



P.O. Box 482  
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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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[www.plateauactionnetwork.org](http://www.plateauactionnetwork.org)

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## From the Chair

Here we are again. After the power outage cancelled our first attempt, we had a successful Membership meeting. We did our business reviewing and adopting changes in the by-laws, announcing the slate for directors, looked over the 2008 budget, and set the February meeting for voting on the the board.

We discussed PAN's current efforts and looking to the future had a valuable discussion on:

- What PAN is doing well?
- What could we do better or shouldn't do?
- What we should do that we aren't?
- What can we do to get more people invovled?
- What is the perception of PAN?
- What does PAN stand for?



It was great having that many members, their energy, and ideas together in an open forum. I'd like to thank all who came, Wendy and the Cathedral Cafe for inviting us to use their space and the deserts, and Pie's & Pints for providing those delicious pies.

We had a good turn out at the February meeting and voted in the new board. I am please to welcome Rebecca Smith to the board (more on that later).

And for a number of reasons this issue just keeps sliding away from the deadline. So I'm hoping this gets out in time to announce the spring event [see From the Chair pg 1].

In the last issue we introduced you to the big vision of Lights On! West Virginia, this time we've pulled the view in some [see Lights On! – Somebody's Home pg 5].

If you're ready for spring cleaning [see Keeney's Creek Clean Up pg 2] or looking for something you can really dig into we got it in here [see Planting Trees for Appalachia's Future pg 2] and it serves as an immedaite bridge somewhere between the Gauley mountain piece [see Forced To Act pg 4] and a possible future [see A Tale of the Future pg 6].

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## Wild & Scenic Film Fest



25 students expressed interest in this year's project. The project was introduced, tasks assigned, committees formed, and trailers viewed [see Schedule of Events pg 8].



Film Festival Managers Meeting at Shoeny's

### *In A Country Once Forested*

*The young woodland remembers  
the old, a dreamer dreaming  
of an old holy book,  
an old set of instructions,  
and the soil under the grass  
is dreaming of a young forest,  
and under the pavement the soil  
is dreaming of the grass*

Wendell Berry - Given Poems, 2005

## Spring Fling Contra Dance

SATURDAY MARCH 28 • 7:30 - 10:30pm

- Beginners come at 7:00 to get your dance legs on!
- **Where:** Dining Hall of the Fayette County Park Beckwith, WV. 8.5 miles Northwest of Fayetteville off Route 16.
- **Who:** David Mould (from Athens, OH) calling to the music of The Contrarians: Paul Epstein (fiddle); John Longwell (mandolin, fiddle, banjo); Gary Reynolds (guitar, keyboard, trumpet); and Will Carter (bass).
- Admission and more: \$10 General Admission; \$8 seniors (65+) and kids (12 and under).

Please bring a pair of dancing-only shoes (clean, soft-soled) and if you can or desire a hands only snack to share with fellow dancers.

For More Information about the PAN contra dance, including driving directions, maps, etc. please call our office at 304.574.4726 or visit us on the web at [www.plateauactionnetwork.org](http://www.plateauactionnetwork.org)

## Keeney's Creek Clean Up

Volunteers Take Action for a Cleaner, Greener Tomorrow as PAN participates in the 2009 WV Make It Shine Statewide Cleanup

Cleanup and beautification efforts to take place nationwide as part of America's largest community improvement event led nationally by Keep America Beautiful

Volunteers across the state are rallying to improve their local parks, public spaces, waterways, hiking trails, sidewalks and streets by participating in the Department of Environmental Protection's WV Make It Shine Statewide Cleanup, which takes place April 1 through April 15. PAN will kick-off its activities on Keeney's Creek.



**SATURDAY APRIL 11 at 10am (Weather permitting).**

- **Where:** We will meet at the intersection of Lansing-Edmond Rd. and Winona St. in the middle of Winona behind the old pool hall at Mrs. Hanner's house.
- **Who:** Everyone welcome, but for insurance reasons no children under 10.
- **Recommendations:** Volunteers should wear sturdy boots and "bramble resistant" clothing.

- Gloves, bags and tools will be provided along with light snacks and drinks.

To volunteer, call Lily Kay at 304.574.4726 or email the PAN office at [pan\\_wv@earthlink.net](mailto:pan_wv@earthlink.net).

PAN's WV Make It Shine activities are part of a larger national effort, Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup, is expected to involve close to 2.5 million people, volunteering more than 8 million hours to clean, beautify, and improve 15,000 communities during 30,000 events in all 50 states. Activities will include beautifying parks and recreation areas, cleaning sea-shores and waterways, handling recycling collections, picking up litter and removing scrap tires, planting trees and flowers, and conducting educational programs and litter-free events.

We are asking you to join PAN members in a stream-side clean up day gathering debris along the banks of Keeney's Creek. This is a great opportunity for environmentally minded community service and (for the curious) to hear about the proposed wastewater treatment plan for this small community.

Meet like minded neighbors, bring friends, make friends, and join in making our community a better place. Show the community you care and personal involvement makes a difference. We will work with DEP assistance (they will remove our collected piles). Together we can make a cleaner waterway and learn why it is important that PAN has been stewards of Keeney's Creek.

The 2008 WV Make It Shine Statewide Cleanup produced phenomenal results with over 300,000 pounds of litter and debris collected by more than 2,000 volunteers.

The WV Make It Shine program is part of Governor Manchin's Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan initiative under the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. All of West Virginia's volunteer-driven cleanup programs fall under REAP- The Next Generation.

**So get a head start on earth day!**

## Planting Trees for Appalachia's Future

Meredith Gregg

Last November, I attended an Eastern Coal Regional Roundtable (ECRR) watershed training in southwestern Virginia, as a PAN volunteer and our new OSM/Vista's (Lily Kay) Supervisor.

I found the presentation about a new push for reforestation techniques on mine reclamation sites most compelling. The goal is to establish sustainable forest ecosystems through the reclamation of surface coal mine land.

Originally, a rich hardwood forest covered the majority of Appalachia. Over the years, surface mining "reclamation" resulted in forest fragmentation and a net loss of productive forestland. We cannot replace nature, but by replanting diversity species we can enhance tree growth, accelerate the natural succession process to reestablish forest habitat and other environmental benefits making reclamation more economically and environmentally viable.

The Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) is a cooperative effort by the States of the Appalachian Region with the Office of Surface Mining encouraging restoration of high quality forests on reclaimed coal mines in the eastern USA. ARRI's goals are to communicate and encourage mine reforestation practices that:

- Plant high-value hardwood trees on reclaimed coal mined lands in Appalachia.
- Increase planted tree's survival and growth rates.
- Expedite established forest habitat through natural succession.

ARRI's collaborative efforts have enlisted the efforts and support of watershed and environmental groups, industry, State and Federal government, coal field communities, landowners, and private citizens.

For all the gardeners, ecologists, and hands on folk, it's done in 5 Steps:

1. Create a suitable rooting medium for good tree growth comprised of topsoil, weathered sandstone, and/or the best available material and no less than 4 feet deep.
2. Loosely grade the topsoil or substitutes established in step 1 to create a non-compacted growth medium.
3. Use ground covers compatible with growing trees.
4. Plant 2 types of trees - an early succession species for wildlife and soil stability and commercially valuable crop trees.
5. Use proper tree planting techniques.

So let's help reclaim and rebuild the natural beauty and sustainability of West Virginia by supporting this initiative. We are raising awareness and demonstrating a better way for Appalachia and we need you for grass roots involvement.



Photos from tree planting on an abandoned strip job in Dickenson County earlier this month.

## Pan Volunteer Opportunities-Help Plant Trees!

Prenter, Boone County West Virginia - The Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team (ACCWT) is proud to partner with the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) and the Eastern Coal Regional Roundtable (ECRR). Together, we are hosting a tree planting event on Friday March 27th from 10 am – 4 pm. Our goal is to plant hardwood trees on reclaimed coal mined lands, to help establish forest habitat through natural succession. Patriot Coal has generously donated 8 acres of bond released mine land and 5,000 hardwood trees for us to plant!

**Please realize this is not an event for children under 18.**

For more information about the ARRI, please visit: <http://arri.osmre.gov>.

The Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team (ACCWT) is a unique and innovative partnership between the Office of Surface Mining, concerned with environmental reclamation and safety, and AmeriCorps\*VISTA, concerned with poverty. The Team was founded in response to requests from small, community volunteer-based watershed groups throughout coal country, and targets problems associated with the legacy of pre-regulatory coal mining in Appalachian watersheds. The ACCWT places determined, college graduate OSM/VISTAs into Appalachian communities in need of the skills and commitment those Volunteers can bring to a year or two of full-time national service. OSM/VISTAs address not only immediate and pressing water quality problems; they support their local communities in the longer, more hard-fought struggles of community sustainability, job stability, and successful futures for citizens in rural America.

For more information about the ACCWT, please visit: [www.accwt.org](http://www.accwt.org).

The Eastern Coal Regional Roundtable (ECRR) serves mine scarred watersheds through training, capacity building and providing a collective voice for underserved communities seeking to restore the well being of their citizens and environment. This includes:

- Educating and communicating with decision makers
- Encouraging collaboration and information sharing among watershed groups
- Disseminating information about relevant funding opportunities
- Providing resources to help watershed groups write successful funding proposals

For more information about the ECRR, please visit: [www.easterncoal.org](http://www.easterncoal.org)

Together, these three organizations are committed to reforesting old mine sites and improving watersheds!

## Public Realm Ordinance Tabled

Fayette County - Planning Commission Table's Public Realm Ordinance

Twenty six months after the County Commissioner's Resolution and after about 2 hours of comments from the public, the 13 Fayette County Planning Commission voted unanimously to table the proposed ordinance. They will take up the issue again at their regular meet-

ing, March 23rd at 3pm (high level of participation is expected so it may move from the courthouse).

The "Public Realm District" ordinance (it is technically an overlay applied on top of current land use and zoning requirements to sensitive scenic areas) allows people to develop their property around this national treasure while protecting the scenic beauty that makes this part of Fayette County a unique place in the world. This ordinance will be an amendment to Fayette County's UDC (Unified Development Code).

In 2005, when the Roaring Rivers housing development (now bankrupt) came along, Fayette County had nothing in the UDC specifically addressing viewshed protection, even though our Comprehensive Plan recognizes the county's scenic beauty as community asset and mentions the viewshed ~27 times. When the community discussed the development projects and weighed the value of the scenic beauty surrounding the New River Gorge, we found ourselves without the education and planning tools to deal with this issue.

In the fall of 2006 the County Commissioners crafted a resolution and asked the Planning Commission to address this issue.

At the public comment meeting in the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building about 60 people showed up. Thirteen people spoke of concerns and confusion but also recognized the value of the ordinance, and they suggested tabling the ordinance until they had time to more fully review it and make a few changes. Six of these speakers represented two big developments along the rim of the New River Gorge national park. They are there precisely because the park and surrounding area is a spectacular, beautiful treasure. Only two people seemed against the ordinance but they also made it clear that they did not understand what it all meant and how it would affect them.

Economic development studies from all over this country and other countries clearly show that protecting the unique character of communities is a big factor in attracting businesses and people and contributes to a diverse, sustainable economy. When communities show such foresight, it sends a message that we are being thoughtful and taking care of our corner of the world and that is a very attractive sign to businesses and people looking for a quality place to call home.

Expressions of confusion and caution are fair enough and tabling it was a good choice. While this ordinance is a carefully crafted document, Monday's meeting was most people's first chance to read it. It is a good and important document. We should get to understand it better, address a few specific concerns and keep it moving forward.

link to the recent Fayette tribune article  
[www.fayetttribune.com/local/local\\_story\\_050171845.html](http://www.fayetttribune.com/local/local_story_050171845.html)

link to the story about the Roaring Rivers issue and PAN's involvement [www.plateauactionnetwork.org](http://www.plateauactionnetwork.org) then click on Roaring River and PAN - The Whole Story

## Stewards of the Bluestone

The Bluestone River is the lifeblood for Southeastern West Virginia. It stretches over 77 miles beginning in Tazewell County, VA and flowing through Mercer and Summers Counties, WV. Two state parks and one na-

tional park encompass its scenic lower section shortly before it joins the New River, a world-renowned white-water rafting location. The Bluestone River is a popular stop for fishing, canoeing, and kayaking but most importantly, it provides drinking water for the dozens of communities living along it.

Recently, residents living along the Bluestone River began noticing unhealthy levels of PCBs, fecal coliform, heavy metals, and oil. These concerned community members formed the Bluestone Conservatory (BC) in the fall of 2005 to improve the health of the Bluestone River and those that use it. After a few meetings to gather new members and create Articles of Association to guide their growth, BC quickly created an action plan consisting of regular water monitoring, annual river trash pickups, and a watershed health outreach program. The roster of events for 2009 is their biggest yet. Here's a taste of what's ahead:

4/25	Earth Day celebration and outreach program at the Appalachian Folk Life Center
6/13&14	Outreach program at Celebrate Princeton
7/25	Falls Mills River Cleanup
8/15 - 22	Outreach program at the Tazewell County Fair
9/12	Volunteer project with the Boy Scouts at their Autumn Jamboree
TBA	Town of Lilly river cleanup with the National Park Service as partner

Membership meetings are held the last Thursday in January, April, July, and October.

If you have any questions or for more information about the above events contact Roger at [bluestoneriver@yahoo.com](mailto:bluestoneriver@yahoo.com).

## Forced To Act

Ben Curnett

Ten years ago, we moved to West Virginia. Of course, we didn't know that people were going to blow it up.

I've got no reservations about calling myself an arm-chair environmentalist. I've never marched, protested, or gone to a courthouse in the name of a single issue. I've never tried to save the whales or the rainforest. I've written a couple of letters, signed an email petition or two, but I'm not what anyone would call "an activist" – Until last week.

I was at Hawks Nest State Park playing football with my son. It was a typical winter day in the mountains, a hundred different shades of grey and five kinds of wet. The boy was going for his forty-seventh touchdown of the half when we were both stopped in our tracks. Ripping through the valley came a deep, window-rattling blast – Then another – And another.



**EarthMark**  
MITIGATION SERVICES

I live at the foot of Gauley Mountain. It's a massive, sweeping hulk of a ridge that separates the New River from the Gauley River until they make their confluence, forming the Kanawha. If you're not sure which mountain I'm talking about, drive north across the New River Gorge Bridge and look out to your left. What you see defining the landscape above the gorge is Gauley Mountain.

Well, it was. What you see now is the shell of Gauley Mountain. If you were to drive over there, and up the big diagonal cut now visible across the mountain's face, you'd see a bombed out landscape scraped out of the space that the rest of the mountain used to occupy. And that's just what you can see from the saddle.

Can We get a photo of Gauley?

Fayette Stream Samplers Team Atop Spruce Knob

Go visit. You'll see, like I have, that mountain-top removal (MTR) mining reveals one thing very quickly: someone is lying. They'd have to be in order to allow something like MTR to happen. Destroying an ecosystem forever (and make no mistake, the mountain is gone forever) is nothing anyone would ever tell the honest truth about and continue to practice.

Briefly, here are three lies that are told about MTR Mining:

1. MTR Creates Jobs. The truth is that if you overlay a map of MTR sites with a map of the poorest counties in Appalachia (like they did over at [www.ilovemountains.org](http://www.ilovemountains.org)), you'll see that they are the exact same places. In 1950, there were 125,000 miners employed in West Virginia. In 2004, there were about 16,000.

2. MTR Is Good For The Environment. There's a current commercial that shows deer grazing on a reclaimed mine site. What it doesn't show are the unregulated sludge "ponds" nearby, like the one that broke into the Big Sandy River in 2000, dumping 300,000,000 gallons of toxic waste into the watershed. The EPA called it the biggest environmental disaster in the southeastern U.S. ever. There's a compelling audio account of the disaster at [www.bobedwardsradio.com/exploding-heritage/](http://www.bobedwardsradio.com/exploding-heritage/)

3. MTR Is Legal. It doesn't take much searching in southern West Virginia to find communities with no usable water supply because of MTR. That's because mine operators break the law when they dump overburden into streams. Former federal mining regulator Jack

Spadaro says that not one MTR site is in compliance with federal environmental law; the two are mutually exclusive. He's quoted in The Smithsonian at [www.smithsonianmag.com](http://www.smithsonianmag.com) in the article "Mining The Mountains".

Lying is bad. That's what I teach my son. If you do something wrong, it's a lot better to admit it and pay the consequences than to lie and cover it up. Nobody's perfect, but that's the goal. That's how we should act.

MTR is really just covering up a lie in physical form. All that overburden (it used to be a mountain; now it's overburden) is used to cover up streambed. It's used to cover up the mountain stump, to get it back to what coal operators call "approximate original contour (AOC)". That phrase is another lie.

It's hard to imagine anyone swallowing it. Or at least, it was hard for me. I'd read about MTR, and saw pictures, and I didn't think, "I've got to do something." Never. I always thought, "Man, I'm glad I don't live there."

Because I never imagined someone would come to my house, to my front door, lie to me and my family. I'd never allow it, lying right to my face.

I hear that Cotton Hill is next. It's that close. Believe it.

## Lights On! – Somebody's Home

Mariah Hibarger with contributions from Jenny Becksted

Instead of letting West Virginia's beautiful downtown districts continue to descend into silence and disrepair, the three partners of Lights On! West Virginia! see a huge opportunity for the state.

Lights On! believes that existing vacant buildings in downtown districts house untapped resources and business development potential.

Using green building techniques and a community-centric focus they are setting out to re-energize business districts by renovating abandoned brownstones and actively recruiting creative class professionals.

The two current construction approaches are:

1. Abandoning older buildings and moving outside the downtown district. This is called sprawl and disenfranchises WV's brownstone districts. These projects have the largest carbon foot print and other long term costs. In addition to all the new materials required and changing large swaths of open land to impermeable surfaces for buildings and duplicated parking space there are existing infrastructure impacts:
  - New extensions and increasing loads on existing water and wastewater systems
  - New traffic patterns as time and travel patterns from business to business change from pedestrian to automotive.
2. Tearing down and re-building on the same site. These projects still have a large carbon foot print, but eliminate most of the other impacts and long term costs. There is still the all new material requirement and all the "embodied energy" of the existing structure goes straight to a landfill. (It must be noted, there is a growing movement at recycling and repurposing the old materials.)

Light On! finds neither approach is ideal or efficient when compared to renovating what's already there. And that's the basis of their approach. They believe:

- The benefits for renovating far outweigh the benefits of building new; business districts stay localized in one compact area and the building materials, infrastructure, and traffic patterns already in place are used instead of duplicated.
- The existing structures have a lot of building resources wrapped within their walls. Renovating, repurposing, and utilizing our existing vacant buildings is the greenest and most practical option.
- This is a great place for Creative Class Businesses and Entrepreneurs to set up shop. And in today's burgeoning Creative Economy, many businesses and professionals can operate anywhere in the world, not just in large metropolises or next to major shipping ports.

That's good news for West Virginia; our state boasts affordable living and our geography offers endless quality of life perks.

The Bellann building in Oak Hill is Lights On! West Virginia's, 1st project and models their vision of rehabilitating, renovating, and revitalizing historic downtowns in Appalachia.

The Bellann is positioned to be the first LEED-certified privately-owned existing building in the Mountain State and currently provides satellite office space to six companies, three of which are based out-of-state.

Lights On! is doing more than creating the ideal spaces for the creative class; Lights On! has people signing up for space!

## A Tale of the Future

Dr. John Todd, Winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> Buckminster Fuller Challenge Grant.

Imagine for a moment a time in the future. You are flying at a low altitude over an Appalachian Valley silently in an electrically powered ultra-light plane whose energy and propulsion is derived from solar cells that are incorporated into the fabric of the wings. Everything below you is green, but in the greenness there is both pattern and variety.

In recent years the pattern and variety have been created anew as the result of humanly orchestrated biological restoration on the ground. The last time you saw this land was several decades ago when it was scarred and laid barren by the mountain top removal and valley fill surface methods of mining coal. Then it looked like a moonscape, devoid of both life and people. Today it is different. You notice that the landscape patterns below are the product of the vegetation. There are both block and contour patterns. Some of the blocks and contours are comprised of trees. In some the trees all look the same and in others the tree types are diverse with different shapes. Trees, orchards and nut groves dominate on the slopes. Deeper into the valley other blocks are fields of waving grasses, grains, and pastures that reflect in their colors the diversity of the farms below. In some of the pastures there are livestock. Cattle, bison, and goats graze in well-fenced paddocks. Fat active pigs



are seen scurrying in and out of oak groves in their search for abundant foods.

The other big change is the number of people in the landscape, lots of them. Where once a few houses stood, but were eventually washed away by floods caused by rain, bare slopes, and the collapse of a coal slurry dam. They have been replaced by a thriving town, much larger than was typical when you were last there in the 20th century. A closer look shows other changes. The sheer diversity of activities in the town is startling. There are libraries, a hospital, churches, galleries, shops, civic centers and, the pride of the town, new schools in the heart of the village. Integrated into its fabric are clusters of buildings in which manufacturing of various goods and a variety of services take place.

They supply not only the area, but in some cases, their products are sold throughout the world. Because the factories don't pollute the atmosphere or the water they have been situated where people live. In the heart of the town is a park defined by a stream that runs through it. The park honors the stream and the surrounding landscape that helps keep the waters pure. In its center there is a memorial to honor the people who had the courage and vision to transform the region into an ecological and economic jewel. The list of people is long.

As you bank the plane to have another look you see that the town is connected up and down the valley with three parallel ribbons of transportation for cars, light rail trains and walking and bicycling paths. The plane climbs to look for the airport. On the way it passes over a cluster of slowly turning windmills on a hill top ridge and then descends into the valley. You have come to visit the people who made your plane and observe first hand the efforts of their research and development. They have developed ultra high strength composite materials from local woods grown by forest farmers who are making the area famous for high quality trees. They are already using the new composite materials in the latest carbon neutral tractors and pickup trucks. It's a very busy place actively developing a plethora of new ideas. You discover that the firm, as are many of the other companies in town, is owned by the people who work in them. You also learn that the town, as well as the county in which it is situated, have invested in most of the businesses. The town is an ownership community.

You walk down town to the inn by the river. There is a bridge next door where many of the children are casting for trout. Within the town limits only children are allowed to fish in the streams. The meal that evening, including the wines and the cooking oils, all came from the valley. The town is now famous for its wild caught and locally grown and processed foods.

At dawn you are ready to depart. Like a soaring hawk you lift off with the sun and fly toward the west. The region has been transformed and you have seen the future.

Dr Todd's winning project is titled; Comprehensive Design for a Carbon Nuetral World: The Challenge of Appalachia



## Giving Back

Joy Marr

Good Causes you might not know about, just type www.

[heifer.org](http://heifer.org)

This international hunger relief organization offers about a dozen different and meaningful ways to give a gift. Try a flock of chicks (\$20.00) for a family in Zimbabwe or a milk producing goat for a family in Haiti, or vegetable seeds and training for women in small villages. Heifer International's pay it forward policy asks the recipients to pass on animal offspring to another needy family, so your one gift can make a bigger difference.

[goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com)

Are you a BIG computer surfer? This Yahoo linked search engine, donates 1/2 of its ad generated revenues to cause driven groups. Visit the site and enter your non profit picks; schools, charities, animal organizations – whatever. Each search you do on Yahoo earns a penny for that group. The money GoodSearch donates to your cause comes from its advertisers — the users and the organizations do not spend a dime!

[habitat-nola.org](http://habitat-nola.org)

Habitat for Humanity is working hard in New Orleans and still has a long ways to go- you can help. NOAHH welcomes all people, corporations, foundations, and organizations to raise their hammers, their funding, and their voices, to share in a movement to eliminate poverty housing in the New Orleans area while serving as a catalyst to make decent shelter a matter of conscience.

[uniteforsight.org](http://uniteforsight.org)

This non profit channels donated eye glasses to kids and adults all over. Go online and visit their site and find out where to send those old specs you grew out of.

[organicconsumer.org](http://organicconsumer.org)

The Organic Consumers Association has a terrific online newsletter about all sorts of things related to Health, Justice, and Sustainability- check it out.

[nikereuseashoe.com](http://nikereuseashoe.com)

I used this just a couple of months ago- it cost me \$12.00 to mail them to the Colorado based recycling site (there is nothing here in the EAST-hey-can someone open one here?). But still cheaper than driving to the Beckley landfill and better for the environment in more than one way. The rubber, foam and fabric are all re-used in soccer fields, basketball courts and playgrounds around the US.

[suitcasesforkids.org](http://suitcasesforkids.org)

Lots of kids have nothing but garbage bags for their belongings. SCFK is supplying foster children around the country with at least one piece of travel gear. Donate your back pack, day packs, duffels or suitcases.

[greenopia.com](http://greenopia.com)

Greenopia calls itself the urban dweller's guide to living green. See how to integrate eco-friendly elements into your everyday life

[giveandshop.com](http://giveandshop.com)

If you buy online, from Amazon, Sharper Image, Starbucks and many others, try going to G&S first. Type in your name and email, then click through to America's Second Harvest to put in your order. Second Harvest will automatically receive 4% of the money you spend!

[treesforlife.org](http://treesforlife.org)

Buy a single Moringa tree for a developing nation (the leaves have 4 X's the calcium of dairy milk) and become part of a earth enhancing ripple effect – those who accept the trees promise to plant 2 more from it's seeds.

[edibleschoolyard.org](http://edibleschoolyard.org)

Help to teach the next generation to eat greener...literally. This program helps public school kids experience the

rewards of growing their own foods. Hmmm, we could do this here!

[booksforsoliders.com](http://booksforsoliders.com)

Soliders and members of all branches make request in a online forum, and you send literary care packages directly to them.

[intlbookproject.org](http://intlbookproject.org)

This nonprofit humanitarian group has been sending books to orphanages, schools and churches worldwide.

## Thanks For Your Support

M Ehrnschwender

**The Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team (ACCWT).** The ACCWT

coordinates all the OSM/VIS-TAs in the eastern US and is housed with the WV CCC in Beckley West Virginia. They provide OSM/VISTA to support watershed groups in developing sustainability and capacity in coal affected communities. Additionally they provide trainings for member groups, provide a forum for communication on coalfield issues. They support outreach and educational efforts and are a resource for information on coal related impacts and solutions, funding sources and more. So to Alan, et. al. thanks to you all.



## Gimme Five!

The West Virginia Environmental Council is close to home. PAN regularly donates funds to support the work this group does. So Here's how you can help.

Janet Keating, Executive Director

OVEC has organized and lead the West Virginia Citizens for Clean Elections since its inception nearly ten years ago. Since 2003, we have been fighting hard to get public financing legislation passed by the WV Legislature.

With your help we will be right there in the trenches at the 2009 Legislative Session. Unfortunately, because of current economic uncertainties, our funding for this project has fallen significantly short of our needs.

So we are asking you to contribute just five dollars to this Gimme Five! Campaign to help us keep our efforts going.

WHY \$5? A five dollar contribution is in some ways symbolic; but also a much needed shift that directly connects to the proposed Clean Elections bill. Here's why:

Five dollars per household would cover the cost of a public campaign financing program for members of the West Virginia House and Senate. Under our current system, candidates for public office must either have personal wealth or access to contributions from wealthy special interests. And those special interest groups expect something in return.

If we want public policy that benefits all of us, we must take control of the way political campaigns are paid for. That's been the outcome for states like Maine and Ari-



zona where Clean Elections is law. When the public pays for campaigns, our legislators are accountable to us the voters.

Under the voluntary, Clean Elections system, qualified candidates can choose public financing and not rely on any outside contributions. To qualify, prospective candidates must collect many five dollar contributions from voters in their district. Once they are certified by the Secretary of State's office, they are eligible to receive a modest amount of funding for their campaigns. Candidates can spend time talking to their constituents and hearing what local people want instead of making fund-raising phone calls.

Our proposal has traction, so we need your help more than ever! With your support, we will continue to fight with the same energy and dedication. For Clean Elections updates during the WV legislative session:

[www.wvoter-owned.org](http://www.wvoter-owned.org)

Please send your contribution to OVEC at P.O. Box 6753, Huntington, WV 25773-6753. Thank you for giving us five.

## Schedule of Events

### 4 November - Election Day 28 March Saturday 7pm

PAN Contra Dance fundraiser Beckwith 4H camp

### 28 March Saturday 10am

Prenter Tree Planting - Carpooling contact PAN office

### 11 April Saturday 10am (Weather Permitting)

WV Make it Shine -- Winona Stream side clean up Keeney's Ck Meeting place

### 19 April Sunday 11am-4pm

Fayetteville Earth Day - Music, Booths, Green Education, Fun and Games

### 20 April Monday 12 noon

WV Stream Samplers Laural Creek sampling - Carpooling from Sts Peter & Paul contact Mara 304.640.7027

### 22 April Wednesday

Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival Part 1 Oak Hill High School student program during school day

### 24 April Friday 7pm

Patagonia Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival Part 2, Community evening show, Fayetteville High School Auditorium

### 25 April Saturday 10pm -3pm Free

"Spring into Gardening" Master Gardener education day Mountain State U. \$5 lunch. Contact Meredith 304.640.2100

## time and day changing

GREAT Team monthly meeting

### 10 May 8am-Noon

Fayetteville Farmers Market opening day, Court House Parking lot

## 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	
Eric Autenreith – Secretary	304 574-1067
Jenny Becksted	304 663-1118
Mark Ehrnschwender – Chair	304 574-1993
Joy Marr – Treasurer	304 574-0394
Laura Schappert	304 574-6027
Rebecca Smith	

## Ohio Valley Environmental Council

OVEC has been around doing good stuff for years and now you can help, just by shopping.

To enroll in the Kroger gift card program send the info below to OVEC

YES! I want OVEC to receive 5 % of my purchases from Kroger! Please enroll me in the Kroger gift card program.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

My \$20 check is enclosed! Please send me a Kroger gift card so OVEC can benefit from my purchases. Make checks payable to OVEC. Mail with this coupon to OVEC, P.O. Box 6753, Huntington, WV 25773.

For OVEC supporters who don't live near a Kroger supermarket, these Kroger affiliates participate in the gift card program. So please order you Kroger gift card from OVEC to help support our environmental work!



## Membership Form

PAN POB 482 Fayetteville WV 25840

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Individual @ \$20

Senior @ \$15

Family @ \$35 +

Student @ \$10

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

Enclosed is an additional contribution of \_\_\_\_\_

memform5.fm 10.4 3/14/09

Or go to [www.plateauactionnetwork.org](http://www.plateauactionnetwork.org) to sign up & donate.