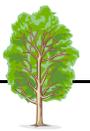

The Forest Friend



The Newsletter of the Kanawha State Forest Foundation



July 2012 Issue

www.ksff.org

Fall Quarter

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin." — William Shakespeare

From the Desk of the Assistant Superintendent

by Kevin Dials

I'm sure most of you want a full update on the damage from June 29 storm, that toppled trees throughout Kanawha State Forest, blocking roads and trails. On the night of June 29, Tom Turner (campground attendant), Russell Hall (campground host), and I worked diligently to liberate forest visitors who had been trapped by fallen trees. We ended our shift at 2:00 a.m., thinking we had freed everyone. Later we discovered there were also people trapped on Four Mile Road between the Forest and Hernshaw. Tom and I hiked through the fallen trees to the back gate of the Forest and yelled for people, but received no response.

On June 30, we sharpened our chainsaws and began tree removal in the campground, exposing a 2012 Yellowstone camper that had been pinned under fallen trees. We then opened up the road from Pigeon Roost trail head to the back gate. By 7:00 that night, all the main roads were open. Power remained out due to nearly a mile of wire lying on the ground.

We spent the next week operating a wood chipper, grinding up small tree limbs to keep from having to burn them; the burn pile would have been impossibly huge. We cut the bigger logs into blocks and either rolled them over the hill or moved them to our firewood pile in Rattlesnake Hollow. The gas well contractors began arriving, and they started cutting out the service roads leading to their gas wells. Volunteers also began showing up to help clean up with the trail system, which will require lots of work over a long period of time, but it already looks better.

As of July 13, the power lines were repaired but not been re-energized. We're trying to find out more about this delay. The swimming pool is dirty

2012 Events

September 8 - Saturday - 8:30 AM

Margaret Denison Fall Nature Walks.
Register at 8:30 at swimming pool area.
Adults \$5; Students under 16, \$2.
Barbecue, drinks and cookies for sale.
Door prizes, raffle. Contact: 304-925-2771 or 304-558-3500

and needs work, but nothing can be done until the power is on and the pump is running. The campground is partially open, but there is still no electricity to the campsites. Bath houses remain dark and without hot water. Most of the developed areas in the Forest have been cleared, but there is still much work to be done in Dunlop Hollow, which sustained some of the worst damage. Two pit toilets in Dunlop were crushed by fallen trees, and the first foot bridge was flipped over.

Many people are still wondering what they can do to help. At this point, the trail system still requires the most attention. Individuals or groups can hike the trails and remove any smaller tree limbs or debris by hand or with hand tools. It would also be helpful to receive detailed reports on which trails have large trees down on them, how many trees are down, and approximately where they are located. Detailed reports will aid our maintenance workers, who have to hike the trails carrying chainsaws and wearing heavy safety gear.





KSFF Joins State Parks Foundation

By Bill Hall

The KSFF is a new member of the WV State Parks Foundation, and I was privileged to serve as our representative during their annual meeting at beautiful Stonewall Resort. The State Parks Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed to solicit, receive and accept contributions, gifts, grants, and bequests of real or personal property in support of the West Virginia State Park system. Gifts made to the Foundation may be designated for specific purposes, such as facility improvements, new construction, programming, endowments, or equipment purchases at specific state parks or forests. Donations can also be “unrestricted” gifts to be used at the discretion of park management.

Other objectives of the State Foundation include facilitating communication among its members as well as with state government and the general public. The goal of this effort is to ensure awareness of the needs of the parks and the benefits to be gained from a well developed park system.

The recent meeting began with a presentation by Director of State Parks, Ken Caplinger, who delivered a brief history of the growth of the park system and an update on current priorities, construction projects, and financial and operational issues. He reported the Division of State Parks depends on about \$14 million in government allocations, including \$5 million from the lottery, to meet its budget.

Mr. Caplinger and the other park representatives emphasized outreach and activities for youth as a programming priority. This focus

would potentially reduce obesity rates and promote fitness in children and teens. A secondary benefit would be to develop appreciation of the parks system at an early age in order to build a sufficient pool of benefactors to ensure its long term security.

The meeting continued with summaries from various state park representatives regarding their local activities, programs, and goals. The majority were from the resort parks, and I was the only state forest representative. This was an interesting and informative process and included sharing and feedback among the group members. There was also a brief discussion of the possible uses of privately marketed “apps” to provide information to park visitors.

The meeting ended with a presentation from Philip McKenley, Director of NC State Parks and President of the National State Parks Foundation. He provided a national-level update, reporting closures and divestitures of parks in several states for budget-cutting purposes. He believes this is short sighted as it is estimated that for every dollar invested in state parks, there is a \$10 to \$20 economic return on that investment. He described several program initiatives underway from the National Parks Foundation that have met with promising success. One example is the “First Hike” event on New Year’s Day, which some of you may have participated in this past winter. He urged supporters of state parks to keep working to take their message to the public and further their mission.

I am looking forward to the next annual meeting and invite any KSFF member to contact me for further information on the State Parks Foundation.



Board Meeting

August 6, 2012

*Kanawha State Forest
Shelter #9*

Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Everyone Welcome!

Nature Quiz

Q: This is our only native cone-bearing tree with needles that fall in early winter as do the leaves of the hardwoods. It is more prevalent in the northern part of the state where it is even planted as an ornamental. It was introduced to the Forest in 1961 and still stands in Polly Hollow.



Community Band Celebrates With Music in the Forest

by Susan Ash Duernberger

Wafting through the woods of Kanawha State Forest recently on a warm summer day were the wonderful sounds of one of the Kanawha Valley's "hidden treasures," the Kanawha Valley Community Band under the direction of Robert M. Leighty. As lawn chairs dotted the landscape and musical notes filled the air, concert-goers were treated to musical scores that varied from sacred to secular and marches.

The annual West Virginia Birthday (and Father's Day) Celebration, sponsored by the Kanawha State Forest Foundation, was held on Sunday, June 17, this year at a tree-covered location in front of the swimming pool and next to the parking lot. As a part of the festivities, a band concert, a West Virginia Birthday Cake, and soft drinks were served free of charge to all who attended.

The Kanawha Valley Community Band has performed in conjunction with the celebration for several years and continues to entertain and impress those who attend. Although I myself am not a talented musician, I know (and enjoy) good music when I hear it. The KVCB presented works by the masters such as Samuel Augustus Ward ("America, the



Beautiful") as well as an arrangement by a local musician in the KVCB, Delford Chaffin, Jr. ("Almost Heaven"; variations on "Country Roads"). My personal favorites played on this day were "Mancini" (a compilation of tunes by Henry Mancini), the "Gershwin Classics" and a tribute to "The Music Man," which contains one of my all-time toe-tapping favorites, "76 Trombones." When the concert closed with "America, the Beautiful," it brought the crowd to its feet with sustained applause from an appreciative audience.

Bob Leighty and the members of the Kanawha Valley Community Band work hard to present six to eight free concerts each year. Their venues vary from performances at the Scottish Rite Auditorium on Capitol Street in Charleston to their Annual Winter Concert at the LaBelle Theater on "D" Street in South Charleston. Although concerts are free, the band does accept donations to offset band/music costs as well as for noted charities such as the Alzheimer's Association.

Although band members' ages vary, their love of music is consistent and obvious to the concert-goers who are always treated to a top-notch quality of musical delight. Many thanks are extended to the Kanawha State Forest Foundation and the Kanawha Valley Community Band for inviting all of us to join you in a wonderful celebration of music in the forest.



Thanks to . . .

Loren & Marta Ramsey and William Palmer for their generous donations to the Kanawha State Forest Foundation. With the ongoing support of our members, we are able to enhance the Forest for all who visit year after year.

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Once Upon A Time

by Rita Dale

Denver Allen Dale was born May 18, 1951, at 4:30 p.m. in Kanawha Valley Hospital in Charleston, West Virginia. His parents were Omar Monroe Dale and Dova Ann Rakes Dale. They lived less than a tenth of a mile from the entrance to the Kanawha State Forest. Denver was first taken to the park for a birthday party when he was only days old, and he attended his first Dale Reunion later that same year. Their family reunions were always held at the first site on the left. They played softball, fished at the dam, ate a lot, and, as the Dales are famous for, took long naps.

The Dale family regularly spent time picnicking at the Forest, and at the age of 8, Denver's dad took him and his brother swimming. That's when they became aware of the sanctuary for abandoned wild animals started by the superintendent in charge immediately before Osbra Eye. Denver attended school with the Eye children.

In 1961, Denver became a Boy Scout and also volunteered to help care for the animals at the sanctuary. They had a lot of birds, rabbits, and a fawn with a broken leg that needed care. One day he saw something black in one of the small cages; at first he thought it was a dog. The park ranger told him to look closely, and he discovered a tiny bear cub. The Ranger said they had found it in Dunlop Hollow close to the road but had no idea what happened to the mother. The ranger said the baby probably wouldn't make it without its mommy.

Denver was awestruck and fascinated; he thought bears were supposed to eat people! He went back the next day and watched as Sherry Eye put a baby bottle in the cage and fed cub. So, the next day Denver swiped some canned milk from home, put it in a spoon, and began feeding the cub himself. He continued to help with the cub feeding and, due to the combined efforts of Sherry, Dennis, and Denver, the cub survived.

Denver helped with the other animals, but the cub was special. He changed the sawdust in all the

animal cages every two or three days, but changed it daily in the cub's cage. For weeks he would dash home from school and ride his bike to the animal sanctuary. One day he saw some men standing around the animals. He was afraid something had happened to the cub, but it was just the veterinarian giving out rabies shots, which made the animals sleepy. So Denver sat there until dark worrying that the cub would go hungry. Sherry brought out some dog food and told Denver to put his milk in the bowl and then when it awoke, the cub could eat the dog food then drink the milk.

Denver and the bear cub developed a close bond. The little bear even recognized the sound of Denver's bike and would stand up when he heard it and look for Denver. When Omar told Denver they were going to visit their grandparents for the summer, he fought so hard to stay they actually let him. He didn't want to leave the bear.

He started bringing whole packages of hot dogs and feeding them to the bear. At one point he wanted to save S&H green stamps and buy the bear a sweater. He didn't understand the bear would be okay with his own fur.

The cub grew and grew. As it was being moved to its third bigger cage, Osbra said it wouldn't be long before he would have to go to a zoo. Denver, Dennis, and Sherry were all talking at school, trying to think of ways to keep the cub at the Forest.

One day in early October 1961 as Denver bicycled to the ranger station he was shocked to see the bear's cage leaned up against the side of the building. He knew they had taken the bear away. He dropped his bicycle and stood looking at the cage, sad and overwhelmed with grief.

After that he still helped with the animals, but it just wasn't the same. He got more involved with Scouts and sports and eventually quit volunteering at the animal sanctuary. He stayed involved with Scouting until he was 16 and the family moved to Columbus.



Kanawha State Forest Foundation
Route 2, Box 285
Charleston, WV 25314

*Please encourage
others to
join us for the
Fall Nature
Walks by posting
the flyer in a place
where it will be
seen by many.*

Reminder

The Kanawha State Forest Foundation depends on your dues and donations. The Forest needs your support. Something **always** needs to be repaired, renovated, or rebuilt at the Forest, and there is never quite enough in the budget from the State. Your membership dues are the fixers for the Forest. The Foundation membership year is January 1 through December 31. Check your mailing label. If your dues are current, it will show 1/13 (the date through which your dues have been paid). This is your reminder to remit your dues, or to restore a lapsed membership. If you can, also send a little extra as your donations are needed.

Membership Renewals were Due January 1, 2012
Make checks payable to: **Kanawha State Forest Foundation**

Send to: **Carolyn Barker, Treasurer, 95 Robinson Hollow Road, Charleston, WV 25312**

Family Membership - \$25
Individual Membership - \$15

Donation* - \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & ZIP _____

Home Phone: _____

Check here if above info has changed

**All donations will be used for Foundation programs and can be specified for certain projects as approved by the Foundation.*