

Coal River Mountain Watch Messenger

www.crmw.net

Volume 4, Issue 1

There's some mighty winds blowing for Coal River Mountain

An update on the Coal River Wind campaign

By Rory McIlmoil and Gary Anderson

Rory McIlmoil, co-coordinator for the campaign, describes the newest developments. Gary Anderson, who lives at the base of Coal River Mountain, offers a community member's perspective.

While Coal River Mountain and the potential for clean wind energy and good, lasting jobs are still being threatened, we've come a long way since we began the Coal River Wind campaign a year ago. The mountain now has a chance to be saved. On behalf of our members, and of the many residents who love and live on and around Coal River Mountain, we'd like to thank everyone who has helped and supported the campaign



Rory and Gary get out the message at the Feb. 3 rally and protest

To provide an overview of the campaign, Raleigh County residents, led by Coal River Mountain Watch and with the support of community and environmental organizations, proposed a utility-scale wind farm and

sustainable development on Coal River Mountain and in the surrounding communities. This proposal offers a viable alternative to the four mountaintop removal permits proposed by a subsidiary of Massey Energy, Marfork Coal Company. The mountaintop removal mining would only provide jobs and energy for, at most, 17 years, and would permanently destroy

over 6,400 acres of the mountain and fill over nine miles of streams with the mining waste.

A wind farm on the other hand would neither affect current deep-mining operations nor contaminate local drinking water and air, while bringing 50 times more tax revenue to Raleigh County than the proposed mining and creating stable, long-lasting jobs that don't depend on the boom and bust cycles of coal. Unlike the mining, it would also

(Continued on p. 2)

EPA takes first steps against MTR

By Julia Sendor

Just one week after coalfield residents met with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the agency took a significant first step toward ending mountaintop removal mining when it announced March 24 that it would carefully review new permits. The residents had asked the EPA to take a long, hard look at the impacts of mountaintop removal – which is what the EPA declared it plans to do.

Although contradictory press releases initially confused many readers, the bottom line remains that mountaintop removal will finally get

(Continued on p. 3)

Inside this issue...

Coal River Wind.....	1
EPA takes first steps.....	1
Wake up, Washington!.....	3
Sludge Safety Updates.....	4
The News from Prenter.....	5
The Power of PowerShift.....	6
Defending Coal River Mountain.....	6
The Coal Industry's New Classroom Propaganda.....	7
Bird's-Eye News.....	8
Ansted Fights for Gauley Mountain.....	10
On hold till further notice: four permits.....	10
Dear Obama.....	11
Power Past Coal.....	11
Remembering the Past, Working for the Future.....	12
How Can I Get Involved?.....	14
Highly Quotable.....	14
Mark Your Calendars.....	15
Thank You!.....	16



MISSION
The mission of Coal River Mountain Watch is to stop the destruction of our communities and environment by mountaintop removal mining, to improve the quality of life in our area and to help rebuild sustainable communities.

Happy Spring!

We hope this newsletter finds you well and full of the hopefulness of springtime. Here at Coal River Mountain Watch, we've definitely caught a bit of spring fever. Between the recent excitement over the federal government's response to mountaintop removal, to Lobby Week in DC, to the PowerShift climate action conference (plus day-to-day organizing in the Coal River Valley), it's been a busy start to the year.

With our newsletter we hope to update you as always – but with a new set of voices this time. We want to focus more and more on using our quarterly newsletter as a way for community members to raise their voices and share their stories and what's on their minds. You'll also notice that many of the articles include mini-bios at the end. We hope those of you in the valley can get a better sense of all your fellow activists and supporters up and down the river, and we hope those of you from farther away can learn more about the amazing people who live here. No matter where we live, our convictions and stories, like the ones we tell in this newsletter, can connect us and unite us as one larger community.

You are all invited to send us pieces for the next newsletter – we welcome letters, reflections, articles, poetry, artwork, recipes, photographs, and more. Please mail or email submissions for the next newsletter by June 1. Also, you have the choice of receiving the newsletter by email or regular mail, so let us know if you want to switch your form of delivery.

Remember to stay in touch! You can find frequent updates on our website (www.crmw.net), and you can send us your email address to receive more regular updates and action alerts.

Happy Spring, and hope to hear from you soon!

Your friends at Coal River Mountain Watch

Mighty winds are blowing (Continued from p. 1)

allow for simultaneous uses of the mountain, and, most importantly, would facilitate the transition away from a resource that is running out in Raleigh County and all across southern West Virginia—coal.

Coal production in Raleigh County has been steadily declining since the late '90s, and the seams being mined are increasingly thinner. Data for Raleigh County suggest that there may be only 15 to 20 years of coal left. This suggests that the county and the local communities would be better served by preserving the existing wind resource and developing a wind farm, to secure the vast economic benefits that the wind could bring for the county.

On January 6 of this year, we presented these arguments to the agency in charge of developing strong economic opportunities for their constituents – the Raleigh County Commission. The Commission responded by saying that we were asking them to “pit one industry against another,” and refused to support the proposed wind farm. Their reaction meant that any non-coal industry proposed for the coal-producing part of Raleigh County would be seen by the Commission as opposing coal. If that perception is true, then there is no hope

for diversifying the local economy around Coal River Mountain.

Two days after the Commission hearing, we learned that Marfork Coal had begun preparing the first site for blasting on Coal River Mountain. However, since mid-February, Marfork has now pulled all of their machinery off the proposed mining site. This couldn't have come at a better time for the campaign, because unfortunately, neither Governor Joe Manchin nor the Raleigh County Commission have stepped up to support the wind farm over mountaintop removal for Coal River Mountain.

Things looked bleaker on February 13th when the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a lower court's decision against the construction of sediment ponds in streams. That decision had halted any new permits for valley fills, such as those for Coal River Mountain, and prevented Massey Energy from moving ahead full-tilt. However, since Massey Energy appears to have placed a hold on their pre-mining activities, we've taken advantage of that lull and are lobbying the state legislature for a Resolution Supporting the Development of a Wind Farm on Coal River Mountain. The resolution may give a big boost to the campaign

The resolution was introduced on March 30th with a Raleigh County legis-

lator as the original sponsor, and with four out of the five Raleigh legislators signed onto the resolution! We're hoping to get the resolution passed in the House of Delegates in order to show that there is state-wide support for our campaign, and to put greater pressure on Governor Manchin to do the right thing and rescind Massey's mining permits. Passing the resolution will require 51 Delegates to sign on, but at the time of its introduction the resolution already had a total of 41 co-sponsors, so all we need is nine more for it to pass!

This show of support from our leaders and representatives for economic diversification, clean energy, green jobs and economic stability for Raleigh County could not have come at a better time, as the Obama Administration seems poised to more heavily regulate the practice of mountaintop removal. Bills are also being introduced on state and national levels to address the extraction and use from MTR coal, and the nation is moving forward to create clean energy and local jobs. So, things are looking good for the Coal River Mountain Wind campaign, and for the residents of the Coal River Valley.

Coal River Mountain may survive another year, and we're excited for what that year will bring.

From Gary Anderson:

The planned destruction of Coal River Mountain by mountaintop removal will not only destroy the beauty of the mountain, but will endanger the local communities through the contamination of our water supplies, and the risk of flooding.

There is an alternative to the destruction of Coal River Mountain and it is wind power, a wind farm would preserve the beauty of the mountain and protect the people who live downstream from the mountain, and would create jobs that would be here forever.

The destruction of our mountains must stop. Mine the coal responsibly.

When Gary Anderson moved back to his native West Virginia from Connecticut, he hoped everything would be as beautiful as he knew it growing up. Instead, he found that mountaintop removed had drastically changed the home he'd loved. Born in Blue Penant, he has lived in Colcord, right at the foot of Coal River mountain, for 9 years. He hopes that soon he will look up to see a wind farm instead of the planned destruction. Gary is active in the church, especially in his service with community workgroups.

Wake Up, Washington!

Coalfield residents gain new supporters in fight against mountaintop removal

By Julia Sendor

The voices of Appalachia echoed up and down the halls of Capitol Hill, as over 150 coalfield residents and supporters gathered in Washington, D.C. March 16-18 to demand that Congress and the Obama administration end mountaintop removal. In this fourth annual End Mountaintop Removal Week in Washington, citizens lobbied once more for the Clean Water Protection Act.

The bill, House Resolution 1310, would outlaw valley fills and rein in mountaintop removal mining. It would restore the original intention of the Clean Water Act, which prohibited dumping mining waste in streams until the Bush administration doctored the rules in 2002.

We found that the national push to end mountaintop removal has picked up momentum like never before. We ended the legislative session last year with 153 sponsors, and by the only beginning of the Week in Washington, we already had 123. After three short days of lobbying, our efforts convinced 10 more to sign back on.

A week later, on March 25, Senators Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN) introduced a the same bill in the Senate: the Appalachian Restoration Act, Senate Bill 696.

"There's a different feel in D.C.," said Lorelei Scarbro, CRMW staffer and Lobby Week co-organizer.

Meeting the new administration

As one sign of this different tone, three important government groups sat down to listen to coalfield residents. Community lobbyists met with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Office of Surface Mining (OSM).

Residents asked the CEQ to freeze the newly-released backlog of 100 valley fill permits (specifically naming Coal River Mountain), until the government could seriously examine the environmental effects. Residents from four coalfield states made the same request to EPA, who then called for a second meeting, to learn more about environmental injustices in the coalfields. Our community members gave them an earful, describing everything from the dev-

astating floods to the poisoned water, bared land, blasting, dust, and the cemeteries destroyed by mining.

Joe Stanley from Wayne County led a team of West Virginia residents to the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to ask the OSM to take over the surface mining program from the West Virginia DEP. The West Virginia residents pointed out the



Our West Virginia friends strategizing for their next lobby meeting: Bill Price (Sierra Club Environmental Justice Coordinator), CRMW member and OVEC board member Chuck Nelson, and Sludge Safety Project activist Joe Stanley.

DEP's serious failings, including the 100 vacancies and their failure to collect roughly \$2.4 billion of fines from violations by Massey Energy.

West Virginia: Still a battle

With our own Congresspeople, the West Virginia lobby team found the much of the same resistance, yet some hope. Armed with a video of mine blasts and photos of black and rust-colored poisoned well-water, West Virginia residents pushed for a new, sustainable economy. One of the most surprising meetings was with Nick Rahall's aide, who declared that the federal government needs to enforce mining laws more strictly in West Virginia – and promised that Rahall would not fight the Clean Water Protection Act.

Even in the offices of Senators Byrd and Rockefeller and Rep. Mollohan, Lorelei Scarbro described a less confrontational, even concerned tone. She counts their new lack of aggression as a victory:

"When you've got powerhouses like the ranking Democrat on the Hill or the head of the Natural Resources Committee saying they won't oppose you, that's

big progress for our people. The Congressmen are so beholden to coal so they're not going to do anything that looks like they're opposing the coal industry, because they'd lose all that money."

What's next?

As Joe Stanley says, "We'll stay right with them – they'll get tired of looking at us." Please write or especially call your Congresspeople, whether to thank them or ask them to get on board. Visit www.ilovemountains.org for updates.

Also consider joining us in D.C. for "mini-Lobby Week": April 28-30, May 18-20, June 16-18, and July 27-29 – if we don't get the bills passed before then. Contact Lorelei Scarbro (304-854-2182) for more information.

Julia Sendor is an intern with Coal River Mountain Watch. She believes that the parts of

the valley that aren't destroyed yet are the most beautiful places she has ever been.

EPA's first steps

(Continued from p. 1)

some of the federal oversight it deserves. The announcement also calms (but not ends) some of our fears, after a 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling threatened to open the floodgates for over 100 new valley fill permits. Now, EPA Secretary Lisa Jackson has instructed her agency to carefully review all of these permits that the Army Corps of Engineers is waiting to issue.

The EPA has already objected to three proposed valley fill permits – one in Boone County, WV, one in Logan County, WV, and one in Kentucky.

As we keep testing the waters in Washington, this announcement gives us some reason to celebrate – but, more than anything, fuel and ammunition to press on, harder than ever.

Judy Bonds points us forward: "We can't spike the ball till we get over the goal line. It's a beginning, not an end."

NO MORE SLUDGE!

Sludge Safety Project Fights for Clean Water



Lawmakers get fired up about slurry; hold DEP accountable
By Mathew Louis-Rosenberg

After years of pressure from citizen organizing, West Virginia lawmakers are finally getting the message. In a hearing before the Water Resources Commission of the Legislature on February 10, lawmakers including Senator Unger of Berkeley County and Delegate Perdue of Wayne County, slammed the WV Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for dragging their feet on completing a study on the impact of coal sludge on water and health in coalfield communities.

The study was legally mandated by the Legislature in 2006 in response to pressure from the Sludge Safety Project and coalfield residents. The DEP and the Department of Health and Human Resources were directed to study what was in coal slurry, how injections and impoundments have impacted groundwater, and how that water has impact the health of folks in the coalfields. They were directed to finish the study by December 31, 2007.

After missing three deadlines in a row, state legislators finally had enough. They blasted DEP Secretary Randy Huffman for "not showing respect to legislative branch" and for the DEP's lack of urgency in addressing issues of drinking water contamination. In addition to grilling the DEP about the study, lawmakers insisted that the DEP address the water contamination issues in Prenter, ASAP. Despite repeated requests by citizens, the DEP refused to add Prenter to the slurry study.

The DEP's refusal to meet many citizen demands, including the full participation of independent scientists in the study has prompted citizens to partner with Dr. Michael Hendryx of West Virginia University, and Dr. Ben Stout of Wheeling Jesuit University, to conduct independent research into impact of slurry on the water and health of West Virginians. Folks interested in helping out and participating in the studies or who have concerns about the water in their community should contact the Sludge Safety Project.

Mat works with CRMW on the Sludge Safety Project.

Citizen lobbyists win bill to ban slurry injections

By Chuck Nelson

With help of organizations, impacted citizens, and others, we make up the Sludge Safety Project. We lobby on the state level for clean drinking water for all West Virginians. We work with legislators, and get resolutions and bills introduced in the senate and house. We educate lawmakers, tell our stories, show evidence, and present them with information, on issues that fight for clean drinking water, and protection against industrial waste.

Many legislators are concerned and passionate about water issues, but some are not as passionate, and I believe we all know why that is. This year we are trying to pass Senate Bill 568, to ban all permits for sludge injections, which are highly suspected of contaminating people's well water, responsible for making a lot of people very sick. We want this ban until DEP can prove that injections are safe.

Senator Randy White is a force behind our bill, which he introduced March 12. He stood in the Senate chambers, with a jar of black water and said, "How can we in good conscience and morality, ask our fellow citizens to drink this water? I can't. But you today can vote for a moratorium to end sludge injections."

He looked at his fellow senators and said, "Here's to me, here's to the people in Prenter, in Rawl and all the West Virginians who deserve clean water. I salute them and I ask you to raise your glass in what they drink that we drink today." And with this said, Senator

White takes the lid off the jar, and takes a big drink.



We have some very good delegates, but they can never help communities, unless people, like those on the Sludge Safety Project, don't educate legislators, and make them aware of what's going on in our communities. We can make a difference, and we can get laws passed that provide everyone with safe, clean drinking, and protect us all against environmental injustices.

Our main goal is getting this bill passed, but we also want to build relationships with all our delegates, for we will be calling on them next year to continue protecting, and making West Virginia a better place to live, for all of us.

Chuck Nelson grew up in Sylvester, WV. He worked in the mines for 30 years, at several mines, mostly union. He has two kids and two grandkids. His favorite thing to do is hunt in his favorite place in Sylvester. He now lives in Glen Daniel, WV.

The Citizens' Report on Sludge Safety

The DEP claims their study will be out in May, but we already have a preliminary report based on the DEP's own samples, which they shared with Wheeling Jesuit University.

WE FOUND: Concentrations of six metals - antimony, arsenic, lead, barium, cadmium and chromium - exceeded federal standards for primary drinking water.

Visit www.sludgesafety.org for the full report.

Tell Senator Green:

Listen to our slurry report!

By Joe Stanley

Instead of simply waiting on the DEP's report, the Sludge Safety Project (SSP) called a press conference at the capitol to release a citizens' report of an independent study on water and slurry samples from six sites in West Virginia.

SSP members testified to the health impacts of slurry-poisoned water, and I addressed the alternative methods in which coal could be processed, and the fact that there is no need to have impoundments.

(Continued p. 5)

The News from Prenter:

Community members team up with CRMW to deliver clean water

By *Patty Sebok*

From the delivering water barrels to winning a grant for city water, to entering litigation and mediation with Massey Energy, it's been a busy few months in Prenter with a lot of big victories to celebrate.

We have been seeking emergency water since the fall of 2007, when the community really started to put things together – such as how many of their neighbors had the same illness as their own families. Prenter suffers from everything from brain tumors, various cancers, gallbladder surgeries and kidney diseases, and more. The common denominator for a root cause is water. Many residents and scientists believe the culprit is water poisoned by coal slurry which companies pumped into former underground mines.

While the state agencies still want to debate where the problems are coming from, no one wanted to help us fund the emergency water. So this past summer 2008, volunteers and community members came up with a plan to purchase 55-gallon, food-grade barrels for storing clean water and start our own emergency water delivery program. Starting with a grant for \$10,000 from the Vivian and Paul Olum Foundation, we launched a campaign to raise money for the water delivery. We needed to be a nonprofit to receive grant money, and since I am an affected community member and also an employee of Coal River Mountain Watch, I thought it would be great to be covered under this organization. We set up a separate bank account to receive donations and keep the donated money for water totally separate from CRMW's main funds.

We hired a local man Curtis Adkins to deliver water about every two weeks to people's barrels. The first barrels arrived at the end of November 2008, and we

filled up the first one with clean water right before Christmas. We really wanted everyone to have clean water to cook their holiday dinners. Since Christmas, Prenter residents have received a steady supply of clean water.

We're glad to have the drinking water, though we still have to bathe in our well-water. As community member Ronnie Jenkins explained, it's one step forward, even though not a full victory: "It's not the best situation but it's the best thing that's happened to us yet," he said. "We don't have to buy as much Tyler Mountain water as we did before and the barrel water has a good taste to it."

Community wins water line

After months of community organizing, petitions, and legwork, the Governor finally announced that the first phase of the city water line in Prenter has been funded. On January 14, Jennifer Massey, who along with Ronnie Jenkins and other community members has worked tirelessly to get city water for our community, went to Charleston to receive the letter awarding a \$1.5 million Small Cities Block Grant to the Prenter water line.

This grant, along with monies committed by WV American Water and the Boone Co. Commission, will fund water delivery for between 60% and 75% of the homes in Prenter. We've been promised the water line project will begin in April as soon as weather is permitting. The Public Service District has said they expect the project to be completed by October 2009. This is a big victory but just a first step in getting permanent safe drinking water to everyone in the community.

Suing for clean emergency water

To get the clean water, compensation, and medical monitoring they deserve, roughly 250 residents from Prenter and Seth are now suing eight coal companies that injected mine waste into old un-

derground mines. On December 22, 2008 the Sutter Law Firm filed a request for emergency water and asked for immediate injunctive relief. Boone County Judge Will Thompson ordered that the parties involved meet with a mediator. We had a community meeting and elected a mediation team. Everyone on our mediation team either worked in the mines or whose family work in the mines. We have one retired miner who worked in the mines at Prenter for 32 years. At press time the mediation team is trying to negotiate a deal with area coal companies to fund the Prenter Water Fund until the Public Service District water line is completed.

Patty Sebok was born into a coal mining family and is the proud wife of an underground coal miner. Patty was a stay-at-home mom until sharing the roads with coal trucks got so dangerous that she became an activist and helped pass a better safety bill for coal trucks. During this time, she met and joined forces with Judy Bonds and CRMW. After learning about how mountaintop removal was destroying the land and the people of her homeland, Patty began working at CRMW.



Listen to our slurry report!
(Continued from p. 4)

I outlined the fact that I was a filter press operator at the Marrowbone Development Complex in Mingo County from 1982 until 1986. We operated 3 underground mines and 3 surface mines without an impoundment or slurry injection. We used a system call filter presses, which were imported from England.

This system dewatered the slurry and returned the clean water to the plant to process more coal. The dry filter cake that remained was transported by conveyor to the refuse area. No impoundment or underground injection was needed.

Even though we have this alternative, we are struggling even to get our senate bill on the agenda for the Energy, Industry, and Mining Committee. It must pass through this committee before coming up for a vote on the floor, but committee chair Mike Green (D-Raleigh) still says he will not advance the bill out of committee. He gave us the excuse he must wait for the DEP to report on SCR-15.

Joe Stanley is a retired coal miner who is very familiar with the coal industry and just thinks there's a much better way to mine and process coal. He has three grown children and one grandchild. He lives in Wayne County.

The Power of PowerShift

By Colten Harris



Young and old alike, 12,000 people hungry for change converged in Washington, D.C. for the second PowerShift conference on climate action and green jobs, from February 27 to March 2. Coal River Mountain Watch and the Alliance for Appalachia came out in full force. Hundreds of people flocked to our table and to our panels and workshops to learn about mountaintop removal.

The final day of the conference, citizens filled the halls of Capitol Hill to demand strong climate legislation and green-job creation. That same afternoon, over 2,500 activists, including Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., poet Wendell Berry, country singer Kathy Mattea, marched to surround the Capitol Power Plant, a coal-fired plant which powers the capitol complex. This mass act of civil disobedience blocked all five entrances to the power plant for over four hours.

CRMW members Larry Gibson, Lorelei Scarbro, Bo Webb, and Chuck Nelson march through the streets of DC, backed by a giant photo of Kayford Mountain.

In my opinion, Powershift was a very powerful experience. I witnessed a lot of great speakers who told about their struggle to make the world a better place, and to help the newer generation have a bright future to the best of their ability.

I learned a lot of interesting things that I didn't know prior to this trip. I have now

come to realize that all over the world there are many different problems that are occurring that need to be dealt with. We need to find a different power supply so my generation will be able to have a future. I want my children to have a great future and without other people's help they will not have that.

Being a part of the march was amaz-

ing. Seeing thousands of people march for what they believe in is very important to me. I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to be a part of something so great.

Colten Harris is a high-school senior from Peachtree in Naoma, WV.

Defending Coal River Mountain: 14 arrested, dozens rally

Five activists were arrested for trespassing at the mountaintop removal site on the morning of February 3. By afternoon, dozens of local residents, friends and supporters from throughout Appalachia converged at the mine's gate. Eight more citizens were arrested in the afternoon action.

The protesters at the gate delivered a letter to mine company officials, demanding that Massey cease the mountaintop removal operation on Coal River Mountain – and stop endangering the communities below. Massey plans to blast near Brushy Fork impoundment, a 9-billion-gallon sludge waste dam sitting above a maze of underground mines. A copy of the letter is posted at http://climategroundzero.com/gate_letter.pdf. Matt Noerpel and Larry Gibson share their stories:



Protesters plant their feet in the snow and a windmill by the mining equipment, on the mine site near Pettus.

From the mountaintop, by Matt Noerpel

Early on a snowy morning on February 3, myself and five others went to the head of Beetree Branch of Coal River Mountain, laid out a big banner that said "Save Coal River Mountain" and chained ourselves to the mining equipment. After a few hours up there, the police came and cut us down and took us in and charged us with trespassing.

Why did we resort to these measures? Over the past 4 years, CRMW has been fighting to stop Massey from strip mining Coal River Mountain, the last mostly-intact mountain left in the valley. We have had meetings, DEP hearings, lawsuits before the surface mine board and rallies at the capitol. Our elected officials and the DEP failed to take action to protect the people and stop the mining, so we did.

We have a better plan. We can put windmills up on Coal River Mountain and provide jobs and electricity forever without destroying the mountain. On February I was trying to bring attention to the destruction of Coal River Mountain. By doing this 13 others and I were arrested.

From the front gate, by Larry Gibson

It's been a long 20-some years that I've trying to bring attention to this issue of Mountaintop removal, but this last arrest was perhaps more important than ever. It is not only about the destruction of Coal River Mountain, but also about the danger of the safety of hundreds of people who live below the dam called Brushy Fork dam. Coal River Mountain is one of the closest mountains to the dam. Blasting Coal River Mountain can and may very well cause the dam to fail. You do not have to be a rocket scientist to know what would happen if the dam would fail.

So if getting arrested is the best I can do to stop the blasting, I am happy to go to jail or pay a fine; after all, it's not about me, it's about the people who live below the mountain and the dam.

In order for justice to come to all people, we're all going to have to stand up as one. I'm also calling for the rebirth of resistance across the land, because contented people will never change a damn thing. It's not about our future, it's about the future of the ones who come behind us.

CEDAR: The coal industry's new classroom propaganda

By Janice Nease

Coal River Mountain Watch is fighting the coal industry's new, dangerous, insidious propaganda weapon. This weapon is a group called CEDAR, which stands for Coal Education Development and Resources. The program's stated mission is to "facilitate the increase of knowledge and understanding of the many benefits the Coal Industry provides in our daily lives by providing financial resources and coal education materials to implement its study in the school curriculum."

CEDAR's target group is grades K-12 in Mingo, Logan, Boone, and McDowell, and it plans to soon add southern West Virginia counties. The organization claims to be an all-volunteer, not-for-profit corporation which was formed through the joint efforts of the Eastern Kentucky CEDAR Program, the Pocahontas Coal Association, and the WV Coal Association.

How does CEDAR convince teachers to use its program? They offer grant money and education materials to the teachers for creating study units and projects, and hand out cash incentives for participation and performance in each grade.

This is indoctrination, pure and simple, and has no legal or moral right to be included in the curriculum of our schools. The curriculum for West Virginia schools is created and mandated by the State Department of Education. No organization, corporation, industry or outside interest can just arbitrarily create or implement any part of this curriculum. Students cannot be used as a captive audience for the benefit of corporations or industries.

Rest assured, under the CEDAR program students will hear nothing about the coal wars and the creation of the unions, child labor, black lung and accidents and death in the coal mines. Nor will they hear about the current issues, which will have serious ramifications for their future. Will they discuss how 125 people died Buffalo Creek disaster when the sludge dam failed?

Will CEDAR explain to them the connection between mountaintop removal mining and the yearly devastating flood-

CEDAR's Handiwork:

One of the "successes" of the CEDAR program, from the Interest Stories section of the website (www.cedarinc.org)

"An elementary student entered a coal fair project in the Math category that became a family project to determine the financial impact to their family, local area and region that leasing property to a local coal company would provide. This family was heirs in property that the coal company needed to lease in order to continue their mining operation in that particular area. Other family members were opposed to leasing, but after this student and her family completed her coal fair project they were convinced themselves and were subsequently able to convince the other family members that leasing their property to the coal company for the purpose of mining would be in everyone's best interest."

ing in West Virginia? Or why we have floods and rock slides on a clear, sunny day?

They certainly cannot be expected to learn how their health and their quality of life are endangered daily by mountaintop removal, or how over 1200 miles of steams have been destroyed and nearly 400,000 acres of mountaintops decapitated. Will CEDAR try to tell them that by eliminating 100,000 mining jobs, mountaintop removal has benefited West Virginia?

This is an appalling and dangerous situation. Children attend school to be educated, not indoctrinated. Indoctrination was the weapon used by Hitler to use children "soldiers" to facilitate the holocaust.

Our request: stop the propaganda!

Coal River Mountain Watch members are working to end the program. Recently, staff member Lorelei Scarbro met with the Raleigh County superintendent to explain our deep concerns about the program. The superintendent agreed not to include the program this year. Her reason was the fact that the students had already missed too many snow days to include anything else in school day.

We are now on the schedule for the State Board of Education meeting in April, where we will ask the schools to stop the collaboration with the coal industry. If they keep the CEDAR program, we will ask for the chance to present the other side of the issue – the devastation of mountaintop removal. Parents and teachers who believe in the value of true education must not allow this indoctrination to be used in their classroom or their school.

If you want to get involved in ending the CEDAR program, contact Lorelei Scarbro at (304) 854-2182.

Janice Nease, one of our original founders, is a retired French and Spanish teacher. Through her job, she has crossed the globe, exploring French and Spanish-speaking countries. She is a world champion ballroom dancer – "the country side of ballroom dance."

DONATIONS NEEDED

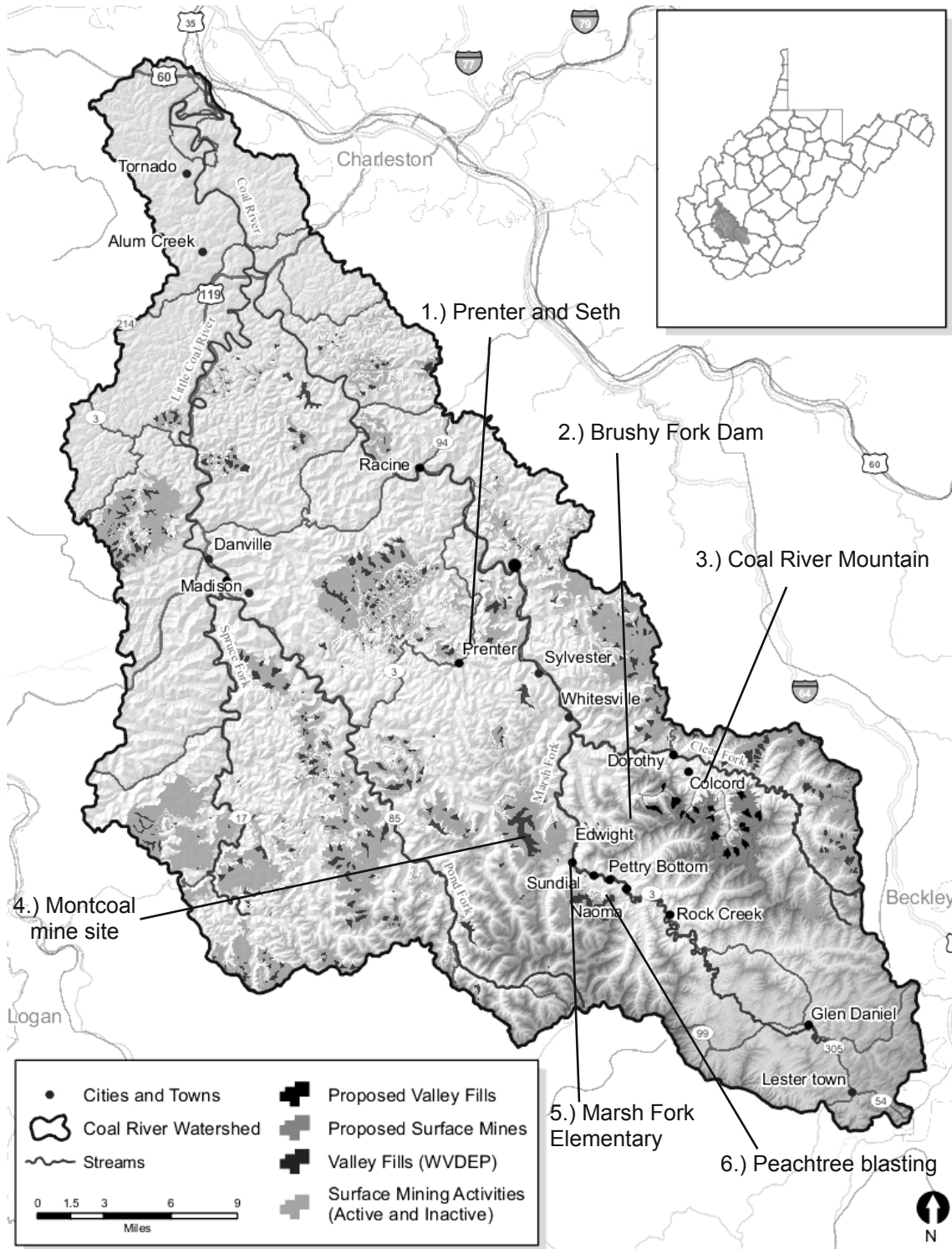
Coal River Mountain Watch continues to do a huge amount of work, but we rely on both individual donations and grants to fund this work. The recent economic disasters have had a significant effect on our funding. Some grants have been greatly reduced, new grants are less likely as foundations are reserving their funds for existing grantees, and donations have dropped as people are laid off or holding on. Please, if you are able, help fund our work with a tax-deductible donation. Every donation is greatly appreciated and put to good



This is the kind of future we want our kids to learn about: clean, green, permanent jobs.

Bird's-Eye News

A View of the Latest from the Coal River Valley Watershed



What's Happening Where?

1. Prenter and Seth

Community members won grant for city water, joined forces with CRMW to deliver emergency clean water until water line built. Residents sued 8 coal companies for poisoning drinking water from slurry injection. Currently in mediation. See story p. 5.

2. Brushy Fork Dam and Marfork Preparation Plant

Prep plant feeds dam permitted for 9 billion gallons (largest in the country). The dam sits above a maze of underground mines, and Massey plans to blast within 200 ft.

- CRMW rallied community members to March 6 hearing to oppose renewing the prep plant's permit, but the DEP approved the permit.

- Permit numbers: Brushy Fork O301095, Marfork plant O302493

3. Coal River Mountain

Two different futures: four mountaintop removal mines (Bee Tree, Eagle 2, Eagle 3, and Collins Fork) or a wind farm?

- Surface mine permits approved for Bee Tree, Eagle 2, and Collins Fork

- No valley fill permits: We worried that the recent 4th Circuit Court decision would open the gates to let these and roughly 100 others pass through. But the EPA's new strict reviews of valley fills gives us hope.

- Bee Tree permit: Massey won permit revision that would speed up mining. We lost our Feb. 10 appeal to the Surface Mine Board, but are appealing again – we're still fighting, and they're not mining yet!

- Coal River Wind Resolution: see story p. 1

- Permit numbers: Bee Tree S301004, Eagle 2 S302805, Collins Fork S300208

4. Montcoal mine: Upper Big Branch #1, Independence Energy

- Last violation Dec. 22 for overflow sediment ditch – 31 violations since 2002, 7 in 2008 alone

- Permit number: S301999

5. Marsh Fork Elementary

Sits by a coal silo and in the shadow of 2.8-billion-gallon Shumate sludge dam.

- CRMW sued against building a second silo, case currently in WV Supreme Court

- Permit number: O001885

6. Peachtree mine sites: Edwight mine (Alex Energy) and Shumate Powellton (Independence)

- Edwight mine cited for violation for sediment ditch overflow on Feb. 10, 8 days after DEP renewed the permit.

- Blasting gets worse, mining moves up and over ridge and shakes residents near Peachtree and Pettry Bottom. Bo Webb recorded the blasts near his house:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3w6vzITK_AE and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbbi-eV-DHY>.

- CRMW starting lawsuit against Massey for blasting damages – call 304-854-2182 for more info.

- Permit numbers: Edwight mine S301299, Powellton Shumate S301100

Stay informed about the mining sites by using the WV DEP website (www.wvdep.org). Under the tab E-DEP, you can search for permits and pending applications. Enter either the subsidiary name, the permit number, or both. Don't worry about the county information.

More about the map: update from Aurora Lights

Many, many thanks to Fritz Boettner from Downstream Strategies for tailoring this map especially for our newsletter. The map comes from an amazing website and CD that the nonprofit Aurora Lights will put out this summer – you can think of the Bird's-Eye News as a sneak preview.

The Aurora Lights Multimedia Website Project is an interactive educational tool that combines audio, video, photography and the written word to tell the story of Coal River and to inform the general public of the issues surrounding mountaintop removal coal mining and its alternatives. The website uses an interactive map of Coal River and incorporates interviews from its residents to provide information on specific issues related to mountaintop removal. The map contains areas of certain interest linked in order to provide a more detailed examination on multimedia education pages. Information on the project is layered in six themes, ranging from the history of Coal River, to slurry impoundments, to the Coal River Wind Project.

The Multimedia Website Project will be released in June in conjuncture with the release of Aurora Lights' second benefit CD, "Still Moving Mountains," a follow-up to the successful "Moving Mountains: Voices of Appalachia Rise Up Against Mountaintop Removal." As with the first CD, the benefits will be donated back to the community in the form of direct grants. Look for the multimedia map project and the new CD this summer. For more information, visit www.auroralights.org.

-- Thanks to Aurora Lights director Jen Osha and Matt Finck for this update

Ansted residents fight for Gauley Mountain Range, National Treasure

By Katheryne Hoffman

The Ansted Historic Preservation Council wishes to extend a heartfelt thanks to the members of Coal River Mountain Watch who attended our Feb. 12 hearing in support of stopping the Powellton Coal mountaintop removal operation, which is systematically destroying the Gauley River Mountain Range.

We began our battle in 2006 with an effort to keep coal trucks from running through our town from Rich Creek on Gauley Mountain. We were successful in that, thanks to the efforts of our Mayor, Romie Hobbs. Then a permit was issued to further mine Gauley Mountain and areas very close to our town. Despite our efforts, the DEP granted that permit. Now Powellton Coal has asked to renew an older permit, which would further devastate the Gauley Mountain area.

Flooding will threaten our town and the town of Jodie should these operations continue, not to mention that the mining poisons our air and water and destroys our economic engine which is presently tourism, not coal. The DEP held a public hearing on the renewal of the old Powellton permit. Over 100 people turned out – every single one of them opposed to the renewal. We are now waiting to hear the outcome of the renewal. Of course, if the DEP grants the permit, we will appeal. Our group has also teamed with the National Sierra Club in a lawsuit against Powellton for violations of the Clean Water Act.

It was very rewarding to see represent-

atives from the Plateau Action Network (PAN), OVEC, Coal River Mountain Watch, a mayor, a member of the County Commission, and many residents of the area from Lewisburg to Gauley Bridge offering their support to our efforts to protect this beautiful wilderness from the devastation of MTR.



Ansted already found an alternative to the boom-bust cycle of coal with a form of green economy: tourism from the famous New River Gorge. Don't let mountaintop removal take that away!

What we need is sustained outrage. I believe I saw that at the hearing. As writer Joseph Newman told the Atlantic Monthly in 1922. "What is the great American sin? ...Trace most of our ills to their source, and it is found that they exist by virtue of an easygoing, fatalistic insouciance which dislikes to have its comfort disturbed...The most shameless greed, the most sickening industrial atrocities, the most appalling public scandals are exposed, but a half-cynical and wholly indifferent public passes them by with hardly a shrug of the shoulders...This is the great American sin."

What is happening in our state is beyond outrage. We are the mountains,

and the mountains are us. These mountains are being blown to smithereens daily, our air poisoned, and our water polluted. That tired, old piece of propaganda, "Coal turns the lights on," is just that. Ultimately, coal will turn the lights off, for all of us. We CANNOT survive without water. Neither can our spirits survive without the mountains. If

coal must be mined, we must go back to deep-mining, stop blowing up our mountains, polluting our air and water, clear-cutting our timber, and absolutely demanding that the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection enforce the existing laws.

Katheryne Hoffman has always loved the mountains and the way of life and culture which they embrace. She and her husband moved to Fayette County from Kanawha

County in 1979 to escape the pollution in the valley. They had no idea that coal was still being mined in Fayette County, even though both their families had been involved in the industry in the 20's and 30's. They thought they had moved to paradise. It was so clean and beautiful. Then in 1991 a company tried to come into their hollow with an MTR operation. They managed to get that one stopped, with the grace of God. But it has been a battle ever since. She truly believes that if we don't win our battles against MTR with this administration, and all the public outcry taking place now, that there will not be a mountain top left in Southern West Virginia.

On hold till further notice: four permits, 20 valley fills, 15 miles of buried streams

By Bob Kincaid

On March 23 lawyers for WV environmental groups, including Coal River Mountain Watch, as well as lawyers for coal companies and the Department of Justice appeared for a status conference in federal court in Huntington.

At issue were remaining mountaintop removal permits outside the scope of the litigation pending in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond (while a very poorly reasoned decision has been rendered by the Court, a petition

for rehearing remains). These four mine permits would create 20 valley fills, which would bury over 15 miles of streams.

There were no apparent fireworks at the hearing. By the end, it had largely been agreed among the parties to the suits to maintain the status quo pending further action in Richmond.

West Virginia's environmental community was well-represented in the

courtroom, with a number of group members traveling to Huntington for the hearing.

Bob Kincaid is President of the CRMW Board of Directors, a husband, father of four and grandfather of two. He's also a host and founder of the Head-On Radio Network, America's Liberal Voice, and has been raising awareness of Mountain Removal via national and international broadcasts since 2004. He lives in Fayette County, West Virginia.

As all eyes turn to Obama, we offer this excerpt from Bo Webb's letter

Dear Mr. President,

As I write this letter, I brace myself for another round of nerve-wracking explosives being detonated above my home in the mountains of West Virginia. Outside my door, pulverized rock dust laden with diesel fuel and ammonium nitrate explosives hovers in the air, along with the residual of heavy metals that once lay dormant underground. The mountain above me, once a thriving forest, has been blasted into a pile of rock and mud rubble. Two years ago, it was covered with rich black top soil and abounded with hardwood trees, rhododendrons, ferns and flowers. The under-story thrived with herbs such as ginseng, black cohosh, yellow root, and many other medicinal plants. Black bears, deer, wild turkey, hawks, owls, and thousands of birds lived here. The mountain contained sparkling streams teeming with aquatic life and fish.

Now it is all gone. It is all dead. I live at the bottom of a mountain top removal coal mining operation in the Peachtree community.

During your presidential campaign, you declared: "We have to find more environmentally sound ways of mining coal, than simply blowing the tops off mountains."

That time is now. Or never.

Mountaintop removal is the dirty secret in our nation's energy supply. If coal can't be mined clean, it can't be called clean. Here at the point of extraction, coal passes through a preparation plant that manages to remove some but not all of the metals and toxins. Those separated impurities are stored in mammoth toxic sludge dams above our communities throughout Appalachia. There are three sludge dams within 10 miles of my home. Coal companies are now blasting directly above and next to a dam above my home that contains over two billion gallons of toxic waste. That is the same seeping dam that hovers just 400 yards above the Marsh Fork Elementary School. As you know, coal sludge dams have failed before and lives have been lost.

My family and I, like many American citizens in Appalachia, are living in a state of terror. Like sitting ducks waiting to be buried in an avalanche of mountain waste or crushed by a falling boulder, we are trapped in a war zone within our own country.

In 1968, I served my country in Vietnam, as part of the 1st Battalion 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. As you know, Appalachians have never failed to serve our country; our mountain riflemen stood with George Washington at the surrender of the British in Yorktown. West Virginia provided more per capita soldiers for the Union during the Civil War than any other state; we have given our blood for every war since.

We have also given our blood for the burden of coal in these mountains. My uncle died in the underground mines at

the age of 17; another uncle was paralyzed from an accident. My Dad worked in an underground mine. Many in my family have suffered from black lung disease.

These mountains are our home. My family roots are deep in these mountains. We homesteaded this area in the 1820s. This is where I was born. This is where I will die.

Peachtree is but one of hundreds of Appalachian communities that are being bombed. Our property has been devalued to worthlessness. Our neighbors, fellow American citizens, put their kids to bed at night with the fear of being crushed or swept away in toxic sludge. And the outside coal industries continue their criminal activity through misleading and false ads.

Mr. President, when I heard you talk during your campaign stops it made me feel like there was hope for Peachtree and the Coal River Valley of West Virginia. Hope for me and my family.

I beg you to relight our flame of hope and honor, and immediately stop the coal companies from blasting so near our homes and endangering our lives. As you have said, we must find another way than blowing off the tops of our mountains. We must end mountaintop removal. I also ask you to please put an end to these dangerous toxic sludge dams.

With utmost respect, yours truly,

Bo Webb
Naoma, WV

Power Past Coal organizer finds inspiration in the valley

By Sierra Murdoch

On the morning after President Barack Obama's inauguration, members of Coal River Mountain Watch, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, and the Alliance for Appalachia joined with thousands of citizens across the country to launch a new project they called Power Past Coal (www.powerpastcoal.org). The purpose of the project was to build a movement that was based in stories – the stories of ordinary citizens impacted daily by the environmental injustices coal mining, prepping, burning, or dumping – and to call on the new President and Congress to listen to the citizens' collective demands.

The framework for the project is 100 Days of Action: on every day of Obama's first 100, a different community has taken action by lobbying their Congressmen to halt mountaintop

removal, marching to stop new coal plants, and risking arrest in acts of non-violent civil disobedience. On the final day, delegates from coal communities across the country will gather in Washington, D.C. to brief Congress with their stories, and to demand a swift and just transition away from coal.

The Power Past Coal project is the reason why I've come to the Coal River Valley. I come from Vermont, where I study Environmental Studies and where our mountains are still green, their original contours intact. When I became coordinator for the project, I realized that I didn't know first-hand the struggles of the people I would be working with. To me it seemed superficial to work from my northern haven of a home, speaking daily with those who bore the hardest consequences of the dirty coal industry, without seeing and

understanding the true impacts.

When a few friends in Rock Creek offered to have me at their house, I readily accepted. In my few weeks here, I've learned more from my neighbors and colleagues than I could have in years staying at home. I'm in constant awe of this community's rich history – the kindness of the people, their commitment to the mountains, and their strength in this struggle that has continued for too long.

Thank you for welcoming me to your community. I also want invite those who haven't yet joined Power Past Coal to take part in this movement. You're not alone – there are people in every corner of this country who are also fighting for their rights to clean water and air, good jobs, and renewable energy. We're closer than we've ever been before to seeing the changes we need, but there's still hard work to do.

REMEMBERING THE PAST, WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

An important part of Coal River Mountain Watch's mission is to rebuild sustainable communities. We believe in honoring our rich heritage of connection to the land and sense of community, to guide us as we work together for a truly healthy future. In each issue, the Coal River Mountain Watch Messenger will piece together memories, stories, and dreams for the future of our mountain home. This issue features Rick Bradford, Carrie Lou Jarrell, Kenny Cottrell, and Nanette Nelson.



Moll Kelly Knob, then (above) and now (below). The remains of the Knob are now part of the Edight mine site.



Lost Landmark: Moll Kelly Knob

By Rick Bradford

The Cherry Pond Mountain is not high enough to be called a mountain in the classical sense. But it is a mountain to the residents of Coal River.

One peak stood taller than all the others. That peak was named after Moll Kelly, who took a leak on the top of it hundreds of years ago. Molly Kelly Knob, between Drew's Creek and Hazy Creek, could be seen and identified for miles, and it became a physical and cultural landmark in the commons. George Webb lived under the top on the Hazy side, and all the ginsengers knew of the George Webb spring.

But Massey Energy didn't care about any of this. Moll Kelly is no more.

Rick Bradford, born in Hazy, now living in Edwight, taught history to schoolchildren in the Valley for over 30 years. He taught from Clearfork to Marshfork, to Mountain View, to Shumate, where he would fire up a Burnside stove. His two books, Edwight: Near the Mouth of Hazy and Coal River Valley Through My Lens use stories and photographs to make the past come alive again and honor the land, people, and places of the Coal River Valley.

Remember When...?

...Whitesville was bustling with activity, when neighbors flocked to the movie theater, bars, restaurants, and stores? In our new regular feature, "Remember When...?" we are collecting old photographs and stories to remind ourselves what we have loved about this place and to keep us fighting for what it can still become if we save it in time. If you have old photographs or stories you would like to share, please contact CRMW at (304) 854-2182 or coalriver@crmw.net

The People's Store

By Carrie Lou Jarrell

The People's Store supplied Whitesville with quality clothing during the 30's and early 40's. In 1938 Eddie Harvath came from Beckley to manage the store. The store closed in the 40's. At that time Trivilliams Drug Store moved in the building. The clerks were always pleasant and willing to help.

At Trivilliams, the clerks would let us read the comic books – they had some they would take out that you could look at so you wouldn't get the other ones dirty. I remember buying bubble gum and Mary Janes there. Of course the licorice was what I liked the most, but I liked the Mary Janes, too. Mary Janes were 3 for a penny, bubblegum 2 for a penny. If you had a couple of pennies,

you could just shop all day with your money. It was always a bright and colorful place.

After Trivilliams it became the Bargain Store and is now used for storage. The building is a landmark in Whitesville.

Carrie Lou Jarrell is locally famous for Carrie's Country Corner, a restaurant, convenience store, and tanning salon which she ran for 14 years. At Carrie's Country Corner she would host the Boone Jamboree country band every Saturday night. She also organized the Sylvester Dogpatch Reunion festival for 12 years. She was born in Leevale, graduated from Clearfork High School. Her favorite things to do in the world are search for old cemeteries and line dance.



Springtime on the Mountain

Tales of turkey, ramps, and greens, from an interview with Kenny Cottrell

Turkey hunting: I love the turkey season, I look forward to it every year. Turkey season starts end of April. I always like going when they're gobbling. A lot of times you go out and look for scratches where they've been feeding, on old roads, and you can look for droppings. The gobbler, his droppings look like a J. The hen is just like a blob. And the feathers, a gobbler's feathers, if you hold it out, look like fluorescent.

When the season's in, I try to use a call. It's hard to sneak down a mountain real quiet, because of rocks and brush. I'll move back and forth, sometimes make it think I'm leaving – they hate that. They think you're going to another gobbler, and they come right in.

Digging ramps: Of course you've got your ramps – that's when they're up thick, all about the time turkey season comes. It's like what they call spring tonic – the people eat meat all winter, and then spring comes and they go out and dig ramps. A lot of people like them about 4-6 inches long. We just fry them. Of course dad, he'll usually dry ramps, he'll cut 'em up real small and dry and put them on his eggs and have them all year.

We usually go pretty much to the same area because it's thick. We try to just thin the patch, because it seems like if you do that more it grows back thicker. But then you've got younger ones, they don't believe in leaving any, they go up and get it all. (Continued on p. 14)



Kenny Cottrell digging ramps with his hoe, pausing only for a quick picture.

The Seasonal Round: Spring gardening renews and sustains

By Nanette Nelson

It's Springtime! A time of renewal for nature and for us. A time for planning and planting, and the excitement that comes from the anticipation of wonderful fresh vegetables from our own gardens. There is nothing as pleasant to me as the smell of freshly tilled earth, or the feel of good garden soil between my fingers. Now is the time to plan what we want to plant this season to get the most of the garden space that we have, whether it is a big garden or just a small plot, or even planter gardening.

I think most of us are aware of the dire situation we are in. Not only fighting for the very soul of our being which are the mountains that give us life, but our economic state as well. Now we need to turn back to Mother Earth and learn how gracious she can be if handled with love and care. Done right Mother Earth can feed us with very little. A few seeds can turn into a bounty of food with just some plain elbow grease and the will to do it. We can feed ourselves, and still maybe have some extra to give to neighbors and friends who may not be as fortunate as we ourselves are. So let's roll up our sleeves and get busy!

Most of the soil in this area is acidic. Now is the time to put garden lime on the ground and turn it under. If you have composted since last season it is also to the time to spread that compost! Mid-March traditionally is the time to put in

potatoes. Kennebecs seem to grow the best here.

Also toward the end of the month greens such as kale and mustard and some salad greens can be planted. It won't be long before we can plant those luscious sugar snap peas as well! Ahhh snap peas are my favorite early vegetable!

Veggies such as broccoli and cabbage and cauliflower are fairly frost resistant, so I would plan on putting those in the ground in April. This is where succession planting comes in to get the most of your space. After the cauliflower and broccoli have been harvested time to pull those plants up and start your new compost pile. You can then plant beans or corn or tomatoes, or any vegetable of your choice where the earlier plants were. Continue to plant in succession when each veggie is finished producing. I hope that in the next news letter we can get into how to preserve our bounty for use this winter.

Sustainability. A very important word. We have become spoiled to a large degree. I admit that I have been. Our forefathers worked hard to sustain their families year round. Now all we have to do is go to the grocery store and get what we need.....(if we can afford it). I fear we are now living in the time when we may not be able to do what we have been used to doing. That is why I am writing this, hoping that each and every person learns how to sustain themselves and their families during hard times, and in good times too! Stock up on staple foods like dried beans, lentils, cornmeal and flour and rice and oils. With the bounty of your garden that is all you will really need to survive!

We have the wind, the sun, the rain. In reality that is all we need to survive if only we put those things to good use. Maybe we still have a chance to save this wonderful blue planet for our children, and we can ALL start by doing the little things ourselves. Grow all the foods we can -- if we all would do this there would be less pollution and just think, no preservatives or chemicals!

In closing I am going to share one of my favorite foods that come in during the early spring.

Nanette Nelson has a rich family coal-working heritage and a love of sustainability. Her husband is a disabled coal miner, and her father, grandfather, and uncles all worked in the mines. Nanette cooked for 18 years in the kitchen at Sherman High School. In addition to cooking, she loves to quilt, garden, and spend whatever free time is left over on the computer.

Crisp Tender Sugar Snap Peas

About a quart of snap peas, washed and patted dry

Ingredients:

2-Tbs oil or a little butter
Pinch of sea salt and some freshly ground pepper

Heat a good sized skillet with the oil till hot, throw in the snap peas, salt and pepper and toss or stir the peas in the oil till coated. Continue for 2 or 3 minutes until the pods are bright green. Remove from heat. You can also sprinkle some sesame seeds over them if you would like.

Enjoy!!

How Can I Get Involved?

Ways to help us continue our fight for a just, clean, sustainable Appalachia

Become a member

- Membership amplifies your voice, connects you to others, and helps our standing in the crucial legal cases.

Speak Out

- Letters to the editor, blogging, and commenting on articles and blogs: We want the world to read about our vision of healthy communities and a sustainable economy, not just the corporate propaganda.

- Talk to your neighbors: Reach out, build community, help us unite around these issues that affect us all.

- Write and call your representatives: This is what democracy looks like! Call us, email us, or sign up for our Action Alerts to keep up with the most pressing issues.

- Take a trip to the statehouse: Show your legislators just how much you care, and get a better sense of how our political system operates

Donate

- In these rocky financial times, every bit extra helps us keep going.

Share your story with visitors

- We receive a constant stream of requests to explain mountaintop removal and our struggles to save and rebuild our communities – we're always looking for community members to tell their stories.

Keep educating yourself

- Our website (www.crmw.net) has updates and links, and our regular Action Alerts will help keep you posted.

Springtime on the Mountain

(Continued from p. 13)

Picking greens: A lot of people like poke, that's like grandma. She always liked Shawnee, lambtongue. We always just cooked 'em up, just like spinach – singe 'em more or less, throw 'em in a hot skillet.

It's spring fever, people want to go outside. A lot of people's favorite time of year is in the spring. Like grandma always said, give her a pan of cornbread and turn her loose in the woods and she'd live, she'd survive.

Kenny Cottrell was born and raised in Horse Creek, where he's lived his whole life. He's walked up and down just about all of Horse Creek, Birch, and Hazy at one time or another. His hobbies and talents include wood-working, working on four-wheelers, and gardening.



Kenny with the first ramps of the season

Highly Quotable

New words from Washington:

"This is one of those things where I want science to help lead us. I will tell you that there's some pretty country up there that's been torn up pretty good. I will also tell you that the environmental consequences of the runoff from some of these mountains can just be horrendous. ... Not taking that into account because of short-term economic concerns, I think, is a mistake. I think we have to balance economic growth with good stewardship of the land God gave us."

-- President Obama in a press conference on March 23, as reported in the [Louisville Courier-Journal](#)

"EPA has expressed its significant concern regarding the impact to the human environment...EPA believes that the proposed project will result in substantial

and unacceptable impacts to the aquatic resources of national importance."

-- EPA review of an Army Corps of Engineers permit application from Logan Co., WV

And in contrast:

"Those hearings can sometimes be kind of painful for those guys [the DEP]."

-- Randy Huffman, Secretary of the DEP (So at least they might be halfway listening every now and then...)

Telling it like it is:

"My wife and my friends and neighbors, we dread when 4:00 rolls around every day, because that's when they start blasting. To me, that's not America."

- CRMW member Bo Webb, to Senator Rockefeller's aide

"West Virginia makes water. We make water for the entire eastern half of the U.S. Ten years from now our problem is going to be everyone else's problem, and it won't be funny then."

- Joe Stanley, citizen activist with the Sludge Safety Project

Citizens have power!

"I told a friend I was going to DC, and he asked me if I was going to the halls of power. And I said hell no, I'm bringing power to the halls!"

- Bill Price, Sierra Club Environmental Justice Coordinator

"Some of [the legislators] will try to intimidate you, and you just look at them and say, you work for me, pal. You just show them you're the man, son."

- Carl Shoupe, former coal miner and Kentucky activist

Congressmen agree (from the End Mountaintop Removal Lobby Week in March):

"There's nothing more important in the political life of America than the grass-roots. You guys are the heroes, and I'm very glad to be associated with you."

-- Rep. Ben Chandler (D-KY)

"I admire the hell out of what you do."

-- Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY)

Mark Your Calendars

April 2: Community Lobby Day for the Wind Resolution in the WV Legislative Session

April 6-17: U.S. Congress members return home – meet with your WV reps to tell them we want green jobs! (Email vivian@ohvec.org for more info)

April 11: WV Legislative Session Ends

April 17-18: Sustainability Fair, Stonewall Resort, Roanoke WV (email deniseap@earthlink.net for more info).

April 17: Photovoice: Exhibit by 13 women from the Big Coal River Area of Boone County (including Patty Sebok and Maria Lambert), who took photos to tell the stories of their communities – the beauty, strengths, problems, what they want to change. Reception 6-9 p.m. at the Clay Center in Charleston.

April 20 : Charlotte, NC. Cliffside Climate Action - Mass Rally and Nonviolent Civil Disobedience To Shut Down Duke Energy's Cliffside Coal Plant. RSVP at www.stop-cliffside.org

April 28-30: Community-member lobby trip to DC for the Clean Water Protection Act to end mountaintop removal! Contact Lorelei Scarbro at 304-854-2182 for info.

May 17-23: Mountain Justice Summer Camp at the Folklife Center in Pipestem, WV (<http://mountainjustice-summer.org>)

May 18-20: Community-member lobby trip to DC for the Clean Water Protection Act to end mountaintop removal! Contact Lorelei Scarbro at 304-854-2182 for info.

May 30: Kanawha Valley Sustainability Fair (call 304-382-1233 for more info)

June 17-18: Community-member lobby trip to DC for the Clean Water Protection Act to end mountaintop removal! Contact Lorelei Scarbro at 304-854-2182 for info.

June 19-20: Mountain Aid Concert to end mountaintop removal, featuring Kathy Mattea (at Shakori hills festival site in Chatham Co., NC), www.mtnaid.com



AMPLIFY YOUR VOICE

Become a member or renew your membership today!

Coal River Mountain Watch (CRMW) is a grassroots organization working to preserve the communities in the mountains of southern West Virginia. Our mission is to stop the destruction of our communities and the environment caused by mountaintop removal mining, to improve the quality of life in our communities, and to help rebuild sustainable communities. CRMW works to empower local residents to work together to fight the effects of irresponsible mining techniques. While we honor the tradition of coal mining in this state, it is our position that mountaintop removal is destructive to our homes and to our mountain heritage, and must be halted. Our goals include advancing economic diversity and increasing public safety. CRMW welcomes members who support our mission and goals. CRMW does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, gender, age, religion, physical ability, or sexual orientation.

Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip Code

Email Address

Friend ___\$10 Defender ___\$25 Champion ___\$50 Warrior ___\$100 Other \$___



P.O. Box 651, Whitesville, WV 25209

THANK YOU!

to all our funders, supporters, encouragers
and fellow fighters of the good fight!

Appalachian Community Fund
Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation
Civil Society Institute
Adam J. Lewis and Peter B. Lewis
Richard and Rhoda Goldman Foundation
Norman Foundation
New World Foundation
Public Welfare Foundation
Southern Partners Fund
Tides Foundation
Patagonia

Beatrice R. & Joseph A. Coleman Foundation

Ohio University Sierra Student Coalition
Humble Pie Foundation
Jeffrey P. McKee Foundation
Victor and Lorraine Honig Fund of the Common

Counsel Foundation
Vivian and Paul Olum Charitable Foundation
Max and Anna Levinson Foundation
Purple Moon Foundation
Student Environmental Action Coalition
Appalachian Voices
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
Rainforest Action Network
Sierra Club

Natural Resources Defense Council
Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church

Arambala Press
Harvard Ayers
Deborah Pettry
Ginny Robertson
Marc Labossiere

Eli Zigas
Majora Carter
Frances Stewart
Barbara Kalinoski
Robert Shetterly, Jr.
You – every one of our members