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A nonprofit citizen's coalition working within the community to promote responsible economic development and sustainable environmental management.

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West Virginia Stream Samplers

Josh Neese, TMI Program Coordinator

The West Virginia Stream Samplers, designed by The Mountain Institute (TMI), thru its Appalachia Program, provides students and teachers living in West Virginia watersheds an opportunity to engage in a hands-on, inquiry-based, outdoor environmental science academic program aligned with the WV Department of Environmental Protection's Save Our Streams (SOS) and WV Content Standards and Objectives (CSOs).

Participants learn the basic principles of water quality and watershed assessment by taking scientific measurements, making observations, documenting results, and drawing conclusions. The program, strives to raise awareness of the interconnections between WV's upland and downstream environments leading to a greater understanding of the impact of human activity on watershed health, both locally and regionally. It is intended that students and teachers will gain a sense of responsibility and stewardship for their water ways. By working as a team on multiple program activities, they will develop personal and group communication skills needed to achieve common objectives.

Each WV Stream Samplers class continues work with local watershed organizations on their streams and rivers. Partnering with local watershed organizations, provides the opportunity to maintain a commitment to their local waterways through long-term monitoring, habitat restoration, or other projects coordinated by the watershed organization. In this way, West Virginia Stream Samplers develops citizens concerned about their natural world and able to work together effectively to ensure a healthy future.

Teachers from West Virginia watersheds will meet for a 3-day professional development workshop at TMI's Spruce Knob Mountain Center to learn stream and watershed assessment skills. Tim Craddock of the WV-DEP's SOS program will instruct teachers in using SOS sampling protocol. Following an in-school preparatory session with TMI staff, each class will travel to the Ohio and Potomac River headwaters on Spruce Knob for a 2-day immersion in outdoor watershed study.

A team of TMI instructors then assist students and teachers in their own schools to carry out an investigation of a local waterway through water quality sampling. Data will be shared online with other schools to give students a broader context for their local measurements and published in a report distributed to all participants.

TMI's Appalachia Program is a non-profit organization located on Spruce Knob, WV. TMI's Mountain Learning Program's mission is to help people become powerful, secure, knowledgeable individuals with a clear vision of their responsibilities and potential for improving the human condition and the natural world.



Josh and Students at Entrance to Wolf Creek Park



If you were waiting for a sign to join in and volunteer your time or money – this could be it.

PAN Welcomes Liz Cushman. Liz is an OSM/VISTA Summer Associate and will be working on our GIS Initiative for the next 8-weeks.

New River Rendezvous 2008

Laura Ketchum

How do you get 850 people into 340 vehicles (loaded with climbing gear, camping gear, cooking gear, food, water, and maybe a dog) to drive hundreds of miles to a three-day event? Invite a bunch of climbers to the New River Rendezvous! How do you get 850 climbers not to produce any waste at the Rendezvous? Invite them to the 2008 "Step Up or Stay Home" New River Rendezvous!

This year's Rendezvous, held May 16-18 at Burnwood (thanks to the National Park Service), was the sixth annual and hailed as the best yet. Approximately 850 climbers, volunteers, athletes, sponsors and their entourage came for the long, activity packed, yet mellow weekend.



The Rendezvous is the New River Alliance of Climbers (NRAC) annual fundraiser, this local non-profit preserves and promotes climber access, conserves the climbing resources in the New River Gorge and surrounding areas, and acts as a liaison between climbers and regional land managers.

After last year's event ended and everyone took down tents, packed up cars and started driving away, it was obvious something had to change. The trash left on the ground was appalling and surprising for a group known for being low-impact and self-policing. NRAC decided to create a no-waste initiative for this year's Rendezvous. Two new volunteer crews - a Recycling and Wash Station Team were added to the already packed mostly local climber volunteer base who put the event together. Many volunteers put their lives on hold, spent the weekend at Burnwood, sleeping barely a wink. Others made a minimum 12-hour commitment to pull off the event.

Climbers are generally versed in the sustainable ethics of "Leave No Trace" and "Pack It In Pack It Out" so it was a great opportunity to test the idea and a chance to be part of the green revolution. "Step Up or Stay Home" means, before you leave home, think through the weekend and adopt a minimalist mindset. Bring only what you need. Think about the waste you will generate and try to keep it down." This request was posted on the Rendezvous website informing attendees of NRAC's objective. So, before leaving home, everyone had to consider how they would abide by the "Leave No Trace" ethos. To reduce vehicular impact, carpooling was recommended. To reduce garbage, everyone would have to bring their own plates, utensils, cups, etc. Some sponsors provided reusable dishes and utensils for the few who didn't bring what they needed and the wash stations (kudos to Class VI) were an added bonus. If



anyone had recycling or garbage they would have to "Pack It Out" (take it home). Recycling bins (Clean Streams containers courtesy of Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority) were set up for those who could not resist.

If you've not experienced a Rendezvous, just imagine a weekend chock full of camaraderie, camping, climbing clinics, climbing/bouldering/dyno comps, slacklining, sumo pad wrestling, slide shows, yoga, live music, coffee every morning, Thursday night movie and popcorn, a Friday-night dessert extravaganza and midnight snack, Saturday night dinner, dance party and 1am s'mores, Sunday morning pancake breakfast, and, for the young-uns a no-booze bar and kid zone.

Even with all these activities, the scene once the event was over on Sunday morning was glorious - no trash! The 2008 Rendezvous set an example of how an event like this can be sustainable. Climbers have shown they are mindful of the "Step Up or Stay Home" theme and not only care about each other and the environment. Clearly, NRAC's vision of a no-waste initiative is a successful model for other events to embrace.

ACWA Up and Ready to Go!

Emily Hovermale, ACWA OSM/VISTA Summer Associate

Arbuckle Creek Watershed Association (ACWA) is a community-based watershed group that is just beginning to take shape in the Fayette County area. Thanks to the help of PAN, we obtained a summer associate for the next 8 weeks. Emily Hovermale traveled all the way from Pennsylvania to be ACWA's first OSM/VISTA Summer Associate! ACE Whitewater was so nice to donate lodging for Emily's stay.

If you're not familiar with Arbuckle Creek, here's a quick lesson. Arbuckle Creek starts in the community of Summerlee and flows through Oak Hill then down to the towns of Minden and Rock Lick where it eventually flows into the New River Gorge National River. This creek has suffered from pollution, litter, and carelessness for far too long. ACWA is determined to clean this stream and monitor its health so generations from now we can still enjoy its beauty. We are dedicated to ensuring Arbuckle Creek's safety for swimming, fishing, and other recreational activities, reducing the impact of flooding to Minden and Rock Lick, and educating others to strengthen the communities along Arbuckle Creek.



Ben Prior, Sara Martin, and Emily Hovermale discussing ACWA at Pies and Pints

We would like to improve the community as a whole by reaching out to town residents and creating a healthier environment. With that aim in mind, our next project is building a community playground in Minden. We have

the land and all of the material, but are in need of volunteers to help with construction. We would love any help we can get on this project and on growing our fledgling watershed group. If you have an interest in ACWA or to find out how you can help, please contact us at acwawv@gmail.com.

Wolf Creek Past & Future?

Tom Heemstra

On Thursday, May 22nd, the 2nd reading of the proposed sale of Fayetteville's water and sewerage systems to West Virginia American Water, was heard during a town meeting at the American Legion Post. The sale includes the town water plant and the land surrounding the Wolf Creek dam and reservoir up to the Gatewood Road Bridge.

Many residents and frequent visitors identify Wolf Creek with this unique image of it's long broad pool and large standing hemlocks. Long time residents remember fishing, swimming, and Sunday baptisms there on Wolf Creek. As a small child, I continually ask my grandmother to "take me to the waters" causing her to drive out Gatewood Road and let me gaze over the still waters. Like many others traveling Gatewood Road, this was my first introduction to Wolf Creek. To many, this is the Wolf Creek they know.



Wolf Creek Viewed for Gatewood Road - Time to Talk Park

When I was older my family and friends would swim below the dam and then walk to Long Point and areas below. Redeye, Brush Hole, to us kids it was like a continuous water park. A few years later we began climbing the creek from Fayette Station to Gatewood Road with many stops in between. Now I have begun to rediscover the area with my children.

Once the sale of the water plant is complete, West Virginia American Water will have 14 months to determine if they want to maintain the reservoir for a back-up water supply. Otherwise, the area is supposed to revert back to the Town of Fayetteville. Meanwhile, the adjacent buildings and space used for the town street department and recycling center will be leased back to the town for one dollar.

Hopefully the area can be managed to improve and encourage public use of this uniquely beautiful section of

our watershed. For all interaction, even a glimpse from a passing car window, can only help improve awareness of the waters.

PAN & Volunteer Research

Stacy Bouchard, ACCWT OSM/VISTA & recent PAN member and Volunteer

Wouldn't you like to see PAN have more volunteers excited about cleaning up the watershed? Imagine how much more potential we could have with a bigger active volunteer base? But how do we get more volunteers involved? PAN is trying to find this out by asking you and anyone else that gives some of their time to PAN.

PAN has entered into a research partnership with the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team (ACCWT) to look at volunteering within our organization. This partnership will allow the ACCWT to help us study and document our organization's volunteer efforts. Most of the study involves two rounds of anonymous surveys (given to us by the ACCWT) that we will need you to help fill out! The first round of surveys will measure current volunteer needs. These surveys are meant to be brief and will ask you questions such as why you volunteer and in what ways you enjoy volunteering. After PAN and the ACCWT share the results of the surveys, PAN will discuss and try some new volunteer techniques.

These techniques will be applied to how we recruit and manage volunteers for a reasonable length of time.

Then another round of surveys will go out to measure progress. We hope everyone will participate in both surveys because we value what you have to say about your involvement with PAN and your community. We'll appreciate as many survey responses as possible, as this will tell us who makes up our volunteer base, what they want in a volunteer experience, and how to expand that volunteer base. The goal is to collect information on how PAN can better support its volunteers and expand the volunteer base.

But, the best part of joining this study is funding! PAN will receive \$2,000 in unrestricted funds for its work in this volunteer research. To receive the full funding, PAN must complete the surveys, trial period, and final report summarizing its findings and experiences. This funding is just another reason why we appreciate your participation in this work, and remember, it won't take much time!

Conservation Campers

Meredith Gregg, PAN OSM/VISTA

In case you haven't notice PAN is working diligently on broadening our spectrum of "outreach and education" in the community. In one of those "Aha moments", it came to our OSM/VISTA that PAN could sponsor some kids to go to camp! This spring PAN coordinated with the DEP to sponsor 4 campers, 2 for Jr. Conservation Camp (age 11-13) and 2 for Conservation Camp (age 14-18). We created an application requiring the campers to report on what they did and learned to help protect our natural resources at home with their families. We are very excited about giving a few lucky students 5-days at Cedar Lakes and Camp Caesar (respectively). Stay tuned...our next newsletter will have the campers input on how to be good environmental stewards in the New River Gorge area.

Spring Stream Clean Ups

Meredith Gregg, PAN OSM/VISTA

PAN volunteers joined in, getting their feet wet on two WV Make It Shine events this spring.

Arbuckle Creek, Minden April 5

Jesse Bibb, born in Minden, was the event coordinator for the Arbuckle clean up with the support of the Kanawha Valley Trout Unlimited chapter, Plateau Action Network, and Minden Community Center.



Jesse Bibb & Minden Residents Get Ready

For folks who have participated in stream cleanup projects, there aren't many surprises with the varied items that thoughtless folks have discarded in the stream. Volunteers retrieved refrigerators, televisions, a barber's chair, commodes, a tail gate, swimming pools, tires, a dozen bikes and several large carpets. Laura Ketchum and Eileen O'Neill (PAN volunteers) worked on one carpet for about 30 minutes before they finally got it out of the creek. A group of eight people were able to pull a large swimming pool out of the creek after Trout unlimited's Larry Orr, stabbed it at least 15 times with his knife to let water and mud run out.

Many thanks are in order. To all the volunteers who helped in making Minden a better place to live - "good job". Special commendations to; Melissa and Mel Dragan, Chad McCune and Donn Ketchum who, after lunch, went the extra mile and doubled the trash haul by spending 2 more hours at the illegal dump site over the hill just as you descend into Minden, and to Jesse Bibb and OSM/Vista Meredith Gregg for their recruiting efforts.



Adding To The Pile

Wolf Creek, Oak Hill April 19

Community members met at the Fayette Square Plaza in North Oak Hill to clean up the hillside along side Wolf Creek.

Many volunteers showed up including youths Kyle (12) and Brin (10) Nickolas, Erin Heeter (11) and Kate Kistler celebrated her eleventh birthday at the cleanup. Student Conservation Assoc. team members Tomoko Tamamgawa and Andrew Mulkey and Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team members Stacy Bouchard and Luke Elser pitched in along with moms, Kyle Rae, Maura and Mara. Thanks to Carl Thompson, Chris Eades, John Petretich, Bill Reilley, Donn Ketchum and PAN Board members, Eric Autenreith, Jenny Becksted, and Laura Ketchum and Kroger employees Charles Knight and Marlene Shaposki.

Kroger's and Sambinos Pizza kindly donated lunch and drinks. Big Lots donated a few rakes too. Thank you!

Starting near Shoney's Restaurant, the group systematically moved north picking litter out of the grass and pulling it from the bramble on the slope. In addition to the standard litter items (bottles, fast food and candy wrappers, cardboard signs), volunteers pulled discarded shopping carts from the hillside and the banks of the creek.

In total, the group picked up 51 bags of garbage and pulled 27 shopping carts from the slope in front of Fayette Square.

Thanks for the hard work and smiles in getting' it done! See you next year!



Making it Better Because We Live Here & We Care

Tier 3 / Anti-deg Update

Eric Autenreith

West Virginia's new stream protection law was passed in March this year, but it still isn't over! As the legislative session was nearing an end, the much wrangled over Tier 2.5 list/ Anti-degradation rule was suddenly thrown out and completely new language was crafted and passed, within about 4 days! (47CSR2A, "Designation of Tier 3 Waters.")

There are plenty of details and confusing wordings that make interpretation difficult. Even some who were involved in crafting the new legislation are uncertain what it all means. But, at least we have something that sort of puts WV in compliance with the federally mandated anti-degradation rules that were made about 20 years ago...

The new bill threw out the Tier 2.5 classification that was a compromise with the polluting industries and reinstated the original Tier 3. The bill threw out the "list" of high quality streams worthy of a high level of protection (the list originally contained 444 streams, then 309, then 156, then 36) and instead, gave protection to all those qualifying streams in all State Parks, all National Forests, and all National Parks in West Virginia.

The next step was for the executive branch, the DEP, under Governor Manchin, to make an "interpretive rule" which describes how the DEP will interpret and enforce the new legislation. Among a number of issues, the most glaring problem was the DEP's statement, "As of the effective date of this rule, there are no national parks located within West Virginia." The DEP's interpretive rule gave some specific mention of application to the New and the Bluestone Rivers but notably left out any mention of the Gauley. The National Park Service, the environmental community and even the chairpersons of the house and senate judicial committees, who crafted the legislation, submitted comments about this point and other issues with the interpretive rule.



What West Virginia Waters Are Worth Protection?

The obvious point of issue is the phrase "national parks". There are 391 units of the National Park system and these are frequently referred to as national parks. Some of those units have a classification of "National Park" such as Grand Canyon National Park and Yellowstone National Park.

WV has five National Park units but none with the "National Park" classification. Locally, we have New River Gorge National River, Bluestone National Scenic River and Gauley River National Recreation Area. And WV is home to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and Wheeling National Heritage Area. Not recognizing these as national parks may leave their streams at risk for further pollution. Remember the mountain top removal mining on Gauley Mountain?

House Judiciary Chair, Carrie Webster and Senate Judiciary Chair, Jeff Kessler, who participated in crafting the current stream protection legislation and who are advocates for protecting West Virginia's valuable natural resources, are meeting with Governor Manchin on June 23 to discuss this issue.



Last Child in the Woods

Patricia Spangler

Back in April while winter and spring were playing musical chairs, I ran into Meredith at the Fayetteville Library. I was checking out *Prodigal Summer* again, and she was looking for *Last Child in the Woods*. At that time it seemed I had time on my hands, so when asked to review *Last Child* for the PAN newsletter, it seemed "doable." I spent the next several weeks alternating between the two books—reluctantly setting aside Barbara Kingsolver to address Richard Louv's comprehensively researched, analysis. The book sits on my bed stand—full of post-it notes marking passages for the book review.

In the interim my husband, sister, and I decided a herd of dairy goats was exactly what we needed here on Cotton Hill, the price of organic milk and cheese being what it is. So now a little before 6 am our rooster's crowing and sterilized milking buckets sit at the back door ready to collect the twice-daily milk offerings so generously provided by our new does.

Apologies aside, I simply ran out of time and decided James Levine's review from *Publisher's Weekly* will provide PAN readers a adequate assessment of Louv's *Last Child in the Woods*. Enjoy!

Today's kids are increasingly disconnected from the natural world, says child advocacy expert Louv (*Childhood's Future*; *Fatherlove*; etc.), even as research shows that "thoughtful exposure of youngsters to nature can... be a powerful form of therapy for attention-deficit disorder and other maladies."

Instead of passing summer months hiking, swimming and telling stories around the campfire, children these days are more likely to attend computer camps or weight-loss camps: as a result, Louv says, they've come to think of nature as more of an abstraction than a reality. Indeed, a 2002 British study reported that eight-year-olds could identify Pokémon characters far more easily than they could name "otter, beetle, and oak tree."

Gathering thoughts from parents, teachers, researchers, environmentalists and other concerned parties, Louv argues for a return to an awareness of and appre-

ciation for the natural world. Not only can nature teach kids science and nurture their creativity, he says, nature needs its children: where else will its future stewards come from? Louv's book is a call to action, full of warnings—but also full of ideas for change.

"I like to play indoors better 'cause that's where all the electrical outlets are," reports a fourth grader. But it's not only computers, television, and video games that are keeping kids inside. It's also their parents' fears of traffic, strangers, Lyme disease, and West Nile virus; their schools' emphasis on more and more homework; their structured schedules; and their lack of access to natural areas. Local governments, neighborhood associations, and even organizations devoted to the outdoors are placing legal and regulatory constraints on many wild spaces, sometimes making natural play a crime.

As children's connections to nature diminish and the social, psychological, and spiritual implications become apparent, new research shows that nature can offer powerful therapy for such maladies as depression, obesity, and attention deficit disorder. Environment-based education dramatically improves standardized test scores and grade-point averages and develops skills in problem solving, critical thinking, and decision making. Anecdotal evidence strongly suggests that childhood experiences in nature stimulate creativity.

In *Last Child in the Woods*, Louv talks with parents, children, teachers, scientists, religious leaders, child-development researchers, and environmentalists who recognize the threat and offer solutions. Louv shows us an alternative future, one in which parents help their kids experience the natural world more deeply—and find the joy of family connectedness in the process.

From Publishers Weekly Agent, James Levine. (May 20, 2006) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc.



Summerlee Update

Meredith Gregg, PAN OSM/VISTA

Background: The Summerlee Gob pile is a coal refuse dump. It was 1st reclaimed in 1996 by capping the refuse prevent surface water contact with the gob and a settlement pond to capture the acid mine drainage (AMD) coming off the site. High concentrations of metals, like aluminum, iron, and manganese were in the acidic water flowing into the Wolf Creek head waters. Since then the water quality has improved but is still very acidic with high levels of metals. Through a multiple agency "Watershed Cooperative Agreement" PAN leveraged a plan and funding for the engineering and construction of "Summerlee AMD



Anetta Myers & Jenny Becksted
Taking Chemistry Samples

Treatment Phase I". It took 7 years to realize and was constructed last summer (2007).

Since last fall, PAN volunteers has collected monthly water samples at the site to monitor changes in the water quality at the site.

In May, PAN requested a meeting with Federal and state agency branches (OSM and WV DEP's AML&L and NPS (non point source) along with PAN's Wolf Creek Environmental Trustee. PAN wanted to give an update on site status and discuss next steps.

Meredith Gregg (PAN's OSM/Vista) prepared a timeline slide presentation of site data and photographs revealing developing issues. We met in Charleston in June.

The presentation drew attention to water quality changes, some significant, some not. However the most prevalent issue was the degrading of Phase I through property trespassing and vandalism. A new gate and two guardrails were constructed to deter trespassing by off road vehicle (ORV) users.

Since January guardrails have been removed and ORV use appears to have increased with the site upgrades (new road). This regular trespassing has caused erosion and siltation. As site water makes contact with the bed it results in neutralizing the site acid waters. It appears that trespassing activities are interfering with the effectiveness of one of two treatment limestone beds. One bed is getting filled in with the silt caused by the ORV trails used above the bed. This is a problem.

The other catastrophic outcome of the ORV use is the erosion of the "Cap" over the coal refuse caused by rain running over the ORV trails. There are now deep crevices created along these trails that expose the coal refuse.

All parties were discouraged by this development. Now every time it rains or snows the negative impacts are two-fold. Sediment fills in the limestone beds, preventing run off contact with the alkaline substrate that decreases its acidity and metal content. And the precipitation flowing into the trail "gutters" contacts with the original toxic refuse further degrading the water quality at the site.

Coal mining has been a part of WV's heritage for over 150 years. In past times, as coal was removed from underground mines, a certain amount of unwanted material accompanied the coal to the surface. Separating the coal from the refuse material was a necessary part of the process, and large piles of refuse material grew as mining operations continued. Because the separation process was far from perfect, coal itself is generally a major constituent of these piles. The piles are known variously as gob piles, slate dumps, boney piles, and culm banks. They have too often become permanent fixtures on the landscape and are responsible for environmental degradation, including the sometimes prolific production of AMD, as well as being hazards and eyesores. They generally don't support the growth of much vegetation and are characterized by their steep, eroded, unstable dark gray bank.

**To cap the pile with soils and other amendments to prevent rain and snow from infiltrating the pile as well as promote the growth of vegetation.*

From www.amrclearinghouse.org



Vandalism & Erosion Impact At Site



Exposed Gob (Coal Refuse)

So what to do. There were discussions of alternative measures, but it is too soon to say what the true impact of the new Alkaline Cells and trespassing are. We will continue to sample the site and strategize on “negotiating with the trespassers”. If you would like to help with this project please contact the PAN office. We are interested in developing a Wolf Creek Advisory Team to strengthen our efforts in bringing Wolf Creek back to a fishable, swimmable creek it once was. We need your help.

Rally Ho!

Jenny Becksted

On May 2, OSM/VISTA Meredith Gregg and I embarked on a 3-day adventure in learning and networking with other national, regional, state, and local groups working for watershed protection. River Network’s annual ‘River Rally’ was held this year in the Great Lakes Basin, in Huron, OH.

River Network is a national non-profit who works for watershed protection organizations by helping them understand, protect, and restore rivers and their watersheds. Every spring they hold a “conference” called River Rally – where they bring together hundreds (of the thousands) of groups they directly support:

grassroots watershed associations, statewide conservation groups, large river basin groups, Native American tribes, fishing and boating associations, businesses, state and federal governmental agencies and other national environmental organizations.

River Rally is the most widely anticipated training opportunity for river conservation organizations and watershed groups in the nation. The event’s workshops, mentor sessions, networking time, and even play time is all to help grassroots groups harness the power of citizen involvement to protect rivers and build healthier communities and watersheds. Participants included volunteers, board and staff members, experienced leaders and new watershed protection enthusiasts. Together, we celebrated rivers, taught and learned from each other and explored the power of citizen action.

We arrived Friday afternoon, in time for a workshop called ‘From Frustration to Impact: Leadership that Works.’ and were happy to kick off the weekend with a fun and interactive session that gave us some great ideas for being more effective as a stewardship organization. Over the next two days we attended a number of very informative and sometimes even fun workshops. Probably the most exciting and valuable thing about Rally to me (this was my 2nd one) is how well planned and diverse the event is. They call it a Rally for a reason – it is thoughtfully designed to provide unprecedented opportunities for information, professional development, networking, rejuvenation, inspiration, and celebration. It’s no surprise that River Rally continues to be the single most important annual event for anyone working to protect our nation’s waters.

In between educational workshops on topics like ‘A Community-Centered Approach to Watershed-Based Planning’ and ‘Combat Communications: Conquering Confrontation and Controversy’ we had ample time to chat with water-protection enthusiasts from around the country and even a little time to relax in a beautiful setting on the banks of Lake Erie. We had several good conversations with George Santucci, the Executive Director of the National Committee for the New River based in NC and the new Executive Director of the West Virginia Rivers Coalition, Shanda Minney, and others.



Shanda Minney (WVRC), George Santucci (NCNR), Courtney Wait (NCNR) & Jenny Becksted (PAN) at River Rally

We also enjoyed several walks to the lake’s shore and were blessed to see (very close) the flight of a young eagle – spectacular!

With PAN’s intention to begin a formal strategic planning process this summer, we made sure to hit up relevant workshops (one by Shelli Bischoff-Turner of Conservation Impact, ‘From Strategic Planning to Strategic Positioning’ was excellent!) and also to schedule

a session with a Rally Mentor, Baird Straughan of Leadgreen.org. Baird is an experienced consultant and educator helping conservation and environmental organizations build their capacity and effectiveness. Our personal meeting with him was extremely informative and complemented my earlier workshop with Shelli on strategic planning. We were pleased to have met with him and brought back to PAN some very tangible tools the organization can begin to implement as we move forward in improving our organization.

We are thrilled to have so many tools to add to the PAN toolbox and look forward to ensuring PAN is represented at this amazing conference again next year!

Earth Day

Meredith Gregg, PAN OSM/VISTA

This year's theme at the PAN Booth was "Know Your Watershed". We had a topographical map of the area with all the sub watersheds outlined and we asked people if they knew what sub watershed of the New River they lived in.

We handed out DEP "Caring for your watershed from your backyard" flyers and PAN brochures. With this approach we opened a personal connection to the "watershed" concept, bringing the message of personal responsibility for water quality in our every day actions to the Earth Day visitors and answered any questions they had about "who" PAN is.

We also encouraged visitors to join or renew their PAN membership, receiving \$300 in donations and memberships with 2 new volunteers.

Thanks to John Petretich, Jenny Becksted, Laura Ketchum and Eric Autenrieth for "manning the booth". And for your support-- remember you can join or renew your membership on our website-- just click on the "donate button".



Another Coigne

Mark Ehrnschwender

Coign, Coigne (Koin), n. Vars. of Coin, Quoin, A corner, wedge, etc.: chiefly used in coigne of vantage, a position of advantage for action or observation.

In the fall of '06, as the housing development - viewshed imbroglio raged on, The Fayette County Commission passed a resolution to satisfy the preservationist and allow the initial work of Roaring Rivers phase I to move ahead. Though it appears little or nothing has occurred on this front there has been some (slow though it may seem) good progress on a few of the resolution's items. In late '06 the Fayette Transition Team made viewshed protection a part of its program of work related to a review of the comprehensive plan. From late '07 to May '08 the resource coordinator researched viewshed ordinances from around the country and the team provided reviews and comments coming up with a "draft strawman" to present to an initial stakeholders' meeting of developers, PAN, the National Park Service, etc.

The meeting was held on May 17th, and initially the sides were drawn, the point of contention was a word "viewshed". As facilitator Pat Ford captured the issues he turned the tables and offered a new planning approach called form based ordinances. These ordinances get away from the prescriptive rules of old and introduce a new level of process and cooperation, most importantly "viewshed" was replaced by a new phrase "public realm". In the 4 hours the attitude changed and consensus was formed.

A new draft has been prepared and will be discussed at this month's Transition Team meeting. What's in a word - plenty. But the devil is in the details, so we aren't finished yet.

"The Ox is slow but the earth is patient.", We'll keep you posted as things progress.

Check Us Out

PAN meets first Tuesday of the month 6:00 pm, at Gregg Studios, in Fayetteville. For more information call our OSM/VISTA at 304 574-4726 or a board member.

PAN Board of Directors	
Mark Ehrnschwender – Chair	304 574-1993
Jenny Becksted	304 663-1118
Joy Marr – Treasurer	304 574-0394
Eric Autenreith – Secretary	304 574-1067
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Membership Form

PAN POB 482 Fayetteville WV 25840

Please Print

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Yes, I would like to support PAN at this membership level _____

Individual @ \$20

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Enclosed is an additional contribution of _____

I do not want PAN to use my personal information to contact me for activities of related groups.

Or go to www.plateauactionnetwork.org to sign up & donate.

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