

# ALLEGHENY SIERRAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALLEGHENY GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Volume 30, Issue 1

Spring 2012

## MARCELLUS SHALE UPDATE

### Where Do We Stand as Gas & Oil 'Siren Song' Plays On?

by Arlene Mercurio

The Sierra Club, other organizations, and countless citizens spoke against Act 13, the state's recent Oil & Gas legislation. Act 13 strips local communities of their ability to zone oil & gas operations and related activities, such as pipelines, compressor stations and waste water impoundments, while imposing the lowest impact fee in the nation. Part of the impact fee can be given back to the industry in the form of incentives to expand, like the proposed cracker plant in Beaver. No funding was provided, however, for the health effects registry recommended by the Governor's Gas Advisory Committee. The well bonding requirement to cover legacy costs is inadequate by a factor of ten.

Similarly, a large percentage of state forest land has been leased for drilling and the State Parks threatened without

even so much as a public hearing. Citizens have no say in protecting these special places nor in how the royalties from this public resource is being used.

Corporate power and money - and the siren song of 'jobs' - has muffled the voice of citizens. Speaking out becomes useless, if no one is listening. It seems impossible to address environmental and public health concerns without first addressing this political imbalance. It is time for those who care deeply about their families, communities and the natural world to run for office or find and support others who will.

Shale gas extraction is focused on rural areas, led by Township Supervisors. These positions are extremely

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### Symphony and Sierra Club Partner in Fund Raising Event

Enjoy an evening at the Pittsburgh Symphony while supporting the conservation work of the Sierra Club. How?

Plan to attend the Symphony's 9th Annual Community Partners Program, featuring the world-renowned Pittsburgh Symphony (with a guest cellist) and very special guests, En Vogue, the Grammy-award-winning female R&B vocal group. This musical treat takes place Friday, June 29 at 7:30 p. m. at Heinz Hall.

Proceeds from ticket sales go to the Sierra Club to support conservation efforts throughout western Pennsylvania. The Sierra Club was the only environmental group chosen among the 25 Symphony partners selected for this special

benefit program.

Tickets are on sale NOW and range from \$25.75 to \$85. Contact the Pittsburgh Symphony Box Office at 412-392-4000 or 1-800-743-8560, or go to [www.pittsburghsymphony.org](http://www.pittsburghsymphony.org) to reserve your seat at this very special event.

***An Important Reminder:*** When ordering tickets, you MUST use the special Sierra Club code; this is the only way we will receive the proceeds from ticket sales. **THE SPECIAL CODE IS 30309.** And tell your friends, neighbors, and fellow music lovers to support this event. Questions? Please call Jackie Apone at 412-687-7128, or by email at [japone46@hotmail.com](mailto:japone46@hotmail.com)

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The Sierra Club's members are 700,000 of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

The Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club was organized in the early 1970s. It is one of 11 groups comprising the Pennsylvania Chapter.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

MINING ISSUES UPDATE:  
**Support DRYerson Fest,  
June 16**

*by Krissy Kasserman, Youghiogheny Riverkeeper, Mountain Watershed Association*

Two of the higher-profile mining issues we've been following for the past few years include the proposed Curry Mine adjacent to Ohiopyle State Park, and the situation at Ryerson Station State Park in Greene County—both with significant ramifications for public lands in southwestern Pennsylvania.

The proposed Curry Mine, in Dunbar Township, Fayette County, was originally slated to be over 550 acres. The proposed site is surrounded entirely by public lands (the Great Allegheny Passage, State Gamelands #51, and Ohiopyle State Park), and would discharge into unnamed tributaries of a high-quality section of the Youghiogheny River. While DEP issued the permit for this mine, after several days of citizen testimony organized by the Mountain Watershed Association and including comment by the Allegheny Group, the Fayette County Zoning Hearing Board denied Amerikohl Mining the special exception they needed to mine the property. Amerikohl appealed to the Fayette County Court of Common Pleas and then on to Commonwealth Court. Both upheld the original denial of the special exception. We are now waiting to see what will happen with this proposal...

Ryerson Station State Park is Greene County's only state park. In July 2005, subsidence resulting from longwall coal mining damaged the structure of the dam, and DCNR was forced to drain the lake. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) found that Consol Energy's Bailey mine was responsible and DEP and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) initiated proceedings against Consol to replace the dam. Consol has appealed this order. Center for Coalfield Justice (CCJ) has been granted intervenor status in this appeal, and continues to focus attention on the situation. Discovery continues in the case, with oral argument expected this summer. The Allegheny Group will co-sponsor CCJ's DRYerson Festival, an annual event held to draw attention to the loss of Duke Lake. The event will take place at Ryerson Station State Park, Saturday, June 16, from 1 to 4 p.m.

It is free and open to the public, with music provided by 2/3 Goat; refreshments will be available. please come and show your support for CCJ, the Allegheny Group, and public lands!

## **Energy Issues at the Heart of Allegheny Group Conservation Activities**

*by Peter Wray, Chair, Conservation Committee*

When the Allegheny Group was formed in the early 1970s, the major issues we were dealing with locally were clear cutting in public forests, surface mining, and wilderness protection. At that time, the only other environmental organization here was GASB, and they were fighting for cleaner air. Forty years later, with over five thousand members and with sister organizations like Clean Water Action, PennFuture, and PennEnvironment, we face a much broader set of environmental issues.

At the heart of most of those issues are two challenges of global proportions that have local consequences – a rapidly increasing world population and a higher standard of living for individuals in developing countries. The result is a growing worldwide demand for energy, a demand that, for environmentalists, is constrained by anxiety about nuclear energy and the changes in climate brought about by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas.

The local impacts of the global challenges and how they are being addressed by citizen-based groups can be summarized as follows.

Marcellus Shale Gas. The rush to extract natural gas from Marcellus Shale deposits, using hydraulic fracturing (fracking) was officially sanctioned by the legislature's passage of Act 13 earlier this year. The immediate reaction has been a lawsuit challenging the pre-emption of local municipalities' zoning rights. With a state administration apparently quite comfortable with the environmental controls of 'fracking', environmentalists are awaiting action from the federal EPA to control what some fear is inherently uncontrollable air and water pollution due to fracking. Concerns about 'fracking' will be highlighted by the "Tour de Frack" bicycle ride starting in Butler and ending at the first national 'Stop the Frack Attack' rally in Washington DC.

Coal. The Sierra Club's national campaign to curb climate change and improve air quality has helped defeat plans for new coal-fired power plants and closing down dirty, aging plants. Closing in June 2012 are the Elrama plant in Washington County, followed in April, 2015 by the Shawville plant in Clearfield County, and the New-castle plant in Lawrence County. In a related action, local citizens are working to prevent coal ash pollution at the Bruce Mansfield plant in Beaver County. Local activists are quite aware that the devastating practice of mountain top removal in nearby West Virginia produces coal that fuels power to Pittsburgh homes.

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Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy. There is a touch of irony in the fact that reducing our reliance on coal is increasing the demand for natural gas as a power plant fuel. Environmentalists call instead for stronger support of energy conservation in buildings, more efficient energy usage in appliances, and far more investment in the development of renewable energy resources such as wind, geothermal, and solar. That necessary legislation is languishing in Harrisburg is not a good sign.

Public Transit. Attracting the attention of Allegheny Group activists is the apparent inability of state and local leaders to produce sustainable funding for public transit. This is further indication that energy conservation is not given the priority it deserves (see the article by Michael Pastorkovich).

Public Lands. Instead of working to expand wilderness protection for areas of Allegheny National Forest, we find ourselves fighting to restrict shale gas drilling on the nation's most industrialized national forest. At the same time, the current moratorium on leasing more state forest lands to the gas industry requires constant safeguarding.

Much more information about these issues and actions you can take is available at our weekly updated website, [www.alleghenysc.org](http://www.alleghenysc.org).

## Sierra Club Endorses Molchany and Levdansky for State House

At the request of the Allegheny Group, the Sierra Club has endorsed Erin Molchany in her race for the 2-year term position vacated by Chelsa Wagner in the 22nd District. In the 39th District (South Hills and Mon Valley) we have endorsed David Levdansky of Elizabeth for the November election. After establishing himself as a forceful advocate for the environment, in 2010 David narrowly lost his seat to Rick Saccone. The Sierra Club strongly believes that we need David back in the State House.



Erin Molchany



David Levdansky

# May Day Rally Focuses on Energy, PA Bridges, Education

## Groups call for changes in Governor Corbett's policies

by Randy Francisco, Sierra Club Organizing Representative

On May Day, hundreds of Sierra Club members and supporters gathered on the steps of the Pennsylvania State Capitol building to call on Gov. Corbett to promote administrative policies that strengthen Pennsylvania's clean energy programs, bridges and rails, and education system. Representatives from Sierra Club, the Laborers union (LiUNA), NAACP, PA Council of Churches, and business leaders spoke about the need to kick-start Pennsylvania's economy by taking action on several fronts including renewable energy, infrastructure projects, and education policies that will create jobs, improve our environment, and ensure that PA kids do not fall behind.

Since taking office, the Corbett Administration has slashed previously-successful programs to advance renewable energy and energy efficiency in the state, like the program that allows state owned buildings to use more renewable energy. Renewable energy supporters wielded red, white and blue pinwheels to symbolize a need for continued growth in renewable energy jobs in Pennsylvania.

"Prior to this administration, Pennsylvania was nationally, and even internationally renowned as a leader in renewable energy," said Robin Mann, Sierra Club National President and resident of Delaware County. "Now, we are falling behind the rest of the country, resulting in lost jobs, and lost opportunity. This is a 'mayday' alert - we need Governor Corbett and all of our leaders to step up or Pennsylvania will continue to sink."

According to the Labors International Union a recent study showed that 42% of Pennsylvania's bridges are unsafe or functionally obsolete. In addition, Pennsylvania's crumbling and inadequate rail system is a serious barrier to bringing businesses, and jobs, to the state.

"Hundreds of thousands of Americans drive over Pennsylvania bridges every year which Federal Highway Administration inspectors have deemed structurally deficient or functionally obsolete," said Abe Amoros, PA Legislative Director for the Laborers International Union of North America (LiUNA.) "At best, these bridges are inefficient. At worst, they are deadly."

Governor Corbett has a duty to ensure that the children of Pennsylvania are ready for their future by adhering to Pennsylvania's Academic Standards. The academic standards are the benchmark measures that

define what students should know and they must be examined regularly to ensure that we are keeping up with today's science, technology and our changing environment.

"Our children must have the tools they need to succeed in life," said Dwayne D. Jackson, Sr., First Vice President of the Pennsylvania State Conference of NAACP Branches. "All children -- no matter their ethnic background, financial circumstance, intellectual ability, or neighborhood environment -- are entitled to a free, public education. Our children deserve the best tools we can provide so they can compete in the market place with other states and other countries."



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## Members are Encouraged to Use the Allegheny Group Website

[www.alleghenysc.org](http://www.alleghenysc.org)

The Allegheny Group's website is a great source of information about what YOUR organization is doing in Southwestern Pennsylvania and how YOU can participate, from outings, hearings, monthly meetings, and more.

The website is updated weekly, with more than 2,000 visits per month. To join our 'website network', please send your name to [pjwray@verizon.net](mailto:pjwray@verizon.net) with 'WEBSITE NOTICE' in the Subject line.

**Stay Informed—Use Our Website!**



## Save the Dates for PA Sierra Club Outing July 13-15 at Ohiopyle State Park

Friday and Saturday Evening: Organized group tenting with your Chapter friends! Saturday and Sunday: ChapterExCom meeting (Saturday), outings for friends and family, cookout and potluckdinner, followed by a speaker, then campfire and socializing, plus a variety of Sierra Club-led hikes and outings on Saturday and Sunday! ALL FOR FREE - including camp grounds!

*Activities will include:*

- Windfarm hike along the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail
- Ferncliff Loop hike
- Energy Tour - walk and ride to drilling site, coal mine, windfarm
- Naturalist Talk about Owls

*Registration (FREE) and details can be found at the PA Chapter website ([pennsylvania.sierra-club.org](http://pennsylvania.sierra-club.org)) by June 10, 2012.*

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## Philly Takes Bold Steps to Manage Stormwater; Can Pittsburgh Follow Suit?

*Submitted by Tom Hoffman for Clean Rivers Campaign*

Recently Pittsburgh got upstaged by that other Pennsylvania City when Philadelphia took a historic step to solve its sewer problems. All of us in Allegheny County should take note because Philadelphia addressed the familiar problems of sewage in the river and streets flooded with sewage and stormwater in a way that will save money, create jobs and solve many other problems. Philadelphia and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signed an agreement that will allow the city to manage its stormwater with green methods – porous pavement, green roofs and acres of trees – instead of the traditional approach of building ever-larger underground pipes. This groundbreaking agreement has been hailed as the most ambitious such plan in the country.

Like Philadelphia and many other older cities, the Pittsburgh region is facing this day of reckoning very soon. For years we've heard that our beloved three rivers have big problems—for example, our rivers water is unsafe to touch for half the boating season. In July of this year, ALCOSAN, our county sewer authority, must release its plan – five years in the making – laying out how we plan to stop unhealthy and illegal sewer overflows into our rivers and streams. This is expected to be the largest infrastructure investment ever made in this region.

Not only is this required, but it is necessary; billions of gallons of raw sewage are flowing into our three rivers every year. While our rivers, like our air, are in much better shape than they were in the heyday of the steel industry, we can do so much better. Our pride in our region, the health of our citizens, and the law require that we do.

Philadelphia is showing us an innovative path to fix this,

along with other storm water problems like flooded basements and streets and tragedies like the drowning last summer on Washington Boulevard. Stopping sewage overflows by getting stormwater into the ground or evaporated into the air has benefits in addition to fixing our sewer problem.

A green solution can transform crumbling neighborhoods into green inviting places to live. Green research shows that business districts attract more shoppers and therefore, more businesses. Green neighborhoods are cooler thanks to the trees and green roofs installed to capture stormwater, which means less energy is used to cool homes and buildings. Greened neighborhoods have increased property values.

While green roofs and rain gardens soak up rain before it gets to the sewer they also powerfully and positively impact air quality--the subject of many disappointing rankings for our city recently. Pipes buried deep underground offer no such benefit. And green solutions create jobs, both immediate short term construction jobs and long term permanent jobs providing employment opportunities in neighborhoods that desperately need the work.

We can start right away on green solutions, unlike grey projects. Philadelphia started building 32 “green street” blocks before the ink was even on the paper. Unlike grey projects, green does not require huge amounts of investment up front. Philly's porous pavements came out of the regularly scheduled street and sidewalk maintenance budgets. Avoiding the need for a huge bond issue also means that our water and sewer rates will not include huge increases for bond interest over the life of the project.

Our region does not have unlimited resources. We have to make smart choices, choosing investments that solve

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# Transit Cuts Spell Crisis for Pittsburgh

by Michael Pastorkovich

On September 2, Pittsburgh and surrounding Allegheny County stand to see 46 of remaining 102 mass transit bus routes eliminated unless Governor Corbett and the state legislature provide funds between now and then to avert these cuts. In addition to the proposed cuts by the Port Authority Transit (PAT), an estimated 1,800 Allegheny County residents will lose ACCESS transportation service for people with disabilities, leaving many of these persons housebound and unable to travel either to jobs, schools, churches, or physicians.

Furthermore, the decimation of its public transportation could spell the death of the dream of Greater Pittsburgh as a magnet for business, industry, jobs and an influx of young people who want to make it home.

But the chances of the state coming to the rescue before the September deadline do not look promising. Governor Corbett has declared the prospect of transit cuts to be a “local issue” and has further stated that he will not intervene in the matter until after the conclusion of contract negotiations between PAT and its drivers union. The driver’s contract is set to expire on June 30.

The key to Pennsylvania’s public transit funding crisis has been, for years, the absence of a dedicated source of income from the state in order to keep mass transportation financing predictable in the face of rising fuel prices and legacy costs, among other contingencies. The Rendell administration thought it had found a solution in 2007 with the pas-

sage of Act 44 which authorized the tolling of Interstate 80 and the use of part of the resulting income for mass transit. However, I-80 is a federal highway, and the federal government has forbidden the state to charge toll for its use.

However, Governor Corbett’s “hands off” approach to the coming debacle is very possibly the consequence of his having signed the so-called “Taxpayer Protection Pledge” proffered by Americans for Tax Reform headed by Mr. Grover Norquist. Over 95% of Republicans in the U.S. Congress have signed this “pledge.” In short, the “pledge” is a promise never to raise any taxes at any time, for any reason. In April, 2011, the Governor appointed a commission to study the transit funding problem. Among its recommendations for funding transit were raising motor vehicle fees and taxes on wholesale gasoline. Thus far, Mr. Corbett has expressed no support for the findings of his commission.

The mass transit funding crisis in Pennsylvania has been a long time coming. But, right now, the solution to the crisis lies squarely in the lap of Governor Corbett and the Republican-controlled state legislature.

It is imperative that Allegheny County residents contact Governor Corbett either by telephone or by email to make sure he understands that voters will hold him accountable for the destruction of our public transportation system. The Governor’s office telephone is (717)787-2500. His email address is: [governor@state.pa.us](mailto:governor@state.pa.us).

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## Meet ESAT: The Allegheny Group’s Endangered Species Team

by Gwen Chute, Chair

The Allegheny Group Endangered Species Action Team (ESAT) is an active and hard-working group of fun loving and passionate environmentalists. Team members Gwen Chute (chair) Bett Beeson and Kathleen Smith (founding members), Mike LaMark (artist and computer graphics whiz kid), Naomi Swerdlow, Mary Ruth Aul, and Mike Pastorkovich form the committed core of this active group.

Since its beginning, the team has devoted itself to one clear mission--saving endangered and threatened species through education and political action. Their work does not exclude any species, but they try to focus on troubled native Pennsylvania species such as bats, mussels, raptors and snakes. Members believe in sowing the seeds of

environmental awareness early, so much of their effort is directed toward children. The group regularly collaborates with the Pittsburgh Zoo and the Imagine Environmental Charter School in Regent Square, where, several times each year, members can be found spreading the word and having fun teaching folks about endangered species and how they can be helped. The team also frequently “tables” at festivals, where they interact with children and adults who learn about current issues and take action by signing petitions and postcards that will be sent to law makers and other government officials.

Already this spring, the ESAT has been hard at work. The first event was a class at the Environmental Charter

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School with some 55 students from K through 6th grade. The topic of the day was snakes, and the goal was to raise awareness of the endangered Massasauga Rattlesnake, a little known species that is critically endangered in Pennsylvania, with populations in only three or four western counties. Highlights of the class included assembling and decorating a stuffed paper snake plus attending a talk by the Educator and Community Outreach Coordinator at the Animal Rescue League Shelter and Wildlife Center. The Wildlife Center's ball python and resident ambassador came along for the visit. The students also signed a giant postcard to the Western PA Conservancy thanking the organization for their efforts to protect the Massasauga. Such activities not only raise awareness of the endangered species, but also of other organizations with similar missions. Finally, the team assembled activity books for each student with puzzles and coloring pages on the topic of the day.

The Zoo Party for the Planet (the Pittsburgh Zoo's celebration of earth month) was also on the ESAT's agenda this spring; ESAT volunteers persevered through cold temperatures, steady rain and low turnout to bring fun and information to those brave enough to attend. The main attraction at this event was Snuggles the Polar Bear. Patrick McLaren, friend of the ESAT, assumed the starring role and immediately endeared himself to kids and team members alike.

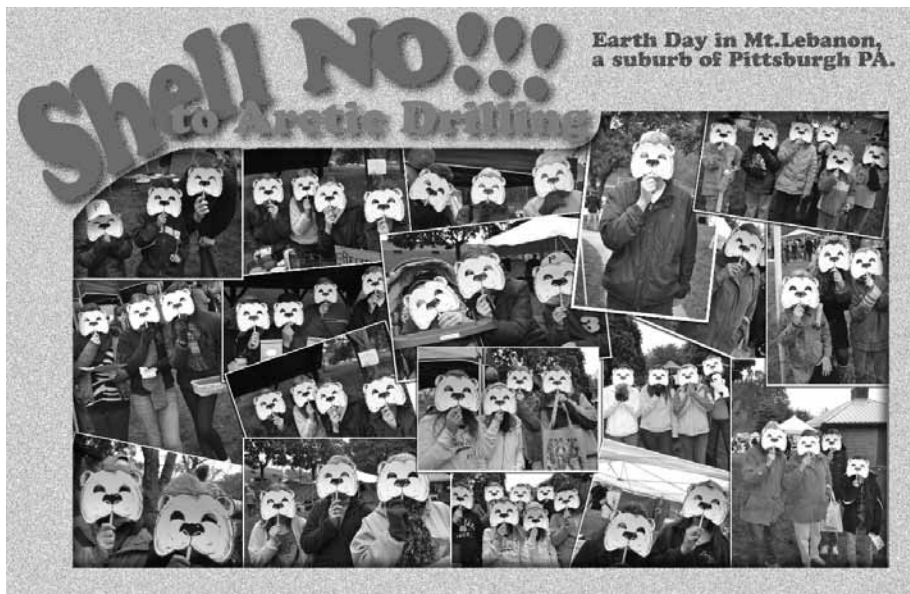
Undeterred by inhospitable weather, the team next set up for a cold, damp Mount Lebanon Earth Day celebration. Here, the team enlisted participants for the Greatest Gathering of Polar Bears.

Paper polar bear masks were provided to subjects willing to pose for a photograph. At the end of the day, Mike LaMark conflated the individual pictures into a montage of many polar bears. This activity, in cooperation with Alaska Wilderness League, aimed to send a clear message to the president: "protect the Arctic Wilderness to save the polar bears."

So far In May, the team has traveled to the Baldwin Whitehall Paynter Elementary School to conduct a class for a group of fourth graders who were learning about endangered species. The topic of the day, again, was polar bears. Feeling sad about so many animals becoming endangered, the students were eager to take action to help save the bears. Each student wrote and illustrated a note card to President and Mrs. Obama addressing the difficulties facing these largest of marine mammals. The class was also provided with a mural for the students to color as a reminder of our visit, and each child was given an activity book.

Already on the calendar of future events for the ESAT are Venture Outdoors at Point State Park on May 19, the Highland Park Community Festival on June 3 and the Carnegie Library Extravaganza on June 10. The team also will participate in the Pennsylvania Chapter meeting and weekend at Ohiopyle State Park in July. Classes currently

being planned for the Environmental Charter School in the fall feature endangered or extinct trees and endangered seals. If you come to any Southwestern PA festival during the summer or fall, you are likely to encounter the Allegheny Group's Endangered Species Action Team at work. Step up and say "Hi!"



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multiple problems whenever possible. And we know how to do green investments. 3 Rivers Wet Weather has the data and engineering know-how; Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Green Infrastructure Network has the models that demonstrate how to do green; Congress Of Neighborhoods NECT [working on spelling this out] has the leadership of 37 municipalities calling for green methods to fix

our sewer problem.

Our Clean Rivers Campaign is recruiting citizens and organizations concerned with our environment, community revitalization, high project costs and the need for more good jobs. Other cities are making the choice to go green. It's time for our leaders to work with ALCOSAN and encourage the EPA to let us choose the green path to fix our sewers.

# Join Firefly Watch in the Allegheny National Forest

Last year at the June 17-19 outing of the Allegheny Defense Project, campers were treated to a vision of Nature's beauty and mystery heretofore undocumented on the Allegheny National Forest. As darkness enveloped the group camped at the confluence of Salmon Creek and a tributary known simply as The Branch, near the North Country Trail, the campers noticed an unusual pattern in the twinkling of fireflies as night gathered. It was a beautiful display, appearing blue-white at times, and resembling a massive Christmas light display that twinkled in rhythms and then shut down in complete darkness for a few seconds before it all began again.



Synchronous fireflies are rare, and their synchronous displays occur only a few places on earth. The insects that create these displays are populations of a specific species, *Photinus carolinus*. They produce synchronous light displays once a year in late June and early July when they are mating. Recorded populations in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in the North Carolina/Tennessee mountains, and in Southeast Asia, draw thousands of visitors a year and represent an important component of the yearly economic cycle of these communities. The discovery of a population of this remarkable species in the Allegheny National Forest highlights the need to protect this area from the massive onslaught of gas drilling and timber logging that industry

wreaks upon these public forest lands.

Last Fall, the ANF Resource Allocation Committee approved a small grant to pay for firefly researchers to travel to the ANF in June to study this population. We are very excited about the start of the field season, which for us has already begun. It is very important that those of us living in an around the ANF, or who are willing to visit the ANF for the purposes of this study, begin to watch for the first occurrence of firefly activity now. We also need

to visit the site where we discovered the fireflies last year to record habitat characteristics as spring progresses. If you are willing to spend an evening camping in the ANF as part of the firefly watch OR if you live in or near the ANF and are willing to participate by recording data from where you live PLEASE SIGN UP FOR FIREFLY WATCH NOW at the ADP's web site, [www.alleghenydefense.org](http://www.alleghenydefense.org) and look for the firefly link. We will coordinate with you regarding your availability for camping or participating from your home.

*Adapted by Matt Peters from the ADP website article written by Cathy Pedler*

Photos online at [http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/6155/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup\\_page\\_KEY=6837](http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/6155/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=6837) and [http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/6155/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content\\_item\\_KEY=8884](http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/6155/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content_item_KEY=8884)

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important, since they are where 'the rubber meets the road' and yet few people are willing to step up. An exception is Allen Uhler of Upper Burrell who took his concerns about drilling impacts to his community, and with the help of his neighbors, a lot of hard work and about \$500, beat an incumbent to win a Supervisor seat. Although he often represents the minority position on the three person board, his views are heard and taken into account. He has gained respect within the community and among other municipal and state officials. He attended the Local Government Academy and the recent Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors, where the zoning pre-emptions of Act 13 were a very hot topic. Others should follow Allen's lead.

A group of activists found their State Representative

unresponsive to their concerns, yet running unopposed in the fall general election. Shortly before the Primary Election, they recruited and worked for a candidate through a write-in campaign, helping him win a spot on the fall ballot to oppose the State Representative who doesn't represent them.

The Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters made the connection years ago between environmental stewardship and politics - at both the state and national level. They support people who are strong on the environment and help defeat those office-holders who aren't. Your help is needed. This is an arena where you will be heard. Please consider running for office yourself or volunteering to help good people who will.