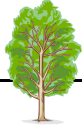
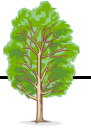


# The Forest Friend



The Newsletter of the Kanawha State Forest Foundation



January 2015 Issue

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

Spring Quarter

*"Adopt the pace of Nature: Her secret is patience." -- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## From the Desk of the Acting Superintendent

by Kevin Dials

Since Ernest Adkins' retirement in October 2014, I have served as the acting superintendent at Kanawha State Forest. The vacancy and temporary appointment fell, thankfully, during the slower part of the year. The vacancy was posted in early January, and interviews should be held soon. I have been using this time to take inventory of Kanawha State Forest and the projects that are either in-progress, will begin soon, or projects that need to begin. While I have not fully prioritized the projects, the staff at the forest and I have identified numerous projects that need our attention. I will attempt to list and briefly describe these projects, not necessarily in order of priority.

**Campground electrical** - Electrical service to the campground is 20 amp service. Service needs to be increased to at least 30 amp service at each site, and potentially 50 amp service at select sites to meet requirements for modern campers.

**Campground water** - Campsites need frost proof hydrants installed to allow for the extended camping season, which runs into the first week of December.

**Office/Nature Center** - Kanawha State Forest's office building is in poor condition and is too small to accommodate the administrative demands of modern state government and business practices. A nature center is an addition to Kanawha State Forest that has been discussed for many years. A nature center would also accommodate the summer naturalist program that was added in recent years. An office and nature center should be constructed at Kanawha State Forest as an attractive "first impression" for our state park system, seven miles from the state capitol.

**Dunlop hollow restroom** - the construction of the restroom in Dunlop Hollow, which has been started, needs to be completed. The original plan for the restroom was altered, and now needs altered again back to original specifications.

**Swimming pool facility update** - The building that houses the restrooms, showers, changing area, and check-in for the forest's swimming pool is in need of some cosmetic repairs, inside and out. The wooden "board and batten" siding on the building needs replaced, the interior of the building needs painted and

## 2015 Events

### April 18 - Saturday - 9 AM

Osbra Eye Memorial Wildflower Walks. Register at 8:30 AM 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 14 - Sunday - 3 PM

WV Birthday Celebration and Band Concert - Featuring Kanawha Valley Community Band. 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 12 - Saturday - 9 AM

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

fixtures need updated, and the fencing around the pool itself needs replaced. One of the chief complaints about Kanawha State Forest’s pool is that the water is too cold. A direct solar heating option needs to be installed and plumbed in series with the pools circulation system.

Middle Ridge Trail - The Middle Ridge Trail project needs to be brought to a conclusion in the near future, as the grant money could be revoked if progress isn’t made.

Roof/repurpose for barn - The barn/stable building, which has been unused for a long time, has developed significant leaks in the roof. The water that leaks in has rotted the floor in the upper loft and now drips all the way to the dirt floor downstairs. If something is not done soon, the structure may continue to deteriorate beyond repair. The barn has been used for storage for some time, but needs to be utilized to make revenue for the forest.

Pond dredging/watershed project - Since the flood event in 2003, which dumped a considerable amount of silt into the pond, it has continued to fill up with silt at a high rate. Part of the problem is due to the failure of catch dams constructed in Davis creek. The dredging of the pond is necessary and past due, but some of our focus needs put on the cause of the silt and efforts to catch it before it spoils the pond.

Grills/Firepits - Many of the stand grills at our picnic shelters have started to rust and fall apart. In addition to the large revenue shelters, many of our mini shelters and other picnic areas throughout the forest have smaller stand grills that get a tremendous amount of use. Also, metal fire rings in the campground and other recreational parts of the forest are showing the same type of deterioration and some, if not all, will need replaced soon.

Picnic Shelter Renovations/Upgrades - Our picnic shelters are our primary revenue source at the forest. Most of them are showing wear or progressive damage that needs repaired. In addition, the water service already at each shelter needs to be made accessible to the public using those shelters by installing a spigot or hydrant that can be operated without using tools.

The projects listed above are not listed by priority, and the list should not be considered all-inclusive. There are many other projects either in progress or proposed that deserve our attention as well. The forest staff are always open and receptive to suggestions, so if you feel something needs brought to our attention, please feel free to do so. Thanks again to all of you who either volunteer at the forest or just come out and visit. Your presence here validates what we do, and keeps us motivated in our daily labors. Here’s to a great 2015!



**Board Meeting**

**Monday, February 9, 2015**  
 Dinner at 6 p.m.  
 Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

**Harding’s Restaurant**  
 (just off the Mink Shoals exit of I-79)

**All Members Welcome**  
**Please Join Us!**



*The Foundation appreciates  
the generous donations received from  
Kathy Hastings and  
Constance & Joseph Miller.*

**Newsletter Staff**

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 Word Processing and Layout ..... Barbie Dallmann  
 Printing ..... Minuteman Press  
 Publicity and Mailing ..... Carolyn Welcker

## Update on Mine Near KSF

by Jim Waggy

The Kanawha Forest Coalition (KFC), which includes several members of the Kanawha State Forest Foundation, continues to oppose and appeal the permit allowing the KD#2 mountaintop removal mining operation near the border of Kanawha State Forest (KSF). This permit allows an MTR operation on the ridge directly above the park's shooting range road. At the moment, most of the clearcutting, blasting, and mining is happening on the back side of the ridge, but if the mining operation is allowed to continue, the sights, sounds, and toxic coal dust that result from a mountain being blown apart will increasingly adversely affect the experience of visitors to KSF.

There are numerous problems related to the issuance of this permit, which are explained in more detail on the website [www.kanawhaforestcoalition.org](http://www.kanawhaforestcoalition.org). One example is that the permit was issued with language making the absurd claim that the mining would not be visible from Kanawha State Forest. KFC recently hosted a Media Day at the Forest, during which we escorted reporters and television crews along the shooting range road and along Middle Ridge. All we had to do is point at Middlelick Mountain and say, "We're in KSF, and there is the mountain they'll be demolishing, directly in front of us."

As part of our opposition to this MTR mine, KFC appealed the issuance of the permit to the Surface Mine Board, and two days of hearings were held on August 11 and 20. Because of strong public and media interest, the hearings were streamed live. For any of you who had the patience to endure the tedium of proceedings in which the coal company lawyers wouldn't allow two sentences to be strung together without raising objections, you know that it was almost impossible to substantively address the issues in these hearings. Even worse, five months have now passed since the hearings, and the SMB still has not issued a ruling, while allowing the clearcutting and blasting to continue in the

interim. KFC attempted to get a Circuit Court injunction to stop the mining while awaiting the SMB ruling, but this was unsuccessful.

KFC will continue to oppose this mine through legal challenges, meeting with government regulators and decision makers, presenting accurate information to the public and the media, and working to strengthen grassroots opposition from Forest users and affected communities. If you would like to learn more and/or get involved, please visit the website mentioned above.

## Screech Owl Boxes

by Barb Koster

The 9,000 acres at KSF provide a good habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. The clearings, forest edges, and wooded stream edges certainly are good places for the Eastern Screech Owl to live, breed, and raise its young.

This fall a local Boy Scout Troop made it possible to provide a potential nesting place for this breed of Owl by building 16 nesting boxes as a Scout project. Screech Owls nest near open areas, such as fields, where they can hunt for prey. They require free flying space beneath the tree canopies. The male Screech Owl will look for a tall tree near the nesting area where he can tear apart prey to give to the female for feeding their babies.

Screech Owls will often be inside a cavity of sorts—a hollow limb or a large woodpecker hole—hidden away from the sharp eyes of small songbirds who would chatter and attract attention and alert predators. Nesting boxes placed 10-30 feet high on a tree can make up for any shortage of natural cavities, enabling these petite owls to live in places where they might otherwise be absent.

The KSF staff agreed to mount the boxes on trees in the appropriate designated areas of the Forest. We will certainly be watching and monitoring the boxes for any owl activity.

Thanks to the Boy Scouts for this project which should enrich the diversity of wildlife in Kanawha State Forest.

## Footprints

By Rita Dale

This poem has so many wonderful meanings. It reminds me of my father, Dorsel "Pop" Cross, a Civilian Conservation Corpsman at Camp Kanawha. He often laughed telling of a walk he took with his four-year-old granddaughter. They walked for approximately an hour, she never shut up the whole walk, and he never understood a thing she said.

He helped his grandson attain his Eagle Scout award by walking with him until they found "THE TREE." The scout had to pick a tree and cut it down. He selected the biggest, deadest oak tree in the forest. Pappaw stayed with him until "TIMBERrrrrrrrrr."

All of the grandchildren at various times walked and picked up cans with him. The grandchildren had the job of diving under the multi-flora rose bushes to retrieve the cans.

He often walked in North Carolina. In chilly weather he wore an orange quilted jumpsuit. He was nearing home when a sheriff pulled up beside him and started looking him over, then said, "I don't think you're anyone we're looking for." It seems someone had reported seeing an escapee in orange. Pop was probably 80 at the time.

A granddaughter came from Oklahoma and wanted to walk with him. By this time he was using a cane, but that didn't stop Pappaw. They went out to pick up cans. He fell in a storage bucket, legs and arms hanging out; they were laughing so hard they could hardly get him out.

Pop was always retrieving good things. Among other things, he found a wedding dress, a \$100 bill, and more purses, wallets, and briefcases than he could remember. Many times, we were able to get the items back to their

### FOOTPRINTS

"WALK A LITTLE SLOWER, DADDY," SAID A CHILD SO SMALL.  
 "I'M FOLLOWING IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS AND I DON'T WANT TO FALL.  
 SOMETIMES YOUR STEPS ARE VERY FAST, SOMETIMES THEY'RE HARD TO SEE;  
 SO WALK A LITTLE SLOWER, DADDY, FOR YOU ARE LEADING ME.  
 SOMEDAY WHEN I'M ALL GROWN UP, YOU'RE WHAT I WANT TO BE;  
 THEN I WILL HAVE A LITTLE CHILD WHO'LL WANT TO FOLLOW ME.  
 AND I WOULD WANT TO LEAD JUST RIGHT, AND KNOW THAT I WAS TRUE;  
 SO, WALK A LITTLE SLOWER DADDY; FOR I MUST FOLLOW YOU."

owners. I am still using a "ditch camera."

Being the good citizen he was, he reported gas leaks and water leaks. Have you ever tried to report a water leak in West Virginia? It goes to a Florida office, and they insist on a street name. I wonder if that is why people quit trying to let them know.

The thing the grandchildren remember the most: Walks with Pappaw. Start them young, don't wait until they're teenagers! Pop set an example for all of us: Get out in the woods, enjoy them, and protect them for the future.



## Nature Quiz

Q: This is a small bird with camouflaged coloring found in wooded areas during colder months in our region. It is relatively uncommon but may be seen flying from the top of one tree trunk to the bottom of another. It will then spiral up the tree toward the top searching for insects in the bark. Distinctive features are a thin curved bill and long stiff tail. Listen for a high, thin, musical warble to locate one as well.



## Shirley's Corner

Editorial Appearing in the *Charleston Gazette* 11-23-1964

### Kanawha State Forest

#### Plan Is Exceptional

One OF THE FINEST recreational plans we have seen in a long time was that unveiled recently by Natural Resources Director Warden M. Lane for Kanawha State Forest. The Concept offers something for almost Everybody, and is made all the more attractive by its location in the heart of West Virginia's most densely populated area.

As developed, the plan would strip much of the forest of its original purpose and transform it into a massive park with three swimming pools, a golf course, picnicking facilities and the normal trappings of the city playground. Its greatest attractiveness, however, rests in what lies beyond this core area.

As recommended in the master projection, two new tracts of 6,000 and 6,000 acres would be acquired for the purpose of preserving open space in its natural state. All too much of America's forest land on the edges of metropolitan communities is giving way to urbanization, and this is an attempt to lay aside a portion of the common estate for future generations before it is too late. The enlarged forest will stretch across 17,500 acres of rugged mountain land from the Kanawha to the Coal River. Also unique in the plan are a group camping area and a river marina. The first would be adaptable to small groups or large which for various reasons want to hold their meetings near the capital, and the other would be the first step by the state park service to provide camping and recreation for the growing tide of tourists who travel the inland waterways of the mid-continent. In choosing Kanawha State Forest for this giant recreational complex, Director Lane gives recognition to a policy developed by the

Kennedy administration in 1962. After long and careful study of America's present and future recreation needs, President Kennedy decided that his predecessors had erred in allowing the bulk of the national park system to be located in the more remote parts of the country.

In the future, he said, as many of the parks as geography and common sense dictated would be located within easy driving distance of the larger population centers. This certainly is the case with Kanawha State Forest, which lies within an hour's driving time for more than a tenth of the West Virginia population and three to four hours for half the state population.

The cost of the project is estimated by its planners - Zando, Martin and Milstead of Charleston - at \$4,687,000, a price that seems reasonable enough when you take into account the fact that the construction will be spread over 10 years and much of the cost will be borne by the federal government under terms of a law passed by Congress last year.

When compared on a cost basis with such parks now in the development stage as Pipestem and Canaan Valley, the price again seems reasonable. Those parks will cost more than \$10 million each. The Kanawha State Forest expansion has been included in a park improvement program Lane is sending to the legislature in January.

We sincerely hope that it finds a warm reception there. No part of the state park and forest system has been more neglected, and none has a greater potential for service to a recreation deficient area of West Virginia than Kanawha.

Kanawha State Forest Foundation Presents

# 2015 Osbra Eye Memorial



## Wildflower Walks



Saturday, April 18, 2015

Register 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. at swimming pool area  
of Kanawha State Forest

Adults: \$5.00



Under age 16: \$2.00

**Walks 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

***A Variety of Walks, including  
Wildflowers, Medicinal/Edible Plants,  
Trees, Beginning and Advanced Birding,  
Photography, etc.***

***(Be sure to bring a camera & binoculars!)***



*Come Join Us For the Sights  
and Sounds of the Natural World!*

*Walks assisted by*

Department of Natural Resources  
Handlan Chapter Brooks Bird Club  
Mary Ingles Trail Blazers  
West Virginia Native Plant Society



**Door Prizes**

**Raffle**

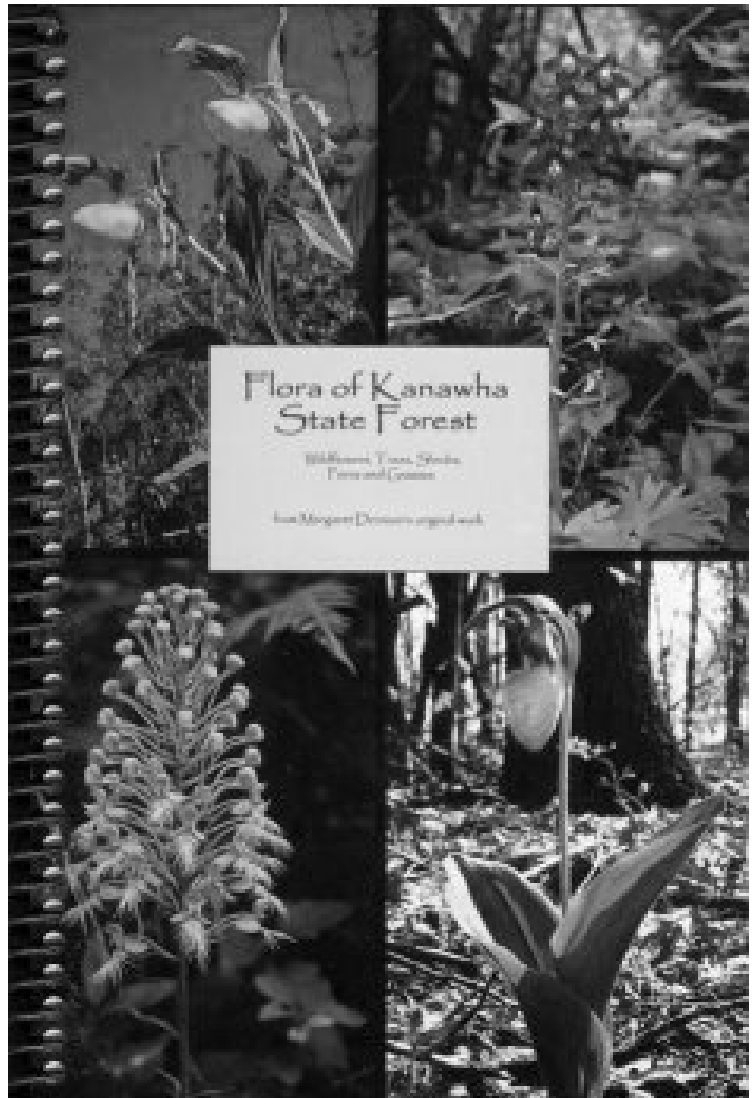
**Hot Dog Sale**

For More Information, Call 304-558-3500

## *Order Your Copy Today!*

The KSFF still has a plentiful supply of the handy guide to the Flora of Kanawha State Forest, based upon the original works of educator and naturalist Margaret Denison. This publication explains where to find wildflowers, trees, shrubs, ferns and grasses within the Forest. Blooming seasons for our many wildflower are listed as well. Intended as a supplement to traditional plant identification texts, this is for the nature lover who wants to know where to seek out the living treasures of the Forest.

This guide is illustrated with a variety of artwork, including selected images from Core and Strasbaugh's "Flora of West Virginia," drawings from students of Ms. Denison, and eight pages of color photos.



### *How to Order*

This guide is available for sale at KSFF events, the Forest office, Drug Emporium in Kanawha City, or the West Virginia Store in Capitol Market. The book may also be ordered directly from West Virginia Book Company by calling 304-342-1848. The cost is \$14.95. All proceeds from sales support the projects and activities of the Kanawha State Forest Foundation.