

# THE FOREST FRIEND

FALL 2022 EDITION



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*There is no Wi-Fi in the forest, but  
I promise you will find a better  
connection - Ralph Smart*

*In every walk with nature one  
received far more than he seeks. -  
John Muir*

*Colors are the smiles of nature. -  
Leigh Hunt*

KSF Foundation  
7500 Kanawha State Forest Drive  
Charleston, WV 25314

## Letter from the Chair

By John Hughes

### It's Fall Ya'll

Mother nature flipped the switch within 36 hours of the first day of fall. The hot days in the 90's turned to daily highs in the 70's. But who is complaining? Fall is a great time of the year to get outside and enjoy nature's beauty.

With shorter daylight comes the turning of the leaves. Gold, red, brown become the colors of the season. Animals sense this change and are abundantly storing food for energy during the winter. With all the activity going on it's a great time to get out in the forest to see the seasonal change.

One note of caution. With fall also comes hunting season. Small game and bow season have started so if you plan on hiking outside of the safety zone, please wear blaze orange. I even put a blaze orange vest on my dog when we hike. Hunters are only required to do this during gun season for deer, which is the week of Thanksgiving and the week after. Please check with the park office for a map of the safety zones.

The foundation will be hosting one event in the near future. On Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be Black Friday hikes for all who do not want to fight the crowds at the stores or would like to walk off that turkey dinner. We will offer easy and moderate hikes for participants.

We will also be offering First Day hikes on Sunday, January 1, 2023, and the Shirley Schweizer Winter Walk on Saturday, January 28, 2023. Both of these events will start at 1:00 in the afternoon.

If you venture to the top of Four Mile you probably noticed trail construction has started on the new access to Middle Ridge trail. This project was funded by grants and donations. A special thank you to our trail committee for all their hard work on this project. Phase two will improve access on the entry side of the park and hopefully will start next year.

As you can see exciting things are happening at the forest. So come out, enjoy, picnic, hike, bike, camp, and have a good time in a beautiful nature setting!

## Meet the new Assistant Superintendent, Clark Sanford!

We at "The Forest Friend" had the pleasure of interviewing our new Assistant Superintendent who is currently our interim Superintendent of the Forest, Clark L. Sanford. We asked Clark a series of questions and here are his answers:



**Clark L. Sanford**  
Acting Superintendent  
Photo by Rebecca Linger

**Q) Where are you from?**

A) I am originally from Raymond, Maine. Raymond is a small town of a little over 3,000 people, located in the Lakes Region of Cumberland County in the southern part of the state. The Raymond area is surrounded by hundreds of lakes and smaller mountains, so it is a great area for a wide range of outdoor activities. Growing up my closest neighbor was half a mile away, and my town itself had no school system beyond Elementary, so I had an hour-long bus ride each way for both Junior High and High School; the seclusion of living in Kanawha State Forest makes me feel right at home!

**Q) Where did you go to school?**

A) I went to college at the University of Maine, Orono, since I wanted to go to an agricultural school that was close to home (4-hour drive away). I originally studied Forestry for my first three semesters but given the declining state of Maine's and other areas' forest health and timber industry, I switched over to a major in Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

**Q) What got you interested in Forest Management?**

A) Maine's unique approach to forest management and use is what got me interested in studying it in school and pursuing it as a career. Maine is approximately 95% privately owned, so finding expansive public forest areas, especially close



Continued from page 2.

to city areas like KSF is, is almost non-existent. Maine does have implied public access laws, where private land that is not posted as no-trespassing may be accessed freely, more and more owners are posting lands (no-trespassing) and forest use has become very fragmented at best. Due to this, I wanted to start work in the Parks or Forestry management fields in order to preserve current public land areas as well as enhancing their availability for use as outdoor public recreation areas.

**Q) What is your vision for Kanawha State Forest?**

A) My vision for Kanawha State Forest is to see it as a “Jewel of Charleston” in terms of outdoor recreation. To me this means maintaining large portions of the forest as relatively low use to support a healthy native plant and old growth tree environments, as well as a healthy wildlife population for the enjoyment of visitors and hunters. It means having a robust and well-maintained trail system with varying difficulty levels from basic to advanced for families, hikers, and mountain biking. I would like to see an expansion of our available camping system to include “glamping” as well as back-country tenting sites to better accommodate a wider range of visitor wants. Along with our current picnic amenities, further developing the Gift Shop and Nature Center/Museum, more Naturalist programming, and eventual conversion of the pool area into an amphitheater to support larger nature programs and events, I see Kanawha State Forest as a shining example of what a WV State Forest/Park has to offer.

**Q) Where is your favorite part of the forest?**

A) My favorite part of the forest, flora-wise, is the old growth forest section between Hoffman Hollow Trail and Wall Fork Trail. Maine's forests have been logged over so many times, little to no old growth remains, so having these amazing trees as part of Kanawha State Forest is really refreshing. As for trails, I really can't pick a favorite; I thoroughly enjoy how calming it is to stroll along Davis Creek, to get a good lung burn ascending Blackbear or Crabtree, to spend half the day wandering Middle Ridge, or to get away from just about everything and everyone (except the one black bear I've seen!) out on Hemlock Falls and PorterCamp Trail.

I'm really looking forward to where Kanawha State Forest and I will bring each other over the coming years!

**Margaret Denison Fall Nature Walks**

By Rebecca Linger

On Saturday, September 17, 2022, the Foundation hosted the Margaret Denison Fall Nature Walks. The naturalist and author, Margaret Denison, taught science and botany in Kanawha County schools for several years and was well known in the Forest community. From the first Spring Wildflower Walk in 1991, she was one of the most knowledgeable and dependable leaders. Denison did not concentrate on botanical terminology, but rather on the flora including ferns, grasses, and sedges. She would identify them by their common names and origins and further elaborate with delightful folklore.



**Children admiring a Red-spotted Purple butterfly.  
Photo by Dale Porter**

In 1975 she received an award from the WV-DNR for the listing of 710 flowering plants, 42 ferns and their allies, and 138 grasses and sedges in the Forest. She published “The Flora of Kanawha State Forest,” which has been reprinted in spiral-bound form and is available for donation at the Kanawha State Forest Nature Center. Denison died on Jan. 2, 2003. As a tribute to Denison, the Kanawha State Forest Fall Nature Walks were renamed in her honor.

Continued on next page.

Ten different walks were offered this year highlighting the wildflowers, mushrooms, geology, trees, birds, medicinal and edible plants, as well as the work done on Davis Creek and the history of mining in the forest. In addition, we offered a five-mile trail hike for the truly adventurous. We had over 50 attendees for the day and offered hotdogs and lemonade for the hikers. The weather was perfect, and the volunteers really enjoyed interpreting and interacting with everyone who came.

This year, we had two raffle prizes, a West Virginia State Parks-branded backpack and a two-night stay at Greenbrier State Forest in one of their classic or legacy cabins. Cynthia McGill won the backpack and Jane Shepherd won the two-nights' stay.



We want to thank all the volunteers for their assistance with the walks and their continued commitment to the Forest: Stacey Angel, Alan Baldwin, Laura Boggess, Jamie Chambers, Ellen Golden, Sarah Hicks, Carol Johnson-Cyrus, Ted Jones, Ellen and Chuck Keefer, Karen Kelly, Cynthia McGill, Michelle Platt, Jane Shepherd, and Myra Simmons.



## The Spotted Salamander Trail is short, easy, and informative!

By Joan Steven

The improvements on The Spotted Salamander Trail make it enjoyable to be in the woods. After I was diagnosed with Parkinsons Disease and had a stroke it has been hard to find a walk with interesting features. This trail is paved and smooth. A person can use a walker or be pushed in a wheelchair. It also has a clothesline along the left side of the trail for sight impaired persons to use to follow on the trail. I use two walking sticks. Signs are in English and Braille.



This trail is great for birding and walking, and its unlikely you'll encounter many other people while exploring. The trail is open year-round and is beautiful to visit anytime. Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash.

No matter the season, signs tell you what to look for. The trail follows Davis Creek, and you might hear the creek, frogs, or splashes made by small fish or children. I am interested in plants, and they are described by location, size, and shape. The plants may not be there if it is not the season for them, but I might be able to find them another time I walk the trail.

The trail is posted as 0.2 miles, but I think it is longer than that. About three-quarters along the way is an ephemeral pond that dries up late in the summer. When spring is imminent, and the first rains have arrived, so do the spotted salamanders and frogs! The salamanders have been on the move looking for ephemeral pools, which are a temporary type of wetland habitat that's formed by the accumulation of winter rains and snowfall. Frogs live in the mud of the ephemeral pool and come out when it rains after winter is over to mate. Frog eggs found in the water will develop into tadpoles and then later frogs.

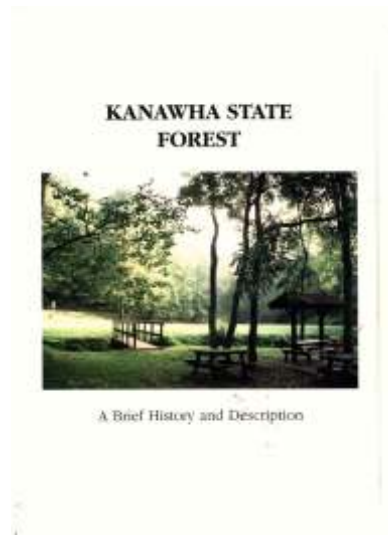
I hope you will have the opportunity to walk the spotted salamander trail and observe the wonders of nature.



## ERRATA for Kanawha State Forest - A Brief History and Description.

By Dale Porter

The booklet, *KANAWHA STATE FOREST - A Brief History and Description*, was published in 1994 and is still available at the Forest store. There is some misinformation in the history section of the booklet that should be noted. Unlike the authors of the booklet, I have the advantage of the Internet to conduct research. The following are a couple of identified errors.



Being a student of West Virginia mining and railroad histories, the first item that caught my attention in the booklet that spurred further research, was the mention of the “narrow gauge railroad” to the forest. It was not logical that the railroad would have been constructed as a narrow gauge line.

**Page 1, third paragraph:** “In 1892, a narrow gauge railroad, known as the Kanawha and Coal River Railroad, was constructed. from the headwaters of Davis Creek to connect with the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad at the mouth of Davis Creek.”

**Erratum:** The Kanawha and Coal River Railroad (KCRR) was chartered in 1881 and was in operation in 1882, not 1892. It was not constructed as a “Narrow” gauge railroad, but as a “Standard” gauge railroad.

Persons not fluent in railroad terminology often use the term “narrow gauge” when the proper term would be “short line.” While almost all narrow gauge railroads were short lines, not all short lines were narrow gauge. (Just as all Jacuzzi are hot tubs but, not all hot tubs are Jacuzzi.) Gauge refers to the distance between the rails. Standard gauge is four foot eight an a half inches. Thirty-six (3ft.) inches was probably the most common narrow gauge used, but forty-two and twenty-four inches were also often used.

Narrow gauge cars cannot interchange with standard gauge rails, requiring the contents to be transferred from the narrow gauge cars to the standard gauge cars. This is an expensive and time consuming operation that would be avoided unless absolutely

*The New Dominion*,  
Morgantown, W. Va. September 02, 1882,  
Page 1, Column 2

### The Outlook of the Kanawha Valley.

*Kanawha Gazette.*

The present out-look for the Great Kanawha Valley is now very promising.

On Davis Creek, 4 miles below Charleston, a standard gauge railroad with steel rails is being constructed from the Great Kanawha River to the black band iron ore and coal deposit, on the head waters of Davis creek. This black band iron ore crops out also on the Coal river side of this mountain.

At the mouth of Davis creek, the same company is erecting a furnace where iron will be made from this black band ore. Both the Davis Creek furnace and railroad will be completed this fall. Boston capitalists are doing this work and own 3500 acres of land on Davis creek.

### *Directory to the Iron and Steel Works of the United States.* *Tenth Edition. 1890*

Page 37 WEST VIRGINIA Bituminous Coal or Coke.

Bettie Furnace, Black Band Iron and Coal Company, E.M. Farnsworth, Receiver, Spring Hill, Kanawha county. One stack, 50 x 101 ½ , built in 1882-83; fuel, raw bituminous coal; ores, local black band, block, and limonite; daily capacity, 30 net tons. A. M. Woldredge, Manager.

Page 77: Abandoned or Long Inactive furnaces.

Bettie Furnace, Black Band Iron and Coal Company, Spring Hill, Kanawha county. One stack, 50 x 10 /2 , built in 1882-3; not in blast since 1886.

necessary. A narrow gauge (NG) railroad would mean the NG cars would be loaded at the mine, taken 15 miles to Spring Hill, and then unloaded and reloaded into standard gauge cars to be shipped on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad (C&O).

**Page 2, second paragraph:** “Around 1894, an attempt was made to utilize the iron ore, as recommended by Dr. Shaler in his 1881 report to the Black Band Iron and Coal Company. A smelting furnace was built at the mouth of Pigeon Roost hollow and smelting of the ore was tried but did not prove to be profitable and the furnace was abandoned. No physical evidence of the furnace exists.”

**Erratum:** The “initial” primary purpose of the Black Band Iron and Coal Company was the production of iron. For that purpose, the company constructed an iron furnace, known as the Bettie Furnace, in Spring Hill at the mouth of Davis Creek. The construction of the furnace proceeded at the same time as the construction of the railroad from Spring Hill to Kanawha State Forest and the development of the what is now Kanawha State Forest for mining iron ore and coal for use in the furnace. This furnace was first blown in 1883, not 1894. The forest property was to supply the iron ore and coal, while the limestone had to be shipped all the way from Fort Spring in Greenbrier County. Period newspaper articles indicate that 75 people were employed in the operation of the furnace and the mines employed 150 during the same period. Attempts to operate the furnace continued into the mid 1880s, but were never financially viable, primarily because of the difficulty in mining sufficient iron ore and increased competition. The company did successfully experiment with using raw coal from the mine, without converting it to coke to fire the furnace. That was a testament to the quality of the coal being mined. The last accounts of the Bettie Furnace being in operation was 1886. In 1884, ore shipments started from the Vermilion Range in Minnesota. The huge and easily accessible Minnesota iron deposits spelled the end for the small furnaces like the Bettie.

Commercial sale of coal appears to have commenced with the initial opening of the mines. In addition to interchanging with the C&O at Spring Hill, they also had a barge loading station in Spring Hill.

### Other Historical Notes:

The Black Band Iron and Coal Company was started by a group of Boston capitalist lead by John Wooldredge who appears to have also been involved in manufacturing shoes. During the period of operation,

### *The Wheeling Daily Intelligencer*

October 03, 1883, Page 1, Column 8

The Black Band Coal and Iron Company has completed a blast furnace on the Kanawha river at the mouth of Davis creek, near Charleston, W. Va. The furnace is making thirty tons of iron a day.

1882 - 1909, the mines operated under different names, which usually indicated financial or managerial changes. In 1888, there was a public auction sale.

- Black Band Iron and Coal Company
- Kanawha and Coal River Coal Co.
- Black Band Mining and Manufacturing Co.
- Black Band Coal and Coke Co.

Though “coke” is included in the last name, there is no verification that coke was ever produced by the companies.

Further research is required to determine when and for how long, the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company was involved in the mine ownership. It seems it would be after 1895.



Painting of one of the tipples located in the forest. Exact location unknown, but possibly Polly Hollow. By author.



## Reconnecting with Friends and the Forest

By Sheila McEntee

When I drove through the entrance to Kanawha State Forest the morning of September 17 for the Margaret Denison Fall Nature Hikes, it marked three months since I'd been in the forest. That was surely a record. A bad case of Covid and eye surgery, among other things, had kept me away. How I longed to be back in the woods!

When I stepped out of my car in the nature center parking lot, it felt like I'd come home after being exiled in a foreign land. I saw friends I hadn't seen since the pandemic began, and even longer ago than that. Their greetings were a comfort, like soft rain on parched earth.

Soon I was among seven hikers who lined up behind University of Charleston botany professor Mark Watson to search for fall wildflowers. Included in our group were several of Mark's students who, impressively, rolled out of bed early on a Saturday to seek nature adventure, not to mention the extra credit Mark offered them.

As we hiked up behind the old swimming pool toward the CCC Snipe Trail, Mark noted the ubiquitous smartweed, with its diminutive columns of soft, pink blossoms, sitting atop tall stems. Then, we all listened attentively as he pointed out a patch of stinging nettle and explained its properties, which you discover handily if you walk in the woods in shorts.

Later, we spied the stunning, purple-blue blossoms of greater lobelia and the sunny, yellow faces of cutleaf coneflower. Also in full, beautiful bloom was wingstem, or yellow ironweed. The bright, lemony flowers have long, slim petals that look a bit like windmill blades. The name "wingstem" comes from the flat extensions the plant has on its stem. They can be wavy sometimes and look a bit like wings.

Before long, our hike also became an exciting olfactory experience. Mark plucked shiny, red spicebush berries and invited us to smell their strong allspice aroma. We also sniffed the licorice-like scent of sweet cicely leaves and learned that the root stalk of cucumber root smells like cucumbers.

At the very edge of a shaded streambed, Mark pointed out a lush mound of stonecrop. Nearby, I bent down to touch perhaps my favorite plant of the day, a pert, erect grape fern, with its smooth clusters of spore cases, which look like miniature bunches of green grapes.



**Dr. Mark Watson leads an Interpretative during the Margaret Denison Fall Nature Hikes**

After these and many more discoveries, including yellow jewelweed, blue asters, snakeroot, and beech drops, it was time to return to historic Shewsbury Hollow. One student noted with curiosity the remains of the coal tippie foundation.

"It's hard to imagine that long ago, there were numerous coal mines and a timbering operation here," I said. "There was even a railroad to haul out all the coal and timber. There was a thriving town with stores, a school, and a church."

"What happened?" the student asked.

"When the coal and trees were all gone, everyone left," I replied.

Standing now in the forest's new arboretum, I looked at the trees towering over us—hemlocks, a tulip poplar, and a sugar maple. I am grateful to live in an era of rebirth for Kanawha State Forest. It is my retreat place in on. The land has great healing powers, perhaps because for so many years it had to heal itself.

I left the forest with new knowledge and a renewed connection to friends and the land. If I can help it, I'll never stay away that long again.

## Interpretive Geology Signs Installed in Kanawha State Forest

By Pete Sullivan

Kanawha State Forest Foundation and the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey jointly designed four interpretive geologic signs for Kanawha State Forest.

Jessica Moore, West Virginia State Geologist, and four members of her staff with the West Virginia Economic and Geological Survey from Morgantown, spent a day in the Forest with KSFF members visiting various sites throughout the Forest. Besides showing the WVEGS staff the Forest, the content and the number of signs were agreed upon during this tour.

Each sign is 52"x32" on a double posted aluminum pedestal. The signs were made possible by donations from Greylock Energy and The Appalachian Geological Society. The signs are purposely located across the Forest, please visit them all and let us know what you think.



Located in the main parking area near Davis Creek



Located at the Johnson Hollow picnic area.



Located at the CCC Snipe trail head.



Located at the main parking area.

The above board members provided the labor for the installation of the kiosk. L-R Chris Gatens, Joe Carney, Pete Sullivan, Wayne Stevens, and John Hughes

The geology kiosk project was initiated and coordinated by Pete Sullivan.



Magnolia leaves. Photo by Dale Porter



## The Trail Update

By George Singleton

Photos by George Singleton

### Trail Maintenance

As we slide into autumn and get ready to enjoy the explosion of brilliant colors our beautiful Forest has to offer, it's important to remember that trail maintenance continues all year long. Keeping the trails clear so hikers, bikers, runners, and other users can enjoy them is always important, and this year has been a particular challenge given a summer full of rain. Whether it is Jody Richmond, Trail Coordinator for Kanawha State Forest, or volunteers from the Kanawha State Forest Foundation or the Kanawha Valley Trail Alliance, we are grateful for the time and effort they donate to make sure the trails are in the best shape they can be for all of us.

On September 3rd, the Kanawha Valley Trail Alliance held another of their monthly gatherings to perform trail maintenance in Kanawha State Forest. The mission of the day was to clear key sections of Middle Ridge Trail of overgrown weeds and brush, with a smaller crew setting off to install a few of the

remaining trail signs, which were yet to be placed in the ground.

The morning was crisp and cool, but between 15 and 20 hardy souls showed up to tackle the work, comforted by coffee and donuts provided by KVTA. By just a little after lunchtime, the work had been accomplished and the trail crew departed with a 'job well done' feeling of satisfaction. Weeds were trimmed, brush and tree trash cleared, and signs at Castle Rock, Laurel's Trail, and Wall Fork installed.

Thanks, team!

## Construction to Complete the Middle Ridge Trail System Continues

While the KSFF Trail Committee awaits final approval of grant monies to schedule construction on the front end of the Middle Ridge Trail system, work



on the back end portion of the trail is already underway. This back end portion of trail will run from the Black Bear parking area and follow along the contours of the hills in a relatively gradual climb, ending near the Four Mile Parking lot where it connects directly with the existing ridge-top Middle Ridge Trail.

Continued on next page.





When this new section is fully completed it will be nearly two miles long and make access to the existing Middle Ridge Trail much easier. Rather than trying to navigate up the super-steep Black Bear trail, the new trail will offer a much easier grade for beginner hikers, bikers, and runners.

Once basic construction is completed, there is still much to do. The team must install trail signage and numbers, place blazes, and work with forest management to ensure all maps - whether paper or digital - are updated.

The work to date was recently reviewed by the Kanawha State Forest Foundation Trail Committee, along with KSF Management and the contractor, SC Resources, to ensure the final product will provide the best trail experience possible - and to date, it is looking very good.

**IMPORTANT: If you want to take a look at the trail, please be aware the tread is not fully 'cured' yet, so please don't hike or bike on it if it is wet!**



### Board of Directors

- John Hughes, Chairperson
- George Singleton, Vice Chairperson
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- Rebecca S. Linger, Newsletter Editor
- Ted Armbrecht
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- Chris Gatens
- Eric Hastings
- Martha Hopper
- Brad Schmalzer
- Wayne Stevens
- Peter Sullivan
- Jim Waggy

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Black Friday Hikes**, Friday November 25, 2022, 1:00 PM
- First Day Hikes**, Sunday January 1, 2023, 1:00 PM
- Shirley Schweizer Winter Walk**, Saturday, January 28 2023, 1:00 PM

### NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION

- When submitting articles for the newsletter, please submit photos as separate files. Do not embed them in the article. It makes it very difficult or impossible to place in the newsletter format.
- Please identify the photographer.
- Identify persons featured in photo when possible.
- Submit articles and photos by deadline.

The Foundation reserves the right to accept or reject any article submissions.

**Deadline for Winter Edition of the *Forest Friend* is January 10, 2023 for early February publication.**

### The Forest Friend

Edited by Rebecca S. Linger  
Layout by Dale A. Porter



### Bat Night Bonfire!

By Rebecca Linger

Photos by Jennifer Bauman

On Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Foundation held its annual Bat Night Bonfire for the public. This year, we highlighted the new Nature Center as part of the festivities, but still had S'mores for everyone with two firepits glowing away to toast the marshmallows. The weather was fantastic, skies were clear, and the temperatures dipped slightly after sunset, but that didn't diminish the enthusiasm of the attendees. Children decorated bat cookies, baked by Jennifer Bauman, colored and cut out bat masks in the Nature Center and played "Bats and Mosquitos" with Doug Wood. We went through three huge tins of Swiss Miss hot chocolate mix in the process! By the smiles, it's apparent that everyone really enjoyed the night, plus, they learned a little about chiroptera. Special thanks to our volunteers: Jamie Chambers, Brenda Klindt, Karen Kelly, Jennifer Bauman, Barb Koster, Barry Curry, John Fischer, Michelle Platt, and all the other Master Naturalists who pitched in to make the night memorable!

