writer and creative director at Extinction Witness, a collaborative peacemaking project engaged in creative witness to unnecessary loss, pain, and suffering, with resolve to forward a grand wake-up and universally compassionate marketplace. See meganhollingsworth.com and extinctionwitness.org

Auction Items:

One of the ways we are able to keep on doing the "good work" is the Benefit Auctions at our events. Do you have art, handmade goodies, local craft beverages, honey, books, gently used camping gear, something special and unique that only comes from your hometown? All these things make great auction items and we would be ever so grateful if you wanted to bring one to the next auction. Can't make it to Bakersville or Paoli? You can send us the items and we'll get 'em there.

"Reintroduction of American Chestnut Trees in the Southern Appalachians" by John Johnson, a long-time Katuah Earth First! activist and researcher in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries at University of Tennessee.

"Save our Roots—Forests Under Fire" In this presentation BJ McManama, IEN Organizer, will discuss historical impacts, new threats from emerging industries and technologies that could push us over the climate tipping point and what we can do individually and collectively to avoid what currently looks like an inevitable outcome if we stay on this path. Note: With environmental and biotech regulations changing or disappearing and regulatory agencies either neutered or eliminated in the time between the planning of this presentation and our meeting, the focus may change. *(continued on page 19)*

REGISTRATION

Please Pre-Register! It helps us prepare sufficient food and a program that will fit your needs.

We have a limited number of **cabin bunks** (about 50). Once they are gone, they're gone.

Pre-register online at heartwood.org, send an email to info@heartwood.org or give us a call at **812-307-4326**.

No one will be turned away for inability to pay.
Work exchange is available.

What to bring

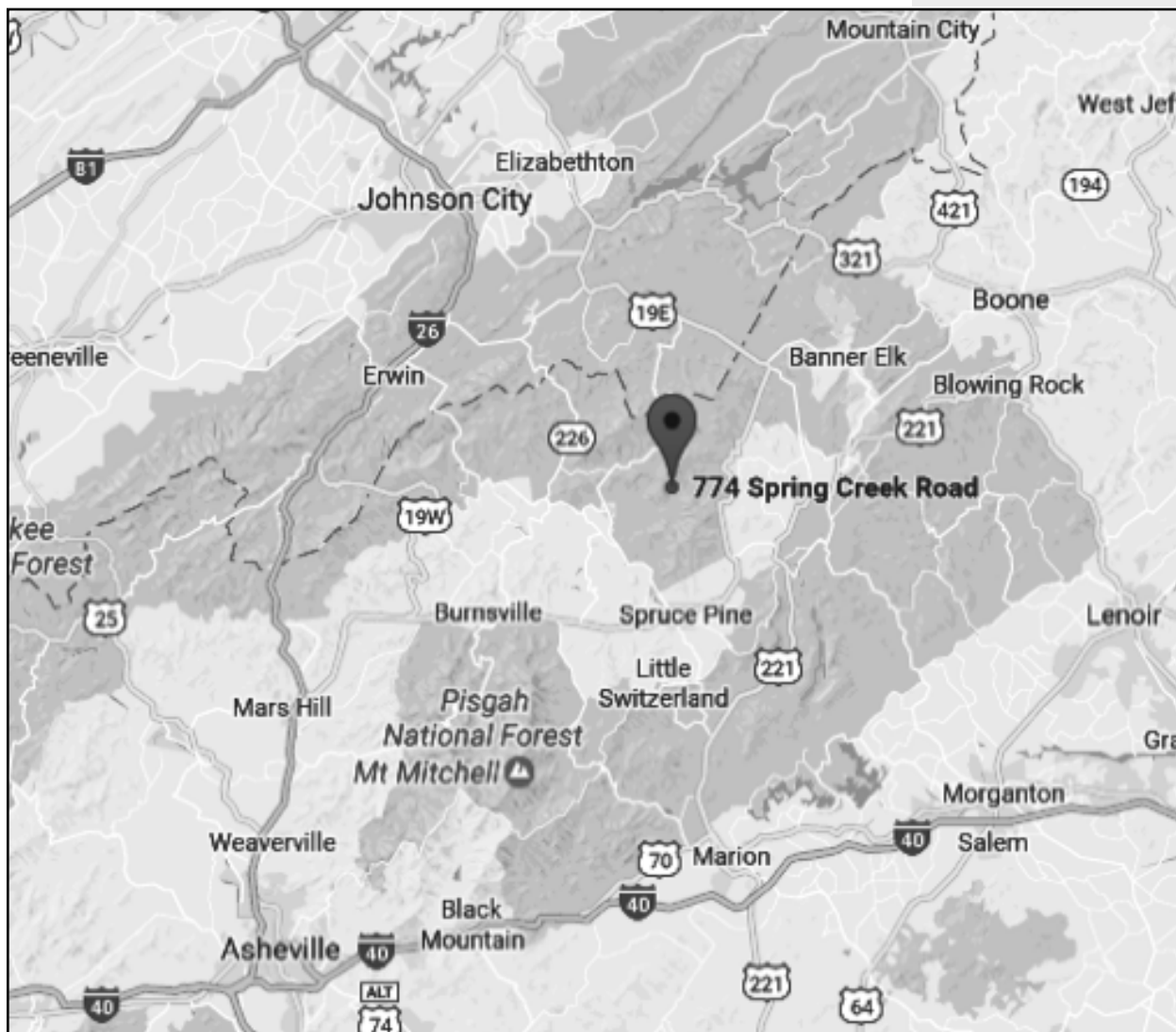
- 🍂 Warm clothes – the mountains can be cold at night even in late May.
- 🍂 Camp chairs, sleep pads, pillows, cushion for out door seating, blanket
- 🍂 Bedding and towel for cabins, mug or travel cup, outdoor gear, water bottles, flashlight, bug repellent, raingear, swimsuit, and sunscreen
- 🍂 Auction items to donate for the Heartwood Auction (jams, preserves, posters, art and crafts, books, jewelry, etc.)
- 🍂 Musical instruments, poetry, skits for Talent Show
- 🍂 Special foods or snacks you might want
- 🍂 Banners, displays, information about your organization
- 🍂 Carpool! Carpool! Carpool! Parking is limited!

Work trade

If registration costs are out of your budget, you can request a work exchange assignment. We have changed the program to include blocks of time PRIOR to the event for set up as well as after the event for clean up. You will receive \$10 per hour off your registration costs.

If you are unable to work or would like other options, we can also recommend places to camp off site and encourage you to bring your own food.

No one will be turned away.



Forest Council Registration

Heartwood Member Pricing

- \$120 Package: Full Weekend Heartwood Member Registration, Tent Camping, All meals
- \$165 Package: Full Weekend Heartwood Member Registration, Bunk Cabin, All meals
- \$50 One Day Heartwood Member Registration, No Camping, 3 meals
- \$65 One Day, Heartwood Member Registration, Tent Camping, 3 meals
- \$75 One Day: One Day Heartwood Member Registration, Bunk Cabin, 3 meals
- \$90 Two Day: Heartwood Member Registration, Tent Camping, 6 meals
- \$140 Two Day: Heartwood Member Registration, Bunk Cabin, 6 meals

Non-member Pricing

(Special new or renewing membership \$20 available)

- \$150 Package: Full Weekend Non-Member Registration, Tent Camping, All meals
- \$200 Package: Full Weekend Non-Member Registration, Bunk Cabins, All meals
- \$60 One Day Non-Member Registration, No Camping, 3 meals
- \$75 One Day, Non-Member Registration, Tent Camping, 3 meals
- \$105 One Day: One Day Non-Member Registration, Bunk Cabin, 3 meals
- \$120 Two Day: Non-Member Registration, Tent Camping, 6 meals
- \$165 Two Day: Non-Member Registration, Bunk Cabin, 6 meals
- Meal and a Show: Friday or Saturday 2 adults \$30 or \$20 per person

If you have questions about these fees or want to register a child, please email info@heartwood.org

What NOT to bring:

DOGS! You love them, we love them, but at a gathering of this size, they are inappropriate.

Accommodations

Car and Tent camping
Register early, **limited**
bunk beds in cabins.
Linens are **NOT** provided:
please bring your own!

There is a pool and there will be a lifeguard during designated swim times.

Camp Spring Creek
774 Spring Creek Road
Bakersville, NC 28705
[828-688-1000](tel:828-688-1000)

If you need a ride or can provide a ride,
please call 812-307-4326

GREEN CHARADES

by River Dave

Two pileated woodpeckers
Sat on a lonely limb.
Below dead trees were strewn about
The sight was rather grim.

I can't believe the human race
One woodpecker bemoaned,
Is so downright improvident
Their sanity disowned.

To uproot all these lofty trees
That line both swamp and creek,
Then ship them off to far off lands
It sounds like doublespeak.

His feathered friend then turned and asked
What now will be the fate,
Of our ancestral nesting trees
Might they incinerate?

The former said, A big machine
Makes pellets from these trees,
To burn for electricity
A life of modern ease.

With outlets stamped on every wall
They'll charge their mobile phones,
While central heating day and night
Will warm their winter bones.

The feathered friend sat silently
Averse to verbalize,
And pondered how his loss was seen
Through pellet users' eyes.

With such divergent circumstance
How could it reconcile?
We face demise of habitat
They pad their own lifestyle!

The former bird then dropped a turd.
He felt his friend's distress,
Then bravely spoke the ghastly truth
For all the dispossessed.

Those at the other end of this
Vile trans-Atlantic trade,
Get credits from their governments
Pursuing green charades!



Fun Fact:

Fossil records date the existence
of hellbender salamanders to
more than
10 160 million years ago.

The State of the Forest Movement in the Era of Trump: Ideas for Strengthening Our Collective Work

by Orin Langelles and Anne Petermann

THE RESURGENCE IS COMING

This administration is waging a war on both communities and the environment. The forests of the U.S. are going to be hit hard at the hands of Trump and his ultra-right wing band of robber barons.

At the same time, the forest protection movement in this country has fragmented and communication amongst us has quieted since its height in the 1990s. With this in mind, we have reached a critical moment for the movement for forest protection in the U.S.

These combinations of factors are leading many in the movement to begin conversations about regenerating and unifying forest protection efforts across North America. That is what we plan to discuss at a workshop at the 2017 Heartwood Forest Council in May.

It is time to rejuvenate this movement: bring in new energy, consolidate and coordinate existing campaigns and efforts and create a movement powerful enough to stop further devastation of these crucial ecosystems and begin the process of healing.

This will not be simple. Reality is tough, and it is going to get tougher.

We are led to believe Trump and his thieving cronies are climate change deniers. Most are anything but. While they are portrayed as climate change deniers, in reality they do their best to build their fortunes while exacerbating the climate crisis. There is good money in climate change. The Trump people are businessmen, and the U.S. is open for business like we have never seen before.

A partial quote from economist Milton Friedman, an advisor to Ronald Reagan and British PM Margaret Thatcher states, "There is one and only one social responsibility of business—to use its resources and engage in activities designed to increase its profits..."

Take for example the current U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, former Exxon CEO. CounterPunch's editor Jeffrey St. Clair points out in a recent article, "...Rex Tillerson is not a climate change denier. He is something far more dangerous. Tillerson knows climate change is taking place."

St. Clair goes on to say, "The lesson Tillerson took [from questions answered by his secret squad of game changers]...was that climate change is a serious threat and no government has the will or even the means to confront it. Thus, the only responsible thing to do for the shareholders of Exxon was to push forward aggressively with exploration and development of new oil fields from Amazonia to Russia, before some other company captured the reserves. Internally this became known as the 'end game' scenario."

Trump's accomplices are willing to allow total destruction by an atmosphere gone lethal.

The system, most of us were taught to believe, is broken, no matter who is at the helm. We must face facts that the system is in the hands of a few ultra-rich people who brokered the Earth for profit. (In reality this has been going on for a long time, but it is easier to see now that the mask of deception has been unveiled.)

The emergence of Trump and his band of blatantly contemptible crooks, while posing a threat to forests, is also providing an opportunity for unified action and exponential growth of the forest protection movement.

Because of the Trump agenda, people who have been complacent for years are becoming active again, as is a new generation of activists who see their future literally going up in flames.

If the forest protection movement provides a powerful vision and opportunities for involvement, large numbers of people who care about forests are likely to become engaged. This is our challenge: to provide a cohesive and attractive movement dedicated to the protection of forests from the myriad threats they face.

There is no such thing as complacency any more. We must organize or let Trump's agenda of hate and destruction run rampant. There have been galvanizing moments in U.S. history when injustice was so potent, so undeniable, that people came out in droves to be part of the force for change. This is one of those moments.

But this movement cannot be reformist. Because the fact is, no matter who is appointed president, we are on a fast-track toward the edge of a cliff.

There is no political party that will do this for us. It is up to us. It is time to acknowledge that the system does not work and start talking about what we do next. Time to mobilize. Time to take action for real systemic change. Time to open our hearts to traditional Indigenous knowledge. Time to organize and unite with other diverse efforts in order to build and strengthen the global movement toward the fundamental, transformational, bottom-up change necessary to achieve a sane future on Earth.

We all are the Resurgence.

Both long time activists, Orin Langelles is the Strategic Communications Director for Global Justice Ecology Project, and Anne Petermann is the Executive Director of GJEP.



Log pile at the Enviva wood pellet manufacturing facility in Ahoskie, North Carolina

(image: Dogwood Alliance)

(Continued from page 1) In just a few years, the southern U.S. has become the world's largest exporter of wood pellets, the preferred form of biomass for industrial use. Last year alone, over 5 million tons of wood pellets were exported from the South directly to markets in Europe. This arrangement has had serious impacts on the climate, communities, and forests of the region.

While biomass was sold to policymakers and the public as clean, green energy—using only waste wood and providing massive carbon savings—emerging science and on-

the-ground evidence have shown quite the opposite.

In recent years, industrial biomass companies have been exposed by organizations and leading media outlets to be sourcing whole hardwood trees from endangered wetland habitats for their pellets—evidence contrary to misleading industry promotions of their use of sawdust and “waste” wood.

A recent comprehensive report by the EU commission found that “logging residuals (tops and limbs) are less suitable for industrial wood pellets due to high ash content.” As a result, “large industrial pellet mills ... are not currently utilizing this feedstock category in any significant quantity.” Disclosures by Enviva, the leading wood pellet manufacturer, show that approximately 80 percent of their feedstocks come from hardwood forests.



Overhead shot of the Enviva Ahoskie Facility

(image: Dogwood Alliance)

“While biomass was sold to policymakers and the public as clean, green energy—using only waste wood and providing massive carbon savings—emerging science and on-the-ground evidence have shown quite the opposite.”

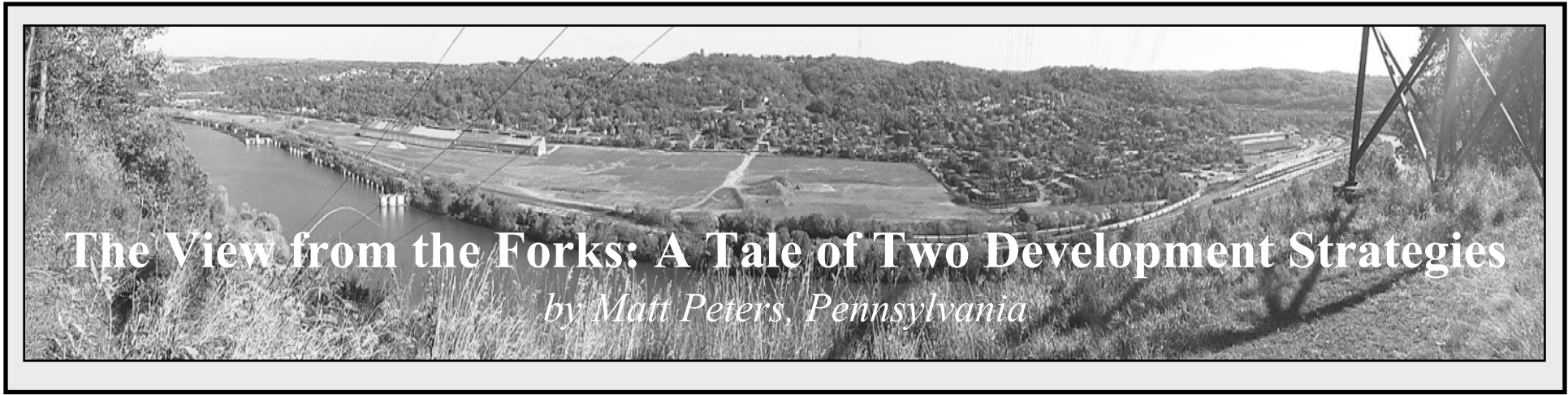
In addition, the notion that biomass is a “carbon neutral” energy source is scientifically unsound and based on a “serious carbon accounting error.” According to the U.K. government's own science, the biomass that is sourced from whole trees can be up to four times worse than coal for the climate. It's a major problem for industrial biomass, since there is no possible way to meet Europe's current demand without logging whole trees.

Allowing the biomass export industry to expand at current rates is a threat to us all. Renewable energy policies in Europe and in the U.S. are promoting cutting down our best defense against climate change in order to address climate change. For the health and safety of our planet and communities, it's imperative that we stop the unchecked growth of this dirty industry. At this critical moment, we must be supporting true renewables like wind and solar while valuing the standing natural forests that we have left.



Wetland clearcut in North Carolina linked to the biomass industry

(image: Dogwood Alliance)



The View from the Forks: A Tale of Two Development Strategies

by Matt Peters, Pennsylvania

If there is a “Birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution”, you can point to the banks of the Monongahela River where Andrew Carnegie brought an innovative steel-making process from Bessemer, Alabama, in 1859. Over the next 100 years or so, riverside communities like Braddock, Homestead, and McKeesport became magnets for waves of immigrants, workers fueling the factories, their labor building the wealth of a new nation. When the steel industry collapsed and moved overseas in the early 1980s, these communities were in the same predicament as any industry-dependent town riding a boom-and-bust cycle. Businesses closed down, population plummeted, schools and city services, like street repair, soon follow as the tax base dwindles.

Pittsburgh has gone through several cycles of reinvention and revitalization, starting with the “eds and meds” (university and hospital) phase, and the city now is recognized worldwide as a leader in high technology as well as green technology and design. But there are neighborhoods that have yet to see any meaningful redevelopment, and communities in the outlying region have been left behind by the policies of the neoliberal global economy. Many of these people voted for Trump as an expression of this long-simmering frustration and anger.

One of these outlying communities, Potter Township in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, is suddenly at the center of a regional debate, with the first permits issued to Shell to build a “cracker plant” on one such abandoned industrial site. This petrochemical facility would be the first of a wave of industrial development in the region, as fracked gas would be sent via pipelines to this plant to be “cracked” and made into plastic. Opposition to this plant is beginning to grow, with hundreds showing up to town meetings and public hearings, voicing concerns ranging from toxic pollution to truck traffic and property values. In January, the Potter Township Trustees voted to approve Shell’s “Conditional Use Permit” which is the first of several permits they will need to build and operate their plant. Heartwood recently provided comment on their NPDES permit application, adding its voice to groups like Clean Water Action and other organizations urging the DEP to deny this permit.

“This petrochemical facility would be the first of a wave of industrial development in the region, as fracked gas would be sent via pipelines to this plant to be ‘cracked’ and made into plastic.”

Meanwhile, on the banks of the Monongahela, Pittsburgh is once again home to the future of industrial innovation, as the city begins to rebuild the former LTV Steel site in Hazelwood. This vast industrial brownfield is among the largest vacant land areas in any city in the US. A patchwork of ownership has complicated its repurposing, so it has lain vacant since the mills were torn down in the early 1990s. Over the past few years, the neighborhood and the city have gone through an extensive 12 planning process and have come up with a comprehensive plan

for the site that combines residential areas with zones of “light industry”—LEED-certified buildings that will provide space for Green Tech enterprises ranging from CMU labs to startup entrepreneurs.

Comparing these models of industrial brownfield redevelopment, one rural and one fundamentally urban in character, offers an opportunity to discuss what we want as a society when it comes to quality of life in a clean environment. Certainly the city of Pittsburgh, with its dense population, would choose a development strategy that would provide meaningful employment for the greatest number of people, thus increasing their tax base. Although Potter Township currently is home to only 500 people, it is right next to the town of Beaver which is a sizeable community, and would have a similar interest in promoting a taxable population of residents. Yet they have chosen to go with the predictable roller-coaster ride offered by extraction industry—a few well-paying jobs until the resources run out, then the economy is supported by the Hospital and Illness industry, until the cycle resumes with some other natural resource.

“Our fossil fuel addiction is itself a symptom of a deeper ailment, that abusive cycle of corporate dependency which keeps us locked into a cycle of consumption, division, want, and envy amid wealth and waste.”

It is not as if there are a lack of alternatives. During the comment period on the Conditional Use Permit, suggestions for site redevelopment included a plastics recycling facility and a Tesla Energy plant among the ideas proposed as “clean” alternatives. Pennsylvania recently took a step toward legalizing industrial hemp, with the passing of a law allowing for limited research-only production this past summer. If there is truly a need for disposable plastics, supporting our agricultural sector with a dynamic hemp industry, instead of literally undermining them by taking farmland for drilling wellheads, presents a far more sensible development.

These two riverside redevelopment models, not 30 miles from one another, illustrate the divide that is taking place in our politics, in our society, in our economy. Even as we build a future bright with opportunity and based on green principles of sustainability, we cling to our polluted past and prepare to repeat these mistakes by building a whole new “cancer alley.” Our fossil fuel addiction is itself a symptom of a deeper ailment, that abusive cycle of corporate dependency which keeps us locked into a cycle of consumption, division, want, and envy amid wealth and waste. We break these chains when we unite as a Movement, recognize that what we perceive as “differences” are in fact manufactured illusions to keep us apart, apart from one another and apart from the natural world.

For more information about the Shell Plant contact Dave Smith at dsmith@cleanair.org.

The Clinch Coalition Delays Timber Sale

by Steve Brooks, The Clinch Coalition, Associate Director

Over a year ago, on January 25, the US Forest Service proposed a major timber sale on the Clinch Ranger District on the Jefferson National Forest in Virginia. Covering 6693 acres and including three major watersheds, it calls for a total of 1552 acres selected for cutting. Located in the Nettle Patch area of High Knob, a mountain that stretches across several counties in far Southwest Virginia, it is home to many rare species.

Beginning just east of Norton, VA, heading toward Coeburn, VA, the Clear, Machine and Burns Creek watersheds will be affected. In addition to the tree removal, 1155 acres of forest are being proposed for burning.

The initial plan presented to the public in January was followed by a public meeting to present their proposal and then two field trips into the Nettle Patch area. The Clinch Coalition (TCC) members spread the word about the sale and encouraged folk to attend. Several of their members and other interested citizens attended the meeting and outings, and also a separate field trip which they sponsored.

Officials from the towns of Norton and Coeburn expressed their concerns about the effect the timbering would have on their water supply and to tourism. Owners of inholdings in the project area and the Wise County Tourism Director also attended.

A second, more detailed, plan was made public on April 1, with comments due by the end of the month. With the assistance of the Southern Environment Law Center (SELC), TCC members submitted comments expressing concerns about the effects of the project on erosion and flooding, water quality, species diversity, invasive species, impacts on future recreation use, and climate change.

OLD GROWTH AND TOURISM CONCERNS:

Concerning tourism, several of the major cuts take place directly adjacent to roads leading to popular recreation areas, including along the Tacoma road to Bark Camp Lake Recreation Area and the road from there to the High Knob Lake Recreation Area and the High Knob Tower.

They also noted that several of the stands proposed for cutting contained trees aged at 100 years or more, which should classify them as Potential Old Growth Forest. Because of the need for more Old Growth Areas on the Clinch RD they noted that these stands should be left alone.

Many other issues were covered in their comments, including the prescribed burning of over 1,155 acres of forest. Complete comments can be seen at <http://www.clinchcoalition.net/forest-watch>

Diana Withen, the president of TCC, concluded their comments, "We do support uneven-aged forest management with limited low impact and sustainable harvesting, and we hope that the FS will work with us to identify areas on our Forest that can be managed in ways which will benefit all parties concerned. We hope the FS will develop and seriously consider a range of alternatives that will both satisfy the supposed need for this project and be able to garner broader public acceptance than the current proposal."

FOREST SERVICE DELAYS DRAFT EA:

The Forest Service planned to have a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) out last August and to give the public an additional 30 days for comments. They then put that off to late November or early December, but once again they failed to meet that deadline. They also failed to deliver various documents to TCC that had been requested.

On December 9, TCC submitted a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requesting "Field notes, reports, summaries, and maps associated with, resulting from, and/or regarding hydrology, botany, old growth, invasive species, timber, soils, and all wildlife surveys. Most of these have been provided, but others are still outstanding.

On February 22 the Forest Service finally came out with the Draft Environmental Assessment, almost 6 months later than they had originally said they would. The Clinch Coalition believes the questions and concerns they have raised and their persistent demand for accurate planning resulted in the delay.

For more information visit www.clinchcoalition.net.

A Tennessee Walk in the Forest

by Sheryll Campbell, TN Heartwood

In The Early Winter
Old Growth
Pristine Forest
Diversity in Species
A Creek
Gorges
Waterfalls
a concave Ledge Circles Behind
Water Plunges 80 feet
Falling Into The Pool Below
Picturesque
Emptying in the Flowing River
Scenic
Ecological Significant
Tall and Magnificent Trees
Mixed Mesophytic Forest
Biotic Community
Geologic Features
A Sudden Wisp of Wind
Dancing of The Leaves
Falling to The Ground
Leaf Covered Path
Crackling Sound of Leaves
Under My Feet
Crunching Twigs
The Rustling of Foliage All Around
Occasional Scurrying of Squirrels
Birds Singing Their Poetic Songs
The Splendor of The Forest
Reminded Me That Beauty
Lays Within The Heart



Surveying Trees in the Nettle Patch, SW Virginia

A Request to Spirits

by Sheri L. Wright

Enlighten us, here among the shadow,
so we may see the shapes of things
we mold from earth
in this half life.

We have lost the mountains
and the creeks rise black
with something
that ripples below the surface
as if giant Hellbenders wait
with their monstrous mouths.

We hear rustlings in the woods
and some think the Earth
has turned against us,
but, it is the other way around.

We have met our doubles on the road
and neither one
will cede way.

Forest Service Withdraws Logging Plans in Birmingham Ferry Salvage Project

by Jim Scheff, KY Heartwood

The Forest Service has decided to not move forward with 120 acres of proposed salvage logging at Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area as part of the Birmingham Ferry Salvage project. Instead of implementing timber sales across seven units in the Birmingham Ferry and Cravens Bay areas, the Forest Service has approved plans to cut and leave damaged trees within 75 feet of existing roads and recreation infrastructure. Firewood permits may be issued to the public after safety issues are addressed. This decision closely follows recommendations made to the Forest Service by Kentucky Heartwood and our partners in the Coalition for the Preservation of Land Between the Lakes.

The Forest Service proposed the project under a "Categorical Exclusion" or "CE," allowing for only one comment period and no Environmental Assessment. Through an analysis of various map data, Kentucky Heartwood discovered that the Forest Service had failed to disclose that the harvest areas included portions of two Core Areas – special areas generally off-limits to logging. The Core Areas were originally designated as part of LBL's designation as a United Nations Biosphere Reserve while under management by the Tennessee Valley Authority (LBL was transferred to the U.S. Forest Service in 1998). The Core Area designations were carried forward in to the LBL Area Plan.

The tornado impacts in the Core Areas, as well as most other parts of the project area, were scattered and limited. We observed no real "stand replacing" disturbance in our surveys. While some large and old trees came down singly or in groups, the level of disturbance we witnessed reflects normal forest developmental processes. The formation of canopy gaps and additions of large-diameter standing and down dead wood in the forest are integral to the development of old-growth forest structure and function – the stated management emphasis for Core Areas.

The main impacts of concern, had the salvage logging moved forward, stem from the ground disturbance necessary to remove the timber. While the Forest Service did not include this information in the initial proposal, they would have had to construct log landings and temporary roads through the forest to remove the fallen or damaged trees. Soil compaction, the spreading of invasive species into forest interiors, and aesthetic changes would have been among the expected impacts.

This welcome decision comes amidst early work toward a new and more cooperative approach to timber and heritage management at LBL. In November the Forest Service approached Kentucky Heartwood and the Coalition with a preliminary proposal to transition to logging only non-native loblolly plantations established by TVA. The funds generated by logging the loblolly would be used, in part, to help the Between the Rivers community establish interpretive signage to memorialize their history. With approximately 6,000 acres of loblolly at LBL, this work could go on for more than a decade. We'll be writing more on that proposal as things develop, so stay tuned. Visit our website to download and read the two comment letters we submitted to the Forest Service about the project. www.kyheartwood.org

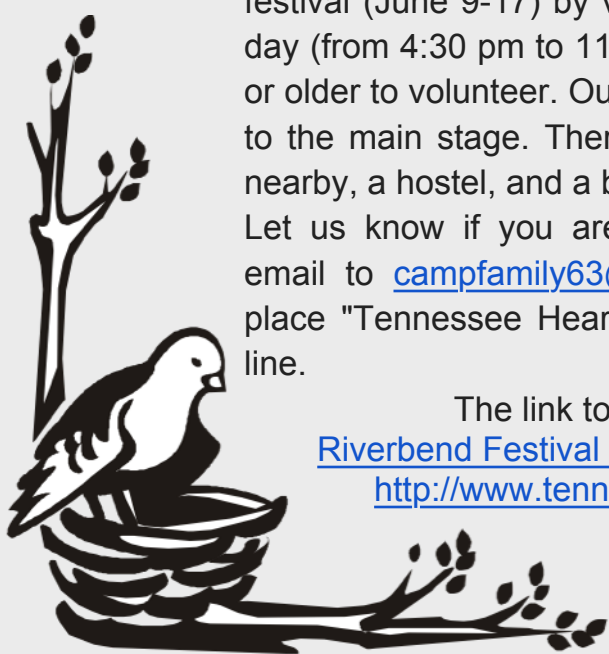


Jim Scheff, KY Heartwood, counting the rings on the tree, approximately 180 year-old white oak stump from a roadside cleanup area adjacent to a blowdown site in the Pisgah Bay Core Area.
Photo credit KY Heartwood

Tennessee Heartwood Needs You!

Take your summer vacation in Tennessee and enjoy a week long Music Festival that is sure to please! You will get free admittance into the whole 9 day festival (June 9-17) by volunteering at least one full day (from 4:30 pm to 11 pm). You must be 21 years or older to volunteer. Our beer booth is kiddie corner to the main stage. There is free and paid camping nearby, a hostel, and a bus system within the city. Let us know if you are interested by sending an email to campfamily63@yahoo.com. Be sure and place "Tennessee Heartwood" in the email subject line.

The link to the Festival is
[Riverbend Festival - Riverbendfestival.com](http://www.riverbendfestival.com)
<http://www.tennesseeheartwood.org>



Untitled by Corina Lang

Gentle wisps of smoke swirling rise
Children laughing, like birdsong and flute
Hands moving, work of stone and wood
Aromas waft airborne from cooking pots

Teepees, trees, softly speaking water
Horses, dogs, wild brothers and sisters
Harmony wrapped, a warm blanket
Across strong shoulders, elder's wisdom

Crow gives warning, nape hairs rise
Hush settles, a heavy unyielding fog
Eyes search the horizon, seeking
What might be seen

Shapes come into focus, slowly
Silhouettes against blue sky, white cloud
They are there, presence hovering
Ominous, strongly outlined

The earth opens before them, bleeding
Scarlet pools, wretched yellow streams
Spreading unimpeded, lapping downward
Flowing lava hot, incinerating

We cannot run far enough
The trees cannot run at all
The turtle's shells will not protect them
The kits in the den cannot escape

Sound the war cry
Choice has flown, fear must fly with it
Drink the wren's courage
Raise the shield, notch the arrow
Make a deafening noise

CALVALRY ON THE RIDGE!
CALVALRY ON THE RIDGE!
CALVALRY ON THE RIDGE!

This poem was composed at 2014 Forest Council poetry workshop led by Barney Bush.



Red Alert: Industry is Doubling Down on Fracking *By Mark Dixon*

You may be familiar with the fossil fuel extraction technique known as “hydraulic fracturing” or “fracking” for short. It exploded onto the scene in Pennsylvania with the onset of the Marcellus Shale boom in 2010 and people have been profiting from (and fighting about) it ever since. New York State banned the practice, not to mention several countries, including France and Germany. The ban list keeps growing, but with a willingness to be polluted virtually unparalleled in the United States, Pennsylvania has allowed the industry to keep on growing within its borders. And it gets better, or worse, depending on your perspective: industrial leaders have

chosen Southwestern Pennsylvania as their destination of choice for a massive new rollout of fracking-related petrochemical industries. The first major step in this “doubling down” on fracking begins with the Shell Ethane Cracker in Beaver County, about 30 miles upwind of Pittsburgh, headed toward production “early in the next decade” (Shell). This facility is designed to make about 1.6 tons of plastic annually (along with other byproducts) from locally fracked natural gas. It would become the largest emitter of volatile organic compounds in western Pennsylvania (55% more than Clairton Coke Works), increase local demand for fracked natural gas, emit massive

quantities of climate changing carbon dioxide, trigger the construction of an ethane pipeline system that crosses the Ohio River, and become an anchor facility in the petrochemical industry’s drive to make the region around our “most livable city” of Pittsburgh look more like Louisiana’s petrochemical corridor, also known as “Cancer Alley.”

It appears that proponents of this new petrochemical invasion believe that if they mention the words “jobs” and “economic growth” enough times, it will make up for all the pollution that local residents will encounter along the way. It doesn’t seem to matter that Allegheny County is already in the top 2 percent (*continued pg 16*) **15**



Hazelwood, A Study in Old-Growth Urban Ecology

by Matt Peters

The inside curve of the last steep bend in the Monongahela River is the neighborhood of Pittsburgh known as Hazelwood. Since the steel industry closed down the mills in 1984 (the year not the book), the neighborhood has largely been a “terra incognita” on the map, quietly enduring some nearly 40 years of decay and neglect. Population collapsed, schools and businesses closed, vines began to cover abandoned houses, and young forests have reclaimed empty lots. More than half of the 15207 zip code

(Continued from page 14) U.S. cancer risk from air pollution (reference) and that the benzene emissions expected from the plant are known to cause leukemia. It doesn't seem to matter that Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection has a poor track record of handling citizen complaints related to fracking (*Public Herald*), nor that the United Nations reports “disastrous” environmental impacts by the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) in Nigeria (Reuters). I believe that there are countless other ways to bring jobs and economic vitality to Southwestern Pennsylvania that do not pollute our air and water. Consider bio-plastics using mushrooms or hemp as viable, renewable, and minimally polluting alternatives, not to mention entirely different industries like wind turbine or robotics manufacturing. If this petrochemical industry takes hold in our region, it will define our economy for generations to come, aligning our economic strength with polluting industries that harm human health, destabilize the climate, and repel skilled workers who demand clean air. If you would like to see our region play a different role in the global community, please join our fight to stop the Shell ethane cracker petrochemical facility.

Read more about the issue at <http://nopetropana.wordpress.com>, then join our #NoPetroPA Facebook Group to stay in the loop about upcoming events, or contact Mark Dixon at www.lens.blue

Editor's Note: This article has several hyperlinks that are only available if you visit us online at heartwood.org/heartbeat.

consists of the abandoned mill site, a hodgepodge of legacy ownership with an active railroad still running through it, some 200 acres of prime bottomland with about a mile-and-a-half of riverfront. The massive redevelopment effort has been promoted as a model of the new generation of “sustainable” urban redevelopment featuring LEED certified buildings and walkability as well as connectivity to the river, the forested hillsides and Greenways, and the existing neighborhood.

While this massive buildout is just getting underway this year, the neighborhood's long fallow period has allowed for a robust grassroots economy to take root. The neighborhood's only grocery store finally closed its doors in 2008, leaving the neighborhood a virtual “food desert.” In 2012, two churches and a nonprofit organization called Hazelwood Initiatives created the Fishes and Loaves Buying Club, a collective buying group that gets bulk groceries twice a week from the Strip District, mainly serving residents in Hazelwood's high-rise apartment building. Dylamato's Market began

“The neighborhood's only grocery store finally closed its doors in 2008, leaving the neighborhood a virtual “food desert.”

in 2013 as a seasonal roadside wagon selling vegetables six days a week, buying as much produce as possible from the local YMCA garden and neighborhood backyard gardeners. The market has now moved into a brick-and-mortar storefront and is open year-round. The market is truly unique—not exactly a co-op, as it is privately owned, but the business is organized so that the maximum amount of money is returned to the community through the collection of producers who supply the store. These producers range from the young couple operating a small CSA farm on six empty lots to the casual gardener with a handful of radishes here and there. The store has a bakery case stocked daily with fresh treats from Mee Mee's Tis-So-Sweet Bakery and a deli cooler stocked with prepared foods like potato salad or tuna salad prepared in the church kitchen that also supports the Fishes and Loaves Buying Club.

These two models of development are so economically dissimilar, they almost cannot be compared, yet it is this very contrast that gives us interesting study. Far from competing, the micro-scale economy that produced Dylamato's Market will benefit tremendously as the ALMONO site reaches completion, if it is done right. And the wave of new residents will find the spirit of one of the city's unique neighborhoods alive and well, one they can identify with and support with their consumer dollars.



Future site of Shell Chemical Appalachia's ethane cracker where the former Horsehead zinc smelter in Beaver County is housed.

Photo by Ted Auch, FracTracker Alliance, June 2016

Update on the Wayne National Forest: They Left Us No Choice But to Sue

by Joe Hazelbaker

Heartwood and Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) have teamed up to challenge the leasing of mineral rights within Ohio's Wayne National Forest. In December, 2016, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) auctioned seven hundred acres of the Wayne to four private fracking companies. Another online auction of 1,200 acres of additional public mineral rights is scheduled for March 23, 2017. These are the first two in what could be a succession of auctions of over 30,000 acres of this small national forest.

The Heartwood/CBD legal strategy is multifaceted. Administrative protests have been filed against both auctions. BLM summarily denied the protest of the December auction, while the protest of the March auction is still pending (at the time of publication). An appeal of that December decision has been filed. We also filed a Notice of Intent to Sue BLM, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on January 26, 2017.

The protest and lawsuit challenge the mineral rights auction(s) on a variety of grounds, including 1) impact to the endangered Indiana Bat, 2) impact to local surface and subsurface water sources, and 3) the additional contribution releasing these mineral rights for exploitation would make to climate disruption. Regarding the latter, BLM rejected Heartwood's climate concerns by arguing that climate change is a global "phenomena" and since BLM's auctioning of mineral rights is a local matter, it would have no climate impact.

In the release announcing that it would sue BLM, Heartwood coordinator Tabitha Tripp stated: "Fracking the Wayne National Forest is like kicking someone when they're down. This land has been overworked for the last 200 years. Are we not rich and wise enough now to let a tiny percentage go wild? Declining species need that. We need that. Instead, we are witness once again to the betrayal of the public trust



and we have no recourse but to sue." Heartwood is grateful to Center for Biological Diversity for doing much of the heavy lifting for this legal challenge. Without their expertise and legal resources, it would be difficult for Heartwood to maintain this campaign. But, thanks to our members and CBD efforts, we are able to press the issue in defense of this important Central Hardwood forest and our shared climate. Thank you.

In other Ohio news, Heartwood and Buckeye Forest Defenders submitted comments opposing Wayne National Forest's proposed Kehota project, which would involve commercial

clearcutting 500 acres of mature pine stands under the guise of ecosystem restoration. These fifty to sixty year old planted stands are naturally reverting to hardwood forest and provide a buffer to adjacent natural forest. Clearcutting would not only set back the natural transition already taking place by destroying the native understory and compacting the soil, it would also create miles of open edge that would be detrimental to the adjacent mature hardwood forest.

Joe Hazelbaker, Heartwood Core Council Member and Buckeye Forest Defenders volunteer

"Alt facts" from the alt-right have created a plethora of entertaining tweets from alternate "government" sites that were hushed in the first week of this political storm. Agencies were told by the POTUS that all public comments on climate change had to go through his office and were banned from making any comments otherwise. Twitter sites as follows:

@BadHombreNPS "Unofficial feed of Badlands NP. Protecting rugged scenery, fossil beds, 244,000 acres of mixed-grass prairie & wildlife from two-bit cheetohued despots."

@altUSEPA "Environmental conditions may vary from alternative facts."

@RogueEPASTAFF "They gagged us, FOIA'd our personal texts, and yet #WePersisted."

@RogueNASA "Come for the facts, stay for the snark."

@AltNatParkSer "The #Resistance team against #AltFacts #FauxNews" #FauxScience. #Science #Climate #Facts

“On Making Space” by Myke Luurtsema, Heartwood Council Chair

During the Council meeting before the 2016 Heartwood Reunion, there was much discussion about defining Heartwood’s role in the forest protection and broader environmental movement. The conclusion was that Heartwood serves to create spaces for connection to happen, both with other people and the earth. The most obvious of these spaces are the annual Forest Council and Reunion gatherings, but also include the Heartbeat, our website and social media pages, and other more spontaneous forums.

The more I thought about this idea of space, the more I realized how central it is to our movement. In a world where open space is commodified and—if the developers and industrialists get their way—used up or filled up, the fight to make space is revolutionary. When we fight for open and wild spaces to remain such, we are fighting for the right of all species to be uncontrollable, to be free.

We are up against a world that is trying to take away space. In this current system, there is no space for people of color, indigenous peoples, LGBTQ folks, women, people suffering from addiction, those experiencing homelessness, people with various abilities, neurodivergence or many other marginalized groups. There is no space for sentiment, wildness, stillness, or mysticism. Racism, sexism, queerphobia, and all the other “isms,” as well as an absolute faith in rationality and objectivity, are methods of controlling space, whether physical, social, political, or otherwise. Despite our best intentions, these dynamics often rear their ugly heads within our own movements.

The mechanisms for controlling space are vast, from political borders and property laws, to mass surveillance and economic systems that incentivize development and extraction, all the way down to a culture of busyness that equates self-worth with productivity, where making space for oneself is considered a wasteful indulgence. Some subtle and not-so-subtle methods of control even occur in conversations with friends and in organizational meetings, where it is a struggle for some just to have their voices heard.

The means for reclaiming space or holding space are equally limitless. Groups like Heartwood have been successful in using the legal process to ensure that thousands of acres of public forestland remained wild. But other tactics have also been used to effectively challenge the state and industry’s control over space. The Occupy movement and the more recent protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline are obvious examples of physically reclaiming space. The demonstrations against extrajudicial killings of Black men by police in Ferguson, Baltimore, Minneapolis, Charlotte, and countless other cities are an example of people fighting for the space to simply survive. Even unkempt lawns and graffiti challenge the illusion of control of our urbanized spaces. Communal land projects and alternative living arrangements are ways in which people try to create and define their own spaces that run counter to the dominant narrative of individualism.

This notion of space extends beyond physical places. Who controls space in our hearts and minds? What about our movement? How do we reclaim space in these less material, yet infinitely more personal, planes? How do we ensure that we don’t reinforce these methods of oppression and control in our circles and in our lives? The answer may seem obvious: make space! This is much easier said than done. It requires often-critical self-reflection and intentional action in regards to our relationships with the land and each other. It also means continuing to fight to protect the few remaining wild spaces and to reclaim those spaces that have been taken from us. It means stopping to smell the endangered wildflowers while fighting to protect its habitat, and turning away from the swelling email inboxes and to-do lists to watch the birds and insects in your garden for twenty minutes.

Whether it is the purchase of a small tract of forest by a local land trust, the cancellation of a massive timber sale in a national forest, or an unpermitted march in response to a militarized police force, each act of reclamation of space is a chink in the armor of those who seek to subjugate the human and nonhuman world.

Any small space that we are able to reclaim and protect is a victory.

Activist atop tripod during Forest Activist Training Week in Northeast VT (1998)

These Forest Activist Training Weeks took place over many years during which hundreds of activists were trained in non-violent direct action including blockading, banner making, climbing, tree-sitting, and tripod construction.

“The mechanisms for controlling space are vast, from political borders and property laws, to mass surveillance and economic systems that incentivize development and extraction, all the way down to a culture of busyness that equates self-worth with productivity...”



*Trumpy Dumpty sat on his wall
 Trumpy Dumpty had a great fall
 All the fool's bigots, and all of their kin
 couldn't put Trumpy Dumpty together again. Amen.*

Snowflake by Tabitha Tripp

It is the beginning of the end.

For the second year in a row,
 it rained on Solstice at the North Pole.
 Snowflakes are now victim of contumelies.

Feedback loops exponentially unravel
 as our tightly woven knot of existence
 frays from the helix of the known universe.

Species cling to the fragile webs of ecosystems;
 polar bear, bees, even hardwood trees
 precariously dangle on the precipice of extinction,

While we exhume dinosaurs of past epochs for fuel,
 the light grows dim in the Anthropocene.
 I want to feed back into the loop of existence

but my hope grows too thin.
 The tipping point has become a downward spiral spin.
 Arctic permafrost belching methane,

Thawing microbes, breeding, feeding and flatulating into the air.
 We have maxed our planet's ability to sequester carbon,
 the oceans have acidified, bleached the corals too

Zombie emissions from forest floor respire
 whilst the management exhales
 Categorical Exclusions that "do not pose an immediate threat"

To the surrounding communities
 yet sadly, omitted from the equation
 and calculations, how much time we have to cut our carbon?

There is no time left. None.
 Our priorities amiss, economic nationalism trumps
 biological diversity, healthy streams and clean air,

While we drown in our collective fight for basic human rights.
 The Rhetoric is all the same, it is the beginning of the end.
 But it is raining at the North Pole.

Make snowflakes great again.

Forest Council Workshops *(continued from page 8)*

"War On Earth! Environmental Impact: Atomic Appalachia and the Militarized Southeast US":

A one-hour presentation revealing the extent of the deadly environmental impacts on the Southeast region from the concentration of military bases and facilities that manufacture and store conventional high explosives, incapacitating and nerve agents, rocket fuel, weaponized uranium, thermo-nuclear weapons, commercial nuclear power, and radioactive waste. This indictment of the Military Industrial Complex, its multiple environmental impacts and toxic legacy on the people, politics, and culture of the Southeast U.S. is a wakeup call about the scope and depth of the social, economic, racial, political and cultural injustices thrust upon the South—the most militarized region of the country. Visually stimulating, the images and information conveyed are at times difficult to face, asking of the viewer to accept a truth which our Government, the Pentagon, Corporate America and the Global Economic War Machine have buried in an effort to keep the public blind to the wasting of an entire region, leaving a toxic legacy that persists for generations.

"Forest Farming": Rodney Webb of Salamander Springs Farm led the Forest Farming is typically described as the utilization of woodlands to produce non-timber forest products—food, medicine, native ornamentals, and other products. The goals of Forest Farming may vary from traditional gathering of wild "crops," to establishing/restoring plant communities, to utilizing by-products from forestry activities. Historically the use of non-timber forest products has been an integral part of people living in or near forests. Modern life has separated most people from that interaction with the forest and its hidden abundance. Forest Farming is a much needed opportunity to re-engage humanity with a forest symbiosis.

"The Heartwood Songwriting Challenge" Sunday afternoon by Andy Mahler

To capture this moment
 this moment in time
 in a simple and powerful memorable rhyme
 that anyone can remember
 and everyone will want to sing
 a song to inspire us
 to move us
 and move through us
 make us laugh
 make us cry
 and help us engage joyfully
 'til that beloved time



Don't Forget....

to pack an auction item for the Silent or Live Auction, always a good laugh, fun times, and it's how Heartwood keeps helping people protect the places they love!

Fun Facts:

The hellbender has many different aliases: snot otter, devil dog, mud-devil, mud dog, grampus, and Allegheny alligator. They live to be 25-30 years old. They eat crayfish. They can see light through tiny eyes located on the tops on their heads. They have a very keen sense of smell. Outside of breeding season, Hellbenders keep to themselves and are territorial. After the female lays her eggs in the burrow made by the male, he runs her off and guards the developing eggs.



2017 STRONG ROOTS! FOREST COUNCIL



Join us for a weekend full of skill shares, Workshops on Forest Defense, Sustainable Living, Local Food, Music, Live Auction and Talent Show

Camp Spring Creek, Bakersville, NC, May 26-29

Friday, May 26

Guest speaker from Cherokee Nation and IEN

*Band: **Carolina Wildcats***

Saturday, May 27

Danna Smith, Dogwood Alliance

*Band: **Screaming J's***

Sunday, May 28 Live auction and Talent show

Monday, May 29 Closing Circle and Local Action

FAMILY FRIENDLY
All ages are welcome
Register for the weekend or
Come for dinner and the show
\$20 OR 2/\$30

**CALLING ALL
HELLBENDERS
NO ONE WILL BE
TURNED AWAY**

Whether it's pipelines, forest protection, mountain top removal coal mining, GE trees, fracking, peaceful protest, solutions for economic transition, long walks in the forest, or farm to table cooking; this is the gathering for wilderness lovers.

For registration, go to **HEARTWOOD.ORG/EVENTS**



HEARTWOOD: PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE PROTECT PLACES THEY LOVE

Camp Spring Creek, 774 Spring Creek Road, Bakersville, NC 28705