



Forked River Mountain Views

Newsletter of the Forked River Mountain Coalition

www.frmc.org

Vol. 14 No. 2

***** Just a Reminder *** Forked River Mountain Cleanup**

*Where: Lacey Municipal Building
Lacey Road
Forked River*

*When: Sunday, April 22, 2007
Arrive Between
8:30 am and 9:00 am
Return Between
12:30 pm and 1:00 pm*



** Optional Hike Afterwards**

***For more information or to pre-register call
(609) 971-1635 or visit our web site at www.frmc.org***

Annual Meeting Set

A special **Thank you** to the dozens of individuals who recently joined or renewed their membership with the Coalition. This support will enable the Coalition to continue our grass-roots initiative so we can all realize our goal of preserving the Forked River Mountains and the vast wilderness that surrounds them.

Members of the Coalition will be able to participate in the thirteenth Annual Meeting and election of members to the Board of Trustees. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, 2007

at 4:00 p.m. at Wells Mills County Park. The Annual Meeting Notice is included in this newsletter.

If you are not currently a member of the Coalition but would like to join, or if you are a member and have not yet renewed your membership, simply complete the registration form in this newsletter. Be sure to mark the appropriate box and return the form along with your membership dues for 2007. Contributions are tax-deductible.

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Join Us in the Great Outdoors. . .

Here are some exciting opportunities to learn more about the Forked River Mountains. . .

Canoe Trip



The Forked River Mountain Coalition will sponsor our tenth annual canoe trip down Cedar Creek on May 29, 2006. We will depart Double Trouble State Park at 10:00 am and return approximately 3:00 pm. A donation of \$10 per person is requested. There is a three (3) person limit per canoe.

Bring lunch, drink, insect repellent, sun tan lotion, hat or sun glasses. Long pants and sneakers are recommended. No alcohol.

We will provide canoes, life preservers and transportation back to Double Trouble State Park.

Persons who are interested in attending should complete and return the registration form in this newsletter or call (609) 693-1268 for more information.

Treefrog Hike

If you would like to try your luck at discovering an endangered Pine Barrens Treefrog join us on the evening of Friday, June 1 2007. We will meet at the former Bamber Store at 7:30 pm and return around 9:30 pm. The Bamber Store is located at the intersection of Lacey Road and Dover Road about 5 ½ miles west of Parkway exit 74.

There will also be an opportunity to view several unique plants during the hike including sundews, pitcher plants and the endangered curly-grass fern.

A donation of \$5 per person is requested. You must provide your own transportation. Long pants and boots are recommended. Bring insect repellent and a flashlight. Persons who are interested in attending should complete and return the registration form in this newsletter or call (609) 971-1635 for more information.



Pine Barrens Treefrog

Barnegat Bay Festival

The tenth annual Barnegat Bay Festival will be held on Sunday, June 3, 2007 at the Wanamaker Complex, Island Heights. The festival is a cooperative effort of non-profit organizations and government agencies dedicated to maintaining the health and quality of the Barnegat Bay and its vast watershed covering most of Ocean County. The festival is designed to heighten environmental awareness about the natural resources of the watershed and the impact of human activities on these resources.



Open space conservation in the Pinelands compliments efforts to protect Barnegat Bay because many of the streams and rivers that flow into the bay originate in the Pinelands. The Forked River Mountain area contains the headwaters to three major tributaries of Barnegat Bay, including the Cedar Creek, Forked River and Oyster Creek. For additional information call (732)255-0472

Whitesbog Blueberry Festival

The 24th annual Whitesbog Blueberry Festival will be held on Saturday, June 30, 2007.

The Blueberry Festival commemorates the cultivation of the blueberry and the birth of the blueberry industry. The festival is held at Historic Whitesbog Village, located on the outskirts of Browns Mills in Lebanon State Forest. The festival provides activities, music, food and fun for the entire family including guided tours and walks of the area.

The festival is presented by the Whitesbog Preservation Trust who are working to restore this important piece of New Jersey heritage. Oh yes and don't forget the blueberries! For more information call (609) 893-4646.



Highbush Blueberry

**Some illustrations from a field Guide to the Pine Barrens of New Jersey, by Howard Boyd, Plexus Publishing, Inc. Medford, NJ*

Tribute to Janice Sherwood by Angus Kress Gillespi

Editors Note: This tribute was written for the Pinelands Cultural Society by A.Gillespi and is reprinted with permission. Janice was a founding member of the Forked River Mountain Coalition.

When I first arrived at Rutgers back in 1973 as a young folklorist, I was eager to learn more about the folk culture of the people who lived in the Pines. Some of my students from South Jersey urged me to get in touch with Janice Sherwood. They told me that she was the ideal person, someone who knew all about the Piney way of life. In those days, Janice handled the bookings for the old-timey string band known as the Pineconers. As I got to know Janice better, I often invited the Pineconers up to New Brunswick to play for the annual New Jersey Folk Festival, held the last Saturday in April. The Pineconers became the "house band" for the festival through the 1970s & 80s.

One of the standard songs in their repertoire was "Home in the Pines," written back in the early 1940s by W.J. Britton, uncle to Janice Sherwood, and known to nearly everyone simply as "Uncle Bill." His song told of the hardship and difficulty of making a living in the Pines. It told of the difficulties involved in hunting, fishing, and gardening-of the difficulties of putting food on the table. The song was one of Janice's favorites.

But Janice was much more than a banjo player and a musician. She embodied the best of Piney values. It seems that Janice's grandfather, Jackson Britton, was the caretaker at Lacey, or the Rutherford Stuyvesant tract, a vast area of some 14,500 acres. The family lived there from 1909 to 1950. There is an old family story, told to me by Janice that is very illustrative of life in the Pines. At one point, Edward Britton, Janice's father, decided to make a large garden of sweet potatoes. Unfortunately, the deer love sweet potatoes. Edward Britton tried everything. At first, he tried to keep the deer out by putting up kerosene lanterns, but found it just made it easier for the deer to see what they were doing.

Next he tried putting a cowbell on a long string. It fell to Janice's grandmother, Sarah "Sally" Britton, to wake up every once in a while to pull the string. Grandma soon got tired of that. Finally Ed Britton rigged up two storage batteries with alarm clocks and automobile horns. The clocks were set so they would go off when the minute hand went past twelve o'clock or six o'clock. The horns were rigged so that every fifteen minutes the horn would blow at one end of the field or the other. The deer could not get used to that. It was not consistent enough, and the garden was spared.

The moral to the story was that life in the Pines was a constant struggle. But Janice embraced that struggle. She did not shrink from trouble and adversity. Janice was never comfortable with the world of interstate highways, shopping malls, and supermarkets. Instead, she was at home in a small community made up of churches, granges, and volunteer fire departments. Janice struggled to preserve the Piney heritage, a way of life that is fast vanishing before our eyes. But she has left us a lasting legacy. She was one of the founders of the Pinelands Cultural Society, a group that exhibits local patriotism. This is patriotism that one scholar said "rests on the intimate experience of place, and on a sense of the fragility of goodness; that which we love has no guarantee to endure."

We will surely miss her.

Angus Kress Gillespi
American Studies Department
Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey

In Memoriam:

The Forked River Mountain Coalition would like to recognize the passing of two long time members and contributors. . . .

Charles J. Hesse of Belford, New Jersey was a member and long time contributor to the annual Forked River Mountain Clean-up. As the owner/operator of a local mining operation, the Brick-Wall Corporation in Lacey Township and the Ocean County Landfill in neighboring Manchester Township, he generously provided a front-end loader each year for the clean-up effort and waived tipping fees for the mountains of debris collected by volunteers on clean-up day.

Lynn F. Hunt of Tuckerton, New Jersey was a long time member and volunteer. Lynn was always present at the annual clean-up and also assisted the organization on various volunteer work days whenever possible. He also attended numerous educational events and outings, such as our annual tree-frog hike at Webb's Mills bog in Lacey Township.

We would like to extend our condolences to the families and friends of each of these two extraordinary gentlemen.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (_____) _____ Day (_____) _____ Eve _____

E-mail address _____

- I have enclosed my membership dues of \$20 (individual) \$35 (family) Please circle: New Renewal
- I have enclosed an additional contribution of \$ _____
- I will attend the Canoe Trip on May 28, 2007. Number attending X \$10 per person* \$ _____.
- I will attend the Treefrog Hike on June 1, 2007 Number attending X \$5 per person* \$ _____.
- I would like to volunteer, please call me.
- Please send information on how to include the Coalition in my will.

Please make checks payable to:
and mail to:

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

*** Suggested donation. All contributions are tax deductible. Thank you!**



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