

News from The New

Fall/Winter 2018



Honoring River Heroes

New River Conservancy's 2018 Annual Meeting was a great success! It was held in Grayson County, VA on Sunday, July 23rd and provided an opportunity to connect with our members and update them on our current projects. In addition to our regular program, we were honored to be a part of the Committal of Ashes Ceremony for our dear friend and longtime supporter, Ed Adams. We also took the time to recognize our great supporters with our annual Wallace and Peggy Carroll Vigilance Award and our Lynn Caldwell Restoration Award.

Vigilant Award Winners: Wallace and Peggy Carroll were early supporters of the New River, successfully fighting a dam which would have flooded the New. Their efforts resulted in Congress approving legislation to place 26.5 miles of the New River into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This designation prohibits impeding the flow of any Federal Wild and Scenic River.

Bill Parker: As a resident of Hinton WV, Bill has spent a good portion of his life on the New River. As a River Ranger in the New River Gorge, Bill has worked with NRC for many years providing safety and logistical support for all of NRC's river trips and cleanups in the area, and even leads his own clean ups. If all this wasn't enough, this year he raised over \$1,200 for NRC through a Facebook birthday fundraiser!



Cathy Hanks: Cathy Hanks is honored for her work as President of Friends of Peak Creek (FOPC) in Pulaski, Virginia. Cathy is a Certified Master Naturalist and has been instrumental in establishing a productive partnership between FOPC and NRC. Together we have completed two streambank enhancement projects along Peak Creek, hosted a Water Quality Monitoring volunteer training session, and FOPC is sponsoring two water quality monitors for NRC who will test regularly in Peak Creek.



Tom Hansell: Tom Hansell, Appalachian Studies Associate Professor at Appalachian State University, has inspired countless students to make a difference in conservation through the arts with his creativity and resourcefulness. We have had the pleasure to work with Tom's students for two years on various projects that all yielded amazing results in our community. The first year we worked with Tom, his class managed to collect, clean, and organize trash from several river cleanups that resulted in a unique trash sculpture that was exhibited at the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts in Boone, NC for 6 months.



Lynn Caldwell Restoration Award: David and Pat Jones
The Lynn Caldwell Restoration Award represents a commitment to restore and protect the New River as well as promoting responsible local stewardship. This year, the award was presented to David and Pat Jones who have slowly transformed the mouth of Helton Creek in Ashe County, NC from silted and un-vegetated to thriving and shady! The Jones' continue to inspire their friends and neighbors to protect the New River and envision a home for their children and grandchildren where they can come to appreciate the natural world.



Ed Adams Legacy Program: New River Conservancy introduces the Edmund Ivan Adams Legacy Society
At the Annual Membership Meeting in July, New River Conservancy introduced the Edmund Ivan Adams Legacy Society in memory of Ed Adams and his long-standing love for the New River and the New River Conservancy. The purpose of the Legacy Society is to recognize those individuals and families who have remembered New River Conservancy in their estate plans through a documented planned gift. Membership serves a witness to the value of protecting the New River for generations.
Learn more about Ed Adams' contributions and how you can designate a legacy gift at www.newriverconservancy.org.

Throughout the Watershed...

Volunteers really clean up well!

From the narrow headwaters on the North and South Forks in North Carolina to the roaring whitewater in the New River Gorge in West Virginia, volunteers worked to remove 25,000 pounds of trash and 695 tires from our beloved New River. That's 2 elephants of trash and enough tires for nearly 39 semi-trucks! Volunteers ranged from experienced raft guides to school groups, businesses to families. Some volunteers even organized cleanups in their own backyards. If you've never volunteered for a river cleanup, we invite you to join us by cleaning up your creek! Share your cleanup pictures on social media with the hashtag **#ShowUsYourTrash**.



Minden/Hinton WV Issue: Improving Water Quality in the New River Gorge

NRC has been working to find a solution to the water quality issues in Minden for almost 10 years. It all began with NRC's participation in the New River Clean Water Alliance (NRCWA). NRCWA was a regional collaboration focused on water quality issues in the New River Gorge. NRCWA identified that too much bacteria in the water was the most prevalent water quality impairment in the New River throughout the Gorge. Arbuckle Creek, which flows through Minden, was one of the worst contributors. Minden's failing wastewater treatment facility was the reason for most of the bacteria load in Arbuckle. Something had to be done to improve the situation. NRC worked with Oak Hill and petitioned WV Infrastructure Jobs Development Council to secure funding to close down the Minden treatment facility, upgrade the sewer system, and connect it to Oak Hill's system.

As work on the sewer system upgrade began, another critical

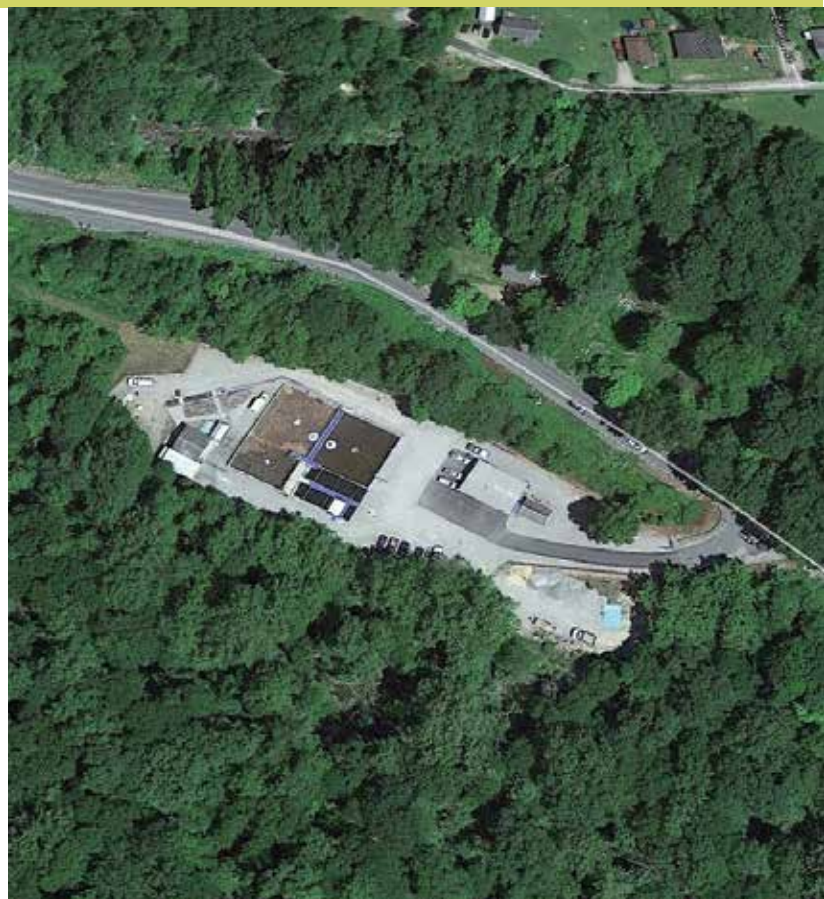
Lower Watershed

environmental issue arose in Minden.

We all learned that the remediation of the

toxic PCBs that are buried around Minden was poorly done. The citizens in Minden have been experiencing high rates of cancer that is potentially tied to the PCB contamination. The EPA, who has long considered the PCB issue closed, is now proposing to add Minden to the National Priorities List of Superfund Sites. If included on the list, there will be federal monies available for further clean-up efforts and possible relocation of residents.

NRC is optimistic that the EPA will add Minden to the Priorities List and we're proud to have helped move the water treatment project forward. We look forward to greatly improved water quality in this important drainage of the New River.



Meet Summer Rich!

Summer Rich joined the organization on November 13th as our new Communications and Outreach Coordinator. She comes to us with a Masters in Public Administration with a concentration in Non-Profit Management. Previously, she worked for the North Carolina Coastal Federation and was a pivotal player in building the campaign for the "North Carolina Oyster Trail". Summer is passionate about conservation, protecting the environment, and serving in the nonprofit sector.



WW Program into VA

This year, the New River Water Watchers program was expanded into the Middle Watershed and led by Mike McLeod. With his help, he worked with the New River Round Table established by the New River Valley Regional Commission (NRVRC) to initiate the program and train seven volunteer monitors.

Each volunteer is supplied with sampling kits and equipment for the collection of data for one year. The volunteers, comprised of individuals and the Friends of Peak Creek, began sample collection of eight sites on six tributary streams to the New River. The volunteers collect water samples for the measurement of dissolved oxygen, temperature (water/air), pH, bacteria - *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), Stream depth and transparency. Sampling began in April on Big Stony Creek (2 sites - Giles Co.), Little River (1 site - Floyd Co.), Toms Creek (1 site - Montgomery Co.); and in Pulaski Co. Peak Creek (2 sites), Tract Fork (1 site) and Sproules Run (1 site). Water sample results are entered into the Conservancy's database for submission to the New River Round Table (NRVRC) and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's (VDEQ) biennial Integrated Water Quality Report. This data will eventually be available via The New River Conservancy's website at www.newriverconservancy.org. The New River Conservancy has reported data results since 2008.

Middle Watershed



Left: Mike McLeod, left, of the New River Conservancy, and NRWW Volunteers Pete Huber and Christina Hahn set their GPS coordinates for monitoring sites in Pulaski. Right: George Santucci, President of the New River Conservancy, left, training NRWW volunteers to test dissolved oxygen.

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Make a gift online at www.newriverconservancy.org.

Elk Shoals Purchase

New River Conservancy has been working passionately to raise the funds needed to acquire the Elk Shoals property for the New River State Park.

The Elk Shoals property is in Ashe County approximately 5 miles to the east of West Jefferson, NC. This project is approximately 12 miles upriver from the Wagoner Access of New River State Park. It would become the most upstream access part of New River State Park. Each access of the park is approximately 12 miles apart creating a convenient multi-day river camping experience.

Upper Watershed

This acquisition would add an additional day, from 3-4 days to 4-5 days, to this opportunity.

Additionally, there is a beach area on the property that will continue to be open to the public. The beach has long been a local favorite!

For many years, Camp Elk Shoals provided a place for faith-directed recreation for persons of all ages, races and faiths. What better way to honor the legacy of a such a sacred place than to ensure it is permanently preserved by the NC State Park system. The sale of the property is expected to take place before the end of 2018.



Photos by Carl Galie

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