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JOHN LEWIS: BLACK, GREEN AND GOOD TROUBLEMAKER

Congressman John Lewis, who died at age 80 on July 17, is widely known in and out of Congress as a towering champion of human rights. Not so well known is his role as a strong advocate for the environment.

In 1992, Lewis introduced the Environmental Justice Act aimed at ending disparities in how environmental protections were applied. Companion legislation was introduced in the Senate by then Senator Al Gore. Lewis was a strong supporter of increased funding for the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] and fought to strengthen the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. Lewis was honored by the EPA in 2014 when it bestowed upon him the “Environmental Justice Champion Award.”

John Lewis carried a lifetime voting score of 92% from the League of Conservation Voters [LCV] and he was keenly aware of the threat of climate change. “Humanity is the most important endangered species under threat from climate change,” he said. A strong advocate for the development of clean, green technologies, he also said, “[t]he rest of the world has seen the economic and environmental benefits of clean energy and will leave us behind.”

Most impressively, Lewis joined Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez [AOC] in signing on to the Green New Deal, proposed legislation that a majority of Democrats in Congress have still not endorsed. John Lewis, as always, was ahead of his time.

“Get in good trouble, necessary trouble” was a John Lewis catchphrase that has become wildly popular since his passing. But I prefer to close with Congressman Lewis’s simple yet profound vision of our earth and our environment: “When we take our air, waters and land for granted; when we show a simple lack of respect for nature and for our environment, we unmake God’s good creation.”

Rest in well-earned peace, John Lewis

*Michael Pastorkovich
Equity Chair
Sierra Club Allegheny Group*

e·phem·er·al (ə-fem'er-al), *adj.*

[Gr. < *epi-*, upon + *hemera*, a day: + *-al*],
lasting only one day.

Whether we're fretting about politics or about the corona virus pandemic, the future is unknowable. In the past, we may not have recognized how unpredictable life could be. We know now. A year ago, I said, "Well, at least we're heading into spring," as the world shut down. Now we're in winter, but at least know spring is coming, albeit a spring that climate change has affected. We don't know how serious that effect will be. I'm pinning my hope on "not much, not yet."

Ephemeral is not the opposite of unpredictable; but I love the word for reminding me that nothing, not even snow, nor even misery, lasts forever. Last year in a fit of optimism, I said, "Good thing we're heading into spring and summer," when the pandemic shut down our world. This year, in the midst of winter our future is uncertain. But even pandemics—let's hope—can't last forever. Here in western Pennsylvania, spring is ephemeral, and so are most of our wildflowers. Blink, and they're gone—the season and the flowers, even their stems and leaves. Some of the leaves grow and

thrive for weeks after the flowers have faded, but I've never found a May apple in September. Not even with climate change.

I have read online that the Pilgrims were so excited to see the back of winter—to see the season move out of frozen, deathly hardness—they made tea out of Colt's foot and Mayflower. Scientists have analyzed the Colt's foot tea and found it to be toxic. So don't imitate our predecessors; don't make tea. Take a walk instead.

As soon as the ground thaws, May apples will drill through last year's leaf mold. Sometimes on a warm, wet day they'll grow several inches above ground. Colt's foot seems to thrive on some of the worst ground. Oh, how we need these insistent signs of spring when they arrive. You've perhaps seen flowers on the side of a road, shouting "yellow!" If there's no significant greenery, not much plant other than the flower and the stem, you're probably looking at Colt's foot. It looks a lot like a dandelion, but it's not. Neither flower is native to Pennsylvania, according to Wikipedia.com. Early pioneers brought them from

Europe, sometimes deliberately and sometimes not. The wildflower, I have read, got its name from the shape of its leaves. They're long and shaped like a colt's hoof.

In a normal year, spring beauties pop up and bloom around the same time, or maybe a week or two later. These delicate flowers vary from white to pale pink in my corner of western PA—not a huge range of color, I admit, but the flowers deserve their name. They are beauties. I don't know



Colt's foot by Andreas Trepte

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who named them; the “why” seems obvious. While the *Claytonia virginica* flourish, I usually find trout lilies and Dutchman’s breeches, too, along my favorite spring path. The leaves of the Dutchman’s breeches, which are white, are delicate cutwork



Spring beauties by Kaldari

compared to the ovoid trout lily leaves, mottled so they resemble trout swimming in the nearby stream—those that might have escaped trout season, if any did. Trout, too, are ephemeral, I guess.

Bloodroot blooms early, too. I’ve missed it some years entirely and only seen the leaves flourish for a month or so until they disappear. The plant gets its name from its sap, red but more watery than human blood. Don’t pick it to check whether I’m right. In fact, don’t pick any wildflowers. They’re all protected or should be. None last in water, and neither do they transfer easily to our manmade gardens. If you must have some, buy the bulbs from one of a number of sources online.

Almost everyone has a favorite spot to see the Virginia bluebells and trilliums bloom in the middle of May, a few weeks after their smaller cousins. I’m not dismissing them; they’re large and showy and hard to miss, but not hard to enjoy. The blue of blue-



Dutchman’s breeches: by Fritzflohreynolds

bells matches the clear blue skies. Those we don’t see often in this end of the commonwealth. Trilliums are, of course, Ontario’s provincial flower. For me, the path at Wolf Creek Narrows that wanders through acres of trilliums shouldn’t be missed. They tend to bloom well for Mother’s Day Weekend too, a happy coincidence! If you get there too early, you’ll see many of the flowers I’ve mentioned above and many more.

We are blessed in this part of the world with state parks, Audubon, and Nature Conservancy lands that often encompass wildflower beds. Check online before you go, or simply choose to walk along streambeds where

you’ll find them blooming—for example, at Wolf Creek Narrows. Many types of wildflowers bloom along old railroad tracks. I’ve read that the trains, when



Bloodroot: by UpstateNYer

they were still running, somehow spread the seeds.

Every year is different; we don’t know what will happen this year. Wildflowers may bloom in a different sequence or not at all. My mother and her dearest friend used to walk down a local railroad bed. I, too, walk there to visit the wildflowers I’ve listed above. They loved being outdoors. They loved spring and each other; but they had a different agenda when they walked. My mother wanted to go as far and as fast as possible. Her friend took along a wildflower identification book and lingered to look closely at each flower and name it. Each woman had broken a hip in her 80s, but neither would tolerate infirmity. During our long winters, they used their telephones to inspire the

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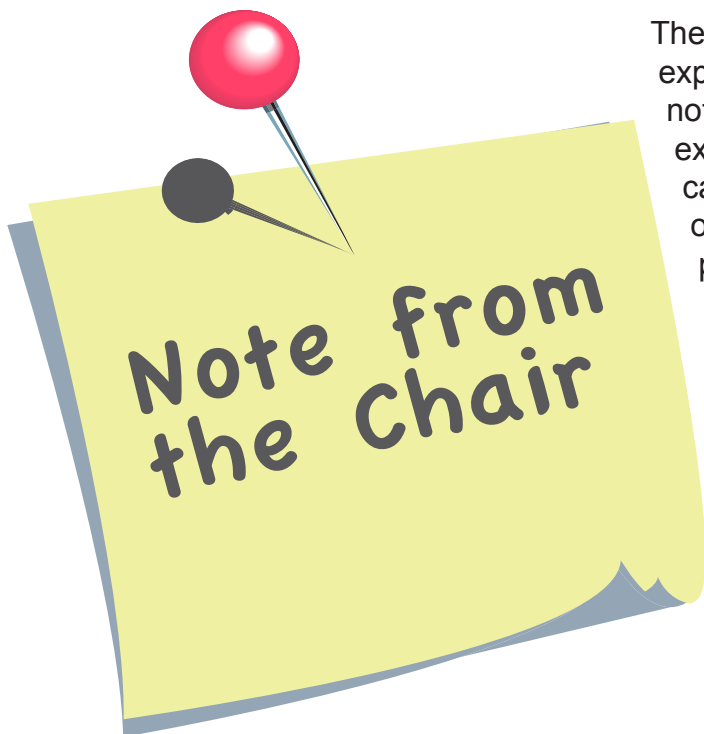
other to walk one more lap around the house, make one more trip up and down the stairs in their homes when the footing outside was too icy. They stayed in shape.

We should, too. When it's time, we'll be fit for a nice long walk in springtime woods. We can walk circles inside our homes; we don't need to walk the mall to stay fit until the weather moderates. When it does, we can return to our favorite hiking trails, alone or masked and a good distance apart. Get out there often. The flowers will be gone soon—sometimes in a matter of hours if the weather turns hot. Usually they linger for a day or two. If you only watch for them once a week, you'll miss something because these friends are ephemeral-precious signs of winter's end. Nothing lasts forever!

Evann Garrison



igned with the new year and the Sierra Club's Motto, "Explore, Enjoy and Protect," our first "Allegheny Sierran" of 2021 is about environmental new year resolutions.



These environmental resolutions range from resolving to explore and enjoy nature through wildflower walks or to notice the stars in the night sky. For further enjoyment and exploration, we are offering a monthly series of "Practical Naturalist" talks via Zoom. In the "Protect" section of the newsletter, our Group chairs offer resolutions to protect the environment, and we announce calls for the proposals for the 2021 Huplits grants for wildlife protection. For those whose new year's resolutions were to spend more time outside, this issue also includes an order form for the Allegheny National Forest Hiking Guide, the Allegheny Group's Hiking Guide to the Laurel Highlands, and Allegheny Group masks. Finally, the newsletter begins with a heartfelt tribute to the late John Lewis for his legislative actions to protect the environment. As 2021 begins, may we continue John Lewis's legacy and "Explore, Enjoy and Protect" the planet together.

Ellen Wright
Allegheny Group Chair



Introducing Allegheny Group's Practical Naturalist Series with Hannah Balko

This series will be focused on the environment and biodiversity of Western PA that need to be protected and preserved for future generations. It is all about what we as individuals and as a community can practically learn and do to help mother nature. Hannah will be discussing a new topic each month that she finds personally interesting and is relevant to the current season. Hannah graduated from Penn State with a B.S. in Biology, genetics and development option. She worked in entomology, biology, and horticulture laboratories as a lab assistant during her time at Penn State, and she currently works for the University of Pittsburgh in the neuroscience department as a lab technician.

Hannah's introduction to her February talk: "We will be discussing my new year's resolution to help find the one fun guy who will support my blossoming into a healthy organism! Just kidding, but we will be talking

about the symbiotic relationship between soil fungi (also known as fun-guys) and roots. Root health is often overlooked, and the science underappreciated. Mycorrhizal fungi partner with an estimated 95% of all root systems of plants and help boost their immune system in fascinating ways. This talk will delve into the soil and dig up what we can learn about roots and root health and discuss what methods we can use to help keep the soil and fungi happy and healthy."

To register for Practical Naturalist "Fungi" talk on either Monday, February 15 at 7:00 pm or Thursday, February 18 at 3:00 pm, please send an email to algpns@gmail.com In the subject line, please specify if you are signing up for the Monday, February 15 talk or the Thursday, February 18 talk. After registering you will receive a confirmation email. The zoom link will be sent the day before the talk.

Talks will continue on the third Monday of the month at 7:00

p.m. and repeated on the third Thursday of the month at 3:00 p.m.

Hannah's introduction to her March talk: "As March comes in like a lion and out like lamb and signs of spring start to emerge, we begin to emerge from our homes as well to enjoy the outdoors. While spring is a beautiful time to watch everything blossom and transition, it is also a time to remember what else is rising from the frost. For March's talk we will be discussing all things tick-related. Ticks are parasitic arachnids that attach externally to their hosts and spread diseases that can be fatal for humans and our furry four-legged companions. We will be discussing how to spot ticks, what areas they reside in, what you should do if you find a tick, what diseases they spread, and if there's anything we can do to help decrease the tick population. Don't confuse our "tick-talk" for the popular social media app "tik-tok", and join us to make sure your adventures outdoors are safe and tick-free!"

Seeing Stars in the Dark Time of the Year

On the darkest day of the year, the winter solstice on December 21, 2020, Saturn and Jupiter appeared the closest or in conjunction to each other for the first time in 100s of years. Even though they were still separated by 456 million miles, seen from Earth they seemed to be one.

After the solstice, there are still hours and hours of darkness to see the night sky. While the days will gradually be getting longer, at the beginning of January, the nights outlast the days until the March equinox where the night and day are equal length. With hours of night sky, there are more opportunities to see the winter constellations.

If it is too cloudy to see the stars on these long nights, it's time to read archaeoastronomer and cultural astronomer Antony Aveni's 2009 book "Star Stories" about how ancient people across the globe used the stars to tell their myths, to guide them across the ocean, and to keep time for seasonal and yearly events, and what these stories say about being human.

If the night sky is too bright to see the stars because in modern times, people artificially light the night sky, science journalist Jo Marchant's "The Human Cosmos: Civilization and the Stars" illustrates a sense of wonder about the night sky and what is lost when that connection is broken.

In the new year, let's resolve to rebuild that connection to the stars by taking time to notice the sky. If it is a cloudy night, or the night is filled with too many human lights to see the night sky, rebuild that star connection by reading about human's historical connection to the stars. In 2021, find a sense of awe in the night sky.

Ellen Wright

Pennsylvania Species of Greatest Conservation Need



While America careens through political unrest and a runaway pandemic, endangered species quietly continue to disappear forever during this current historic sixth extinction.

By October of 2005, all states, the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories were required to submit a State Wildlife Action Plan and did so. Each plan was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As required by Congress, all State Wildlife Action Plans must be comprehensively reviewed and revised no less than every 10 years.

Currently Pennsylvania is working off of their “2015 to 2025 Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan.” In Pennsylvania alone there are about 664 “Species of Greatest Conservation Need.”

This Action Plan is a non-regulatory, proactive conservation blueprint to prevent these fragile species from requiring federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. This helps reduce the costs of expensive recoveries of species that are approaching extinction. In addition, recovery outcomes

work better with larger populations. This approved plan qualifies Pennsylvania to receive federal State and Tribal Wildlife Grants under the nation’s core program to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. These funds help implement conservation actions in the plan but have proven to be inadequate for the needs.

The six goals of Pennsylvania’s Wildlife Action Plan are as follows:

- Conserve native wildlife and habitat by implementing the actions in the Plan.
- Base wildlife conservation decisions on the best available science.
- Contribute to range-wide conservation of these Species of Greatest Need.
- Strengthen the state’s capacity to conserve our native wildlife.
- Improve cooperation within and between public agencies and other partners, in planning and implementation.
- Develop a knowledgeable citizenry that supports and participates in wildlife conservation.

What is contained in Pennsylvania’s Plan is a list of these Species of Concern, the extent and condition of their habitats, their environmental threats, actions needed to recover and protect these species, monitoring, plans to revise the Plan by 2025, and developing and implementing public and partner participation. Also, there is a growing interest in more completely addressing species’ needs by reaching beyond state boundaries.

The standardized threats classification system endorsed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has been adopted to facilitate consistency between state action plans. Pennsylvania has also committed to more fully incorporating climate change into the Plan with better climate models and a greater understanding of the impacts of this major threat.

Of the many other threats identified for birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish, 53% fall into four categories: development, energy production and mining, pollution, and

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invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases.

There are also specific conservation actions for terrestrial and aquatic invertebrate species. As far as plants, the Wild Resource Conservation Act established a procedure for their protection in Pennsylvania under the jurisdiction of the DCNR.

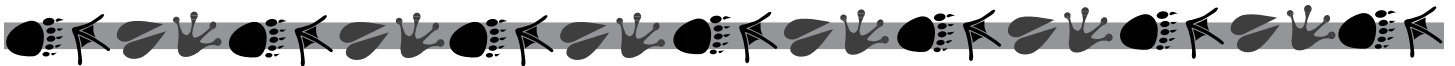
The health of wildlife is often an early indicator of disease and pollution that affect us all. These State Wildlife Action Plans help identify problems affecting wildlife and address those concerns before they impact humans. For species already listed as threatened or endangered, the Plans provide a path to their recovery.

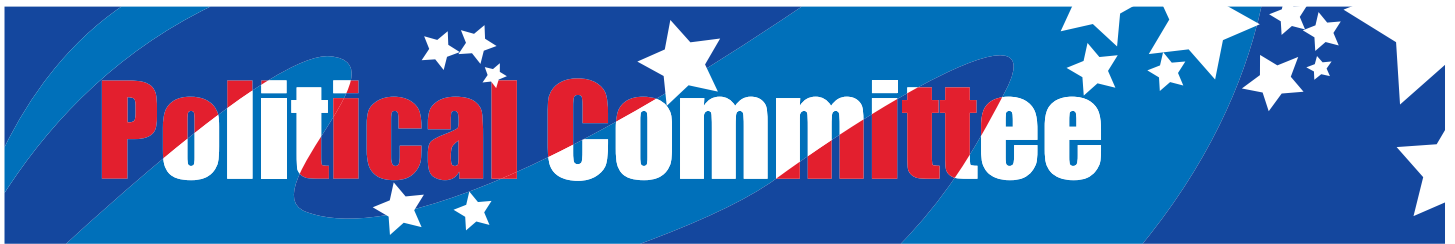
How can you help? Last July, the bipartisan “Recovering America’s Wildlife Act” passed the House as an amendment to HR2, “The Moving Forward Act.” This legislation would help over 12,000 species of fish and wildlife from going extinct by increasing funding for all the State Wildlife Action Plans. Over 182 members of Congress signed on as co-sponsors of this bipartisan effort. It will now be up to the Senate to include this important component in a final infrastructure package. Please write your Senators and ask them to support and cosponsor this legislation.

Bett Beeson

Endangered Species Chair

(Information was gathered from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, The Wildlife Society, The National Wildlife Federation and congress.gov.)





The Political Committee of the Allegheny Group is optimistic about 2021. The Biden/Harris administration has placed knowledgeable, experienced people in leadership positions who will deal seriously with the two most critical issues of our time – the COVID 19 pandemic and Climate Change. But to succeed at the Federal level we need strong actions from our state legislature.

In the next two years, we will focus our attention on making a difference in local elections. Although many voters consider the Presidential election years as the most important, we recognize that our local decision makers can have an even more significant impact on our lives and the future of the inhabitability of the planet. Those decision makers include members of County, City, and Borough Councils, as well as Township Commissioners, School Boards, Sheriffs, various levels of our court system, and more. We also recognize that nearly half the voters in the 2020 election supported a second term for the current president. Thus, these efforts will be challenging, especially outside Pittsburgh where the need for climate action receives little support. Consequently, beginning in 2021, we resolve to:

1. Support federal, state and local environmental initiatives;
2. Build a strong set of candidates throughout southwestern Pennsylvania over the next two years who will support measures to protect clean water, clean air, good jobs, and a healthy planet;
3. Be aware that nearly half the voters in 2020 desired to retain a president whose policies varied greatly from those desired by Sierra Club members;
4. Better understand the root of the thinking of those voters, hopefully resulting in solutions for the common-good, rather than demonizing those with alternative views.
5. Do our utmost to ensure the election of our endorsed candidates in 2021 and 2022.

We welcome all readers interested in getting involved in the activities that will help us be successful in meeting these resolutions to contact **Barb Grover** at barbgrover1@gmail.com or call 412-521-9526.

Barb Grover
Co-Political Committee Chair

Trump wreaked Havoc on Our Environment. The Damage needs to be Reversed.

Last summer, President Donald Trump unilaterally issued an executive order significantly weakening the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA established the President's Council on Environmental Quality and mandated that all executive Federal agencies prepare environmental assessments and environmental impact statements stating potential environmental effects of proposed Federal agency actions.

Trump's order overturned key elements of the law, including requests for community input and shortening the deadline for environmental impact statements and environmental assessments.

Trump's order not only allows but directed Federal agencies to circumvent environmental permitting requirements in order to expedite infrastructure projects.

The National Environmental Policy Act was passed by Congress in December 1969 and signed into law by Republican President Richard Nixon on New Year's Day 1970.

Thus, Donald Trump's rampage to revoke, revise and reverse environmental laws and regulations extends 50 years beyond his intention to undo all of President Obama's accomplishments and goes to the very beginning of the modern environmental movement in the 1960s.

According to the New York Times (NYT) and based upon research by the Harvard Law School, the Columbia Law School, "and other sources," Donald Trump gutted over 100 environmental rules in his less than four years in office. The NYT "found at least 14 air and water pollution rollbacks under Trump...[h]is administration reversed the Stream Protection Rule...which regulated pollution from surface coal mining...and ended a requirement that oil and gas producers report methane emissions."

On the all-important existential threat of climate change, Trump long called global warming a "hoax," and one of the first things he did upon assuming the presidency was to announce his intention of withdrawing the United States from the Paris Climate Accords.

He also moved to revive the coal industry, expand fracking* and make the U.S. the foremost producer of fossil fuels in the world.

Last January 2020, his administration approved right of way allowing the Keystone XL oil sands pipeline to be built from Canada across U.S. land, but this action was halted by Biden on his first day in office.

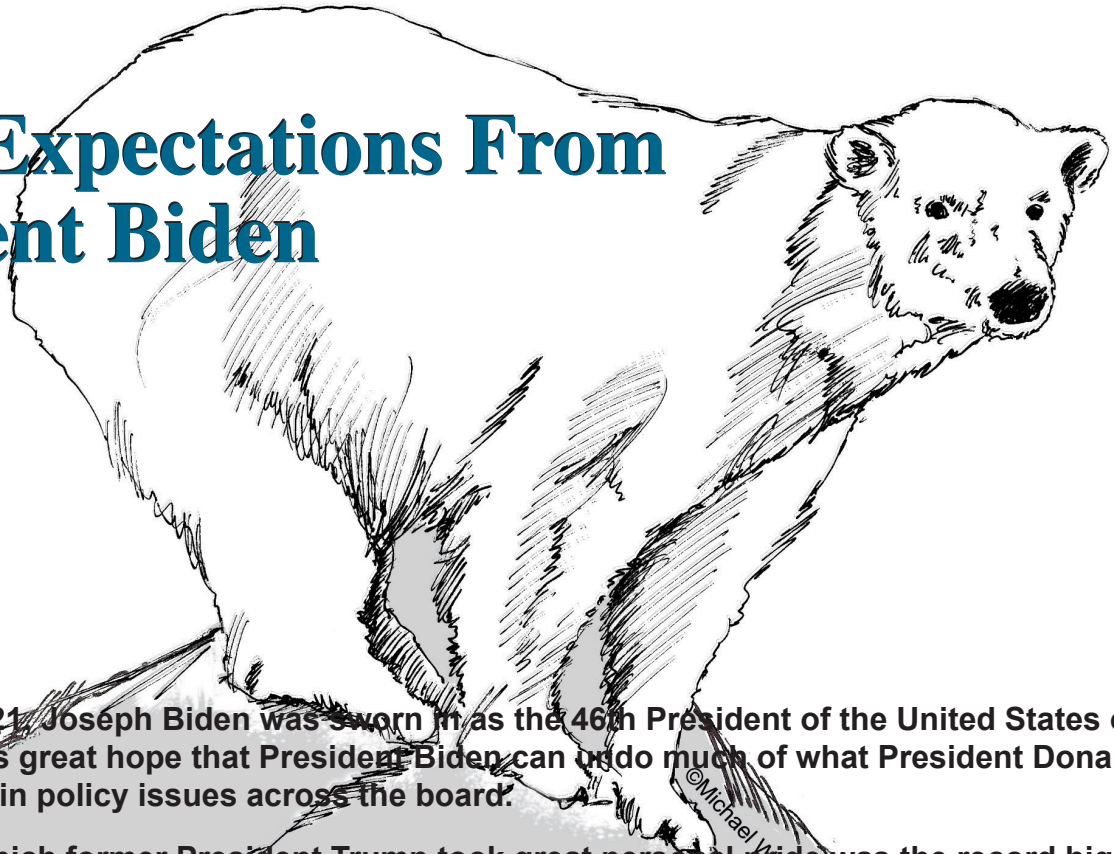
Last August, Trump's Interior Secretary announced that the Trump administration approved oil and gas drilling on more than 1.5 million acres on the coast of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Biden also put a halt to this as one of his first actions. The list goes on and on and will continue to grow longer and environmental degradation more devastating until the legacy of Donald Trump has been reversed.

Michael Pastorkovich

Sources: New York Times, pbs.org, abcnews.org, Wikipedia.

**Footnote-what's wrong with fracking – i.e. water so toxic it can never be cleaned and reused, and toxic methane gas leaks cancel out any benefits to "clean" natural gas.*

Great Expectations From President Biden



January 20, 2021, Joseph Biden was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States of America. There is great hope that President Biden can undo much of what President Donald Trump has done in policy issues across the board.

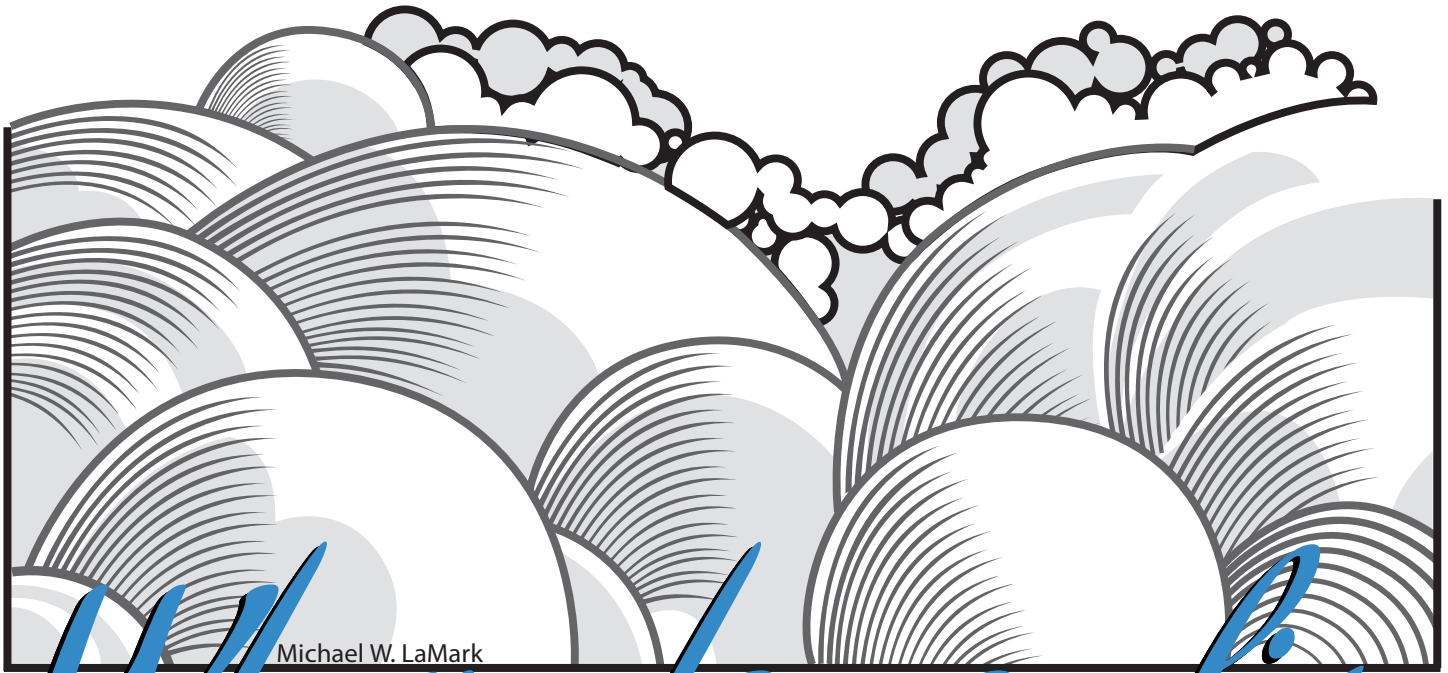
One issue in which former President Trump took great personal pride was the record high stock market. The rapid increase in the stock market was due in part to the relaxing and repealing of environmental protections which had taken decades to implement.

The Trump administration rolled back over 100 environmental rules and regulations. The regulation rollbacks were on everything from air and water pollution, drilling, to carbon emissions. The Trump administration also pulled the United States out of the United Nations Paris Agreement, which seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow global warming, though one of Biden's first actions was to reenter the U.S. in the Paris agreement.

There is great hope that President Biden will reverse the damage which President Trump has caused to the environment. President Biden's campaign outlined a bold Green New Deal to deal with global warming. The Biden Harris web page identifies climate change as being "no greater challenge facing our country and our world." The Biden plan will create jobs as well as bring emissions in the USA to a 100% clean energy economy by 2050.

It is expected that President Biden's Green New Deal will face tremendous political opposition. That is why we must all act in support of President Biden. Call your elected officials and voice your support for the Green New Deal. The time to act is now. You can find your representative and their contact information in the United States House of Representatives at house.gov. You can find United States Senators Pat Toomey and Bob Casey's contact information at senate.gov or call the United States Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask to speak to your Representative or Senator. We must all take action now against the greatest challenge facing our country and world.

Chris Shepherd
Global Warming Chair



Michael W. LaMark

Where do you live

Depending upon who is asking, we answer with our town, our neighborhood, our state or even our country.

Environmentally speaking, we also live in a watershed. Actually, we live in several watersheds. Each watershed part of a larger watershed. In western Pennsylvania, each local watershed makes up the Ohio River Watershed, which encompasses twelve states, and in turn the Ohio River Watershed is part of the Mississippi Watershed, which includes most of the eastern part of the United States.

Maybe if we thought of ourselves as part of a watershed with boundaries extending beyond a neighborhood, a town, or a state, when political decisions were made, thinking about or caring about the upstream and downstream consequences would be automatic rather than at best tagged on at the end or omitted completely. If we think for a moment, we all know about how a political decision in one of our local communities caused flooding, erosion, and pollution in another community.

Maybe step one in beginning to address the environmental consequences of political decisions is an increased awareness that we are part of a watershed(s).

In 2021, when someone asks me where I live, I resolve to respond with my local watershed or the Ohio River Valley watershed. Will you make the same resolution?

Ellen Wright

Huplits

2021 Wildlife Grant Awards

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Due May 1, 2021

THE 24th ANNUAL HUPLITS WILDLIFE GRANT COMPETITION

A Challenge to Protect Animal Wildlife and Habitat in Pennsylvania

The Allegheny Group Sierra Club's Huplits Wildlife Grants Committee is seeking grant proposals to help protect animal wildlife and wildlife habitat in Pennsylvania. Approximately \$75,000 will be available for the 2021 Huplits Wildlife Grant Competition. Seven (7) grants were awarded in last year's (2020) competition, totaling \$78,925.

Application guidelines:

We seek projects that directly impact wildlife in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on a regional or statewide level.

A proposal may involve public education, grassroots campaign organization, litigation, land acquisition, or research that directly focuses on protecting Pennsylvania wildlife, its habitat, and preventing cruelty to animals.

Projects will be funded for no more than two years. Under special circumstances a project may be extended.

An organization is ineligible in 2021 if it seeks additional funding for continuation of the same project awarded past grant money and 1) has not provided prompt 6-month updates in regards to their recent Huplits Grant expenditures or 2) have not expended more than 50% of their Huplits Grant monies by May 1, 2021.

Grants may be sought by Sierra Club entities within Pennsylvania.

Non-Sierra Club organizations with projects in Pennsylvania may apply for a grant; however, preference will be given to proposals that work in partnership with Sierra Club and are aligned with the goals of local PA Sierra Club Groups and/or Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter.

Applications seeking Sierra Club preference must be accompanied by a supporting letter from their local PA Sierra Club Group Chair.

All proposals should include a copy of their IRS501(c)(3) designation letter.

All proposals should be submitted in WORD format and include the overall purpose and goal of the project, objectives, major activities, resources required, specific timelines, a detailed budget, and a contact person's name, address, phone number and email.

DEADLINE: Submit proposals no later than May 1, 2021 to Barb Grover (Huplits 2021 Committee Chair) via e-mail at barbgroverHuplits2021@gmail.com If you have any questions, contact Barb via email or call 412-521-9526.

50 YEARS

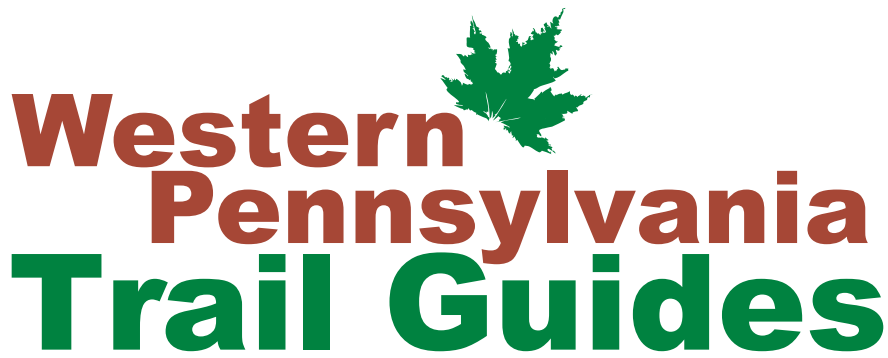
Allegheny Group memories

It's our 50th Anniversary!

In 1970, the Allegheny Group formed from the New York Sierra Club. While we are postponing the celebration this year, we hope to mark the anniversary on **August 8, 2021**. In the meantime, please share your favorite memories by sending pictures (if possible labeled) in JPEG format with a description or stories of your adventures and environmental actions with the *Allegheny Group* to *M.W. LaMark* at lamarkmichael@yahoo.com. Please label e-mails "50th Anniversary."



Western Pennsylvania Trail Guides



When you buy trail guides from the **Allegheny Group**, instead of from a retail store, you support the Allegheny Group's local environmental advocacy.

If you prefer to order Allegheny Group trail guides by mail, download the publications mail-order form at <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/allegheny-group-pennsylvania-chapter/Store/trail-guide-order-form.pdf>. Trail guides are shipped via United States Postal Service (USPS) media mail.

Please allow up to three weeks for delivery from date of order.

We cannot provide tracking information. However, we hope to be able to do so in the future.

Send inquiries about trail guide orders to wpasierraclub@gmail.com

ACTION ITEM: This link shows the current Trail Guides and how to purchase them on the website <https://www.sierraclub.org/pennsylvania/allegheny/trail-guides>

A Hiker's Guide to the Laurel Highlands Trail

This guide is a joint effort of the **Pa. Chapter of the Sierra Club** and the **Western Pa. Conservancy**. The first half of the guide covers such topics as:

- The geology and geologic history of Laurel Hill
- The climate, vegetation and wildlife of Laurel Hill
- A flow sheet that makes tree identification easy, fun and fast
- The cultural history of Laurel Hill from the time of the native Americans to the more recent public-land acquisition era

Authors of Part 1 were *William R. Brice, William J. Curry III, Uldis Kaktins and Barbara S. Thorne*.

The second half of the guide covers such topics as:

- A detailed written description on the trail for hikers and backpackers
- How to get to the various trailheads by car
- An elevation profile of Laurel Highlands Trail
- Planning hikes and backpack trips on the trail
- Reserving trail shelters for overnight stays
- Suggestions on what to take, how to dress, and when to go hiking
- A list of hiking organizations in the area

Part 2 was written by *Bruce Sundquist*. In all, the 6×9" paperback contains 132 pages, with 27 pages of maps, 19 photographs and 21 illustrations. Edition 6 (2004)

Price: \$8.00 + \$3.50 (shipping) = \$11.50 (amount shown in shopping cart)

Allegheny National Forest Hiking Guide

The 800 square-mile **A.N.F.** is in northwestern Pa. Over 250 miles of foot trails are available for hiking, back-packing and ski-touring. Edition 4, published by Allegheny Group, Sierra Club, also describes ski-touring opportunities and points of scenic interest. 192 pages, 49 pages of maps, 33 photos, full-color cover, Edition 4 (1999)

Price: \$9.95 + \$3.50 (shipping) = \$13,45 (amount shown in shopping cart)



fight COVID-19

The C.D.C. has determined that social distancing and wearing a protective mask is, at present, the most effective weapon we have to fight the coronavirus. **The Allegheny Group** is now offering this high quality mask to help you support your health and our environment. Each is black on its front side with a white liner on the inside and the graphics that are exclusive to the Allegheny Group. You can order your mask with elastic bands which slip over your ears or with ties to fasten behind your head.

Part of the proceeds from the sale of masks supports the Allegheny Group's local environmental advocacy. To order your mask and get additional information just use the following link to the Allegheny Group web page:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/pennsylvania/allegheny/anti-covid-19-masks>



Allegheny Sierran FALL 2020

The Allegheny Sierran is the newsletter of the Allegheny Group and is intended to keep the membership posted on the activities of the Group. Opinions expressed in the Allegheny Sierran are those of the authors, and should not be taken as Sierra Club policy unless specifically so stated.

Founded by legendary conservationist John Muir in 1892, the Sierra Club is now the nation's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization -- with more than two million members and supporters. Our successes range from protecting millions of acres of wilderness to helping pass the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act. More recently, we've made history by leading the charge to move away from the dirty fossil fuels that cause climate disruption and toward a clean energy economy.

The Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club was organized in the early 1970s. It is one of 9 groups comprising the Pennsylvania Chapter.

Credit and Contact Information:

The Sierra Club, Allegheny Group, 412 328 9817

Ellen Wright, Allegheny Group Chair, Co-Chair, Conservation Committee (*wrightellen@protonmail.com*)

Chris Shepherd, Vice Chair, Global Warming Chair (*shepherd999@gmail.com*)

Bob Smith, Treasurer (*bob7smith@verizon.net*)

Naomi Swerdlow, Secretary (*nswerdlow@gmail.com*)

Barb Grover, Co-Political Committee Chair, Huplits Chair (*bardgrover1@gmail.com*)

Laurel Dagnon, Co-Political Committee Chair (*lad7944@gmail.com*)

Tina LaMark, Historian (*lamarkt@gmail.com*)

Claudia Kirkpatrick, Water Chair (*kirkclaudia@gmail.com*)

Mike Pastorkovich, Transportation Committee Chair, Equity Committee Chair (*treesnrivers@yahoo.com*)

Martin Zatsick, co-chair Conservation Committee (*martinzatsick@gmail.com*)

Bob Lang, Webmaster (*rdlanggeo@gmail.com*)

Bett Beeson, Endangered Species Chair (*bettbeeson@gmail.com*)

Angela Watska, Product Sales (*angiewest33@gmail.com*)

Abby Morrison, Newsletter

M.W. LaMark, Newsletter Graphic Editor (*lamarkmichael@yahoo.com*)