



Heartwood: People Helping People Protect the Places They Love

DON'T spOIL THE WAYNE!

by *Buckeye Forest Council*

Using a tired and tattered page from the evil-empire playbook, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced just before Thanksgiving that it was initiating the process to release over 31,000 acres of mineral rights under Ohio's small Wayne National Forest for oil and gas "development". As readers may know, even though the Wayne is a National Forest, the BLM has jurisdiction over all federally-owned mineral rights. And, in these times, "oil and gas development" is a poor euphemism for "fracking".

The process was to begin with, as described by BLM official Kurt Wadzinski, a series of "sort of scoping" public meetings to be held, inconveniently, over the course of the family holiday season. Nevertheless, Buckeye Forest Council and local groups including Appalachia Resist! and Athens County Fracking Action Network got the word out. We had a strong contingent present at each of these "sort of scoping" meetings, but it was clear from the start that the meetings were a sham.

Set up to divide and isolate individuals from each other, the "meetings" concluded a series of stations set up to ostensibly provide information on various aspects of the proposal. The BLM and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) employees at each station had very little information to offer, and many questions were answered with "I don't know" or blank stares. Public input was solicited via a one page form, though there was no information provided on which any detailed input could be based.

Determined to have their say, forest defenders converged on the meeting held in Athens, Ohio. Approximately, two hundred concerned citizens turned out, many wearing "Don't spOIL the Wayne!" t-shirts that Buckeye Forest Council

created and passed out. When the BLM and USFS wouldn't allow public testimony, things turned rowdy. Federal officials were drowned out with chants of "We Say NO!" and pelted with wadded up comment forms and paper airplanes.

Such frustration is justified. This latest "get the oil and gas out" effort is recycled from 2012, when it was pulled because of widespread opposition and the fact that the Wayne National Forest Plan had not considered fracking. In fact, there are many other reasons to leave these fossil fuels in the ground, not the least of which is climate change.

According to a recent report (released in August of 2015 from Biological Diversity-https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2015/greenhouse-gas-emissions-08-19-2015.html), ending fossil fuel extraction from federally owned mineral rights would keep 450 billion tons of greenhouse gasses out of the atmosphere. If the Obama administration is serious about the minimal commitments the U.S. made at the recent Paris climate talks, then adding oil and gas to the recent moratorium on the leasing of federal coal reserves is a necessary next step.

And, that's what folks can push for going forward. Building on the #keepitintheground successes, we need to pressure the administration to extend the moratorium to federal oil and gas. In addition, there is still an opportunity for you to submit comments on the local proposal to frack the Wayne National Forest. Those comments can be emailed to blm_es_comments@blm.gov.

For more information, contact the Buckeye Forest Council at info@buckeyeforestcouncil.org. Better yet, join us October 1 and 2 for the annual Buckeye Forest Gathering at Camp OYO in Shawnee State Forest near Portsmouth, Ohio. Hope to see you there! ♦

*BLM Meeting,
November 2015*



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*BLM Meeting,
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PLANNED GIVING

It's not an easy thing to think about, and no one really wants to bring it up. Facing our mortality is never easy. Each day on the planet is a gift and we each try to pack as much love, fun, adventure, and experience into our short time here. For several years now, the council has discussed ways of having this hard conversation, but it never seems right. It always seems like a mood breaker...here comes another "Don the Downer" chat. We have read up on estate planning and planned giving, and decided that each member will have varying circumstance depending on where they live.

Grab a council member if you have questions, and please consider Heartwood and all the good that we do when it comes time to think about estate planning. There are many ways of arranging to make a posthumous donation: wills, trusts, life insurance and other methods. Tax and other consequences may vary depending upon your individual circumstances and needs, and changes in the law may also affect your plans. It is often advisable to consult an attorney to help you determine what is best for you, but please consider including Heartwood in your plans.

Thank You, Heartwood Members, for Your Generous Contributions!

Garrett Adams, Judy Ashby, Rhonda Baird, Sherman Bamford, William M. Borchard, Gail Brown, Warren Buckler, J. Courtney, Peg Catlett, Randy Cunningham, Eric Daniels, Mark Donham, Rebecca Ellswatz, Jana Faith, Lorelei Farlow, Charles Frey, Northside Greenspace, Inc., Gary and Mary Grigsby, Virginia L. Harris, Winnie Hepler, Tom Hougham and Ann Deutch, Bill Hurley, Christina & Matthew Jessen, Jim Jordan, John Kiefer, Paul Knoop, Ann Kreilkamp, Grey Larsen, Edward J. Lawrence, Steve Leiben, Sarah Lewiston, Patty Maher, Jack Marshall, Gwen Marshall, Julia McDill, William Montgomery, Eric and Truly Mount, Matt Peters, Charles Phillips, Dave Pittman, Kate Pilacky, Patty Pizzo, Carol Polsgrove, Shawn Porter, David T. Reagan, Ernest Reed, Jerry Redden, Timothy Reim, Bryon W. Thomas and Rebecca C. Reimbold, Yvonne Rhoades, Roger and Dory Rindge, Leah Robling, Tara Root, Samuel Schwartz, Peg Taylor, Tyler Thompson, Marianne Walch, Christina Wulf, Randy and Robin Young.

A Shout-Out to Our Major Treehuggers!

Allegheny Defense Project, Jillian Bar-av, Carol & Ray Beauregard, Mary C. and William M. Belitkus, Mary Bookwalter and Jeff Stant, Anita Buck, John M. Byers, Cameron Clark, Dave Cooper, Martha Crouch, Indiana Forest Alliance, Joe Hazelbaker, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Tammy Ford, Jennifer Jones, Edward J. Lawrence, Myke Luurtsema, Andy Mahler and Linda Lee, Annemarie Mahler, Annette McCormick, Kevin Miller, Mary E Montgomery, Audrey Moore, Tom Neilson, David Nickell, Daniel Palmer, Charlotte Palmer Phillips Foundation, Alice Penwell, Charles Phillips, Karen Pitkin, Andrew F. Pitstick, Evan Prost, Ernie Reed, Liaison Records, Evan Rocheford, Raven Rocks, Inc., Jeffrey Sanders, Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter Winding Waters, Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing Our Environment, Chris Schimmoeller, Sherry Schmidt, Robert L. Shapiro, Sam Stearns, Bill Stern, Mark A. Stoops, Mary Swanson, Tabitha Tripp, Patricia Troth, Jon Cohn and Daniela Wittman with Jeanne Raisler, Helen Vasquez and Larry Gillen, Marcia Veldman, Wild Virginia, Deb Van Vlymen, Ann Phillippi and Mel Warren, Rebecca Woodaman, Christina Wulf.

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Forest Defense Committee
Heartbeat Committee
Membership and Outreach Committee
Mini-Grants Committee
Personnel Committee
Web and Technology Committee

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.

HEARTWOOD

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*Original Drawing
by Glen "Whitedove" Scherff*

HEARTWOOD MEMBERSHIP

Join Heartwood or make a donation by simply going to www.heartwood.org and clicking on "donate" or mail a check to Heartwood at PO Box 1926, Bloomington, IN 47404

membership levels!

branch	\$35
sapling	\$50
tree	\$100, or \$10/month
tree hugger	\$250, or \$20/month
treehuggerhugger	\$500, or \$50/month
ecosystem patron	\$1000, or \$100/month

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, autumn Heartwood 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 home.

Celebrate and Dance for the Forest Warrior

by Corina Lang



Photos, clockwise from top left:

A piece of Kristi Hanson's incredible artwork

At Heartwood Forest Council, Camp Blanton, 2003, Kristi and Zaida Jane Scheff making longleaf pine needle and gourd bowls
Source: Jim Scheff

Kristi Hanson

Heartwood has lost many warriors with the passing of so many years. Is it not the nature of warriors to face the next dimension? But this does not lessen the grief for those remaining; we must march on facing that grief, absorbing it, gaining strength for our future battles. We cannot allow our grief to weaken us; those who have gone on to prepare the way need our strength to guide them.

We now mourn the loss of Kristi Hanson, a great warrior. Kristi passed away on the morning of January 27, 2016. She came into this world on April 20, 1952. I am sure it was a glorious day in Evanston, Illinois. She later attended the University of Wisconsin in Eau Claire. After one year, she decided to leave school and headed to a rural area near Carthage, Illinois. This is where Kristi's and Mark Donham's lives became intertwined. They began their journey of forty years together shortly thereafter. Together, as a team, they proved to possess an amazing ability to get things done.

Mark and Kristi spent many years working together as tree planters. This gave them the opportunity to become familiar with many of the eastern forests. After discovering the Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois, they decided this beautiful special place should be their home, "The prettiest forest we had seen," said Mark and Kristi. Previously living for some time near a college town, they intentionally chose to locate their home in a place away from the influences of cities or towns so they could experience the true nature of the forest and get to know the long time residents of the area. They settled into their forest home near Brookport in Pope County, Illinois. How fortunate for those of us who enjoyed it as a meeting place, warm memories I will always treasure.

Nestled in their own little piece of paradise, Kristi and Mark embraced living off-grid. They walked the walk and talked the talk. Soon though, they were called to action when Forest Service helicopters began dropping what looked

like mothballs in the surrounding forest. Mark and Kristi confronting the Forest Service officials were told not to worry; it was a totally non-toxic herbicide application. Not satisfied with this answer, the duo conducted their own research and discovered the substance to be highly toxic. This led to contacting Senator Paul Simon and enlisting his support in their efforts to hold the Forest Service accountable. Thus began the ballad of Kristi and Mark. ACE (Association of Concerned Environmentalists) was formed. When forests were under threat in the western forests of Southern Illinois, RACE (Regional Association of Concerned Environmentalist) was formed with other forest defenders over milkshakes at the Pomona General Store. Meetings, protests, gatherings, encampments, letters to the editor and pro se litigation all followed. Visiting warriors came from neighboring threatened places, Heartwood began to take shape. Kristi was always there, later serving as a Heartwood council member for many years.

Kristi's most powerful gifts were her calm nature and optimism, even in the face of situations that seemed unbearable. When forests fell or other threats loomed, she transcended the heartbreak and inspired people to find the joy of working together to do the right thing. She influenced people in such subtle ways they were often unaware of how they were being transformed and made better. She never sought the spotlight but shone her light on others. Kristi shared other talents with her community; her art using varied media is truly amazing. Generous donations of her artwork raised a great many dollars for Heartwood. She took up drumming as an adult and made it look easy. It was a true joy to dance with her at the Lazy Black Bear and other Heartwood locales. We will all have to dance more to take up the slack. This means you!

Kristi was truly loved by so many and will be dearly missed, but her spirit will linger to inspire us all in our efforts to protect the places we love.



Coming On

by Thomas Tokarski

*Calm, as if the ancient sea had returned,
rests on the woods today.
We walk where strangers have come
and gone
for generations, taking what they
wanted,
leaving
a few deficient beeches.
Massive now, these old gray ghosts,
gnarled with the knots of disease and
wind,
twisted and hard, limbs missing,
stand like grand prophets
among the smaller trees
coming on.*

*We walk farther into the quiet ...
water flows down a rock face,
dripping from the ends of bright, green
moss,
as it has dripped, days and nights,
without claim or profit
except to the curious,
the weary,
and the moss.*

*When the water runs cold
white ice overflows the rock ledges
suspending wide, folded cones
with liquid tips as clear as eyes.*

*The woods in its living marks time
seamlessly—
rings in trees and water dripping,
a completeness
one must wait for, watching,
quietly and long,
to see.*

2015 Mini-Grants!



With help from the Heartwood Mini-grant program, Aurora Lights funded history students in West Virginia to explore "An Empowered Mountain History".

In 2015 Heartwood awarded a total \$4,600 to ten grassroots organizations through our Mini-grant program. These funds will support local initiatives to protect hardwood forest ecosystems from logging, fracking, and mountaintop removal coal mining all across the Heartwood region.

The **Marcellus Biodiversity Project in Pennsylvania** is using its grant to conduct a bioblitz in the Loyalsock State Forest, which is currently threatened by expanded natural gas drilling. In **West Virginia**, Heartwood Mini-grants have supported groups such as **Aurora Lights**, which has developed a yearlong curriculum for middle school students to explore the storied, turbulent history of resource extraction in the state. **Concept Zero in Paducah, Kentucky**, and **Tennessee Heartwood**, both Mini-grant recipients, played key roles in the LBL Coalition to successfully challenge a project proposed on the Land Between the Lakes that would have had devastating impacts on that forest. **Tennessee Heartwood** is also actively challenging destructive logging projects proposed for the Cherokee National Forest.

What makes Heartwood unique in the crowded field of environmental nonprofits is the deep connections with local forests, ecosystems, and communities that drive the work of our members. Heartwood activists recognize the connection between the "local" issues and the broader struggle to protect wild forest ecosystems and nearby communities. The Heartwood Mini-grant program serves to support those groups that are on the ground, in the forests and communities, that might fly under the radar of the large national environmental organizations. For a complete list of 2015 Mini-grant winners, see the sidebar, or visit <https://heartwood.org/2015-mini-grant-winners/>. ♦

2015 Mini-Grant Winners	Description of Project Funded
Kanawha Forest Coalition (WV)	MTR Strip Mine Monitoring and Surveillance
Concept Zero (KY)	LBL Coalition Public Outreach
Aurora Lights (WV)	Shattering Stereotypes: An Empowered Mountain History
Coal River Mountain Watch (WV)	Fall Break on Coal River Mountain
People of Color (POC) Earth First!	POC Earth First Organizers Conference
Tennessee Heartwood	Federal Lands Monitoring
Lance Olsen	Climate and Biodiversity Listserv
Marcellus Biodiversity Project (PA)	Loyalsock State Forest Survey
Prison Ecology Project of the Human Rights Defense Center (HRDC)	Mini-Tour
Frack-Free Foothills (KY)	No Fracking: Fall Outreach Campaign

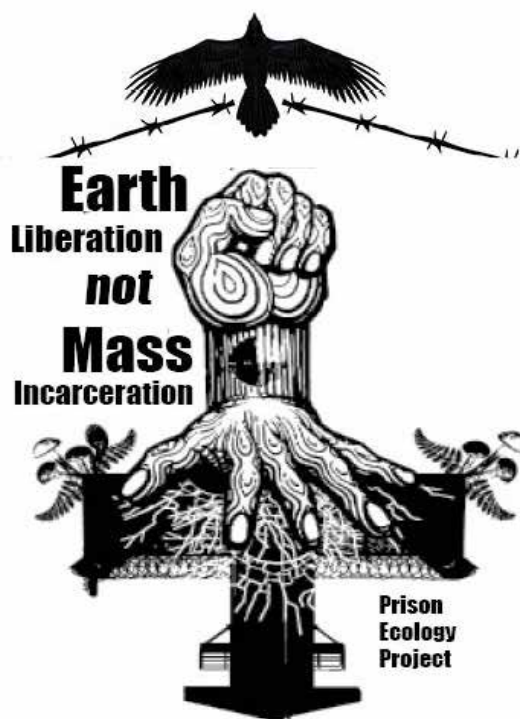
CALL FOR A CONVERGENCE AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF ACTION IN SUPPORT OF ECO-PRISONERS & AGAINST TOXIC PRISONS

JUNE 11 - 13, 2016

WASHINGTON D.C. AND EVERYWHERE

For over a decade, June 11 has been a day of action in solidarity with environmentalists and anarchists imprisoned for their actions in defense of the Earth. The day has its origins in an international outcry over the extreme and unprecedented sentencing of Jeffrey Luers to 22 years in prison for damaging several SUV's at a car dealership. Since its inception in 2004, the June 11 day of action and other acts of solidarity have been instrumental in winning shorter sentences or early release for eco-prisoners, including Luers himself as well as Eric McDavid, who was entrapped by an informant. Yet committed earth defenders such as Marius Mason, targeted in the FBI's "Greenscare," are still serving harsh sentences in maximum security prisons for taking direct action against earth destroying industries.

Meanwhile in Appalachia, the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) plans to build a massive maximum security prison, on top of a former mountaintop removal coal mine in Letcher County, Eastern



Kentucky, surrounded by sludge ponds and coal processing and transport operations. This amounts to an environmental justice nightmare, where prisoners who are disproportionately low-income and people of color face toxic conditions behind bars.

It also happens that this prison site is about a mile as the crow flies from a rare and very biodiverse pocket of Eastern old-growth called the Lilley Cornett Woods. [Learn more in the December 2015 issue of the Earth First! Journal.](#)

As of December 2015, the BOP got over \$400 million approved for the prison's construction. The newly-formed *Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons* (FTP) is organizing to stop it, and looking to grow a coalition of opposition.

Stopping one prison is not a magic bullet to ending the U.S. police state, the one that gave way to the world's largest prison nation and in turn serves as the apparatus of repression that keeps the planet shackled to industrial capitalism...

But it's a pretty good place to build from. In particular, it is a powerful place that the environmental movement can express solidarity with the growing rage over the racist criminal justice system.

The goal of gathering in DC is to converge for a series of actions that can put pressure on both the BOP and the EPA regarding this proposed prison, and environmental justice issues related to prisoners in general, while continuing to fight for the release of eco-prisoners in the spirit of June 11. We also hope to see this effort build stronger bonds between the eco-defense movement and the movements against the police state and mass incarceration.

We envision a gathering June 10 to 12 for intersectional networking, strategizing and

organizing, culminating with a mass action on Monday the 13th.

For those who like the idea, but can't make it to DC, there are other options. For example, the BOP has regional offices in 5 other locations.

Additionally, the PR company that is contracted to produce the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the BOP's Letcher prison is called Cardno, and has offices in many U.S. cities, and other cities all over the world. *This is the same firm that was contracted by the U.S. State Department to produce an EIS for the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline.*

In many ways, the prison experiences of activists like Luers, Mason, McDavid, and others such as Daniel McGowan, Rebecca Rubin and Tim DeChristopher, have provided courage and inspiration rather than the desired effect of

intimidation. They also gave the environmental movement an inside look at the prison epidemic in the U.S. With the steady stream of urban uprisings against the police state, there has never been a better time to organize at this intersection of ecology and incarceration. We hope you'll join us. ♦

Get in touch if you are interested in helping to organize this J11/FTP convergence or if you are part of a group who wants to co-sponsor it. More details are forthcoming.

Contact: FIGHTTOXICPRISONS@GMAIL.COM

Co-sponsoring groups include Earth First! Prisoner Support, Rising Tide North America, Appalachia Resist!, Jericho D.C., Prison Ecology Project and others TBA.

FIGHTTOXICPRISONS.ORG

Reportback from Tennessee Heartwood

by Davis Mounger



Before: Eroded landscape, "Devastation from Shortleaf Pine Restoration at Cherokee National Forest"

This quarter has been very productive. The most notable work has been on the Paint Creek timber sale in the Unaka district of the Cherokee. This has been a long process, with us having begun work on this project over three years ago, through two separate Environmental Analyses and a Pre-Decisional Objection hearing and temporary resolution. We had succeeded in getting the Forest Service to do an additional soils analysis after our long-term documentation of the effects of logging on similar soils at the Hogback sale in the Ocoee district showed severe environmental degradation.

Unfortunately, the agency then pretended that damage from the Hogback sale didn't exist after that and issued a decision to continue with all logging at Paint Creek as planned even on sites that it acknowledged were risky. Their additional soils report had no mention of Hogback as an example, with their decision notice misrepresenting our evidence from Hogback as being a couple of isolated pictures, rather than three years of video and photos from multiple sites.

We have just completed a lengthy objection that covers both the possible National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) issues of public input and the ecological issues. Several committee members have reviewed and contributed to this.

The week we began working on the objection, we discovered a real bombshell. The rangers in the Ocoee district have in the last few months taken to heart the damage that has happened at Hogback. This has triggered an incredible number of changes on that part of the forest, including:

- A review of Hogback that acknowledges problems with post-treatment land conditions that are being re-mitigated.
- Experimental mitigation techniques being tried out on Unit 1 of the Hogback sale, including a variety of techniques for restoring ground cover to bare spots, particularly in using different types of erosion matting such as coconut fiber and aspen wood. Different seeding mixes are being tried as well.
- A complete reformulation of the fertilizer/lime mix for stocking, which will probably become standard.
- Important insights from consultations with the Forest Service in North Carolina about the applicability of cable logging.
- An in-depth study that extensively covers Junaluska soils by Dick Rightmyer, a respected, retired soil scientist.
- Possible new standards that will limit logging to 35-degree continuous slope.
- Experience learned from re-mitigating Hogback in recontouring skid trails.
- Additional analysis going on at the Conocat, Dinkey, and Stone Pile sales that looks at past actions along with current proposals.
- A Best Management Practices (BMP) study by Hydrologist Allison Reddington that looks at how a number of BMP's are being implemented on the ground in the Cherokee, including skid trails/temporary roads, including: correct spacing water bars, slope of skid trails, riparian buffers, how stream crossings are properly constructed and put to bed, and in particular, the volume of skid roads in an area.

In short, monitoring what the agency does, can get the goods. If our committee's monitoring had not happened, none of the changes would be happening in the South Zone of the forest.

However, in the Unaka district in the North Zone, they managed to undertake a "comprehensive" soils analysis with recommendations, while conveniently ignoring the valuable work done on the same soils by some of the same agency employees only four counties to the

south. This obvious conflict is a key part of our objections for the Paint Creek sale.

We hope that the agency will be willing to negotiate a fair resolution to our objections. We're currently waiting for their response.

On other sales in the Cherokee, we're pleased to report from the South Zone rangers that the upcoming analyses for the Dinkey, Conocat, and Stone Pile timber sales are being greatly restructured. We look forward to seeing the changes that are being made.

In the Land Between the Lakes, our work with the Coalition for the Preservation of the Land Between the Lakes continues to be productive. We are meeting with the Forest Service in a few days to discuss a new plan for monitoring and evaluation of key species. We're also planning to spend some days this spring on the land with the agency discussing some ways to reform management there. It is likely that it will be two or three years before a Long Range Management Plan revision begins. I made a narrated slide show of our coalitions citizen's plan, which can be accessed here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxKggq-da84SG0Qk1vM05KbWdkZVk/view?usp=sharing>

Now is the time to start filling in the data gaps that are so great in this neglected forest. ♦



After: Following three years of monitoring the site and highlighting the negative effects of logging, the Forest Service admits failure and begins expensive re-mitigation of the site with recontouring, reseeding, and adding a mulch mat. The new ranger has cleaned house and begun new practices to make sure this doesn't happen again.

KINDLING ACTION BY TABITHA TRIPP

How can we kindle the spark in someone else? You know, the spark that motivates them to do something more than attend a meeting or sign an online petition. As organizers, we always hope our three minute personal story of “how I got here” inspires a wannabe activist to go beyond the “concerned citizen” role and become fully engaged in the campaign.

I’m starting to think this transformation requires a form of alchemy or some kind of wizardry at best. After sitting through another two hour member meeting where after a list of issues from pipeline to fracking, environmental justice to clean power plans, film festivals to fundraising and media, the same six volunteers took home the brunt of the work load and no new help stepped up. Why is it that we have so many supporters, but so few willing to assume the challenges of action?

What inspires a person to action, what enrages and motivates, what dreams are vanishing in the space between acknowledging the issue and the desire to do something about it?

Building your organization’s base is a full time job. It’s a slow process, one where you have to get to know your volunteers, their dreams and hopes, and what enrages them, who inspires them, and what their bottom line is. It is time and energy consuming to manage 12 volunteers. Even managing two volunteers is a challenge for a talented organizer, while continuing to answer emails, media reporters, phone calls, read the latest news on your list serves, post the most recent science, repeat and share the endless requests for funding and petition signatures, while researching technical and other data for comment periods

“Get creative. Engage your rage. You have permission to protect our world.”

and hearings, while lobbying your elected officials to pass resolutions and legislation to protect our communities; all this in addition to family life. Yes, it’s a dizzy life.

My activism was born out of a need to protect my water source. After spending nearly a decade building a home I never planned to leave, our artesian water well was threatened by the prospect of fracking and I jumped into the flow, head first. I learned as much as I could, as fast as I could and I didn’t stop to ask for permission. Sometimes that didn’t work out in my favor, and it did ruffle some feathers, but most of the time, it worked out.

At a recent meeting, I tried a different approach. A Heartwood comrade, to

whom I expressed concern for the slacktivism happening, suggested that I may be perceived as being too enthusiastic and set too vigorous a pace in my environmental defense. I am into several issues and have created a heluva network across America because the issues are not insular and there is no sense in recreating the wheel. So I sat back, I let someone else facilitate and just gave my reports back, and added if anyone wants to jump into the action leave your name here and I sent around a clipboard for folks to leave contact information.

No new volunteers.

As an organizer this is a big red flag in assessing how a meeting went and time for self reflection too. Was it me? What could I have done differently? Was I approachable enough? Was I open to constructive criticism? Was I critical of someone else’s idea? The mental monkeys are chattering with what I could have done differently to engage more people into action.

In hindsight, I’m not sure anything I do is going to break down what I see as a culture of engrained hierarchy and power systems which teach people to obey. People are waiting for permission to do “something”—so many people are waiting for top down orders from a “leader.”

We, as a nation, have effectively eradicated free thinking and self motivated leaders, and have fallen victim to group think: the practice of making decisions as a group in a way that discourages creativity or individual responsibility.

If everyone reading this would walk away with one nugget of information from this publication of Heartbeat here it is: *you don’t need permission to act*. Act on climate issues; act on extreme energy extraction; act on changing systems that oppress marginalized communities; act on racism; act on human rights abuses, act on the injustice, regularly and repeatedly.

We are looking at a long difficult road ahead. We need to move faster and with love in our hearts. We need everyone to break



Tabitha Tripp demonstrates how small we humans are in the face of wild nature. Source: Ernie Reed, 2016, Cascadia

away from the colonial mentality of pyramid power and trickle down orders that has been engrained in our behaviors by 12+ years of education based on conformity and control. *Question authority*. Push back against the need to have someone else’s consent to protect the places and people you love. You don’t need permission to do the *right* thing.

Using constructive, creative activism methods, be it weaving poetry into your public comment, playing guitar at the public hearing, writing letters to the editor, performing a one person protest, dropping a banner with 20 of your closest friends at a board meeting, launching an effective blockade or tree sit, finding what motivates you to act. The spectrum of doing “something” is wide and opportunities are endless if we push the boundaries of non violent direct action and move forward.

Get creative. Engage your rage. You have permission to protect our world.

www.shawneesentinel.wordpress.com ♦

GOOD NEWS AT LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES

by Wade White, Lyon County Judge Executive

Editor's note: Last summer, Tennessee Heartwood and Kentucky Heartwood, along with our allies with the Coalition for the Preservation of Land Between the Lakes, achieved a major victory when the Forest Service agreed to withdraw the Pisgah Bay Project and the proposed commercial logging of 3,600 acres of our public forests. Since then, we have continued our work toward long-term management changes at LBL to stop commercial logging, promote biodiversity, and better involve the public in decision-making processes in this unique national forest unit. The following letter was written by our friend, Lyon County Judge Executive Wade White, and published on the Coalition website and in the Lyon County Herald-Ledger and the Princeton Times-Leader.

Over the past year most of the articles I have written about Land Between the Lakes have been warnings to alert everyone of the wrong direction in which things were heading. Today, I'm very happy to write an article pointing to a positive turn around taking place at Land Between the Lakes. This article doesn't signal that all LBL Coalition goals are complete by any means, but it does signal that under Tina Tilley's leadership Land Between the Lakes is moving in a new and positive direction.

As many of you may know the largest target for the Coalition in 2015, was to see the Forest Service cancel the 3600 acres of planned commercial logging known as the Pisgah Bay Project. The good news—the Forest Service has not only scrapped the Pisgah Bay Project but also agreed to ZERO commercial logging through the end of 2016. There are other positive things taking place that I want to report.

Richy Moore, an avid visitor to Hillman Ferry Campground, said there hasn't been any significant repair or maintenance there in years. But in the last few weeks, two new shelters have been replaced, a new foot bridge at the playground started, and several loads of rip rap and dense grade have been delivered with a promise of major work on the roads and campsites to start in December, 2015.

Davis Mounser (of Tennessee Heartwood) reported good news that the Forest Service has agreed to work with the Coalition in writing a

grant to the National Forest Foundation for matching funds to further develop the North-South Trail. The grant may cover needed items like water cisterns for thirsty hikers, better trail markers, and developing a quality trail map.

Jim Scheff reported to the Coalition that the Forest Service is recognizing that there are major gaps in what they know about current conditions at LBL.

To address this, both for prioritizing work in the near future and for laying the groundwork for a new Area Management Plan, LBL managers want input on a wide range of issues. Part of this includes the forest inventories that Dennis Wilson will be compiling in 2016. They also want input on rare species, old forest locations, areas of special interest to people, impaired watersheds, trail conditions, and more.

Jim has also suggested an idea for a web-based project to build a body of information about places around LBL that people care about. On this website people could submit information, stories, map locations, trail routes, community sites, paddling routes, old forests, etc. Another idea is to form a "citizen science" program. This program would be a set of presentations and field trips over the next few years to introduce people to issues relating to the botany of LBL, old-growth, etc.

I was able to meet with Mrs. Tilley to discuss road and bridge work that is planned. For example, road number 126 bridge repair is currently in the engineering stage. Road work continues on Racetrack and Curry Hollow – with more gravel coming to Woodson Chapel and Brandon Chapel.

Hematite Trail will be getting some much



Convoy Tour 8600, Pisgah Bay, June 28, 2016

needed reconstruction and trail work. And there is cooperation with the Forest Service on investigating the possibility of working with the public to rebuild the old silo. This will take a great deal of money and planning, but this is a positive step to know the Forest Service is interested in helping us work through these possibilities.

The Forest Service is also setting up smoke detection devices to monitor during the next large burns in the 8600. They are making an effort to reduce or eliminate the "smoke out" we usually experience during these burns.

Donnie Holland reported that the Golden Pond Overlook Project that has stalled over the past few years is now back on schedule and may open March, 2016! It was started about seven years ago. Another long awaited trail that has been important for our horse group has been the rebuilding of trail 11 which was cut off by the 68/80 highway. After a very long delay, it is back on schedule to be completed.

This is all good news! There is evidence of a shift in priorities in a good direction. But we must stay vigilant! We still need the new Area Management Plan. A new Area Management Plan is our next goal, but it is set to begin in 2019. Many of us think it should be sooner. So in discussions with Mrs. Tilley, she has agreed to put together a list of items and surveys needed prior to beginning a Plan Revision. With this list, we can work with and monitor the Forest Service to make sure things stay on track to get us ready as soon as possible.

We want to thank Tina Tilley for hearing us and working with us to slowly turn things in a new direction. We also appreciate Mrs. Tilley for attending the Between the Rivers Rally and spending so much time with former residents. She clearly is showing a desire to not only hear us but understand the history of what makes Land Between the Lakes different from other National Forests.

We have a lot of work to do to see Land Between the Lakes become all it should be. Thanks to everyone who participated in making this all happen. Please stay involved by visiting www.LBLCoalition.org.

Feel free to contact me with any questions at lyoncountyjudge@gmail.com or 270-388-7311. ♦

Surprising Victory on the Wayne!

by Bill Montgomery, of the Buckeye Forest Council and Ohio Environmental Council

The Buckeye Habitat Improvement Project (BHIP) proposed for the Ironton District of Ohio's Wayne National Forest has been withdrawn. This was achieved **not** by a Federal Court decision but as a result of adverse comments submitted by activists, during the project's initial scoping period. The Ironton District is one of three such districts of the Wayne National Forest.

There is a similarity in this victory to what was achieved in the 3600 acre Pisgah Bay Project in Kentucky's Land Between the Lakes. The BHIP, too, involved collective efforts of different forest users; and a batch of local politicians were brought into active roles, to use their influence. The BHIP went beyond 3600 acres and involved a number of individual projects that were to be undertaken over the next 20 years. While some projects involved good ideas, others provided for logging, extensive herbicide use, and prescribed burning. That would harm Listed Species, nesting birds and their habitat.

Separately, the Forest Service also announced there would be improvements, expansion, and some rerouting in their horse and hiking trails. This was a direct response to requests of horse groups.

More battles in the Wayne remain ahead. These involve projects previously approved in earlier years and BLM leases for gas and oil drilling. ♦

Forest Service policy leaves Kentucky arrow darter vulnerable despite proposed ESA listing

by Jim Scheff, Kentucky Heartwood

Originally published in the Winter 2016

Kentucky Heartwood newsletter



Kentucky Arrow Darter. Photo Credit: Dr. Matthew R. Thomas, KY Dept. Fish & Wildlife Resources

In October 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposed to list the Kentucky arrow darter (*Etheostoma spilotum*) as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and to designate 246 stream miles as critical habitat. This beautiful little fish is found only in high quality streams in the upper Kentucky River watershed.

Protection is urgently needed, as the arrow darter has been extirpated in 49% of its historical streams, with nearly half of those losses coming since the mid-1990's as mountaintop removal coal mining expanded. Nearly all the remaining populations are in the Daniel Boone National Forest and the University of Kentucky owned Robinson Forest, which is managed as a research forest. The species is sensitive to sedimentation and other pollution, and, in addition to surface coal mining, is further threatened by oil and gas development, logging, stream channelization, and other land use practices that can degrade water quality.

Kentucky Heartwood submitted detailed comments for the ESA listing with our friends at the Center for Biological Diversity, and helped generate nearly 4,000 comment letters through the Center's comment portal. Sierra Club submitted a petition with over 13,000 signatures.

Kentucky Heartwood earlier had submitted comments in late 2014 on the Spring Creek Vegetation Management project, which proposed logging in the Spring Creek and Little Spring Creek watersheds in Clay County. We raised concerns about impacts to the Kentucky arrow darter, as well as the presence of oil and gas roads and infrastructure that the Forest Service failed to disclose or consider in their analysis. With regards to the Kentucky arrow darter, the Forest Service stated in project documents that there would be no impacts to the species because Spring Creek failed to provide suitable habitat. Therefore, we were considerably surprised to learn that the USFWS proposed the entire Spring Creek and Little Spring Creek watersheds for critical habitat designation a month *before* the Spring Creek project was approved, and following our predecisional objection (a type of administrative challenge) of the project. The USFWS noted in the Federal Register notice that there is a resident population in Spring Creek, and stated that "this unit comprises a portion of the species' core population within the Red Bird River watershed and contributes to connectivity of streams within the watershed."

We discovered that the Forest Service not only had access to documents describing the Spring Creek darter population during the development of the Spring Creek project, but had also been told by USFWS that Spring Creek did in fact

provide suitable habitat. Further, we learned that the two agencies had been working on a cooperative Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) to protect the species at the same time they were denying its presence in Spring Creek in their analysis of the logging project.

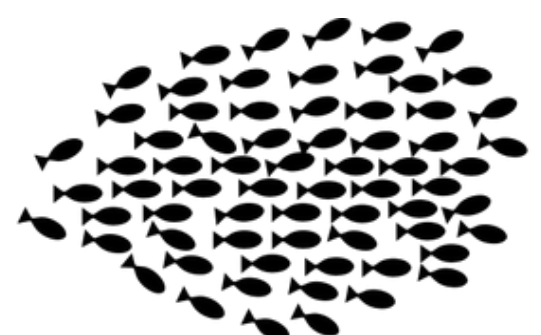
Nearly all of the Redbird District, where most of the remaining Kentucky arrow darter populations still find habitat, exists under a "split estate," where private entities retained the mineral rights when the surface was sold to the federal government to become part of the national forest system. The Forest Service currently exercises little authority over well development for privately-owned oil and gas operations, and provides no public notice when companies seek a permit to develop national forest land. Kentucky Heartwood has spent the last year and half researching oil and gas issues on the Daniel Boone, gathering a wide range of documents through Freedom of Information Act requests, site visits, and dialogue with the Forest Service.

The Forest Service contends that the development of private oil and gas is outside the scope of most environmental laws that typically apply to national forest lands, including the National Environmental Policy Act, National Forest Management Act, and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. In response to our comments on the Spring Creek project, and in internal documents, the Forest Service has stated unambiguously their position that the Standards and Guidelines in the Daniel Boone NF Forest Plan do not apply to the development of private oil and gas on national forest lands, including the drilling of wells, construction of roads, and placement of gathering lines and other infrastructure. However, the CCA between the Forest Service and the USFWS to protect the Kentucky arrow darter relies heavily on these same Standards and Guidelines. The CCA explicitly states that Standards applying to oil and gas development will be protective of the arrow darter, all the while the Forest Service insists elsewhere that these same Standards and Guidelines don't apply to most or all Kentucky arrow darter habitat on the forest.

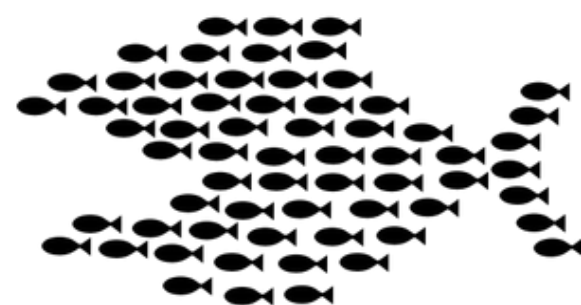
Kentucky Heartwood sent a letter to the For-

est Service in December demanding that the agency immediately withdraw their Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Spring Creek Vegetation Management Project, and to address these glaring examples of misinformation and faulty analysis. The letter builds on our growing record of correspondence with the Forest Service regarding our concerns about the lack of transparency and exercised authority in the development of private oil and gas activities on the Daniel Boone NF. While the Forest Service is required to provide "reasonable access" for these operations, we believe that their interpretation of existing law is flawed and misapplied. We do not accept the position that private oil and gas companies wishing to develop our national forest lands can do almost whatever they want, wherever they want, and without public scrutiny. There are sound arguments for the greater exercise of authority by the Forest Service in approving surface occupancy and infrastructure development, and for notice to the public about such operations.

Our efforts to see better protections afforded to our national forest lands threatened by private oil and gas development build on our success in seeing the Forest Service withdraw "consent to lease" on federal oil and gas on the Daniel Boone NF, affecting about 300,000 acres. All of this work is very time consuming, and represents years of work on multiple, intersecting issues. We could not do this work without our members and other donors, and thank each of you who has helped support Kentucky Heartwood in our efforts to protect Kentucky's forests and public lands. ♦



ORGANIZE!



WHEN WE ORGANIZE, WE WIN!

Join Heartwood for a memorable weekend of activism and compassion at the 2016 Forest Council!

Hosted by Buckeye Forest Council

May 27-30, at Camp Otterbein in Logan, Ohio

This year's Forest Council will focus on how we engage in activism through community building, arts, policy working, camaraderie, a memorial service, and the art of finding center in all that you do.....

After two and half decades, Heartwood has seen many issues come and go and we have experienced many heartbreaks, as well as success stories. We feel at the root of our core is the eternal love we have for our community, our families, and our surroundings. We hope you will come for a weekend that nourishes your activist spirit, trains your body and your mind to find the most efficient and successful ways to navigate through the campaigns you are working on back home.

One Hearth, Many Sparks Forest Council gathering will focus on presentations, workshops, hands-on learning, woodland walks, guest speakers, wonderful local food, and fabulous entertainment. In keeping with tradition at Forest Council, there will be plenty of socializing and networking opportunities throughout the weekend, talent show and auction.



2015 Heartwood Forest Council parade! Paoli, IN



2015 Heartwood Reunion, Paoli, IN, the last hug of closing circle ♥

From Christina Wulf Heartwood Forest Council Planning Committee

The theme of the 2016 Heartwood Forest Council in Ohio is One Hearth, Many Sparks. The theme speaks to the many stories and skills that we each bring to Heartwood, but also to the varied ways in which we approach activism. This year, in addition to workshops on national forests and natural history, we will explore ways that art and activism can collaborate to create stronger movements for social and environmental justice.

Along with many other forms of artistry, the theatrical arts will take center stage several times during this year's Forest Council, with performances and workshops by Bob Lucas and other members of Mad River Theater Works and by Barbara Bates Smith and Jeff Sebens who will present a short play called "Go, Granny D!"

For many years, Granny D (aka Doris Had-dock) was a regular at Heartwood events, includ-

ing the 2003, 2004, and 2006 Forest Councils in Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia. She told stories from her 3200 mile walk across America in support of campaign finance reform, and her keynote speeches were always blunt and funny. In West Virginia in 2006, she called out Big Coal's political and economic destruction, saying, "We have been divided and conquered, but we can undivide at will, for we all have a stake in the air and water and the earth's health and our human and democratic rights."

Granny D's commitment and humor—especially her catch phrase, "You're never too old to raise a little hell"—caught the eye of actress Barbara Bates Smith. Although she never met Granny D, Barbara read her memoir and immediately recognized a kindred soul. Together with musician Jeff Sebens, she concocted a one woman show called "Go, Granny D!" based on Doris' writings and interviews. We are thrilled to welcome the spirit of Granny D back to the Heartwood Forest Council.

The weekend will also feature members of

Mad River Theater Works, based in Zanesfield, Ohio. This same troupe brought an amazing and moving performance of "The Pasture: A Tale of Just Food" to the 2013 Heartwood Reunion. The play taught a musical parable about the tragedy of industrialized agriculture and the power of good food.

At the 2016 Forest Council, a subset of the Mad River troupe will perform a program of music and stories from their body of theatrical work. The concert weaves together original songs by Bob Lucas, founder of Mad River Theater Works, with stories of characters from their plays. The combination is "good and juicy and connects the dots between history, social change, and art-making."

In addition, Bob Lucas and Chris Westhoff (the Artistic and Managing Directors, respectively) will lead a workshop on Dynamic Showmanship, exploring art and activism through the lenses of drama and discussing ways to make our own activism more accessible by weaving in elements of performance and theater. ♦

forest council program

When you leave the world behind, you step into Heartwood time for the weekend. The planning committee will try to keep the ball rolling and workshops on the day they are listed here in the Heartbeat, but things may change here and there a little bit. Sit back, grab a cup of tea, and visit with a fellow comrade. Enjoy Heartwood time, that place that exists in among the woods and the trees, rocks and plants. Practice being present in the now and just breathe...

Friday

Registration opens at 4pm!

Lighting of the Council Fire

Buckeye Forest Council opening ceremony

One Hearth, Many Sparks Art Show!

Food by Shane and Mia

Locally sourced and prepared with love

Special Guest Presentation from Paul Knoop: A Sense of Place

Entertainment

Corrollat

Saturday

“Biscuits and Mischief”

In this pre-breakfast workshop, we will learn to make Dutch-oven biscuits around the campfire while brainstorming creative ways to subvert the machine.

Opening Circle

Including Jemez Principles

Enviro Geek’s Delight

”Codes and Encryption: Securing our Communication for Security and Solidarity” by Devin Certas

“(K)nights at the Roundtable: a Frank Discussion about Current Issues” led by Heartwood’s seasoned activists

Enviro Empaths Retreat

“Forest Walk” with Paul Knoop. Participants will learn about identifying species and exploring environmental literacy.

Enviro Artist

“Art and Activism” Eleanor Goldfield will lead a hands-on workshop on combining artistic, expressive nature, and engaging in activism.

Allied Medic Training

Basic training for activists and protesters designed as a complete introduction to NVDA medical knowledge and skills, this course will prepare you to serve as an “affinity group medic” at political actions. (This is not a “street medic”; that training is 20+ hours.)

Keynote Address

“Occupy, Art and Activism” by Eleanor Goldfield

Mad River Theater Performance

Entertainment

Bright at Night (www.facebook.com/BrightAtNight)

Sunday

“Biscuits and Mischief”

In this pre-breakfast workshop, we will learn to make Dutch-oven biscuits around the campfire while brainstorming creative ways to subvert the machine.

Opening Circle

“Go, Granny D” created by Barbara Bates Smith with music by Jeff Sebens—a short performance about the work of Doris Haddock

Enviro Geek’s Delight

“Forest Warriors’ War Room” Forest issues (logging, MTR, fracking, pipelines) and how Heartwood can help

“In Earth We Trust” Epic, fun team building exercises at the camp mud pit, kayak games, and scout training

Enviro Foodie

“Funky Fungi” Mycology Workshop

Enviro Empaths Retreat

“Forest Walk” with Paul Knoop. Participants will learn about identifying species and exploring environmental literacy.

Enviro Artist

Granny D discussion led by Barbara Bates Smith with music by Jeff Sebens

“Dynamic Showmanship” Mad River Theater will explore art and activism through the lenses of drama and discuss ways to make our own activism more accessible by weaving in elements of performance and theater.

Allied Medic Training

This is a basic training for activists and protesters designed as a complete introduction to NVDA medical knowledge and skills. The completion of this course will prepare you to serve as an “affinity group medic” at political actions. (This is not a “street medic”; that training is 20+ hours.)

Silent Auction + Live Auction

The best and most unique auctions ever to be held in Athens

Activist Speed Networking

90-second “dance” with other Heartwood members to learn something new and fun

“The Bucket” Talent Show

Get your belly laugh on and join the Heartwood Jokes, Song, Dance, Talent, and Not-So-Much Talent Show!

Monday

“Biscuits and Mischief”

In this pre-breakfast workshop, we will learn to make Dutch-oven biscuits around the campfire while brainstorming creative ways to subvert the machine.

Closing Circle

Memorial Day Remembrance of our Warriors Ceremony and Passing of the Council Embers

Guerilla Tree Planting

Additional workshops may include

“Fundraising on a Budget”

Leveraging old and new technology to bring the bucks and bitcoins to your cause

“How to Herd Cats without a Can Opener and Cheap Food”

The basics of organizational base building

“Origami and Paper Wrenching Tools”

Research basics and FOIA-ing workshop to aid your campaign

“Rage Is OK: Channeling with Clay and Fire”

Digging hands (and feet) into clay to work out our rage—squishing, pounding, molding earth

“Church of Good Dirt”

Food security and seed saving by a local farmer

This awesome camp has multiple opportunities to play: a three-acre lake, hiking trails, volleyball, basketball, art show, Ga-ga ball, archery, mud-pit; we want campers to enjoy their weekend however their hearts desire. Come prepared to play!

Kids’ activities include

- Building a journal—for all the cool things they’ll find on their journey at HFC
- Tree identification
- Scat ID
- Stream play and explore biology (will try and get seine nets and microscopes)
- Fossils and rock hunt
- Kids’ meditation and dance time
- Finger painting and touch drawing
- Tree climbing
- Archery
- Collaborative storytelling workshop

what to bring

- Camp chairs, comfortable pads, pillows, and cushions for outdoor seating
- Bedding and towels for cabins, mug/travel cup, outdoor gear, water bottles, flashlight, bug repellent, raingear, swimsuit, and sunscreen
- **Auction items to donate to the Heartwood Auction!**
- Musical instruments
- Special food or snacks you might want
- Banners, displays, information from your organization to share with others
- Play clothes! This awesome camp has multiple opportunities to play: a three-acre lake, hiking trails, volleyball, basketball, art show, Ga-ga ball, archery, mud-pit; we want campers to enjoy their weekend however their hearts desire. Come prepared to play!
- **Art to sell or swap—for the “One Hearth, Many Sparks” art show!**

accommodations

Tent camping!

Enclosed shared space; cabins sleep 11-30

All registration packages include meals for the time you’ll be joining us!

Linens and towels are not provided; please bring your own!

directions

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

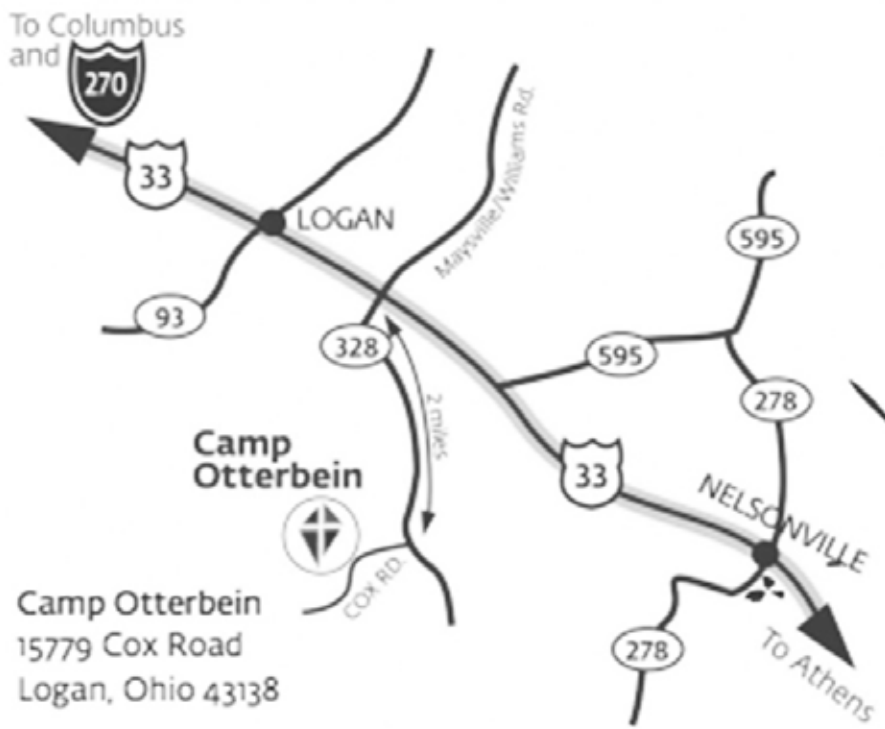
**Camp Otterbein
15779 Cox Road
Logan, Ohio 43138**

From Athens, Ohio (about 25 minutes)

Get on US 33W from Columbus Road for 3 miles. Follow US 33 toward Logan, OH to OH-328 in Green Township 18 miles. Take the OH 328 exit toward Logan. Turn left onto OH-328S. Follow for 2.2 miles to Cox Road. Turn right.

From Lancaster, Ohio (about 25 minutes)

Get on US-33. Follow US-33 E to OH-328 S in Green Township, approximately 21 miles. Take the OH-328 exit from US-33 E to OH 328 in Green Township. Turn right onto OH 328S. Follow for 2.2 miles to Cox Road. Turn right.



*Shane McElwee and Steve Krichbaum russling up some good grub!
2015 Heartwood Forest Council, Paoli, IN*

registration

MEMBER PRICING

- \$123 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
- \$58 ONE DAY Heartwood Member**
Registration, Tent Camping, 3 Meals
- \$75 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 Limited Time New/Renewing Membership Rate of \$25 available!)

- \$150 Package: Full Weekend NON-Member**
Registration, Tent Camping, All Meals
- \$200 Package: Full Weekend NON-Member**
Registration, BUNK CABIN, All Meals
- \$60 ONE DAY NON-Member**
Registration, NO CAMPING, 3 Meals
- \$70 ONE DAY NON-Member**
Registration, Tent Camping, 3 Meals
- \$105 ONE DAY NON-Member**
Registration, Bunk Cabin, 3 Meals
- \$116 TWO DAY NON-Member**
Registration, Tent Camping, 6 Meals
- \$168 TWO DAY NON-Member**
Registration, Bunk Cabin, 6 Meals

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS about these fees or want to register a child, email info@heartwood.org.

work exchange

If the registration cost is out of your budget at the moment, you can request a work exchange assignment. We have changed this program to include blocks of time PRIOR to the event for set up, as well as AFTER the event for clean up. You can receive **\$10/hour off of your registration costs**.

If you are unable to do work exchange or would like other options, we can also recommend free offsite camping at the nearby horse camp ground as well as encourage you to bring your own food if you are on a very limited budget.

NO ONE WILL BE TURNED AWAY!!! Please talk to Becky Woodman at the registration table at the event, or contact her for money-saving suggestions at 812-307-4326 or info@heartwood.org.

co-sponsorship

We invite you to become a cosponsor of the 2016 Heartwood Forest Council. Funds raised will be used to underwrite the event and make it affordable for those who might otherwise be unable to attend.

\$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 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 Mini-grants
- Heartwood Forest, Climate, and Carbon Network Support

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

featured participants

Eleanor Goldfield A creative activist, singer, and writer, Eleanor is also the founder and lead singer of the political hard rock band, Rooftop Revolutionaries. She also founded and hosts the weekly creative and grassroots activism show Act Out! which airs on occupy.com and is syndicated on Free Speech TV. Her free-lance articles are published on a variety of alternative media sites, and she also works as a consultant and speaker on the concepts of creative activism and using art to kill apathy, as her site suggests.

rooftoprevolutionaries.com, occupy.com/actout, artkillingapathy.com

Paul Knoop A former director and founding member of Appalachia Ohio Alliance (AOA), Paul also served as Naturalist at Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm in Dayton, Ohio, for over three decades and was its Director for many years. A resident of Hocking Hills, Paul and his wife Cathy continue to provide environmental educational opportunities in conjunction with several organizations. Paul's commitment to learning and understanding the natural world and freely sharing his time and knowledge with others exemplifies AOA's commitment to voluntary community service through conservation and education.

<http://www.appalachianohio.org/paul-knoop-conservation-education-fund-established/>

"Go, Granny D!" This one-woman show is based on the writings and interviews of Doris Haddock, formerly a Heartwood Forest Council regular, created by Barbara Bates Smith with music by Jeff Sebens. Go Granny D—with its commitment and humor, especially her catch phrase, "You're never too old to raise a little hell"—is sure to be a lively program!

<http://www.barbarabatesmith.com>

Mad River Theater Works A subset of the troupe will perform a program created from their body of theatrical work weaving together original songs by Bob Lucas and characters from their plays. The combination is "good and juicy and connects the dots between history, social change, and art-making."

<http://www.madrivertheater.org/index1.html>

Chef Shane McElwee Shane has been cooking at Heartwood and Buckeye Forest Council gatherings since the late 90s. She is a self taught cook who specializes in vegan and vegetarian cuisine, and has been working as a sales representative in the natural food industry for the past 15 years.

Co-Chef Mia Sun Manion adds that she is very honored that Shane asked her again to help feed the good people at the Heartwood Forest Council. Shane and Mia have cooked together for Heartwood before and expect to have a blast again this year.

Dave Pike Eco rabble rouser 21 years, street medic 14 years, rescue squad EMT 10 years and always a lover of learning and sharing knowledge, Dave lives in Western NC's mountains with his family where he teaches first aid topics, does stone masonry, and defends the wild inside and out.

Devin M. Ceartas Devin is an independent software developer and former Heartwood activist. He has maintained an active interest in cyber-security for about two decades and has during that time managed the Richmond, VA "indymedia" website, managed online databases for Heartwood, the Greens/Green Party USA, and for an organization organizing poultry-growers in opposition to corporate chicken company policies, developed an iPhone/iPad App used to transfer sensitive medical information from one physician to another, and performed data extraction and analysis critical in achieving significant victories in forest protection for Indonesian and Bulgarian forests.



Maddix, one of Heartwood's youngest members, 2015 Heartwood Forest Council, Paoli, IN



Linda Lee, gracious host of many a Heartwood gathering, avid possum-lover, and all-around amazing human being, 2015 Heartwood Forest Council, Paoli, IN



Christina Wulf and Sam Stearns, enjoying some of Danny Dolinger's talented musicianship, 2015 Heartwood Forest Council, Paoli, IN



HEARTwood! Paoli, IN

JEMEZ PRINCIPLES FOR DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZING

Meeting hosted by Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ), Jemez, New Mexico, December 1996

<http://www.ejnet.org/ej/jemez.pdf>

Editor's Note: Over the past few years, there have been several discussions at the Forest Councils and Reunions about diversity within Heartwood, or lack thereof. Intersectional work recognizes that the oppressive institutions that act to destroy both human and non-human communities are interrelated and cannot be acted against in isolation. The connections between campaigns like Mountaintop Removal and Black Lives Matter should be a no-brainer. Protecting Oak Flats from mining, and Land Between the Lakes from logging are similar issues, but they are not. The majority of our membership has white privilege; we do not face violence and systemic racism on a daily basis, as do communities of color living in inner cities or on reservations. The prejudice some of us may face due to our Appalachian heritage is real, but it is also far different from the multi-generational oppression experienced by communities of color. How do we build those bridges of solidarity? We must be willing to look at ourselves with scrutiny, be willing to change and transform. We must "walk the talk."

The Council would like to open up the conversation about how we can support communities who are bearing the brunt of environmental racism and injustice. Articles in this edition of Heartbeat: Jemez Principles, Safer Spaces Guidelines, Toxic Prisons, and the article by Elizabeth C Yeampierre are baby steps to conversations about how Heartwood can grow to be more inclusive, how we can support campaigns that may fall outside of our traditional scope, and how we can make the Heartwood circle a safer space for everyone.

Activists Meet on Globalization

On December 6-8, 1996, forty people of color and European-American representatives met in Jemez, New Mexico, for the "Working Group Meeting on Globalization and Trade." The Jemez meeting was hosted by the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice with the intention of hammering out common understandings between participants from different cultures, politics and organizations. The following "Jemez Principles" for democratic organizing were adopted by the participants.

#1 Be Inclusive

If we hope to achieve just societies that include all people in decision-making and assure that all people have an equitable share of the wealth and the work of this world, then we must work to build that kind of inclusiveness into our own movement in order to develop alternative policies and institutions to the treaties policies under neo-liberalism.

This requires more than tokenism, it cannot be achieved without diversity at the planning table, in staffing, and in coordination. It may delay achievement of other important goals, it will require discussion, hard work, patience, and advance planning. It may involve conflict, but through this conflict, we can learn better ways of working together. It's about building alternative institutions, movement building, and not compromising out in order to be accepted into the anti-globalization club.

#2 Emphasis on Bottom-Up Organizing

To succeed, it is important to reach out into new constituencies, and to reach within all levels of leadership and membership base of the organizations that are already involved in our networks. We must be continually building and strengthening a base which provides our credibility, our strategies, mobilizations, leadership development, and the energy for the work we must do daily.

#3 Let People Speak for Themselves

We must be sure that relevant voices of people directly affected are heard. Ways must be provided for spokespersons to represent and be responsible to the affected constituencies. It is important for organizations to clarify their roles, and who they represent, and to assure accountability within our structures.

#4 Work Together In Solidarity and Mutuality

Groups working on similar issues with compatible visions should consciously act in soli-

arity, mutuality and support each other's work. In the long run, a more significant step is to incorporate the goals and values of other groups with your own work, in order to build strong relationships. For instance, in the long run, it is more important that labor unions and community economic development projects include the issue of environmental sustainability in their own strategies, rather than just lending support to the environmental organizations. So communications, strategies and resource sharing is critical, to help us see our connections and build on these.

#5 Build Just Relationships Among Ourselves

We need to treat each other with justice and respect, both on an individual and an organizational level, in this country and across borders. Defining and developing "just relationships" will be a process that won't happen overnight. It must include clarity about decision-making, sharing strategies, and resource distribution. There are clearly many skills necessary to succeed, and we need to determine the ways for those with different skills to coordinate and be accountable to one another.

#6 Commitment to Self-Transformation

As we change societies, we must change from operating on the mode of individualism to community-centeredness. We must "walk our talk." We must be the values that we say we're struggling for and we must be justice, be peace, be community. ♦

This and other environmental justice documents can be downloaded from www.ejnet.org/ej/

Create

by Sheryl Campbell, campfamily63@gmail.com

*Treacherous times are upon us
Our Forests endure everlasting threat
Our Wildlife is clinging to their homes
Our Native Species diminish
As hearts fall to the ground
As we sink down to the roots
We follow the roots to the surface
We look up at the beautiful blue skies
The sun is shining brightly
The birds are singing in the air
The clouds are moving in dance
The air is crisp and fresh upon our face
Knowledge is renewed
Hope is renewed
Love is renewed
Time to move from the Darkness to Light
Time to realize this world is everlasting
Time to remember that we are the Creators of Our World
Live, Love, Laugh, and Create*



Original Drawing by Glen "Whitedove" Scherff

NATURAL GAS PIPELINES—EVERYBODY'S BACKYARD

by Ernie Reed

There we were in May 2014, sitting in a camp dining hall on a grey morning with fellow forest defenders near Kentucky's Daniel Boone National Forest. Jim Scheff and Tina Marie Johnson of Kentucky Heartwood had organized the Eastern Forest Defense Conference bringing together folks from at least 10 states—west as well as east, north, and south.

I was having breakfast with Ryan Talbott of Allegheny Defense Project who single-handedly brought Heartwood into the natural gas pipeline foray by adding our voices in opposition to the myriad of pipeline projects in the Heartwood region proposed to "FERC".

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is widely regarded as a "rogue" federal agency with no federal or citizen oversight. FERC is funded, and staffed by industry, and so it is no surprise that it serves industry. FERC permits energy projects for industry and, in this case, controls the process by which energy companies acquire a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (who dreams up these terms?). That gives them the federally-backed power of eminent domain to condemn private property against the wishes of property owners. Conservation easements don't hold up against a FERC-approved pipeline, no matter what the conservation easement had intended to protect. The companies will own these easements forever, and that is that. Their use of the easement is only limited by what is included in the easement agreement which is usually nothing.

Pipelines often are proposed to cross public lands, national forests, wildlife refuges, and parks, or state forests and reserves. The issuance of the FERC certificate trumps all state level protection, but special-use permits approved by the United States Forest Service (USFS) need to be acquired to cross National Forests. An act of Congress is what it takes to cross a National Park or a new passage across the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

It makes sense for Heartwood to be involved. Heartwood's mission to protect and defend natural processes in our forests runs contrary to the intentions of energy companies. The Heartwood network spans the eastern and central US and pipeline projects cross many states in their quest to get gas to their markets.

The fracking boom (which is currently bust—natural gas prices are at 10 year lows and domestic demand is flat) in the Marcellus Shale regions of West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, in addition to its toxic legacy of pollution, erosion, sickness, and intrusive roads in our forests, has created a massive supply of natural gas with limited domestic markets. Even though some coal plants are converting to natural gas, in many states more energy is being created yearly from solar and wind energy than from new fossil-fuel burners. Industry is looking at "creative markets" which means creating an infrastructure that facilitates exporting natural gas to other countries. President

Obama has opened our ports to gas export, so there is a rush to permit LNG (liquefied natural gas) export facilities and to build the pipelines to feed them.

Early in 2014, Wild Virginia became involved in the FERC permitting of Dominion Resources' Cove Point Natural Gas Export Terminal on the Chesapeake Bay in Lusby, Maryland. With Earthjustice coordinating the effort, a lawsuit citing clear violations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was filed. But FERC is not required to stop or slow construction once they issue the permit, even if permits are under litigation. So construction at Cove Point has been full-speed ahead, 24/7, for over a year. The lawsuit will finally be heard in April, 2016.

So thanks, Ryan, for leading the way down this rabbit hole. And thanks for pulling up an article while we were sitting in that dining hall that said that Duke Energy—North Carolina's finest—had issued a Request for Proposals—to bring natural gas to eastern North Carolina, and that as many as five energy companies, were vying to build pipelines to get fracked gas to the highest bidder.

Williams Transco owns the largest natural gas superhighway in the country, previously importing gas from the Gulf of Mexico to natural gas markets in New England, and operates at 50% capacity leaving room to fulfill capacity for new power plants. Proposed projects with dozens of pipelines, will syphon off billions of gallons of natural gas and use the remaining capacity of the Transco lines to move gas to export terminals in MD, MA and SC with more in the planning stages. FERC will be more than happy to permit each and every one of them.

We've seen how energy companies treat communities, watersheds, forests, and mountains when they hold coal. The planet has never seen such a level of human-induced devastation as mountaintop-removal has wreaked across the Appalachian and Allegheny landscape. Promises of economic gain, restoration and mitigation are the cruelest of jokes. These areas will never again know the majesty that has been lost and stolen.

With fracking, the legacy of theft, destruction and desecration continues. Only the counties and the names of the thieves have changed.

Only by ending the exporting of fossil fuels can we hope to keep in the ground what is still there, save what is left and begin the healing process. But I digress...

Still at breakfast, Ryan tells me that Dominion Resources has submitted a proposal for a 575 mile, 42" high compression, natural gas pipeline that would begin in Doddridge County West Virginia—"Fracking Central"—and cross over 30 miles of National Forests, through the Monongahela National Forest in WV and Virginia's George Washington National Forest (GWNF) headed east and south. Looking at the map, I told Ryan, "I know what I'll be doing when I get home."

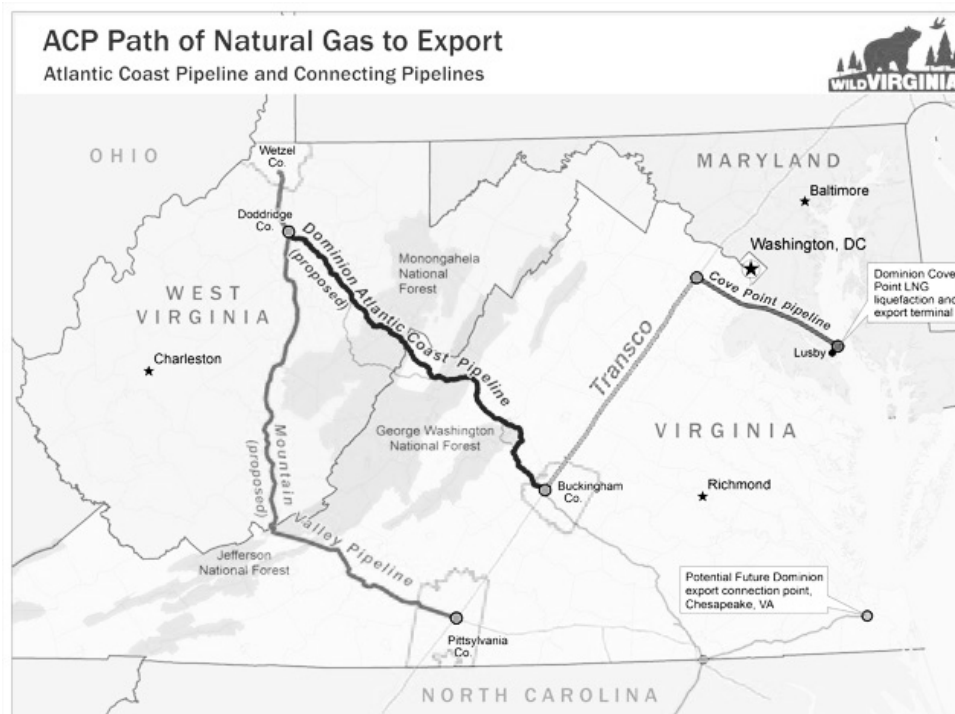
What I didn't know is that there was a letter waiting for me in my home mailbox from Dominion, requesting permission to survey my property for the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP). My fate was sealed.

Dominion Resources is one of the largest energy companies in the country and is headquartered in Richmond, VA. Dominion is the third largest campaign contributor in VA, just a hair behind the Democratic and Republican parties. Dominion is an investor owned utility with monopoly power to set rates and guaranteed profits at 28 times the Fed's interest rate. Dominion is the major partner in Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC, a limited liability company incorporated in Delaware with the most accommodating corporate laws in the country. ACP, LLC would build and operate the ACP, but their liability would be limited to its assets that are just sufficient to operate. The parent company's assets are shielded from liability for leaks, explosions or other malfeasance, giving FERC the right to take property to build its pipeline, even if its entire contents are headed to Europe and Asia to maximize profits. That's no one's idea of public good unless that public is Dominion investors, shareholders, and management; or the state reps who get their handouts to keep themselves elected and Dominion's interests served.

Dominion is listed as the largest purchaser of gas from the pipeline that they then can sell to the highest bidder.

The biggest surprise to me is that after three decades of interacting with the USFS on protecting our forests from mining, logging, and bad management, I never would have bet that the staff, supervisors, and regional foresters in the Southeast would jump to protect the integrity of the Southern Appalachian forests. In the West, forest plans are routinely amended to allow pipelines where they shouldn't be allowed. But here the agency is paying attention.

Maybe it is because we are in the backyard of our nation's capitol and more people close to DC are paying attention. Maybe our comments, appeals and objections



Dominion's Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Next Era/EQT's Mountain Valley Pipelines as they are proposed to cross West Virginia and Virginia's National Forests and move their gas to export

Infantry

by *Tabitha Tripp*

*The fear is real.
We may not win this fight now.
My guttural reaction to grey haired white men
in fancy cars and new pick up
trucks with out of state plates
stirs an anger I've never felt before.
It stirs repulsion and a scowl.
Slippery as slick water,
they reek of false promises and
faint odors of petrol linger about them.
This battle has given me little if any hope
for the mindless masses
shuffling in and out of malls
and marts with bags
of cheaply made clothing,
techno-gadgets and plastic things from big box stores
stamped out of fossil fuel by-products
extracted from fractured communities
emptied of dreams, filled with complacency
then pumped dry
I've done what I could for my family
I silently pray for a plague
to wipe the infestation off the face
of the earth, but question
if there are enough carrion-eaters in the sky
and fungus in the ground
to decompose gluttonous piles of ignorance.*

have opened the agency's eyes to the types of outside threats that the energy companies pose to our precious public lands. What we do know is that in July of last year, the GWNF supervisor articulated over 340 instances where Dominion's analysis submitted to FERC was missing, insufficient, unsubstantiated, incorrect, or fabricated. Qualifications of soil scientists hired to do soil survey analysis were falsified. In a letter to Dominion early this year, the USFS concluded that Dominion's route through the forest had failed to avoid critical Cowknob salamander and Cheat Mountain salamander habitat and red spruce restoration areas and therefore was "unacceptable," echoing statements made by activists since day #1.

A subsequent proposed route has decreased the miles through the forest but increased impacted properties, property owners, and over 200 residents. Still Dominion has yet to justify that this project is in the public interest or to consider a route that does not cross over national forest land. The Forest Service is demanding that these be done.

Much is going on here in defense of Virginia's forests, farms, mountains, and watersheds. Friends of Nelson has organized Nelson County (VA) where citizens recently funded an economic study showing the economic costs to four counties to be in excess of \$150m to property values, ecosystem services, air, water, recreation, tourism, and lost revenue. Friends of Buckingham is fighting the industrializing of Buckingham County where a methane belching compressor station is planned at the confluence of the ACP and Transco lines. Augusta, Highland and now Bath Counties have active citizen groups opposing the pipeline. The Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition is monitoring baseline soil and water data and exposing the failure of state regulators to hold energy companies to even minimum standards. The Allegheny Blue Ridge Alliance has united 45 local organizations over four counties in opposition to the ACP. The Si-

erra Club, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and Southern Environmental Law Center are providing excellent strategic support.

And in true Heartwood fashion, with the understanding that stopping the destruction in one place often just moves it somewhere else, we are standing in solidarity with citizens in Roanoke and Craig and Franklin Counties to stop the Mountain Valley Pipeline. Pipelines planned in Pennsylvania and Ohio are also not acceptable.

Many people with strategy, skill, and passion are pounding on every link in this dysfunctional chain of energy politics until it breaks under the weight of what is right.

The Atlantic Coast pipeline is just one of at least four pipelines currently proposed in VA. Next Era and EQT's Mountain Valley Pipeline would cross the Jefferson National Forest just south of Peter's Mountain Wilderness. The WB Express and Atlantic Sunrise Pipelines are much the same—same source, same destination, same purpose and need, same fabricated public benefits.

Since Ryan and I had breakfast two years ago, over 3,700 miles of new pipeline have been proposed west of the Mississippi. The Appalachian Trail Conference is opposing a dozen different energy projects that would cross the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

In Massachusetts, it's KinderMorgan's Pipeline and the Northeast Energy Direct. In Connecticut, it is the Atlantic Bridge Project. In New England, it's KM's Northeast Energy Direct. In New Jersey, it's PennEast. In Pennsylvania, it's Leidy South, the Susquehanna West Project, the Northern Access 2016 Project, the Triad Expansion Project, the Orion Project, Lebanon West, Sunbury Pipeline Project, and Seneca Lateral. In New York, it's the Millennium and the Constitution Pipelines. In West Virginia, it's the Greenbrier Pipeline, Columbia SM-80, the Utica Access Project, and the Supply Header Project. In Delaware, it's the Eastern Shore Reliability Project. In Maryland, it's the NiSource Pipeline. In Ohio, it's the Leach Express, the Rockies Express, the Tennessee Gas Abandonment and Restoration

Project, the Rover Pipeline, and Seneca Lateral Conversion Project. In Illinois, the Chicago Market Expansion Project and Dakota Access. In Indiana, the Northern Supply Access Project and Rockies Express Capacity Enhancement Project. In Kentucky, it is the Southwest/Lebanon Extension, the E-system Replacement Project, and the Rayne Express Expansion. In Tennessee, it's the Loudon Expansion Project and the Broad Run Expansion Project. In North Carolina, the ACP, the Dalton Expansion Project, and Virginia Southside Expansion Project. In South Carolina, the Columbia to Eastover Project. In Louisiana, it is the Louisiana Supply Project and the Trans Cameron/Venture Global Project. In Mississippi, the Natchez Pipeline Project and the Gulf Markets Expansion Project. Most of these proposed pipelines cross numerous states. Pipelines are popping up in everyone's back yard. Stories of opposition, organizing, resistance, legal challenges, and outrage are everywhere.

All of these have the same purpose and need, moving natural gas from source to destination. All are connected, just as the US Interstate Highway system is a piece of the entire east coast road system. The National Environmental Policy Act requires that FERC analyze the *cumulative impacts* of all related projects in purpose, in region and in time. Yet FERC allows them to be analyzed piece-by-piece and segmented as if they were not connected. This violates the spirit, the intent, and arguably the letter of the law.

And Ryan, after fighting for years to protect Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest with Allegheny Defense Project, has recently been hired by Appalachian Mountain Advocates, a legal firm led by Joe Lovett who has been fighting mountaintop removal in WV for decades, and is now trying to keep fracking from destroying what's left. Applemad is representing over a hundred landowners and leading the fight to stop pipelines in Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Buckeye Forest Council and Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition are also fighting like our lives depend on it. They do.

Thanks, Ryan! Thanks, Jim and Tina! Thanks, Heartwood! Thanks to everyone who is fighting in this fight! ♦

Ernie splits his time among Wild Virginia, Heartwood, Friends of Nelson, Allegheny Blue Ridge Alliance, family, friends, and forests.

For more information:

- Wild Virginia – www.wildvirginia.org
- Allegheny Defense Project – www.alleghenydefense.org
- Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition – www.ovhec.org
- Appalachian Mountain Advocates – www.applemad.org
- Friends of Nelson – www.friendsofnelson.org
- Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition – www.dpmmc.org
- Allegheny Blue Ridge Alliance – www.abra.org
- Blue Ridge Legal Defense League – www.bredl.org
- Preserve Craig County – www.preservecraig.org
- We Are Cove Point – www.wearecovepoint.org
- Beyond Extreme Energy – www.beyondextremeenergy.org

... and so many more ...

Oil Train People

by jbruce38



North Dakota, Bakken Oil Fields Source: Tabitha Tripp

[This song is not about the people who work on and around oil trains.
It is about the people that put all of us in danger by promoting this as a
reasonable idea. It is not.]

Those Oil trains, those oil trains,
Maybe you can help me, you can please explain
Those oil trains, they hurt my brain
'Cause I think I understand it and it's driving me insane.

They put crude oil, can't put it back,
They put it on the rails, it goes rollin' down the track,
Just like a bomb, goes through your state,
And you ain't safe in any place when it detonates
Those oil trains

**These oil trains are trouble that threaten future days,
'Cause an oil train that blows up will never go away.**

Those oil trains

And they bring more and more and more,
You might wonder about safety of the places it is stored,
I think you're right to set your sights,
On those **OilTrainPeople**, you can't trust them to do right.

**There's too much cash, hiding behind lies,
and OilTrainPeople aren't the ones that gonna die**

Those oil trains

Oil Trains are a danger to everything around,
The cargo that they carry should still be in the ground,
'Cause if it doesn't blow-up, it still toxifies the air,
but the **OilTrainPeople**, they don't have to care
'cause the oil train money bring a life of ease
And they're pretty sure that they can buy the air they need to breathe,
while the people in Beijing are gasping for their breath,
The **OilTrainPeople** don't care if they choke to death
Those oil trains

So people die, because they lie,
About the safety of an Oil Train, and you know the reason why.
There's no safe plan, they should be banned,
The **OilTrainPeople** know this,
But they don't give a damn.

**These oil trains are trouble that threaten future days,
'Cause an oil train that blows up will never go away.**

Those oil trains, they are insane,

Two dollar gas is not worth the toxic trade
for the future you condemn with that money that you made.
There's no reason to create this place where devils dare to dwell,
'Cause they can take their oil trains and they can go to hell...

on their oil trains....

You can watch the video of this song at <http://jbruce38.com> or jbruce38 on
YouTube.

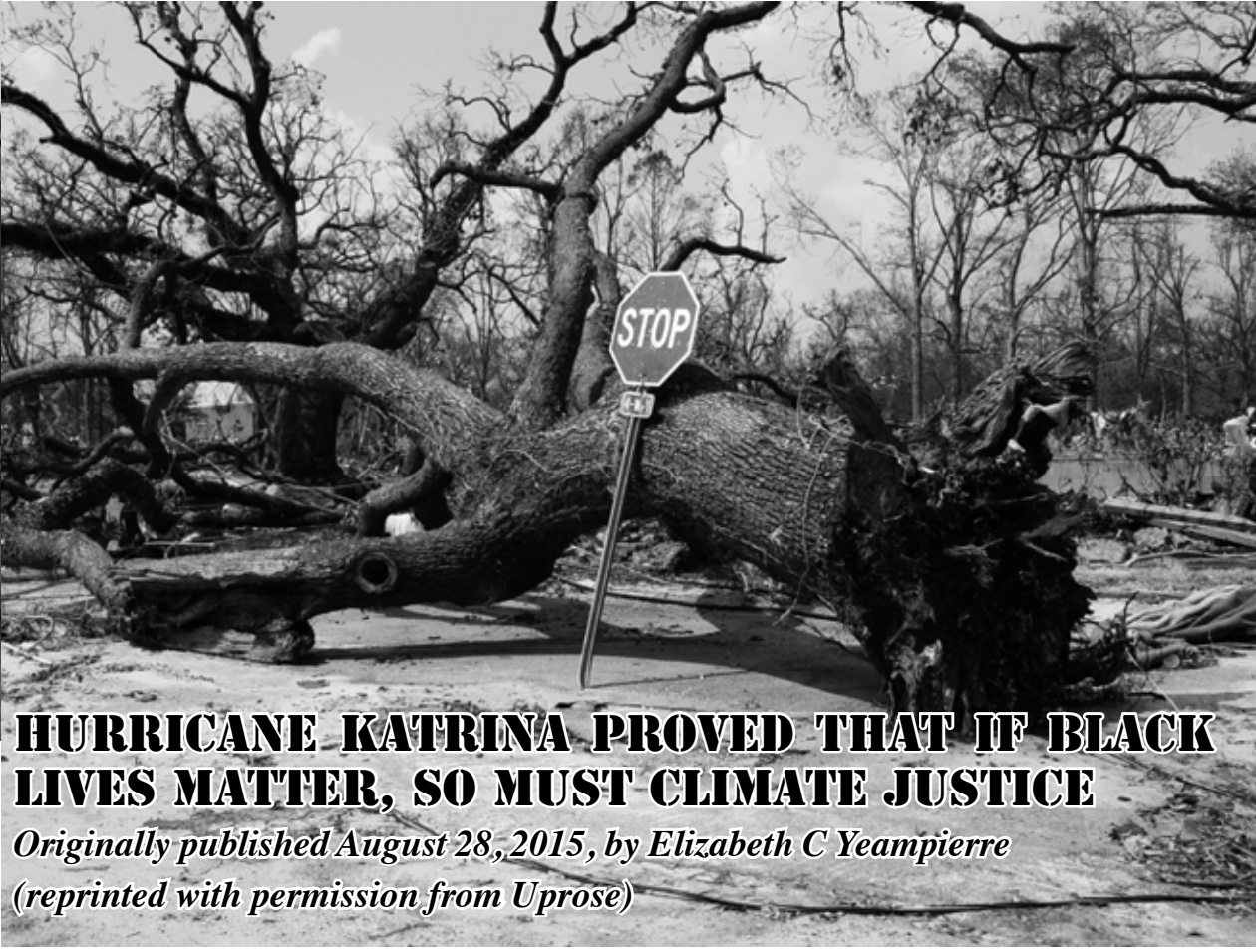


Derailment in Cherry Valley, Illinois, 2009 (Mulford derailment)

"The Long Walk"

by John Walker, Kentucky Heartwood

It's not a race it's a path, like the trail. Everyone finishes when
They are supposed to, because it's their journey.
Sometimes you meet people and stay a while, and
Then they go their own pace or meet someone else.
Sometimes the trail is rough, in weather or grading or just mentally,
But each challenge is a reward unto itself.
Some of us know the shortcuts or stick to guides or blaze our own
paths,
But there's always a trail whether it is worn down or fresh from your
own feet or overgrown.
The trail just is.
Some walk it,
Some make it.
Some just hear about it,
Wishing they could even try.
Those who race the trail do it to test themselves.
If you want to race others you've already lost.
The stone marker doesn't move, it just waits.
Stone knows how to wait.
If you really want it you'll show up eventually.
It's ok to hurt and it's ok to bitch and moan,
But you have to get up everyday and keep walking.
Everything comes and goes, but you have to keep walking.
Having a bad day? Walk till you don't.
At the end of it all only friends and family know your victory.
Fewer know the struggles.
That's ok, cause they are the ones who care. Everything else is just
unnecessary publicity.
So keep walking, make it your own.
And we will be here; those who finished before you.
Don't dig your grave just yet!
We've always been right here.



HURRICANE KATRINA PROVED THAT IF BLACK LIVES MATTER, SO MUST CLIMATE JUSTICE

Originally published August 28, 2015, by Elizabeth C Yeampierre (reprinted with permission from Uprose)

Those of us from low-income communities of color are on the frontlines of the climate crisis. US cities and towns that are predominantly made up of people of color are also home to a disproportionate share of the environmental burdens that are fueling the climate crisis and shortening our lives. One has only to recall the gut-wrenching images of Hurricane Katrina's aftermath to confirm this.

At a time when police abuse is more visible than ever thanks to technology, and our communities continue to get hit time and time again by climate catastrophe, we can't afford to choose between a Black Lives Matter protest and a climate justice forum, because our survival depends on both of them.

As a young woman, I started organizing against racial violence and police misconduct. For the last 20 years, I have been struggling for environ-

mental and climate justice. As descendants of slavery and colonization, our communities have lived and continue to live at the intersection of all these challenges. Both have a long history rooted in the extraction and abuse of our labor and later the extraction and abuse of our resources. Both involve people who are the descendants of historical trauma and are now faced with the catastrophe of a changing climate.

Over the years, as we were fighting for housing, jobs and better schools, decisions were being made to site some of the most toxic industries in communities with a large proportion of people of color: power plants, waste transfer stations, landfills, refineries and incinerators. As a result, communities of color have become cancer clusters and have the highest rates of asthma. In response, we in the environmental justice movement have said there is not anything more

fundamental than the right to breathe – and that includes the right to clean air.

The environmental justice and Black Lives Matter movements are complementary. Black lives matter in the Gulf, where most of the fatalities resulting from Hurricane Katrina were black people, and which was home to the largest marine oil spill in history five years later. Black lives matter in Red Hook, Brooklyn, where hundreds of black families waited for weeks for electricity, heat and in some cases, running water, to be turned back on after Superstorm Sandy. Black lives matter in Richmond, California, home to the largest oil refinery on the West Coast. Black lives matter in Detroit, home to the largest solid waste incinerator in the US. The list goes on of cities and towns that are predominantly made up of people of color and are also home to a disproportionate share of this nation's environmental burdens.

We as people of color now face the effects of a changing climate neither our ancestors nor we are responsible for creating. Climate change demands another rhythm. The current dig, burn and dump economy is no longer acceptable. Similarly, a climate movement led by people of traditional power and privilege will not relieve the crises we face. Our communities know another way. As people of African and Indigenous ancestry, we come from societies and ways of life that protect and nurture Mother Earth. Now is the time to reconnect with our old ways. The knowledge is there – it is in our historical memory, and we are doing this work. Environmental and climate justice activists are working at the grassroots level to develop indigenous leadership around local climate solutions.

This redefines the face of the climate movement and provides a just and necessary alternative to the racial and ecological structures that have led us to where we are. It will be through this process of living and working and struggling with one another that we guarantee our children and grandchildren the right to breathe free. ♦

HIJACKING THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

by Protect Our Parks

PITTSBURGH: As announced last month, Protect Our Parks (POP) has filed an objection against the accreditation of the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD). In a November 23 letter, "POP" asked the Public Health Accreditation Board to deny ACHD's application, saying that the department is "unable to function in the political environment..." of Allegheny County.

POP's particular concern about ACHD arose from the Health Department's role in authorizing a drilling lease at Deer Lakes Park. (In April, 2014, ACHD Director Dr. Karen Hacker told County Council that she was "not aware" of any research linking fracking to ill health.) But as POP looked into the recent history of ACHD, the story grew broader.

Now, concludes POP, it is clear that County Executive Rich Fitzgerald has "hijacked" the department so as to subordinate it to his own political agenda.

Despite its name, the Allegheny County Health Department isn't legally part of the county government. It was created through the Home Rule Charter as a separate municipal corporation by certification of the state Department of Health.

But beginning in 2012, the newly elected County Executive required undated letters of resignation from the department's Board members, which he then used as leverage to demand that they fire its then-Director (Dr. Bruce Dixon).

Subsequently, Mr. Fitzgerald has been claiming—with acquiescence of the Board of Health, that the Health Department reports directly to him.

http://www.marcellusprotest.org/sites/marcellusprotest.org/files/December_2015.pdf. ♦



Ghost of Climate Future from a recent rally hosted by 3Rivers Rising Tide, who went "haunting" to six or eight of the worst polluters in Allegheny County—the Health Department and Rich Fitzgerald being near the top of the list.

Source: Matt Peters

Silent Ground (Episode 42)

by Eleanor Goldfield

*This is silent ground.
We care little for your sacred ground.
A distant church bell sounds—echoes—
the silence re-bounds.
What did you hope your screaming would make?
It can not build empires like we crush and trade—
it will not stand when rolling tanks, curl that silent ground to meet
your fate—
You have no power—but your call—
You have no hope—save that we fall.
Optimists will slowly drown—
in blinding smiles—
that made their crown.
There is no up swing, inherent rise—no head-on Progress, this way up,
no destined signs.
There is but fight and dignified resolve—
on these old pillars, all corruption does dissolve.
But pillars crumble, likewise so our fight—
the light that brought us here grows dim with talk of idle things,
gods and sin—
our minds get comfy
in the slowly rising tide.
Like frogs to jump from boiling waters so prescribed -
by our own shrugs,
that cook our bodies—soul and mind.
On this silent ground, the graves of hope lay waiting—
a mad man at the end, pennies for the contemplating.
Waves crash hard, regret won't hold your breath—these earthly scars—
shrug this human pest whose arrogance—bought favor with the pests
named king—
thinking as they dug their holes and fenced things in,
that money would yet save them.
One can but smile to remember all that they forgot—
that of this planet, only people can be bought.
So who's at fault?
As gorges form and swallow what we've wrought,
who to blame, who to point at, kill and maim?
Follies just the same.
On repeat we play,
looking back we see this vicious game
but as we gaze through this here day—*

Eleanor is a creative activist, singer, and writer. She is the founder and lead singer of the political hard rock band, Rooftop Revolutionaries. She is also the founder and host of the weekly creative and grassroots activism show Act Out! which airs on occupy.com and is syndicated on Free Speech TV. Her free-lance articles are published on a variety of alternative media sites and she also works as a consultant and speaker on the concepts of creative activism and using art to kill apathy, as her site suggests.

Sites: rooftoprevolutionaries.com, occupy.com/actout, artkillingapathy.com

*nothing seems to parallel—
these age old ways that don't end well—
because they never end.
We pause to say a prayer—
for all of those who lost their lives but what we should lament, deride—
is all of those who've lost the will to live their lives.
To fight—for what is right.
To look up to the sky, and see
the blackened clouds for what they are—
not demons from afar
but demons made on silent grounds that we did shush to keep us down.
From six feet under minds to writhe,
common sense, intelligence—
the simple thought that makes you want to scream—
that here we are,
the many lying down, while few do sprinkle dirt—
from golden shovels we uncovered
now covering our sounds.
Yes we are the powerless—
and therein lies our power.
We are not on pedestals, grounded yet we cower—
top heavy falls with ease, all we need
to do:
Push.
Build a fire—
from the mire,
yes light that pyre—
burn the apathetic hoards—
let flames lick silence from these early graves.
Yes, we who made this silent ground,
by letting vapid fuck profound—
and from this violent rape of mind, came this sorry—
apathetic mound
We who let this happen—must now move earth with this new sound—
not a scream or single voice profound—
we must draw new lines and with our shackles make a human chain—
remain before the tanks—
of apathy and corporate skills—
that shoot to kill.
From this silent ground,
move—
so that the earth will shake—
quake and from these rhythms make—
the sound that breaks the silent ground.*

Heartwood Safer Spaces Guidelines

May 2015

- ❖ 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 well-being 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 well-being 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 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.

The Whippoorwill Festival - Skills for Earth-Friendly Living

Sixth Annual Whippoorwill Festival
July 7-10, 2016
Lago Linda Hideaway, Beattyville, KY

The goal of the Whippoorwill Festival is to promote sustainable living in Appalachia by sharing earth-friendly living skills with one another in a joyful, healthy, family-friendly atmosphere.

This year, the Whippoorwill organizing crew has chosen to further strengthen its ties with the Heartwood community. Kentucky Heartwood will be the main sponsor for the event, and will have a focus on ending fracking in the central Kentucky region.

Founded in 2011, the festival seeks to promote sustainable living skills in the central Appalachian region by sharing knowledge and building networks between the established primitive Earth Skills gatherings (such as the Firefly Gathering in Asheville and the Rivercane Rendezvous) and the direct action tree-huggers fighting mountaintop removal coal mining and fracking in Kentucky.

Last year the festival attracted over 400 participants from the region—North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, West Virginia, Missouri—featuring 75 earth-friendly workshops, such as Beekeeping, Caring for Goats, Leatherwork, Cooking with Solar Ovens, Wild Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms, as well as modern and post-industrial collapse skills such as Bicycle Main-

tenance, Backyard Chickens, Composting Toilets and “Making Useful Things out of Junk.”

Several Heartwood members such as Jim Scheff, Jerry Redden, and Joel Dufour have led workshops at previous Whippoorwill gatherings.

In the evenings, the Whippoorwill Festival offers traditional and old time mountain music, dancing, a cake walk, pie auction, and guest speakers.

Admission price includes tent camping, meals, and workshops (some workshops have a small materials fee). The Whippoorwill Festival was born shortly after founder Dave Cooper finished reading *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv. This powerful book calls attention to the problem of “nature deficit disorder” in children: the increased time that kids are playing with electronic devices, instead of playing in the woods and creeks. Studies have shown that children with attention deficit disorder show a marked improvement when they get out in the woods and receive natural stimulation from the sun, the wind, and the trees instead of electronic stimulation from television, advertising, etc.

Calling on friends from Mountain Justice, the Sierra Club and Heartwood, the festival launched in 2011 and attracted a modest turnout. The festival has grown in the ensuing years by about one-third every year, and the energy and enthusiasm for the festival continues to grow.

To learn more about the Whippoorwill Festival, visit the festival website at www.whippoorwillfest.com. ♦



“The Earth is Not for Sale” by Ricardo Levins Morales, RLM Art Studio
www.rlmartstudio.com



“Environmental Justice” by Ricardo Levins Morales, RLM Art Studio
www.rlmartstudio.com

Calendar of Events

June 11-13, 2016 Convergence in Support of Eco-Prisoners and Against Toxic Prisons; Washington DC

June 29- July 6, 2016 Earth First! Round River Rendezvous; Michigan

July 7-10, 2016 6th annual Whippoorwill Festival; Lago Linda Hideaway, Beattyville, KY

Sept 17, 2016 Ferdinand Folk Festival; Ferdinand, IN
www.ferdinandfolkfestival.com

Oct 1-2, 2016 Buckeye Forest Council gathering; Camp OYO in the Shawnee State Forest, Keynote Mike Roselle!
<http://buckeyeforestcouncil.org>

Oct 7-10, 2016 21st Heartwood Reunion; Lazy Black Bear, Paoli, IN, www.heartwood.org

Oct 22-23, 2016 Appalachian Public Interest Environmental Law Conference; Knoxville, TN,
apiel.info@gmail.com

May 26-29, 2017 27th Heartwood Forest Council; TBD

Something new...!

This year’s Forest Council will include a grassroots “**One Hearth, Many Sparks**” art show. Members of Heartwood are encouraged to bring a few pieces of art they wish to sell, swap, or trade at the Council. Because space is limited, artists are encouraged to RSVP by sending an email to heartwood.tabitha@gmail.com with the number of pieces they plan on bringing.



Morning circle at the 2015 Heartwood Forest Council, Paoli, IN

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26th Heartwood Forest Council

One Hearth, Many Sparks

Buckeye Forest Council is hosting Heartwood Forest Council 2016 at Camp Otterbein in Logan, Ohio.

Heartwood is excited to bring you a program full of fun, education and plenty of opportunities to network in a great atmosphere. Our keynote speaker is Eleanor Goldfield, an Occupy activist artist, poet, and musician who specializes in speaking truth to Power.

Along with other activists from across the region, we have a program that's sure to fuel your passion for protecting the place you love. There are tracks for hands on learning, enviro-geeks and expressionistic activist, and allied medic training.

Entertainment includes Bright At Night, Boys of the Hock, Bob Lucas and a Granny D play. Let's not forget, food, the most important aspect of the weekend will be led by Chef Shane McElwee and cohort Mia.

**Camp Otterbein
15779 Cox Road
Logan, Ohio 43138**

**May 27th-May
30th, 2016.**



Buckeye
Forest
Council



FOR MORE INFO VISIT WWW.HEARTWOOD.ORG

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