U sing a tired and tattered page from the evil-empire playbook, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced just before Thanksgiving that it was initiating the process to release over 31,000 acres of mineral rights under Ohio’s small Wayne National Forest for oil and gas “development”. As readers may know, even though the Wayne is a National Forest, the BLM has jurisdiction over all federally-owned mineral rights. And, in these times, “oil and gas development” is a poor euphemism for “fracking”.

The process was to begin with, as described by BLM official Kurt Wadzinski, a series of “sort of scoping” public meetings to be held, inconveniently, over the course of the family holiday season. Nevertheless, Buckeye Forest Council and local groups including Appalachia Resist! and Athens County Fracking Action Network got the word out. We had a strong contingent present at each of these “sort of scoping” meetings, but it was clear from the start that the meetings were a sham.

Set up to divide and isolate individuals from each other, the “meetings” concluded a series of stations set up to ostensibly provide information on various aspects of the proposal. The BLM and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) employees at each station had very little information to offer, and many questions were answered with “I don’t know” or blank stares. Public input was solicited via a one page form, though there was no information provided on which any detailed input could be based.

Determined to have their say, forest defenders converged on the meeting held in Athens, Ohio. Approximately, two hundred concerned citizens turned out, many wearing “Don’t spOIL the Wayne!” t-shirts that Buckeye Forest Council created and passed out. When the BLM and USFS wouldn’t allow public testimony, things turned rowdy. Federal officials were drowned out with chants of “We Say NO!” and pelted with wadded up comment forms and paper airplanes. Such frustration is justified. This latest “get the oil and gas out” effort is recycled from 2012, when it was pulled because of widespread opposition and the fact that the Wayne National Forest Plan had not considered fracking. In fact, there are many other reasons to leave these fossil fuels in the ground, not the least of which is climate change.

According to a recent report (released in August of 2015 from Biological Diversity — https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2015/greenhouse-gas-emissions-08-19-2015.html), ending fossil fuel extraction from federally owned mineral rights would keep 450 billion tons of greenhouse gasses out of the atmosphere. If the Obama administration is serious about the minimal commitments the U.S. made at the recent Paris climate talks, then adding oil and gas to the recent moratorium on the leasing of federal coal reserves is a necessary next step.

And, that’s what folks can push for going forward. Building on the #keepitintheground successes, we need to pressure the administration to extend the moratorium to federal oil and gas. And, that’s what folks can push for going forward. Building on the #keepitintheground successes, we need to pressure the administration to extend the moratorium to federal oil and gas. In addition, there is still an opportunity for you to submit comments on the local proposal to frack the Wayne National Forest. Those comments can be emailed to blm_es_comments@blm.gov.

For more information, contact the Buckeye Forest Council at info@buckeyeforestcouncil.org. Better yet, join us October 1 and 2 for the annual Buckeye Forest Gathering at Camp OYO in Shawnee State Forest near Portsmouth, Ohio. Hope to see you there!
Thank You, Heartwood Members, for Your Generous Contributions!


A Shout-Out to Our Major Treehuggers!

Allegheny Defense Project, Jillian Bar-av, Carol & Ray Beauregard, Mary C. and William M. Belitkas, Mary Bookwalter and Jeff Stunt, Anita Buck, John M. Byers, Cameron Clark, Dave Cooper, Martha Crouch, Indiana Forest Alliance, Joe Hazelbaker, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Tammy Ford, Jennifer Jones, Edward J. Lawrence, Myke Luurtsema, Andy Mahler and Linda Lee, Annemarie Mahler, Annette McCormick, Kevin Miller, Mary E. Montgomery, Audrey Moore, Tom Neill, David Nickell, Daniel Palmer, Charlotte Palmer Phillips Foundation, Alice Pennell, Charles Phillips, Karen Pitkin, Andrew F. Pitstick, Evan Prost, Ernie Reed, Liaison Records, Evan Rochford, Raven Rocks, Inc., Jeffrey Sanders, Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter, Winning Waters, Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing Our Environment, Chris Schimmoeller, Sherry Schmidt, Robert L. Shapiro, Sam Stearns, Bill Sturms, Mark A. Stoops, Mary Swanson, Tammy Tripp, Patricia Troth, Jon Cohn and Daniela Wittman with Jeanne Against Fracturing Our Environment, Chris Schimmoeller, Sherry Schmidt, Robert L. Shapiro, Sam Stearns, Bill Sturms, Mark A. Stoops, Mary Swanson, Tammy Tripp, Patricia Troth, Jon Cohn and Daniela Wittman with Jeanne

Join Heartwood or make a donation by simply going to www.heartwood.org and clicking on “donate” or mail a check to Heartwood at PO Box 1926, Bloomington, IN 47404

membership levels!

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Membership Benefits

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, autumn Heartwood 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 home.
Heartwood has lost many warriors with the passing of so many years. Is it not the nature of warriors to face the next dimension? But this does not lessen the grief for those remaining; we must march on facing that grief, absorbing it, gaining strength for our future battles. We cannot allow our grief to weaken us; those who have gone on to prepare the way need our strength to guide them.

We now mourn the loss of Kristi Hanson, a great warrior. Kristi passed away on the morning of January 27, 2016. She came into this world on April 20, 1952. I am sure it was a glorious day in Evanston, Illinois. She later attended the University of Wisconsin in Eau Claire. After one year, she decided to leave school and headed to a rural area near Carthage, Illinois. This is where Kristi’s and Mark Donham’s lives became intertwined. They began their journey of forty years together shortly thereafter. Together, as a team, they proved to possess an amazing ability to get things done.

Mark and Kristi spent many years working together as tree planters. This gave them the opportunity to become familiar with many of the eastern forests. After discovering the Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois, they decided this beautiful special place should be their home, “The prettiest forest we had seen,” said Mark and Kristi. Previously living for some time near a college town, they intentionally chose to locate their home in a place away from the influences of cities or towns so they could experience the true nature of the forest and get to know the long time residents of the area. They settled into their forest home near Brookport in Pope County, Illinois. How fortunate for those of us who enjoyed it as a meeting place, warm memories I will always treasure.

Nestled in their own little piece of paradise, Kristi and Mark embraced living off-grid. They walked the walk and talked the talk. Soon though, they were called to action when Forest Service helicopters began dropping what looked like mothballs in the surrounding forest. Mark and Kristi confronting the forest Service officials were told not to worry; it was a totally non-toxic herbicide application. Not satisfied with this answer, the duo conducted their own research and discovered the substance to be highly toxic. This led to contacting Senator Paul Simon and enlisting his support in their efforts to hold the Forest Service accountable. Thus began the ballad of Kristi and Mark. ACE (Association of Concerned Environmentalists) was formed. When forests were under threat in the western forests of Southern Illinois, RACE (Regional Association of Concerned Environmentalists) was formed with other forest defenders over milkshakes at the Pomona General Store. Meetings, protests, gatherings, encampments, letters to the editor and pro se litigation all followed. Visiting warriors came from neighboring threatened places, Heartwood began to take shape. Kristi was always there, later serving as a Heartwood council member for many years.

Kristi’s most powerful gifts were her calm nature and optimism, even in the face of situations that seemed unbearable. When forests fell or other threats loomed, she transcended the heartbreak and inspired people to find the joy of working together to do the right thing. She influenced people in such subtle ways they were often unaware of how they were being transformed and made better. She never sought the spotlight but shone her light on others. Kristi shared other talents with her community; her art using varied media is truly amazing. Generous donations of her artwork raised a great many dollars for Heartwood. She took up drumming as an adult and made it look easy. It was a true joy to dance with her at the Lazy Black Bear and other Heartwood locales. We will all have to dance more to take up the slack. This means you!

Kristi was truly loved by so many and will be dearly missed, but her spirit will linger to inspire us all in our efforts to protect the places we love.
In 2015 Heartwood awarded a total $4,600 to ten grassroots organizations through our Mini-grant program. These funds will support local initiatives to protect hardwood forest ecosystems from logging, fracking, and mountaintop removal coal mining all across the Heartwood region.

The Marcellus Biodiversity Project in Pennsylvania is using its grant to conduct a bioblitz in the Loyalsock State Forest, which is currently threatened by expanded natural gas drilling. In West Virginia, Heartwood Mini-grants have supported groups such as Aurora Lights, which has developed a yearlong curriculum for middle school students to explore the storied, turbulent history of resource extraction in the state. Concept Zero in Paducah, Kentucky, and Tennessee Heartwood, both Mini-grant recipients, played key roles in the LBL Coalition to successfully challenge a project proposed on the Land Between the Lakes that would have had devastating impacts on that forest. Tennessee Heartwood is also actively challenging destructive logging projects proposed for the Cherokee National Forest.

What makes Heartwood unique in the crowded field of environmental nonprofits is the deep connections with local forests, ecosystems, and communities that drive the work of our members. Heartwood activists recognize the connection between the “local” issues and the broader struggle to protect wild forest ecosystems and nearby communities. The Heartwood Mini-grant program serves to support those groups that are on the ground, in the forests and communities, that might fly under the radar of the large national environmental organizations. For a complete list of 2015 Mini-grant winners, see the sidebar, or visit https://heartwood.org/2015-mini-grant-winners/.

### 2015 Mini-Grant Winners

| Kanawha Forest Coalition (WV) | MTR Strip Mine Monitoring and Surveillance |
| Concept Zero (KY) | LBL Coalition Public Outreach |
| Aurora Lights (WV) | Shattering Stereotypes: An Empowered Mountain History |
| Coal River Mountain Watch (WV) | Fall Break on Coal River Mountain |
| People of Color (POC) | POC Earth First Organizers Conference |
| Tennessee Heartwood | Federal Lands Monitoring |
| Lance Olsen | Climate and Biodiversity Listserv |
| Marcellus Biodiversity Project (PA) | Loyalsock State Forest Survey |
| Prison Ecology Project of the Human Rights Defense Center (HRDC) | Mini-Tour |
| Frack-Free Foothills (KY) | No Fracking: Fall Outreach Campaign |

With help from the Heartwood Mini-grant program, Aurora Lights funded history students in West Virginia to explore “An Empowered Mountain History”.

For over a decade, June 11 has been a day of action in solidarity with environmentalists and anarchists imprisoned for their actions in defense of the Earth. The day has its origins in an international outcry over the extreme and unprecedented sentencing of Jeffrey Luers to 22 years in prison for damaging several SUV’s at a car dealership. Since its inception in 2004, the June 11 day of action and other acts of solidarity have been instrumental in winning shorter sentences or early release for eco-prisoners, including Luers himself as well as Eric McDavid, who was entrapped by an informant. Yet committed earth defenders such as Marius Mason, targeted in the FBI’s “Greenscare,” are still serving harsh sentences in maximum security prisons for taking direct action against earth destroying industries.

Meanwhile in Appalachia, the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) plans to build a massive maximum security prison on top of a former mountaintop removal coal mine in Letcher County, Eastern Kentucky, surrounded by sludge ponds and coal processing and transport operations. This amounts to an environmental justice nightmare, where prisoners who are disproportionately low-income and people of color face toxic conditions behind bars.

It also happens that this prison site is about a mile as the crow flies from a rare and very biodiverse pocket of Eastern old-growth called the Lilley Cornett Woods. Learn more in the December 2015 issue of the Earth First! Journal.

As of December 2015, the BOP got over $400 million approved for the prison’s construction. The newly-formed Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons (FTP) is organizing to stop it, and looking to grow a coalition of opposition.

Stopping one prison is not a magic bullet to ending the U.S. police state, the one that gave way to the world’s largest prison nation and in turn serves as the apparatus of repression that keeps the planet shackled to industrial capitalism...

CALL FOR A CONVERGENCE AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF ACTION

IN SUPPORT OF ECO-PRISONERS & AGAINST TOXIC PRISONS

JUNE 11 – 13, 2016

WASHINGTON D.C. AND EVERYWHERE
Continued from page 4

But it's a pretty good place to build from. In particular, it is a powerful place that the environmental movement can express solidarity with the growing rage over the racist criminal justice system.

The goal of gathering in DC is to converge for a series of actions that can put pressure on both the BOP and the EPA regarding this proposed prison, and environmental justice issues related to prisoners in general, while continuing to fight for the release of eco-prisoners in the spirit of June 11. We also hope to see this effort build stronger bonds between the eco-defense movement and the movements against the police state and mass incarceration.

We envision a gathering June 10 to 12 for intersectional networking, strategizing and organizing, culminating with a mass action on Monday the 13th.

For those who like the idea, but can't make it to DC, there are other options. For example, the BOP has regional offices in 5 other locations.

Additionally, the PR company that is contracted to produce the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the BOP's Letcher prison is called Cardoza, and has offices in many U.S. cities, and other cities all over the world. This is the same firm that was contracted by the U.S. State Department to produce an EIS for the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline.

In many ways, the prison experiences of activists like Luers, Mason, McDavid, and others such as Daniel McGowan, Rebecca Rubin and Tim DeChristopher, have provided courage and inspiration rather than the desired effect of intimidation. They also gave the environmental movement an inside look at the prison epidemic in the U.S. With the steady stream of urban uprisings against the police state, there has never been a better time to organize at this intersection of ecology and incarceration. We hope you'll join us. ♦

Get in touch if you are interested in helping to organize this J11/FTP convergence or if you are part of a group who wants to co-sponsor it. More details are forthcoming.

Contact: FightToxicPrisons@gmail.com

Co-sponsoring groups include Earth First! Prisoner Support, Rising Tide North America, Appalachian Resist!, Jericho D.C., Prison Ecology Project and others TBA.

FightToxicPrisons.org

Reportback from Tennessee Heartwood

by Davis Mounger

This quarter has been very productive. The most notable work has been on the Paint Creek timber sale in the Unaka district of the Cherokee. This has been a long process, with us having begun work on this project over three years ago, through two separate Environmental Analyses and a Pre-Decisional Objection hearing and temporary resolution. We had succeeded in getting the Forest Service to do an additional soils analysis after our long-term documentation of the effects of logging on similar soils at the Hogback sale in the Ocoee district showed severe environmental degradation.

Unfortunately, the agency then pretended that damage from the Hogback sale didn’t exist after that and issued a decision to continue with all logging at Paint Creek as planned even on sites that it acknowledged were risky. Their additional soils report had no mention of Hogback as an example, with their decision notice misrepresenting our evidence from Hogback as being a couple of isolated pictures, rather than three years of video and photos from multiple sites.

We have just completed a lengthy objection that covers both the possible National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) issues of public input and the ecological issues. Several committee members have reviewed and contributed to this.

The week we began working on the objection, we discovered a real bombshell. The rangers in the Ocoee district have in the last few months taken to heart the damage that has happened at Hogback. This has triggered an incredible number of changes on that part of the forest, including:

- A review of Hogback that acknowledges problems with post-treatment land conditions that are being re-mitigated.
- Experimental mitigation techniques being trialed on Unit 1 of the Hogback sale, including a variety of techniques for restoring ground cover to bare spots, particularly in using different types of erosion matting such as compost fiber and aspen wood. Different mixing served as a complete reformulation of the fertilizer/lime mix for stock logging, which will probably become standard.
- Possible new standards that will limit logging to 35-degrees continuous slope.
- Experience learned from re-mitigating Hogback in recontouring skid trails.
- Additional analysis going on at the Conacat, Dinkey, and Stone Pile sales that looks at past actions along with current proposals.
- A Best Management Practices (BMP) study by Hydrologist Allison Reddington that looks at how a number of BMP’s are being implemented on the ground in the Cherokee, including skid trails/temporary roads, including: correct spacing water bars, slope of skid trails, riparian buffers, how stream crossings are properly constructed and put to bed, and in particular, the volume of skid roads in an area.
- In short, monitoring what the agency does, can get the goods. If our committee’s monitoring had not happened, none of the changes would be happening in the South Zone of the forest.

However, in the Unaka district in the North Zone, they managed to undertake a “comprehensive” soils analysis with recommendations, while conveniently ignoring the valuable work done on the same soils by some of the same agency employees only four counties to the south. This obvious conflict is a key part of our objections for the Paint Creek sale.

We hope that the agency will be willing to negotiate a fair resolution to our objections. We’re currently waiting for their response.

On other sales in the Cherokee, we’re pleased to report from the South Zone rangers that the upcoming analyses for the Dinkey, Conacat, and Stone Pile timber sales are being greatly restructured. We look forward to seeing the changes that are being made.

In the Land Between the Lakes, our work with the Coalition for the Preservation of the Land Between the Lakes continues to be productive. We are meeting with the Forest Service in a few days to discuss a new plan for monitoring and evaluation of key species. We’re also planning to spend some days this spring on the land with the agency discussing some ways to reform management. It is likely that it will be two or three years before a Long Range Management Plan revision begins. I made a narrated slide show of our coalition’s citizen’s plan, which can be accessed here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxKgda845G0Qk1vM05KbWdZkV/view?usp=sharing

Now is the time to start filling in the data gaps that are so great in this neglected forest. ♦

Before: Eroded landscape, “Devastation from Shortleaf Pine Restoration at Cherokee National Forest

After: Following three years of monitoring the site and highlighting the negative effects of logging, the Forest Service admits failure and begins expensive remitigation of the site with recontouring, reseeding, and adding a mulch mat. The new ranger has cleaned house and begun new practices to make sure this doesn’t happen again.
How can we kindle the spark in someone else? You know, the spark that motivates them to do something more than attend a meeting or sign an online petition. As organizers, we always hope our three minute personal story of “how I got here” inspires a wannabe activist to go beyond the “concerned citizen” role and become fully engaged in the campaign.

I’m starting to think this transformation requires a form of alchemy or some kind of wizardry at best. After sitting through another two hour member meeting where after a list of issues from pipeline to fracking, environmental justice to clean power plans, film festivals to fundraising and media, the same six volunteers took home the brunt of the work load and no new help stepped up. Why is it that we have so many supporters, but so few willing to assume the challenges of action?

What inspires a person to action, what enragés and motivates, what dreams are vanishing in the space between acknowledging the issue and the desire to do something about it?

Building your organization’s base is a full time job. It’s a slow process, one where you have to get to know your volunteers, their dreams and hopes, and what enragés them, who inspires them, and what their bottom line is. It is time and energy consuming to manage 12 volunteers. Even managing two volunteers is a challenge for a talented organizer, while continuing to answer emails, media reporters, phone calls, read the latest news on your list serves, post the most recent emails, media reporters, phone calls, read the lastest news on your list serves, post the most recent science, repeat and share the endless requests for funding and petition signatures, while researching technical and other data for comment periods and hearings, while lobbying your elected officials to pass resolutions and legislation to protect our communities; all this in addition to family life. Yes, it’s a dizzy life.

My activism was born out of a need to protect my water source. After spending nearly a decade building a home I never planned to leave, our ar-tesian water well was threatened by the prospect of fracking and I jumped into the flow, head first. I learned as much as I could, as fast as I could and I didn’t stop to ask for permission. Sometimes that didn’t work out in my favor, and it did ruffle some feathers, but most of the time, it worked out.

At a recent meeting, I tried a different approach. A Heartwood comrade, to whom I expressed concern for the slacktivism happening, suggested that I may be perceived as being too enthu-siastic and set too vigorous a pace in my environmental defense. I am into several is-sues and have created a hel-luva network across America because the issues are not in-sular and there is no sense in recreating the wheel. So I sat back, I let someone else facili-tate and just gave my reports back, and added if anyone wants to jump into the action leave your name here and I sent around a clipboard for folks to leave contact informa-

No new volunteers.

As an organizer this is a big red flag in assessing how a meeting went and time for self reflection too. Was it me? What could I have done dif-ferently? Was I approachable enough? Was I open to con-structive criticism? Was I criti-cal of someone else’s idea? The mental monkeys are chattering with what I could have done differently to en-gage more people into action.

In hindsight, I’m not sure anything I do is going to break down what I see as a culture of engrained hierarchy and power systems which teach people to obey. People are waiting for permission to do “something”—so many people are waiting for top down orders from a “leader.”

We, as a nation, have effect-
ively eradicated free thinking and self motivat-ed leaders, and have fallen victim to group think: the practice of making decisions as a group in a way that discourages creativity or individual responsibility.

If everyone reading this would walk away with one nugget of information from this publication of Heartbeat here it is: you don’t need permission to act. Act on climate issues; act on extreme en-
ergy extraction; act on changing systems that oppresses marginalized communities; act on racism; act on human rights abuses, act on the injustice, regularly and repeatedly.

We are looking at a long difficult road ahead. We need to move faster and with love in our hearts. We need everyone to break away from the colonial mentality of pyramid power and trickle down orders that has been engrained in our behaviors by 12+ years of education based on conformity and control. Question authority. Push back against the need to have someone else’s consent to protect the places and people you love. You don’t need permission to do the right thing.

Using constructive, creative activism methods, be it weaving poetry into your public comment, playing guitar at the public hearing, writing let-ters to the editor, performing a one person pro-test, dropping a banner with 20 of your closest friends at a board meeting, launching an effect-ive blockade or tree sit, finding what motivates you to act. The spectrum of doing “something” is wide and opportunities are endless if we push the boundaries of non violent direct action and move forward.

Get creative. Engage your rage. You have per-mission to protect our world.

www.shawneesentinels.wordpress.com

"Get creative. Engage your rage. You have permission to protect our world."
GOOD NEWS AT LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES
by Wade White, Lyon County Judge Executive

Editor’s note: Last summer, Tennessee Heartwood and Kentucky Heartwood, along with our allies with the Coalition for the Preservation of Land Between the Lakes, achieved a major victory when the Forest Service agreed to withdraw the Pisgah Bay Project and the proposed commercial logging of 3,600 acres of our public forests. Since then, we have continued our work toward long-term management changes at LBL to stop commercial logging, promote biodiversity, and better involve the public in decision-making processes in this unique national forest unit. The following letter was written by our friend, Lyon County Judge Executive Wade White, and published on the Coalition website and in the Lyon County Herald-Ledger and the Princeton Times-Leader.

Over the past year most of the articles I have written about Land Between the Lakes have been warnings to alert everyone of the wrong direction in which things were heading. Today, I’m very happy to write an article pointing to a positive turn around taking place at Land Between the Lakes. This article doesn’t signal that all LBL Coalition goals are complete by any means, but it does signal that under Tina Tilley’s leadership Land Between the Lakes is moving in a new and positive direction.

As many of you may know the largest target for the Coalition in 2015, was to see the Forest Service cancel the 3600 acres of planned commercial logging known as the Pisgah Bay Project. The good news—the Forest Service not only scrapped the Pisgah Bay Project but also agreed to ZERO commercial logging through the end of 2016. There are other positive things taking place that I want to report.

Richy Moore, an avid visitor to Hillman Ferry Campground, said there hasn’t been any significant repair or maintenance there in years. But in the last few weeks, two new shelters have been replaced, a new foot bridge at the playground started, and several loads of rip rap and dense gravel coming to Woodson Chapel and Brandon Chapel. I was able to meet with Mrs. Tilley to discuss road and bridge work that is planned. For example, road number 126 bridge repair is currently in the engineering stage. Road work continues on Racetrack and Curry Hollow – with more gravel coming to Woodson Chapel and Brandon Chapel. Hematite Trail will be getting some much needed reconstruction and trail work. And there is cooperation with the Forest Service on investigating the possibility of working with the public to rebuild the old silo. This will take a great deal of money and planning, but this is a positive step to know the Forest Service is interested in helping us work through these possibilities.

The Forest Service is also setting up smoke detection devices to monitor during the next large burns in the 8600. They are making an effort to reduce or eliminate the “smoke out” we usually experience during these burns.

Donnie Holland reported that the Golden Pond Overlook Project that has stalled over the past few years is now back on schedule and may open March, 2016! It was started about seven years ago. Another long awaited trail that has been important for our horse group has been the rebuilding of trail 11 which was cut off by the 68/80 highway. After a very long delay, it is back on schedule to be completed.

This is all good news! There is evidence of a shift in priorities in a good direction. But we must stay vigilant! We still need the new Area Management Plan. A new Area Management Plan is our next goal, but it is set to begin in 2019. Many of us think it should be sooner. So in discussions with Mrs. Tilley, she has agreed to put together a list of items and surveys needed prior to beginning a Plan Revision. With this list, we can work with and monitor the Forest Service to make sure things stay on track to get us ready as soon as possible.

We want to thank Tina Tilley for hearing us and working with us to slowly turn things in a new direction. We also appreciate Mrs. Tilley for attending the Between the Rivers Rally and spending so much time with former residents. She clearly is showing a desire to not only hear us but understand the history of what makes Land Between the Lakes different from other National Forests.

We have a lot of work to do to see Land Between the Lakes become all it should be. Thanks to everyone who participated in making this all happen. Please stay involved by visiting www.LBLCoalition.org.

Feel free to contact me with any questions at lyoncountyjudge@gmail.com or 270-388-7311.

Surprising Victory on the Wayne!
by Bill Montgomery, of the Buckeye Forest Council and Ohio Environmental Council

The Buckeye Habitat Improvement Project (BHIP) proposed for the Ironton District of Ohio’s Wayne National Forest has been withdrawn. This was achieved not by a Federal Court decision but as a result of adverse comments submitted by activists, during the project’s initial scoping period. The Ironton District is one of three such districts of the Wayne National Forest.

There is a similarity in this victory to what was achieved in the 3600 acre Pisgah Bay Project in Kentucky’s Land Between the Lakes. The BHIP, too, involved collective efforts of different forest users; and a batch of local politicians were brought into active roles, to use their influence. The BHIP went beyond 3600 acres and involved a number of individual projects that were to be undertaken over the next 20 years. While some projects involved good ideas, others provided for logging, extensive herbicide use, and prescribed burning. That would harm Listed Species, nesting birds and their habitat.

Separately, the Forest Service also announced there would be improvements, expansion, and some rerouting in their horse and hiking trails. This was a direct response to requests of horse groups.

More battles in the Wayne remain ahead. These involve projects previously approved in earlier years and BLM leases for gas and oil drilling.
I n October 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposed to list the Kentuc-
y arrow darter (Ethostoma splilotum) as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and to designate 246 stream miles as critical habitat. This beautiful little fish is found only in high quality streams in the upper Kentucky River watershed.

Protection is urgently needed, as the arrow darter has been extirpated in 49% of its his-
torical streams, with nearly half of those losses coming since the mid-1990’s as mountaintop
removal coal mining expanded. Nearly all the remaining populations are in the Daniel Boone National Forest and the University of Kentucky owned Robinson Forest, which is managed as a research forest. The species is sensitive to sedi-
mation and other pollution, and, in addition to surface coal mining, is further threatened by oil and gas development, logging, stream channel-
ization, and other land use practices that can degrade water quality.

Kentucky Heartwood submitted detailed comments for the ESA listing with our friends at the Center for Biological Diversity, and helped generate nearly 4,000 comment letters through the Center’s comment portal. Sierra Club submitted a petition with over 13,000 signatures.

Kentucky Heartwood earlier had submitted comments in late 2014 on the Spring Creek Veh-
tation Management project, which proposed log-
ging in the Spring Creek and Little Spring Creek watersheds in Clay County. We raised concerns about impacts to the Kentucky arrow darter, as well as the presence of oil and gas roads and in-
frastructure that the Forest Service failed to dis-
close or consider in their analysis. With regards to the Kentucky arrow darter, the Forest Service stated in project documents that there would be no impacts to the species because Spring Creek provides suitable habitat. Therefore, we were considerably surprised to learn that the US-
FWS proposed the entire Spring Creek and Little Spring Creek watersheds for critical habitat designation a month before the Spring Creek project was approved, and following our predisciplinary objection (a type of administrative challenge) of the project. The USFWS noted in the Federal Register notice that there is a resident popula-
tion in Spring Creek, and stated that “this unit comprises a portion of the species’ core popula-
tion within the Red Bird River watershed and contributes to connectivity of streams within the
watershed.”

We discovered that the Forest Service not only had access to documents describing the Spring Creek darter population during the development of the Spring Creek project, but had also been told by USFWS that Spring Creek did in fact provide suitable habitat. Further, we learned that the two agencies had been working on a cooper-
ative Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) to protect the species at the same time they were denying its presence in Spring Creek in their analysis of the logging project.

Nearly all of the Redbird District, where most of the remaining Kentucky arrow darter popu-
lations still find habitat, exists under a “split estate,” where private entities retained the mineral rights when the surface was sold to the federal government to become part of the national for-
est system. The Forest Service currently exer-
cises little authority over well development for privately-owned oil and gas operations, and pro-\nvides no public notice when companies seek a permit to develop national forest land. Kentucky Heartwood has spent the last year and half re-
searching oil and gas issues on the Daniel Boone, gathering a wide range of documents through Freedom of Information Act requests, site visits, and dialogue with the Forest Service.

The Forest Service contends that the develop-
ment of private oil and gas is outside the scope of most environmental laws that typically apply
to national forest lands, including the National Environmental Policy Act, National Forest Man-
agement Act, and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. In response to our comments on the Spring Creek project, and in internal documents, the Forest Service has stated unambiguously their position that the Standards and Guidelines in the Daniel Boone NF Forest Plan do not ap-
ply to the development of private oil and gas on national forest lands, including the drilling of
wells, construction of roads, and placement of gathering lines and other infrastructure. How-
ever, the CCA between the Forest Service and the USFWS to protect the Kentucky arrow
darter relies heavily on these same Standards and Guidelines. The CCA explicitly states that Standards applying to oil and gas develop-
ment will be protective of the arrow darter, all the while the Forest Service insists else-
where that these same Standards and Guidelines don’t apply to most or all Kentucky arrow
darter habitat on the forest.

Kentucky Heartwood sent a letter to the For-
est Service in December demanding that the agency immediately withdraw their Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Spring Creek Vegetation Management Project, and to address these glaring examples of misinformation and faulty analysis. The letter builds on our growing record of correspondence with the Forest Service regarding our concerns about the lack of transparency and exercised authority in the development of private oil and gas activities on the Daniel Boone NF. While the Forest Service is required to provide “rea-
able access” for these operations, we believe that their interpretation of existing law is flawed
and misapplied. We do not accept the position that private oil and gas companies wishing to
develop our national forest lands can do almost whatever they want, wherever they want, and without public scrutiny. There are strong argu-
ments for the greater exercise of authority by the Forest Service in approving surface occupancy
and infrastructure development, and for notice to the public about such operations.

Our efforts to see better protections afforded
to our national forest lands threatened by private
oil and gas development build on our success in seeing the Forest Service withdraw “consent
to lease” on federal oil and gas on the Daniel
Boone NF, affecting about 300,000 acres. All of
this work is very time consuming, and represents years of work on multiple, intersecting issues.
We could not do this work without our members
and other donors, and thank each of you who
has helped support Kentucky Heartwood in our
efforts to protect Kentucky’s forests and public
lands.dent notice and finding of no significant impact for the Spring Creek Vegetation Management Project, and to address these glaring examples of misinformation and faulty analysis. The letter builds on our growing record of correspondence with the Forest Service regarding our concerns about the lack of transparency and exercised authority in the development of private oil and gas activities on the Daniel Boone NF. While the Forest Service is required to provide “reasonable access” for these operations, we believe that their interpretation of existing law is flawed and misapplied. We do not accept the position that private oil and gas companies wishing to develop our national forest lands can do almost whatever they want, wherever they want, and without public scrutiny. There are strong arguments for the greater exercise of authority by the Forest Service in approving surface occupancy and infrastructure development, and for notice to the public about such operations.

Our efforts to see better protections afforded to our national forest lands threatened by private oil and gas development build on our success in seeing the Forest Service withdraw “consent to lease” on federal oil and gas on the Daniel Boone NF, affecting about 300,000 acres. All of this work is very time consuming, and represents years of work on multiple, intersecting issues. We could not do this work without our members and other donors, and thank each of you who has helped support Kentucky Heartwood in our efforts to protect Kentucky’s forests and public lands.
Join Heartwood for a memorable weekend of activism and compassion at the 2016 Forest Council!

Hosted by Buckeye Forest Council

May 27-30, at Camp Otterbein in Logan, Ohio

This year’s Forest Council will focus on how we engage in activism through community building, arts, policy wonking, camaraderie, a memorial service, and the art of finding center in all that you do.....

After two and a half decades, Heartwood has seen many issues come and go and we have experienced many heartbreaks, as well as success stories. We feel at the root of our core is the eternal love we have for our community, our families, and our surroundings. We hope you will come for a weekend that nourishes your activist spirit, trains your body and your mind to find the most efficient and successful ways to navigate through the campaigns you are working on back home.

One Hearth, Many Sparks Forest Council gathering will focus on presentations, workshops, hands-on learning, woodland walks, guest speakers, wonderful local food, and fabulous entertainment. In keeping with tradition at Forest Council, there will be plenty of socializing and networking opportunities throughout the weekend, talent show and auction.

From Christina Wulf
Heartwood Forest Council
Planning Committee

The theme of the 2016 Heartwood Forest Council in Ohio is One Hearth, Many Sparks. The theme speaks to the many stories and skills that we each bring to Heartwood, but also to the varied ways in which we approach activism. This year, in addition to workshops on national forests and natural history, we will explore ways that art and activism can collaborate to create stronger movements for social and environmental justice.

Along with many other forms of artistry, the theatrical arts will take center stage several times during this year’s Forest Council, with performances and workshops by Bob Lucas and other members of Mad River Theater Works and by Barbara Bates Smith and Jeff Sebens who will present a short play called “Go, Granny D!”. For many years, Granny D (aka Doris Haddock) was a regular at Heartwood events, including the 2003, 2004, and 2006 Forest Councils in Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia. She told stories from her 3200 mile walk across America in support of campaign finance reform, and her keynote speeches were always blunt and funny. In West Virginia in 2006, she called out Big Coal’s political and economic destruction, saying, “We have been divided and conquered, but we can undivide at will, for we all have a stake in the air and water and the earth’s health and our human and democratic rights.”

Granny D’s commitment and humor—especially her catch phrase, “You’re never too old to raise a little hell”—caught the eye of actress Barbara Bates Smith. Although she never met Granny D, Barbara read her memoir and immediately recognized a kindred soul. Together with musician Jeff Sebens, she concocted a one woman show called “Go, Granny D!” based on Doris’ writings and interviews. We are thrilled to welcome the spirit of Granny D back to the Heartwood Forest Council.

The weekend will also feature members of Mad River Theater Works, based in Zanesfield, Ohio. This same troupe brought an amazing and moving performance of “The Pasture: A Tale of Just Food” to the 2013 Heartwood Reunion. The play taught a musical parable about the tragedy of industrialized agriculture and the power of good food.

At the 2016 Forest Council, a subset of the Mad River troupe will perform a program of music and stories from their body of theatrical work. The concert weaves together original songs by Bob Lucas, founder of Mad River Theater Works, with stories of characters from their plays. The combination is “good and juicy and connects the dots between history, social change, and art-making.”

In addition, Bob Lucas and Chris Westhoff (the Artistic and Managing Directors, respectively) will lead a workshop on Dynamic Showmanship, exploring art and activism through the lenses of drama and discussing ways to make our own activism more accessible by weaving in elements of performance and theater.
When you leave the world behind, you step into Heartwood time for the weekend. The planning committee will try to keep the ball rolling and workshops on the day they are listed here in the Heartbeat, but things may change here and there a little bit. Sit back, grab a cup of tea, and visit with a fellow comrade. Enjoy Heartwood time, that place that exists in among the woods and the trees, rocks and plants. Practice being present in the now and just breathe...

Friday

Registration opens at 4pm!
Lighting of the Council Fire
   Buckeye Forest Council opening ceremony

One Hearth, Many Sparks Art Show!

Food by Shane and Mia
   Locally sourced and prepared with love

Special Guest Presentation from Paul Knoop: A Sense of Place

Entertainment
   Corrollat

Saturday

“Biscuits and Mischief”
   In this pre-breakfast workshop, we will learn to make Dutch-oven biscuits around the campfire while brainstorming creative ways to subvert the machine.

Opening Circle
   Including Jemez Principles

Enviro Geek’s Delight
   “Codes and Encryption: Securing our Communication for Security and Solidarity” by Devin Certas
   “(K)night’s at the Roundtable: a Frank Discussion about Current Issues” led by Heartwood’s seasoned activists

Enviro Empaths Retreat
   “Forest Walk” with Paul Knoop. Participants will learn about identifying species and exploring environmental literacy.

Enviro Artist
   “Art and Activism” Eleanor Goldfield will lead a hands-on workshop on combining artistic, expressive nature, and engaging in activism.

Allied Medic Training
   Basic training for activists and protesters designed as a complete introduction to NVDA medical knowledge and skills. The completion of this course will prepare you to serve as an “affinity group medic” at political actions. (This is not a “street medic”; that training is 20+ hours.)

Keynote Address
   “Occupy, Art and Activism” by Eleanor Goldfield

Mad River Theater Performance

Entertainment
   Bright at Night (www.facebook.com/BrightAtNight)

   “Biscuits and Mischief”
   In this pre-breakfast workshop, we will learn to make Dutch-oven biscuits around the campfire while brainstorming creative ways to subvert the machine.

   Opening Circle
   “Go, Granny D” created by Barbara Bates Smith with music by Jeff Sebens—a short performance about the work of Doris Haddock

   Enviro Geek’s Delight
   “Forest Warriors’ War Room” Forest issues (logging, MTR, frack-pipes) and how Heartwood can help
   “In Earth We Trust” Epic, fun team building exercises at the camp mud pit, kayak games, and scout training

   Enviro Foodie
   “Funky Fungi” Mycology Workshop

   Enviro Empaths Retreat
   “Forest Walk” with Paul Knoop. Participants will learn about identifying species and exploring environmental literacy.

   Enviro Artist
   Granny D discussion led by Barbara Bates Smith with music by Jeff Sebens
   “Dynamic Showmanship” Mad River Theater will explore art and activism through the lenses of drama and discuss ways to make our own activism more accessible by weaving in elements of performance and theater.

Allied Medic Training
   This is a basic training for activists and protesters designed as a complete introduction to NVDA medical knowledge and skills. The completion of this course will prepare you to serve as an “affinity group medic” at political actions. (This is not a “street medic”; that training is 20+ hours.)

Silent Auction + Live Auction
   The best and most unique auctions ever to be held in Athens

Activist Speed Networking
   90-second “dance” with other Heartwood members to learn something new and fun

“The Bucket” Talent Show
   Get your belly laugh on and join the Heartwood Jokes, Song, Dance, Talent, and Not-So-Much Talent Show!

   Monday

   “Biscuits and Mischief”
   In this pre-breakfast workshop, we will learn to make Dutch-oven biscuits around the campfire while brainstorming creative ways to subvert the machine.

Closing Circle
   Memorial Day Remembrance of our Warriors Ceremony and Passing of the Council Embers

Guerilla Tree Planting

   Additional workshops may include

   “Fundraising on a Budget”
   Leveraging old and new technology to bring the bucks and bitcoins to your cause

   “How to Herd Cats without a Can Opener and Cheap Food”
   The basics of organizational base building

   “Origami and Paper Wrenching Tools”
   Research basics and FOIA-ing workshop to aid your campaign

   “Rage Is OK: Channeling with Clay and Fire”
   Digging hands (and feet) into clay to work out our rage—squishing, pounding, molding earth

   “Church of Good Dirt”
   Food security and seed saving by a local farmer

   This awesome camp has multiple opportunities to play: a three-acre lake, hiking trails, volleyball, basketball, art show, Ga-ga ball, archery, mud-pit; we want campers to enjoy their weekend however their hearts desire. Come prepared to play!

   Kids’ activities include

   • Building a journal—for all the cool things they’ll find on their journey at HFC
   • Tree identification
   • Scat ID
   • Stream play and explore biology (will try and get seine nets and microscopes)
   • Fossils and rock hunt
   • Kids’ meditation and dance time
   • Finger painting and touch drawing
   • Tree climbing
   • Archery
   • Collaborative storytelling workshop
what to bring

- Camp chairs, comfortable pads, pillows, and cushions for outdoor seating
- Bedding and towels for cabins, mug/travel cup, outdoor gear, water bottles, flashlight, bug repellent, raingear, swimsuit, and sunscreen
- Auction items to donate to the Heartwood Auction!
- Musical instruments
- Special food or snacks you might want
- Banners, displays, information from your organization to share with others
- Play clothes! This awesome camp has multiple opportunities to play: a three-acre lake, hiking trails, volleyball, basketball, art show, Ga-ga ball, archery, mud-pit; we want campers to enjoy their weekend however their hearts desire. Come prepared to play!
- Art to sell or swap—for the “One Hearth, Many Sparks” art show!

accommodations

Tent camping!
Enclosed shared space; cabins sleep 11-30
All registration packages include meals for the time you’ll be joining us!

Linens and towels are not provided; please bring your own!

directions

If you need or can provide a ride, please call 812-307-4326 to coordinate.

Camp Otterbein
15779 Cox Road
Logan, Ohio 43138

From Athens, Ohio (about 25 minutes)
Get on US 33W from Columbus Road for 3 miles. Follow US 33 toward Logan, OH to OH-328 in Green Township 18 miles. Take the OH 328 exit toward Logan. Turn left onto OH-328S. Follow for 2.2 miles to Cox Road. Turn right.

From Lancaster, Ohio (about 25 minutes)
Get on US-33, Follow US-33 E to OH-328 S in Green Township, approximately 21 miles. Take the OH-328 exit from US-33 E to OH 328 in Green Township. Turn right onto OH 328S. Follow for 2.2 miles to Cox Road. Turn right.

work exchange

If the registration cost is out of your budget at the moment, you can request a work exchange assignment. We have changed this program to include blocks of time PRIOR to the event for set up, as well as AFTER the event for clean up. You can receive $10/hour off of your registration costs.

If you are unable to do work exchange or would like other options, we can also recommend free offsite camping at the nearby horse camp ground as well as encourage you to bring your own food if you are on a very limited budget.

NO ONE WILL BE TURNED AWAY!!! Please talk to Becky Woodman at the registration table at the event, or contact her for money-saving suggestions at 812-307-4326 or info@heartwood.org.

cosponsorship

We invite you to become a cosponsor of the 2016 Heartwood Forest Council. Funds raised will be used to underwrite the event and make it affordable for those who might otherwise be unable to attend.

$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, and tabling space.

$200 – Secondary Old Growth Sponsor
Organizational logo on program and at event, food and camping for 1 for the weekend, and tabling space.

$100 – Keystone Species Sponsor
Program listing and shout out (and our deepest gratitude), and tabling space.

$50 – Heartwood Organizational or Business Membership
Listings on program, and tabling space (as available).

All sponsorship levels include annual Heartwood Membership. Benefits include:
• Link and logo on Heartwood website
• Listing in Heartbeat, published twice annually
• Qualifies organization to apply for Heartwood Mini-grants
• Heartwood Forest, Climate, and Carbon Network Support

Make checks payable to Heartwood, and please indicate that your donation is intended for Heartwood Forest Council co-sponsorship. Mail checks to Heartwood, P.O. Box 1926, Bloomington, IN 47404. For more information, please email info@heartwood.org or call 812-307-4326.

registration

MEMBER PRICING

- $123 Package: Full Weekend Heartwood Member
  Registration, Tent Camping, All Meals
- $165 Package: Full Weekend Heartwood Member
  Registration, BUNK CABIN, All Meals
- $50 ONE DAY Heartwood Member
  Registration, NO CAMPING, 3 Meals
- $58 ONE DAY Heartwood Member
  Registration, Tent Camping, 3 Meals
- $75 ONE DAY Heartwood Member
  Registration, Bunk Cabin, 3 Meals
- $90 TWO DAY Heartwood Member
  Registration, Tent Camping, 6 Meals
- $140 TWO DAY Heartwood Member
  Registration, Bunk Cabin, 6 Meals

NON-MEMBER PRICING

(Special Limited Time New/Renewing Membership Rate of $25 available!)

- $150 Package: Full Weekend NON-Member
  Registration, Tent Camping, All Meals
- $200 Package: Full Weekend NON-Member
  Registration, BUNK CABIN, All Meals
- $60 ONE DAY NON-Member
  Registration, NO CAMPING, 3 Meals
- $70 ONE DAY NON-Member
  Registration, Tent Camping, 3 Meals
- $105 ONE DAY NON-Member
  Registration, Bunk Cabin, 3 Meals
- $116 TWO DAY NON-Member
  Registration, Tent Camping, 6 Meals
- $168 TWO DAY NON-Member
  Registration, Bunk Cabin, 6 Meals

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS about these fees or want to register a child, email info@heartwood.org.

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Eleanor Goldfield  A creative activist, singer, and writer, Eleanor is also the founder and lead singer of the political hard rock band, Rooftop Revolutionaries. She also founded and hosts the weekly creative and grassroots activism show Act Out! which airs on occupy.com and is syndicated on Free Speech TV. Her free-lance articles are published on a variety of alternative media sites, and she also works as a consultant and speaker on the concepts of creative activism and using art to kill apathy, as her site suggests.

Paul Knoop  A former director and founding member of Appalachia Ohio Alliance (AOA), Paul also served as Naturalist at Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm in Dayton, Ohio, for over three decades and was its Director for many years. A resident of Hocking Hills, Paul and his wife Cathy continue to provide environmental educational opportunities in conjunction with several organizations. Paul's commitment to learning and understanding the natural world and freely sharing his time and knowledge with others exemplifies AOA's commitment to voluntary community service through conservation and education.

“Go, Granny D!”  This one-woman show is based on the writings and interviews of Doris Haddock, formerly a Heartwood Forest Council regular, created by Barbara Bates Smith with music by Jeff Sebens. Go Granny D—with its commitment and humor, especially her catch phrase, “You’re never too old to raise a little hell”—is sure to be a lively program!

Mad River Theater Works  A subset of the troupe will perform a program created from their body of theatrical work weaving together original songs by Bob Lucas and characters from their plays. The combination is “good and juicy and connects the dots between history, social change, and art-making.”

Chef Shane McElwee  Shane has been cooking at Heartwood and Buckeye Forest Council gatherings since the late 90s. She is a self taught cook who specializes in vegan and vegetarian cuisine, and has been working as a sales representative in the natural food industry for the past 15 years. Co-Chef Mia Sun Manion adds that she is very honored that Shane asked her again to help feed the good people at the Heartwood Forest Council. Shane and Mia have cooked together for Heartwood before and expect to have a blast again this year.

Dave Pike  Eco rabble rouser 21 years, street medic 14 years, rescue squad EMT 10 years and always a lover of learning and sharing knowledge, Dave lives in Western NC's mountains with his family where he teaches first aid topics, does stone masonry, and defends the wild inside and out.

Devin M. Ceartas  Devin is an independent software developer and former Heartwood activist. He has maintained an active interest in cyber-security for about two decades and has during that time managed the Richmond, VA “indymedia” website, managed online databases for Heartwood, the Greens/ Green Party USA, and for an organization organizing poultry-growers in opposition to corporate chicken company policies, developed an iPhone/iPad App used to transfer sensitive medical information from one physician to another, and performed data extraction and analysis critical in achieving significant victories in forest protection for Indonesian and Bulgarian forests.
#1 Be Inclusive

If we hope to achieve just societies that include all people in decision-making and assure that all people have an equitable share of the wealth and the work of this world, then we must work to build that kind of inclusiveness into our own movement in order to develop alternative policies and institutions to the treaties policies under neo-liberalism.

This requires more than tokenism, it cannot be achieved without diversity at the planning table, in staffing, and in coordination. It may delay achievement of other important goals, it will require discussion, hard work, patience, and advance planning. It may involve conflict, but through this conflict, we can learn better ways of working together. It's about building alternative institutions, movement building, and not compromising in order to be accepted into the anti-globalization club.

#2 Emphasis on Bottom-Up Organizing

To succeed, it is important to reach out into new constituencies, and to reach within all levels of leadership and membership base of the organizations that are already involved in our networks. We must be continually building and strengthening a base which provides our credibility, our strategies, mobilizations, leadership development, and the energy for the work we must do daily.

#3 Let People Speak for Themselves

We must be sure that relevant voices of people directly affected are heard. Ways must be provided for spokespersons to represent and be responsible to the affected constituencies. It is important for organizations to clarify their roles, and who they represent, and to assure accountability within our structures.

#4 Work Together In Solidarity and Mutuality

Groups working on similar issues with compatible visions should consciously act in solidarity, mutuality and support each other’s work.

In the long run, a more significant step is to incorporate the goals and values of other groups with your own work, in order to build strong relationships. For instance, in the long run, it is more important that labor unions and community economic development projects include the issue of environmental sustainability in their own strategies, rather than just lending support to the environmental organizations. So communications, strategies and resource sharing is critical, to help us see our connections and build on these.

#5 Build Just Relationships Among Ourselves

We need to treat each other with justice and respect, both on an individual and an organization level, in this country and across borders. Defining and developing “just relationships” will be a process that won’t happen overnight. It must include clarity about decision-making, sharing strategies, and resource distribution. There are clearly many skills necessary to succeed, and we need to determine the ways for those with different skills to coordinate and be accountable to one another.

#6 Commitment to Self-Transformation

As we change societies, we must change from operating on the mode of individualism to community-centeredness. We must “walk our talk.” We must be the values that we say we’re struggling for and we must be justice, be peace, be community.

This and other environmental justice documents can be downloaded from www.ejnet.org/ej/

Original Drawing by Glen “Whitedove” Scherff

## Actvists Meet on Globalization

On December 6-8, 1996, forty people of color and European-American representatives met in Jemez, New Mexico, for the “Working Group Meeting on Globalization and Trade.” The Jemez meeting was hosted by the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice with the intention of hammering out common understandings between participants from different cultures, politics and organizations. The following “Jemez Principles” for democratic organizing were adopted by the participants.
T

here we were in May 2014, sitting in a
camp dining hall on a grey morning with
fellow forest defenders near Kentucky’s
Danboe Moore National Forest. Jim Schiff
and Tina Marie Johnson of Kentucky
Heartwood had organized the Eastern Forest Defense Con-
ference bringing together folks from at least 10
states—west as well as east, north, and south.
I was having breakfast with Ryan Talbott of
Allegheny Defense Project who single-handedly
brought Heartwood into the natural gas pipeline
fury by adding our voices in opposition to the
myriad of pipeline projects in the Heartwood
region proposed to “FERC”.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
(FERC) is widely regarded as a “rogue” feder-
al agency with no federal or citizen oversight.
FERC is funded, and staffed by industry, and so
it is no surprise that it serves industry. FERC
permits energy projects for industry and,
in this case, controls the process by which energy
companies acquire a Certificate of Public Con-
venience and Necessity (who dreams up these
scare-tactic devices). FERC is considered to be
ferc’s power of eminent domain to condemn private
property against the wishes of property owners.

Conservation easements don’t hold up against
a FERC-approved pipeline, no matter what the
conservation easement had intended to protect.
The companies will own these easements forever,
and that is their. Their use of the easement is
only limited by what is included in the easement
agreement which is usually nothing.

Pipelines often are proposed to cross pub-
lc lands, national forests, wildlife refuges, and
parks, or state forests and reserves. The issu-
ance of the FERC certificate trumps all state lev-
el protection, but special-use permits approved
by the United States Forest Service (USFS) need
be acquired to cross National Forests. An act
of Congress is what it takes to cross a National
Park or a new passage across the Appalachian
National Scenic Trail.

It makes sense for Heartwood to be involved.
Heartwood’s mission to protect and defend nat-
ural processes in our forests runs contrary to the
intentions of energy companies. The Heartwood
network spans the eastern and central US and
pipeline projects cross many states in their quest to get gas to their
markets.
The fracting boom (which is cur-
rently bust-natural gas prices are at
10 year lows and domestic demand is flat) in the Marcellus Shale re-

regions of West Virginia, Ohio, and
Pennsylvania, in addition to its
toxic legacy of pollution, erosive
sickness, and intrusive roads in our
forests, has created a massive supply
of natural gas with limited dom-
cestic markets. Even though some
cool plants are converting to natural
gas, in many states more energy is
being created yearly from solar and
wind energy than from new f ossi-

fuel burners. Industry is look-
ing at “creative markets” which
means creating an infrastructure
that facilitates exporting natural
gas to other countries. President

Obama has opened our ports to gas export, so
there is a rush to permit LNG (liquefied natural
gas) export facilities and to build the pipelines to
feed them.

Early in 2014, Virginia became involved in
the FERC permitting of Dominion Resourc-
es’ Cove Point Natural Gas Export Terminal on
the Chesapeake Bay in Lusby, Maryland. With
Earthjustice coordinating the effort, a lawsuit
citing clear violations of the National Environ-
mental Policy Act (NEPA) was filed. But FERC
is not required to stop or slow construction once
they issue the permit, even if permits are under
litigation. So construction at Cove Point has
been full-speed ahead, 24/7, for over a year. The
lawsuit will finally be heard in April, 2016.

So thanks, Ryan, for leading the way down this
rabbit hole. And thanks for pulling up an article
while we were sitting in that dining hall that said
that Duke Energy—North Carolina’s finest—had
issued a Request for Proposals—to bring natural
gas to eastern North Carolina, and that as many
as five energy companies, were vying to build
pipelines to get fracked gas to the highest bidder.

Williams Transco owns the largest natural gas
superhighway in the country, previously import-
ing gas from the Gulf of Mexico to natural gas
markets in New England, and operates at 50%
capacity leaving room to fulfill capacity for new
power plants. Proposed projects with dozens of
pipelines, will syphon off billions of gallons of
natural gas and use the remaining capacity of the
Transco lines to move gas to export terminals in
MD, MA and SC with more in the planning
stages. FERC will be more than happy to permit
each and every one of them.

We’ve seen how energy companies treat com-
munities, watersheds, forests, and mountains
when they hold coal. The planet has never seen
such a level of human-induced devastation as
mountaintop-removal has wreaked across the
Appalachian and Allegheny landscape. Promis-
es of economic gain, restoration and mitigation
are the cruellest of jokes. These areas will never
again know the majesty that has been lost and
stolen.

With fracking, the legacy of theft, destruction
and desecration continues. Only the counties
and the names of the thieves have changed.

Only by ending the exporting of fossil fuels
can we hope to keep in the ground what is still
there, save what is left and begin the healing pro-
cess. But I digress...

Still at breakfast, Ryan tells me that Dominion
Resources has submitted a proposal for a 575-
mile, 42”, high compression, natural gas pipeline
that would begin in Doddridge County West Vir-
ginia—“Fracking Central”—and cross over 30
miles of National Forests, through the Monon-
gahela National Forest in WV and Virginia’s
George Washington National Forest (GWNF)
headed east and south. Looking at the map, I
told Ryan, “I know what I’ll be doing when I get
home.”

What I didn’t know is that there was a letter
waiting for me in my home mailbox from Do-
mion, requesting permission to survey my
property for the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipe-
line (ACP). My fate was sealed.

Dominion Resources is one of the largest en-
ergy companies in the country and is headquar-
ted in Richmond, VA. Dominion is the third
largest campaign contributor in VA, just a hair
behind the Dominican Republic and the United
States. Dominion is an investor owned utility with mo-
nopoly power to set rates and guaranteed prof-
its at 28 times the Fed’s interest rate. Dominion
is the major partner in Atlantic Coast Pipeline,
LLC, a limited liability company incorporated in
Delaware with the most accommodating corpo-
law in the country. ACP, LLC would build and
operate the ACP, but their liability would be
limited to its assets that are just sufficient to op-
erate. The parent company’s assets are shielded
from liability for leaks, explosions or other mal-
feasance, giving FERC the right to take property
to build its pipeline, even if its entire contents
are headed to Europe and Asia to maximize prof-
its. That’s no one’s idea of public good unless
that public is Dominion investors, shareholders,
and management; or the state reps who get their
handouts to keep themselves elected and Domin-
ion’s interests served.

Dominion is listed as the largest

purchaser of gas from the pipeline
that they then can sell to the highest
bidder.

The biggest surprise to me is that
after three decades of interacting
with the USFS on protecting our
forests from mining, logging, and
bad management, I never would
have bet that the staff, supervi-
sors, and regional foresters in the
Southeast would jump to protect
the integrity of the Southern Appa-
lachian forests. In the West, forest
plans are routinely amended to al-
low pipelines where they shouldn’t be
allowed. But here the agency is
paying attention.

Maybe it is because we are in
the backyard of our nation’s cap-
itol and more people close to DC
are paying attention. Maybe our
comments, appeals and objections


NATURAL GAS PIPELINES—EVERYBODY’S BACKYARD
by Ernie Reed

NDOMINION’S ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE AND NEXT ERA/EQT’S MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINES AS THEY ARE PROPOSED TO CROSS WEST VIRGINIA AND VIRGINIA’S NATIONAL FORESTS AND MOVE THEIR GAS TO EXPORT

DOMINION’S ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE AND NEXT ERA/EQT’S MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINES AS THEY ARE PROPOSED TO CROSS WEST VIRGINIA AND VIRGINIA’S NATIONAL FORESTS AND MOVE THEIR GAS TO EXPORT
have opened the agency’s eyes to the types of outside threats that the energy companies pose to our precious public lands. What we do know is that in July of last year, the GWNF supervisor articulated over 340 instances where Dominion’s analysis submitted to FERC was missing, insufficient, unsubstantiated, incorrect, or fabricated. Qualifications of soil scientists hired to do soil survey analysis were falsified. In a letter to Dominion early this year, the USFS concluded that Dominion’s route through the forest had failed to avoid critical Cowknob salamander and Cheat Mountain salamander habitat and red spruce reestablishment areas and therefore was “unacceptable,” echoing statements made by activists since day #1.

A subsequent proposed route has increased the miles through the forest but increased impacted properties, property owners, and over 200 residents. Still Dominion has yet to justify that this project is in the public interest or to consider a route that does not cross over national forest land. The Forest Service is demanding that these be done.

Much is going on here in defense of Virgin-ia’s forests, farms, mountains, and watersheds. Friends of Nelson has organized Nelson County (VA) where citizens recently funded an economic study showing the economic costs to four counties to be in excess of $150m to property values, ecosystem services, air, water, recreation, tourism, and lost revenue. Friends of Buckingham is fighting the industrializing of Buckingham County where a methane belching compressor station is planned at the confluence of the ACP and Transco lines. Augusta, Highland and now Bath Counties have active citizen groups opposing the pipeline. The Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition is monitoring baseline soil and water data and exposing the failure of state regulators to hold energy companies to even minimum standards. The Allegheny Blue Ridge Alliance has united 45 local organizations over four counties in opposition to the ACP. The Sierras Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and Southern Environmental Law Center are providing excellent strategic support.

And in true Heartwood fashion, with the understanding that stopping the destruction in one place often just moves it somewhere else, we are standing in solidarity with citizens in Roanoke and Craig and Franklin Counties to stop the Mountain Valley Pipeline. Pipelines planned in Pennsylvania and Ohio are also not acceptable.

Many people with strategy, skill, and passion are pouring every day in this dysfunctional chain of energy politics until it breaks under the weight of what is right.

The Atlantic Coast pipeline is just one of at least four pipelines currently proposed in VA. Next Era and EQT’s Mountain Valley Pipeline would cross the Jefferson National Forest just south of Peter’s Mountain Wilderness. The WB Express and Atlantic Sunrise Pipelines are much the same — same source, same destination, same purpose and need, same fabricated public benefits.

Since Ryan and I had breakfast two years ago, over 3,700 miles of new pipeline have been proposed west of the Mississippi. The Appalachian Trail Conference is opposing a dozen different energy projects that would cross the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

In Massachusetts, it’s KinderMorgan’s Pipeline and the Northeast Energy Direct. In Connecticut, it is the Atlantic Bridge Project. In New England, it’s the Leach Express, the Rockies Express, and the Supply Header Project. In Delaware, it’s the Eastern Shore Reliability Project. In New Jersey, it’s PennEast. In Pennsylvania, it’s the Susquehanna West Project, the Northern Access 2016 Project, the Triad Expansion Project, the Orion Project, Lebanon West, Sunbury Pipeline Project, and Seneca Lateral. In New York, it’s the Millennium and the Constitution Pipelines. In West Virginia, it’s the Greenbrier Pipeline, Columbia SM-80, the Utica Access Project, and the Supply Header Project. In Delaware, it’s the Eastern Shore Reliability Project. In Maryland, it’s the NiSource Pipeline. In Ohio, it’s the Leach Express, the Rockies Express, the Tennessee Gas Abandonment and Restoration Project, the Rover Pipeline, and Seneca Later-al Conversion Project. In Illinois, the Chicago Market Expansion Project and Dakota Access. In Indiana, the Northern Supply Access Project and Rockies Express Capacity Enhancement Project. In Kentucky, it is the SouthWest/Lebanon Extension, the E-system Replacement Project, and the Rayne Express Expansion. In Tennessee, it’s the Loundown Expansion Project and the Broad Run Expansion Project. In North Carolina, it’s the ACP, the Dalton Expansion Project, and Virginia Southside Expansion Project. In South Carolina, it’s the Columbia to Eastover Project. In Louisiana, it is the Louisiana Supply Project and the TransCameron/Venture Global Project. In Mississippi, it’s the Natchez Pipeline Project and the Gulf Markets Expansion Project. Most of these proposed pipelines cross numerous states. Pipelines are popping up in everyone’s back yard. Stories of opposition, organizing, resistance, legal challenges, and outrage are everywhere.

All of these have the same purpose and need, moving natural gas from source to destination. All are connected, just as the US Interstate Highway system is a piece of the entire east coast road system. The National Environmental Policy Act requires that FERC analyze the cumulative impact of all related projects in purpose, in region and in time. Yet FERC allows them to be analyzed piece-by-piece and segmented as if they were not connected. This violates the spirit, the intent, and arguably the letter of the law.

And Ryan, after fighting for years to protect Pennsylvania’s Allegheny National Forest with Allegheny Defense Project, has recently been hired by Appalachian Mountain Advocates, a legal firm led by Joe Lovett who has been fighting mountaintop removal in WV for decades, and is now trying to keep fracking from destroying what’s left. Applemad is representing over a hundred landowners and leading the fight to stop pipelines in Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Buckeye Forest Council and Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition are also fighting like our lives depend on it. They do.

Thanks, Ryan! Thanks, Jim and Tina! Thanks, Heartwood! Thanks to everyone who is fighting in this fight!

Ernie splits his time among Wild Virginia, Heartwood, Friends of Nelson, Allegheny Blue Ridge Alliance, family, friends, and forests.

For more information:
- Wild Virginia – www.wildvirginia.org
- Allegheny Defense Project – www.alleghenydefense.org
- Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition – www.ovhec.org
- Appalachian Mountain Advocates – www.applemad.org
- Friends of Nelson – www.friendsofnelson.org
- Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition – www.dpmc.org
- Allegheny Blue Ridge Alliance – www.abra.org
- Preserve Craig County – www.preservecraig.org
- We Are Cove Point – www.wecovepoint.org
- Beyond Extreme Energy – www.beyondbeyondenergy.org

... and so many more …
This song is not about the people who work on and around oil trains. It is about the people that put all of us in danger by promoting this as a reasonable idea. It is not.

Those Oil trains, those oil trains, Maybe you can help me, you can please explain Those oil trains, they hurt my brain ‘Cause I think I understand it and it’s driving me insane.

They put crude oil, can’t put it back, They put it on the rails, it goes rollin’ down the track, Just like a bomb, goes through your state, And you ain’t safe in any place when it detonates

Those oil trains
Those oil trains These oil trains are trouble that threaten future days, ‘Cause an oil train that blows up will never go away. Those oil trains

And they bring more and more and more, You might wonder about safety of the places it is stored, I think you’re right to set your sights, On those OilTrainPeople, you can’t trust them to do right.

There’s too much cash, hiding behind lies, and OilTrainPeople aren’t the ones that gonna die Those oil trains

Oil Trains are a danger to everything around, The cargo that they carry should still be in the ground, ‘Cause if it doesn’t blow-up, it still toxifies the air, but the OilTrainPeople, they don’t have to care ‘Cause the oil train money bring a life of ease And they’re pretty sure that they can buy the air they need to breathe, while the people in Beijing are gasping for their breath, The OilTrainPeople don’t care if they chose to death Those oil trains

So people die, because they lie, About the safety of an Oil Train, and you know the reason why, There’s no safe plan, they should be banned, The OilTrainPeople know this, But they don’t give a damn.

Those oil trains are trouble that threaten future days, ‘Cause an oil train that blows up will never go away.

Oil trains, they are insane, Two dollar gas is not worth the toxic trade for the future you condemn with that money that you made. There’s no reason to create this place where devils dare to dwell, ‘Cause they can take their oil trains and they can go to hell…

You can watch the video of this song at http://jbruce38.com or jbruce38 on YouTube.
HURRICANE KATRINA PROVED THAT IF BLACK LIVES MATTER, SO MUST CLIMATE JUSTICE
Originally published August 28, 2015, by Elizabeth C Yeampierre
(reprinted with permission from Uprose)

Those of us from low-income communities of color are on the frontlines of the climate crisis. US cities and towns that are predominantly made up of people of color are also home to a disproportionate share of the environmental burdens that are fueling the climate crisis and shortening our lives. One has only to recall the gut-wrenching images of Hurricane Katrina’s aftermath to confirm this.

At a time when police abuse is more visible than ever thanks to technology, and our communities continue to get hit time and time again by climate catastrophe, we can’t afford to choose between a Black Lives Matter protest and a climate justice forum, because our survival depends on both of them.

As a young woman, I started organizing against racial violence and police misconduct. For the last 20 years, I have been struggling for environmental and climate justice. As descendants of slavery and colonization, our communities have lived and continue to live at the intersection of all these challenges. Both have a long history rooted in the extraction and abuse of our labor and later the extraction and abuse of our resources. Both involve people who are the descendants of historical trauma and are now faced with the catastrophe of a changing climate.

Over the years, as we were fighting for housing, jobs and better schools, decisions were being made to site some of the most toxic industries in communities with a large proportion of people of color: power plants, waste transfer stations, landfills, refineries and incinerators. As a result, communities of color have become cancer clusters and have the highest rates of asthma. In response, we in the environmental justice movement have said there is not anything more fundamental than the right to breathe – and that includes the right to clean air.

The environmental justice and Black Lives Matter movements are complementary. Black lives matter in the Gulf, where most of the fatalities resulting from Hurricane Katrina were black people, and which was home to the largest marine oil spill in history five years later. Black lives matter in Red Hook, Brooklyn, where hundreds of black families waited for weeks for electricity, heat and in some cases, running water, to be turned back on after Superstorm Sandy. Black lives matter in Richmond, California, home to the largest oil refinery on the West Coast. Black lives matter in Detroit, home to the largest solid waste incinerator in the US. The list goes on of cities and towns that are disproportionately made up of people of color and are also home to a disproportionate share of this nation’s environmental burdens.

We as people of color now face the effects of a changing climate neither our ancestors nor we are responsible for creating. Climate change demands another rhythm. The current dig, burn and dump economy is no longer acceptable. Similarly, a climate movement led by people of traditional power and privilege will not relieve the crises we face. Our communities know another way. As people of African and Indigenous ancestry, we come from societies and ways of life that protect and nurture Mother Earth. Now is the time to reconnect with our old ways. The knowledge is there – it is in our historical memory, and we are doing this work. Environmental and climate justice activists are working at the grassroots level to develop indigenous leadership around local climate solutions.

This rediscovers the face of the climate movement and provides a just and necessary alternative to the racial and ecological structures that have led us to where we are. It will be through this process of living and working and struggling with one another that we guarantee our children and grandchildren the right to breathe free.

HIJACKING THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT
by Protect Our Parks

PITTSBURGH: As announced last month, Protect Our Parks (POP) has filed an objection against the accreditation of the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD). In a November 23 letter, "POP" asked the Public Health Accreditation Board to deny ACHD’s application, saying that the department is "unable to function in the political environment..." of Allegheny County.

POP’s particular concern about ACHD arose from the Health Department’s role in authorizing a drilling lease at Deer Lakes Park. In April, 2014, ACHD Director Dr. Karen Hacker told County Council that she was "not aware" of any research linking fracking to ill health.) But as POP looked into the recent history of ACHD, the story grew broader.

Now, concludes POP, it is clear that County Executive Rich Fitzgerald has "hijacked" the department so as to subordinate it to his own political agenda.

Despite its name, the Allegheny County Health Department isn’t legally part of the county government. It was created through the Home Rule Charter as a separate municipal corporation by certification of the state Department of Health.

But beginning in 2012, the newly elected County Executive required undated letters of resignation from the department’s Board members, which he then used as leverage to demand that they fire its then-Director (Dr. Bruce Dixon).

Subsequently, Mr. Fitzgerald has been claiming—with acquiescence of the Board of Health, that the Health Department reports directly to him.


Ghost of Climate Future from a recent rally hosted by 3Rivers Rising Tide, who went "haunting" to six or eight of the worst polluters in Allegheny County—the Health Department and Rich Fitzgerald being near the top of the list.

Source: Matt Peters
It can not build empires like we crush and trade
What did you hope your screaming would make?
the silence re-bounds.

This is silent ground.
by Eleanor Goldfield

Silent Ground (Episode 42)
looking back we see this vicious game
On repeat we play,
Follies just the same.

who to blame, who to point at, kill and maim?
As gorges form and swallow what we've wrought,
So who's at fault?

that of this planet, only people can be bought.
One can but smile to remember all that they forgot
—
that money would yet save them.

shrug this human pest whose arrogance
these earthly scars
Waves crash hard, regret won't hold your breath
—
a mad man at the end, pennies for the contemplating.

On this silent ground, the graves of hope lay waiting
that cook our bodies
by our own shrugs,
Like frogs to jump from boiling waters so prescribed -
that cook our bodies—soul and mind.

waves crash hard, regret won't hold your breath—these earthly scars—
shush this human pest whose arrogance—bought favor with the pests named king—
thinking as they dug their holes and fenced things in, that money would yet save them.
One can but smile to remember all that they forgot—
that of this planet, only people can be bought.

So who's at fault?

As gorges form and swallow what we've wrought, who to blame, who to point at, kill and maim?
Follies just the same.

On repeat we play,
looking back we see this vicious game
but as we gaze through this here day—
nothing seems to parallel—
these age old ways that don't end well—
because they never end.
We pause to say a prayer—
for all of those who lost their lives but what we should lament, deride—
is all of those who've lost the will to live their lives.

To fight—for what is right.
To look up to the sky, and see
the blackened clouds for what they are—
not demons from afar
but demons made on silent grounds that we did shush to keep us down.

from six feet under minds to write,
common sense, intelligence
the simple thought that makes you want to scream—
that here we are, the many lying down, while few do sprinkle dirt—
now covering our sounds.
Yes we are the powerless—
and therein lies our power.

We are not on pedestals, grounded yet we cower—
top heavy falls with ease, all we need to do:
Push.
Build a fire—
from the mire,
yes light that pyre—
burn the apathetic hoards
let flames lick silence from these early graves.
Yes, we who made this silent ground, by letting vapid f**k profound—
and from this violent rape of mind, came this sorry—

apathetic mound
We who let this happen—must now move earth with this new sound—
not a scream or single voice profound—
we must draw new lines and with our shackles make a human chain—
remain before the tanks—
of apathy and corporate shills—
that shoot to kill.
From this silent ground, move—
so that the earth will shake—
quake and from these rhythms make—
the sound that breaks the silent ground.

—
Eleanor is a creative activist, singer, and writer. She is the founder and lead singer of the political hard rock band, Rooftop Revolutionaries. She is also the founder and host of the weekly creative and grassroots activism show Act Out! which airs on occupy.com and is syndicated on Free Speech TV. Her free-lance articles are published on a variety of alternative media sites and she also works as a consultant and speaker on the concepts of creative activism and using art to kill apathy, as her site suggests.
Sites: rooftoprevolutionaries.com, occupy.com/actout, artkillingapathy.com

Heartwood Safer Spaces Guidelines
May 2015

- Heartwood maintains zero tolerance regarding any form of abuse, sexual harassment, intimidation, assault, discriminatory language, oppressive behavior, exclusion, or marginalization.
- Heartwood’s members have respect for others’ physical and personal boundaries, opinions, beliefs, and differing points of view. Heartwood members will trust, respect, and acknowledge each other’s experiences, not making assumptions about others’ experiences.
- Heartwood believes in the safety, health, respect, and well-being of all of its members, all of the time.
- Heartwood believes, honors, and trusts survivors, respects their voices, and acknowledges their need to heal.
- Heartwood will deal promptly with any perpetrators of above-listed violence. Heartwood will insist that perpetrators acknowledge and make amends for any violations that impact the safety and well-being of other Heartwood members. Heartwood will not make or accept excuses for hurtful behavior and will expect perpetrators of such behavior to actively work to resolve situations, always respecting the requests of the survivor.
- Active steps will be taken immediately to protect the physical and emotional safety of children when potential abuse is observed or is alerted by either child or parent/guardian.
- Heartwood members will share time and space in circles, workshops, and meetings, not dominating or interrupting each other. Heartwood members are expected to act with compassion, be courteous, to think before speaking and acting, and strive to not offend others, especially when telling unquestionably appropriate jokes or stories.
- Heartwood promotes a culture that is constantly questioning itself, growing, and learning; Heartwood discourages stagnation and assuming that we’ve “got it all figured out.”
- Heartwood Core Council members shall have the responsibility to enforce this policy, err on the side of caution, and immediately, temporarily, or permanently remove any person violating this policy from Heartwood Community events.
The goal of the Whippoorwill Festival is to promote sustainable living in Appalachia by sharing earth-friendly living skills with one another in a joyful, healthy, family-friendly atmosphere.

This year, the Whippoorwill organizing crew has chosen to further strengthen its ties with the Heartwood community. Kentucky Heartwood will be the main sponsor for the event, and will have a focus on ending fracking in the central Kentucky region.

Founded in 2011, the festival seeks to promote sustainable living skills in the central Appalachian region by sharing knowledge and building networks between the established primitive Earth Skills gatherings (such as the Firefly Gathering in Asheville and the Rivercane Rendezvous) and the direct action tree-huggers fighting mountaintop removal coal mining and fracking in Kentucky.

Last year the festival attracted over 400 participants from the region—North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, West Virginia, Missouri—featuring 75 earth-friendly workshops, such as Beekeeping, Caring for Goats, Leatherwork, Cooking with Solar Ovens, Wild Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms, as well as modern and post-industrial collapse skills such as Bicycle Maintenance, Backyard Chickens, Composting Toilets and “Making Useful Things out of Junk.”

Several Heartwood members such as Jim Scheff, Jerry Redden, and Joel Dufour have led workshops at previous Whippoorwill gatherings.

In the evenings, the Whippoorwill Festival offers traditional and old time mountain music, dancing, a cake walk, pie auction, and guest speakers.

Admission price includes tent camping, meals, and workshops (some workshops have a small materials fee). The Whippoorwill Festival was born shortly after founder Dave Cooper finished reading Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv. This powerful book calls attention to the problem of “nature deficit disorder” in children: the increased time that kids are playing with electronic devices, instead of playing in the woods and creeks. Studies have shown that children with attention deficit disorders show a marked improvement when they get out in the woods and receive natural stimulation from the sun, the wind, and the trees instead of electronic stimulation from television, advertising, etc.

Calling on friends from Mountain Justice, the Sierra Club and Heartwood, the festival launched in 2011 and attracted a modest turnout. The festival has grown in the ensuing years by about one-third every year, and the energy and enthusiasm for the festival continues to grow.

To learn more about the Whippoorwill Festival, visit the festival website at www.whippoorwillfest.com.

“Environmental Justice” by Ricardo Levins Morales, RLM Art Studio
www.rlmartstudio.com

Calendar of Events

June 11-13, 2016 Convergence in Support of Eco-Prisoners and Against Toxic Prisons; Washington DC

June 29 - July 6, 2016 Earth First! Round River Rendezvous; Michigan

July 7-10, 2016 6th annual Whippoorwill Festival; Lago Linda Hideaway, Beattyville, KY

Sept 17, 2016 Ferdinand Folk Festival; Ferdinand, IN www.ferdinandfolkfestival.com

Oct 1-2, 2016 Buckeye Forest Council gathering; Camp OYO in the Shawnee State Forest, Keynote Mike Roselle! http://buckeyeforestcouncil.org

Oct 7-10, 2016 21st Heartwood Reunion; Lazy Black Bear, Paoli, IN, www.heartwood.org

Oct 22-23, 2016 Appalachian Public Interest Environmental Law Conference; Knoxville, TN, apiel.info@gmail.com

May 26-29, 2017 27th Heartwood Forest Council; TBD

Something new…!

This year’s Forest Council will include a grassroots “One Hearth, Many Sparks” art show. Members of Heartwood are encouraged to bring a few pieces of art they wish to sell, swap, or trade at the Council. Because space is limited, artists are encouraged to RSVP by sending an email to heartwood.tabitha@gmail.com with the number of pieces they plan on bringing.
Heartwood is a regional network that protects forests and supports community activism in the Eastern United States through education, advocacy and citizen empowerment. Heartwood was founded in 1991, when concerned citizens from several Midwestern and Southern states met and agreed to work together to protect the heartland hardwood forest.

Buckeye Forest Council is hosting Heartwood Forest Council 2016 at Camp Otterbein in Logan, Ohio.

Heartwood is excited to bring you a program full of fun, education and plenty of opportunities to network in a great atmosphere. Our keynote speaker is Eleanor Goldfield, an Occupy activist artist, poet, and musician who specializes in speaking truth to Power.

Along with other activists from across the region, we have a program that’s sure to fuel your passion for protecting the place you love. There are tracks for hands on learning, enviro-geeks and expressionistic activist, and allied medic training.

Entertainment includes Bright At Night, Boys of the Hock, Bob Lucas and a Granny D play. Let’s not forget, food, the most important aspect of the weekend will be led by Chef Shane McElwee and cohort Mia.