



Forked River Mountain Views

Newsletter of the Forked River Mountain Coalition

www.frmc.org

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JOHN ALDRICH SLY, Ph.D.

1926 - 2004

FORKED RIVER MOUNTAIN COALITION

Memorial Tribute

JOHN ALDRICH SLY, Ph.D.

1926 - 2004

Dr. John Sly, a world-renowned educator and staunch environmentalist, passed away on August 28, 2004. John was a passionate defender of the local environment. He was dedicated to preserving the marsh and woods along Stouts Creek, the ecosystem and culture of the Forked River Mountains in the Pine Barrens, and the marine ecosystem of the Barnegat Bay. He worked tirelessly in the effort to staff the Interpretative Center at Island Beach State Park, to restore the Old Sawmill at Double Trouble State Park in Berkeley Township, and to convert the Central Jersey Railroad right-of-way in Lacey Township into a bicycling and hiking trail that would run from South Toms River to Barnegat. Most recently, John served as a supervisor with the Ocean County Soil Conservation District in Forked River.

John's association with the Forked River Mountain Coalition began early on and he became a founding board member in our formative years. He served as a Trustee from 1994 and as our Treasurer from 1996 until his passing in August. He accomplished every task set before him with wit and wisdom, making even the most challenging tasks appear easy. He generously shared his vast knowledge, experience, diverse interests, and love of humanity. He inspired

everyone with his wonderful curiosity and love of life. He truly made a difference in the lives of every person he met.

John was born in Los Angeles, California, and grew up in Morgantown, West Virginia, and Princeton, New Jersey. He graduated from Grinnell College in Iowa and from the Harvard School of Education, where he earned a M.Ed. and Ph.D. In the 1950s and 1960s, he served as the principal and headmaster of schools in Liberia and Nigeria, West Africa. He also served as a consultant in an agricultural training program for veterans in Ghana, West Africa. Upon his return to the United States, he served as president of the International School Services for 16 years in Princeton and, subsequently, as a senior research associate with Search Associates. Upon his retirement, John and his wife Lucy moved to the bucolic shores of Stouts Creek in the Forked River section of Lacey Township.

Aside from his beloved wife Lucy, John is also survived by son, John F. Sly, two daughters Melissa L. Sly and Abigail Kunceovich, Abigail's husband, David Kunceovich, two grandsons, Nathan and Michael Kunceovich, and a sister and brother-in-law, Joanne and Elija Hicks.

A LOOK BACK. . . A LOOK AHEAD. . .

For the past year, the Forked River Mountain Coalition has been busy working to permanently protect this vast wilderness. Below are just some of our accomplishments for 2004 and some of our future goals for 2005 and beyond.

2004 Accomplishments

- Received grants to continue our vital work with threatened and endangered species.
- Continued work on the Elizabeth Meirs Morgan hiking and interpretive trail.
- Revised our membership brochure, making it more attractive and up to date.
- Concluded our third Eagle Scout project to enhance public access and enjoyment of conservation lands within the Forked River Mountain area.
- Conducted our Eleventh Annual Spring Cleanup. Over 16 tons of trash was removed from the forest. To date, more than 303 tons of debris have been removed from the vast Pinelands forest around the Forked River Mountains.
- Continued to monitor and maintain our bluebird nest box trail; unfortunately, no bluebirds were fledged during 2004. During the past six years we have fledged a total of 44 bluebirds.
- Sponsored and participated in a variety of educational events, like the Barnegat Bay Festival and Pine Barrens Jamboree, to promote a greater awareness about the importance and significance of the Forked River Mountain area.
- Continued to publish our newsletter, "Forked River Mountain Views," and update our website (www.frmc.org) to report on our activities and educate the public about conservation and stewardship efforts in the area.

Goals

- Acquire more land. Precious little time remains if we are to protect the entire Forked River Mountain area as open space.
- Continue plant and wildlife studies. We must understand the habitat requirements of threatened and endangered species if we are to ensure their survival here and else where.
- Continue work on a comprehensive trails system for the Forked River Mountain area. Eventually over 20 miles of hiking, interpretive, mountain biking, horseback, cross-

country skiing and motor vehicle trails are possible.

- Maintain and expand our web site to bring you all the important information and news you need to know about the Forked River Mountains and the Coalition.
- Continue to monitor our bluebird nest box trail and expand other conservation and stewardship activities within the Forked River Mountain area.
- Conduct the annual spring cleanup, our annual canoe trip and treefrog hike and participate in the Barnegat Bay Festival, Pine Barrens Jamboree and other educational events to promote greater awareness about the importance and significance of the Forked River Mountain area.

But we can only realize our goals with your help. If you are not currently a member of the Coalition and would like to join, or if you are a member and have not yet renewed your membership, simply complete the registration form provided. Be sure to mark the appropriate box and return the form along with your membership dues for 2005. Please help support the grass-roots initiative to permanently protect the Forked River Mountains and the vast

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Field Day, March 19, 2005. Scheduled work includes posting signs, painting over offensive graffiti, planting pine seedlings and clearing brush along our hiking/nature trail. We will meet at Wells Mills County Park, Route 532, Waretown at 9:00am and will return around 1:00pm. Volunteers are asked to bring work gloves, hammers, nail pouches, a small spade or shovel, bow saws and loppers, pruners or shears. Volunteers with four wheel drive vehicles are especially needed. If you would like to lend a hand please call 609-971-1635.

Annual Cleanup, April 17, 2005. Meet at Lacey Municipal Building, Lacey Road, Forked River. Arrive between 8:30am and 9:00am. Return between 12:30pm and 1:00pm. Last year volunteers helped to clean up 16 tons of trash. Please help make this year's clean up another success. Bags and gloves will be supplied. Volunteers with four wheel drive vehicles are especially needed. If you would like to help please call 609-971-1635.

Barnegat Bay Festival, June 25, 2005. Help out at our educational exhibit at Ocean County College, College Drive, Toms River. Available Shifts: 9am-12pm, 12pm-2pm and 2pm-4pm. Call 609-971-1635.

All contributions are tax-deductible. Thank you!

Forked River Mountain Coalition
P.O. Box 219, Forked River, NJ 08731

Please make checks payable to:
and mail to:

- I have enclosed membership dues of \$20.00 (individual) \$35 (family) Please circle: New Renewal
- I have enclosed an additional contribution of \$_____.
- I would like to volunteer, please contact me.
- Please send information on how to include the Coalition in my will.

E-Mail Address _____

Phone () _____ Day () _____ (eve) _____

Address _____

Name _____

Membership Application



Forked River Mountain Coalition
P.O. Box 219
Forked River, NJ 08731

SAVE THE DATES

Field Day. . .
March 19, 2005

Forked River
Mountain Cleanup. . .
April 17, 2005

Annual Meeting. . .
May 15, 2005

Cedar Creek Canoe Trip. . .
May 30, 2005

Treefrog Hike. . .
June 10, 2005

Barnegat Bay Festival. . .
June 25, 2005

More details in future newsletters!