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Fall 2016

*The leaves fall,
the wind blows,
and the farm country
changes from
the summer cottons
into its winter wools.*

--Henry Beston



Warm days and cool nights are upon us, and it is time for the last issue of the Forest Friend for 2016.

Our lead article from the superintendent reveals exciting news regarding trail construction and building upgrades in the park. Other content includes updates on the Spotted Salamander Trail renovation and the ruling to end active mining on the KD2 site adjacent to Kanawha State Forest.

There are several summaries of guided hikes from the Margaret Denison Nature Walks and the annual Rock the Park event is reviewed.

Our series on the early industrial activities on KSF land is continued. There is a touching personal remembrance of former KSFF matriarch, Shirley Schweizer. Also, you will be introduced to two of our newest Board members as they complete their first year of service.

Finally, we hope you enjoy the change of seasons and have an opportunity to experience the colors of fall on the painted landscape of Kanawha State Forest.

Bill Hall, Newsletter Editor - sawrhall@suddenlink.net

Events Calendar

Click link above for a complete listing of events at KSF

**Monday, November 14
6:30 pm**

**KSFF Annual Meeting of the General Membership
to nominate and elect new Board Members
followed by the
Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors
to elect officers**

**Kanawha State Forest Nature Center
(located in swimming pool building)**

All Members Welcome & Encouraged to Attend
Please Join Us!

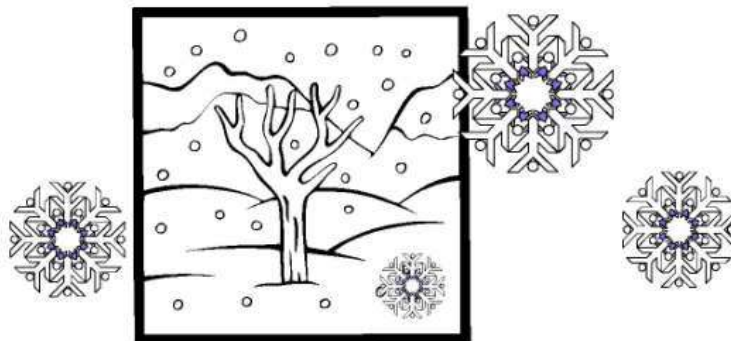
* * * * *

**Saturday, January 22
2:00 pm**

Shirley Schweizer Winter Walk

2017 SHIRLEY SCHWEIZER WINTER WALK

Saturday, January 22, 2:00 P.M.
Kanawha State Forest



Join Doug Wood for an Ecology Walk in the Woods

"Barking up the Right Tree"

We will focus on tree bark, its characteristics,
its physiological importance to trees,
its uses by humans and wildlife,
and its ecological role in a forested environment

Meet at the Swimming Pool Area

Enjoy Hot Drinks, Hot Soup, and Snacks!
Dress according to weather, especially footwear!

Free to All — Donations Appreciated!

For more information call 304-558-3500

Sponsored by
Kanawha State Forest Foundation and Mary Ingles Trail Blazers

From the Desk of the Superintendent

by Kevin Dials

Fall is upon us at the Forest. The leaves are slowly changing colors, and the mornings are cool. Forest staff have been working hard to complete several improvement projects.

Multiple work parties have been hosted at the Spotted Salamander Trail. More work is to come as the signs still need to be installed and the parking lot needs to be striped. Work on the last section of Middle Ridge Trail is being completed currently. We are closing out the Recreational Trails Grant that was started years ago under superintendent John Hendley. The trail starts near the top of Teaberry Rock Trail on Middle Ridge Road and works its way down through Pheasant Run Hollow and will



terminate in the field below the pond, near the entrance. The deadline to finish the project is October 31.

Interviews will be scheduled soon for the vacant assistant superintendent position. Once that critical role is filled, we will push forward to our next project. This winter, we will begin renovating the pool bathhouse and converting it into our new office. The layout will include a gift shop, museum space, offices for superintendent and assistant, and a meeting room. The nature center will remain in the snack bar area of the building and could possibly see some upgrades.

We kicked off our fall season on Labor Day weekend with the third annual Rock the Park. The event was again a success, and hundreds of people showed up to partake in the fun. See more details elsewhere in this newsletter. The next weekend, we

hosted the Margaret Denison Fall Nature Walks followed by the annual raptor program presented by the Three Rivers Avian Center.

Saturday bird walks will continue through the end of October. On Sunday, October 23, we will again host the Fall Foliage Hike at 2:00 p.m. We plan to meet at the Spotted Salamander trail and depart from there to hike White Hollow Trail. At the top we will make a short side trip to the power line overlook for photo opportunities.

In December, naturalist Sara Miller plans to arrange a Christmas Bird Count. Date and time are to be announced.

In January we will be hosting the First Day Hike and Shirley Schweizer Winter Walk again. Check for event postings at www.kanawhastateforest.com/events.

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Spotted Salamander Update

Numerous volunteers as well as KSF staff have contributed many hours repairing bridges and completing additional trail renovations. Forest intern, Diana Aliff, naturalists Carolyn/Frank Barker, Doug Wood, and others helped to identify plants and research content for the interpretive signs for sighted persons. Photos for the signs are courtesy of Carolyn Barker, Jack King, Chris Dorst, Jennifer Bauman, Cody Hough, Rick Steelhammer, and CreativeCommons.org.

September 9 was a highly productive day when dozens of volunteers from the Young Contractors Forum CAWV installed more than a hundred guideposts and ropes for the blind. Staff members from the WV School for the Blind and Rick Henderson of the WV Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services have provided guidance on the design of braille signage and safety issues. Jennifer Bauman, Jimmy Lynch, and Bill Hall put a fresh coat of paint on the picnic shelter next to the newly paved parking lot.

The back panels for the interpretive signs were cut in October by Jimmy, and Barbara Koster added additional eye bolts to stabilize the guide ropes. The signs should be erected by the end of October, and there are plans for a ribbon cutting ceremony soon

afterward. Volunteers are still needed to sand and restain both bridges on the trail. If available, please send an email to

SpottedSalamanderTrail@gmail.com

You can see photos and follow all the progress of the trail renovation on the [Spotted Salamander Trail Facebook page](#).

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Rock the Park

The third annual Rock The Park end of summer celebration at Kanawha State Forest was held under sunny skies on Saturday, September 13. This event is hosted by the Hot Rod Devils to promote the Forest and to support the Kanawha State Forest Foundation.

The weather conditions were ideal and there were numerous activities to entertain every member of the family. Of course, the main attraction was 60-70 classic cars and trucks displayed over the grounds and the entire adjacent parking lot. The most unusual were several antique hearses circling the fence of the old cemetery plot.

Hay bales were available for seating while enjoying a line-up of musical performers including a singer-songwriter and four regional bands. The children in the crowd found a Hot Wheels race track, a six-hole Putt-Putt course, inflatable archery, and face painting. Food and cold refreshments could be had from Dem 2 Brothers and a Grill and Kona Ice vendors.

Everyone was encouraged to visit the nearby Spotted Salamander Trail and learn about the improvements which are underway under the eager direction of KSFF member Jennifer Bauman. Many thanks to her for preparing information and greeting

tables at both sites and to the volunteers who staffed them.

The Foundation is grateful to the organizers and sponsors of Rock The Park, and we are already looking forward to the next event on Labor Day weekend in 2017!

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Meet KSFF's Board Members

Rob O'Quinn



Rob was born in Jacksonville, Florida but grew up in Charleston from four years of age. He graduated from George Washington and Marshall University. He is married and has two grown sons, three large dogs, and one cat. He worked in Marketing, Business Development, and Sales Management in the healthcare industry for 27 years and has always loved the outdoors and nature as well as gardening. In December 2015, he opened a unique nature and songbird shop in Hurricane called Birds, Blooms, and

Butterflies By Design. The focus is on specialized American-made products for your yard, house, and person. There is a website and Facebook page for his store and the contact number is 304-562-BIRD.

Dana Rowsey



A long-time visitor to Kanawha State Forest, Dana is an 18-year veteran of the Charleston Police Department including 8 years as a detective. He is currently a uniformed patrol officer. He is a veteran of the Iraq war and served as a combat medic. Dana is a wilderness first aid instructor for the Red Cross and a search and rescue instructor for the National Association for Search and Rescue. He also owns a small business, Elk River Bushcraft, where he teaches a basic tracking course for law enforcement and search and rescue. He facilitates other activities through ERB, such as flintknapping and wood carving. Dana is also a Boy Scout troop committee chair in Elkview.

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Nature Quiz

Q: This is a winged insect which migrates by the hundreds of thousands annually from the northeastern US (including Kanawha State Forest) and southeast Canada to spend the winter in the forested highlands of central Mexico.

For the answer, [CLICK HERE](#)

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Margaret Denison Fall Nature Walks September 10, 2016

There were about 100 participants for the annual Fall Nature Walks hosted by the KSFF on Saturday, September 10. The conditions were comfortable with warm and sunny weather. Diverse themes for the various walks included wildflowers, trees and shrubs, mushrooms, birds and general ecology, edible and useful plants. Of special interest to children were “aquatic life” and “nature for kids and parents.”

Leaders reported a relatively even distribution of walkers so none were overcrowded. Delicious, low-cost barbecue sandwiches and cold drinks were served to hungry attendees when they returned from their approximately three-hour excursion. One lucky participant won a two-night stay for two at Tygart Lake State Park which was donated for our raffle by the Department of Natural Resources. Many remained and joined new arrivals for a presentation by Three Rivers Avian Center (TRAC) following our event. This is an entertaining and educational program featuring live raptors expertly handled by Ron and Wendy Perrone.

As always, we express our gratitude to all volunteers who made this event a success. We owe special thanks to Jim Waggy, Martha Hopper, Carolyn and Frank Barker, and Rita Dale as well as superintendent Kevin Dials. We consistently receive plaudits for our hike leaders and their assistants for helping make the learning experience fun for all. You can read more about the highlights and summaries of several walks elsewhere in this newsletter.

Edible and Useful Plants Hike

Tim Blevin, Master Naturalist

The weather was very cooperative and I would describe the day as near perfect. We piled out of our vehicles onto Range Road, and I sensed that everyone (a total of 16 adults and children) was eager to learn as we gathered around our guide, Rebecca Linger. Rebecca is a treasure of knowledge especially in the area of edible and useful plants. Before she could even begin her introduction, a few of the participants began picking her brain about the plants they were seeing. Two assistants, Myra Simmons and I, were included in the total, but as the count taker, I resisted the temptation to include the four dogs (two Jack Russell Terriers and two Chihuahuas).

Early in her presentation Rebecca introduced us to the doctrine of signatures whereby some plants gained their names by what body part they resembled or where they grew which indicated what ailment the plant was good for treating. To illustrate this, plants such as Golden Rod and Joe Pye were brought to our attention. Joe Pye, she explained, was commonly found growing near shallow creek beds in gravelly soil. Therefore, it was used for treating the gravel, or what we would call kidney stones today. I found the historical significance of the doctrine of signatures to be one of the most interesting parts of her discussion.

The species of plants we encountered were far too numerous to include in this article, but the use plants such as Jewel weed, Spice Bush, and Iron weed were noted. We learned that while some plants such as Beechnuts are not particularly useful for humans they are an important part of the diet of wildlife such as Turkey.

My impression of this walk was that the hands-on and practical learning experience was one participants will not soon forget. We used our senses to see, smell, and feel the plants we encountered. I noticed many were intrigued when feeling the stem of the Sedge and were somewhat amazed at its near perfect triangular shape. The highlight of the walk was when a girl, maybe in the third grade, wanted to take a Joe Pye flower home and plant it. I thought she really connected with what was being

said. You never know, this walk may shape her future life by helping her to make choices concerning her career. At a minimum it will give all who took part an appreciation for plants that they may not have had before. In my book that's a win for everyone.

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Wildflower Hike

by Bill Hall

Our group of eight women and five men was led by Jerry Westfall on a beautiful morning up and back down Middlelick Fork in search of wildflowers and other botanical species. Plant species were identified by both their common and Latin scientific names by Jerry, and all were listed by me as assistant.



Many were located by their leaf structure or general shape as we were past the flowering period for spring bloomers. Also many of the fall flowers were in early stages of blooming but some were showy including the beautiful Cardinal Flower and Great Lobelia as well as the relatively rare Downy Lobelia. Others in full bloom were Wingstem, hollow and sweet-scented Joe Pye weed, Mistflower, Spotted and Pale Jewelweed or Touch-me-not, Ironweed, and a single False Foxglove.

The prominent mixed white and dark purple berries of American Spikenard (a member of the ginseng family) were a unique find. We counted eight species of goldenrod. Of special interest to me was Silverrod which is the only white goldenrod. Three different species of aster were seen as well. In all, we counted over 60 different wildflowers and other species such as the parasitic beechdrops, delicate

Grape fern, and sourwood trees lining the Shrewsbury trail. The spiny Hercules Club or Devil's Walking stick was found in the arboretum area.

Overall, I would describe our hike as a relaxing, educational and fun experience expertly led by a congenial and patient naturalist. Here's hoping for a re-run at the spring nature walks!

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Nature for Kids and Parents

by Ray Boggs

Eager, engaged, and excited describes a group of seven children and four parents who participated in the hike entitled, "Nature for Kids and Parents." Kevin Cade, a veteran Naturalist, led the group with two assistants, Lynn Hartman and Ray Boggs. The hike began with an examination of a spicebush where a few berries were examined for what gives the shrub its name. Attendant to the shrub was a spider and web that got lots of attention. Happily, it remained intact as the hike proceeded. A large grapevine was observed and then "Daddy, Daddy, take my picture" caused heads to turn toward one hiker swinging and posing for her request to be honored.

A larger spider with a huge egg sac was observed closely after one hiker informed the group to be extra careful. The group followed her caution. Two different butterflies were noted and also the detached wings of another. One participant without any emotion let the group know that a bird probably caused the situation which allowed us a closer look at a butterfly wing. Purple, red, yellow, and orange flowers were noted from our checklist among with more specific names for identification. The orange or spotted jewelweed received a lot of attention as each participant had the opportunity to help nature along by squeezing a nature pod and dispersing the seeds.

No birds were noted in or around the bird or bat houses. However, small holes in single rings around a nearby tree were noted. Upon closer inspection, many more holes were observed. A bird with the name of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker created all the holes. Not only sap but insects would be drawn to the holes to provide food. The hike proceeded to a stream that provided more opportunity for close observations. Eventually, two small fish and two crawfish were caught in a container. Everyone got to look closely and often at eye level at the captives. They were later released back into the stream.



Many "If it is hairy, it is scary" vines were noted on several trees, but the actual leaves of poison ivy were not seen. The state tree, sugar maple, was noted along with hemlock, oak, and elm. Umbrella magnolia received attention when a dried leaf was compared to the length of our arms. No attempt was made to get an "umbrella" from the tree, which flowed nicely into the regulations of plant life within the forest and the need for their protection. Farther along, a buckeye tree was pointed out and a serious search began. An actual buckeye with the smooth and

shiny brown surface was handled along with one that still had an intact hull.

Proceeding on up behind the campsite, a stone wall drew a few participants for climbing. A brief history of the area was given. Not far from the stone wall was a trail leading to an abandoned mine. While that drew some enthusiasm, some tummies of other hikers helped us decide to save that trail for another time. Each person was then asked to find

evidence of coal that had been found in the region and another enthusiastic search was on.

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Birds and General Ecology Hike

by Sara Miller

This hike was led by Sara Miller and Laura Ceperly with assistance from Gene Duncan. The walk took the group of 11 participants along the road in Polly Hollow and back to the parking area to look out over the Spotted Salamander Trail.



The birds were largely quiet and concealed on this morning. We caught glimpses of Vireos, watched a Ruby-throated Hummingbird or two hover and dart through the foliage, and caught sight of a teetering Turkey Vulture as it glided by overhead.

Our focus was to detail some information about beginning birding and about bird migration, viewing birds during migration, and other areas in the state that provide such opportunities. Kanawha State Forest flora also provided interest and intrigue. To name a few: Umbrella Magnolia, Tulip Poplar, Spicebush Vs. Autumn Olive as sources of food for migratory birds, Hogweed aka Giant Ragweed, Cardinal Flower, Beech Drops, Hog-peanut, Joe-pye Weed or Queen of the Meadow, Tall Bell Flower, and Wingstem.

Despite not having many views of the birds, participants enjoyed being out in the forest, taking in the day and the surroundings.

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Stream Ecology Hike

by Diane Green

With a forecast of 90-degree temperatures, Saturday, September 10, was a perfect day for an adventurous foray into the cool waters of Davis Creek. Diana Green and Debby Mullins, who monitor water quality for the Davis Creek Watershed Association, were this year's aquatic nature walk leaders. At least 15 adults and children participated in the fun and educational experience.

The group first gathered in Shelter 9 around a large stream ecosystem display for a brief presentation about the animals, insects, and crustaceans that live in and around Davis Creek. They learned that certain of those species are indicators of the clean, healthy ecosystem of the stream's headwaters, while others are more tolerant of water pollution.



Then, armed with a seine, buckets, and wading shoes, the group started their on-stream exploration below the shelter at the lower end of the swimming pool area parking lot.

The children quickly and enthusiastically joined in the sampling process, holding the net and rolling the rocks to uncover any "benthic macroinvertebrates" that might have been hiding there. They were thrilled to discover a frog and many crayfish on the way up the stream. In fact, a particularly large crayfish was the highlight of the walk.

The catch from each riffle was placed in a large bucket as we moved upstream.

Once all the collection was completed, the group went back to the shelter where the “catch” was transferred into large, water-filled trays so that all “critters” could be identified. In addition to a very large number of crayfish, darters, minnows, stoneflies, mayflies, caddisflies, a riffle beetle, an aquatic worm, dragonfly nymphs, and water striders were collected. It was a fun morning for all and all creatures were returned to the stream.

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Trees and Shrubs Hike

by Rob Bailey

A group of about 10 Master Naturalists (some in the current tenth year class and others from previous classes) conducted a field study of trees and shrubs as part of the Margaret Denison Nature Walks.

The educational walk was led by Ted Jones, assisted by Rob Bailey. The route circled the pool parking lot and extended into the arboretum area. Species identified and discussed included three different maples, Witch Hazel, and Sourwood.

There were numerous “stories” about trees with an emphasis on their beneficial uses and place in our everyday and natural environments. Students and leaders alike shared a fun experience in their forest classroom.

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Shirley's Corner

by Carolyn Barker

Usually Shirley’s Corner has some historical news article or history about Kanawha State Forest as the topic, but I would like to extend an invitation to our readers to share your most memorable or exciting times in KSF. Sometimes folks think what they have to say would not be very interesting to others. Please remember that there are some that can no longer get out and walk the trails as in times past, and to those people, your personal story could paint a beautiful picture in memory that could be relived and enjoyed again and again.

During visits with Shirley she would always ask about the different plants that we found or inquire where we had been hiking. Thanks to Shirley pointing the way, Frank and I found the Green Violet and the Pencil Flower. She would share her knowledge and memories and loved it when others shared theirs as well. Shirley was always glad when people would gather in the forest to enjoy the natural beauty, for in doing so, they would leave with a deeper appreciation of our beautiful resource. Please feel free to send your submissions for Shirley’s Corner or the Newsletter in general to Bill Hall at the following email address: williamreesehall@gmail.com

Reminder: In a few short months we will enter into 2017, and it will once again be time for the Shirley Schweizer Winter Walk. The date is posted in this newsletter, so please mark your calendars and come out to the Forest to join in fellowship with like-minded individuals who enjoy nature. Doug Wood will be sharing his knowledge and most assuredly will be entertaining as well. There is always a variety of good hot soups to warm us up when we return from the outing.



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Shrewsbury Lands of KSF

Part 3: Transition to Industrial Development

by Carl McLaughlin, KSFF Historian

Recap from Part 1: In 1881 capitalists from Boston, MA, began a mining enterprise. By 1888 capitalists from Cumberland, MD, had taken control through a re-organization.

Recap from Part 2: Mr. and Mrs. David A. and Eugenia Nease chartered the Kanawha and Coal River Coal Company (K&CRCC) in 1901 and the Black Band Coal & Coke Company (BBC&CC) in 1902.

Part 3: By June 1904, all of the assets of the K&CRCC were held by the BBC&CC. In June 1906, Adolphus Busch, one of the country's wealthiest brewers from St. Louis, Missouri, had bought out the controlling interest in BBC&CC. David Nease remained president. Busch's deal involved about \$750,000 as reported in the Coal Trade Journal, Vol. 45. By June 1907 BBC&CC and Busch were involved in a breach of contract lawsuit. In this case the value of the BBC&CC was claimed to be \$3,000,000. As a result of this litigation, Busch ordered the closing of the company's branch office in Cincinnati as well as all mines in West Virginia for much of 1908.

Yet, at the beginning of 1908, many members of the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company had been serving as officers and directors of the BBC&CC Board. August A. Busch, Adolphus' son, was a director at this time and by June 1908 had become president. One of his first changes was the transfer of the principal office at Black Band Station near Spring Hill (Kanawha County), WV, to the city of St. Louis. Adolphus Busch died in 1913 and left an estate worth approximately \$60,000,000. August Anheuser Busch, his son, served as the next president and CEO of Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. from 1913 to 1934.

The BBC&CC story went into the 1920's and then concluded in one last round of litigation. This will be covered in Part 4.

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Nature Quiz Answer: Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

Their journey begins in September and October and is considered one of the most remarkable natural phenomena in the world. They rest and breed in highland firs and people flock to stand among them and view the spectacle. They start the

● return trip around March, arriving around July. No individual butterfly completes
● the entire round trip and at least five generations are involved in the annual cycle. ●



A Big Thank You!

to the the following for their generous donations:

Hot Rod Devils Auto Club

John Rawlins

Evan Buck

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Stephen & Jane Roberts, Poca
Ray Boggs, Charleston
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Jim & Donna McCune Family, Scott Depot
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KSFF Membership & Donations

The Kanawha State Forest Foundation depends on your dues and donations. The Forest needs your support. Something always needs to be repaired, renovated, or rebuilt at the Forest, and there is never quite enough in the budget from the State. Your membership dues are the fixers for the Forest.

The Foundation membership year is January 1 through December 31. Membership renewals are due by January 1 of each year. Please help the Forest by keeping your membership is up to date!

Make checks payable to: Kanawha State Forest Foundation
Send to: John K. Fischer, Treasurer, 100 Wills Drive, Charleston, WV 25309

- Family Membership – \$25
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