



## Heartwood: People Helping People Protect the Places They Love

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HEARTWOOD FOREST COUNCIL

*by Chris Schimmoeller, May 24, 2015, Paoli, IN*

Friends,

I come to you from the hills of Kentucky where the trees once towered hundreds of feet above a forest floor that was spongy with the accumulated wealth of seasons of leaves and bodies of animals interlaced with fungi and feeding the banks of flowers and rich layers of green. Friends, you too come from forests once grand, where the streams ran sweet and clear and the panther screamed at night.

These forests were dismantled by the waves of immigrants that built America into a world power from the soil and fiber and kingdoms of animals and plants and people. These forests shaped our destiny in ways scarcely acknowledged by history.

We know how the forests have shaped our personal destinies. As we unbend into the trees, as we fall onto our knees in front of a wildflower, as we glimpse a flash of wing, we catch a whiff of the greatness of the forests that once embraced our region, and we know that we have been touched by that greatness.

We have gone into the forest and have emerged plumbd by the heights and scored by birdsong.

But something else happened. Twenty five years ago we found each other. From the Ozarks to the Alleghenies, from the Appalachians to the North woods, we found each other. We are standing in the spot where the first meetings took place, where after hours of driving we arrived to hugs and food and companions struggling with the same battles.

In our different parts of the region we felt like we were fighting for our lives, so overwhelmed were we by our solitary challenges to the Forest Service goliath that was leveling second and third growth forests just as they were reaching their prime. We left our gardens untended and we came here because of Andy [Mahler]'s eloquence and vision, because of Linda Lee's hospitality and humor, because the courageous resistance in southern Illinois and the groundbreaking forest plan in Indiana inspired us, because everyone

assembled shared a fierce passion for the forest and the tenacity and courage to challenge the status quo, because here among this tribe we found the strength and guidance to continue. Out of these remarkable gatherings Heartwood was born.

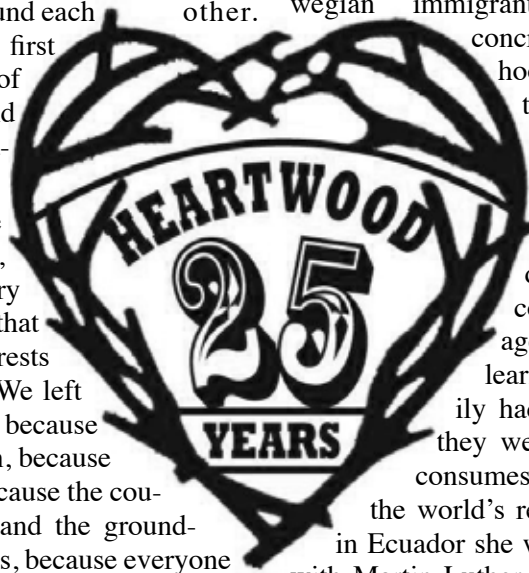
And with it the eastern forest protection movement began. We might not have known it at the time, but immediately we were more powerful. We had newfound friends and colleagues, resources to turn to for advice and support, a growing appreciation for the diversity and beauty of the central hardwood forests and examples of the authentic lives people were seeking to live wherever they were.

More than a nonprofit or a network of groups, Heartwood formed a nation of people committed to consensus and the biocentric belief that all life has value and deserves a chance not just to survive, but to thrive.

People have come from and continue to come from all different backgrounds to join this nation. Let me tell you my story of how I came to the Heartwood circle and how the community I found here changed me and helped protect the forests of Kentucky.

My story begins with my mother, the granddaughter of Norwegian immigrants who grew up playing stickball in the concrete jungle of a New York City neighborhood and who dreamed of one day living in the woods. My mother endured poverty and neglect from a schizophrenic, manic depressive mother and an absent father, yet she was touched by John F. Kennedy's call "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country," and she joined the Peace Corps at age 17. It was in the Peace Corps that she learned that bananas weren't black (her family had always bought them that way because they were cheaper) and that the U.S. produces, consumes, and throws away an inordinate share of the world's resources. Upon returning from two years in Ecuador she worked in the ghettos of Boston, marched with Martin Luther King, Jr., and lived on the Navajo reser-

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Heartwood Committees are made up of Core Council members, Extended Council members, contract staff, and Heartwood members. If you would like to participate in a committee or join our Extended Council, please contact us - we'd be delighted to have you.



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*Becky Woodaman, Heartwood's  
Coordinator, as "Tree Guy".  
Heartwood Forest Council, 2015,  
Paoli, IN*

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*Inside an old oak struck by lightning,  
Orange County, IN, 2010.  
Photo by Kari.*

*by Kari*

*You will do well  
To forget the days of the calendar  
And remember that all the stones of  
the earth  
Once fit together perfectly  
The way the people do now*

*To rise above  
The tangled fields of love  
You must dig deep  
In the earth  
So my work in your heart  
And your work in the ground  
Will become one thing*

*Unturn the old medicine wheel  
Of your family spine  
And plant new the thundering acorns  
Bring all the living stones  
Back home*

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*James E. Von Bramer, Melvin L Warren and Ann Phillippi, Glen Gelinas, John Patrick Valentin, Maxine Jaffee, Kate Pilacky, Tom Neilson, Lori Byers, David T Reagan, Tara Root, Frances Lamberts, Kenton Doughten, Jack Marshall and Cri Kars-Marshall, Kat Lewis, Christine Thorborg, Dana Walker, David Govus, Jim and Eileen Schenk, Roy and Donna Kimball, Don Scheiber, Jerry Redden, Barbara Chicherio, Bill Hurley, Harvard Ayers, Winnie Hepler, Mr. William Montgomery, Mary and Gary Grigsby, Martin P. Albert, Robert B., Marcia L. R., Hugh R. Kern, Tom and Ann Hougham, Peyton Coyner, Lydia Garvey, Frances Lamberts, Kenneth L. Karem, David S. Cooper, Grey Larsen, Gail S. K. Brown, Carol Beauregard, Margaret H. Catlett, Shawn Porter, Steven Garske.*

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levels!**

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As a Heartwood Member, you will receive the Heartbeat annually, and receive a quarterly Heartwood Digest by email keeping you informed of timely issues. You will also receive discounts on registration rates for the annual spring Heartwood Forest Council and the autumn Heartwood Reunion, plus discounts on all Heartwood merchandise.

*Continued from front page*

vation with a medicine man and his family as a VISTA volunteer. When she decided to marry my father, a fellow Peace Corps volunteer, her Navajo family gave her a full traditional Navajo wedding ceremony.

My parents emerged from their wedding hogan blessed by a culture that honors all life as sacred. Though we were poor, my brother, sister, and I were raised with that rich legacy. It didn't matter that the tenant farmhouse we were raised in had no phone, no TV, and no running water: we had love and books and the outdoors. It wasn't until 1991 that our family finally had money to buy our own land. We had the choice to buy 25 acres and a trailer or 125 acres of beautiful woods with no house or utilities. We chose the woods. My siblings and I were all high school valedictorians and had recently graduated at the top of our college classes. We turned our backs on careers and the internet and society's definition of success and we went into the woods together.

We built a log cabin without running water or electricity and we learned to cook with the sun and to cool our food in the earth. We marveled at the beauty and magic of the woods and at the energy we felt living simply with each other. We were my mother's childhood dream come true.

From our beloved woods we began to look out at the plight of other woods and take action. My brother and sister began first, working with others to challenge logging on the Daniel Boone National Forest. I was in India on a Fulbright Scholarship at the time and I remember very clearly a long distance phone call with my sister in which she told me about fighting logging and meeting with a newly formed group of people by the name of Heartwood and everything that needed to be done, to which I replied, "Save something for me to do!"

Little did I know that this effort would become my life's work. Alight with the fire of India, where I viscerally experienced overpopulation and resource scarcity, I spent the next ten years as volunteer coordinator of Kentucky Heartwood, which formed in 1992 from the creative energy of the Heartwood circle. I worked in a corner of the cabin by candlelight or in the freezing cold, sifting through endless Forest Service documents. When I had to make a phone call I'd ride my bike a mile and a half to a neighbor's house. I wrote countless letters, made connections with people in Kentucky, and, with the unparalleled help of Jim Bensman, Andy, and others in Heartwood, issued challenge after challenge to the US Forest Service. We held signs; we sang songs; we took the media and the public on hikes; and we sued the government for failing to follow the law in their assault on our forests. The Forest Supervisor drove an hour and a half and stepped in an icy puddle on the walk back to the cabin to dissuade me, but his effort was in vain: I might have just been one young woman with a small organization facing an entrenched bureaucracy, but I knew that Heartwood had my back.

We began to push back the onslaught as one by one timber



*"...because everyone assembled shared a fierce passion for the forest and the tenacity and courage to challenge the status quo, because here among this tribe we found the strength and guidance to continue. Out of these remarkable gatherings Heartwood was born."*

sales were defeated or withdrawn. By 1998 the timber sale program on the entire Daniel Boone National Forest had been suspended for two years. We had gone from logging 45 MBF a year (the equivalent of almost 10,000 full log trucks) to zero cut. It was a huge victory and one that was repeated in at least eight national forests in the east within ten years of Heartwood's founding.

If you look at the graphs of logging levels in Regions 8 and 9 you can see the mark we made on history as extraction amounts, bloated in the 1980s, plunged throughout the 1990s, reaching a nadir at the turn of the century. Those charts are a testament to what a small group of motivated people can accomplish when they work together. We've made our mark on history, not just in logging but in the fight against chip mills and biomass incinerators and strip mines and ORV (Off Road Vehicle) trails.

We've made our mark on history and we're poised to take on the next 25 years, a span of time which could arguably be the most crucial years in the existence of our species on the planet.

But hold with me here; I want to take a step back. To face the future we must first appreciate the past. Let me tell you a story that you never got in history class, one that Eric Rutkow lays out in his finely researched book American Canopy. After reading this book, here's the story I have to tell:

In many ways forest made America. From the millions of years of growth and decay that formed our fossil fuels to the indigenous cultures embedded in the forest, our turtle island has a forest legacy that is deep and enduring. As a nation, we have been shaped by forest in nearly every stage of our history. Consider England's motivation to colonize the continent: it was the wood they wanted so they could build a navy to compete with Spain and other European powers. One of the first shipments the colonists from Plymouth and Jamestown sent back to

*“...we have been shaped by forest in nearly every stage of our history.”*

England was trees to be used for masts.

Abundant forest in the northeast fed the ship building industry that led to the triangle trade that brought more slaves to the continent. The steam-

boat and the railroad

were powered by wood and shaped in forges fueled by wood. Indeed the Industrial Revolution was made possible by our forests. The US government acknowledges this in a Commission of Agriculture's Report in 1883:

There is scarcely a comfort or convenience of life with which the forests are not intimately connected. We depend upon them, to an important extent, for food, shelter, and clothing, the prime necessities of life . . . The[re] would not be either precious or useful metals, if we had not the forests with which to make them such. Our [rail]cars and ships are the products of the forests. The thousand tools of our various handicrafts, the machineries of our factories, the conveniences of our warehouse, and the comfort and adornments of our dwellings are the product largely of the forests. Behind all the varied industries and conveniences of life stand the forests as their chief source and support.

In the thirty years after the Civil War logging in the Lake States powered the nation. The grand spruce and pine forests of the north woods that floated down the rivers were valued at \$4 billion, triple the value of all the gold found in the first 50 years of California's gold rush. New inventions made wood pulp available for paper and packaging that revolutionized communication, business, and shipping.

After declaring war in WWI one of the first actions of the US was to send an army to protect the Sitka spruce of the northwest. The spruce were used in airplane construction and supplied American and the allies throughout the war. Protecting forests on the west coast from a Japanese strike was also one of the government's concerns at the onset of WWII. The postwar boom and the building of the suburbs were supplied by wood from America's forests.

We have liquidated forests for food, clothing, shelter, medicine, manufacturing, transportation, war, and communication in order to build a world power. And along the way the US gave birth to the conservation movement and then the environmental movement, both of which have inspired the world to set aside natural land and defend the wild.

Just as our forests have fired the mold for our country, they hold the key to our future survival. With yet another hottest year on record, we know that climate change is the challenge of the century.

Deforestation is a significant contributor to climate change. Globally 25 million acres are destroyed each year, contributing about 20% of the greenhouse gases that are warming the planet. First and foremost it is imperative that we protect the native forests that remain no matter where they are. Our work has never been more important nor our skills more needed. And

while the task is daunting, we must look at the progress that has been made. As populations have become more urban our forests have rebounded. We have gone from 50% forest cover (950 million acres) in the early 1600s to 300 years of clearing resulting in extremely sparse forest cover in the early 1900s to 30% forest cover today. And while those forests are not the same quality as the old growth that dominated the continent, they are a start.

A heartening variety of agencies, nonprofits, and individuals are working to connect and protect wildlands corridors from the spine of the continent along the Rockies to an eastern wildlands corridor along the Appalachians to countless beautiful and essential places in every region. The land trust community alone has protected over 47 million acres of forests, farms, and open space.

Another measure of our success is the movement of black bears, wolves, eastern cougar, bald eagles, golden eagles, and other top predators into areas where they haven't been in over 100 years. Abundant deer and turkey populations offer a plentiful food source that will attract predators to rewild our land. Although their survival is tenuous, their mere presence brings hope.

Inspiring stories come from around the world. Brazil leads the way with a program that has reduced deforestation 70% in the last 6 years. Mexico, El Salvador, and six central African countries have shown decreased rates of deforestation and there are promising initiatives in many more countries.

And of course in the US – where frontline forest protection groups like Earth First! and Buckeye Forest Council and Indiana Forest Alliance and Allegheny Defense Project and the Between the Rivers community and the LBL Coalition and SOCM and Kentucky Heartwood and Tennessee Heartwood and Dogwood Alliance and Friends of Bell Smith Springs and RACE and Shawnee Forest Sentinels and Restore the North woods and Coal River Mountain Watch and OWL and Newton County Wildlife Association and Wild South and Wild Virginia and OVEC and Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing our Environment and defenders of the Ozarks and the multitude of groups out west are fighting with barebones budgets and unbelievable passion to hold on to what we have here – all this gives us hope.

Our next challenge is to reforest. Research shows that planting trees on 500 million acres could have a significant impact on climate change. Friends, this is doable. The world had ten times that amount in pastureland. If FDR could mobilize two million people in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to plant 3 billion trees, we can accomplish a similar task in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

China has pledged to plant trees on 90 million acres to combat the giant yellow dust storms that are a legacy of its deforestation. India leads the way in global reforestation efforts, with \$3 billion budgeted by replanting. Pakistan holds the record for planting 541,176 trees in one day. Reforestation efforts in areas of Indonesia have seen marked success, including a 25% increase in local rainfall. And then there are simple initiatives like right here in Indiana where people who convert old corn-fields to forest are taxed at \$1/acre. This program has helped create tens of thousands of acres of forest.



*Chris delivers Keynote to Heartwood Forest Council, IN, 2015.*

*“Whether you are 20 or 40 or 60 or 80 years old this is your generation, for what we do in the next generation will define our legacy as a species and determine the fate of countless other species.”*

Perhaps the biggest challenge and the best news come in the areas of energy. Yes, we are in the thick of some desperate battles against MTR and pipelines and fracking and gas and oil drilling and tar sands removal. So much is on the line with these battles. They are the final showdown with a fossil fuels industry greedy for its last billions. At stake is the health and wellbeing of the planet as we fight to shift our global paradigm before it is too late.

As we speak a global transformation is taking place. The US now employs more people in the renewable energy sector than in mining, helped in part by California’s goal of producing 50% of its energy with renewable energy by 2030.

In 2013 China invested more in renewable energy than in fossil fuels and nuclear; Europe turned to renewable energy for 72% of its new electric generation; 33% of Denmark’s and 20% of Spain’s energy came from the wind. Bangladesh is installing 80,000 off grid PV systems a month.

Germany leads the way in the transition as it continues to grow its economy while dramatically reducing its carbon emissions. A few days last summer Germany filled over 50% of its energy needs from the power of the sun. Germany’s transition is comprehensive, integrated through the economy, and enjoys widespread public support. Germany is well on its way to its goal of cutting CO2 emissions 80% by 2050.

Have you heard the story of Australia and India? A few years ago Australia’s prime minister privatized public

land and relaxed environmental regulations with the intent to sell coal to India to provide millions of people with electricity. Last year the new prime minister of India chose instead to supply his people with home PV systems built and installed by an Indian workforce. Australia’s economy almost collapsed because it was stuck in a 20<sup>th</sup> century paradigm of big grids and fossil fuels, whereas India, the world’s largest democracy, chose to develop using clean and flexible 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies. Leadership like this is essential: corporations and nations have five times as much carbon in their reserves than we can afford to burn if we are going to avoid a 2 degree Celsius increase in global temperatures.

The world now has specific data about what fossil fuel reserves can and cannot be used to avoid a 2 degree Celsius increase – international climate negotiations in Paris this December will hopefully lead to meaningful carbon reduction commitments by world leaders. The US and China, responsible for 45% of global emissions, must become leaders in carbon reduction. The corporations and universities who are divesting from fossil fuels are helping lead the investors in fossil fuels to shift their billions of dollars to renewable energy.

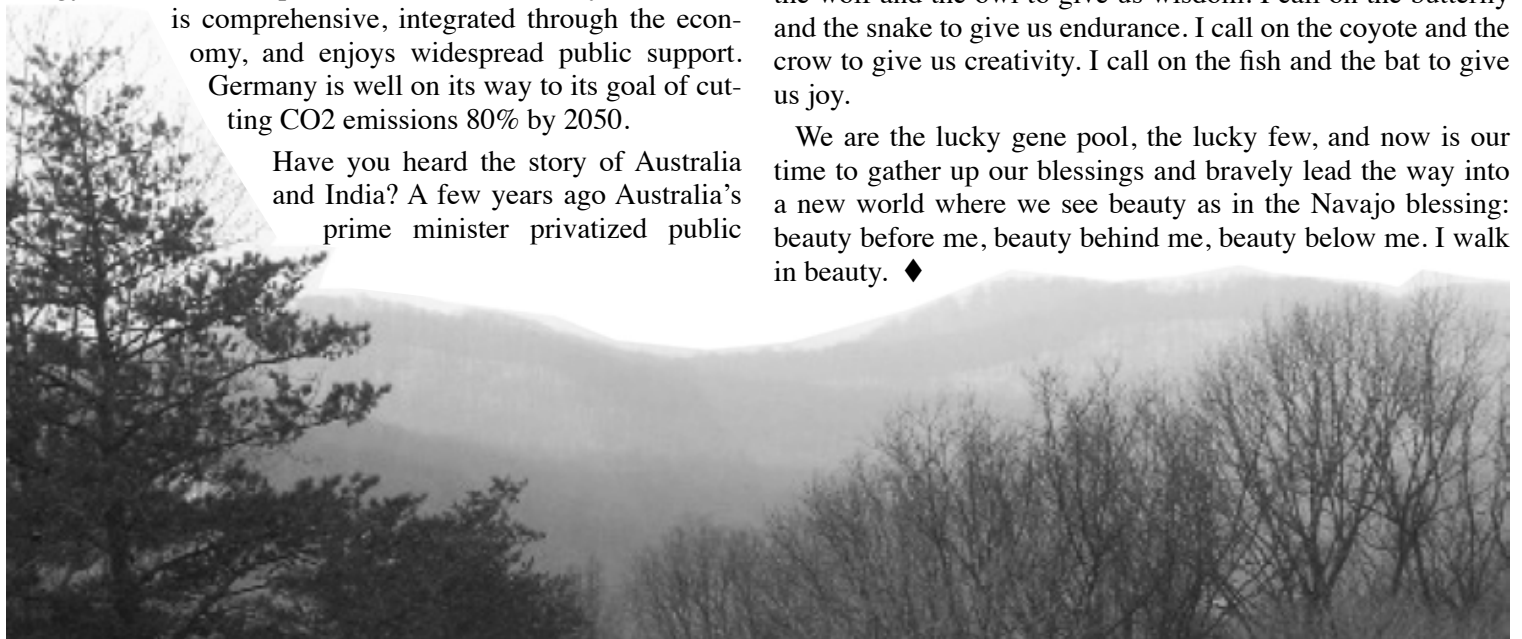
But it is the nonprofits and grassroots groups who for decades have championed carbon solutions that continue to lead the way. And you, my friends, are the best kind of leaders: you speak out in your community; you challenge the status quo; you lead by example; you do more than your fair share.

Each of us has faced the sorrow and despair of losing places we loved. We have grieved. We have worked until we collapsed. We have worked even when we felt no hope. Yet even in our losses we have honored places too precious for words; we have slowed the pace of destruction. We have gained skills and wisdom. We have gained each other.

This, my friends, is the time that we must use all that we have on behalf of all that we hope for. Whether you are 20 or 40 or 60 or 80 years old this is your generation, for what we do in the next generation will define our legacy as a species and determine the fate of countless other species.

I call on the turtle and the bear to give us strength. I call on the wolf and the owl to give us wisdom. I call on the butterfly and the snake to give us endurance. I call on the coyote and the crow to give us creativity. I call on the fish and the bat to give us joy.

We are the lucky gene pool, the lucky few, and now is our time to gather up our blessings and bravely lead the way into a new world where we see beauty as in the Navajo blessing: beauty before me, beauty behind me, beauty below me. I walk in beauty. ♦



# *A Love Letter to Heartwood*

by Danna Smith

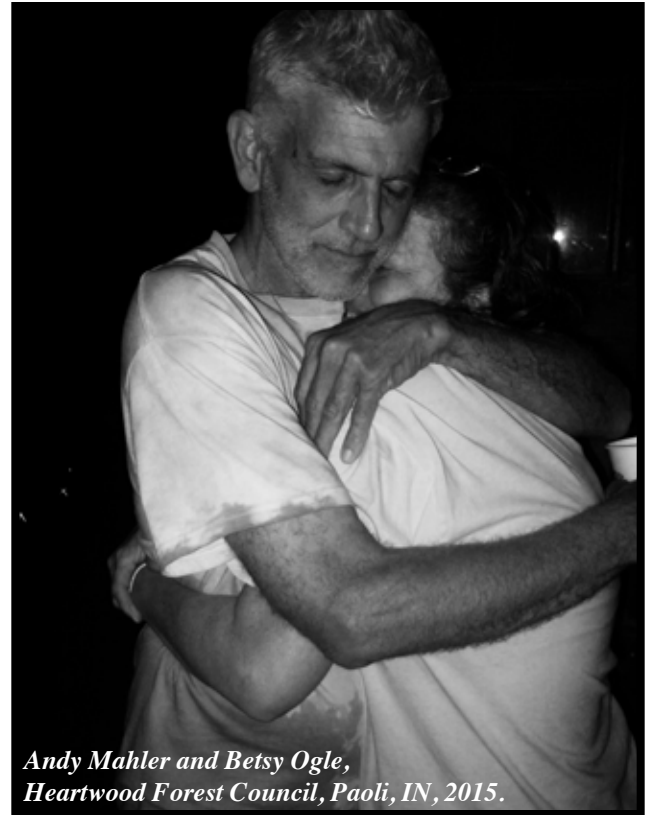
## *Dear Heartwood, Mother of Dogwood*

It is with great regret that I am not with you this weekend to celebrate 25 years of amazing work helping people protect the places they love. Know that my heart and spirit are very much with you and will always be. I often think about those early days and how grateful I am to Andy, Alison, Denny, Cielo and others who inspired and empowered me as a young forest activist. I was so fortunate to have such incredible mentors.

I believe that names have tremendous power. It is therefore no accident or coincidence that this incredible organization, created 25 years ago, assumed the name “Heart”wood. For as long as I have known of Heartwood (nearly 20 years now), “heart” has been at the center of the Heartwood circle. The thing that truly separates Heartwood is its constant heartbeat, like a rhythmic tribal drum, reminding us that forests are sacred to the human spirit. Reminding us that there is nothing greater than our connection to each other and to the natural world. Reminding us that when we sit together in a forest around a fire and celebrate, sing, dance and connect, we access magic that gives us unlimited strength, courage, creativity and resiliency to do the tremendously challenging work of protecting forests and restoring humanity’s relationship to nature. Reminding us of the circle and rhythm of life through which our work flows.

We all know that we live in a time of great challenge. The data-driven, modern technological world of human civilization in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century captures and drains our energy, pulling us further and further away from nature, threatening to drown out the voice of our own heart. Bearing witness to the rampant destruction of the natural world around us makes our hearts feel heavy. Heartwood holds a space that connects, inspires and unites us. Heartwood reminds us that we must pursue all of our work with heart, intention and community. In the midst of lawsuits, campaigns, protests, research, media, and legislation, Heartwood, a wise Elder in the forest protection movement, is a constant reminder to stay centered in our connection to nature, our connection to each other and our life purpose.

Almost 20 years ago, Heartwood helped nurture a baby Dogwood. As the saying goes, the apple does not fall far from the tree. It is from Heartwood that Dogwood grew to understand the importance of building community and grassroots organizing. It is from Heartwood that Dogwood grew to believe in its own unique power to make a difference. It was with Heartwood’s support and encouragement that Dogwood found the courage to take on industrial logging in the world’s largest wood producing region, the US South. It is through Heartwood that Dogwood learned to embrace working from the heart first and the mind second. Most of all, it was through Heartwood’s ability to see Dogwood for its unique purpose in the world, that Dogwood was able to become its own unique self. The spirit of Heartwood is still very much a part of Dogwood and we are eternally grateful for these priceless gifts. Heartwood has been



*Andy Mahler and Betsy Ogle,  
Heartwood Forest Council, Paoli, IN, 2015.*

*“The thing that truly separates Heartwood is its constant heartbeat, like a rhythmic tribal drum, reminding us that forests are sacred to the human spirit. Reminding us that there is nothing greater than our connection to each other and to the natural world.”*

a central part of the energy and magic that has been critical to all of Dogwood’s success to date.

The work of Heartwood has never been more important or more relevant than it is right now. The “heart” of the forest protection movement is critical to our collective success. For the heart has a certain magic that defies logic and reason. And while logic and reason have its place in the forest protection movement, logic and reason can be debated and countered. But, when we tap into the magic of the human heart, appealing to the core of humanity’s morality, there is no effective counter response. If we are to succeed in shifting the prevailing paradigms that are driving the destruction of life as we know it we must increasingly work from the heart. Through connecting with each other on a heart level, we can access our own unique magic and we can spread that to others in the work that we do. Love is more powerful than hate. Light is more powerful than darkness. Thank you Heartwood for 25 years of heart work. You inspire. ♦

# Heartwood and Wild Virginia Defend Virginia Forests from Biomass Burning

by Ernie Reed, President of Wild Virginia and Council Chair of Heartwood



Ernie Reed.

Private companies are expanding their use of wood as an energy source despite growing scientific evidence that the large-scale burning of wood for electricity accelerates industrial logging, increases carbon emissions compared with fossil fuels, and threatens human health with air pollution. Science

shows that burning trees to produce electricity actually *increases* carbon dioxide and particulate emissions compared with fossil fuels contributing more to respiratory problems and an unstable climate. Besides undermining efforts to expand clean, renewable and low-carbon energy sources, such as solar and wind, burning forests for energy destroys intact forest ecosystems which are one of our best defenses against climate change.

In Virginia, the 2014 George Washington Forest Plan for the first time is allowing logging as a fuel source for biomass incinerators that generate electricity. The Lower Cowpasture Project, covering over 100,000 acres near Douthat State Park, will include approximately 1,162 acres of small diameter trees expressly for a single user, WestRock. WestRock (previously MeadeWestvaco) operates the world's largest solid bleached sulfate board paper mill on the banks of the Jackson River in Covington, VA. Their biomass boiler and a 75-megawatt steam turbine generator will be obtaining a significant amount of its fuel from the national forest.

Virginia's southern forests are also being turned into electricity. The 585 MW Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center in Wise County co-fires coal with 20% wood. Dominion's 83 MW Pittsylvania Power Station, in Hurt, Virginia, unloads an estimated 3,300 tons of wood daily which translates to about 150 truckloads.

Dominion's Altavista biomass incinerator turns up to 100 tractor-trailers of wood pellets, chips, logging slash/tops, or whole trees into 51 megawatts of energy, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And last year Dominion converted two "part time" coal burners into full-time wood burners in Hopewell and Southampton.

Heartwood and Wild Virginia continue to actively oppose the use of Virginia's forests as an electricity fuel source. Every tree is much more valuable as forest, for building soil and protecting watersheds. In addition to storing substantial amounts of carbon in the standing trees and soil, Virginia's hardwood forests buffer natural and human communities from storms, floods, and droughts, maintain the high water quality of forest rivers and streams, and provide critical habitat for neotropical migrant birds, black bear, salamanders, native brook trout, bats and other wildlife.

It bears repeating: Forests are not a resource; they are THE Source! ♦



Laurel Fork, WV, near dominion of pipeline route.  
Source: Ernie Reed.

## Daybreak


by Tabitha Tripp

*Earthen fields of meadows and brush  
dissolved into the morning western sky  
underneath the dense fog  
while first light, pinkish gold, crept over  
and kissed tops of summer trees  
Sun still hidden behind  
the hill and thick tree trunks  
For one brief moment after waking  
I thought I had left the earth  
peaceful  
finally released from the burden of being human  
7am  
Machines have begun their compulsory grind on the  
land  
howling sounds in the distance of the dew soaked fields  
Back up beeper haunts a distant echo  
Tires churning downhill on the interstate  
constant whirring of rubber on concrete  
moving rigs to the newest sweet spot  
capitalism and progress drown the finches chirping  
Silenced the Ladderback woodpecker's  
territorial call over the peanut suet  
I want to fly above  
see the land these machines devour daily  
No, I don't  
My heart won't take birds-eye view of  
fracturing of another ecosystem  
shattered wildlife, broken network of trees  
and woodland life into checkerboard patterns  
of frack pads, roads and pipelines*



## Seeing the Forest for (more than just) the Trees

by Audrey Moore, Coordinator of the Indiana Forest Alliance and Heartwood Core Council Member



*Phylloporus leucomycelinus*  
(Gilled Bolete), MMSF  
Ecoblitz Area, IN, 2014.  
Source: Ron Kerner.

Reprinted and slightly edited from the Indiana Forest Alliance's publication:

***The Forest Defender, August 2014, pp. 11***

*"Ecoblitz" – a comprehensive inventory of biodiversity found in a specific location in a specific amount of time—a step above "Bioblitz" in that it takes into account ecological and habitat-related information, as well as taking a wide angle view of all the data gathered and how it is interconnected.<sup>1</sup>*

As a part of the Ecoblitz (launched spring 2014 by the Indiana Forest Alliance and Hoosier Environmental Council in collaboration with Knob and Valley Audubon Society, Hoosier Chapter Sierra Club, Greater Bloomington Sierra Club, Winding Waters Sierra Club, Hoosier Herpetological Society, Indiana Plant and Wildflower Society and Hoosier Mushroom Society), I have visited sections within the 900-acre piece of unlogged, maturing hardwood forest in the Morgan-Monroe State Forest Back Country Area (BCA) that is the focus of this inventory nearly a dozen times, from June through September of 2014 alone. On each day of survey work, I've gone out with at least one different survey team—plants, aquatic macro-invertebrates, fungi, insects, birds, spiders, and reptiles and amphibians. Each team has found a rich diversity of species, some of them rare, endangered, or threatened. Beyond merely identifying species, teams are documenting their abundance, the conditions of habitat in which species are found, and evidence of reproductive activity.

Venturing into a well-known woods looking for a certain something *entirely changes* the experience of the forest. For

example, if I am looking for insects, my eye is carefully trained to notice tiny movements on the ground or in the air around me. If am looking for plants, all I have to do



*Baby Eastern Box Turtle, MMSF Ecoblitz area, IN, 2014. Source: Bob Brodman.*

is open my eyes wide and scan all around my feet and way up into the tree canopy above as I walk along. If I am looking for aquatic macro-invertebrates, I walk through creeks, flipping over rocks and catching sediment in a net to peek through and find the teeniest of creepy-crawlies. Walking along the same creek, walking on the same trail, but with an eye trained to notice a different type of life form shows how amazingly expansive and biodiverse these areas truly are. I could walk through this same parcel of woods every day for a year and notice new critters, new plants, an ever-changing life community.

Likewise, if I choose to walk through the forest and observe it as an agricultural resource, as a timber stand or a tree farm, I can do that. I can choose to train my eye to see only the largest and straightest "croptrees", ignoring the whole rest of the forest world. This, I think, is an entirely limited perspective.

This Ecoblitz of Morgan Monroe State Forest's BCA demonstrates just how limited such a perspective is. IFA's Executive Director says about the Ecoblitz, "...there has never been a comprehensive inventory of life existing within any tract of Indiana's state forests undertaken, much less enough research to establish that species found within the Back Country Area depend upon its mature forest to survive within the state. The dearth of information about what exists in the unlogged reaches of our state forests and how well forest dependent species are doing in these tracts, allows the current logging program to move full steam ahead logging in every corner of the state forests as though there are no impacts from this activity." (Jeff Stant, 2014)

We, alongside the above-listed organizations, and scientists, experts, and volunteers from all over Indiana are undertaking this inventory, with the approval of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. We plan to continue the Ecoblitz surveying into the fall of this year, and from the spring to the fall in the next two years. This fall, we will also add an additional team to survey for small mammals. In-depth coverage of the data we gathered through the 2014 Ecoblitz is published on our website at [indianaforestalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/FINAL-LECOBLITZREPORT.2014SMALL.pdf](http://indianaforestalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/FINAL-LECOBLITZREPORT.2014SMALL.pdf). Look for updates on this exciting research in future issues of *The Forest Defender*!

For myself, I look forward to continuing to expand my knowledge of what exists in Indiana's wild, old forests; I trust that no matter how many times I visit an area, I will never see the same forest twice. ♦

<sup>1</sup> [http://saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca/bird\\_surveys\\_saskatoon/NE\\_Swale\\_EcoBlitz\\_2011\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca/bird_surveys_saskatoon/NE_Swale_EcoBlitz_2011_final_report.pdf)



Audrey Moore is the Administrative and Communications Coordinator for the Indiana Forest Alliance, as well as a Heartwood Core Council Member. The Indiana Forest Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of public forests in Indiana. Find out more about the IFA at [indianaforestalliance.org](http://indianaforestalliance.org). If you are interested in getting involved with the Ecoblitz effort, please contact [audrey@indianaforestalliance.org](mailto:audrey@indianaforestalliance.org).

# Heartwood: Overlapping Circles

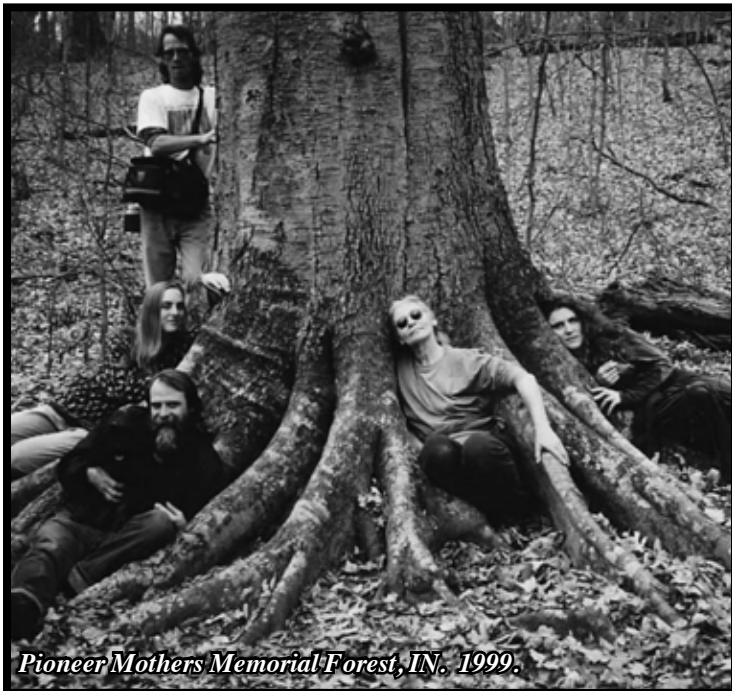
by Christina Wulf

It can be hard to tell where Heartwood ends and a member group begins. The bonds of friendship and cooperation in this Circle mean that Heartwood might be helping out behind the scene while a local group takes the public lead. People helping people defend the places they love.

In my experience of Heartwood, this is an organization that doesn't worry so much about getting credit as about getting things done. Instead of competing with other groups for press or for funding, Heartwood has raised money and given it away. Heartwood staff and volunteer positions have emphasized network support and organizing—going on the road across the hardwood region and beyond to support and organize campaigns and sometimes launch new, dynamic, amazing organizations that are still going strong.

Instead of vying for primacy, Heartwood organizes events to bring us together. 20 years of Reunions! We come in our t-shirts from Virginia Forest Watch and Buckeye Forest Council, Preserve the North Woods and Preserve Appalachian Wilderness and Katuah Earth First!, Ohio Valley Environmental Council and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth. We dance together and plot together, get lost in the woods together, and create cooperative legal, protest, publicity, and organizing campaigns. And we make friends. We build a Circle that lasts beyond our time in each others' physical presence. It's a powerful legacy.

So it can be difficult to define Heartwood sometimes, to trace its specific history or spell it out in a grant proposal, because the separation between Heartwood and its member organizations is blurred by cooperation, friendship, and a shared desire to protect. Thank goodness. ♦



*Pioneer Mothers Memorial Forest, IN. 1999.*

by Christina Wulf

*Above all else,  
we are a community of friendship.*

*Mellow & pliable, friendship can  
escape categories & flow  
between all our separations--  
age and gender, race and nation,  
religion, species, soil, source--  
safely  
respectfully  
with no expectation of reciprocity  
but with a powerful hope for joy.*

*As a methodology of being together,  
the rules of friendship  
are the simplest of rules:  
to respect one another -- body and soul,  
the integrity of spirit and skin --  
to honor each other as beings, alive on the planet,  
to listen and truly hear,  
to laugh.*

*Friendship is openness to the unknown  
and at the same time, a mirror,  
a location to extend and enact our best selves  
and learn how to be better.*

*With its equity and simplicity,  
friendship can heal:  
individuals, communities, societies.  
It binds and drives our Circle.  
It is our best hope.*



*Parade during the 2015 Forest Council, Paoli, IN.*

# Let's Keep this Circle Going...



*2010 Forest Council, IL.*



*2001 Forest Council, PA.*



*Heartwood Reunion, Lazy Black Bear, Paoli, IN.*



*2002 Forest Council, Camp Riverdale, IN.*



*1994 Heartwood Forest Council, AK.*



*Heartwood Council Meeting, Lazy Black Bear, Paoli, IN.*



*25th Annual Forest Council! Lazy Black Bear, Paoli, IN, 2015.*

# 20th Heartwood Reunion

## A Change of Heart, A Chain of Hearts

what if one gathering  
had the potential to  
change  
the trajectory  
of the whole  
human experience

would you  
be there?

JOIN US!

Friday, October 9th - Monday, October 12th, 2015  
The Lazy Black Bear, Indiana

Join us October 9th-12th for the 20th Heartwood Reunion, a special four-day event, at the Lazy Black Bear in southern Indiana. Come prepared to journey deeper. In addition to joy-filled time with friends, great food, music, and beauty that you expect at a Heartwood Reunion, our program will also tackle some of the most pressing and difficult questions of our times.

To register, please visit [www.heartwood.org/reunion/](http://www.heartwood.org/reunion/)!

**More info at [www.heartwood.org](http://www.heartwood.org)**



*What are the root causes of the problems facing our species and our planetary home -- going deep, past the symptomatic threats we deal with on a daily basis, to the underlying pathologies and dysfunctions of the human spirit that produce them?*

*What is the vision we hold in our hearts of how it should be -- how it might be: how we would like to see ourselves and those that will follow living on this green and fertile Earth?*

*How do we get there from here?*

*It is not a change of law or economic system or political governance that can bring about the changes we seek*

*only*

**A CHANGE OF HEART**

*a critical mass leading to a chain reaction*

**A CHANGE OF HEART**

**A CHAIN OF HEARTS**



2014 Forest Council, Camp Ondessonk, IL.

## what to bring

- Camp chairs, comfortable pads, pillows, & cushions for outdoor seating
- Bedding & towels for cabins, mug/travel cup, outdoor gear, water bottles, flashlight, bug repellent, raingear, swimsuit, & sunscreen
- **Auction items to donate to the Heartwood Auction!**
- Musical instruments
- Banners, displays, & information from your organization to share with others

**The Lazy Black Bear is a  
FRAGRANCE-FREE ZONE-  
NO scented lotions, hair care, laundry  
products, perfumes, etc. Thank you!**

**PLEASE NO PETS OR OTHER DRUGS!**

## acomodations

- \* Shared cabins are clean, enclosed cabins with 2-4 bunks.
- \* Please specify if you require an all-male, all female or family accommodations.
- \* Linens and towels are not included so please bring your own!
- \* Abundant camping spaces available!

## directions

*If you need or can provide a ride,  
please call 812-307-4326 to coordinate.*

**Lazy Black Bear coordinates: N38 29.950 W86 27.955**

**Address: 3875 S County Rd 50 W, Paoli IN 47454-9533**

Paoli is 50 miles south of Bloomington, Indiana on IN Hwy 37 and 50 miles west of Louisville, Kentucky on US Hwy 150

**From Paoli:** Go approximately 2 1/2 miles south on Indiana Hwy 37. Watch for a brown and white sign on the right: "Hoosier National Forest Youngs Creek Horse Trail". Turn right (west) on County Road 250 S; go one mile and watch for another horse trail sign. Turn left (south) on County Road 50 W; go to the horse camp (one and a half miles) where the road will turn from pavement to gravel. Straight ahead you will see an open gate. Go through the gate past the horse camp to the Lazy Black Bear (approx 1/2 mile) - you will see the driveway on the right. Overnight camping take driveway, follow signs; day parking on road.

**Shortcut from Hwy 150** (for those coming from Louisville and points east on US Hwy 150): Leaving the town of Chambersburg, take the second road on the left (1.3 mi out from Chambersburg). Less than half a mile, take left fork at Y. Stay on this road through two stop signs (second one is Hwy 37). Go one mile past Hwy 37 and take road on left -- pass horse camp, go through gate, as above.

**From Interstate 64 and points west:** Take the Highway 37 North Exit towards English, Indiana. It is 13 miles from English IN to the brown and white sign directing you to the horse camp (watch for blue and white mileage marker 52). Turn left (west), then follow directions above.

*Lost? Call 812.723.2430*

## co-sponsorship

We invite you to become a cosponsor of the 2015 Heartwood Reunion. 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 2 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 1 for the weekend, and tabling space.

**\$100 - Keystone Species Sponsor** - program listing and shout out (and our deepest gratitude), and tabling space.

**\$50 - Heartwood Organizational or Business Membership** - listing on program, and tabling space (as available).

All sponsorship levels include annual Heartwood Membership. Benefits include:

- Link and logo on Heartwood website
- Listing in Heartbeat, published twice annually
- Qualifies organization to apply for Heartwood Minigrants
- Heartwood Forest, Climate, and Carbon Network Support

Make checks payable to Heartwood, and please indicate that your donation is intended for Heartwood Reunion co-sponsorship. Mail checks to Heartwood, P.O. Box 1926, Bloomington, IN 47404. For more information, please email [info@heartwood.org](mailto:info@heartwood.org) or call 812-307-4326.



# #SOSForests Tour Takes the South by Storm

by Adam Macon, July 1, 2015, [dogwoodalliance.org/2015/07/sosforests-tour-takes-the-south-by-storm/](http://dogwoodalliance.org/2015/07/sosforests-tour-takes-the-south-by-storm/)



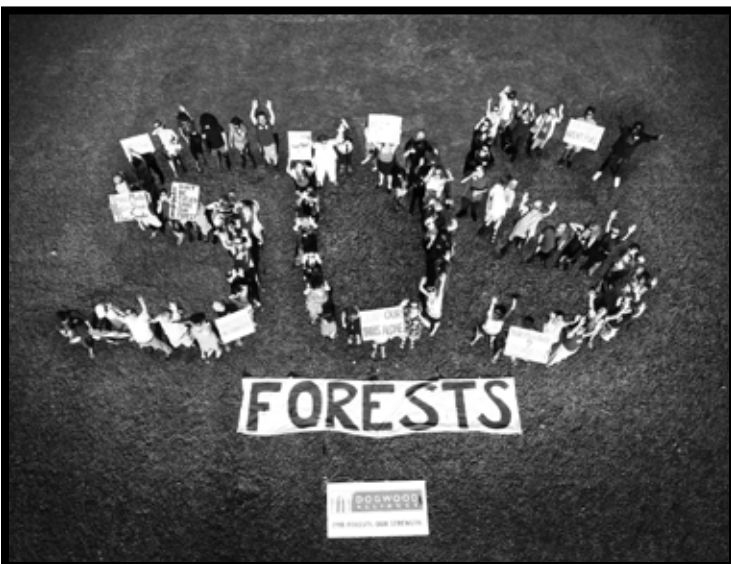
*Adam has a passion for organizing people and fighting the corporations whose practices destroy our earth. While attending UNCA, where he graduated with a BS in Environmental Management and Policy, he began his career in activism as an intern for Dogwood Alliance. Since then, Adam has worked with several organizations to fight coal plants, protect our public water systems*

*and build the sharing economy. In his spare time, Adam loves spending time on/in the rivers of Western NC.*

For far too long extractive industries have disrupted and degraded communities across the Southern U.S. From coal and oil to dangerous pipelines and industrial logging, our quality of life, local economies, and natural world are being sacrificed to the detriment of many for the benefit of a few.

The emerging biomass industry, led by companies such as Enviva and Drax, is adding fuel to this fire (pun intended!). The biomass industry is clearcutting our forests – we’ve proved it and went on tour to stop it. On June 15th our team of Dogwood Alliance forest defenders left our home base in Asheville, NC on the Save Our Southern (SOS) Forests Tour. We took to the road with a mission to raise awareness and equip communities across the South to challenge the destructive biomass industry and send a clear message to decision-makers that our forests aren’t fuel.

**WE’RE PLEASED TO REPORT: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! OVER 2 WEEKS WE HELD 10 POWERFUL EVENTS IN 6 DIFFERENT CITIES, REACHING THOUSANDS OF CITIZENS AND DOZENS OF LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS. THESE AMAZING PEOPLE CAME TOGETHER IN UNISON TO ECHO THE SAVE OUR SOUTHERN FORESTS CALL.**



Below are some highlights from the SOS Tour.

\*After kicking off the SOS Tour in Asheville, we headed down to Baton Rouge, LA, ground zero for extractive industries and new home to the British utility Drax. At the event our team was deeply moved by speeches from local activist, Shama Schumake, and leader of the Green Army and American hero, General Russel Honore. Both made bold anti-biomass statements highlighting the fact the Louisiana has welcomed this industry with open arms through subsidies, embracing the export of its forests and degradation of its communities. One of our favorite quotes came when Ms. Schumake said, “They put up those pellet domes, now lets take them down!!”

\*In Mobile, AL and Panama City, FL the SOS Tour was honored to meet some of the most passionate and committed activists in the Gulf South. The local band Sassafrass even wrote a song for the tour! Our community meetings in these locations generated incredible dialogue about what can be done to change the way their forests are valued and how we can work together to change the narrative around biomass and stop its expansion. We can’t wait to continue building power in Alabama and Florida.

\*From the Florida panhandle we made our way over to Savannah where the SOS movement is growing at an exponential rate. Hundreds of people joined us throughout the day for our two events. Capped off by individuals coming together for a powerful SOS human banner photo that will stand as a uniting image for our movement. Europe hear our call: Savannah says: Save Our Southern Forests!!

\*Finally, the SOS Tour journeyed up the coast to Wilmington, NC whose skyline was recently tarnished with huge wood pellet export domes built by Enviva. This fight is personal for those of us living in North Carolina. Multiple times our campaign has documented Enviva clear cutting our wetland forests and turning them into pellets. They consider our mature Cypress swamps as “waste” or “low value,” but for the people of Wilmington and surrounding coastal communities, nothing could be further from the truth. While Enviva attempted to combat our presence there by paying for a full page ad in the local paper, local citizens united by sending SOS messages directly to decision makers, engaging with local officials and demanding change, and creating yet another SOS human banner.

**THE INDUSTRY MAY THINK THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE TO PAINT A FALSE PICTURE AND BUY THEIR WAY OUT OF BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE, BUT OUR MOVEMENT IS HERE TO SAY, “KEEP DREAMING.” THE SOS MOVEMENT IS GROWING, SOUTHERN COMMUNITIES ARE RISING UP, AND WE WILL NO LONGER STAND SILENT AS OUR FORESTS ARE CLEARCUT AND BURNED IN THE NAME OF GREEN ENERGY. JOIN US. #SOSFORESTS. WE’RE GOING TO WIN. ♦**

# Bureaucracy 101

by Tabitha Tripp, Heartwood Core Council Member



Driving down a small road in Southeastern Illinois near the Wabash River, we were led to a corn field atop a hill surrounded by trees.

“Down there. That’s where the disposal well was that went bad, and then my well water went bad,” in a frustrated voice, says Steve Combs, resident and property owner of White County, IL. Couple of curse words escape as he explains that disposal wells are where the oil and gas companies dump flow back or processed “water” used in extracting gas and oil. Steve’s water is highly corrosive, showing me the copper tubing from his house pitted with holes, and then handed me some bottled water to rinse off my hands, “If you don’t rinse, after a while, you’ll just start to itch.” He contacted Office of Mines and Minerals (OMM) but his concerns went no where.

This was my first exposure to an oil field, the abhorrent practices of extracting fossil fuels and the subsequent trade off of pollution for profit. Horrible fumes from flares, open unlined pits full of oily liquid, sterilized land where brine spills have occurred and once potable water supplies tainted with we don’t know what. It’s too expensive to have Steve’s water tested for NORM (normally occurring radioactive material) or fracking chemicals, like Ben-zene, Xylene and Toluene. What once came out of his faucet free of charge from a shallow aquifer, he now has drive into town and pay for. He has no recourse and there no victims rights with the oil and gas industry in Illinois if you do not have proof your water was potable before. The entire area of Crossville, IL lost their public water supply a couple of decades ago due to careless oil and gas practices and now has a water quality score of 20 out of 100. Water quality index is determined on 100-point scale that summarizes results from a total of nine different measurements.

Standing near the old, municipal water pump house, with rusted stairs and white flaking paint, I stare, in disbelief, across the field to several conventional oil pumps, bouncing up and down in robotic rhythmic prayer, I just shook my head. The catwalk once led to tanks of fresh water, abandoned, it leads into a tangled mess of honeysuckle. How do we even began to right the wrongs?

When I first heard about high volume, hydraulic fracturing coming to southern Illinois and the defensive industry statement repeatedly state “we’ve been doing it for sixty years in Illinois and there has been no pollution.” High volume, hydraulic “fracking” is not conventional fracking; these are two very different critters. What they’ve been doing in south eastern Illinois is drilling vertical wells and stimulating with slick water or a brine solution. Industry has not done large scale high volume,

mile long horizontally drilling in Illinois. What they’ve done around Crossville, is called conventional oil and gas drilling, low to medium volume, which is less than 300,000 in total to initiate or propagate fractures in a geologic formation. If oil and gas in-dustry has been fracking, it was done unlawfully, without oversight or rules.

Steve tried numerous times to get help with his water and was passed off from agency to agency. He is a victim of state practices that protect companies and corporations, but ignore citizens and basic human rights to clear water and air. I took the complaint all the way to the Governors office in Chicago with high hope our leading state elected official would follow through and test Steve’s water, fine who was responsible and replace Steve’s well water, with municipal water, free of charge, but no.

The Governors office handed the complaint to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) who handed it to Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) who then passed off Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and back to OMM. Big circle jerk. Instead of fixing Steve’s well, the oil company installed a no trespassing sign, fixed and replaced gauges on a different disposal well head that was shown leaking in a photograph we submitted to the Governors aid. No one stopped by Steve’s house, no one even called him. First lessons in bureaucracy and politics, favors and corruption.

As Illinois legislators create 2013’s budget based on income from hydraulic fracking, it gives me no hope of sensibility in Springfield that a moratorium will pass in lame duck session. Asking our state government to seriously look at all the risks, the health affects, the cost to small municipalities bearing the brunt of the burden in ways of social services, emergency response personnel and road repair before jumping into a ponzi scheme is a reasonable request. The oil and gas isn’t going to go anywhere, the market has bottomed out do to excess supply, why risk our healthy environment for a short boom? For nearly one hundred years, southern Illinois has been dealing with fossil fuel boom bust extraction economies, one would think we would get smart and plan beyond that which leaves our communities devastated.

Present day Crossville is nothing more than a small one pump gas station, on a vintage main street with several boarded up storefronts, a blinking four



*“Only fools would trade water for oil, but then that’s what our elected officials have set out to do without answering the public’s questions or concerns, putting profit before people and risking the future our children and of the environment.”*

way stop, a weekend barbecue stand on a vacant lot and several gravel lots with used pump jacks parts, steel pipes, and a coin operated municipal water service station with water piped in from a nearby town. I looked at my daughter as we drove through the hopeless town, “If fracking is so awesome for small communities in southern Illinois, then why is this one withering up and dying?”

Only fools would trade water for oil, but then that’s what our elected officials have set out to do without answering the public’s questions or concerns, putting profit before people and risking the future our children and of the environment.

West Virginia reported that since 2008 oil and gas employment has risen not by tens of thousands or even by 1,000. Just 916 jobs have been added — less than 10 percent growth in four years. And the severance tax that was expected to produce tens of millions of dollars in new revenue has grown not at all. Despite the huge rise in production, severance taxes in 2012 are no greater than they were in 2008.(1)

If problems in other states are any indication of what we can expect for Southern IL then it is safe to say that our state officials are not interested in sustainable economics, nor researching long term the costs of hydraulic fracturing. The minuscule tax revenue won’t go where its intended: conservation and state parks.

When the industry says they will bring jobs, don’t think they will hire the local farmers; they bring their workers with them. Studies show that each well drilled creates less than 2 jobs.(2) However, if a good job includes waitressing or motel house-keeping near frack sites, well then, guess we’ve got it made.

Whether it’s the lost rights of a surface and property owners to protect investments like homes, water sources, family, livestock, farmlands, or the right to reasonable compensation for loss of any of the above, or the blatant disregard for the state constitution which insures our duty to protect our environment against any party or government for this and future generations; our legislators are woefully negligent. It’s a bad idea jumping into an environmentally devastating, resource depleting industry with indeterminable costs long after the economic benefits have disappeared without having established protections for it’s citizens first. We have no say in what happens to our communities.

Southern Illinoisans concerned about the environment and our future keep asking questions and we are not getting answers from those who have been elected to protect our citizens

and the environment. The Governor refuses to meet with us. Clean water and air is not a liberal request, it is a basic human right.

We have no idea about the amount of radioactivity this shale contains. Brief exploration leads to more questions. New York State’s Department of Environmental Conservation analyzed 13 samples of wastewater brought thousands of feet to the surface from drilling and found that they contain levels of radium 226, a derivative of uranium, as high as 267 times the limit safe for discharge into the environment and thousands of times the limit safe for people to drink.(3) Asking the right questions now with regards to radioactive shale and the waste created from drilling for fossil fuels may save us decades of trouble later.

After a summer of drought, water is by far a precious commodity to me and those nearby, whose only source of water is the artesian well behind the house. I don’t think its fair to risk water supplies for corporate profit and short term solutions to a growing energy problem of over consumption. Asking for environmental impact statements of water withdrawals and questioning disposal methods of toxic water is not radical, it’s responsible.

The hydro-fracking law has limited required disclosure of chemicals, no local right to ban in unincorporated areas, only medical necessity for chemical disclosure and only to medical personnel, pathetic set backs with regard to schools and healthcare facilities, financial loopholes, proprietary confidentiality for two years regarding all chemicals and well completion, no regulation regarding water use...the list of absurdities is endless.

Yet the gas and oil companies cried foul at attempts for a moratorium, until public health, safety and science could be determined. Especially after all the data linking increased seismicity in fault zones to fracking and injection wells. They labeled us as environmental tree hugging extremist, anti-American, terrorist and \*gasp\* liberal. Is it liberal to think that 20 or 30 years down the road I would expect my children to come home and drink out the tap without having any fear of what might be in our water? Is it idealistic to think that air should be breathable without non-methane hydrocarbons produced as a bi-product of fracking?

Air emissions and pollution studies near fracking sites re-

*“Clean water and air is not a liberal request, it is a basic human right....Asking for environmental impact statements of water withdrawals and questioning disposal methods of toxic water is not radical, it’s responsible.”*

cently released stated, “the health effects of the non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHCs) near hydrofracking sites revealed that many had multiple health effects, including 30 that affect the endocrine system, which is susceptible to chemical impacts at



*“Each person has the right to a healthful environment. Each person may enforce this right against any party, governmental or private.”*

*-Illinois State Constitution,  
Article XI, Section 2*

very low concentrations, far less than government safety standards.”(4) According to the Center for Disease, Southern Illinois has some of the nations worst respiratory disease rates of tuberculosis, lung cancer, Pneumonia, Asthma, Pneumoconiosis, Black Lung and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary disease and Pulmonary Fibrosis, to which I lost my grandfather.(5) Suffocation is a horrible death. Can the citizens of Illinois be assured that measures have been taken to keep air-born pollutants from harming our children?

In addition, do small towns in Southern Illinois currently have room in their budget for extra personnel for the influx of outsider workers who will come and wreak havoc with sex trafficking, drinking and drugs? In Bradford County, Pennsylvania’s most heavily drilled county in the 3-year-old rush to tap the Marcellus Shale, the nation’s largest-known natural gas reservoir, the stream of men from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and elsewhere has been accompanied by increases in arrests, traffic violations, protection-from-abuse orders and warrants issued for people who don’t show up in court report law enforcement officials.(6)

If I had poisoned my neighbors well with pesticides or dumped used oil and diesel fuels into the nearby creek which feeds into Cypress Wildlife Refuge, I’d been looking at fines, bankruptcy and federal prison. However, we are turning our heads, looking the other way with fracking companies and calling it “patriotic duty, national security and sacrifice.” If terrorists poisoned your well water, you’d be outraged.

Is it Un-American to ask for a statewide public vote on that which not only threatens the duty of each person to provide and maintain a healthful environment now but also the duty of future generations? Or at the very least, grant and protect the authority to counties who resolve to ban the process of fracking and uphold Article XI of our constitution.

It is inconceivable to believe that pollution would contain itself. Water and air pollution don’t abide by property lines. Radioactive dust won’t discriminate between rich children or welfare recipients. Frack rash, neurotoxins and endocrine can-

cer don’t look to see what political lines you stood in or what church you attend. If contamination could be completely contained to one property, then I suppose a person could make the argument that it is an individual choice of the landowner whether he or she wishes to sacrifice the land or water in this way. The notion of a state or for-profit-companies assuming the right to sacrifice someone else’s land, water, and air in order to transport oil and gas to the global market, is simply non-democratic. Rather, quite fascist, don’t you think?

The ramifications of this industrial process have the potential to devastate and debilitate our small communities, like Crossville. However fanatical, it only seems just and democratic to ban hydraulic fracturing for shale gas until a full and comprehensive independent study of the risk and benefits of fracking is complete.

Our elected officials took an oath to honor the “law of the land, the Illinois State constitution” as Mr. Miller has so eloquently stated. I humbly ask our officials to take a stand to protect our environment under Article XI which declares: “The public policy of the State and the duty of each person is to provide and maintain a healthful environment for the benefit of this and future generations.” New York and Maryland officials have stepped up, will ours?

Might we be reminded that when the government fails Illinois citizens, in diligence, Article XI, Section 2 states, “Each person has the right to a healthful environment. Each person may enforce this right against any party, governmental or private.”

Will we be armed with pitchforks and the constitutional right to protect our future? What excuses will we tell our children if fracking does to us what it has done to so many other small communities, pollute the water, taint our air, sicken our children, the land and kill our livestock. What do we tell them when there is no water to drink? ♦

1. <http://www.frackcheckwv.net/2012/12/26/the-emperor-has-no-gas-boom/>
2. <http://documents.foodandwaterwatch.org/doc/FalseJobsPromiseReport.pdf>
3. <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=marcellus-shale-natural-gas-drilling-radioactive-wastewater>
4. <http://www.endocrinedisruption.com/chemicals.air.php>
5. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/pdfs/98-157.pdf>
6. <http://online.wsj.com/article/APd45605d59dd0499fbd3851c-4683c12c7.html>



*Ohio River Bend, Harrison-Crawford State Forest, IN, 2001. Source: Drew Laird.*

# Heartwood Safer Spaces Guidelines

May 2015

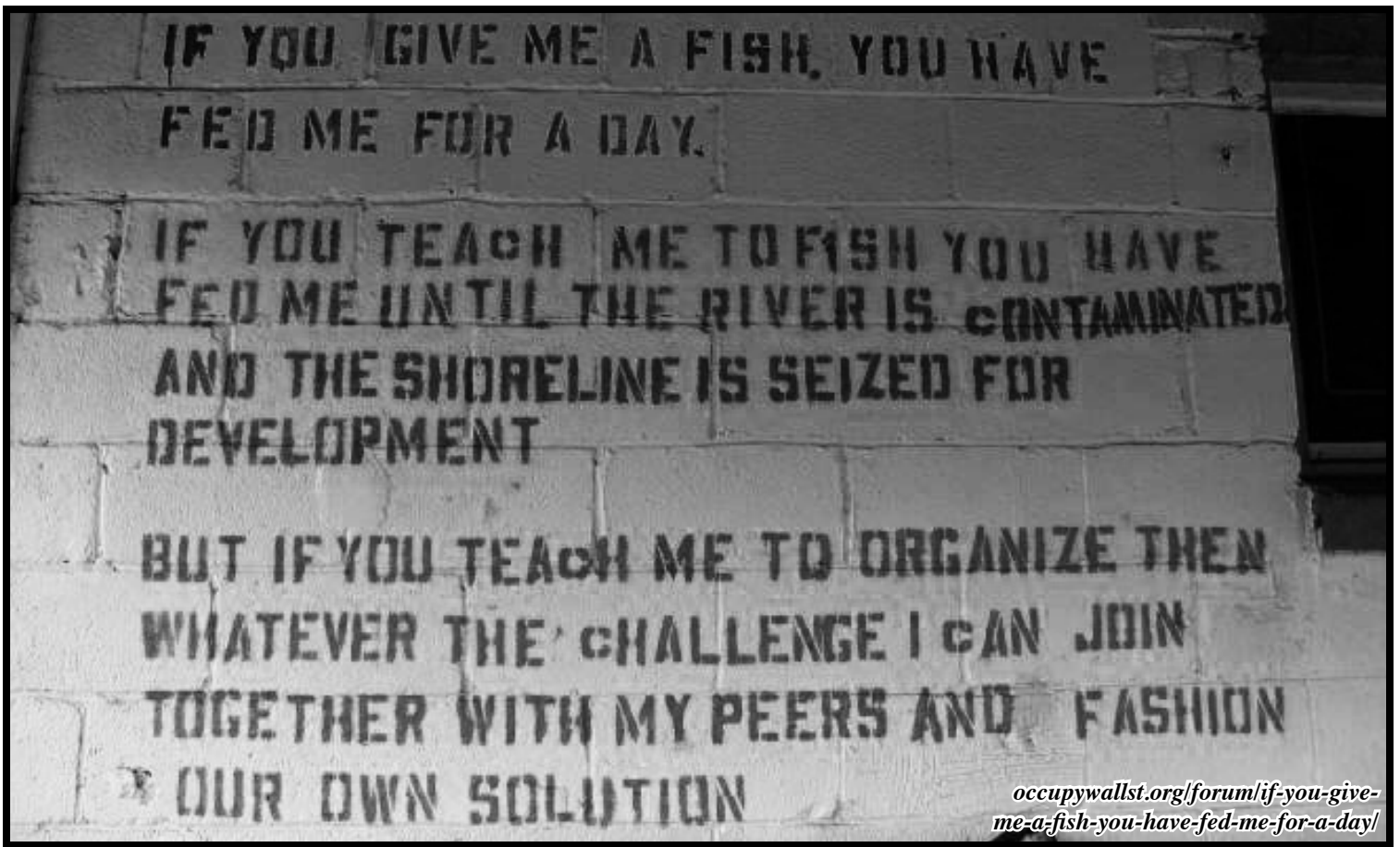
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- ❖ Heartwood maintains zero tolerance regarding any form of abuse, sexual harassment, intimidation, assault, discriminatory language, oppressive behavior, exclusion, or marginalization.
- ❖ Heartwood's members have respect for others' physical and personal boundaries, opinions, beliefs, and differing points of view. Heartwood members will trust, respect, and acknowledge each other's experiences, not making assumptions about others' experiences.
- ❖ Heartwood believes in the safety, health, respect, and wellbeing of all of its members, all of the time.
- ❖ Heartwood believes, honors, and trusts survivors, respects their voices, and acknowledges their need to heal.
- ❖ Heartwood will deal promptly with any perpetrators of above-listed violence. Heartwood will insist that perpetrators acknowledge and make amends for any violations that impact the safety and wellbeing of other Heartwood members. Heartwood will not make or accept excuses for hurtful behavior, and will expect perpetrators of such behavior to actively work to resolve situations, always respecting the requests of the survivor.
- ❖ Active steps will be taken immediately to protect the physical and emotional safety of children when potential abuse is observed, or is alerted by either child or parent/guardian.
- ❖ Heartwood members will share time and space in circles, workshops, and meetings, not dominating or interrupting each other. Heartwood members are expected to act with compassion, be courteous, to think before speaking and acting, and will strive to not offend others, especially when telling questionably appropriate jokes or stories.
- ❖ Heartwood promotes a culture that is constantly questioning itself, growing, and learning; Heartwood discourages stagnation and assuming that we've "got it all figured out."
- ❖ Heartwood Core Council members shall have the responsibility to enforce this policy, err on the side of caution, and immediately, temporarily, or permanently remove any person violating this policy from Heartwood Community events.



*25th Annual Forest Council! Lazy Black Bear, Paoli, IN, 2015.*



*occupywallst.org/forum/if-you-give-me-a-fish-you-have-fed-me-for-a-day/*



*From lefts Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, Ann Phillippi, Andy Maliler, GrannyD, Woody Harrelson, Tom Ballanco. Camp Blanton, Harlan, KY, 2003 Forest Council.*



Coal Country Music Deluxe, the new and expanded version of Coal Country Music, is now available for digital download through Amazon, iTunes, and other retailers. It contains three new songs, including a previously unreleased live version of 'You'll Never Leave Harlan Alive' by Darrell Scott, 'Appalachian Soul' by Great

American Taxi, and a previously unreleased version of 'Do Lord' by Justin Townes Earle.

Additionally, there are now 8 new tracks available for free download at [www.coalcountrymusic.com](http://www.coalcountrymusic.com) including a memorable 'Hard Times Come Again No More' by Alison Cochran Little.

Coal Country Music Deluxe features recordings by nationally known recording artists united to STOP the ongoing tragedy of mountaintop removal coal mining in the Appalachian Mountain states of West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee. All songs were donated by the artists and all net proceeds go to organizations working to stop mountaintop removal. Featured artists include Willie Nelson, Bonnie Raitt, John Prine, Natalie Merchant, Ralph Stanley, Kathy Mattea, Gillian Welch, Justin Townes Earle, and more, with liner notes by Woody Harrelson and Ashley Judd.

For more information and to order CDs, please visit [www.coalcountrymusic.com](http://www.coalcountrymusic.com). And, we have a very special offer for new and renewing Heartwood members: become a monthly giver to Heartwood and receive a free Coal Country Music CD. Also, if you are interested in promoting the CD at your local stores, radio stations, or events, please contact Heartwood at [info@heartwood.org](mailto:info@heartwood.org) or call 812-307-4326.



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[www.heartwood.org](http://www.heartwood.org)

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## Join us for the 20th Annual Heartwood Reunion!

**20th Heartwood Reunion**

**A Change of Heart,  
A Chain of Hearts**

Friday, October 9th -  
Monday, October 12th, 2015  
The Lazy Black Bear, Indiana

Info at [www.heartwood.org](http://www.heartwood.org)

Join us **Friday, October 9th- Monday, October 12th** for the **20th Heartwood Reunion**, a special four-day event, at the **Lazy Black Bear in southern Indiana**. Come prepared to journey deeper. In addition to joy-filled time with friends, great food, music, and beauty that you expect at a Heartwood Reunion, our program will also tackle some of the most pressing and difficult questions of our times. *What if one gathering had the potential to change the trajectory of the whole human experience. Would you be there?*

Heartwood is a regional network that protects forests and supports community activism in the Eastern United States through education, advocacy and citizen empowerment. Heartwood was founded in 1991, when concerned citizens from several Midwestern and Southern states met and agreed to work together to protect the heartland hardwood forest.

**Heartland + Hardwood = Heartwood**