

# Coal River Mountain Watch Messenger

www.crmw.net

## Tadpole Volunteers “Jazz up” Jazz Hollow

By Fern

As we crunched through many strata of assorted trash, we found old bottles and cans that looked like they were jettisoned in the 1970s. That seemed discouraging at first, but then we realized that some of these garbage-strewn stream sides have been accumulating waste for many years. It didn't all show up here in a week, and clearing it out means hauling away years' worth of litter.



*Volunteers participating in Tadpole Project's "Jazz up Jazz Hollow," a two-day cleanup effort coordinated*

That's just what over a dozen volunteers did on Friday and Saturday, April 13th-14th, pulling eight pickup-truck loads of trash out of Jazz Holler by hand. Well, mostly by hand: two volunteers labored for hours with a winch and cable, hauling up the larger objects, such as mattresses and tires, that were too heavy to carry up the steep slope on foot. Others passed trash bags, old toys, and car parts up human chains of sweating and smiling participants while a few scraped through the stream itself with small



### 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.*

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rakes. These volunteers came out for the Tadpole Project's "Jazz up Jazz Hollow," a two-day cleanup effort that was coordinated with West Virginia Make it Shine Statewide Cleanup, which ran from April 2nd-15th.

The Tadpole Project has been partnering with the West Virginia Make it Shine, which falls under the Department of Environmental Protection's Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan initiative (REAP). The program provides supplies and funding for citizens and organizations who want to participate in its campaign to rid the state of

(See **TADPOLE**, p. 2)

## Coal River Mountain Status Update

By Rob Goodwin

For the first time in years, no strip-mining is occurring on Coal River Mountain. On Friday, May 11th, Alpha Natural Resources announced it was immediately idling both the Beetree Surface Mine and the Twilight complex in the Coal River Valley, citing weak demand for coal. Perhaps coincidentally, CRMW and other WV groups filed lawsuits for selenium pollution against the Twilight mine and the Brushy Fork sludge impoundment next to the Beetree permit just two days before Alpha announced the idling. Production cuts were expected after Alpha announced a second straight quarter of profit losses, but we feel strongly that the relentless pressure that we have brought against these two particular strip mines is a major reason Alpha closed them in-

(See **COAL RIVER MOUNTAIN**, p. 3)

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unsightly litter. West Virginia Make It Shine's statewide cleanup is also part of larger, nationwide campaign: Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest annual community involvement program. Last year, the Great American Cleanup involved about 3,800,000 volunteers and 30,600 cleanup events total. While the Tadpole Project has always remained locally focused, with cleanups sweeping the Marsh Fork of the Big Coal River, we're also plugging into state and national programs that help us to have a larger impact.

With a mission that's easy for most folks to get behind, the Tadpole Project really thrives off of community involvement. Tadpole takes its direction from community meetings where local folks get together and discuss the health of their watershed. This February, one community meeting yielded a list of spots in the watershed that are in the most dire need of cleanup, including Jazz Hollow, Peach Tree Falls, and several other swimming holes. The Tadpole Project has already hosted several trash pick-ups at Peach Tree and Jazz Hollow this spring, and we've had the satisfaction of seeing

countless pickup-truck-loads of turquoise bags carted away from these special places. Look out for the next wave of clean-ups as we take the Marsh Fork by storm!

So far in its lifecycle, the Tadpole Project has focused its efforts on eliminating the easily visible pollution—litter—from the Marsh Fork's tributaries. Yet, as its name suggests, Tadpole is ready for a metamorphosis. Our vision for the project is its expansion from addressing litter, which makes these waterways a less beautiful place to recreate in or live near, to addressing the pollutants that kill stream life and make the water dangerous to humans. Our first step toward this was hosting the DEP's WV Save Our Streams training at our office in Naoma. WV S.O.S. is a free service provided by the WV DEP in which interested citizens can become certified to assess and record stream health. On April 24th, staff and volunteers waded in the chilly waters of Horse Creek and the Marsh Fork measuring flow, conductivity, and pH and recording many other indicators of chemical, physical, and biological integrity. We sorted through samples of benthic macroinvertebrates, counting tails and teasing out the stonefly larvae from the mayfly larvae, and we

learned that even tracing the direction that a snail's shell twists could be a hint about the purity of the water we were splashing in. During the next few months, we'll be using our new skills to investigate problem areas in the Marsh Fork watershed and forming a plan for more comprehensive stream surveys. On May 19th, Coal River Mountain Watch is going to devote an entire day to stream health. We're going to be putting our backs into a stream cleanup at the same time as we take biological samples that will help us keep watch for pollutants. Come out and join us on the water and afterward at our new office for a picnic celebration!

As volunteers sally forth to discover exactly what pollutants are affecting our streams, we'll be learning more about the big picture of the health of this watershed. Blackwater spills cloud the water of many creeks, while others are choked with "yellow boy," an iron precipitate caused by acid mine drainage. The better we know exactly what's wrong with any of our impaired waterways, the better we'll know the exact steps to take to restore the Marsh Fork watershed.



**Top two pictures:** Participants in the S.O.S training.

**Bottom two pictures:** Cleaning up Jazz hollow...uphill!



**COAL RIVER MOUNTAIN** (cont'd from p1)

stead of deep mines. While this is only a temporary relief, it renews our determination to end strip mining and save Coal River Mountain. They have only mined a very small part of the mountain, and we aim to keep it that way.

The Citizens' Enforcement Project continues to actively monitor other mining and permitting activities on Coal River Mountain. Over the past few months there have been some major developments in the status of permits on Coal River Mountain. CRMW is awaiting a decision from the Federal Office of Surface Mining on whether it is going to use its oversight authority to revoke the 2,000 acre Eagle 2 permit that encompasses the highest ridges of Coal River Mountain. According to Section 506 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) a permit must begin mining within 3 years after issuance or the

permit is terminated. This permit expired in the summer of 2011 and upon receipt of a complaint from CRMW regarding the matter the WV DEP granted the company an extension; however, the OSMRE is unsure whether the DEP has the authority to grant an extension after the termination date.

In April the WV DEP terminated the application for the Leather Leaf Surface Mine Permit that proposed to mine over 1,200 acres on the eastern ridge of Coal River Mountain near the communities of Sycamore creek and Clear Creek. Marfork applied for this permit in 2010, but failed to act on the application and work towards approval. This is not end of story for mining in this area, but informal reports from Marfork say that it will be at least 5 years before they anticipate mining in this area.

On May 9th Coal River Mountain Watch went to the Surface Mine Board to contest

the 250 acre Collins Fork Remediation Project surface mine permit. CRMW asked that the comment period be reopened because WV DEP unlawfully held an informal conference over 3 years after the end of the comment period where WV Code requires that period not to exceed 30 days. WV DEP also denied CRMW their right to a citizens' inspection of the permit area prior to the informal conference. WV Surface mine board ruled that it was appalled that the WV DEP egregiously violated the law by exceeding the deadline for an informal conference by 3 years; however, the board refused to grant citizens an inspection of the permit, comment period and informal conference saying that our requests would not be "in the public interest". Dissenting from the Board's decision, Board member John Hunter strongly advised CRMW to appeal the permit to Circuit Court due to WV DEP's egregious violation of the law.

## Remembering 40 Years of Blackwater: From Buffalo Creek to Today

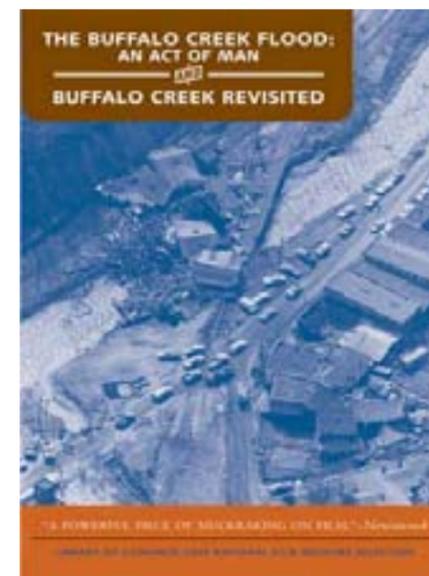
By Mat Louis-Rosenberg

On March 2nd, the Sludge Safety Project had an event, Remembering 40 Years of Black Water: From Buffalo Creek to Today, at the West Virginia State Capitol to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Buffalo Creek Disaster and all victims of coal slurry. Despite stormy weather, over 40 West Virginians and allies gathered to remember and learn about the Buffalo Creek disaster, listen to personal stories of folks impacted by coal slurry, and hear wonderful music from Paige Dalporto, Michael and Carrie Kline, and Miranda Brown.

Mickey McCoy from Inez, KY opened by talking about the stunning impact of the Buffalo Creek Disaster throughout the Appalachian coalfields. He went on to describe how his hometown was also destroyed by the failure of a Massey Energy slurry impoundment in 2000. Mickey ridiculed the coal companies for their attempts to declare both disasters "Acts of God" and urged attendees to fight on.

We then watched a portion of Appalshop's excellent film "Buffalo Creek: An Act of Man", filmed shortly after Pittston Coal Company's catastrophic slurry dam failure that killed 125 people and left thousands homeless. The images of the flood and interviews with residents were shocking and devastating, but equally shocking was the

utterly unwillingness of the coal company, state and federal regulators and the Governor to follow the law or take responsibility for what happened.



To purchase this movie, please go to [Appalshop.org](http://Appalshop.org)

A highlight was a powerful speech by Ken Hechler, legendary advocate for coal-impacted communities, who worked to secure relief for Buffalo Creek communities in 1972. Despite speaking from a wheelchair, his voice rang loud and clear through

the Capitol as he declared, "I charge the Pittston Coal Company with murder!" He reminded the audience that it was up to the citizens to rise up and force the necessary changes to prevent another Buffalo Creek. Our final speaker was Maria Lambert from Prenter, WV. Maria spoke powerfully of how the water in her community was poisoned by coal slurry and the devastating illnesses that have resulted. She held up test results showing huge levels of toxic heavy metals in her husband's body and demanded to know how they got there. She also wanted to know why not a single state legislator was in attendance.

(visit the Sludge Safety Project website [www.sludgesafety.org](http://www.sludgesafety.org) to hear more from Maria and her community's story in an excellent radio piece by Catherine Moore.)

The evening closed with a candlelit circle and prayer led by Rev. Robin Blakeman. Recalling her own roots in Logan County, Rev. Blakeman prayed for the memory of those lost to slurry and asked for strength for all those gathered to continue the fight to protect West Virginia communities. Many thanks to everyone who participated and made the event possible. It was a great evening that renewed our commitment to banning slurry and making safer coalfield communities.

# CRMW and Energy Efficient West Virginia Update

By Cathy Kunkel and Molly McLaughlin

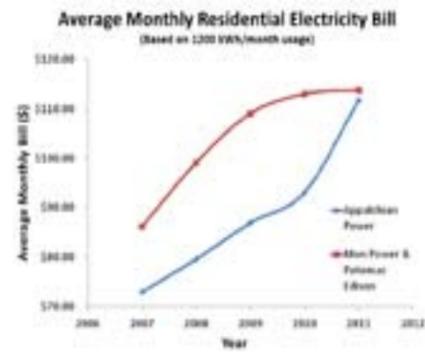
During the 2012 WV state legislative session, CRMW supported two bills that would have helped keep rising electric rates in check and promote energy efficiency. In southern WV, electricity bills have become an increasing burden in recent years – rates have increased more than 50% and about a quarter of people in southern WV are delinquent in paying their bills. A large part of this increase in rates is due to the price of coal, which has increased 70% in the past 5 years.

As a member of the Energy Efficient West Virginia coalition, we worked on two bills - Least Cost Planning (S.B. 162) and an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (H.B. 4363) – that would have helped protect residents from large electricity rate increases and drive a market for energy efficiency services. Given West Virginia's old and inefficient housing stock and the state's historic lack of investment in energy efficiency, there is huge potential for efficiency.

Least Cost Planning, also known as Integrated Resource Planning, requires utility companies to determine the mix of resources that will meet electricity demand at the lowest cost and to provide this analysis to the Public Service Commission for review. This process requires utility companies to consider demand-side resources, such as energy efficiency, as well as supply-side resources, like coal and wind. Experience in other states has shown that investing in energy efficiency is a much less expensive way to meet electricity demand than investing in any other source of fuel. On average, energy efficiency costs 2-4 cents/kWh to generate (because every kilowatt saved frees up a kilowatt to be

used elsewhere) while investing in a new coal fired power plant costs 11-14 cents/kWh to generate. The Least Cost Planning Bill, S.B. 162, was introduced to the Senate Judiciary Committee at the beginning of the legislative session. Due to power company opposition, the bill was never put to a vote. The head of the Senate Judiciary Committee was unwilling to run a bill that the utility companies were against, even though a majority of his committee supported the bill and hundreds of West Virginians had sent emails and made phone calls in support of the bill. Although it was not surprising, it was saddening to see the legislature cave-in to the power companies so easily.

Ironically, the coal industry also came out against the least-cost planning bill, even



while continuing to publicly proclaim coal to be the cheapest option for WV. But with coal prices rising and with West Virginia's oldest coal plants becoming increasingly expensive to run, it is clear that continuing to rely on coal for 97% of our electricity is an increasingly risky and expensive path – and the coal industry knows it.

An Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS), would require utility compa-

nies in the state to reduce electricity sales and peak electricity demand by 5% of 2010 levels by 2018 and by 15% by 2025. The utility companies would achieve these reductions by offering energy efficiency programs to their customers. Over half the states in the country have an EERS and many utility companies are achieving 1-2% savings each year. AEP and FirstEnergy, the parent companies of the utilities in West Virginia, are offering strong energy efficiency programs in other states where they operate, including Ohio, Pennsylvania and Maryland, because these states already have Energy Efficiency Resource Standards. There is no reason the same opportunities shouldn't be available to West Virginians. This bill was introduced to the House Judiciary Committee late in the session and did not make it out of committee. The head of the House Judiciary Committee expressed interest in the bill and said he will support it next year.

Although neither of the bills that EEWV supported were passed this legislative session, the group is already gearing up for the 2013 Legislative Session by doing outreach and educating people on the potential of energy efficiency in West Virginia. Additionally, there were many smaller successes during the 2012 Legislative Session. Hundreds of people called and emailed their legislators in support of energy efficiency and many news articles and editorials were written about the energy efficiency related legislation.

For more information about Energy Efficient West Virginia please visit [www.eewv.org](http://www.eewv.org), email us at [energyefficientwestvirginia@gmail.com](mailto:energyefficientwestvirginia@gmail.com), or come and friend Energy Efficient West Virginia on Facebook.

## Survey: “Political Divide” on Energy Issues is a Myth Across-the-Board Political Support for Shifting From Dirty Energy

Republicans, Independents and Democrats agree that the United States should move away from its reliance on dirty energy sources that foul the air and water and toward a future that makes greater use of clean energy sources, according to a major new survey conducted for the nonprofit and nonpartisan Civil Society Institute (CSI) and released today in West Virginia by Coal River Mountain Watch (CRMW), Christians for the Mountains (CFTM) and the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (OVEC).

“Lobbyists for the coal and Marcellus Shale industries attempt to marginalize

those of us who are working towards a cleaner energy future for West Virginia and the nation. But this new survey makes very clear what we know to be true: when it comes to energy issues, we are the majority, not the ‘fringe.’ Political leanings just don't matter. Americans of all stripes want our energy future to be cleaner, healthier and truly renewable,” said OVEC's Vivian Stockman.

“Our politicians must stop ignoring the American voters' demand for truly clean, renewable, healthy energy and stop parroting dirty energy lobbyists' talking

points,” said CRMW Executive Director Vernon Haltom. “I feel encouraged that most Americans want a healthy energy future, as I do. I hope they will hold accountable those who insist on ransoming our children's health for filthy profits from devastating processes such as mountaintop removal, fracking, and nuclear.”

“Christians are directed to care for Creation. This survey bodes well for that direction,” said Allen Johnson, co-founder of CFTM. “It shows that mainstream Americans are ignoring the major energy companies' PR campaigns and clamoring for a cleaner energy future.”

(See **Political Divide** p. 5)

## POLITICAL DIVIDE continued from p. 5

Pam Solo, founder and president, Civil Society Institute, said: “Our new survey is a clarion call to action: Americans think that it is time for decisive action toward a renewable energy future that will protect public health and provide reliable and cost effective energy. It is only through the work of groups like OVEC, Christians for the Mountain and Coal River Mountain Watch that this ‘bottom up’ process of change will take place. And it is only through such a grassroots-driven process that we can shake off the partisan gridlock of Washington, D.C., so that Americans can focus on what is really important to them: a clean energy future that does not sacrifice our water, air and health to politically powerful nuclear and fossil fuel interests.”

Conducted March 22-25, 2012, the new ORC International survey of 1,019 Americans shows that:

- More than eight out of 10 Americans (83 percent) – including 69 percent of Republicans, 84 percent of Independents, and 95 percent of Democrats – agree with the following statement: ‘The time is now for a new, grassroots-driven politics to realize a renewable energy future. Congress is debating large public investments in energy and we need to take action to ensure that our taxpayer dollars support renewable energy – one that protects public health, promotes energy independence and the economic well being of all Americans.’
- Even with high gasoline prices today, 85 percent of Americans – including 76 percent of Republicans, 87 percent of Independents, and 91 percent of Democrats – agree with the statement “(e)nergy development should be balanced with health and environmental concerns” versus just 13 percent who think “health and environmental concerns should not block energy development.”
- More than two out of three (68 percent) think it is “a bad idea for the nation to ‘put on hold’ progress towards cleaner energy sources during the current economic difficulty.”
- Eight out of 10 Americans agree that “water shortages and the availability of clean drinking water are real concerns. America should put the emphasis on first developg new energy sources that require less water and result in lower water pollution. “Only 15 percent of Americans think that “America should proceed first with developing energy sources even if they may have significant water pollution and water shortage downsides.”
- Two thirds of Americans (67 percent) think that “political leaders should help to steer the U.S. to greater use of cleaner energy sources – such as increased efficiency, wind and solar – that result in fewer environmental and health damages.” Under a third of Americans (30 percent) think that “political leaders should stay out of the energy markets and let private enterprise have a free hand in picking energy sources and setting prices.”

Other Key Survey Findings

- About two out of three Americans (66 percent) – including 58 percent of Republicans, 65 percent of Independents, and 75 percent of Democrats – agree that the term “‘clean energy standard’ should not be used to describe any energy plan that involves nuclear energy, coal-fired power, and natural gas that comes from hydraulic fracturing, also known as ‘fracking’”.
- More than eight out of 10 Americans (82 percent) – including 78 percent of Republicans, 81 percent of Independents, and 85 percent of Democrats – agree with the following statement: ‘Whether they are referred to as ‘subsidies,’ ‘tax incentives’ or ‘loan guarantees,’ the use of taxpayer dollars for energy projects are long-term investments. However, government incentives for energy must benefit public health and economic well-being. Clear guidelines are needed to direct public energy investments by shifting most of the risk from taxpayers and ratepayers and more to the companies involved.’”
- More than two out of three Americans (68 percent) – including 60 percent of Republicans, 76 percent of Independents, and 74 percent of Democrats – think that America's “new energy future” should be guided by the “precautionary principle,” which would work very much like the Hippocratic oath does for doctors: “The precautionary principle would advocate a conservative approach to the use of technologies that may put public health at risk and create irreversible environmental harm. If there is not enough scientific evidence showing that it is safe, precaution should guide decisions in those cases.”
- More than three out of four Americans (77 percent) – including 70 percent of Republicans, 76 percent of Independents, and 85 percent of Democrats – agree that “(t)he energy industry's extensive and well-financed public relations, campaign contributions and lobbying machine is a major barrier to moving beyond business as usual when it comes to America's energy policy.”
- Eight out of 10 Americans (81 percent) who are aware of fracking say that they are concerned – including nearly half (47 percent) who are “very concerned” – about the impact of fracking on water quality.
- About nine out of 10 Americans (89 percent) agree that “U.S. energy planning and decision making must be made with full knowledge and understanding about the availability of water regionally and locally, and the impact this water use from specific energy choices has on their economies, including agricultural production.”
- Three out of four Americans (76 percent) would support “a shift of federal loan-guarantee support for energy away from nuclear reactors and towards clean, renewable energy, such as wind and solar.”

For the full survey findings, go to <http://www.CivilSocietyInstitute.org> on the Web.

Survey Methodology: The new survey findings are based on a telephone survey conducted by ORC International among a national probability sample of 1,019 adults comprising 506 men and 513 women 18 years of age and older, living in private households in the continental United States. Interviewing for this survey was completed during the period March 22-25, 2012. The margin of error is plus or minus three percentage at the full sample size.

Editor's Note: A streaming audio replay of the news event releasing this report is available on the Web at <http://www.CivilSocietyInstitute.org>.

## NEW Citizen Enforcement Packet: User-Friendly Resources for Confronting Water Contamination, Blasting, and New Permits

By Emily Arons

Coal River Mountain Watch has a new "Citizen Enforcement Packet," a 47-page resource for people who want to protect their homes and communities from irresponsible coal mining. This packet compiles materials that have been on the CRMW website for about a year, but they are now in a more "user-friendly" format.

The documents in the packet provide detailed instructions for individuals who want to take action in their communities. There are step-by-step guides for dealing with bad water, blasting, and new permits. The packet also contains advice on filing complaints, explanations of the laws that are supposed to protect communities, in-

structions for finding out information about mines and water quality, and detailed contact information for individuals at the Department of Environmental Protection and other agencies.

After years of combating the coal industry and trying to work with the regulatory agencies in West Virginia, Mat Louis-Rosenberg and Rob Goodwin, both on staff at CRMW, decided that an important next step in their work was to equip others with the skills and resources they had learned. They set up a series of "Citizen Enforcement Trainings," where they talked through online resources for protecting communities from the coal industry. They wrote these Citizen Enforcement documents to accompany the trainings—resources that individuals

could take home with them.

Now Coal River Mountain Watch is taking this information door to door in communities in McDowell and Wyoming Counties through the Citizen Enforcement Outreach Program. Through face-to-face conversations, staff and volunteers are identifying problems in communities (ranging from bad water to speeding coal trucks) and distributing relevant resources for dealing with these issues.

Anyone who is interested in using this packet may visit our website, [crmw.net](http://crmw.net) or call our office 854 2182 to get a copy.

## New Section of CRMW Website Focuses on the Public Health Impacts of MTR and Coal Mining

by Jen Osha

Coal River Mountain Watch announces the creation of a new section on our website entitled "The Health Impacts of Mountaintop Removal and Coal Mining." Coal River Mountain Watch works to protect the health and safety of communities impacted by mountaintop removal coal mining and has long argued that this form of mining has serious consequences for the health of people in surrounding communities. Recent peer-reviewed scientific studies have confirmed this observation.

The new health guide on Coal River Mountain Watch's website includes a list of the peer reviewed research that has been conducted on the impacts of MTR and coal mining in general on public health in local communities. Six of the studies are specific to mountaintop removal. These studies, conducted from 2007 to 2011, provide evidence that human health problems such as heart, respiratory and kidney diseases, cancer, low birth weight and serious birth defects are significantly higher in communities near mountaintop removal mine sites.

In addition to listing the studies, the new public health guide provides information about the findings of each of these studies in an easy to read format. Each page includes a summary of the purpose, important findings, and results of each study. For readers who want to learn more, a link to the entire paper is provided. Additionally, on the right sidebar are pictures and quotes from Coal River residents that relate to the specific study page.

These summaries are linked to a new mapping tool developed by Appalachian Voices for [ilovemountains.org](http://ilovemountains.org) that uses scientific evidence and government data to graphically show the human casualties of mountaintop removal coal mining. The new tool was released in conjunction with the annual I Love Mountains Day in Frankfurt, KY, where citizens gathered to advocate an end to mountaintop removal coal mining, a destructive practice that has shortened lifespans and caused illnesses in Central Appalachia for decades.

"The coal companies have taken everything from us, our air and water, as well as the connection we once had with our culture of self sufficiency. Now that these studies prove the things we've been saying for years about the cancer rates and everything else in this area it's time for the American public to take notice and do something about it," states CRMW staffer Junior Walk.



## Public Health and MTR (Continued from Page 4)

"It is important to realize that birth defects for babies born in [areas impacted by] mountaintop removal are over twice as high than if the mother smokes during pregnancy, and over 10 times as high for circulatory/ respiratory defects," said Vernon Haltom from Coal River Mountain Watch.

"Most of the people that died in this area around here, from Stickney on down, died of some type of cancer. And it's not just mom and dads. A lot of the kids, as they got older, 19, 20, or whatever, died with some type of cancer also...Wherever there was mining, there was always cancer," states Coal River Resident Kathleen Dickens.

[ILoveMountains.org](http://ILoveMountains.org) is a project of The Alliance for Appalachia, which is made up of thirteen local, state and regional organizations across Appalachia, including Coal River Mountain Watch, working together to end mountaintop removal and create a prosperous future for the region.

To view the summaries of the studies, visit [www.crmw.net](http://www.crmw.net) and click on "Health and MTR"

To view the mapping tool on "The Human Cost of Coal," visit [ilovemountains.org/the-human-cost](http://ilovemountains.org/the-human-cost)



Comparison of air filters between MTR community and non MTR community: "This picture shows three air filters of collected dust. The one on the left was collected 200 yards up the mountain from my home. The one on the right was collected from our deck. The one in the middle was collected four hours north, at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. All were placed at the same time and collected for two weeks," Coal River Valley Resident Bo Webb.

## Launch of Appalachian Community Health Emergency Campaign

Appalachian Community Health Emergency (ACHE) is a campaign that seeks to educate others about the birth defects and diseases affecting individuals living in areas with mountain top removal. Its vision is to educate the United States Congress (via the committee structure) about the public health crisis affecting citizens living in areas with mountain top removal. To this end, ACHE will seek solutions and government intervention from those agencies with the responsibility to protect the health of Americans.

ACHE's vision is for the United States government to declare an immediate moratorium on mountaintop removal mining, evaluate the health problems citizens face because of mountain top removal, and report results of such study to Congress. ACHE will reach its vision by employing the findings of scientific, peer-reviewed research to educate government, public and private sectors and engage in a dialogue with agencies such as, but not limited to, the Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Department of Justice, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association, and the American Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

To get involved, please visit [www.stoptheache.org](http://www.stoptheache.org) or like ACHE's facebook page at [www.facebook.com/AppalachianCommunityHealthEmergency](http://www.facebook.com/AppalachianCommunityHealthEmergency)



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

May 19th:

Tadpole Project: Test the Waters Day, Naoma, WV

May 19-26:

Mountain Justice Summer Action Camp, Pipestem, WV

May 28th:

Women Unite TO eND Mountaintop Removal, Charleston, WV

June 1st:

Kentucky Rising: Occupy the Capital, Frankfort, KY

June 2-6:

Week in Washington, Washington DC

June 6:

Day of Action to end Mountaintop Removal, Washington, DC

June 14-17:

Don't Frack Ohio, Columbus, OH

June 24-29:

Listening for a Change: Oral History and Appalachian Heritage, Elkins, WV

June 30-Jul 1 1:

Mountainkeepers July 4th Festival, Kayford Mt, WV

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# 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.

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Name

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Street Address

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City, State, Zip Code

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Email Address

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

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