



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

MOSHANNON GROUP NEWS

SIERRA CLUB MOSHANNON GROUP

The Banff Centre
BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR

February 2012

Issue 1

Public Presentation Thursday March 22nd -

Gasland PA - *Documentary* *Photography by* *Mark Schmerling*

Mark Schmerling found a solid sense of purpose in his photography after attending a rally against Mountain Top Removal coal mining. Schmerling began documenting the land and the people whose lives are impacted by the destructive war that the coal industry wages on the land and the people.

Schmerling has now turned his camera to the Marcellus Shale gas drilling industry, which is only beginning to cause wide spread destruction across vast sections of Pennsylvania.

Join us on March 22nd for Mark Schmerling's presentation. He will briefly trace his immersion into the environmental documentary field, and then discuss his Marcellus images and the stories of the people in those photos. See details in the calendar on page two and at our website.



Sandy McDaniel of Clearville (Bedford Co.) became extremely ill from exposure to gas compressor "fallout" from a station built above her farm. Her body has become so sensitive to this pollution, she has to wear a carbon-filled mask near any facility.



Photos copyright

Mark Schmerling

www.schmerlingdocumentary.com

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Film Festival - State College

April 14th & 15th at the State Theatre - downtown State College
Different Films Each Night! Doors Open at 6PM - Films Begin at 7PM

Local Presenting Sponsor: Appalachian Outdoors

Tickets available at: Appalachian Outdoors www.appoutdoors.com

The State Theatre www.thestatetheatre.org

More Information? Visit: www.sierramsh.org

National Club Election Coming This Spring

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's website.

In light of the recent revelation that The Sierra Club accepted 26 million dollars from Chesapeake Energy, a major Marcellus gas drilling company and concealed this from its membership, it makes more sense than ever to look closely at who you are electing to the National Board, and how vigilant that Board is in overseeing staff.

Your vote, or non vote,
shapes our Club!

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club's election website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2012election/default.aspx>

This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, please go to the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. You will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail.

Moshannon Group Election

Ronn Brouman, Helena Kotala, and Gary Thornbloom were elected to 2 year terms on the Moshannon Group Executive Committee.

Officers for 2012 are: Gary Thornbloom, Chair; Steve Lachman, Vice Chair; Ron Johnson, Treasurer; Judy Tanner, Secretary.

Calendar

ALL ARE WELCOME!

PRESENTATIONS

Our Public Presentations are held in the State College Borough Building, 234 South Allen Street, Community Meeting Room, State College PA 16801

March 22, Thursday 7PM - Photographer Mark Schmerling will give a presentation: **Finding a Life's Purpose: Spreading the Truth via My Camera.** See page 1 and our website for details.

April 19, Thursday 7PM - **Cougars in the Northeast: What is Real and What is Not,** a presentation by Kerry Gyekis. More details in the next newsletter, and on our website.

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR - STATE COLLEGE -

April 14-15, Saturday and Sunday. Location: the State Theatre in downtown State College. Details on page 1 and on our website. A complete list of films will be included in the next Newsletter.

OUTINGS

Saturday, March 24 — Waterfowl Watch at Dunning Creek Wetlands: Mike and Laura Jackson will lead a field trip to Dunning Creek Wetlands (Bedford County) to observe migrating waterfowl. Meet at the Apple Bin Restaurant, on Pa. Rt. 56, a few miles west of I-99 at 8 a.m. Wear boots, as it will be wet, and be prepared for cold, windy conditions. The trip will last most of the morning. For more info, contact the Jacksons at mljackson2@embarqmail.com.

SERVICE OUTING

Saturday, April 21 — Spring Creek Canyon Cleanup: The Moshannon Group will be conducting their annual canoe/kayak based cleanup of the Spring Creek canyon as a participant in Clearwater Conservancy's Watershed Cleanup Day. *Please consider joining us... members and nonmembers are welcome.* Supplies and shuttle (Rock Run Road to Fisherman's Paradise) are provided. Meet at 7:45 a.m. at Rock Run Road. Cleanup lasts from about 8 a.m. until Noon. You must bring your own boat(s) and equipment unless you have made other arrangements with us prior to the event. **RSVP required.** Contact Ron Johnson - greenbowl@verizon.net.

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PA Forest Land: Our Land or Gasland?

By Anne Harris Katz, Ph. D., Biologist

It's important to let your PA State Representatives, Senators and the Governor know that leasing more of PA's land, including its forests, for drilling will not be a benefit to anyone except the gas industry. In the end PA's citizens will be paying the bills. Here's why.

The PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) study noted below indicates additional leasing will harm the integrity of the State's forested lands. With gas industry activity on these state lands comes deforestation, a devastating process that results in more than merely loss of trees.

To read the DCNR report "Impacts of Leasing Additional State Forest for Natural Gas Development", follow this link http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/ucmprd1/groups/public/documents/document/d_000603.pdf

With deforestation comes loss of canopy cover that provided shade to moderate soil and stream water temperatures. Deforesting removes the ability of live tree roots to hold soil in place, which would prevent erosion of the sediment and nutrients in that soil from entering the streams, rivers and ultimately working its way to the Chesapeake Bay. Sediment and nutrients entering the Bay from PA's waters will cost PA's taxpayers for polluting the Bay. Sediment interferes with gill-breathing organisms, like insects, crayfish and some fin fish.

Many of these organisms are key members of the food web that maintains overall ecological integrity of the aquatic environment. Sediment also smothers the eggs and larvae of many fish species. Nutrients released in excess can cause too much growth of algae, which, when it dies, locks up oxygen, depriving gill-breathers of that vital respiratory gas. When there is deforestation, the door to invasion of non-local species - plants, animals, microorganisms - is opened wide. Invasive species frequently will out-compete the local species, and a new ecological mix of species will develop. Most of the time this not a good thing.

Flooding levels and flooding frequency are expected to increase with deforestation, because, without live trees, two key processes which mitigate flooding will be eliminated: evaporation and transpiration. A large portion of rainfall lands on tree limbs and leaves and never reaches the ground. This portion evaporates into the atmosphere. Another large amount of rain lands on the ground but is pulled via tree

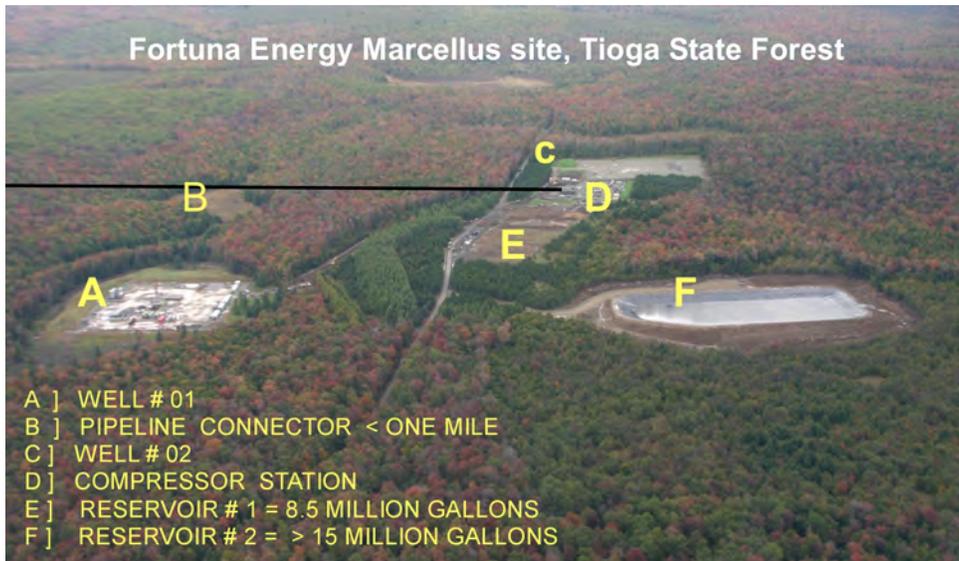
roots eventually moving into leaves where it is released into the atmosphere in a process called transpiration. Thus, about half of all rainfall in forests, averaged over the year, never reaches streams and rivers, because it either evaporates or transpires. If the trees are cut, this rainfall will flow more directly into streams and rivers -

enhancing the potential for flooding. Downstream areas that previously had been safe from flooding will now receive water levels far higher than previously experienced. When flooding increases and enters new areas, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) must remeasure the size of floodplains adjacent to the newly-flooding waterways. When this happens homeowners whose properties are located in the expanded floodplain will be required by FEMA to buy flood insurance, adding a new financial burden to that household.

There are other critical economic downsides to deforesting Penns Woods. Pennsylvania maintains certification of many of its wood products, giving it the ability to sell timber at a higher price than it otherwise could. There are lots of local businesses that depend on intact forests for their livelihood - campgrounds, motels, bed & breakfast places, suppliers of fishing, hunting, camping and other outdoor adventure gear. Tourism in the forested counties of PA where there are pristine waters for fishing, boating, birding, hiking, hunting, etc. will suffer dramatically with deforestation.

As for the potential for regeneration of Penns Woods once deforested, the chances of getting back to a certified, fully-functional hardwood ecosystem is not good. When the soil is eroded the top layer - called the duff - is washed away. That layer of rotted leaves and dead

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Our Land or Gasland? *(continued from page 3)*

wood filled with important microorganisms cannot just be replaced by opening a bag from the local garden supply store. Once the natural gas industry builds access roads, well pads, pipelines and the various other infrastructures required for its operations, the compaction of the soil beneath these areas is such that the chances of stimulating new tree growth are close to zero after the industry has moved on. Loss of the nutrient-laden duff, and soil compaction together make it difficult to revegetate with anything more than grasses, shrubs and some of the more tolerant tree species. In many cases the way the industry functions insures that trees will not be able to grow. On drilling pads, access roads and along gathering pipelines the industry has made it clear they intend to reseed with grasses and shrubs - not trees.

If deforestation occurs in localized areas, "edge effects" are created. There will be open spaces within the forest where there had been none before. This is called forest fragmentation, and it, too, can cause negative consequences for the overall health of the forest. Depending on where and to what extent the forest is fragmented, any or all of the issues related to deforestation can occur. However, these edge effects are seen as beneficial to some - for example, those who like to observe song birds and white-tail deer. These species thrive when the forest becomes fragmented. Minor fragmentation is not nearly the issue as is deforestation. Small areas of open spaces in forests frequently are created by professional foresters and private woodland owners who have forest stewardship training. The purposes for creating this sort of fragmenting are many and based on the goals of the woodland

owner or forester. These include opening the forest canopy to allow sunlight to penetrate and stimulate growth of seedlings that had been too shaded to grow. Sometimes these small openings are created to develop habitat for specific wildlife species.

The issues of deforestation are present regardless of whether the woods is being fragmented by a professional forester, forest steward or a gas industry team. There is still the danger of invasive species moving in. For the forester and forest steward, this is usually allowed to happen, because of the small amount of denuded area, or herbicides are used to keep down the growth of invasive plants until the desired plant species can take hold. When properly planned by the the forester and forest steward, the location for these openings in the woods are created where erosion and sedimentation will not be factors. The difference between the relatively small openings created by foresters and forest stewards versus those created by the gas industry is an order of magnitude. The gas industry opens multiple acres in one place, and this activity is repeated many times over throughout the forest.

Overall, deforestation, whether in toto or in fragments, is an economic and ecological problem for PA. It is unfortunate so much of the State's forested lands have already been leased for gas industry activities. It is certainly not economically or environmentally prudent to lease any more such state-owned acreage.

Visit our website for suggestions for what you can do to help make a difference!
www.sierramsh.org

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Calendar

Sunday, April 22 — Sunday Trillium Hike on the Lower Trail: Join Deb Tencer to see the repeat performance of thousands of red and yellow trilliums and Dutchman's-breeches that cover the hillside along a section of the Lower Trail. Meet at the Water Street flea market at 11 a.m. The hike is only 2 miles and is quite easy. Afterward, please join us to go for pizza! Contact Deb at naturehikergal@gmail.com.

Friday, April 27 – Sunday April, 29 — Marsh and Pine Creek Outing: Ron Johnson will lead an evening cruise on Marsh Creek on April 27, a run on Pine Creek from Ansonia to Blackwell on April 28, and a run on Babbs Creek into Blackwell on April 29. There are free camping and modern facilities near Ansonia, near the Pine Creek Rail Trail for additional recreational opportunities. Contact Ron Johnson - greenbowl@verizon.net.

Saturday, April 28 — Save the Frogs Day: In an effort to raise awareness of the plight of amphibians, the scientific community has declared Saturday, April 28 as "Save The Frogs Day." On this day we encourage the appreciation and celebration of amphibians. Join Moshannon Group Endangered Species and Wildlife Chairman Dr. Stan Kotala for a short educational program about frogs and toads, followed by a brief evening stroll looking for amphibians along the Lower Trail. Meet at the Lower Trail Mt. Etna Trailhead pavilion at 7:30 p.m. ([Lower Trail Map](#)). Contact [Dr. Stan Kotala by email](#) or at 814-946-8840 for more details. Environmental Education Center at 2 p.m. For more information, contact Dr. Stan Kotala - ccwiba@keyconn.net.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All members welcome. First Tuesday of the month, 7PM at ClearWater Conservancy. Call an Excom Member to confirm the next meeting location and date.

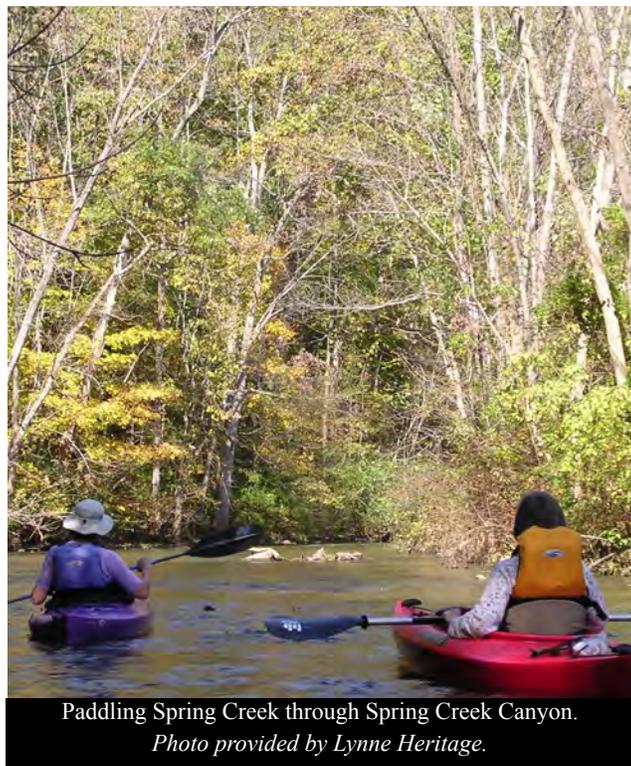
Spring Creek Canyon Stakeholders Meeting

By Lynne Heritage

The local Outreach and Education Coordinator of the PA Fish and Boat Commission held a meeting of the organizations having an interest in how the newly formed Spring Creek Canyon Cooperative Management Area is used. The Sierra Club Moshannon Group was represented along with Tussey Mountain Outfitters, Trout Unlimited, the PA

Remember it is unlawful to go over any dam, so paddlers need to portage around them.

No wading is permitted at Fisherman's Paradise. The Fish and Boat Commission has offered to construct a gravel ramp for paddlers to take out just upstream from The Paradise. For those paddling on toward Bellefonte, put in just below the fish hatchery.



Paddling Spring Creek through Spring Creek Canyon.
Photo provided by Lynne Heritage.

Approaching boaters should announce themselves to anglers and then select a path as far from anglers as safely possible. Anglers should not cast until all boats have past.

Fishing season is year-round and most anglers know when to expect insect hatches. Trout Unlimited will post those times on their website to facilitate planning.

Various hunting seasons are posted on the PA Game Commission website. Anyone in the Canyon management area from Nov. 15 – Dec. 15 (except Sundays) is required to wear at least 250 square

Game Commission and the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

As with any waterway where you use a Fish and Boat access point, paddlers on Spring Creek should have a current launch permit, wear PFD and carry a whistle. The water level at Houserville should read 3.6 feet minimum.

Strainers can be expected on the narrow creek. Paddlers should not cut trees. Instead, portage around and notify the Fish Commission. They will clear the obstruction minimizing damage to fish habitat.

inches of fluorescent orange material on their head, neck and back.

Request permits for special activities 60 days in advance from the Fish + Boat Commission.

The public is fortunate to have gained access to this property. Anglers, hunters and paddlers together look forward to sharing this exceptional resource.

This and additional information will be posted in the Outings section on our website www.sierramsh.org.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



With your help,
we can clean up our water.

Please help us work to keep our water safe from mining, and from under-regulated Marcellus Shale Gas drilling!

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

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Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
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Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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Moshannon Group Directory

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Secretary, Political, Chapter Delegate	*Judy Tanner	542-8519	billtann@verizon.net
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Endangered Species/ Wildlife, Outings	Stan Kotala	946-8840	ccwiba@keyconn.net
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Programs	Randy Earhart	466-7414	randy_earhart@yahoo.com
Publicity	Dee Vogelsong		vogelsong100@yahoo.com

All phone numbers listed above are area code 814

Visit our website for Moshannon Group Excom comments on the Sierra Club accepting \$26 million from Chesapeake Energy and hiding it from us.

Development of Natural Gas from Shales: Some Myths and Realities

Professor Ingraffea discusses 4 myths and realities as well as additional “minor myths”, minor only in the sense that they are not the four that are the primary focus of this talk.

Professor Ingraffea is one of the most articulate voices in the discussion of whether we should be drilling for deep shale natural gas.

This complete 2 hour talk is available on DVD for a donation of \$1. We will have them wherever we have a table. They will be available at the Winter Party. We have distributed over 400 copies!

To receive a copy by mail send a check for \$3 (or more, if you would like to help us distribute more of these DVD’s) made out to “Sierra Club Moshannon Group”. Mail your request to: Gary Thornbloom, 702 Hall Road, Julian, PA 16844.