



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
KANAWHA STATE FOREST FOUNDATION

THE FOREST FRIEND

SUMMER 2022 EDITION



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*Live in each season as it passes:
breathe the air, drink the drink,
taste the fruit, and resign yourself
to the influence of the earth.*

Henry David Thoreau



KSF Foundation
7500 Kanawha State Forest Drive
Charleston, WV 25314

Message from the Chair

By John Hughes

It May be the Dog Days of Summer But It is Cool in the Forest

It seems we have 90-degree temperatures every week but if you are looking to get outside try Kanawha State Forest to beat the heat. Under the tree lined canopy of the 64 miles of trails you can not only stay cool but you can explore the beauty of the sights and sounds in the forest. Animals and birds are very active this time of the year due to the abundance of food and cool temperatures under the canopy. Sit along the bank of the new stream restoration project and dip your toes in the stream. Kanawha State Forest has much to offer all summer long.

The foundation has a big event coming up on August 13. We are reviving Rock the Park. Live bands, hot dogs, ice cream, nature exhibits, games for kids, and a classic car drive-in can be enjoyed by all ages. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

New work at the park is about to begin. In late August the first stage to complete Middle Ridge Trail (MRT) will start at the far end of the park. A new switchback trail will be built to access the main portion of MRT. This project is being funded by generous donations to the foundation and work will be performed by a

professional trail company.

A second project funded by WV DNR will start after Labor Day at the campground. New electric will be installed at most of the campsites. The campground will stay open until December 1st during all of this work. This has been long needed due to safety concerns but will provide adequate power for all types of campers.

So beat the heat and get out and bike, hike, run, picnic, camp but by all means enjoy Kanawha State Forest!



The poster features a bright blue sky background with a large yellow sun in the upper right corner. Inside the sun, the text reads: "RAFFLE", "GAMES", "LIVE MUSIC", "FACEPAINTING", and "FOOD". To the left of the sun is a white cloud with the text "Fun for the whole family!". The main title "Rock the Park" is written in large, bold, blue letters with a white outline, set against a white cloud. Below the title, the text "Free Outdoor Concert" is written in large, bold, white letters. Underneath that, "Saturday, August 13th" and "11am - 5pm" are written in bold, yellow letters. At the bottom, "Kanawha State Forest" is written in bold, yellow letters. A list of performing acts is shown in bold, black letters: "FOURCHILL", "PATTY AND THE BUTCHERS", "CARPENTER ANTS", "AARON FISHER AND GHOST FLEET", and "GEORGE WASHINGTON H.S. BAND". At the bottom of the poster, there is a line of green pine trees. The text "Reserved parking for classic cars, so cruise on in!" is written in white above the trees. At the very bottom, "SPONSORED BY THE KANAWHA STATE FOREST FOUNDATION" is written in bold, yellow letters.

Fun for the whole family!

**RAFFLE
GAMES
LIVE MUSIC
FACEPAINTING
FOOD**

Rock the Park

Free Outdoor Concert

**Saturday, August 13th
11am - 5pm
Kanawha State Forest**

- **FOURCHILL**
- **PATTY AND THE BUTCHERS**
- **CARPENTER ANTS**
- **AARON FISHER AND GHOST FLEET**
- **GEORGE WASHINGTON H.S. BAND**

Reserved parking for classic cars, so cruise on in!

SPONSORED BY THE KANAWHA STATE FOREST FOUNDATION

Happy Birthday to the Great State of West Virginia!

By Rebecca Linger
Photos by Rebecca Linger

In the month of June, weather is so unpredictable that, thankfully, the heatwave of the week of June 12th broke and Sunday, June 19th was a lovely 73 degrees with low humidity. The perfect weather for an open-air concert!



Every year, the Kanawha State Forest Foundation puts on a Birthday Celebration for West Virginia with the Kanawha Valley Community Band. The concert this year consisted of popular music from a variety of genres. Conductor David Williams dedicated the concert to Karen Louise Winter who passed away on May 11th of this year. Ms. Winter played flute in the band.

Starting with a rousing rendition of the National Anthem, they continued in a military vein with "The Theme from Midway," a film score composed by John Williams. As a nod to our new national holiday, a composition by African American composer Florence Beatrice Price, "The Deserted Garden," celebrated Juneteenth. Next, the "Suite from the Man from La Mancha" featured solos on flute, oboe, and trombone, concluding with a rendition of the "Impossible Dream" highlighting the brass section. "Appalachian Setting" by tuba player Levi Ferrebee was a beautiful original composition that put us in mind of why we love our state so much. Starting out slow and majestic, the piece builds with the addition



of the bass voices to soar to a beautiful playful theme introduced by the flutes, oboes, and clarinets. The finale with snare drum harkened to West Virginia's dedication to our Nation's service. Overall, a delightful piece. Ludwig Göransson's "Music from the Mandalorian" finished out the first half.

Volunteers from the Foundation furiously cut birthday cake and fed the large crowd. Iced tea and lemonade were provided by Foundation President, John Hughes. Martha Hopper, Laura Ceperley, Jennifer Bauman, and myself kept the steady flow of guests supplied with vanilla and chocolate sheet cake with delicious buttercream frosting baked by Kroger.

The second half began with another original composition by band director David Williams, entitled "Merry and Pippen," two of the hobbits that accompany Frodo on his quest to destroy The One Ring in the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. The piece, while starting with dark themes, nevertheless highlights the delight that all hobbits have for a simple life and of course, second breakfasts every day! Ascending scales denote the rigor of the journey to Mount Doom.



Next, we were regaled with a series of movie themes, from "The Theory of Everything," "Lawrence of Arabia," and finally, a tune that became an integral part of a film despite Mel Brooks' hesitance to even include the scene in the final cut. Irving Berlin's "Puttin' on the Ritz" will be forever linked to "Young Frankenstein," and after the band director introduced the piece, as he turned back to the podium one wag in the audience did his best Peter Boyle imitation by lisping, "Puttin' on a Rizz!" Another original composition by a member of the Band, "Variations on Country Roads" by Delford Chaffin contained a beautiful solo trumpet line during the bridge. Finally, we all sang along to "Happy Birthday" for West Virginia and the band ended the concert with "Barnum and Bailey's Favorite March" by Karl King, which is one of this

reporter's favorite marches, too! The piece sent us on our way, rollicking along with images of high wire acts and daredevil horseback riders in our minds.

The day was perfect; well... except for the gust of wind that blew over the donations basket and scattered the folding money across the lawn! Seriously, though, Happy Birthday, West Virginia. Born out of conflict, ripped from the side of another state, we love these wild and wonderful mountains! And now as we begin our summer, may each and every one of you enjoy the trails of the Forest as much as you can.

Nature Center Update

By Rebecca Linger
Photos by Rebecca Linger

With the renovation of the Pool building into the Forest Offices, the old concessions area was rebuilt into a large room where classes and presentations can be made. The Nature Center consists of this room and a wall of cabinetry where all the "tools of the trade" are kept. We have the ability to present programs on insects, soil and water quality, and the predators of the Forest. For special events in the Forest, terrariums will fill with examples of the herpetological residents, with the rule that no snake will stay in captivity for more than three days. This was the rule in my house growing up, and I like it!

In the coming weeks, the Kanawha Valley Master Naturalists will be developing a schedule of nature exploration activities for children and adults alike will take place. We will post about these on our Facebook page, but also have an announcements



board in the Nature Center where the schedule can be posted. When you visit the Nature Center, you will notice that we're a little sparse, and here is where the request comes in.

If you have any field guides or other books about nature that are simply gathering dust in your house, donate them to the Nature Center. If you have any taxidermy that you'd like to donate, we can discuss this. Ideally, we would ask that the donation be complete and that the item becomes the property of the Foundation for liability's sake. We would also need to reserve the right to refuse, so you should arrange with me, Becky Linger, to negotiate the donation. But, if you find something very interesting on your land, such as deer sheds, birds' nests, feathers, etc., you should leave those lay for the forest creatures to use for food or shelter. It is not legal for you to gather from the wilds, even if you own the land. Finally, if you would like to volunteer to help with the Nature Center, please contact me at: info@mnofwv.org. Your assistance is most welcome.

Hiker's Corner

Hiker's Corner...or Hiker's Dilemma?

by George Singleton
Photos by George Singleton

That's been the choice recently: Trying to take a nice walk or bike ride through the woods on one of our wonderful trails versus having to navigate around the many trees the recent storms have brought down!



The thunderstorms and heavy rain we've had over the past couple of months, some accompanied by strong winds, have brought trees down all across the forest. With the ground soaked, in some cases for days, many of these trees either fell under their own weight or were pushed by a strong gust of wind. Wind clearly played a major factor, as one can observe trees in several sections of forest that have been sheared off halfway up or had portions of their upper crown torn away, their main trunks still standing upright.

While hikers, trail runners and bikers have been helpful in reporting many of these downed trees, the task of clearing them has been on-going. Many times, a trail has been cleared, only to see more trees down as the next wave of storms roll through.

Removing these trees has taken a truly heroic effort by those that are proud to brandish their chainsaws. These people include Jody Richmond, Trail Coordinator at the Kanawha State Forest, and his team of State Forest staff. Jody only recently recovered from back surgery, so his efforts are very much appreciated. Stay healthy, Jody! We need you!

Volunteers from the Kanawha State Forest Foundation (KSFF) and Kanawha Valley Trail Alliance (KVTA) have also spent significant time locating and clearing trees, both big and small.

A special note of appreciation must go to the "Master of the Chainsaw," Doug Atkins, who serves on the KSFF Board Trail Committee and is also a proud member of KVTA. On the rainy Saturday of July 9th, Doug went out alone and cleared every downed tree between Oak Flats and Middle Ridge Trail section 8 - at least 12 very large trees and numerous small ones. Ten hours, by himself, in the rain, helping clear trails so we - the hikers, bikers and runners - could enjoy them once the weather cleared.



We should all appreciate - and be proud of - the efforts of people like Doug and Jody and the many

others not named in this article. We should also consider what we are doing, ourselves, to help make the forest a better place for our community. I think that means, when in doubt, volunteer for something! Jennifer Bauman, Volunteer Coordinator for KSFF, would be happy to point you in the right direction.

Zebra Swallowtail, *Eurytides marvellus*

By Dale Porter
Photos by Dale Porter

I'm always happy to see these beautiful butterflies in Kanawha State Forest. There is no mystery as to how this butterfly got its name; it has a stunning black and white design with red spots on the hind wing for accent. It has two flights during the year, one in May and one in August. The May brood adults are usually smaller than the August brood.



If you see one, you might start looking for a Paw Paw tree. This butterfly is an excellent example of why invasive, non-native species are a concern. Like many animals, there is a direct relationship between the animal and a certain plant.- The zebra swallowtail only lay their eggs on Paw Paw trees in West Virginia. If there are no Paw Paw trees, there are no zebra swallowtails in West Virginia. Every invasive species that prevents the growth of a Paw Paw tree, is also eliminating zebra swallowtails.



Fire Ring Restoration

By Dale Porter

Photos by Dale Porter

In late April, with the approval of the KSF management, the Foundation undertook the restoration of the fire ring in the group campground. The Foundation purchased the repair materials and Foundation members donated their time and expertise. The fire ring consists of a double ring of stones, tied together with a concrete cap. The cap was missing in places and broken up for most of its length. Several of the rocks were loose but fortunately only a couple stones were missing. Without restoration, the fire ring would continue to deteriorate at an accelerated rate.

The restoration began with the use of hammer and chisel to remove what remained of the old concrete cap, except for about an 18 inch section that was in good shape. After removal of the cap, the space between the stones was cleaned out. A lot of dirt and ash had found its way into the space.

The loose stones were then reset, and new stones were cut to replace the missing ones. Once the stones were replaced, the space between them was filled in with sand and gravel to allow drainage of any water that might infiltrate into the space.



Removing the old cap with chisel and hammer.

A stiff mix of concrete was used to hand form the cap on top of the stones. This stiff mix and hand-forming did not allow for a trowel finish on the cap. A rubbed finish was then applied the next day after the initial setting of the concrete. A rubbed finish is usually what is applied to vertical concrete after the forms are removed. The concrete is wetted, and a mason stone is worked over the concrete till a slurry is created. Some concrete hardener and colorant was added to this slurry. Then a rubber float was used for the final finish. Because the cap is often stepped on by people entering and exiting the fire ring, a somewhat rough finish was applied. The cap was kept covered with plastic and wetted periodically for a week to allow a minimum curing period. The fact the area was being used, made a longer curing period



Foundation chairperson John Hughes mixing concrete.

impractical.

Thanks go to Foundation Chair John Hughes for providing most of the labor of mixing



Splitting wedges placed in holes to cut replacement stone for the ring.

concrete and hauling sand and gravel from the stream. Paul Broughten picked up and delivered bags of concrete to the site and Dennis Strawn donated and delivered some bags of concrete to the site.



Finished repair.

Board of Directors

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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.

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

Submission deadline for the Fall issue is October 10th.

Due to COVID, we have restricted board meetings to board members only. We will review this restriction on a meeting by meeting basis. If you have something you wish to bring to the board's attention, please contact the chair, John Hughes at:

jlhughesjr@suddenlink.net

The meetings are conducted by agenda. If you desire to have something included in the agenda, please contact the Foundation at info@ksff.org at least seven days prior to the meeting. Please include your contact information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rock the Park, Saturday, August 13, 2022, 11 AM

Margaret Denison Fall Nature Walks, Saturday, September 17, 2022, 9:00 AM

Bat Night Bonfire, Saturday, October 22, 6:00 PM

Below is a portion of 1905 Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad map, showing the boundary of the company that made up the primary property that became the Kanawha State Forest. Kanawha and Coal River Coal Company is one of at least three names the mines operated under. Contributed by Dale Porter.



The Forest Friend
Edited by Rebecca S. Linger
Layout by Dale A. Porter

