A WONDERFUL FIELD DAY AT THE FORKS OF COAL SEPTEMBER 23

Little Coal River was so clear you could see the fish and Saturday, September 23rd was a perfect day for a “field day” at the Forks of Coal State Natural Area. The Foundation-sponsored event included three nature walks: a bird walk, led by expert local birder Jim Waggy of the Handlan Chapter of the Brooks Bird Club and Sara Miller of the DNR; a Coal River geology and history walk led by Nick Schaer, a geologist with the WV Dept. of Environmental Protection; (“DEP”) and, a “floating nature walk” on Little Coal River and the main Coal River, led by Dennis Stottlemyer, an Environmental Resources Analyst and member of the Forks of Coal Foundation board, assisted by Tim Moss, a Master Naturalist and member of the Coal River Group, and Ed Maguire, former State Director for The Nature Conservancy and currently of the DEP.

The “bird walk” included a hike out the Yellow Trail to the Roof Rock and then back along the Blue Trail on the ridge. Hikers were lucky to glimpse a young bald eagle on their route. The geology and history hike headed to the Big Coal River side of the Natural Area, starting with the spectacular Roof Rock. There was something for everyone, with interesting rock samples and maps showing the topography and history of the property.

The “floating nature walk” was a real adventure for the 15 participants and their guides. The paddlers launched their kayaks borrowed from Coal River Group) under the Corridor G bridge. The float trip was both fun and educational, with several stops along the way and a short trip up the Big Coal River to see a sunken barge from the coal mining days. Great Blue and Green Herons were sighted along the way. They ended their float at the Lock 4 Lions Club streamside park. Bag lunches were enjoyed at the Forks of Coal parking area.

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PLEASE START THE NEW YEAR BY RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP. Thank you!
WINTER IS AROUND THE CORNER

As I write this the weather has turned cold and rainy. I am ready for a nap! Winter is around the corner and the natural world is ready for its winter nap, too! Winter for me is a time for planning. I take this opportunity to plan for spring.

Forks of Coal Foundation is no different! During these winter months we are planning for our spring event “Forks of Coal Celebration Day.” Mark your calendars now for May 5, 2018. It will be a day of learning what animals and plants call the Forks of Coal home.

The new year brings with it a time to start anew. The Forks of Coal State Natural Area Foundation offers individuals a chance to be part of something special and exciting. Plans are being finalized for the new Claudia L. Workman Wildlife Center. It will be a family-friendly nature education center that will include hands-on displays. The Foundation is gratefully accepting gifts and donations from individuals, businesses and community organizations. We need you! All donations are tax deductible and will help in the construction and exhibits that will be featured at the center. What an exciting time to be involved. If you would like to donate visit our website www.forksofcoalfoundation.org. Don’t forget to follow us on Facebook to see what is new and happening at the Forks of Coal.

Winter is around the corner, but the Forks of Coal Foundation doesn’t nap!

Kim McCluskey

SPONSOR A PARK BENCH

Commemorate a loved one; celebrate a special birthday or anniversary or simply show your community support by sponsoring a park bench.

Benches can be dedicated for a donation of $500. Plaques are affixed to the bench with your information and all donations are tax deductible. Your donation will help in maintaining the bench and area around it for the next 10 years.

The park bench project is an Eagle Scout project of Matthew Blackwood. Your donation is a win-win for scouting and the Forks of Coal State Natural Area.

The Foundation gratefully accepts gifts and donations from individuals, businesses and community organizations for Forks of Coal State Natural Area. For more information or to sponsor a bench, visit our website at www.forksofcoalfoundation.org.
FIELD DAY APPRECIATION

MANY THANKS to everyone who supported our Field Day at the Forks event: the Coal River Group; WVDEP, WV Division of Natural Resources; Neil Robinson and the St. Albans Historical Society; WV Division of Forestry; the Kanawha Trail Club; hike leaders Jim Waggy (Handlan Chapter of the Brooks Bird Club) and Sara Miller, Nick Schaer, Dennis Stottlemyer, Tim Moss and Ed Maguire; Frank and Linda Coulter, Greg Stamm, Sharon Cook, the Cross Lanes United Methodist Church; Master Naturalists Jane Shepherd, Martha Hopper, Cynthia McGill, Dallas Cash and Cheri Trader. And special thanks to Kevin Dials and Steven Browning of the DNR who manage and maintain the beautiful Forks of Coal State Natural Area.

GIRL SCOUTS AT FORKS OF COAL FOR HIKING MERIT BADGE

The Girl Scouts from Troop #32101 of Midway Elementary School completed the requirements for their Hiking Merit Badge on Friday, October 6th. The troop and their leaders and parents came from Lincoln County for their Merit Badge hike on a beautiful fall evening.

About two dozen scouts gathered at the new bench at the start of the Blue Trail for a presentation about hiking and outdoor safety by one of the Foundation’s board members. After the talk, she led the scouts, their leaders and several parents on an interpretive hike out the ridge on the Blue Trail.

THANK YOU!

The support of our members is vital to our success and we are sincerely grateful to these most recent members and donors:

Jim and Ann Weimer
Roger Hardway
Sharon Cook
Martha Hopper
Dewey and Nancy Beezley
John Fischer
Jeff Nelsen
Justin Gaull**
Stacy Snyder
Dallas Cash and Cynthia McGill
John Weaver
Rachel Dash
Carl McLaughlin
Sarah Hicks
Tom Sims
Tena and Bill Webb
Rebecca Bowe
A Friend in Northern West Virginia

WONDERFUL FIELD DAY, Continued....

There were also interesting exhibits surrounding the Foundation’s tent, including the WV Forestry Division with information about invasive species; the St. Albans Historical Society with a wonderful Coal River history display; and the Coal River Group had information about its work on the river. Pastries, cookies, pepperoni rolls and books were on sale at the Foundation’s tent.

THE FOUNDATION’S MISSION

The mission of the Forks of Coal State Natural Area Foundation is to work with the WV Division of Natural Resources to preserve, protect and enhance the Forks of Coal State Natural Area by providing leadership in communication, funding, advocacy and conservation education for children and the community.
Please Join Us and Support The Forks of Coal Foundation Today!

The Forks of Coal State Natural Area Foundation was formed in 2016 to work with the West Virginia DNR to build a wildlife education center and conservation area on the 102 acres at the Forks of Coal. The Foundation and the DNR are working together in the development of the center and educational activities and programs which will benefit our local Coal River and Kanawha Valley communities.

We invite you to join us! To learn more, go to Facebook or our website at www.forksofcoalfoundation.org.

Name___________________________________________ Phone Number/E-Mail ______________________

Address______________________________________________________________
Street Number                       City                        State       Zip Code

Amount of Gift ____$25____$35____$50____$100____$250____$500______Other

Please make check payable to: Forks of Coal State Natural Area Foundation
P.O. Box 5556, Charleston, WV 25361

The Forks of Coal State Natural Area Foundation is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Forks of Coal State Natural Area Foundation
Post Office Box 5556
Charleston, West Virginia 25361

Wishing you all the best for this holiday season!

Follow us at www.forksofcoalfoundation.org and Facebook!