Triumph in Tennessee!
Timber Sale in Tumbling Creek Thwarted by Threat of Legal Action
by Davis Mounger and Sheryl Carpenter

The culmination of several years of our work to protect Tumbling Creek from the Dinkley timber sale has been victorious, with the sale withdrawn this past summer. This sale was first announced in early 2014, and since then, there has been a lot of field work, research, meetings, and legal work. But what made the difference was the long term monitoring of the environmental effects of previous timber sales. We did a lot of hiking, photographing, surveying, and videoing, and the results showed that there is a pattern of declining forest health in these sales. It is this evidence that the courts would have found compelling if the agency had not pulled the plug on this case. Stopping the Tumbling Creek/Dinkley sale is important, but it has launched a whole other body of work that will be important to bringing long-term change to the Cherokee, as we work with the Forest Service to create roadways that will help prevent similar damage in future projects.

The Dinkley Sale area is located in Polk County near the Georgia border and would have had significant logging along upper Tumbling Creek, including:
- 230 acres of clearcuts, shelterwood cuts, and seedtree cuts with burns and herbicides
- 255 acres of military stream with burning and herbicides, includingReach trees
- 444 acres of cut-and-leave mortality thinning

An old logging road was to be reactivated across Tumbling Creek at one point, where a deposit of Anakeesta Shale is located. Anakeesta Shale is known to cause acid rock damage where roads have been cut in the past.

We began our opposition to the Dinkley sale when it first was proposed in early 2014, with four years of field work, legal comments, meetings, and publicity to get the public aware of the sale. As it became apparent that Tumbling Creek stood to face the same kinds of impacts to the land that happened only a few miles away at the Hogback Sale, our research into past projects that had heavy logging on Junaluska soils took us all over the state of Tennessee and throughout information gathered under the Freedom of Information Act to understand the ecological and economic impacts on the land. We found a pattern of failed “shortleaf restoration” that has resulted in numerous logging sites with erosion and a lack of success in recruiting shortleaf pine and other wildlife.

We were initially hopeful that we might be able to get the most dangerous sites removed from the proposal, but the hearing of our objection was denied by the forest supervisor, under a spurious use of a clause in National Forest regulations, called the “set aside”, claiming that we had failed to make a coherent argument of our concerns over the last four years. The agency decided to let the project proceed unchanged.

A coalition of groups, including Tennessee Heartwood, the Southern Environmental Law Center, the Sierra Club, and Heartwood, filed suit in early 2018. With a strong case that opposed the sale on ecological and economic grounds, as well as important objections on the rights to public participation on National Forest decisions, we were confident of success. Apparently, so was the Forest Service, who decided to withdraw the sale in June.

We are happy that the long years of work paid off and that, for now at least, Tumbling Creek has been spared. Thanks to attorneys Shelby Ward and Sam Evans of the Southern Environmental Law Center for helping bring this case to victory.
Letter from the Coordinating Council:

Heartwood will not be holding a Reunion event this Fall. This decision to skip the 23rd Reunion was made shortly after the May Forest Council, when we realized that as our core council gets smaller each year, our capacity was likewise limited. Instead of a big public event, the Core Council will be spending time this fall on introspective self-evaluation, long overdue strategic planning in these rapidly evolving times, and re-imagining ourselves around the new Stand4Forests national policy with new campaigns and new ways to serve our membership.

Heartwood is now 28 years old, that’s “Saturn Returns” in the popular astrological sense, a time of big changes and an opportunity for renewal. As the threats to our forests have changed, Heartwood through the creative vision of our many Member Groups has adapted to meet each of these challenges with vigor, resilience and good humor.

We invite each of our Member Groups to suggest nominees to represent your bioregion, and join the Council to help carry those basic functions of any organization: design the Budget, help with Personnel decisions, contribute to the campaigns we wage in a very intimate and direct way.

Our next opportunity to hold formal elections in accordance with our Bylaws will be at the 29th Annual Forest Council in May of next year. We have many empty seats to fill! Send us the names of your Nominees by the end of February, so that we can list them in the Spring issue of this publication, and be ready to vote on it at our next Forest Council gathering, May Memorial day weekend.

You’ll find more information about our Board and how it is structured, on pages six and seven, where ordinarily there would be information about the Reunion.

For the Forests,

Heartwood Core Council

Dear friends of Lloyd Clayton:

In late March, Lloyd had a major stroke while visiting Zipolite, Mexico. His recovery has been nothing short of miraculous, although he has had some major medical bumps along the way. The Doc has been in and out of rehab facilities since March but we hope to have him home, at his brother’s house, within the next few weeks. There is nothing that gives him more pleasure than to hear the voices and see the faces of those he loves and cherishes. While his abilities are limited, his brother, Jack, will facilitate a phone call. Jack can be reached at 205-914-0322.

Lloyd’s phone number is 205-837-5598. If you would like to write to Lloyd, letters can be sent addressed to Lloyd Clayton, 135 Memory Court, Birmingham, Al., 35213. He is unable to use the computer or check his email, Facebook or phone messages. However, any of his friends wanting to visit from out of town will be warmly accommodated.

Lloyd has spent his life, energy and fortune defending our earth’s natural places and it’s inhabitants. He is the most generous man I have ever known. Thousands have benefited from his kindness, generosity, and simply his love and adoration for living things. Lloyd never had children; he are his family. Your calls, visits and cards give him so much happiness.

With love,
Betsy Ogle

Gerhart from page 1

from Sunoco’s ongoing litany of permit suspensions, failed horizontal directional drilling, and various project delays. We believe that the company did not present evidence to prove beyond reasonable doubt that Mrs. Gerhart’s protests were criminal. Mrs. Gerhart disagrees with Judge Zanic’s decision today and is reviewing her options and will pursue her rights to the fullest extent.

Ellen Gerhart is an outspoken advocate, not only to protect her own land, but also to protect hundreds of waterways impacted across Pennsylvania by ETP’s Mariner East 2 pipeline project. The Gerharts have never given ETP permission to build through their family land.

Since construction began, ETP has reported an astounding 111 spills and has been issued over 65 violations by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. On May 23, ETP spilled 4,000 gallons of drilling fluid on the Gerhart property, threatening the family’s well water.

Ellen and her family’s ongoing opposition to the project has led to significant intimidation and harassment on the part of ETP, their private security contractor TigerSwan, and local authorities. The Gerharts are involved in numerous cases against state agencies and ETP overuse of eminent domain, deficient environmental permits, and violations of federal civil rights laws.
### Public Input Key to Prevent Future Fracking Leases in Wayne National Forest

By Becca Pollard, Keep Wayne Wild

The Bureau of Land Management has leased more than 2,000 acres of the Marietta Unit of Wayne National Forest in Southeast Ohio to gas and oil companies for unconventional hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. On September 20th, the agency will hold another online auction on Texas-based EnergyNet.com.

The Wayne National Forest is currently revisiting its Land Management Plan, which could determine whether such activities will be allowed in the future. This is the first time the Wayne has undergone this process since the inception of the 2012 Planning Rule, which requires significantly more public input than past revisions did. This is a glimmer of hope for concerned local residents and outdoors enthusiasts who visit the area and are concerned about the truck traffic, pollution, and water loss associated with fracking in the area.

Of the Wayne’s three units, the Marietta Unit is the farthest from a large population center and is less developed than the others. It’s the only unit that has no ATV trails. Lamping Homestead, a recreation area of about 14,000 acres, is the only one of the three Marietta Unit, state, making it an excellent stargazing spot. Unlike the Athens and Ironwood Units, the Marietta Unit’s watersheds are not contaminated with mine drainage. All of these qualities make it a desirable, if little known, hiking, camping, kayaking, hunting, and birding area.

Those who wish to have a say in the matter are encouraged to submit comments to the Wayne National Forest by email at WaynePlanRevision@fs.fed.us or by mail to 13700 US Hwy 33, Nelsonville, OH 45764. According to Wayne National Forest staff, comments must be submitted by October 6, 2021, if possible, but personal observations from people familiar with the area are encouraged, as well.

At the July 14 meeting of the special session of the Marietta Unit, there was a gathering of people who care about the future of our public lands,” said Ohio Sierra Club Forest Committee representative Miles Van Zelst. “There’s something very therapeutic about being in nature and being amongst people who enjoy looking at the beauty nature provides,” said Val Middleton, a founding member of Keep Wayne Wild, who attended the meeting and makes Keep Wayne Wild a member, I love the mission that brings people together to forever encapsulate what the Wayne National Forest represents.

Data from the bioblitzes will be shared with the Wayne National Forest to help make the case for the forest’s future. Keep Wayne Wild will be fighting to protect the biodiversity and also to keep the area pristine and unharmed.

### Southwestern Indiana Citizens Fight Massive Coal-to-Diesel Refinery

By Rock Emmert

If Indiana Governor Holcomb does not intervene, a new 2.5 billion dollar experimental coal-to- diesel refinery may be built on 512 newly-acquired acres of farmland within the town limits of pastoral Dale, Indiana—population 1,532—in one of the most heavily-mined regions of the United States.

The process would involve accessing the alleged coal reserves in the middle of a rural tourism region. The MOU was signed in Beijing in November of 2017 and has yet to be released to the public or to Congress. The environmentalists are careful never to raise the specter of the controversial hydraulic fracturing (fracking) that has been the focal point of opposition in the region for over 30 years. The MOU is scheduled to be released in the near future.

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It would facilitate an extreme increase of fracking, meaning more frack pads, and compressor stations. The complex would develop the liquid byproducts, such as ethane, butane, etc., from the fracking to produce petrochemicals. Essentially, the two beasts feed each other until there is nothing left but a busted economy and sick people.

They have already begun construction and planning on several integral parts of the infrastructure. First there is the Shell ethane cracker plant in Monaca, PA, which is currently under construction. A 320-foot-high smokestack has already been built. The plant would have four flares that would burn gases like sulfur and...
Coal2Diesel in IN continued from page 3

the hazardous benzene. The entire refinery would consist of an enormous system of highly pressurized pipes and tanks—in a region well-known for a large earthquake. Leaks in the facility are another concern, especially for parents of children who would attend the local elementary school, not to mention the tens of thousands of children who attend Holiday World daily in the summer months (over one million guests per summer).

Concerned citizens feel that a small group of developers and politicians sentencing a region to a toxic, rotten-egg smell, depending on which way the wind blows, is wrong. They believe having no say in a decision made behind closed doors by a small group of people, adversely affecting health, tourism, and overall quality of life for generations to come, is unAmerican. The small, historic, and vibrant town of Ferdinand perhaps has more to lose than other area communities, as it is located just a few miles directly downwind from the prevailing winds.

Local executive director of Lincolnland Economic Development Corp. Tom Utter, who says he is "very aggressively" pursuing this facility for Dale, allegedly hopes to add at least two more such facilities to the immediate area, essentially turning his back on the tourism sector and the quality of life of the people who live here. Concerned citizens' pleas for cleaner, different forms of development are being ignored and, based on his own public comments, believe that personal greed may be driving Utter's motives. "I have no concerns about the economics of this project or the financing," Utter said in a March 18, 2018, Indy Star article. "I just am doing the very best I can to make a home for the project, and whatever reason caused them not to go somewhere else is just my good fortune."

According to the EPA's toxic release inventory, Spencer County already ranks 23rd in the nation (out of 3,142) in toxic emissions, primarily from superpolluter American Electric Power coal-fired plant and AK Steel, the Ohio River's #1 polluter. If built, this facility will bump the county toward the very top in emissions. A geographically low-lying area already overburdened with disproportionate levels of air pollution and the most polluted body of water for the past seven years (the Ohio River), portions of Southwestern Indiana already suffer from unexplained, uninvestigated cancer clusters, high rates of infant mortality and special education double the national average, high asthma rates, and high volumes of cardiovascular diseases. The state agencies under Holcomb are silent to the public and medical doctors' pleas for help. Dismayed mothers speaking out in nearby Franklin, IN, are experiencing unexceptional IDEM reactions in their life-and-death struggle for answers regarding unusually high clusters of rare childhood cancers near a superfund cleanup site.

To add to the citizens' mistrust of IDEM, six of the seven pollutants currently tracked by IDEM are not even monitored in Spencer County, and the Plan Dispersion Modeling Report in KBR's application lists 12 hazardous air pollutants: methanol, hexane, formaldehyde, toluene, benzene, nickel, ammonia, H2S, xylenes, phenol, o-cresol, and m-, p-cresols. Furthermore, the American Lung Association states that over 36% of Americans live in areas with unhealthy levels of ozone. IDEM has no ozone detectors in Spencer County. In September of 2016 in a nationally published article, USA Today, the Center for Public Integrity, and the Weather Channel noted that Southwestern Indiana is known as the "sacrifice zone". See www.superpolluters.com.

Local citizens, many of whom have never publicly taken environmental stands, are in for the fight of their lives. Southwestern Indiana Citizens for Quality of Life has formed with the support of nearby environmental/health advocates. Hundreds of bright yellow NOC2D (No Coal-to-Diesel in Dale) signs dot the lawns of homeowners, farmers, and small business owners in the community, surrounding towns, and countryside. Many letters to the editor have been written and published, with more on the way. They have held educational community forums and have been getting publicity in regional and state media. Two local medical doctors and a renowned, retired chemical engineer who worked for over 30 years in the oil and gas industries, have become instrumental and eloquent vocal opponents, as have dozens of others in the region.

A streetside, peaceful protest in June in nearby Santa Claus, Indiana, challenged visiting Governor Holcomb (in town for an economic development luncheon) to protect public health by opposing Riverviews' plans—the same week citizens discovered a published photograph of Merle standing prominently front-and-center beside Holcomb amid a large group at the American embassy in Switzerland. Citizens fear the deal has already been cut, especially given the governor's defensive reaction when a concerned local citizen and father of a toddler, out of concern for his family's health, asked the governor about the photograph. "We're not going to do anything to jeopardize our health," Holcomb said publicly at the luncheon. Holcomb and Merle won't have to live anywhere near the refinery's fallout. Merle lives in Connecticut, 740 miles away.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management, whose officials are appointed by the governor and who routinely issue pollution permits in a state that already ranks at the bottom in air quality and public health, will approve the facility in the coming weeks. At that time IDEM will announce a public meeting, but at the time of this writing, citizens have reason to doubt that IDEM will allow public comments in a public hearing—an action if carried out will be perceived by the public as an attempt to squelch the growing opposition's voice. IDEM has also apparently, with pressure from the technology patent-holder KBR (Kellogg Brown and Root, formerly a subsidiary of Halliburton) in Texas, agreed to call the facility a hybrid—to sound more environmentally friendly—vs a refinery, which is what Merle and IDEM had called the same technology just a few years ago.

From the time IDEM approves the air permit, Merle needs to come up with the $2.5 billion within 1.5 years or the permit will need to be applied for again. While he says the funds will come from private investors, on more than one occasion he has publicly stated that public funds might be needed or sought. Local citizens are concerned that pro-coal and Holcomb predecessor VP Mike Pence and President Trump might find a way to authorize and divert public funds to this ill-conceived refinery to appease the coal industry in the region, further setting Indiana behind other parts of the US and world in committing to renewable, healthier forms of energy that will provide good, clean jobs for those in the fossil fuel industry. The jobs created in solar energy

continued on next page
Daniel Boone Logging Increases under Two New Proposals
Huge timber sale planned for Redbird District

In March, the Forest Service proposed 3,200 acres of intensive logging on the steep and rugged slopes of the Redbird District in Clay and Leslie counties. The “South Redbird Crest ATV Trail Enhancement Project” threatens critical habitat for the Kentucky arrow darter (Etheostoma kentuckee), which was listed as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act in 2016. The darter is found only in clean waters of the upper Kentucky River, and has disappeared from much of its range since 1990. Nearly 900 acres of proposed logging is in the watershed of Elisha Creek, which is also home to the federally-endangered Smilax bush-cucumber (Sabal yunnana). The forest was protected under the Endangered Species Act in 2012 on account of a 62% rangewide decline. Unlike the mainstem of the Redbird River, which is too polluted by mining runoff, oil and gas development, and sewage for these species to live, the clear tributaries in the project area provide the habitat needed for these species’ survival.

Of the 32,300 acres of national forest land in the South Redbird area, 27% has been logged since 1980 and only 15% is over 100 years old. This is a stark contrast to the centuries-old habitat at Lilley Cornett Woods, just 25 miles to the east. And yet the Forest Service is proposing to log 23% of all forest over 100 years old in the project area. Several areas ranging from 17 to 264 acres are proposed for intensive logging. Combined with previous cuts, some volunteers measure a Chestnut Oak (Quercus montana) in the Pine Creek proposed harvest area.

Just weeks after proposing 3,200 acres of logging in the South Redbird project, the Forest Service approved 1,200 acres each of timber harvesting in the London District in Laurel, Pulaski, and Rockcastle Counties. The Pine Creek Forest Restoration Project is a complex vegetation management project centered on the lower Rockcastle River, from near 1-75 to the confluence with the Cumberland River. The area includes a wide diversity of forests and rare species, and some of the most popular hiking and camping areas in the Daniel Boone National Forest. While the Forest Service has heard few of the concerns raised by participants—other than our good-faith input throughout the process was never denied or downplayed. The project includes up to 3,300 acres of logging to create early seral habitat (young forest conditions) through even-aged shelterwood harvesting, leaving just 7 to 20 trees per acre. Some of the logging would be along the Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail. The project also includes over 2,000 acres of non-commercial midsuccessional timber, which would mostly remove the red maples that are dominating many forest mirestides. A wide range of interacting factors, including fire suppression, loss of American chestnut, and historical drought patterns, among others, have set the stage for a possible shift away from a prevalence of oaks and toward more red maple. Midsuccession, especially in concert with prescribed fire, could be beneficial in helping to restore open forest structures and lending toward better recruitment of oaks over the long term. However, the Forest Service is planning to harvest most areas proposed for midsuccession thinning after 10 years—something that we are taking great issue with.

Early seral habitat is important for a wide range of declining species. However, this type of habitat can be created and maintained through the restoration of fire-adapted uplands, management of degraded former clearcuts, and an acceptance of the role of natural disturbances in our forests. Logging on private land is also continually creating early seral habitat. Unlike natural disturbance, logging typically requires a large amount of ground disturbance to process and haul logs out of the forest. Large log landings, ranging from about ¼ to 1 acre in size, are cleared in the forest and compacted for logging equipment and trucks. The Greenwood project, with about 2,500 acres approved for logging, required 130 log landings. “Temporary roads” are bulldozed from each landing to the road system and compacted for logging equipment and trucks creating early seral habitat. Unlike natural disturbance, logging typically requires a large amount of ground disturbance to process and haul logs out of the forest. Large log landings, ranging from about ¼ to 1 acre in size, are cleared in the forest and compacted for logging equipment and trucks. The Greenwood project, with about 2,500 acres approved for logging, required 130 log landings. “Temporary roads” are bulldozed from each landing to the road system and compacted for logging equipment and trucks creating early seral habitat. However, this type of habitat is more consistent with natural disturbance regimes in the Redbird area, but this would mean less timber getting cut, making it not worthy of serious consideration by the agency.

Despite its rugged beauty and rich biodiversity, the Redbird District is often treated like a throw-away district by the U.S. Forest Service. There are no hiking trails and no campgrounds—issues that were raised repeatedly during public meetings by members of the public and U.S. Forest Service staff. The only recreational infrastructure is the South Redbird Crest ATV Trail, which the Forest Service proposes to route with 12 new miles of ATV trail construction. National forest lands in the Redbird District are an island in a landscape of vast strip mines and industrial sites. The forest here needs to be protected and nurtured, and we think that the Forest Service can do better.

David Coal-to-Diesel from page 4
sector alone today far outweigh employment opportunities in the coal industry and are typically healthier for the workers.

In the meantime, concerned citizens will continue to engage in a multi-faceted effort to educate the public. The Pine Creek Forest Restoration Project is too big to ignore through their vigorous research on legal recourse, speaking engagements at local civic clubs, public forums and pressure on local candidates and elected officials to make these issues part of their campaigns. Despite this progress, they plan to accomplish this through 730 acres of commercial logging that would leave 5 to 40 trees per acre, along with another 160 acres of non-commercial felling. The project would add 2,400 acres of prescribed fire to the 9,300 acres of the project area already under fire management. The project is intended in the right locations with the right long-term management (particularly short fire return intervals), these natural communities can help support a variety of rare and declining plant and animal species, including the charismatic wood lily (Lilium philadelphicum) and bobwhite quail. Most of the woodland and woodland grassland management is proposed for the southeastern section of the project area in Pulaski County. The area is generally appropriate for this type of management, and follows detailed discussions and field trips that included the Kentucky Heartwood, the Forest Service, Kentucky State Nature Preserve Commission, and The Nature Conservancy. Kentucky Heartwood does prefer that the Forest Service rely on natural disturbance, non-commercial felling, and prescribed fire to manage for these community types. We will need more time to examine the specific proposals for logging for woodland restoration in order to assess whether or not the sites chosen for logging are reasonable.

The Forest Service has proposed to restore shortleaf pine on 1,500 acres on the Pulaski county side using methods that are much more progressive and ecologically appropriate than what was approved last year in the Greenwood project. Shortleaf pine was decimated by the southern pine beetle between 1995 and 2001. The proposed action in the Pine Creek project would rely on noncommercial methods and planting of trees in groups and interspersed with existing vegetation, better mimicking natural patterns.

In addition to areas with good potential for the restoration of open, fire-adapted forest and communities, the Pine Creek project area includes some of the most extensive old-growth forest found in the Daniel Boone National Forest – an area approaching secondary-old-growth status, with genuine old-growth in a few locations, enhanceable and. This project area already includes 850 acres of Designated Old-Growth management, though that area includes only a small amount of genuinely old-growth forest. This is in addition to approximately 11,000 acres of riparian and cliffline corridors that are largely excluded from logging. But these represent narrow, linear features and not large blocks of forest. The Forest Service has proposed adding 500 acres of Designated Old-Growth in two areas, near Rock Creek and Angel Hollow. Both areas are good candidates, and should be designated for an old-growth emphasis in the Forest Plan. However, the additions are largely narrow zones in lower landscape positions that support hemlock-mixed mesophytic forests, and do not include appreciable upland forests. Kentucky Heartwood has urged the Forest Service to designate two larger areas totaling several thousand acres for old-growth management in Laurel county. In addition to the suitability of the landscape, such designations would provide for more balance given the Forest Service’s emphasis on the Pulaski county side on open fire-adapted communities as well as young forest and game management in the Redbird River WMA.
Regional Membership, Regional Representation, Regional Protection and Restoration

The Heartwood Region includes the eastern Heartland Hardwood forests, from the Ozark Mountains to the Appalachians, the Great Lakes to the Gulf Coast. Our member groups and allies extend far beyond the region indicated on this map. As the threats to our forests expand, so too must our networks and alliances expand to meet these new challenges.

Join the Heartwood network as a new or renewing Member or Member Group!

Heartwood is able to address a wide range of issues through the dedication and vision of our Member Groups. Our relationship with forests goes far beyond the boundaries of any timber sale. Heartwood recognizes the connections between our food production and distribution systems, our settlement patterns, our urbanized lifestyles based on consumption and isolation have shaped our relationship with the land itself, the hills and forests and rivers and wildlife. Our relationships with one another are likewise most resilient and dynamic when they are based on the same ecological sensibilities of diversity, stability and reliability, trust and fierce responsiveness and loving support as we struggle towards our common Victory, however that might be defined. Heartwood strives to reflect this commitment through the range of groups and initiatives we fund with our Minigrants program, through our outreach efforts and the alliances we make, and through our Safes Spaces policies. We urge our readers to become members of their local Member Groups, and we urge our Member Groups to renew their dues this year! We hope you will consider your donation in light of the savings passed on to you by virtue of cancelling the Reunion travel, registration, and Auction, directly to the Direct Action Fund, with no travel expenses, Auction bidding, cosponsorships, or registration fees.

Being on the Heartwood Coordinating Council is a rewarding commitment, great fun at times, and your time commitment would be minimal. The Heartwood Council conducts one conference call each month, average about an hour in length, and asks each member of Council to be active on at least one Standing Committee and one Ad-Hoc Committee. Travel requirements are likewise minimal, and the expense can be reimbursed. We have three opportunities throughout the year to meet face-to-face: our two annual Events, the Fall Reunion and the spring Council, and one other small meeting, scheduled as needed. Our by-laws provide for up to 29 seats on our Core Council alone, and no limit to our Extended Council. A large and active Council means Heartwood is able to meet the challenges of the day with full strength and capacity. Send us your nominations today!

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The Auction is a traditional Sunday night activity at every Heartwood gathering. The Heartwood Auction provides attendees with a built-in organizing tool for their home communities, in the soliciting of donations from local businesses or artists, a way to reach out and build networks in your community. It also offers a fun way to get to know one another, through the many handcrafted items or home canned goods from our gardens and kitchens. The event is often accompanied by a seed swap or plant sale, and as the items are sold off the Talent Show gets going around the campfire. The Auction is as much a way of building community as it is a means to put the “fun” into fundraising!

Left: an Eft, our Amphibious Auctioneer! Corina Lang speaks from the heart.
below: Social Justice Disco rocks the night away Saturday night.
L-R: Christiane Dolores, Geña Música, Phat Man Dee, Liz Berlin. Pittsburgh trio Chai Baba kept the music going late into the night!


table: Become a Member Today!
all donations are tax-deductible

| Individual | O $25 (minimum individual) |
| Organization | O $250 (suggested organizational) |
| O $500 |
| O $100 |
| O $250 |
| O $500 |

Special Thanks to our Cooks, the crew with Seeds of Peace! and to our many producers, providers, preparers and donors!

[Heartwood Host Organizations Co-Sponsors and Major Donors]

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[Heartwood Host Organizations Co-Sponsors and Major Donors]
Five Years on a Pile of Rocks: Defending Against an Americus Quarry

by Nate Hofmeyer (Americus Area Community Coalition Vice President)

I’d like to you to consider any aspect of your life which has consumed over five years. Chances are you’re considering something major – your education, your career, your marriage, your mortgage, your children. These are common human experiences to which we can all relate; we expect these milestones to absorb our efforts and energies.

I never expected to spend over five years on a pile of rocks.

Over five years ago on a lazy summer day, a neighbor of mine brought a letter-door-to-door which was intended to notify adjacent property owners that a Tennessee-based mining company, the Rag dog Group, intended to dig a hole across the street from our homes – a champ deep enough to swallow three Status of Liberty stacked upon each other.

My wife and I knew nothing about stone quarry operations, but regardless, we felt a sense of foreboding (as did all our neighbors). The people who call this area home began to hold meetings and plan a course of action. I was honored by being nominated to the board of directors for our community meetings. I attended while my wife stayed home to watch our nominated to the board of the of a child – a daughter. Our two sons are at Hershey Elementary now. The fight goes on. Time passes and we receive no real denouement.

I know we should be angry, but we’re not. We gained from the experience – all of us in the area did. We gained friends, community, and camaraderie. I’ve met people I never would have known if not for this struggle. I’ve seen AAC members come and go, and I’ve become tight friends with many of them. Children have been born as we fought, and we’ve buried members along the way. Together, we managed to stop a multi-million dollar corporation from hurting everyone who lives here – all on a budget.

So, ask me if I’m happy I’ve spent over five years of my life on a pile of rocks. ‘I say yes,’ I’m proud of what we’ve done here, and I’d do it all over again.

This used to keep me up at night – that a government official could negate five years of our struggle with the stroke of a pen. Of course, that only happens with “good men doing nothing,” right? Thanks to Ron Alting, Barb Knochel, and Tom Murtaugh for keeping an eye on that and fighting it at every turn.

Since this conflict began, my wife and I had a third child – a daughter. Our two sons are at Hershey Elementary now. The fight goes on. Time passes and we receive no real denouement.

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So, ask me if I’m happy I’ve spent over five years of my life on a pile of rocks. ‘I say yes,’ I’m proud of what we’ve done here, and I’d do it all over again.
When it comes to the Forestry Title of the Federal Farm Bill in final negotiations in Congress, it’s a tale of two bills. The House and Senate versions bear little resemblance to one another. Let’s get the bad news out of the way first by starting with that of the House.

The House Farm Bill puts logging interests above all else, including wildlife preservation. It contains numerous categorical exclusions (CEs) that weaken environmental review and public involvement in national forest management decisions, exempting these decisions from requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Salvage logging, clear cutting, and road building projects up to 6,000 acres would have no environmental or public input. These new categorical exclusions would exempt clear cutting, and road building projects up to 6,000 acres from the two versions currently headed to conference.

In contrast, the Senate version of the Forestry Title even improves on some House bill provisions; it does not weaken protections for endangered species and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding forest management practices, such as the Roadless Rule, Endangered Species Act, or National Forest Management Act. The Senate version of the Forestry Title even designates 25,000 acres of new protections, such as the Roadless Rule, Endangered Species Act, or National Forest Management Act.

The House Farm Bill also would scrap the fire funding compromise of the 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act, dubbing the site - from 3,900 acres to 6,000 acres - of the hazardous fuels and insect and disease-related categorical exclusions that were part of the fire funding compromise. It would also weaken the interagency consultation requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by authorizing a “self-consultation” process, exempting the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management from consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding forest management activities that could adversely affect endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat. The House Farm Bill would also eliminate the protection of many Roadless Areas, including the beloved Tongass National Forest in Alaska.

In welcome contrast to the House Farm Bill, the Forestry Title of the Senate bill is clearly a product of bipartisanship. The Senate bill contains none of the controversial forest management provisions of the House bill and omits any self-consultation authority or other attempts to weaken safeguards for threatened and endangered species. The Roadless Area Conservation rule is preserved.

The Senate version of the Forestry Title even improves on some programs, increasing funding by $46 million for the Forest Service’s Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) and establishing a $20 million federal grant program to promote efforts to reduce hazardous fuels across federal and non-federal lands. It also creates a Water Source Protection Program for watershed restoration partnerships with water users like utilities and funds it annually at $10 million. The Senate Forestry Title even designates 25,000 acres of new public wilderness in Tennessee and Virginia.

The Farm Bill is now in conference committee where final negotiations between the two versions will be worked out. It’s a key time for Hoosiers to contact their members of Congress (particularly Senator Joe Donnelly) who is both our state’s senior senator and a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee) to let them know we support the Senate’s bipartisan forestry title focused on conservation and collaboration, not on reckless environmental rollbacks intended to promote logging in our national forests. Encourage them to reject a final Farm Bill Forestry title that eliminates environmental review of national forest management projects, cuts public participation, or attacks conservation and species protections, such as the Roadless Rule, Endangered Species Act, or National Environmental Policy Act.

What else is in the Farm Bill?

The Farm Bill is one of the largest pieces of federal legislation at around $500 Billion, and it covers a range of topics beyond forestry: food assistance, farm to school connections, farm preservation, land conservation, crop insurance, commodity subsidies, research, and a host of other programs. The two versions passed by the House and Senate have a number of important differences between them. Here are some lows, and highs, from the two versions currently headed to conference.

**House Version**

- Increases subsidy payments and loopholes for corporate farmers at the expense of small, family farms.
- Decreases general conservation funding by $1 billion over 5 years and cuts existing wildlife conservation programs by $600 million in the future.
- Hurts families raising food sold through SNAP and the local markets who accept food aid and provide healthy food to nearby families. By increasing the difficulty of securing benefits, these changes will force SNAP-eligible farmers away from the program and into local ag economies.
- Cuts the successful Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program, the Make It Right, and the Farm Food Block Grant Programs.
- Cuts or fails to authorize funding for New and Beginning Farmer Programs, such as the Young Farmer and Rancher Program, which ensures that young, emerging farmers have the access to financing and business skills to compete in the market.
- Underfunds science, research, and outreach programs that ensure the success of farming in an urban future.

**Senate Version**

- Keeps most food assistance programs (SNAP) as they are while maintaining funding necessary for the nation’s local farmers, on the latest in hearty American economies.
- Maintains environmental protections that encourage sustainable and resilient farming practices and the survival of endangered species.
- Creates permanent funding streams and healthy funding levels for organic research, new and socially disadvantaged farmer training programs, and healthy and value-added producer grants, and designates additional funding for rural development programs.
- Upholds conservation funding and programming that assist farmers with making energy efficient improvements and initiating sustainable soil management practices.

Further Reading

- [www.congress.gov/crefin/encyclopedia/farm-bill](http://www.congress.gov/crefin/encyclopedia/farm-bill)
- [www.definestreet.org/farm-access/publications](http://www.definestreet.org/farm-access/publications)
- [www.usdafarmers.com/ag-farm-bill](http://www.usdafarmers.com/ag-farm-bill)
Thrasher Group which is a contracting firm set to profit from increased fracking and petrochemical construction. However, growing coalition of individuals and groups in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio are coming together to oppose this project, for a long list of reasons. We envision a region with a sustainable economy where workers, communities, and public health are not jeopardized. We reject a corporate business plan that puts profits over people. We no longer want to depend on a boom-and-bust mono-economy that hinders sustainable economic development. Our region has a long history of extreme economic woes left in the wake of fossil-fuel-driven industries. Many areas identified for this proposed infrastructure are already low-income and struggling to recover from other extractive industries. Others are brownfield rust-belt areas given false hope of a revitalized manufacturing economy. The reality is that family sustaining, long-term jobs will not materialize. Opportunistic companies behind the proposed petrochemical complex are using our economic hardship in the region to exploit our people and resources.

Preatory behavior makes the issue not only one of environmental justice, but economic justice as well. Our struggle in Appalachia also connects to the global community. The proposed petrochemical build-out threatens our planet with increased climate pollution; the plastics manufactured would further degrade the oceans, and deepen the suffering in parts of the world already dealing with plastic pollution. For example in the Philippines, plastic waste is literally choking the livelihood of fishing villages. We must take responsibility as a country and acknowledge our mass consumerism is harming our neighbors worldwide. There must be opposition to fracking and the petrochemical complex, and we must pledge our solidarity to similar areas of existing petrochemical build-up like those in Texas and the infamous “Cancer Alley” in Louisiana. We are all truly in this together, and we must unite for a better world free from fossil-fuel-driven boom and bust economies and environmental catastrophes. We can stand in coalition, working together for a better region and world where citizens have a say in their own lives and economy, and don’t have to sacrifice their communities for profit. We must all recognize our own use of the materials that would be created at these refineries, and how they impact all our lives, from raw material extraction, to manufacturing, to the pollution that results from the end products.

Studies have shown that solar and wind energy create many more jobs than fossil fuel industries, and those are safer jobs that don’t put our neighbors and future generations at risk. Our representatives from West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio should be working to facilitate the transition to modern and clean energy, a transition that could provide many thousands of jobs without sacrificing everything that makes the Ohio Valley region a good place to live and work. If you would like more information on the proposed Appalachian Petrochemical Complex, you can visit www.ohvec.org/NoASH. You can also donate to or join any of the many grassroots organizations in the region who are working to stop this nightmare.

Dustin White is project coordinator with the Huntington, WV-based Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition. Diane Sipe is an organizer with Marcellus Outreach Butler, based in Butler County, PA. Both organizations are members of the Appalachian Gas Working Group.

The impacts of the construction of Shell’s “cracker” plant in Beaver, PA are already being felt. The “tarrif turmoil” caused by unstable federal foreign policy decisions, in particular the assault on steel prices, may have put construction of the facility on temporary hold. If completed, the entire upper Ohio River valley region is at risk of becoming the nation’s new “Cancer Alley” and center of the world’s wasteful plastics industry.
The fight to stop the pipeline includes many diverse and strategic efforts. Numerous lawsuits by landowners challenged eminent domain. Crucial efforts were waged against smaller components of the project like Nelson County citizens’ successful effort to prevent Dominion from accessing the community’s water source in order to drill through the Blue Ridge Mountains. Other efforts included community challenges to zoning changes and permits for stopping pipeline equipment, community legal challenges to cultural, historical, water, and environmental impacts, and the exposure of Environmental Justice violations that target Buckingham County’s rural African American Union Hill Baptist Church communities.

At least nine people have occupied tree sites to block access roads or logging sites for the MVP. Two more are currently in place. And alongside all of this, for four years and counting, citizens have organized rallies and protests, educational events and prayer circles, at the construction sites, at the state capitol in Richmond, and their own in communities all along the proposed routes. Citizen science initiatives are in place on both pipelines, with over a hundred volunteers trained in specifics of monitoring, documenting violations and filing formal complaints. For weeks sediment has been pouring into waterways during the heavy summer rains which continue as of this writing. Over 250 violations of erosion and sediment control standards have been reported to the State Department of Environmental Quality who lacks the staff and the desire to act on them. At least two treesits are in place and have stopped construction in two specific places in the Jefferson National Forest.

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There are climate deniers in politics. Some are unpaliacable in their denial. Others, often Democrats, are a special breed. I live in the shale fields of Pennsylvania where the 2016 presidential election is playing out again. In our race for Governor, we have the incumbent Tom Wolf running against Scott Wagner, who, ever so timidly, embraces President Trump.

Wagner has shown himself to be a climate denier; he acknowledges that the climate does seem to be warming, but he cites the Earth getting closer to the sun. He also has an interesting theory about the human contribution to planetary warming: “We have more people. You know, humans have warm bodies. So is heat coming off?”

He lacks a basic understanding of science and is not curious enough to supplement his infantile conjecture with some research. He’s dangerous because he is comfortable in his ignorance. Governor Tom Wolf fancies himself a climate champion. He has stated that “climate science is settled.” He exorciated President Trump’s rollbacks on environmental protections and suggested that the President was setting up “a false choice between the environment and jobs.” He sounds reasonable until you dig deeper. You don’t have to go far, because in the very same statement cited above, he goes on to say, “We can reduce Pennsylvania’s carbon emissions — while creating new, good-paying jobs — by promoting a cleaner energy mix including wind, nuclear, solar, energy efficiency, natural gas, and clean coal.” He’s dangerous because public policy expediency trumps science (pardon the pun).

I don’t have the inclination to go into the “wind, nuclear, solar, energy efficiency” part of his equation. Although each might have a positive impact on climate, the devil is in the details. I don’t even want to talk about “clean coal,” which, when we’re talking about the climate, is analogous to the tooth fairy, Santa Claus, the Easter bunny, and unicorns.

I want to explore Wolf’s embrace of unnatural gas. Early in his term (2015), Pennsylvanians Against Fracking arranged for Governor Wolf to meet with two eminent scientists, Dr. Yuri Gorbi and Dr. Bob Howarth. Howarth did groundbreaking research on methane migration and has an international reputation for his work on climate.

According to Howarth, Wolf asked what it would take to safely develop gas. Howarth says he told Wolf, “So far, shale gas has not been developed in an acceptably safe manner anywhere… In the end, shale gas makes no sense as a bridge fuel, since even with aggressive reduction of methane emissions, its greenhouse gas footprint will likely remain too large.”

Wolf’s scathing remarks about Trump came almost a year after his meeting with Gorbi and Howarth. During his watch, Wolf’s DEP (Don’t Expect Protection) has allowed an unnatural gas well permit every hour and fifteen minutes. He has been a major cheerleader for the ethane cracker plant in Beaver County (ethane is a byproduct of unnatural gas and a precursor to plastic manufacture). He has allowed the Mariner East II (which will transport unnatural gas liquids for export) to progress without adequate permitting, with pending court cases, and with many, many violations, spills, and contaminations. He has ignored a damning investigation by Public Herald on DEP’s criminal negligence. The case against fracking infrastructure is only stronger than it was immediately after his meeting with Gorbi and Howarth.

And yet, he persists!

Governor Wolf knows the science, acknowledges that it’s settled, but governs like the science is unsettled and really doesn’t matter.

Recently, Scott Wagner had a town hall. A young woman, 18-year-old Rose, asked Wagner about his silly climate position and the $200,000 he has received from fossil fuel interests. Wagner sneered, “Rose, you know what? I appreciate you being here. And you’re 18 years old. And, you know, you’re a little young and naive.” He followed that dismissal up by asking the audience, “Are we here to elect a Governor or are we here to elect a scientist?”

The Wolf campaign seized on that “gaff” and roasted Wagner for disrespecting voters. It was an amazing display of disrespect of both Rose and residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

But what should we make of the other candidate, Governor Wolf, who acknowledges the science but ignores it. Isn’t that also disrespectful? Isn’t it disrespectful of eminent scientists with international reputations? Isn’t it too disrespectful of the voters of Pennsylvania? Isn’t it calling the voters of Pennsylvania “naive” for thinking that their Governor would actually take science matters because he’s acknowledged that it’s settled?

Apparent not. Immediately, the Wolf campaign came out with an advertisement that said, “Help make sure Pennsylvania re-elects Tom Wolf, a governor who believes in science and will protect the environment.”

Climate deniers come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. Some come out and say they don’t believe the science and revel in their ignorance and some, like Governor Wolf, are wolves in Climate Champion clothing. The unfortunate thing is, you probably have just such an animal in your state. TOGETHER

Weary to the brudge
Against a rising tide
Our burden already too heavy
Each step a struggle
Discord, an enemy
Waits, hiding, ready to strike
To weaken us at every turn
To slow our progress

All of our strengths
And weaknesses
Must be woven together
An unbreakable chain mail
Only then, can our burden
Not crush us
Together

Virginia Victories from page 1

PITTSBURGH — Pitt Students drop a banner from the Smithfield Street Bridge spanning the Monongahela River, June 1, 2018. Pennsylvania's carbon emissions to say, “We can reduce Pennsylvania's carbon emissions — while creating new, good-paying jobs — by promoting a cleaner energy mix including wind, nuclear, solar, energy efficiency, natural gas, and clean coal.” He’s dangerous because political expediency trumps science (pardon the pun).

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Building a Movement for Forests, Climate, and Justice

by Danna Smith, Dogwood Alliance

On a hot and humid weekend of June, Dogwood Alliance called together an inspiring summit of 30 independent, diverse, and committed leaders from all over the country for a groundbreaking purpose: to elevate the role of forest protection in the national movement for climate action and justice, and collaborate on a national platform to Stand4Forests. In just a day and a half, the group accomplished so much, and our hearts were full at the end of the weekend.

From the majestic redwoods of the West to the mystic cypress of the South, forests are our lifeline. Whether they’re providing us with clean air and water, protecting us from storms, or giving us a place to retreat and restore, forests make for healthy and resilient communities.

And there’s more: Forests aren’t just the place where all the unique critters, towering trees, plants, and creatures smaller than the eye can see are thriving. In the magic of the forest, we find solutions to climate change, the greatest threat we face. Forests remove large quantities of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in trees and soils.

If we’re to avoid a climate disaster, we need to dramatically scale up forest protection. With the highest rates of logging in the world and a system that puts profit over people and land, the US is doing exactly the opposite — and putting our climate, communities, and forests in grave danger.

“The US is the world’s leading wood products producer and the leading source of greenhouse gases from logging,” noted John Talberth, President and Senior Economist at the Center for Sustainable Economy, who joined us at the Virginia meeting from Oregon. He added, “Big Timber’s toxic plantations are serious public health and safety threats as climate change unfolds, because they are more susceptible to fires, floods, insects, disease, and water shortages than natural forests.”

In the beginning of the year, Dogwood Alliance reached out to this group of leaders to bring them in on the ground floor of catalyzing a national movement on forests, climate, and justice.

This inspiring group represented people from all over the country who offered their diverse perspectives, background, spirit, and wisdom to the conversation. Frontline communities and grassroots organizations, big and small non-profits, universities and institutes — we were all over the map.

Folks traveled from near and far to be a part of the summit. We gathered to work and break bread together in a large mess hall. Over two days, we strengthened relationships while learning from one another and putting pen to paper on our work to come.

While we may differ in our regions, priorities, and tactics, we are united by a common goal. We seek a world where standing forests are valued more than logged. These organizations, scientists, and movement leaders are working together to grow a national movement that lifts up forest protection as a solution for the crises our earth, communities, and economy face.

Dr. Dominick DellaSala, President and Chief Scientist of the Geos Institute, who traveled from the West coast to join our group of forest protectors, said, “The time is now for infusing the forest movement with biodiversity, climate security, and social justice in order to keep carbon in the forests instead of logging and releasing it into the atmosphere.”

As we chatted over meals prepared by Seeds of Peace, a collective dedicated to feeding, training, and in all ways supporting the practitioners of radical political change, we got the sense that big change was happening. Ten years from now many of us will look back at this weekend as a shining moment in the effort to protect forests, climate, and communities.

But we don’t call it moment work; we call it movement work. This is a movement, and it’s the work that comes next that will drive the forces of change to keep more forests standing and to tackle the climate crisis and the injustices we are facing.

On the work ahead, B. J. McManama, a West Virginia-based Campaign Organizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network, shared, “We came away from this gathering of grassroots leaders encouraged and motivated to find the unique solutions that are based on our location and our people’s needs, and that will ensure a peaceful, prosperous, and equity-based future for our next Seven Generations.”

M. C. Egbert, the Policy Assistant and Social Media Coordinator with the John Muir Project, said, “I was so inspired by everyone at the meeting, and it inspired me to bring it back to my own organization and start building our own grassroots team!”

Now, we’re calling on more organizations, elected officials, scientists, faith leaders, and other movement leaders to endorse the Stand4Forests platform. This platform’s goal is to elevate the call to protect US forests and communities from the threats of forest destruction and climate change.

Sign your organization on to the Stand4Forests national platform!

Read it in full and add your name online at: https://stand4forests.org/

This platform is the call to protect US forests and communities from the threats of forest destruction and climate change. It brings together scientists, organizations, and leaders to fight for the protection of our forests and the well-being of our communities.

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