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**Spring/Summer Edition**

**2018**



**Beaver Creek vs Falcon Pipeline & Shell Cracker Plant :  
A Fight to the Death at the Forks of the Ohio**

*by Matt Peters, PA Heartwood*

The petrochemical industry that has turned the Gulf of Mexico into a toxic petrochemical cancer zone is pulling up stakes and moving to the upper Ohio River Valley region, starting with the point where the Beaver River meets the mighty Ohio. Shell has begun construction of what will soon be the largest petrochemical facility in the region, a “cracker” plant, that takes the fracked ethane gas from the Falcon pipeline and turns it into ethylene plastic mostly for the single-use disposable garbage market. This material, of course, ends up in our oceans, or what’s left of them after Shell, Chevron, and all these other corp- corporate beasts have departed.

With citizen resistance already taxed to capacity fighting the proliferation of pipelines that are popping up lately, to say nothing of all the other infrastructure buildout that is devouring our forests and farmland, the fracking phenomenon that has appeared in our region barely a decade ago is suddenly recognized as only the sinister first phase of a far more massive and nefarious industrial takeover of an entire multi-state landscape, making the impact of the steel industry on this region a mere 100 years ago look like a picnic on the riverbank. From JKLM Energy’s frackwater treatment facility in Coudersport, PA—the very headwaters of the Allegheny River, just on the PA side of the line before it flows right into the Seneca Reservation—to the Appalachian Gathering Line in southern West Virginia, the same five corporations that are currently being sued by New York City are setting up shop here for a whole new poker game, and the stakes are high and rising like global warming.

The increased impact on the forests and farmland is also resulting in a groundswell uprising of citizen resistance with folks, who never considered themselves environmentalists or political in any way, suddenly going to lots of meetings, calling up government agency bureaucrats and asking lots of questions, spending precious spare time rummaging through piles of office files—all sorts of resurgent civic involvement. I find myself unusually encouraged and particularly inspired by the surge of citizens running for office. Heartwood board member Ernie Reed recently won his bid on the second try for Nelson County Commissioner in Virginia, where the Mountain Valley Pipeline and the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline threaten people’s homes and favorite forests, to name but one among the Heartwood leadership that has trod that path and tried that tool. Here in Allegheny County, I look forward to the opportunity to vote for Summer Lee, and if she wins she will be the first African-American woman in the Pennsylvania State Legislature (est. 1603)! She is just one of a number of women stepping up to run for office in the region, challenging the blue-dog Democratic Party’s stale establishment and taking long-time Republican seats alike. I think this surge of citizen participation in our increasingly corrupt and rapidly collapsing government will be something interesting to watch over the long term.

The Tea Party, the radical Right, the corrupt and intentionally disruptive element in Congress, has been slowly building to this ridiculous head for some 30 years, and... *(Continued on page 3)*

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Blast from the Past:

**Chasing Forest Service Away**

*The Earth First! "Fairview Freedom Fighters" chased the Forest Service away during one of the days of the occupation. Photo by Orin Langelle*



East Perry Lumber Company driver does not want his photo taken. Thanks to Orin Langelle for sharing his photos from the days of on-the-ground forest defense in the Shawnee. For more photos, visit [photolangelle.org](http://photolangelle.org).

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

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**We have a new PO box!**

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# Current Events on GE Trees

by Global Justice Ecology Project

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NAEM) has begun a year-long investigation and deliberation on the potential use of biotechnology for forest restoration.

At the first NAEM public meeting on this topic, William Powell, a scientist at SUNY ESF announced in December of 2017 that he would be submitting an application to the USDA, EPA, and FDA for registration and deregulation of his genetically engineered (GE) American chestnut, specifically designed to be planted directly into forest ecosystems, in early 2018.

NAEM provides annual \$100,000 grants for genetic engineering and has previously come out in favor of GE crops. Understanding NAEM's historical bias, members of the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN), Global Justice Ecology Project (GJEP), and BiofuelWatch presented testimony of the dangers and risks of GE trees

as part of a series of public webinars on the topic. BJ Mcmanama of IEN presented indigenous perspectives of GE trees. GJEP and Biofuelwatch presented later in the month. Respective links to watch the webinars can be found here:

<http://nas-sites.org/dels/studies/forest-biotech/webinar-indigenous/>

<http://nas-sites.org/dels/studies/forest-biotech/webinar-risk/>

With forests increasingly under threat from new, dangerous pro-logging legislation, wood-based bioenergy, invasive species and climate change, now more than ever the North American forest protection movement needs to come together. The Heartwood Alliance and GJEP have been conducting a series of interviews to shape a conference on the forest protection movement that meets the needs of today for frontline peoples and communities. To be engaged further in the shaping of this conference, contact [info@heartwood.org](mailto:info@heartwood.org) and [ruddy@globaljusticeecology.org](mailto:ruddy@globaljusticeecology.org).

## What Is Heartwood?

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

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

Join our family.

## Heartwood Membership

Join Heartwood simply going to [heartwood.org](http://heartwood.org) and clicking on "Support" and selecting Individual or Group membership. Please follow the online instructions and select

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

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

## HEARTFELT THANKS TO THIS YEAR'S 28th ANNUAL FOREST COUNCIL CO-SPONSORS!



(Cover story continued) ...if this Bernie-boasted citizen upsurge in running for office, be it at the county level or Congressional, can turn that around in half the time, that still won't be enough to spare us the worst of the consequences of their actions in the past thirteen months. January 20, 2017, might mark the most unfortunate regime change in American presidential history, but the May primaries of 2018 may signal the start of a steadily building wave that turns the tide and eventually washes it clean. This wave will start out Bernie-blue, and, as it picks up momentum and carries forward, will become increasingly Green and Brown and Red and Black, all the colors of the rainbow as third-party structures finally find their stride in the new political landscape that awaits us after we survive this Don-T's Inferno.

# The Promised Plunder of Our Public Lands

*by Jim Scheff, Kentucky Heartwood*

Legislative and regulatory attacks on the environment reached appalling highs in 2017, and show no sign of slowing as we enter 2018. Our national forest lands, and the countless species that depend on them, are fast becoming victims of this frenzy of deregulation and politicians' contemptible pandering to extractive industries. Most of the changes in the works with bearing on our 188 million acres of national forest lands come in the form of targeted, jargon-laden edits to laws and policies that have largely failed to capture the attention of the media or public at-large. However, their impacts will be profound and lasting.

One of the most significant legislative assaults on our national forests came in the form of the deceitfully-named Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017. The bill was sponsored by Representative Bruce Westerman of Arkansas, whose largest campaign donor is the timber industry. Arkansas ranked sixth among all states for the volume of timber cut on national forest lands in 2017. The sweeping, 86-page bill allows logging projects on up to 10,000 acres to occur with almost no environmental analysis, severely limited public input, and few opportunities for administrative or judicial review. The bill further limits protections for endangered species and redirects restoration funding to planning timber sales. Senate bills mirroring some of the provisions of the Westerman bill were introduced by Senators Thune and Barrasso.

***“...what they are working toward is adopting policies that would allow them to approve large timber sales without preparing an Environmental Assessment, and limiting public comment...”***

Kentucky Heartwood's Tina Marie Johnson, Austin Williams, and Jim Scheff traveled to Washington, DC, in early November to meet with legislators and their staff about the Westerman bill and other troubling legislation. We joined about two dozen activists from around the country, with our trip sponsored by The Wilderness Society. Even though the Westerman bill was passed in the House of Representatives the evening that we arrived, our meetings were still productive. Most of the House offices that we visited conveyed that they'd received calls opposing the Westerman bill. Thank you to everyone who called. It does help. Kentucky Representatives Yarmuth and Comer voted against the bill, with all others voting to support it. Congressman Comer was one of only a nine Republicans to vote against the bill, with his opposition demonstrating support for the local, bipartisan effort to protect Land Between the Lakes from logging. In the end, the bill passed 232 to 188, with 10 Democrats voting in support. When a previous version of the bill was voted on in 2016, the only Republican voting against the measure was former Kentucky Congressman Ed Whitfield, with 19 Democrats voting in support.

Because the Resilient Federal Forests Act won't become law without a Senate companion, it is anticipated that some version of the language from the Westerman bill will be folded into a must-pass legislative package like the 2018 Farm Bill. The Farm Bill often includes forest-related provisions. This means that there will likely be future opportunities to weaken or defeat some of the provisions passed by the House.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Forest Service announced on January 3 that they are considering amendments to their procedures for implementing the National Forest Policy Act (NEPA). In effect, what they are working toward is adopting policies that would allow them to, similar to the Westerman bill, approve large timber sales without preparing an

opportunities through use of a Categorical Exclusion (CE). We've been told that the agency is looking to allow these exemptions for timber sales up to 5,000 acres. Kentucky Heartwood is working with several other organizations on a response.

In a new attack on the Wilderness Act, a newly-formed mountain biking organization called the Sustainable Trails Coalition (STC) has teamed up with some of the most anti-Wilderness and anti-public lands members of Congress in an attempt to amend and weaken the Wilderness Act of 1964. HR 1349 would amend the Wilderness Act to allow mountain bikes in areas protected as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Kentucky's only federally designated Wilderness Areas are the Clifty Wilderness in the Red River Gorge and the Beaver Creek Wilderness in McCreary County. The STC has incorrectly asserted that the Wilderness Act was never intended to exclude bicycles and are framing proposed amendments to the legislation around the argument that they would merely clarify the original intent of the Wilderness Act. A representative of the STC was invited to testify in front of Congress in early December, with no dissenting voices allowed to testify or rebut. For more information on this issue visit Wilderness Watch at [wildernesswatch.org](http://wildernesswatch.org).

A whole host of assaults have been aimed at special places, and species, across the country. One of the most awful comes from efforts by a Chilean Mining Company, Twin Metals, to open a copper and nickel mine in the Superior National Forest at the edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). The BWCAW is a 1.1 million acre Wilderness Area in northern Minnesota, one of the most visited in the nation with about 250,000 visitors annually. The BWCAW is a massive landscape including a vast number of pristine lakes, wetlands, marshes, deep forest, and an abundance of wildlife. The Twin Metals mine would operate in the headwaters of the Wilderness and the Kawishiwi River, with acid mine runoff from the mining operations likely to degrade large portions of the BWCAW. Though the mining project was stopped under the Obama administration, those protections proved temporary. In November, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to give the mining rights to Twin Metals. No companion bill has moved forward in the Senate. In December, the Bureau of Land Management (which is responsible for federal minerals leasing), reversed a previous determination that had blocked the mining project. The BLM decision to turn over mineral

***“The pace and severity of today's politics are doubtless a deliberate strategy to make it difficult for people to organize effectively while our natural heritage is turned over to profiteers.”***

rights to Twin Metals was made by Daniel Jorjani, a Department of Interior lawyer who is close to Secretary Ryan Zinke and was formerly an advisor to David Koch. It has also been reported that the billionaire owner of Twin Metals, Andronico Luksic, has a financial relationship with Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner. See [www.savetheboundarywaters.org](http://www.savetheboundarywaters.org) for more information on the campaign to Save the Boundary Waters.

The pace and severity of today's politics are doubtless a deliberate strategy to make it difficult for people to organize effectively while our natural heritage is turned over to profiteers. But opposition can still be effective. We need to limit the power of the daily distractions and focus on those fights with lasting consequences, and on the struggles where we find our passions. So please keep reading the emails, making the phone calls, and supporting the organizations working to protect people and places. For more info visit: [www.kyheartwood.org](http://www.kyheartwood.org).

# The Great Cost of Fracking

by Kathy McGlone

I have lived in Sardis, Ohio, for 30 years while I taught biology at River High School. The area is economically depressed and individuals were anxious to sell their mineral rights.

There was little economic boost to the area with fracking. The few who owned land became wealthy, and the majority of individuals suffered. If you look at the license plates, you will note that the majority of workers are from out-of-state. This is because of a variety of factors. The oil and gas companies are layered like an onion, so they have protection. These companies often declare bankruptcy, ruin the land, and leave after creating permanent scars on the land. The promised permanent jobs do not come to fruition. With the arrival of fracking, the area changed from one of beauty and quiet to an area that is ugly and noisy.

*“The destruction has been incredible.”*

I feel strongly that the National Forests should be off limits. I realize that the current administration is very pro-oil and gas. If this much money (clarify wording . . . How much money?) was spent on renewable energy, we would not need to destroy our natural areas.

Besides the health problems with many aspects of fracking—from the diesel fumes to the endocrine inhibitors in the waste water—there is the problem of depleting the water in our water cycle. According to Ohio Gas and Oil, in November 2017, there were 46 horizontal permits in the Marcellus shale and 2,657 permits in the Utica shale, using 50 million gallons of water per well. (The super lateral wells use 87 million gallons every two months.) This is a loss of 135,150 million gallons of water out of our water cycle. We have had this same water since the dinosaurs roamed the earth, and its depletion is a problem. Streams and countless water creatures are dependent on this water. It is not our right to remove this water from the water cycle.

On a planet where freshwater makes up less than one percent of all water, the destruction of the water which we depend on for life makes no sense. What type of legacy are we leaving for our children?

There are things that are more important than money! Energy independence is important but the current methods of fracking cause too many environmental problems.



Reprinted with permission by J. Jonik <http://jonikcartoons.blogspot.com>

# Defending Shadows

by Logan Hopewell

One of the most valuable assets and greatest disadvantages of the Eastern forests is their resilience. It is this resilience that has allowed these forests to bounce back time after time from the various industrial insults of the day. Each time, mostly through benign neglect, the forest community has reformed and re-established itself, albeit with missing pieces and altered dynamics. Still, each reincarnation presents a lovely impersonation of its former self—one worthy of respect and love and defense.

This resilience, on the other hand, also provides cover for those who continue to exploit forests. To a logger and a forester, these forests with ancient roots are simply a renewable resource to be managed on human time-scales. To a miner and a fracker, the forests are tangled overburden to be removed and simply replanted when the mine or well is played out. As far as they are concerned, as long as some semblance of the “green wall” returns, there can be no harm nor any foul.

Thus, resilience is a blessing and a curse, though far more the former than the latter. It gives us second and third and fourth chances to do right, but we should always be aware that these successive forests are shadows that, while still deep green, grow fainter over time.

Aldo Leopold wrote: “One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds.” The corollary is equally true and far more prevalent: the problem with ecological ignorance is that the incremental and accumulated loss isn’t appreciated and never gets accounted for in the next environmental battle. A forest is more than the sum of its parts, and the damage we do is more than subtracting our newest demands from what currently stands.

*“These forests are shadows of their former selves and worthy of defense...”*

These are the thoughts that go through my mind as I ponder the ceaseless flow of multi-use abuses and the emotional response I have to them. These forests are not, as I have been told by both state and federal forest managers, of little ecological value or significance because of their history of exploitation. Quite the opposite: these forests are of great ecological value and significance because of the history of abuse and their ability to charge back. More than and beyond that, these forests are worth our efforts because they have already given away and given up so much, and yet continue to offer so much more.

These forests are shadows of their former selves (and worthy of defense), but they also cast shadows that are the memories and the promises of their once and future ancientness. No. These are ancient forests, but with young trees and unhealed wounds. They hold a memory that can manifest into the spectacular, if given the time and space and love.

When we defend the Eastern forests, we defend shadows. True, the colorful Carolina parakeet will never again preen in the bare limbs of a winter oak limb on a bluff above the Ohio River. But something will. All niches will be filled once again, if allowed. I find sorrow and I find hope in these facts. More importantly, I find motivation to take the action necessary so that there are no more lost opportunities to recover what is still out there waiting in the seedbank, clinging to a forgotten remnant, and biding its time in the shadows for us to finally come to our senses.

# Shawnee National Forest: Burning 11,000 Acres in 2018

by the Cache Critter, Shawnee Forest Defense Team

From between the confluence of the great rivers, in the rolling hills of the Shawnee National Forest, we report a slow, steady uptick of forest management projects. Most notable is the intention to use prescribed burn on 11,000 acres, this year alone. Several Heartwood affiliated members attended a fire symposium in February to get a firsthand look at the proponents and their science behind the mandates supporting the burns.

The room was predominantly packed with white men who were enamored with fire and an “all-you-can-eat” appetite to control nature. Over the past 200 years, throughout the Midwest our rapacious logging practices and the conversion of prairies to croplands have decimated forest lands. Only 31% of the forested areas that existed in 1820 exist today. Currently only 12% of Illinois is forested. (Iverson, 1991) Between the years of 1820-1860, we deforested nearly 34,000 square miles of land; that’s more than half of the 55,584 square miles within the boundaries of Illinois.



Figure 2. Forest in IL about 1820. Source Anderson 1970



Figure 3. Forest in IL about 1980. Source: USGS Land-use data, 1973-1981

Image from “Forest Resources of Illinois: What do we have and what are they doing for us?” [Louis R. Iverson, Illinois Natural History Survey]

What the Pyro-pushers were articulating was that shade-tolerant species have taken over the Shawnee National Forest, and the Forest Service must manage the forest by returning fire and fire resilience species like oaks and hickories, to enhance diversity of the forest floor, which would bring more wildlife, like deer and turkey, which in turn, equals more plant species, like orchids and prairie grasses. Prescribed fires reduces leaf litter and shade in the understory, two factors that shade tolerant species favor.

Side note #1: The white-tailed deer population is thriving in southern Illinois based on the number of fender benders at the local body shop.

Side note #2: Returning the hills of the Shawnee to oak savannas lush with prairie grasses may require a much more intense long-term forest management plan. The SNF Management plan is set to be revised by 2021.

We do have some issues with invasive species, and supposedly fire would help this, but the speaker who was an invasive species expert was not present for the lecture. Invasive species are opportunistic and love ecosystem disturbances. They love disturbed soil from ATVs, jeeps, and logging equipment. Non-native, invasive species love logging and staging areas, and even burned areas. The forest management plan has included applications of chemical herbicides, burning, select timber harvesting, burning, spraying, and repeat.

For over six hours, we were lectured on the need to avert wildfires in the Shawnee National Forest and how burning the forest floor would decrease the fuel load and reduce the severity of the wildfire. The Forest Service is partnering with Illinois Prescribed Fire Council, Oak Woodland and Forest Fire Consortium, SIU Carbondale Forestry Department, The Nature Conservancy, Illinois Society of American Foresters, Shawnee National Forest, Pizzo Group, Illinois Department of Natural Resources. (We requested access to maps or data that would give us an idea of how many naturally occurring wildfires have occurred in Southern IL. SNF staff could not provide publically accessible data map of naturally occurring wildfires in the Shawnee, without expensive mapping software.

This notion of wildfires in the Confluence seems to be an unfounded paranoia. The public concern is fueled by media hype and images of wildfires in the west. However, the ecosystems in Illinois are vastly

different than those on the west coast. What is also concerning is the repeated use of the idea of burning to ensure a return to an oak savanna. Looking at a geographic image of the locations of oak savannas in Illinois, we see that the ideal “Forest” is in the northern half the state.

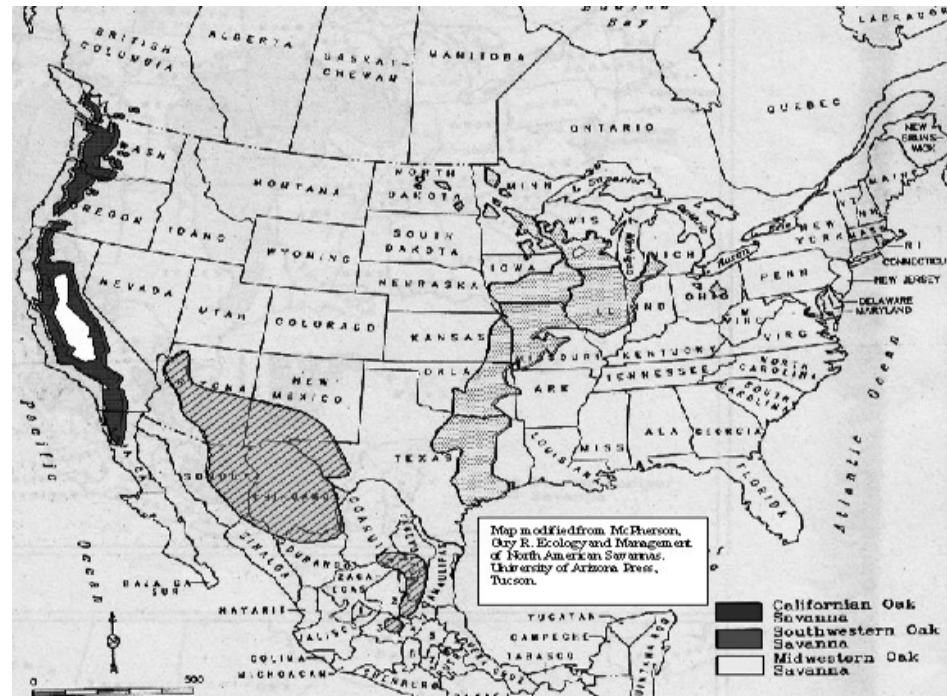


Image: McPherson, Guy R. 1997. Ecology and Management of North American Savannas. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

However, the most alarming omission of science was the complete disregard for climate change and its dramatic effect on species migration, location, and or extinction. Six hours of lecture and not a single utterance of the most obvious threat: atmospheric warming causing extreme fluctuation in weather patterns.

A few weeks ago, we walked the salvage sale logging site just north can Kinkaid Lake in Jackson County, Illinois. I kept thinking about a podcast interview on Radio Ecoshock of scientists who study climate change and bio-feedback loops that have not been accounted for in the calculating global carbon emissions, including one called “zombi emissions” from logging projects. Research shows that logging project off-fall (stumps and unwanted upper limbs) may emit up to 33% more carbon as they decay than had previously been calculated. These are called zombie emissions.

At what point do we humans, in particular white people—accept the fact that we have altered our ecosystems to the point that our forested lands, and organisms within, will never in our lifetimes return to their original makeup: the ideal being, 1820s pre-colonial settler forest lands.

We have altered the atmosphere nearly 1.5°C in the past two centuries with an overabundance of carbon, methane, and a myriad of pollutants. Some science points to the possibility that the earth and the plant kingdom has maxed out its capacity to absorb and sequester carbon. At what point do we accept the forest as it is, a mere shadow of its former self, and allow the forest to do what it does best—sequester carbon.

What scientific calculations can this “burn baby burn” symposium put forth identifying and measuring the carbon released when burning 11,000 acres annually? We would like to know how much carbon is sequestered in an intact, unburned mixed forest in southern Illinois. Could we stop the Pyro-porn long enough to have a conversation about increasing oak savannas by decreasing commercial agricultural croplands? Could we stop for a moment and discuss alternate bio-sustainable farming with the industrial hemp as a means to produce an average of eight tons of fiber per acre at an average of \$800 per acre in one annual growing season versus 75-100 years to grow a mature hardwood forest at a minimum of \$23 per acre. (The average stumpage price is \$300/MBF, or \$1,800 per acre total value, divided by 80 years = \$22.50 per acre. <https://extension.psu.edu/forest-finance-8-to-cut-or-not-cut-deciding-when-to-harvest-timber>) Rather than harvesting hardwood lumber, industrial fiber offers a quick growing, carbon neutral, option for building materials, like wood sheathing, insulation and composite type material that have traditional been made from forest products.

Could we stop long enough to redirect the massive amount of funding being poured into forest management through fire and herbicide applications and consider the creation of local jobs by investing in reopening of the tree nursery, growing seedlings and manually planting oak trees across the region while educating the public on what it means to become a steward of the land? Join the Shawnee Forest Defense Team: [cachecritter@riseup.net](mailto:cachecritter@riseup.net)

# Why Indiana Forest Advocates Should Have Hope

by Anne Laker, Indiana Forest Alliance Staff

Forest advocates are moving the meter at the Indiana General Assembly—even though the 2018 Senate bill to set 30% of state forests from logging did not get a hearing and an amendment to set aside 10% was defeated in the House.

The Indiana forest bill in the Senate had unprecedented support from 10 Republicans, was authored by a Republican, and sponsored by two others. In the House, three Republicans spoke in favor of the amendment, and 13 voted for it—not to mention that both pieces of legislation have the full support of Democrats.

In both cases, the word is that Governor Holcomb put his thumb on the scale. Rep. Sean Eberhart (R-Shelbyville), the only House Republican to speak against the amendment on the floor, stated, “The Governor has authorized me to say that he does not support this policy.” Had this claim not been uttered, who knows how many more Republicans might have voted for it?

So it took backdoor intervention from the Governor to hinder progress. This is a governor who has never made a public statement about his position on the recent, controversial logging of Yellowwood State Forest near Bloomington, or articulated his own vision for our state forests.

In late January, an IFA member saw Gov. Holcomb walking around Nashville, Indiana. She boldly approached him about Yellowwood. He said he had just been up in a helicopter with DNR staff. The Governor showed the IFA member pictures taken with his phone (from a major distance). He said there was no old growth forest. The forest advocate stated that she understood that it was farmland in the past, but that the forest has been growing since then. The Governor said there were no 100-year-old trees. He said they were clearing the canopy so smaller growth can get bigger.

If the Governor is data-driven, as he often claims, he will take interest in IFA’s study of the Yellowwood/Morgan Monroe backcountry. We found

105 trees older than 100 years in the area being logged now. To say the least, forest advocates must continue to educate and engage the Governor.

We are hopeful because, as IFA Executive Director Jeff Stant states, “When you look at the level of bipartisan support in both chambers, you have to conclude that setting aside some of the state forests from logging is an idea that is gaining traction in the legislature.”

In increasing numbers, Indiana citizens are contacting their lawmakers. Via e-mail, phone and, at in-person town hall meetings, they’ve taken the time to contact their senators and representatives. Voices of concerned citizens are more audible than ever.

The idea of preserving some of our state forests from logging is not a “red” or a “blue” issue. It’s simply a wise, balanced policy. It speaks to the value wild nature has for tourism and for personal enjoyment and solace. Managing a small portion of our forests to be as they were 170 years ago is an exciting goal, one that most Hoosiers from whatever party would undoubtedly support.

The Indiana Forest Alliance is not against all logging. We don’t think that the DNR’s 30 trained foresters are bad people doing things that are 100% bad. Their efforts clearly meet their goal of generating trees to be logged, by supporting more oak and hickory, etc.

We simply question the idea that the single, solitary goal of state forests should be to produce merchantable timber, at the expense of open trails or an aesthetic forest experience, or a scientific study in unlogged areas. These are the other goals we know to be of value, and there is room for more than one goal. These are the public’s forests, and the public should have a voice in their public purpose.

This is the message we will relentlessly bring to the Governor, lawmakers, the public, the media—with the help of a growing number of engaged citizens.

*Photo by Rock Emmert, clearcut in Ferdinand State Forest, May 2016*

## TRAILS... NOT STUMPS

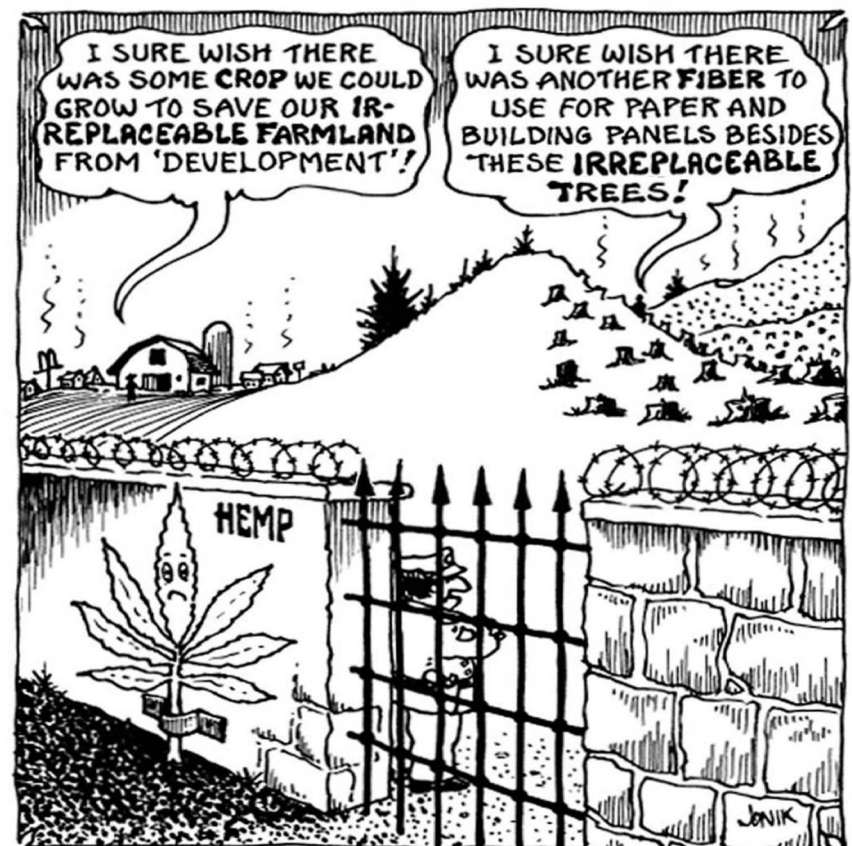


**CALL YOUR SENATOR: 800-382-9467**  
**FRIENDS OF FERDINAND STATE FOREST**



### Earth Shaking Loose by Judy Jordan

As the creek clogs with mud, as trillium, calypso, and lady slippers lift into the dozer’s gaped mouth, as pileated woodpeckers sink beaks into the widow makers’ rotted hearts, as the kingfisher hovers above the silt-thick water for the last time, then beats across the sedge and saw-grass heavy with seed toward the blue scar in the east, as sun enters a mist beaded web, the spider gone now, having swung from the maple’s top branch to stitch a stretch of wind to the pokeberry, top-heavy, laden with dark fruit, first light slant in the distance, rain just ended, fog curling from the fields’ ruts and shallows, a rabbit freezing in a hawk’s shadows, as a chainsaw revs up to a high-pitched scream, I feel it, the earth shaking loose, groaning to a halt, feel it shudder and roll its one great root.



# 28th Annual HW Forest Council: "Edge Effects"

*"Within conservation biology, the term 'edge effects' is now usually used to refer to increased predation and parasitism of vulnerable animals in the vicinity of edges. We would like to extend this connotation to include the deleterious effects of herbivores on sensitive plant species within stands of mature forest. While younger forest can undoubtedly buffer older forests against many microclimatic and biological edge effects, such a matrix might also threaten diversity by facilitating the invasion of successional plants and animals capable of interfering with species restricted to older communities."*

*~ Forests Too Deer: Edge Effects in Northern Wisconsin*



## Weekend Schedule

### Friday, May 25th

- 3:00 pm: Registration opens!
- 6:00 pm: Farm to Table cooking by Seeds of Peace
- 7:00 - 7:15 pm: Welcome and Introduction to the 28th HW Forest Council
- 7:30 - 8:30 pm: Tri-State Summit PA, OH, WV
- 9:00 - 11:00: Local Film Festival

### Saturday, May 26th

- 7:30 - 9:00 am: Breakfast
- 8:45 am: Announcements
- 9:00 - 10:30 am: Opening Circle
- 10:45 - 12:00 pm: Workshops
- 12:00 - 1:00 pm: Lunch
- 1:00 - 5:15 pm: Workshops
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm: Dinner
- 7:30pm: Keynote Speaker Karen Coulter
- 8:30 - 11pm Chai Baba, PHAT ManDee & Liz Berlin's Social Justice Disco

### Sunday, May 27th

- 8:00 - 9:00 am: Coffee Hour
- 9:00 - 10:00 am: Breakfast
- 10:15 - 11:45 am: Morning Workshops
- 12:00 - 1:30 pm: Lunch
- 1:00 - 5:15 pm: Afternoon Workshops/Field Trips
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm: Dinner
- 7:30 - 9:00 pm: Heartwood Live and Silent Auction
- 9:00 - 11:00 pm: No-Talent talent show

### Monday, May 28th

- 8:00 - 9:00 am: Coffee Hour
- 9:00 - 10:00 am: Breakfast
- 10:00 - 11:30 am: Closing Circle
- 12:00 pm: Lunch
- 1:00 pm: Wrap-up and Head back to the Frontlines

## Memorial Day Weekend May 25-28, 2018 Camp Crestfield • 195 Taggart Road Slippery Rock, PA 16057

*Heartwood strives to be as inclusive as possible in all of our events.  
For more information, our "Safer Spaces" policy is available on our website.*

This year activists from across the Heartwood Region will gather at [Camp Crestfield](#), just outside the town of Slippery Rock, PA, in Butler County. In addition to this being where the Coalfields meet Gasland, this is along the line of the Glacial Moraine in PA.

This region is on the edge of a new industrial revolution, with the threat of a massive buildout of the petrochemical industry looming like a storm, as the industries responsible for polluting the Gulf of Mexico seek to relocate in the headwaters of the Ohio and Allegheny River valleys, the heart of the new Gas Expansion empire. The program this year will focus on the issues surrounding the Shell ethane-cracker plant in Beaver, PA, and the associated pipeline buildout that is currently in the permitting phases. From the JKLM frackwater treatment plant in Coudersport, PA, 50 miles upriver from the Seneca lands just across the NY state line, to the Appalachian Gathering Station on the Ohio River in southern West Virginia, this region is on the edge of a major transformation. Creatures on the edge of extinction, people on the edge of society, continue to be pushed over the edge by this relentless corporate expansion driven by fossil fuels and plastic waste.

This weekend is a time for activists across the Heartwood region who work together over email and phones, to get together and let the magic happen face-to-face, get the work of The Work done in a beautiful natural setting, eat good food and dance to some great live bands, relax to some campfire music after a full day of intense workshop discussions on the topics closest to our hearts and minds. The weekend will end Monday with some sort of theatrical act of nonviolent protest, the exact nature of which will be determined and planned by attendees over the course of the weekend.

Heartwood welcomes any progressive grassroots organization, green business, or generous individual to co-sponsor this event and join our family of [member groups](#). Co-sponsors illustrate the strength of our movement in a show of solidarity, and show the scope and scale of the gathering. Co-sponsors help underwrite the event, and help us provide scholarships for activists to attend without concern for registration costs.

Contact our coordinator Tabitha at [info@heartwood.org](mailto:info@heartwood.org) to find out more.

*Ernie Reed and the Lorax at the 2017 Strong Roots Forest Council, NC*





## REGISTRATION

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

Pre-register online at [heartwood.org](http://heartwood.org), send an email to [info@heartwood.org](mailto:info@heartwood.org) or give us a call at **812-307-4326**.

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

## What to Bring

- 🐌 Layers of clothes and rain gear – with climate change, weather is unpredictable these days!
- 🐌 Camp chairs, sleep pads, pillows, cushion for outdoor seating, blankets.
- 🐌 Bedding for cabins, towel, mug or travel cup, outdoor gear, water bottles, and flashlight.
- 🐌 Auction items to donate for the Heartwood Auction (jams, preserves, posters, art and crafts, books, jewelry, etc.)
- 🐌 Musical instruments, poetry, skits for Talent Show
- 🐌 Special foods or snacks you might want
- 🐌 Banners, displays, information about your organization
- 🐌 Carpool! Carpool! Carpool! It's the cool thing to do!

## Work Trade

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

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

## Accommodations

Accommodations include camping, cabins and lodge. Rustic cabins are without bathrooms, fancy cabins include bathrooms in the same building. Both cabins require that you bring your own bedding material. Lodge accommodations are much like a hotel and include bedding and bathrooms.

## Directions



## Forest Council Registration

### Heartwood Member Pricing (per person over 12)

- \$120 Package: Full Weekend Heartwood Member Registration, tent camping, all meals
- \$145 Package: Full Weekend Member Registration, rustic cabin, all meals
- \$155 Fancy Package: Full Weekend Member Registration, fancy cabins w/bathroom, all meals
- \$165 Lodge Package: Full Weekend Member Registration, Room w/ 3 beds, all meals
- \$180 Lodge Package: Full Weekend, Member Registration, Room w/ 2 beds, all meals
- \$70 Two Day: Member Registration, camping, 5 meals
- \$85 Two Day: Member Registration, Rustic cabin, 5 meals
- \$50 One Day: Member Registration, no camp, 3 meals
- \$25 Meal and Show, Friday or Saturday (Special 2/\$40)

### Non-member Pricing (per person over 12)

*(Special new or renewing membership \$20 available)*

- \$140 Package: Full Weekend Registration, tent camping, all meals
- \$165 Package: Full Weekend Registration, rustic cabin, all meals
- \$175 Fancy Package: Full Weekend Registration, fancy cabins w/bathroom, all meals
- \$185 Lodge Package: Full Weekend Registration, Room w/ 3 beds, all meals
- \$205 Lodge Package: Full Weekend, Registration, Room w/ 2 beds, all meals
- \$90 Two Day: Registration, camping, 5 meals
- \$105 Two Day: Registration, Rustic cabin, 5 meals
- \$70 One Day: Registration, no overnight, 3 meals
- \$30 Meal and Show, Friday or Saturday (Special 2/\$50)

**Please contact us if you would like to register a child under 12 or need less than the full weekend price option as seen here. [info@heartwood.org](mailto:info@heartwood.org)**

## Safer Spaces Policy

In accordance with Camp Crestfield and our Safer Spaces Policy:  
**no drugs, no alcohol, and no weapons.**

We also ask that you make other accommodations for your animal companions.  
Thanks for your cooperation!

**Camp Crestfield \* 195 Taggart Rd \* Slippery Rock, PA**  
*Located 30 miles north of Pittsburgh and east of Interstate 79.*

Take Exit 105 east off of I-79 onto PA-108  
1.7mi turn Right onto Barron Rd/T366  
1.3mi turn Left onto McCoy Rd/T377  
0.9mi turn Right onto Taggart Rd (Destination 0.1mi on Left.)

## Greenwood Project Approved by Forest Service

by Jim Scheff, Kentucky Heartwood

Our fight over the Greenwood project came to an underwhelming and, for the most part, disappointing conclusion at the end of October. Kentucky Heartwood worked for more than three years to see the project turn from a typical timber harvest toward a science-based plan that would support the restoration of relict, fire-adapted open forest communities as well as the recovery of large areas of old-growth. In July 2017, the Forest Service issued their Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact—a preliminary approval of the project. Kentucky Heartwood then filed a detailed, 32-page predecisional objection (a formal administrative objection) detailing a wide range of issues, concerns, and failures in the Forest Service’s analysis. In October, we had a formal meeting with Forest Service officials to seek resolution to the concerns raised in our objection. The meeting was scheduled for two hours but stretched to four hours as we delved deeply into the issues. The meeting was somewhat constructive.

In the end, the Forest Service did agree to some small changes, and made overtures toward more careful planning in the future. While the Forest Service did not agree to go back and actually survey the project area for rare species and communities, officials stated that they planned to receive increased training from the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) on how to identify rare communities, would look for rare communities during project implementation, and adjust management accordingly. They also committed to consulting with KSNPC and Kentucky Heartwood in taking a closer look at management opportunities in the 751 Roadsides/Curt Pond Ridge area—a hotspot for Cumberland barrens remnants that are in desperate need of careful, active management, as well as possible remnant barrens sites in the Blue John area.

Another point of resolution that was addressed was the Forest Service’s prior unwillingness to provide clear targets for native versus non-native plantings in 75 wildlife openings covering 222 acres. The Forest Service has now formally clarified that they will manage for 35% in cool-season grasses and grains, 20% in native pollinator mixes, and 45% in native grasses. While we would rather see all of the area managed for native vegetation, this is a clear improvement over the current condition and the vague statements made throughout the analysis. With regard to the proposed broadcast spraying of herbicides in wildlife openings, the Forest Service has agreed to apply herbicides only after vegetation has been cut down or is otherwise out of flowering in order to avoid impacts to native pollinators and birds, and to spray no more than 33% of the total acreage in a given year. Again, this is not what we wanted, but it is a meaningful improvement.

These changes are in addition to those that came about between the original 2014 scoping document and publication

## “Edge Effects” Keynote Karen Coulter and other presenters

Karen Coulter has been a grassroots organizer, activist, trainer and a public face of forest defense for over three decades. She is the founder of the Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project, a legal forest defense organization that monitors logging on five national forests in Eastern Oregon. Over the past 20+ years, BMBP has protected tens of thousands of acres of high desert forests from logging, herbicides and pesticides, grazing allotments and other threats. Karen herself has spent every summer since 1991 hiking in proposed timber sales across eastern Oregon.

Karen began public speaking with the American Friends Service Committee in 1980 on an anti-nuclear tour. Since then she has presented widely to university and college students, at conferences and at rallies and protests. She gives workshops and trainings in a broad array of activist skills and topics, including at numerous Earth First! gatherings, for the WTO protests in Seattle in 1999, and more recently for the Backbone Campaign in Washington and for Trump resistance in Portland, Oregon, in 2017.

Her knowledge base stems from her long history working as a grassroots activist for countless organizations and in numerous movements. In the current political moment, with the advent of a domestic fascist regime, her legacy of engaging democratic traditions and slow but continuous political gain over decades is particularly vital. Her public education skills are critical to locating current ecological and social justice issues in the context of historical struggle and helping new activists orient themselves within a legacy of resistance.

Karen is available to give both lecture and workshop style presentations. Lecture topics include the following:

### “Climate Change and Forest Ecosystems”

of the Environmental Assessment in early 2017. Those changes included reducing the amount of logging by about 600 acres (including eliminating logging that was planned at the trailhead to the Three Forks of Beaver Creek overlook) and the elimination of 26 miles of bulldozed firelines.

What is most disappointing, however, is that the Forest Service misrepresented forest conditions in many areas in order to promote logging. Several sites covering hundreds of acres that are now largely open-canopied as a result of the 1999-2002 southern pine beetle outbreak, and which have good floristic indicators of barrens or woodland type communities, will not be managed with fire or otherwise. Meanwhile, intact, closed-canopy hardwood forests will be cut to “restore” open-canopied and pine

### “The Rise of Corporate Power in the U.S.: A Historical Perspective on the Current Moment”

### “Strategic Campaigning” workshop

### “Legal Forest Defense on Public Lands” workshop

Other presenters include

**Ryan Talbott**, Allegheny Defense Project and **Ernie Reed**, Wild Virginia: Pipelines on Public Lands

**Anne Peterman and Ruddy Turnstone** Global Justice Ecology Project: GE Trees

**Davis Monger**, TN Heartwood: First Steps to Forest Defense

**#NotWhite Collective** presents *Fracking the body, artwork about fracked water!*

**Leann Leiter**, Earthworks: Community Empowerment Project and *Infrared* filming

**Orin Langelle**: *History of Activism Photos*

**Camp White Pine**: *Holding the Line*

**Tabitha Tripp**, *SAFE: Toxic Trespass: Addressing Health Concerns from Oil-Chemical Exposures*

**Elaine Tanner**, *Friends for Environmental Justice; Ohio River Citizens Alliance: Protecting the health of people, water and land against extractive and other polluting industries in Ohio*

**Jill Hunkler**, *Concerned Barnesville Area Residents: Exposing Fracking Hazards in Belmont County, Ohio*

**Bill Baker**: *The Sustainable Journey, Simplify, Sustain, Save...*

**Samantha Spagnolo**, *John Muir Project: Working on the Hill in DC*

**GJEP & Heartwood**: *Round Table discussion on planning a National Summit and working together*

*Please check the online schedule for changes and updates as we get closer to the weekend!*

forests, with 139 log landings cleared and compacted to facilitate the removal of timber on over 2,000 acres.

Over the coming years we will closely monitor implementation of the project. Some species and forest communities will likely benefit—particularly if the proposed fire management is implemented carefully for appropriate, site-specific ecological responses. However, there will certainly be negative impacts, disruptions, and trade-offs for years to come.

To learn more about the ecology of the Greenwood area and our efforts to affect change on this project, please see our Summer 2016 and Summer 2017 newsletters, as well as our comments and predecisional objection, all of which are available on our website, kyheartwood.org.

# Towns Joins Clinch Coalition in Timber Sale Objection

by Steve Brooks, Clinch Coalition, VA

The town of Coeburn sits on the Guest River below the High Knob section of the Clinch Ranger District, Jefferson NF in SW Virginia. The Forest Service is proposing “vegetation management” in three water sheds that flow into the Guest River, including one that is backup water for the town.

Coeburn, as well as The Clinch Coalition (TCC) and Sherman Bamford (on behalf of the Sierra Club), will be objecting to the Nettle Patch project which has been in process for over three years.

According to Coeburn Mayor Jeff Kiser, though the draft approval decision does scale back on acres to be timbered, he does not think the size of the project has changed drastically. Meanwhile, the forest service still has not adequately addressed the town’s concerns about property it owns nearby in the Machine Creek watershed.

Sharon Still, vice-mayor, noted that the town has consistently sent written comments of concern as the Nettle Patch project has developed, so Coeburn now has standing to make a formal objection.

The city council agreed its objection will focus on the fact that its property must be protected both as a potential water source and a potential space for outdoor

recreation and scenic beauty.

The final draft decision was issued in late December with a 45-day objection period. The decision will not become final until the objections have been considered and dealt with.

After several comment periods, in which the Clinch Coalition insisted that a third alternative be offered, the Coalition was informed last June that they were working on a new Environmental Assessment (EA) that would include another alternative that would take into consideration the comments TCC submitted.

Although the additional alternative withdrew a large portion of the sale and prescribed burns, the FS did not choose it and used only a small portion of it in its final draft EA. Thus, TCC with the assistance of the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), will be objecting to the sale on many of the issues that it originally commented on, including the effects of the project on erosion and flooding, water quality, species diversity, invasive species, impacts on future recreation use, and climate change.

For more information contact [shbrooks@mounet.com](mailto:shbrooks@mounet.com).

## Become a Sponsor

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

With generous sponsorships, we were able to assist 15 Forest Defenders with attending the 2017 StrongRoots! Forest Council.

Our goal this year is double that number!

Thank you for your continued supports in bringing the frontline/fenceline folks into the Heartwood Network.

### Sponsorship Opportunities:

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Link and logo on Heartwood Webpage
- Listing in Heartbeat
- Heartwood Forest Defense Network

Mail checks to:

**Heartwood**

PO Box 543, Tell City, IN 47586

For more information, send email to [info@heartwood.org](mailto:info@heartwood.org) or call 812-307-4326



*Kosie practicing on the climbing ropes at the Reunion 2017.*

### “Embrace the Sun”

Artwork by Cielo Sand, VA, 6”x 6” Acrylic on canvas. Visit [Broadened Horizons Teaching Farm](http://Broadened Horizons Teaching Farm) to learn more about sustainable living. <http://sustainability-teaching-farm.com>

# Land Between the Lakes

David Nickell, Concept Zero

The Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (LBL) has a unique and controversial history that is proving to provide opportunities for its protection that are just as unique and controversial.

The 170,000 acre public land was established in the 1960s by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) when it forcibly removed the residents from the largest inland peninsula in the United States. Two thirds of LBL is in Kentucky, one third in Tennessee. Positioned between the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers, the 40-mile-long peninsula, with the Ohio River on the north end, averages about eight miles wide. It had not been the permanent residence of indigenous peoples since at least the Mississippian and Woodlands cultures. With the Tennessee River being the far western boundary of the United States at the end of the Revolutionary War, Land Grants were given to veterans before either Kentucky or Tennessee became states. The families who were forcibly removed in the 1960s for what was declared a “demonstration project in outdoor recreation and economic development” were largely descendents of those Revolutionary War veterans. Many had been in place for six or seven generations by then. They call themselves, Between the Rivers natives.

When TVA took steps to divest itself of all its non-power programs in the late 1980s and early 1990s, it released a plan to transform LBL into a destination that would “rival Disney Land,” in the words of a TVA planner. A professional grade golf course, a heritage theme park, condominiums along the many miles of undeveloped shoreline on both sides of the peninsula, and a hotel resort would make what TVA once described as a “playground for the rugged” into a financially profitable enterprise.

The former residents of what they still call “Between the Rivers” had maintained a strong sense of cultural connection to the land even after being “run off like a dog,” as they still describe the removals. They had fought the LBL project throughout the 1960s, with no support from the outside, where the people anticipated the promised economic boom that would come with the recreation area. Many held out until federal marshalls took them from their homes, which were then bulldozed and burned. Communities that no longer exist on the ground still hold dinners and work together to care for the more than 250 cemeteries, school and church sites, (even the churches were bulldozed and burned) and other places they deem important to their cultural heritage. When the development plans were announced, citizens rose up once again to defend what they still see as their homeland. The “demonstration,” touted by TVA in court cases, was that the LBL would remain “forever free to the public and undeveloped.” As tourists came for the “green magnet” of a solid 170,000-acre block of nature, with “no signs of civilization,” they would have to spend their money in the surrounding communities because there would never be even a drink or ice machine inside LBL.

This time, however, they found support. Local Chamber of Commerce types and county governments opposed TVA going into competition with local businesses. The many hunters and fishermen who had come to see LBL as a major wildlife preserve in their backyards did not want to see their hunting grounds developed. Hikers, mountain bikers, horseback

riders, and families who had come to LBL for picnics and nature hikes since grade school, saw the TVA plan as a threat to the place they had come to love. Thus, the first uneasy coalition of groups with very different perspectives and priorities came together for the single purpose of stopping the massive development plan. The result was a coalition which took its name from TVA’s published “Five Concepts for the Future of LBL.” “Concept Zero” WHAT IS CONCEPT ZERO? was intended to imply “none of the above”. The result, after many years of prolonged and heated battles with TVA and its affiliated developers, was the passing of the LBL Protection Act, which transferred LBL away from TVA management in late 1999.

It was during the height of that fight that members of Heartwood came to a meeting of Concept Zero, on a night when there appeared to be little hope of stopping the TVA plan, and offered assistance and guidance that proved to be a turning point in the fight. Heartwood and the Between the Rivers people wanted LBL to go to the National Park Service, but the expediency of the time combined with a concerted lobbying effort from the hunting groups meant that the easiest course of action was followed, and LBL went to the National Forest Service.

Over the course of the nearly 20 years since that time the Forest Service and the Between the Rivers people maintained an often bitter fight over the cultural heritage of the land and the people who still call it home, even 50 years after TVA first announced it would remove the families to establish LBL. The Forest Service did what the Forest Service did—increase logging and burning, fight preservation of any and all heritage sites, and mire any who opposed them in bureaucratic red tape. When it became clear that the agency had been working on a plan that would convert much of LBL’s hardwood forest into prairies and oak-grassland habitat, they finally took the step too far. Leaders of the Backcountry Horsemen’s Association, long time users of LBL, called the leadership of the Between the Rivers group for a meeting. They had sought out documentation of what the Forest Service had planned, and they didn’t want to see it happen. Contacts were made with other organizations representing users of LBL: hiking clubs, mountain bikers, kayakers, a local Jeep club, camping clubs, etc. Though they had vastly different perspectives and agendas, they all agreed they did not want to see LBL, the forest they all loved, be so massively transformed into a completely different type of habitat. Heartwood, Kentucky Heartwood, and Tennessee Heartwood stepped up to help work through the many differences to find the common ground.

A local county official was contacted. He was dubious of the attempt to oppose the Forest Service, as the federal agencies overseeing LBL provide payments to the counties in lieu of tax payments. However, he and his family camped and hiked in LBL. When he was shown the documentation, much of which was obtained by a Freedom of Information Act request from Kentucky Heartwood and Tennessee Heartwood, he contacted the heads of the other county governments that are dependant on LBL for tourism dollars. As one of the county officials described it, no one will drive their family for hours to hike in a logging site. The money lost to the counties from the decline in visitation to LBL would outweigh the payments from the LBL. The county governments had a reason to support the opposition. The new LBL Coalition was formed.

## Call It In...

by Earthdancer, Interwoven in the Shawnee Forest

Calling all forces for good, calling in the elemental energies, the spirits of the land and of the creatures that walk it, the spirits of the waters, and those that dwell within, the spirits of the air, and those that float and take wing on the wind. Calling to the ancient guardians of this planet and of its peoples. Calling on the long-sleeping force of the "mythological" beings of old. Calling on the directions, North, South, East, West. Calling on the Above and the Below. Calling on Center. See us through this time in a powerful and protective way. Give us courage and inner calm, foresight and preparedness for the battles we are fighting, and victories for the ones that are ahead. Give us clarity to see the moments of peace and to draw strength for our love and fortitude. Offer us answers in our dreams and support in our wakefulness. Calling on the Great Mystery, the benevolent powers of creation. Help us tap our higher calling, our magic and our bravery for the days to come, and for today.

~ Jan. 2018



Interwoven Permaculture Farm  
Golconda, IL

The LBL Coalition began holding meetings to inform the local public what was being done to LBL. Kentucky Heartwood’s Jim Scheff and Tennessee Heartwood’s Davis Mounger worked with the Lyon County, Kentucky Judge-Executive to produce a slide show and educational videos that were shown to the hundreds of people who came to the public meetings. Forest Service officials were invited to attend, and could only sit in the front row and attempt to

(Continued on page 13)

Kentucky Judge-Executive to produce a slide show and educational videos that were shown to the hundreds of people who came to the public meetings. Forest Service officials were invited to attend, and could only sit in the front row and attempt to respond to the outraged public members, many of them Between the Rivers natives, who demanded that their plans be halted. Because county officials were involved in the organizing of these events, local media, including TV and radio stations, covered the meetings and Coalition press releases, extensively.

A pinnacle of sorts was reached with the “8600 Tour,” which offered to take the public on a driving tour to compare for themselves the 8600 acre “demonstration area” the Forest Service touted as what it proposed for most of LBL to eventually become, with the Core Areas in LBL, which had not been logged or burned in decades as a result of a concession Concept Zero had made with TVA during its final years at LBL. Over 300 vehicles formed a caravan, accompanied by TV crews and newspaper reporters, that drove the backroads of LBL to see for themselves what the Forest Service would do, if left alone. The result was that the LBL management announced, nearly two years ago, that it was shelving the plans. No new logging projects have been proposed since then. Now, one of the projects they already had in place before the moratorium was announced is the Devil’s Backbone Project, in the far southern tip of LBL. This area contains a significant stand of short leaf pine, a rarity in the region, and the Forest Service had claimed it needed to log and burn the area to protect the short leaf pine stand. Much of what would be cut was mature short leaf pine! The Final Decision Notice had already been issued, and the timber was marked for bidding when the moratorium was announced. Even though all the legal hurdles had been cleared and there was essentially no chance of stopping the project if it went to a court of law, the court of public opinion prevailed and that project, too, was temporarily shelved.

In the late summer of 2017, the Forest Service arranged for a walking tour of the Devil’s Backbone Project Area with members of Kentucky Heartwood, Tennessee Heartwood, and Heartwood. The goal, we were told, was to see if there was a way to find common ground so that the Forest Service might develop an alternate means to achieve its goals in the project area. In early February of 2018 the Forest Service officials called key Coalition members to say it would be sending out invitations to loggers in the area, “just to see if anyone would be interested in bidding on the project.” That letter has been sent, and at the time of this writing, it is not known what the response has been. We do know that the management at LBL, like the management at all Forest Service units, is receiving tremendous pressure from Washington to increase the logging and decrease opposition from the “environmentalists.” The LBL timber manager has said the project will go forward but not until revisions to the original plan are made in an attempt at compromise on the major issues.

Jim Scheff, Davis Mounger, and I have been working on a possible proposal for a collaborative plan for LBL that might be acceptable to all parties: drastically reduce cutting of hardwood timber and still allow the LBL managers to meet their job requirements of doing at least some “management” of the

# Tumbling Creek under Attack in the Cherokee

by Davis Mounger, Tennessee Heartwood

For four years, Tennessee Heartwood has been monitoring and bringing attention to a proposed timber sale at Tumbling Creek in the southeast corner of the Cherokee National Forest in SE Tennessee. As part of the scenic Ocoee Whitewater River watershed, Tumbling Creek is a designated trout stream on the eastern slope of the Big Frog Wilderness.

Unfortunately, the Forest Service wants to do hundreds of acres of logging, including the following:

- 230 acres of clearcuts, shelterwood cuts, and seedtree cuts with burns and herbicides
- 356 acres of midstory thinning with burning & herbicides, including merchantable trees
- 444 acres of cut-and-leave midstory thinning

The real danger lies in the closeness of many of these cuts to Tumbling Creek, raising concerns about effects to water quality from logging. This concern is more urgent considering the topography of these stands. Many of them are on 40-60 percent slopes and contain what even the Forest Service acknowledges are “soils of concern”—soils that are highly sensitive to erosion and compaction from mechanical equipment.

Since this sale was first proposed four years ago, we have built an extensive case against this sale, borne from documenting what has happened when the agency has done logging at other sites with these soils. One, the Hogback sale, is only a dozen miles away and has eroded so badly at some logging sites that the Forest Service had to spend tens of thousands of dollars to remediate just one twenty-acre parcel with several other sites still eroding and failing to regenerate much more than briars and poplars.

We have documented these sites of past land abuse to make the case for leaving Tumbling Creek alone—the risk of ecological damage is too high. The years of watch-dogging the Forest Service have begun to pay off. Heartwooders have documented bare, eroding lands from other timber sales projects that have been a mix of typical “oak regeneration” and “forest restoration”. Local media has taken notice and has criticized the Tumbling Creek proposal in light of a pattern of misguided forest practices.

However, last fall, Forest Supervisor Jasal Morris chose to reject even considering our final objections using a clause from new forest regulations for the Forest Service that appeared in 2012. This clause states that a deciding official can dismiss a public objection if he/she can “demonstrate the connection to prior comments with specific violations of law, regulation, or policy”. This is not the case, as we have consistently restated our concerns continuously for four years in numerous public comment periods and meetings with the agency.

Fortunately, there is now a team ready to take the fight to court. Recognizing that a dangerous precedent could be set if the Forest Service prevails, Tennessee Heartwood, Heartwood, the Sierra Club, Knoxville attorney Shelby Ward and Southern Environmental Law Center attorney Sam Evans have come together to file suit in federal court. This could be a long fight, especially considering that the case is based both on ecological and NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) procedural issues—yet it is a case worth fighting for. Forest monitoring can be a long process, but it is times like these when patience pays off.

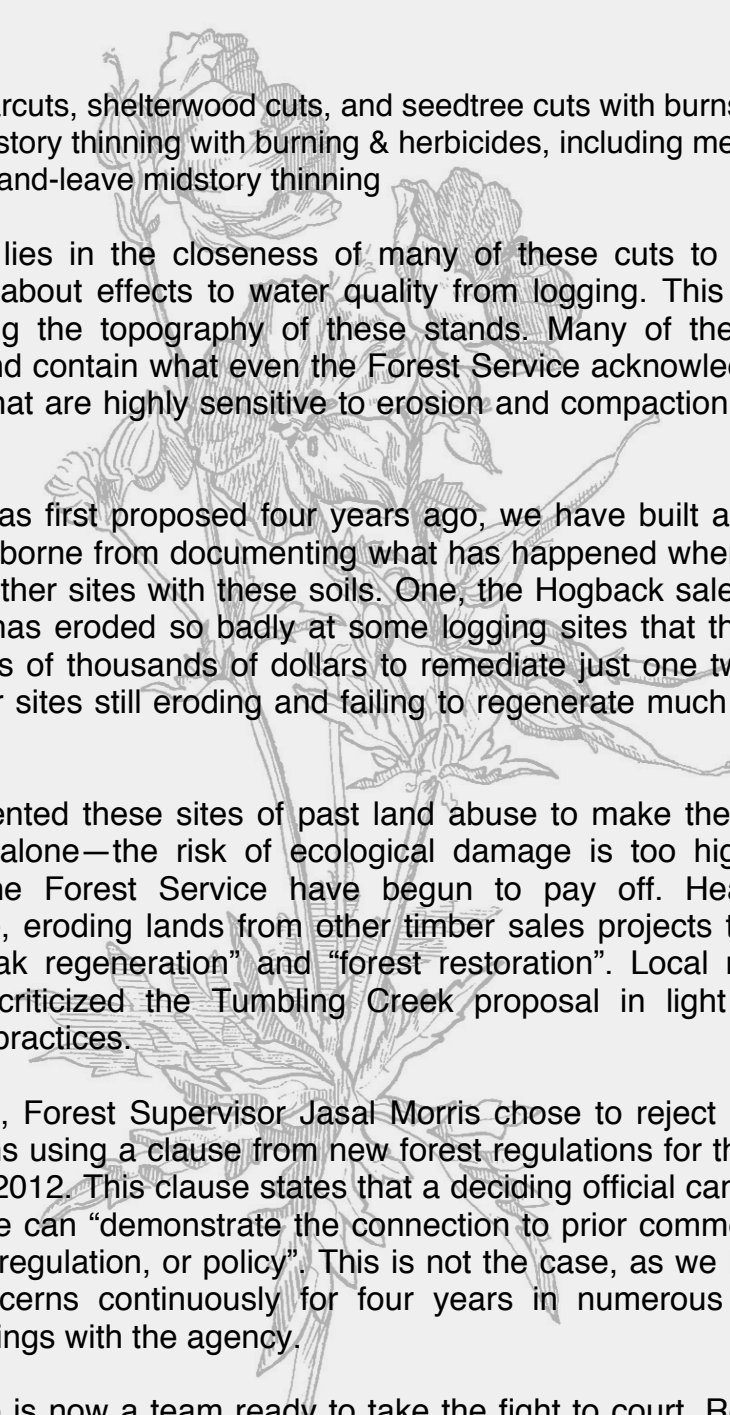
For more information, visit [www.tennesseeheartwood.org](http://www.tennesseeheartwood.org).

forest. Any bureaucrat with the word “manager” in their job title must find something to manage or risk being replaced by someone who will. It has been a hard learned lesson that most Forest Service managers develop projects with job security as their primary goal, not forest ecology. Finding ways for them to “check the box” without doing damage to the forest we are trying to protect is imperative to success. The other hard learned lesson is that it is exceedingly difficult to beat them in the court of law, but the court of public opinion can be much more sympathetic, if the case is prepared with equal diligence.

Within the past two weeks the LBL management has announced yet another new management position being formed (paying all those management salaries requires a lot of logging!), with the sole purpose of “building partnerships with public groups.” This could be an effort to work more closely with the

Coalition; or, it could be an effort to peel away member groups by offering each something that would divert them from their support of the Coalition. Time will tell, and we will hope for the best, and prepare for the worst, as we move forward.

The connection between the Between the Rivers people and Heartwood’s activists is strong. The county officials are still on board. The representatives of the LBL Coalition member groups are all wary of Forest Service duplicity and have no doubt about the long-term goal of returning to the logging agenda. When word went out that the Forest Service would be contacting potential bidders for the already approved Devil’s Backbone project, there was an outcry of people anxious for more public meetings and protests. In short, the game is still very much on in the 170,000 acres of LBL, and Heartwood remains at the center of the fight, where it has been now for decades. For more information contact [davidl.nickell@kctcs.edu](mailto:davidl.nickell@kctcs.edu).



# Frack Waste Facility Planned for Headwaters of the Allegheny

by Laurie Barr, Save Our Streams, PA

In April of 2016, Scott Blauvelt a representative of JKLM Energy LLC, an “unconventional” natural gas production company founded by Terry Pegula (owner of the Buffalo Bills and the Buffalo Sabres), presented Beverly Morris, the manager of the Borough of Coudersport in Pennsylvania with an idea to use the regional sewage plant as a location to dispose of their frack waste.

The borough manager passed the proposal onto the Coudersport Area Municipal Authority (CAMA) board members. CAMA’s April 2016 meeting minutes read; “JKLM has to haul their water long distances, such as Ohio, therefore their proposed idea involves the treatment plant being a location they can dispose of their fracking water.”

The following month CAMA and Epiphany Allegheny LLC, a company JKLM Energy LLC has a financial stake in, began cultivating the idea by signing a Letter of Intent (LOI), which outlines their plan. According to the LOI, Epiphany would pump fluid from their proposed pre-treatment facility to the sewage plant for further treatment and discharge to the Allegheny River under CAMA’s discharge permit.

On July 12, 2017, CAMA leased land next to the sewage plant to Epiphany, agreeing to pay for all the engineering and permitting costs. The board also agreed to cover premises improvements including purchasing gravel and fill material, hauling, dumping, leveling and compacting to prepare the site for Epiphany’s facility.

Epiphany agreed to reimburse CAMA by paying \$500.00 per month over the \$1,000 monthly rental if costs are \$25,000 or less. If the costs exceed \$25,000, Epiphany will pay \$700 per month in addition to the rent for the term of the (five-year) lease.

On January 22, 2018, during the board’s monthly meeting, George Stenhach, CAMA’s solicitor stated, “We’re talking about a major payment of fifty cents on a gallon.” He explained CAMA is looking at a project that would be in the “hundreds of thousands in terms of revenue if the project is successfully completed.” And the real elephant in the room—there’s no reimbursement agreement if permits are denied.

Since JKLM’s light-bulb moment, CAMA poured over \$24,000.00 (money received from sewage customers) into engineering and permit costs.

Epiphany Allegheny LLC has applied to the DEP for a facility permit. And CAMA is seeking authorization for a “Major Amendment of Change in Waste-stream” permit.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) submitted a letter to the DEP regarding the permit. In it the USFWS explains the federally endangered rayed bean mussel has been observed downstream of the sewage treatment plant. USFWS raised concerns over the allowable effluent limits of the sewage plant, explaining mussels “experience toxicity at concentrations below State and Federal aquatic life criteria for some contaminants.” The USWS recommended contaminant limitations on the discharge “should be no more than 10% above (i.e., within background variability) naturally occurring radioactive material concentrations upstream of the discharge.”

CAMA also applied for a Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit to prepare to site next to the sewage plant for the construction of the facility. The permit applications are being reviewed by the DEP. If approved, the facility would be “the first of its kind”, according to the DEP.

The Allegheny River originates in Potter County in north-central Pennsylvania (PA) and is part of the Ohio River Basin. It courses through the Borough of Coudersport to Eulalia Township at CAMA’s sewage plant and discharge point.

From CAMA’s outflow, the Allegheny travels north westerly into McKean County, crossing over the Pennsylvania state line at Portville, New York State (NYS), flowing through Olean and Allegany and the Seneca Nation before turning south and re-entering Pennsylvania.



Seneca Nation President Todd Gates wrote a letter to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. In it he expressed his strong objection to the issuance of any permits that would allow “discharging poisonous contaminants, the byproducts of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) into the Allegheny River.”

The Seneca Nation of Indians, Tribal Council also issued an official statement communicating the message that the health of the Ohi:yo’ (Allegheny River) is “non-negotiable.” Their letter indicated CAMA has a moral and legal obligation, “to keep the water clean and safe for generations to come.”

The American Indian Law Alliance also sent a letter to the DEP supporting the Seneca Nation, calling for the denial of the permits stating “If the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection were to allow this proposed plan to go forward, it would be directly violating Article 29 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which states:

*“1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programs for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.”*

*2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.”*

The Allegheny River empties into the 27 mile long

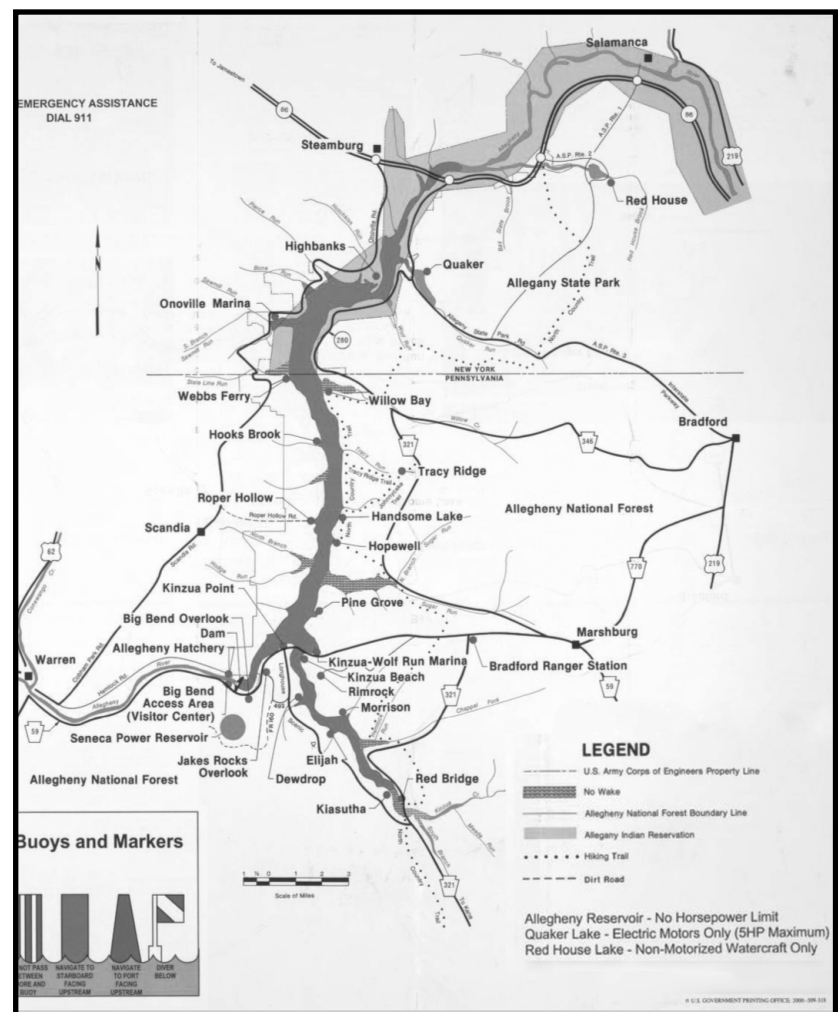
Allegheny Reservoir. The Reservoir was created in the 1960s with the construction of the Kinzua Dam on the upper Allegheny River. It was constructed to control flooding in the city of Pittsburgh, PA is 200 miles downstream. The reservoir water level is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. After the dam was completed, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flooded the Seneca Indian’s ancestral lands, forcing hundreds to

relocate. Many relocated to Salamanca, New York.

The reservoir straddles the border of PA and NYS. 14 miles of the reservoir is in Pennsylvania, and 13 miles is in New York State. The 7,647-acre Allegheny Reservoir is a major outdoor recreational attraction. Pittsburgh, PA the only metropolis along the Allegheny, draws 70 million gallons of drinking water from the Allegheny River daily.

After flowing through the Allegheny National Forest, the Allegheny continues south where it joins the Monongahela River in Pittsburgh creating the beginning of the Ohio River, ending in Cairo, Illinois, where it empties into the Mississippi River. The Allegheny River supplies sixty percent of the Ohio River’s flow.

(Continued on page 16)



# Burning CCA Wood in Backyard Fires

by Dave Cooper, KY

I have noticed that backyard fire pits have become a trendy item in the cities. It seems that Americans have finally discovered what Heartwood members have known for a long time: There is nothing like the cozy warmth of a campfire on a cool night to stimulate some good conversation. I love to just sit back and watch the flames: it's hypnotizing, and the jokes and stories start to flow so easily. I think fire naturally stirs our primal and ancient memories. It is the perfect setting for a get-together with friends, even smack in the middle of suburbia.

Many city people are fairly new to making fires, and they don't know the rules that are taught in scouting. Since good firewood can be hard to come by in many suburbs, some people will burn whatever is handy: cardboard or scrap wood, plywood, painted wood, and even scraps of chemically-treated wood left over from their old decks. They probably have no idea how dangerous this practice is. I found the following interesting post on Arboristsite.com by Ray Benson of Indiana about burning old deck wood which has been treated with Chromated Copper Arsenate, or CCA:

*"Incineration of [pressure-treated] CCA wood does not destroy arsenic. It is incredible, but a single 12 foot 2 x 6 contains about 27 grams of arsenic—enough arsenic to kill 250 adults. Burning CCA wood releases the chemical bond holding arsenic in the wood, and just one tablespoon of ash from a CCA wood fire contains a lethal dose of arsenic. Worse yet, arsenic gives no warning: it does not have a specific taste or odor to warn you of its presence. No one disputes that the ash from burning CCA wood is highly toxic: it is illegal to burn CCA wood in all 50 states. This has serious implications for firefighters, cleanup, and landfill operations."*

Even more astonishing, minute amounts of "fly ash" from burning CCA pressure-treated wood can have serious health consequences. The Journal of the American Medical Association reported on a family that burned CCA in a wood stove for winter heating. Their hair fell out, and all family members suffered severe, recurring nosebleeds, extreme fatigue, and debilitating headaches. The parents complained about 'blacking out' for periods of several hours followed by long periods of extreme disorientation. Both children suffered frequent seizures described as 'grand mal'. The symptoms were finally traced to breathing minute amounts of arsenic-laden dust leaking from the furnace as fly ash. The family's houseplants and fish died, too, victims of copper poisoning from the same dust. Source: Peters HA, et al JAMA 251:18, 2393-96, 1984.

So if you have ever wondered whether it is safe to roast marshmallows or weenies over a fire containing treated lumber, here is your answer. This information also makes me kind of leery about cooking food on the fire circles in public campgrounds. In some parts of eastern Kentucky, people burn tires in campgrounds—tires are easy to light, and they will burn all night. Night fishermen like to do this—some fishermen say it keeps the mosquitoes away!

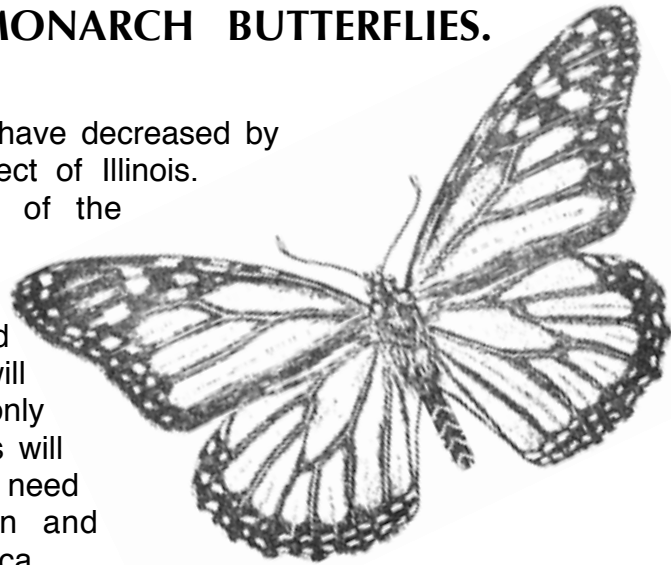
You can see the burned round wires from the tires in fire circles around the lakes and places where the four-wheelers camp out. Think of all the toxic materials found in tires!

Learning about this issue makes me wonder: how many other ways are we unknowingly exposed to poisons in our daily routines? With toxic products so omnipresent in our lives, and with people who vote for representatives and senators who promise "fewer government regulations," it's a wonder that cancer isn't even more common than it is.



# YOU CAN HELP MONARCH BUTTERFLIES. YES, YOU!!

Monarch butterfly numbers have decreased by 90%! This is the state insect of Illinois. This is the beloved icon of the Midwest.



What can you do to help?

Plant milkweed! Milkweed (about 12 different kinds will grow in the Midwest) is the only plants onto which monarchs will lay their eggs. Therefore, we need milkweed in every garden and along the roadsides of America.

## HOW TO GET MILKWEED SEED

For samples of three kinds of milkweed (varieties vary as to what is available) and lots of literature, send \$2 cash and a stamped, self-addressed, business-sized envelope to Milkweed For Monarchs Chairman, Kay MacNeil, 689 Golf Club Lane, Frankfort, IL 60423.

To receive 100 pretty packets of swamp (noninvasive asclepias incarnata) milkweed seed and copies of all milkweed literature, send a check payable to Kay MacNeil for \$30 (\$25 + \$5 for shipping). Packets are appropriate for weddings, baby showers, trick-or-treat offerings, etc.

For a drop box that will hold the swamp milkweed packets and has a donation slit, send Kay a check for \$12 (\$7 + \$5 for shipping).

For Big Acreage Projects: To receive bulk common (asclepias syriaca) milkweed in pods, call Kay at 815-469-1294, describe your big acreage project, and promise not to mow until October, and she will ship you free milkweed seed pods. Send her a check only for the metered postage on the top of the box.

To view Every Question about Monarchs Answered, visit Youtube.com and search "Kay MacNeil Milkweed To Monarchs." This video can be used as a free program for your organization. (DVD is \$10.) For more information, visit gardenclubsofillinois.org.

## Recipe for Non-Toxic Defoliant Herbicide

from Miriam Van Zant

Improved cooking oil recipe for each 32 oz spray bottle:

- 16 oz of 30% vinegar
- 1 full oz of Dishmate dish soap (1 oz = 2 TBSP)
- 6 oz cooking oil
- 9 oz of 5% vinegar

I used Schnuck's 100% canola oil. It was right out of the bottle, not used/strained. It was slightly past the expiration date, too, though I doubt that either matters. It seemed to work better than the 10 oz oil formula as well as or better than 4 oz of oil. It has more vinegar and soap than the previous oil formulas, though I had added a little extra 30% vinegar to compensate for so much oil with 10 oz.

It is possible that we can improve it further. Recently I heard that tea tree oil is a good additive. I have to read what I was just sent about that and then may have something to share about it. This new formula is also free of the more expensive additives. It is possible that adding orange oil soap, tea tree oil, or one of the other additives I've told you about may make it even more effective. We still have a way to go on this. If you are using concentrated vinegar as a defoliant, please let me know how it's working for you. [ccbgsi@gmail.com](mailto:ccbgsi@gmail.com)

**NOPE!!!  
Bad Idea!**



## What's in the waste... (Continued from page 14)

The waste generated by deep shale hydraulic fracturing (fracking) operations is known to contain Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) and chemicals and compounds that are highly toxic to mammals and aquatic life. On July 12, 2017, the American Chemical Society, one of the world's largest scientific societies published a peer-reviewed study in their online journal *Environmental Science and Technology*. The study was a collaborative effort by researchers from Penn State, Colorado State, and Dartmouth College. The researchers found radioactive material and endocrine-disrupting chemicals as far as 12 miles downstream of treatment plants that discharged treated waste from unconventional shale wells.

According to an EPA study titled "Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas: Impacts from the Hydraulic Fracturing Water Cycle on Drinking Water Resources in the United States," published on 12/12/2016, twenty five percent of the spills were caused by human error and thirty four percent were caused by equipment failure, and more than 30% of the spills were from fluid storage units (e.g., tanks, totes, and trailers).



Location of the proposed frack waste facility

In 2017, more than 63,000 gallons of natural gas drilling waste spilled into an unnamed tributary of the Loyalsock Creek while waste fluid was being transferred from one container to another.

Regulations do nothing to protect the environment, waterways, and the public's health from the spills caused by human error, equipment failure. Unintentional spills are likely.

Spilled waste water from unconventional shale wells have reached and impacted water resources.

### **These wastes contained the following:**

- Metals, including barium, manganese, iron, and strontium.
- Benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes (BTEX), and oil and grease.
- Radioactive materials.
- Endocrine disrupters and carcinogenic chemicals.

Storing and processing radioactive waste containing carcinogenic chemicals and discharging it into the Allegheny River is unacceptable. To learn more and help prevent this facility from jeopardizing the watershed millions of citizens rely on for their drinking water visit [www.savetheallegheny.org](http://www.savetheallegheny.org).

# Wayne National Forest Management Plan Revision Escalated

by Ohio Heartwood

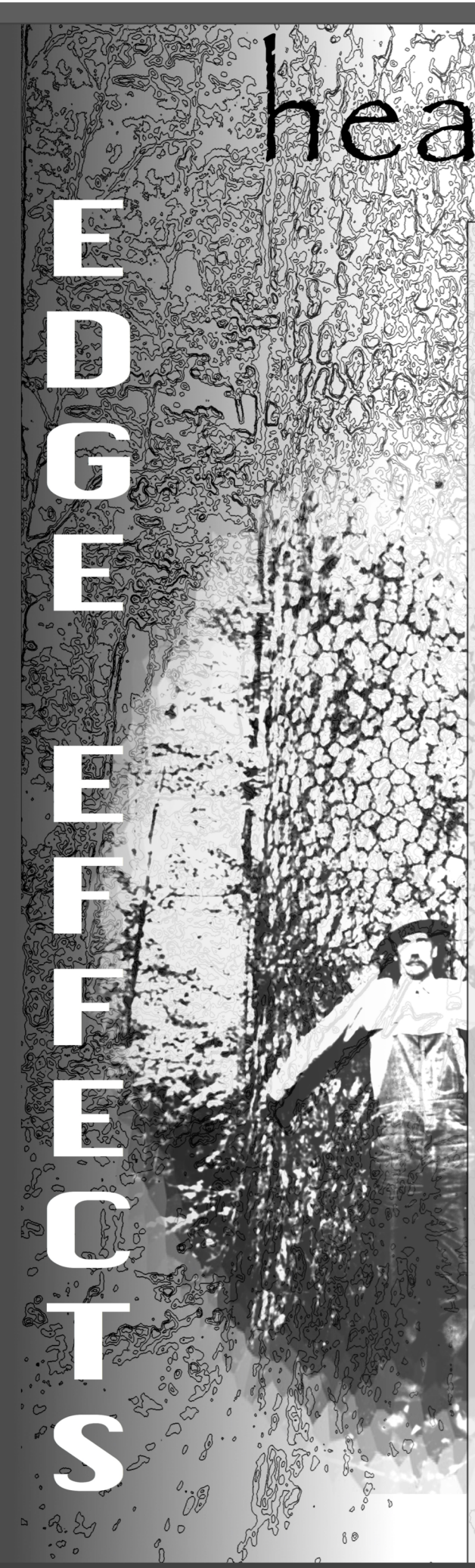
On February 13, 2018, the United States Forest Service (USFS) announced that it would be revising the Wayne National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan ("Plan"). Heartwood and other groups sued the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 2017 over the auctioning of mineral rights under the forest and tying that leasing decision-making to the outdated Plan.

Pointing to the fact that the outdated Plan does not contemplate the impacts to land, wildlife, and water resources caused by high volume hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"), Heartwood

and its litigation partners were told throughout the administrative process that the Forest Plan was adequate. Clearly, that is not the case, and the FS/BLM is now scrambling in response to the ongoing litigation.

In the last year, the FS/BLM has opened 40,000 acres of the Wayne to fracking and has already leased 2,300 acres to fracking companies with more auctions in the works.

The first meeting in the planning process that is expected to take two to three years is scheduled for March 21, 2018, in Columbus, Ohio. At least four other meetings are also being scheduled with dates to be announced. To keep tabs on the process, please visit Heartwood.org. You can also sign up for e-mail updates directly through the Wayne National Forest by visiting the following link: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/wayne/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fsm9\\_005991](https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/wayne/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fsm9_005991).



# heartwood

presents

28th Annual Forest Council

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Slippery Rock, PA

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*followed by creations from local filmmakers and art performances by*

**NotWhite Collective**

Saturday Keynote:

## Karen Coulter

*Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project, Oregon*

*Music by* **CHAI BABA, PHAT ManDee & Liz Berlin's Social Justice Disco!**

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  - Forest Gardens**
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  - Nature Hikes**
  - Kids' activities**

**Scholarships available!**



We have plenty of soft t-shirts for sale!

**Heartwood Treeguy** T-shirt Get yours now before they are all gone. They are natural, organic cotton with brown ink. Visit the website [www.heartwood.org](http://www.heartwood.org) or send us an email.

We appreciate the generous help from our sponsors listed on page 3!