

Planting the Seeds & Helping Them Grow

50 Years of Tending the Environment in West Virginia

Honoring the Partnerships that formed the Highlands Conservancy in the first place and the ever expanding network of new citizen and environmental partners we've worked with through the past 5 decades.

Program

Friday, September 15, 2017

Noon – Registration, set-up begins

1:00pm – Afternoon Outings

3:00pm - Displays, Silent Auction, Photo-sharing, Workshops, presentations and Round Table Discussions

4:30pm - Reception Begins

✓ **Conservation Leaders,**

Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow The past meets the future as conservation leaders from all generations gather to reflect on our work, and our love and appreciation for this special place. In lieu of a sit-down dinner, we'll have a reception with plenty of fare.

5:30pm – **Welcome, from Diane Hinkle,** Tucker County Commissioner and Development Director of the Tucker Community Foundation.

5:45pm - Panel Discussions

✓ **Canaan Valley –Promised Land**

Winning the battle against the Davis Power Project allowed for the creation of Canaan Valley, our 500th National Wildlife Refuge.

✓ **Monongahela National Forest, Wild & Wonderful!**

Strong Forest Management Plans and Wilderness protection help to keep the "Mon" Wild and Wonderful. This panel, Moderated by **Dr. Mary Wimmer**, will recall citizen involvement with Forest planning and Wilderness designation. We'll look back at the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act with **Rupert Cutler**, Former Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, all the way to current issues with Mon Forest Supervisor, **Clyde Thompson**.



"Celebrating 50 Years"

Canaan Valley State Park

September 15-17, 2017

Friday, September 15, 2017 (cont.)

8:30pm - Keynote Speaker

✓ **Alan B. Mollohan,**
Former Congressman

9:00pm

✓ **Music**

✓ **Stars & Salamanders**
with Frank Slider

Join Master Naturalist, Frank Slider, for a night time hike on Cabin Mountain to observe the autumn constellations from a dark sky site with little ambient light. While up in this high elevation habitat, we will discuss the threatened Cheat Mountain salamander and how fragmentation of the red spruce forests has exacerbated their decline.

Saturday, September 16, 2017

7:00am - Bird walk with Cindy Ellis

7-8:30am - continental Breakfast

8:00am – Fieldtrips/outings

-Join the Morgantown Area Paddlers with Mary Wimmer and White Grass' Chip Chase for a canoe, or kayak on the Blackwater River in Canaan Valley.

-Join LeJay Graffious on a visit to the Allegheny Front Migratory Observatory at Dolly Sods. The oldest bird banding station in North America, now in its 60th year of operation.

11:00am - Round Table Discussions

✓ **Poet's Round Table**

1:00pm - Afternoon Outings Organize

1:30pm - Workshops,

✓ **Partner's Roundtables**

✓ **What About Those PIPELINES?!**

4:30pm - **Reception, - A Celebration of the Highlands Conservancy**

A celebratory reception honoring and recognizing our History, our Founders as well as our accomplishments.

6:00pm, Dinner

6:45pm - **Almost Heaven caught on Film**

✓ **Photo Safari with Kent Mason**

7:00pm - **Toxic Soup or a Hearty Broth?**

A panel Discussion Moderated by **Dr. Margaret Palmer**. Where Science, Litigation, Activism and Public Interest Intersect.

9:00pm - **Square Dance**

Featuring Born Old

Born Old is Paul Gartner (banjo, guitar & vocals) and Doug Van Gundy (fiddle, guitar, mandolin & vocals). Making music together for over 19 years, they perform regularly throughout West Virginia and surrounding states. They are regularly featured at both the Appalachian String Band Festival at Clifftop as well as at the Vandalia Gathering.

Visit our website to register online.
www.wvhighlands.org

Contact us at; wvhc50@gmail.com

Celebrating 50 Years!

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy was officially founded in 1967 but the people and groups that came together to form the organization actually began to meet in 1965 while the first issue of The Highlands Voice appeared in 1969. For many years the Highlands Conservancy was THE environmental organization in the state and tackled issues as diverse in topics as in geography. Protecting rivers, Canaan Valley, Otter Creek, Dolly Sods, the Monongahela National Forest, wilderness and other public lands, and opposing illegal coal mining, unwise highway development, and misguided laws and regulations all have deep roots that permeate our history. We will be highlighting some of these issues, the places, and the people involved as we celebrate our past at the Canaan Valley Resort State Park, September 15-17, 2017. JOIN US!

Sunday, September 17, 2017

7:00am, Bird walk with LeJay Graffious

7-8:30am, Continental Breakfast

8:00am, Field Trips/outings

-We'll join Central Appalachian Spruce Restoration Initiative (CASRI) members to plant red spruce trees, tour a Red Spruce forest, learn about its importance and why we are working hard to restore it.

9:00am, Membership Meeting

Brief meeting where the membership will elect new Board of Directors Members.

9:30am Panel Discussion

✓ **Maintaining Sanity In An Uncertain Future**

A panel discussion about Climate Change, renewable energy, and sustainability. What does tomorrow hold?

12:00pm Box lunches, afternoon outings

-Sinks of Gandy – This easy cave follows Gandy Creek for about 1.5 miles under Yokum Knob. Hard hat and 3 sources of light required.

-Roaring Plains hike on the South Prong Trail with **Perry Bryant**. A beautiful trail through "blueberry patches, small bogs, hardwoods, spruce, mountain laurel, and good views"

Lodging

Canaan Valley State Park 800-622-4121

-WVHC 50th special rate of \$119/night.

-Cabin Rentals available to sleep 4-12.

-Campground, with complete hookups and amenities.

For a complete listing of accommodations

Tucker County

Convention & Visitors Bureau

canaanvalley.org

Program Highlights

Silent Auction –bring an item!

Displays/Posters - Share what you're working on!

Round Table Discussions - structured and impromptu discussions around various topics.

Field Trips

We're still organizing outings and field trips for the weekend. If you have a special place or experience you would like to share with the group, please contact us and we'll get it scheduled. Some of the other things we are working on include;

-**Scenic Chairlift Rides**, \$7 adults

-**Highlands Car Tour**, We'll have a self-guided car tour highlighting regional attractions and scenic destinations.

-**Abe's Run Swamp** hike

-**Canaan Valley & Davis Power Project**

-**Otter Creek** - Hike

-**Blackwater Canyon Trail** - Bike –

Contact us for scholarship, volunteer, and low-cost lodging opportunities.

wvhc50@gmail.com

Visit our website for complete details or to register online.

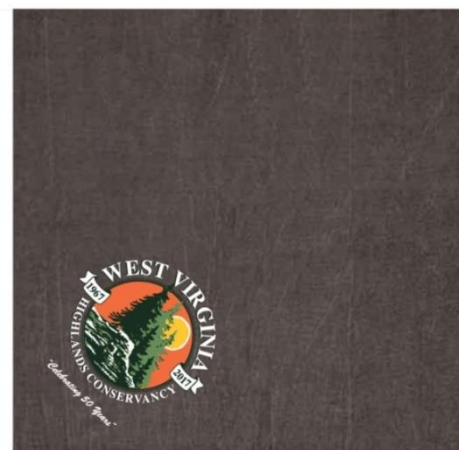
www.wvhighlands.org.

Celebrating 50 Years T-Shirts!



Heavy weight Black t-shirts w/color "Celebrating 50 Years" logo

S, M, L, XL & XXL. \$20 each, postage included



21" square black bandana w/ color "Celebrating 50 Years" logo. \$5.00 postage included.

T-shirts and bandanas will be available at special Celebration prices at the Celebration in Canaan Valley!