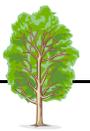


# The Forest Friend



The Newsletter of the Kanawha State Forest Foundation



January 2013 Issue

[www.ksff.org](http://www.ksff.org)

Spring Quarter

*"In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy" - William Blake*

## From the Desk of the Assistant Superintendent

*by Kevin Dials*

It has been a tough year at Kanawha State Forest. The storms that passed through did tremendous damage not only to the trees and facilities at the forest, but to our budget and the health and morale of our staff as well. It is tempered, however, by a very large influx of volunteers assisting in cleanup efforts after the storms. We would not have been able to accomplish what we have without them.

Overall visitors and attendance at activities is up as well, proving that many people care about this Forest. We were deeply saddened when one of those people passed away. Shirley Schweizer will be greatly missed. We look forward to 2013 and the promise of a better year.



## In Memoriam: Shirley Schweizer

The Kanawha State Forest community has been deeply saddened by the recent loss of Shirley Ann Schweizer. Shirley had been bedfast for several months, but her indomitable spirit was never broken. She died on December 11, 2012, after a sudden setback and brief hospitalization.

Shirley was introduced to the Forest in 1965 and was immediately transformed into a fervent naturalist. She learned to identify wildflowers and other flora. Eventually she began to lead hikes and helped to establish new trails in the Forest. Shirley was a charter member of the Foundation and had a distinguished record of service on the Board of Directors, including a lengthy term as treasurer. She then continued dual roles as events coordinator and newsletter editor. Shirley assumed these responsibilities with enthusiasm and passion despite limited mobility and failing health in her later years.

Shirley cherished her memories of hiking, backpacking, and exploring the outdoors with her many friends. She was humble and extremely grateful when the winter walk was permanently named in her honor in 2009. Shirley was a key person in developing the concept of a memorial garden near the Forest entrance, and now she will be one of those who will always be remembered in this place.

## 2013 Events

### January 26 - Saturday - 2 PM

Shirley Schweizer Winter Walk - Meet at Swimming Pool Area - No charge. - Doug Wood- Leader. Contact: Russ Jones, 304-546-4492, or Forest Office, 304-558-3500

### April 20 - Saturday - 8:30 AM

Osbra Eye Memorial Wildflower Walks. Register at 8:30 at swimming pool area. Adults \$5; Students under 16, \$2. Hot dogs, soft drinks, and cookies for sale. Door prizes, raffle. Contact: Forest Office, 304-558-3500

### June 16 - Sunday - 3 PM

WV Birthday Celebration and Band Concert - Featuring Kanawha Valley Community Band directed by Robert Leighty. Birthday cake and cold drinks provided. Free Admission. Donations appreciated. Near swimming pool area. Ample parking. Bring lawn chair. Contact: Forest Office, 304-558-3500

### September 14 - 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: Forest Office, 304-558-3500

### Message from the President

by Bill Hall

Happy New Year to all! The Forest has been battered and scarred by the calamitous weather events of 2012 but is resilient and will still be the premier outdoor recreation area in our community. This is possible due to the combined cleanup efforts of dedicated volunteers and hardworking Forest staff. Many thanks to you all and we hope for a calm period of recovery for the Forest during 2013.

The Board is also pursuing several short-term goals, including upgrading and expanding our arboretum; installing a sign to commemorate several CCC structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places; developing further our memorial garden; and improving Spotted Salamander Trail. Also under consideration is developing an email address list for the membership to allow alerts, messages, and even *The Forest Friend* to be sent electronically (more on this at a later date).

Finally, the Board has voted to eliminate the provision in the by-laws restricting Directors to three consecutive terms.

Thanks to every member for your support of the Foundation and we look forward to joining you in the Forest this year.



### Heartfelt Thanks

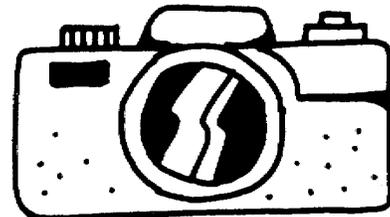
KSFF is so very grateful for the many generous donations we received this past quarter. They will be put to good use to complete repairs and special projects. Be sure to take a moment to thank these contributors personally: Evan & Teresa Buck, Bob & Janet Belding, Thomas & Nedra Porter, Jim & Beverly Triplett, Dale Porter, Flossie & Peggy Kourey, Janis Reynolds, Douglas Kilmer, Kathy Hastings, Thomas & Martha Hopper, Nancy Street, Yvonne Khourie, and Marilyn Perine.

<i>Newsletter Staff</i>	
Interim Editor. ....	Bill Hall
Word Processing and Layout. ....	Barbie Dallmann
Printing. ....	Minuteman Press
Publicity and Mailing. ....	Carolyn Welcker

### 2013 Photo Contest Announced

Attention all camera enthusiasts! We are reviving our annual photo contest after a one-year hiatus. Once again there will be three categories:

Wildlife, Plants, and Scenery. The contest is open to amateur photographers in Adult (18+) and Youth (under 18)



classifications. The deadline for entries is August 1, and photos must have been taken within the last two years. There is a limit of 2 photos per category (six per competitor).

There will be cash prizes for the Best Overall Photo and winners in each category for both divisions. All winners will be posted on the KSFF web site. We will have further details in later issues so start now scouting the Forest for subjects and good luck!

### Hiking/Biking Guide

Our updated and improved large-scale Forest map and guide is now available. New contours and descriptions have been added for Crabapple, Middle Ridge, and Mary Ingles trails. As before, trail twists and turns as well as distances are precise and easy to follow. Service roads, streams, boundaries, and hunting zones are clearly designated in color. There are GPS coordinates and a locator grid for trail heads, shelters, restrooms, and major sites in the Forest. Revised hiking and biking loops have been detailed on the reverse side as well as a description of natural features and recreational opportunities.

A limited number of full-size (18x24) flat, laminated maps have also been printed. The cost is still \$5 for both the folded and flat maps. They can be purchased at the Superintendent's Office or Charleston Bicycle Center. Once again, we are grateful to Dale Porter for his expertise and diligence in creating our new map. We hope it will enhance enjoyment as well as personal safety for all groups of Forest users.

Pick yours up today!

## An Outing at Dolly Sods: The Names Revealed

*By Carolyn Barker*

In the last issue of *The Forest Friend* I promised the names of the individuals who were the inspiration for my poem would be revealed. Those two rugged souls are Carolyn Welcker and Shirley Schweizer. They had gone to Elkins for a meeting at the Nature Conservancy and all of the hotels were full, so they decided to go to Dolly Sods and camp for the night. It was beautiful weather, not too cold, so they set up their tents and built a nice campfire. When the sun went down it started getting a little colder and by the time they were ready to turn in, it was starting to sprinkle snow. They got the idea to wrap warm rocks from the fire ring with foil, wrap clothes around that and put them in the bottom of their sleeping bags to keep their feet warm. The hot rocks turned out to be a little too hot and they actually burned holes in the bottom of Carolyn's sleeping bag.

Frank and I visited with Shirley on November 8, 2012, and had the opportunity to discuss with her several of her favorite trips with friends. We talked about some of her most memorable experiences, her favorite trails and where she liked to hike. Little did we know that would be the last time we would get to visit with Shirley in her home. She was a good friend, a very loving, humble and caring person.



### Board Meeting

Monday, February 4, 2013

6:30 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Meeting

Shoney's on the Boulevard

*All Members are  
Welcome to Attend*

## Board Member Transitions

The annual meeting of the general membership of the Foundation was held on November 5, 2012. Jason Watkins and Rachel Kerns were elected as new Board members by unanimous vote. We extend a sincere welcome to them and look forward to their participation over the next five years. In addition, current Directors Jim Waggy and Rita Dale have agreed to serve another term, and we appreciate their continuing commitment. We bid farewell to Paul Broughton, who did not choose to be renominated, and thank him for his tenure on the Board.

A new slate of officers was unanimously elected at the subsequent annual meeting of the Board. They include Bill Hall, president; Chuck Jones, vice-president; Martha Hopper, secretary; Rachel Kerns, treasurer. Many thanks to Carolyn Barker as she leaves the treasurer position after almost four years.

Regretfully, we had a recent retirement from the Board on August 7th as well. Julian Martin served with resolve and distinction for nearly three terms with at least the last ten years as vice-president. He has been an especially watchful and passionate protector of the Forest from extractive industries operating both inside and outside our boundaries. Julian was always a willing volunteer at Foundation events and could inspire all of us to take a stand on the environmental issues affecting Kanawha State Forest. He will be sorely missed by his friends on the Board, but we are certain he will keep on as a champion for the mountains not only of KSF but the entire state. Thank you, Julian and we pledge to stay the course.



## Nature Quiz

Q: This is a plant that blooms in late spring and has a rootstock with 2-4 roundish tubers. A single large, oval, wrinkled leaf develops in late summer and lasts through the winter. The unique leaf is dark green with white veins and is visible in the forest now but will be gone by flowering time. (Answer in next issue.)