

M Mountain State Sierran

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November/December 2017

Bills to Fund Forest Fire Prevention are Problematic

Matt Kearns, West Virginians for Public Lands

As I sit down to write, a wildfire on North Fork Mountain has grown past 50 acres. Coupled with the Fourth of July fire on Seneca Rocks, two of my favorite places on the Monongahela National Forest have burned this year. Fire is a natural and healthy part of a forest ecosystem, but it's always disappointing to find out that they were ignited by malicious or accidental human behavior, as was the case at Seneca Rocks, and may yet be the case on North Fork Mountain.

It's even more disappointing in the context of some of the bills I've been researching lately. Throughout a long, hard fire season out West, several senators and representatives are taking a much-needed look at the way the Forest Service is funded for fighting fires. However, they are also proposing bills that would encourage more logging in the interest of fire prevention or salvage.

Right now, more than half of the Forest Service's annual budget goes to fire suppression — money that could be better spent on fire prevention, maintenance or recreation. FEMA and the Department of Defense don't fight disasters or wars from their base budget, but the Forest Service still does.

One bill, though, the Wildlife Disaster Funding Act, does specifically authorize additional USFS funding equal to the 10-year average cost of firefighting. Our own Rep. Jenkins is a co-sponsor. Rep. Mooney, in whose district the Seneca Rocks and North Fork Mountain fires have burned, is not.

Other fire-management bills suggest provisions to allow "salvage" logging, which on the surface may sound like a reasonable idea, but could interfere with natural recovery processes and harm forest resiliency long term. The Resilient Federal Forests Act and Columbia Gorge Restoration Act would permit logging of 10,000 acres after any number of poorly defined natural "disasters," which could include "wind" or a "rainstorm."

Wind, fire and water do knock down merchantable timber, but they are essential drivers of ecology in our multi-use forest ecosystems. The early successional habitat valued by many sportsmen is created by these natural openings in the forest canopy. Debris returns nutrients to the soil for the next generation of trees. And increased logging in the backcountry doesn't necessarily translate to safer communities. If we're concerned (rightfully) about fires encroaching on people (even as we encroach on the forest in the wildland-urban interface), then creating firebreaks and defensible space around our structures makes much more sense than cutting forests deep in the backcountry. It's akin to digging a moat around your castle instead of ranging out around the countryside looking for a fight.

While these "Western-focused" bills often feel distant and remote to the Mountain State, the fires in the Mon Forest remind us that federal policy stretches from coast to coast. Would an attempt to "salvage" up to 10,000 acres



Smoke from a July 4 wildfire billows up in front of Seneca Rocks. (credit: WBOY)

result in a clear cut around Seneca Rocks? Would the North Fork Mountain Semi-Primitive Backcountry Area be logged to reduce fuel loads for future wildfires? What could this mean to water quality in the South Branch Potomac or the quality of recreational opportunities in the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area?

These fire-centric bills join at least 10 others introduced to sell, transfer, drill, mine or log federal public land. The Administration's national monument review — shrinking or rescinding 24 national monuments — has garnered much of the public-lands attention of late. But we can't lose sight of the fact that the campaign platform of the majority party in Congress was to sell or transfer public lands. Facing fierce opposition to their original agenda, it appears that they are willing to create loopholes to make it easier to extract the profits from our shared natural resources and leave public-land users like you and me in the lurch.

Many of the fire management bills include language expediting the approval process, limiting public comment and legal recourse, and weakening conservation bedrocks

like the Endangered Species Act or National Environmental Policy Act. Hopefully, most of them will wither in committee and never see the floor. However, it's likely that provisions of those "bad bills" may find their way into amendments and riders of must-pass legislation like the Farm Bill or improved firefighting funding. When these bills come to a vote, things will move quickly. We must be ready and organized well in advance of these attacks on our public land system. They just keep coming.

We are grateful to all of the Forest Service, Division of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, and all other first-responders and volunteers who place themselves in harm's way to assist with fire suppression on West Virginia's public lands.

Upcoming ExCom Meeting

Sat, Nov. 4: Buckhannon

All members are welcome.

April Keating for details, apkeating@hotmail.com



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Membership Update

Chuck Conner, Membership Chair

The Chapter at large added 28 new memberships in August. Of those, only 10 provided emails for communication purposes; the rest were sent postcards to welcome them. In addition to those 28, the Monongahela Group — which comprises Monongalia, Marion, Preston, Tucker and Harrison counties — added 20 new memberships in August.

According to the Club's national database, the WV Chapter had a total of 2,481 statewide memberships at the end of August. Of those, 308 were joint memberships, bringing the total number of members in the state to 2,789.

HELP WANTED: Since the Mon Group does not currently have its own Membership Chair, new members there may see a delay in the response time to "welcome" them to the local group, which in turn delays when they find out about all the great things we do here. If any Club member living in one of the Group's five counties might be interested in providing first contact with new members, please contact Membership Chair Chuck Conner. Some basic training is available, and though you need not be an expert with computers, you should at least have access and be comfortable with them.

Morgantown City Council: Local Leaders Make Difference

Elections have consequences!

Five new members joined two environmental leaders on Morgantown City Council in July, and they quickly established a new, environmentally friendly agenda for this city.

We learned in August of their support for a Resolution to uphold the Paris Climate Accord. The city has now directed a group of local citizens to develop a Climate Action Plan to implement that resolution and identify ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In September, Council directed the City Manager to implement additional energy efficiency measures. It helps that these measures will quickly pay for themselves and save tax dollars in the long run.

In early October, the city adopted another resolution opposing the transfer of the Pleasants power plant to MonPower. Several politicians from around the state have issued statements of support for the transfer, so the Morgantown resolution helps confirm that the issue is important and will give the Public Service Commission another reason to take opposition seriously.

Getting involved in local political races can be an important first step in preparing the next generation of leaders who will speak up for clean air and water in West Virginia.

After Sierra Club Appeals 401 Certification for Mountain Valley Pipeline, WV-DEP Vacates

Facing a court deadline to respond to our appeal, WV-DEP in September asked the federal court to vacate its water quality certification for the Mountain Valley Pipeline. DEP determined that information used to issue the certification needs to be further evaluated "and possibly enhanced."

The Sierra Club issued a news release thanking the DEP for the motion.

"We applaud the West Virginia DEP for recognizing that the fracked gas Mountain Valley Pipeline is a threat to our state's

water and natural beauty," Sierra Club West Virginia Chapter Gas Committee Chair Justin Raines said in the release.

"Our rivers and streams make West Virginia a beautiful place for residents and visitors alike, and preserving them also preserves what we love about our state. The fracked gas Mountain Valley Pipeline is dirty, dangerous and needlessly endangers West Virginia's waterways, wilderness and communities, and it should be rejected."

Attorneys with the public interest law

firm Appalachian Mountain Advocates filed the challenge on behalf of a coalition comprised of the Sierra Club, West Virginia Rivers Coalition, Indian Creek Watershed Association, Appalachian Voices and Chesapeake Climate Action Network. The challenge asserted that the pipeline company has not given DEP enough information to assure that state water quality standards would be met.

Pleasants Power Plant Campaign Comes to a Close

Laura Yokochi, Energy Efficiency Campaign

The Energy Efficiency Campaign Team, the Beyond Coal Campaign, and Sierra Club staff, lawyers and many volunteers have been working for more than a year to oppose FirstEnergy's bad deal for West Virginia consumers. Thank you to everyone who signed a petition, collected petition signatures, responded to one of our online action alerts, spoke to local politicians, gave oral testimony at one of public hearings, or wrote a letter of protest. Your voices have been heard and have made a difference. Together, we have filed over 2,000 letters and comments protesting

the sale, and we have filled the public hearings in Parkersburg, Martinsburg and Morgantown.

Though the facts are already familiar to many of you, here is a quick review: MonPower and Potomac Edison, both subsidiaries of FirstEnergy, have requested approval from the Public Service Commission (Case #17-0296) to purchase the Pleasants Power Station from First Energy's Ohio subsidiary, Allegheny Energy Supply. Either way, FirstEnergy owns the plant, and the energy produced would be available, so why do they want this sale? The answer has little to do with necessity or jobs and everything to do with shareholder profit. They want to transfer the

risk to us, their captive customers. In West Virginia, we, the customers, can be forced to subsidize a plant which can't survive in fair competition.

By the time this newsletter is published, the Commissioners will have heard the final legal arguments and made their decision. No matter what they decide, they know we will not remain silent. We have educated the public, recruited volunteers and made many valuable contacts. Our organization is stronger and we have built bridges and made new friends around the state.

Let's keep up the momentum and move forward together!

Sierra Club 2017 Lobby Week

Sierra Club members from across the country flew in to Washington, D.C., during the final week of September to make their voices heard in the nation's capital. Citizen volunteers brought a variety of concerns to their legislators, ranging from proposed cuts that would affect the EPA budget to the RECLAIM Act and protecting the Arctic National

Wildlife Refuge from the impacts of hydraulic fracking for oil. Representing the West Virginia Chapter, Sally Roberts-Wilson and Justin Raines, along with Bill Price, held meetings with the offices of Representatives Jenkins, Mooney and McKinley, as well as senior staffers for Senators Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito. (See the group photo on page 5.)



Like us on Facebook to get more up-to-date information about our "doings."

Sierra Club West Virginia
Mon Group of the WV Sierra Club
WVSC Marcellus Shale Campaign

Don't Get Left Out in the Cold... Join Us!

Sierra Club Outings are a terrific way to meet new people and enjoy the great outdoors. Whatever your interests - hiking, canoeing or birdwatching - there is an outing for everyone. If you are new to the area, let your local Chapter or Group give you the lay of the land. Join today and become part of America's largest environmental organization offering the most enjoyable outings.

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YES! I would like to give a gift membership to:

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Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club
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Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

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Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.00 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club, PO Box 421841, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1841 or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

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2018 Sierra Club Calendars

Wilderness Wall Calendar

Engagement Calendar

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Shipping			\$6.00
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Ann Devine-King: A Kind and Gentle Soul

August 3, 1954 – September 2, 2017

Lady Slipper Hike Coopers Rock State Forest

In memory of Ann Devine King By Donna Weems, August 14, 2017

Every sense alert
to the surrounding woods
we hike past oaks, maples, mountain laurel and rhododendron
toward Cooper's Rock

Although it is 9 AM, late morning bird time
bird song fills the air
the territorial chip, chip, chip of a male cardinal and
talkative twittering drift down from the treetops

It's Spring!

Wet earth and the dusky smell of decomposing leaves
rise up from the ground
Hats, gloves boots and jackets are snugged against the morning cold
The sun's golden rays filter through the new green leaves
and warm the forest floor
where spring wildflowers kiss the sunshine

We are looking for a native West Virginia orchid
the lady slipper
We spot a bright pink lantern
practically glowing atop its ten-inch stalk
At the base, two elongate ovoid green leaves
lie on the forest floor

Like an Easter egg hunt from a past age, we spot another in the moss
two behind a sandstone boulder, a group of five among the oaks
then almost miraculously, hundreds of lady slippers in all their glory
spread out before us on a rocky knoll

In the stillness of the forest
a joy lifts our countenance
and we are filled with peace

Ann Devine King was one who led us here
She knew the solace of solitude
in the special places
but had chosen to share with us

For her gentle, knowing gifts, we are truly grateful
Let us remember Ann each time we share the beauty of the natural world
And give thanks



Ann (far right) and her dog Zen pause with friends in a clump of Lady Slippers at Coopers Rock State Forest, May 2016. Ann was a regular leader of the Happy Hikers, a Thursday women's hiking group.

Mary Wimmer

When I think of Ann Devine-King, the words kind, gentle and caring first come to mind. She and I had been working on the memorial projects for Jim Sconyers, our former WV Sierra Club Leader who passed away last December. She came over to discuss them one day, and when she walked in, she immediately said, "What's wrong with your neck?" (She always carried her PT expertise with her!) My neck and upper back had not taken well to days on the couch fighting a strep throat, and they were tight and painful. When we finished our business, she went to work on my body, and after half an hour, the pain was gone as she left me with exercises to do and advice on how NOT to slouch on the couch!

Ann was a fellow lover of the outdoors, which created an unbreakable bond with many of us. She was in her element on WV Sierra Club outings of various sorts, from hiking and backpacking to trail maintenance to flatwater paddling, and not at all hesitant to lead them. Her backpacking trip to New Zealand a few years ago with the Adventure WV group, and a more recent trail maintenance trip to Patagonia were "bucket-list" kinds of big adventures, after which she told me she was now happy to be exploring closer to home. She was also active with our Thursday hiking group composed of Morgantown women who, in lieu of the September 21 outing, held a memorial lunch and hike for her at Coopers Rock State Forest, one of the many places she loved.

A couple of "Ann" stories come to mind. I was camping at Red Creek Campground November 5, 2011. I had gathered firewood on the way up the mountain, cut and organized it, and had made a nice little fire, for the temperature was dropping (it turned out to be one of the coldest nights I'd ever camped). Earlier, Ann had discovered that she and friend Tracy Novak were camped next to me, and we shared some food. As the evening wore on, Ann came over and, without being condescending, invited me to share their fire. It

turns out, she had brought LARGE pieces of firewood from home, and they had a great blaze going, giving out much more warmth!

In late July this year, Ann and I visited the Greenbrier District on the Mon National Forest to scout out projects for the Jim Sconyers memorials. It was a grand day trip! District Ranger Jack Tribble was a great host and gave us some good ideas. Ann had not been to some of these spots, like Island Campground, East Fork Greenbrier Backcountry, Lake Buffalo and Middle Mountain Cabins, and she thoroughly enjoyed being introduced to some of my old favorite haunts. As we drove through Elkins on the way down, I mentioned Scottie's Restaurant, and Ann lamented on its being gone. I told her they were not gone and pointed out where they had moved, which brightened her day! We celebrated this fact by stopping there for a fine meal on our way home.

Ann joined us in her long, blue kayak on a delightful WV Sierra Club kayaking trip that Brent Carminati had organized on the Blackwater River in 2015. Last year, she bought a new, lighter and shorter, lime green Dagger Zydeco kayak from our friends at Pathfinder, and was starting to come on our Morgantown Area Paddlers (MAP) trips. Besides joining a group of us paddling from Palatine Park in Fairmont last year, she was the only one to join Chris Linton and me on a "Dawn Paddle" (read 6 a.m.) on the Mon River, from Star City last August. As it turned out, the fog was so thick that we saw NO sunrise, but the experience of paddling our flashlight-lit boats in the foggy darkness was way cool!

Ann's dedication to WV Sierra Club became a large component of her life. She had assumed the role of Outings Chair when Mike Price passed away this past spring, and she was just getting going organizing and leading outings, and training new leaders. As the 3rd WV Sierra Club leader to leave us in less than a year, her very presence, and her immensely positive, endless energy, will be greatly missed.



Happy Hikers gather at Coopers Rock on September 21 to remember and celebrate Ann's life.

A Tribute to Ann Devine-King



On a 2015 Sierra Club outing on the Blackwater River in Canaan Valley, a rainbow of kayaks reflect their colors onto the water. Ann is in the blue boat.

Adam Polinski

The last time I saw Ann Devine-King was at a trailwork outing at Coopers Rock, which is quite fitting. Ann has been the only other person besides me to organize volunteer trail work outings at Coopers Rock State Forest in many years. I appreciated knowing that she would dependably see to it three times a year that the Sierra Club-adopted segment of trail would be maintained. Last April, I was happy to be in attendance, simply as a volunteer rather than a leader for a change, on her trail work outing at Coopers Rock. On that day, she organized not only the regular drainage feature maintenance, but also a bridge repair. I met new people, renewed some acquaintances, and had a good time on a productive session with an interesting crew. All brought together by Ann.

I got to know Ann through our sharing of trail work and literally sharing the same cache of tools. We sometimes publicized each other's trail work outings and we each received volunteers as the result of the others' publicity efforts. She also had the coolest initials of anyone I know — ADK is also the abbreviation of New York State's fantastic Adirondacks.

Through conversation on a trail somewhere, we realized we were both fans of the Nevada Barr mystery series, in which heroine Anna Pigeon works for the National Park Service, where each book takes place in a different National Park. We lent her a few of our copies, including the one set in Isle Royale National Park, right before her trip there.

Anne really helped out the Coopers Rock Foundation at our Celebration of the Outdoors by running a used-gear swap as a fundraiser. It's so unusual and nice to have a group or individual help out an organization to such a degree when they are not on the Board of Directors of that organization. It's a really nice gift. As she did with outings and trail maintenance days, she rallied many people together and helped that component of our event boom. There was cool gear lying all over the place, and people milling about, checking it out and buying it, thanks to Ann.

But after the unimaginable tragedy of losing her daughter a year ago, I never expected Ann to be involved with that event mere weeks after the funeral. Somehow, though she was there. Somehow, she had the inner strength to not just be there, but to be present and to be living, not just grieving and surviving. Behind her cheerful Midwestern demeanor, I realized there was a type of oaken strength that only the hardest of times brings out. She had it that day, and it was remarkable.

I thought Ann would always be there on a trail, either leading an outing or leading a trail work crew. She was a part of the trail landscape in our world. I know she'll be thought of for a long time to come by all the people who shared those times with her. Thank you, Ann, for bringing so many people together out on the trails. Last August. As it turned out, the fog was so thick that we saw NO sunrise, but the experience of paddling our flashlight-lit boats in the foggy darkness was way cool!

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Denise Gwinn

I met Ann Devine-King of the Sierra Club around the same time that I met Ann Devine-King of Health South. I had enrolled in her Fall Prevention classes to gain more confidence when walking in the woods. Shortly afterward, I received the December 2015 newsletter from the Sierra Club advertising and "Urban Hike in Morgantown, Old and New (mostly New)" being led by Ann. Wow! Hiking on city sidewalks. I could do that. We covered 5-6 miles that included all three WVU campuses. It also included "a steep path that may become muddy/slippery." That steep path leads to the water tower behind the university president's house overlooking the Mon River, which was a view worth working a little for.



Ann loved spending time on the water and often joined the Morgantown Area Paddlers on their outings. Here she is in her green kayak on the Monongahela River near Fairmont, July 2016.

Candice Elliott

This is the third memorial tribute in the *Sierran* in less than a year. I'm getting tired of losing so many good, dedicated people who essentially defined our WV Sierra Club Chapter. But as each of them would have, I will try to stay positive and keep on living the best way I know how.

Ann was my friend. Our daughters were high school classmates and in the same Girl Scout troop. I caught up with her and her family's "doings" each year when she stopped by to buy her Sierra Club calendars from me. I was planning to call her about them this year when I got the stunning news of her tragic death. So many plans left undone; so many dreams cut short.

During the past couple of years, I had started reconnecting with Ann a little bit more. When my mother died in 2015, I was pretty depressed and found it hard to rejoin the world. At the Chapter Retreat that fall, Ann somehow intuited my mood, got me to open up and shared some comforting and insightful thoughts with me. She was so sensitive to other people's needs and always seemed to know how to lift them up and motivate them to get better.

She occasionally would invite me on an outing or two, gently badgering me until I agreed to go, and picking me up herself so there was no chance of my backing out. I'm not as much of an outdoorsy type as some, but the time Ann took to include me and make sure I was okay meant more to me than she knew. I wish we'd had more time. I'm not sure who will prod me into the outdoors now.

Memorial Gifts

For those wishing to make donations in Ann's memory, checks should be made out to either WV Chapter of Sierra Club, or, for tax deductible donations, to Sierra Club Foundation, with "WV Chapter" on the subject line. They may be mailed to: WV Sierra Club, PO Box 4142, Morgantown, WV 26504.

On-line donations can be made at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/west-virginia>.

Jim Koton

After Mike Price passed away in February, Ann volunteered to serve as Outings Leader. Why? Because she loved the outdoors and loved helping others experience it. She helped organize the Outings Leader Training in August, resumed our "Meet-Up" page, and developed a full program of outings, big and small, for members to enjoy. The Sierra Club was on the way to a great outings program, when we learned of her sudden passing.

Ann was a kind person, and she had a great capacity for finding joy. Everything is better outside. She embodied the spirit of the outdoors, and we will miss her.

I am thankful for the many years I have known her, and the numerous outings she shared. Please remember her in your thoughts as you read these reflections.

Jane Birdsong

As all of you are feeling this tragic loss of our spirited and reverent outings leader, I am at a loss for words other than to use a line from a play, "Grace & Glorie," by Tom Ziegler:

Look out there, it's the middle of fall — what do you think is goin' on out there? You civilized people have moved so far away from death that you forget — dyin' is just as much a part of life as bein' born.

I can only add that we can grieve her loss but still be cheered by memories of the joy she conveyed through her radiant being while here on earth.



On an April Sierra Club service outing, Ann led a crew of volunteers at Coopers Rock State Forest to help clean up and maintain the Club's "adopted" trail there. (Ann may have taken the picture, so she's not in it.)

Please contact the Editor for submission guidelines or advertising rates. Contributions to the newsletter may be sent to the Editor at:

celliot2@comcast.net
414 Tyrone Avery Rd
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**Deadline for
January/February issue
December 2nd**

Opinions expressed in the *Mountain State Sierran* are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Sierra Club. This newsletter is published bimonthly by the WV Chapter of the Sierra Club and distributed to all paid members.

Grant Town Power Plant Faces PSC Opposition

The owners of the Grant Town power plant in Marion County (American Bituminous Partners, aka AmBit) in May sought approval from the Public Service Commission for additional payments to cover the cost on their failing facility. In essence, ratepayers from MonPower and Potomac Edison were being asked to bail out the plant by paying rates far above current market costs for electricity.

After the Sierra Club and others intervened, an evidentiary hearing was held in September before the Public Service Commission to evaluate the proposal. After two days of testimony, summary briefs were filed in October.

AmBit argued that the Grant Town plant produced environmental benefits that justified the high cost to ratepayers, but failed to actually identify the net environmental benefits or respond to Sierra Club experts who identified serious environmental harms from the Grant Town plant.

The plant has the highest sulfur dioxide emissions rate of any electric generating plant in West Virginia. The coal ash results in leaching of heavy metals and other pollutants into streams. While the coal ash is being used to reclaim some old mine sites and gob piles, it is clear that other sites are simply being used for ash disposal without any attempt to provide environmental benefits.

So, the issue remains: Will West Virginia ratepayers be asked to again subsidize the coal industry with both our dollars and our health and environment?

A decision in the case is expected later this year.

View from the Chair

— Jim Kotcon, Chapter Chair

How Should We Respond to Trump's EPA? *Do Something!*

As this newsletter goes to press, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is proposing to repeal the Clean Power Plan, the critical rule to make the coal industry responsible for their greenhouse gas emissions.

Pruitt is not alone. U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry has proposed a massive bailout for nuclear and coal-fired power plants. Contrary to his own agency's reports, which found no real threat to the reliability of America's electric grid, Secretary Perry demands that FERC take immediate action to require ratepayers to bail out failing power plants.

Meanwhile, The Department of Interior is rolling back rules to require coal companies to pay market value for coal reserves. It is a blatant giveaway of federally owned resources to benefit President Trump's robber baron buddies.

But the most egregious of all has to be EPA's Pruitt, who has been determined to repeal every rule imposed to make coal clean up its pollution. From the "Waters of the U.S." rule to "Stream Protection" rules, our water is under attack.

The Clean Power Plan, which required states to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions from electric power plants by

30 percent, is an essential element in America's contribution to global Climate Accords.

Those efforts are likely to fail to revive the coal industry, but they will do a lot of damage.

Fortunately, Americans are already making major efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Growth in renewable energy is far exceeding expectations. Use of coal is down to its lowest level in generations. And new projections from the International Energy Agency predict that solar will account for one-third of all power worldwide in just five years.

The marketplace and word leaders have spoken, and the Trump Administration's plans to revive coal will have the perverse effect of surrendering America's global energy leadership.

In other parts of this newsletter, you can read about how West Virginia Sierrans are already making a difference by pushing for energy efficiency and supporting renewables. These local actions by local activists, replicated all over America, are the essential steps to prevent climate catastrophes.

So, please get active. You joined for a reason, and we need you. Contact a Chapter leader today to find out how you can get involved.



Sierra Club Lobby Group at the Capitol. (See blurb on page 2.)

Chapter and Monongahela Group Still Looking for a Few Good Leaders

Candice Elliott, Newsletter Editor

This is the time of year when the WV Chapter and the Mon Group seek candidates to run for expiring terms on their respective Executive Committees. These ExComs, which act as decision-making and administrative teams, allow the Sierra Club here in West Virginia to remain viable and effective at protecting the environment. The Chapter ExCom typically meets in person four times per year, at different locations around the state, and communicates via committee conference calls and emails throughout the rest of the year. The Mon Group ExCom tries to meet monthly at a central location to plan meetings and outings throughout the year.

You may have noticed with all the memorial tributes published this year, that three key leaders in our Chapter have recently passed. Now more than ever, especially in this administration, it is critical that we find new people who are energetic and enthusiastic about protecting and enjoying the special places we have in our state, as well as contributing to national conservation efforts spearheaded by the national Club.

The next Chapter ExCom meeting will be held in Buckhannon on Nov. 4. If you think you have something to offer the WV Chapter or Mon Group, please contact anyone listed in the Chapter Directory on the back of this newsletter before that date. We are stronger with your help, no matter how minor, than without it.



Help your Chapter stay strong for the hard work we do to keep West Virginia wild and wonderful.

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November/December 2017



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West Virginia Sierra Club Chapter Directory

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Monongahela Group ExCom

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