



The Forest Friend
Quarterly Newsletter of the
Kanawha State Forest Foundation

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Spring 2016



*Spring is the time of year when it is summer
in the sun and winter in the shade.*

Charles Dickens

Spring has arrived and with it the Osbra Eye Memorial Wildflower Walks were held on Saturday, April 16. The day was picture perfect, and there was a diverse lineup of hikes for the 150+ participants to choose from. You can look forward to summaries of the various walks and educational activities in the next Forest Friend.

For our current issue, we have the first of a series of articles on the [early industrial history of KSF land](#) as well as more recent background in [Shirley's Corner](#). There is information on a [bird survey](#) underway in Polly Hollow as well as the progress on our [arboretum](#). We have a reminder of the monthly [night hikes](#) and a promotion for the [Webster County Nature Tour](#), which may interest our naturalist members. Our lead is a [message from KSFF Chairman](#), Chuck Jones, and look for the answer to our last [Nature Quiz](#).

Please note that annual memberships are due on January 1. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2016, please do so today! Information on [membership renewal](#) can be found at the end of this newsletter.



Events Calendar

Board Meeting of the KSF Foundation

Monday, May 9

6:30 pm

**Nature Center at Kanawha State Forest
(located next to the swimming pool)**

**All Members Welcome
Please Join Us!**

* * * * *

Songbird Saturday

Saturday, April 30

Coffee at 8 am

Birding between 8:30 and 11:30 am

Bring your binoculars if you have them
Meet at Polly Hollow
Admission is Free

* * * * *

Night Hikes

Tuesday, June 3

and the first Tuesday of every month all summer

8:30 pm

Meet at the Dunlop Hollow Parking Area
2.5 - 3 miles - Level Ground
Bring a Light Source
Admission is Free

* * * * *


**WV Birthday Celebration
with the Valley Community Band**

Sunday, June 19

3:00 pm

Held at the Swimming Pool Area. No charge. Birthday cake provided. For additional information, call the park office, 304-558-3500. (See flier below with details.)

* * * * *



Kanawha State Forest
West Virginia Birthday Celebration
Sunday, June 19, 2016, at 3 p.m.

With the
Kanawha Valley Community Band

Bring Your Own Lawn Chair
and a Picnic!!
Celebrate Father's Day, too!!

No Charge – Donations Appreciated







West Virginia Birthday
Cake Provided

Location: Swimming Pool Area
Close to Parking Lot

sponsored by
Kanawha State Forest Foundation

Concert Dedicated to
Charles E. "Chuck" Ellison
and Lee C. McMillan

For More Information, Call 304-558-3500



Musings of the Chairman

by *Chuck Jones*

How reassuring it is to see people with a common interest coming together to strengthen their resolve in that purpose. The Osbra Eye Spring Wildflower Walks required much planning, organization, and cooperation, but the walks—all eleven—went so smoothly that no one would realize the extreme effort required.

Few of the dozens who attended the Walks were members of Kanawha State Forest

Foundation, but possibly some were inspired by their experience to become a member in the future.

When you stop to think about the master naturalists who led the Walks, the volunteers who prepared the food and furnished cookies, the acquisition of door prizes, the maintenance of Kanawha State Forest and its facilities, the registration process, signage, and silent auction of relevant books and even backpacks—the list goes on and on. The Walks were amazing!



As members of Kanawha State Forest Foundation and citizens who appreciate this great recreational and learning opportunity, we can be proud of our friends and colleagues who made it possible.

Did you know that what is now Kanawha State Forest was, less than a century ago, a coal mine and community of miners and their families? Its rebirth as a modest but majestic taste of natural wonders boggles the mind.

Make every opportunity to enjoy this place a reality!

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Arboretum Update

by Bill Hall

On April 2, ten volunteers joined our arborist, Chris Gatens, to form a work group



tasked with improving our Forest arboretum located in the CCC camp area behind the pool. Chris had spent considerable time preparing for the activity which allowed us to be efficient with our time. Under his supervision, several Bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*) and American Crabapple (*Malus coronaria*), were

transplanted on the site and tagged for identification. Common Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) and American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) were planted as well.

Protective fencing was placed around several plants that were vulnerable to deer browsing or inadvertent mowing. These included the Eastern Wahoo, Mountain Laurel, and the American Holly. Worn or tattered flagging on existing specimens was replaced. Finally, patches of invasive Multiflora Rose were hand pulled from the streambank flowing through the arboretum.

This was also an educational experience as we enjoyed learning about the emerging spring wildflowers in the area (including a fine cluster of Bluebells) with Chris as our expert botanist. Many thanks to the participants and our arboretum continues to grow and mature.

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Songbird Saturdays



Songbird Saturdays were held each weekend in April in the Forest and were led by naturalist Sara Miller. Each day started with coffee and conversation followed by songbird and wildflower walks beginning in Polly Hollow. Participation was free.

The events have been described as educational and relaxed in pace through a variety of habitats. Hikers could learn more about wildflower and/or fungus identification and lore, birding by sight

and sound, and nature photography.

Data have been collected on the number of individual birds and species located during each walk. Recent data from April 2 listed 45 individuals and 22 different species of birds.

This ongoing survey may be used as a birding guide for Polly Hollow and specifically to track bird phenology in Kanawha State Forest (the scientific study of the influence of climate on annual phenomena such as of budding and bird migration).

The next bird walk is April 30, with coffee at 8, followed by birding between 8:30 and 11:30 am. Bring your binoculars if you have them. For more information, call 304-558-3500 or visit www.kanawhastateforest.com.

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Night Hikes

by Bill Hall

Join leader Barb Koster of the Kanawha Trail Club for a night hike in the Forest on the first Tuesday of every month during the summer. These hikes are an opportunity to learn to recognize the sounds of the Forest after dark.

Mark your calendar for the next hike on Tuesday, June 3, at 8:30 pm. Meet at the Dunlop Hollow parking area.

The hike covers two and one-half to three miles on fairly level forest road. Bring a light source, such as flashlight or head lamp.



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Shirley's Corner

A reminder to all as to why we have Shirley's Corner: *Submissions to Shirley's Corner are made in tribute to Shirley Schweizer. She was always looking for ways to promote Kanawha State Forest and get people excited about the beautiful resource that is available to them. We submit articles from time to time that appeared in the newspapers when it all began in order to stir up your interest in Kanawha State Forest.*

From the *Charleston Gazette* April 14, 1940

CCC Camp Near Charleston Invites Visitors

Occasion for Charlestonians to become acquainted with the CCC Camp nearest them and the 7,000 acre Kanawha State Forest only a few miles away will come next Friday when Company 2599 joins a nationwide celebration of the Corps' seventh birthday. The entire camp and all work projects in the forest will be open for inspection beginning at 10:00 a.m., and the camp personnel will conduct visitors to all points of interest, it was announced yesterday.

General Holt; Major H. W. Shawhan, Conservation director; and Major H. A. Crigger, Commanding Officer of the West Virginia district CCC, have been personally invited along with other prominent citizens and families of all enrollees. In addition, a blanket invitation has been issued to the public. The day also will mark the second anniversary of this camp on Davis Creek to which the company moved in April 1938 from Camp Boone at Keith.

Forestry Officials have arranged picnic areas for all wishing to bring their lunches and drinking water. Shelters, tables, benches, fireplaces, and an ample supply of cut firewood will be found within short distances of the camp, it was promised. By automobile the camp may be reached either via Loudon Heights road, through Coal Hollow and left up Davis Creek, or through Hernshaw on Rt. 119. The road has been extended into camp. Of chief interest to many is the concrete dam across Davis Creek a mile and a half below camp which the CCC enrollees under Supt. C.E. Barrett have under construction one of the largest projects the corps has ever attempted in the state. When completed and operating, it is to form an artificial lake. The camp and forest are accessible to Sunday visitors.

Last summer, large weekly crowds visited the forest and with better roads it is expected to become a local showplace.

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Webster County Nature Tour May 13-15, 2016

Enjoy spring in the beautiful hills of Webster County, West Virginia, by participating in the Webster County 54th Annual Nature Tour. This special weekend event takes

place at Camp Caesar 4-H Camp along route 20 between Cowen and Webster Springs. Guests will stay in rustic cabins surrounded by the Monongahela National Forest.

Cost for this fun-filled weekend is \$125 – which includes five meals, two nights' lodging, nightly program, and your choice of tours. There will be a Meditation Walk and a Bird Walk on Sunday morning. If you want to participate in everything but not stay at Camp Caesar, the cost will be \$80. Saturday breakfast, bag lunch, Tour, and dinner cost will be \$50. Tour and bag lunch only, cost will be \$40. Tour only, cost will be \$30.

Saturday night entertainment – the Bandwagon from Hamlin, West Virginia

A \$50 deposit for each participant must accompany your registration.

Participants will be housed dormitory style (females in separate cabins from the males) in heated cabins with bathrooms. You will need a sleeping bag/sheets and blanket, pillow, towel, wash cloth, personal items, sturdy hiking boots, warm clothing, rain gear, flashlight, a backpack, a small pack of tissues (for the trail), and perhaps a thermos.

Meals will be served in the dining hall except for the bag lunch on Saturday. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM with breakfast served at 8:00 AM.

Registration begins at 3:00 PM on Friday, May 13, in Cantral Hall, where you will find refreshments and Garden Club Members waiting to welcome you.

Tours range from VERY rugged to easy walking – you choose the tour in which you will participate. Experienced tour guides will lead you through the beautiful valleys and hills of Webster County. You will find shrubs, wildflowers, mosses, trees, pristine rippling streams, rivers, and breathtaking scenery. Bring your camera. Be prepared to take your vehicle.

For more information contact Linda Carpenter, 304-847-2467, teddybear.jasmine@yahoo.com; Brenda Rule, 304-847-7648, or follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheWebsterCountyNatureTour

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The Shrewsbury Lands of Kanawha State Forest

Transition to Industrial Development - Part 1

by Carl McLaughlin

“A new Railway and Blast-furnace in W.Va.-These are two important enterprises about ready to be set in operation ...” was a byline in Charleston’s Weekly Leader on September 13, 1883.

Jed Hotchkiss, the publisher of The Virginias, a business journal devoted to the development of both Va. And W.Va., covered this news piece in his journal. Hotchkiss, who had been the top engineer and mapmaker for Stonewall Jackson during the Civil War, gave credit to William M. Hovey and James H. Huling for securing these enterprises and making possible the incorporation of the Black Band Iron & Coal Company along with the Kanawha & Coal River Railroad on June 30, 1881.

The railway enabled the transporting of iron and coal from mines at the headwaters of Davis Creek to the Bettie Furnace located at the mouth of the creek. This was approximately a 15-mile run.

The initial iron and coal lands were on a tract of 3,500 acres. This total acreage represented the seven parcels of 500 acres each that John C. And Betsy Shrewsbury gave to each of their seven children for “\$1 and their love and affection.”

Columbus Shrewsbury, the second eldest son, had left Davis Creek in 1856 and established his own home and business life in Mason County, WV. Columbus and Captain W. M. Hovey had served together in the 4th W.Va. Infantry during the Civil War. After the war Hovey had obtained a Note of Sale Agreement for a long-term purchase of these 3,500 acres belonging to the Shrewsbury siblings.

These new ventures as noted in the Weekly Leader were backed by “men of Boston,” with most being from Lynn, Massachusetts. John Wooldridge of Lynn was the first president with William M. Hovey being the only incorporator not from Massachusetts. James Huling was the Superintendent of the BBI & CC’s Bettie Furnace, and he was a Charlestonians of some importance with a strong lumber background.

BBI & CC was reorganized in 1888 as the Black Band Mining & Manufacturing Company with Edward M. Farnsworth serving as president. However, in June of 1889 the control of this company was transferred to capitalists from Cumberland, Maryland, as reported in the Cumberland Daily Times. J. W. Humbird of Cumberland became the new president.

A corporate history of change would now begin with the pinnacle of such change occurring when Adolphus Busch took control of a later Black Band Coal & Coke Company in 1906. The same Busch family from St. Louis, Missouri, who had distributed Anheuser-Busch Beer.

More about some prominent individuals who had roles in the industrial history of Kanawha State Forest will follow. Part 2 will start with a husband and wife team—a strong independent woman from St. Louis and her third husband from New York City—The Neases.

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Nature Quiz

Question (from Winter Newsletter):

This is an evergreen flowering plant with a wooly stem and leaves with silver veins and a broad stripe down the middle. The individual leaves are in a rosette and last for

four years. This species may be found in hardwood or coniferous forests and often are growing on moss.

Answer:

Downy Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*). Common in KSF and in every county of the state. The small and whitish flowers bloom in summer and grow in a spike at the top of a bracted stalk. Height is 6-16 inches. Orchid Family.



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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 up to date!

Make checks payable to: Kanawha State Forest Foundation
Send to: KSFF, 7500 Kanawha State Forest Drive, Charleston, WV 25314

- Family Membership – \$25
- Life Family Membership – \$450
- Individual Membership – \$15
- Life Individual Membership – \$300
- Donation* – \$_____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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*All donations will be used for Foundation programs and can be specified for certain projects as approved by the Foundation. The Kanawha State Forest Foundation holds an exemption from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



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A big thanks to photographer Barbie Dallmann
for generously allowing the use of her photographs.

If you have photos to share, please contact our Editor, Bill Hall.
We are especially interested in photos taken during the
Wildflower Walks April 16

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