

Note from the Executive Director

From mountaintop removal coal mining and coal-burning power plants to dangerous and leaky coal ash ponds, coal has an immense impact on our land, air and water. The life cycle of this fossil fuel has already inflicted irreparable damage to our region. By focusing on the impacts of coal to our forests, rivers and air, we can make a positive difference in the health of Appalachia.



In 1961, President John F. Kennedy declared a national goal to put a man on the moon by decade's end. By 1969, we achieved

that goal, but not without a massive dedication of time, resources and national focus. We need to prioritize solving our energy future with that same spirit.

Coal played an important role in our nation's growth—but it's a poor choice for our future. Despite what the industry might say, coal is dirty and expensive; the cost is hidden in fouled waterways, polluted air and health problems in our people and forests. Energy efficiency can dramatically lighten our energy load, and investing in cleaner solutions can replace the demand for coal. While we cannot transform our entire energy infrastructure overnight, we must begin now to create a cleaner energy future for Appalachia.

Thanks for joining us in this work.



Willa Mays

Note from the Board Chair

The Appalachian region is unique. It is one of the most bio-diverse regions outside of the tropical rainforests; the mountain peaks, clear streams and abundance of flora and fauna hum with life. The friendliness of the people I encounter heightens the Appalachian experience—it is a paradise worthy of protection.



Appalachian Voices works diligently to safeguard the land, air, water and people of Appalachia, and strives to create long-lasting, positive changes for our region. This is the most dedicated and passionate group of individuals I have ever had the opportunity to work with.

Our members have been crucial in helping Appalachian Voices protect the natural heritage of Appalachia. The launch of Appalachian Water Watch this year will strengthen our mission to protect the ecological values of this region while we battle its number one polluter—coal. We've never been closer to ending mountaintop removal, thanks to a national movement you have

helped create—but we are fighting a behemoth industry with deep pockets. With your support, I'm confident we can win!

With deep appreciation,

Aristina Howe



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Americorps Communication Outreach Associate/Appalachian Voice Assoc. Editor
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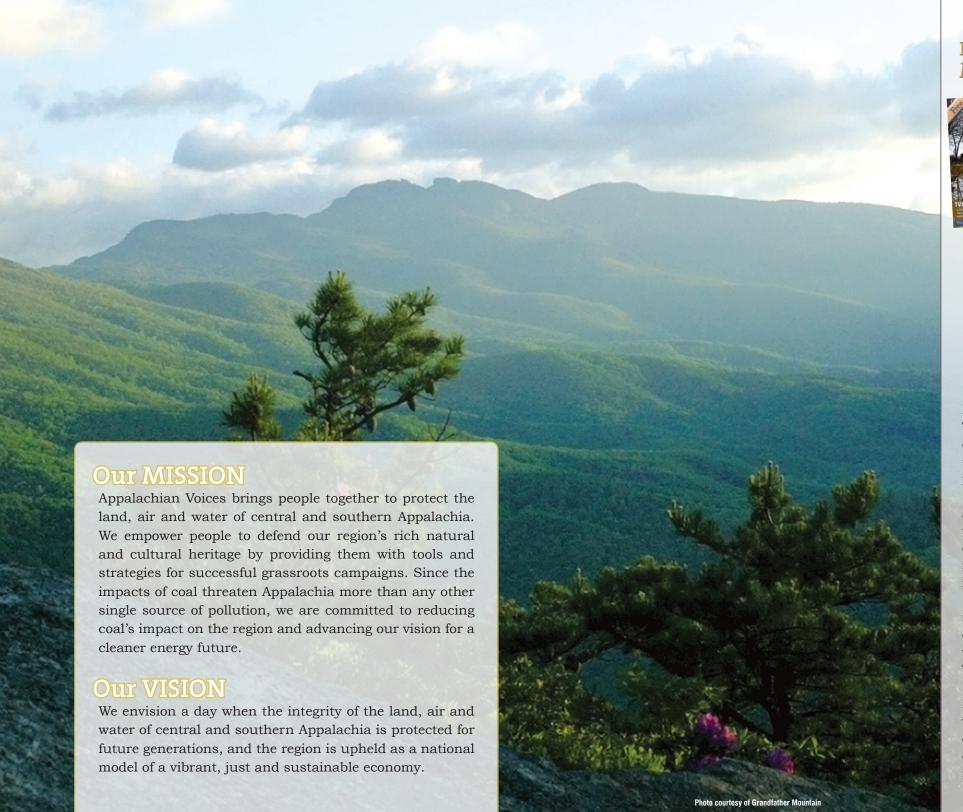
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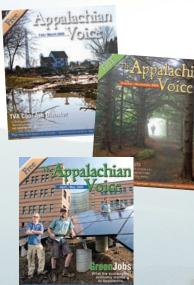
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Educating Through Media Outreach



The Appalachian Voice

To inspire an appreciation of our region as a national treasure worthy of protection, we publish *The Appalachian Voice*, a free bimonthly news publication that has covered environmental, recreational and cultural news in Appalachia since 1996. Issue themes in 2009 included green jobs, wind energy, parks and forests, water pollution and the TVA coal ash spill.

During the year, a team of volunteers helped distribute 220,000 copies of *The Appalachian Voice* in seven states.

AIR

The Appalachian region suffers from some of the worst air pollution produced by coal-fired power plants—pollution that causes impaired visibility, acid rain, respiratory and cardiovascular diseases and other health problems. Appalachian Voices is working to stop electric utilities from continuing "business-as-usual" by advocating for investments in energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy sources rather than coal-fired power plants. In order to promote these sweeping changes, we are working in statewide coalitions in both North Carolina and Virginia.

Wise Energy for Virginia

Appalachian Voices is a leader in the Wise Energy for Virginia Coalition, a movement of thousands of citizens from every corner of the Commonwealth who advocate for clean energy and for ending the construction of new coal-fired power

plants that would burn mountaintop removal mined coal and pollute Virginia's air.

Stopping New Coal Plants: Our past work fighting a proposed Dominion Virginia Power coal-fired power plant in Wise County, Virginia, elevated the issue into what one major newspaper labeled "the biggest environmental controversy in Virginia." The unprecedented public pressure we brought to bear led to a 98% reduction in mercury emissions—the most stringent limit in the country—and seriously curtailed

limits on other pollutants. Dominion was also required to convert another large coal plant to natural gas.

We are currently directing the tremendous momentum of the Wise County fight to defeating a massive 1,500-megawatt coal-fired power plant proposed by the Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC). If built, the plant would

WISE ENERGY for VIRGINIA

The Wise Energy for Virginia coalition includes Appalachian Voices, the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, the Sierra Club's Virginia Chapter, the Southern Environmental Law Center and the Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards.

be the single largest coal-fired facility in Virginia and would burn coal from mountaintop removal mines. We are working with citizens throughout the state, with an emphasis on downwind communities that would be impacted by the plant's air pollution. While ODEC recently withdrew its air pollution permit applications, it remains committed to building this massive plant and is pursuing required wetlands permits. We will work steadfastly to ensure that ground is never broken on this project.

Promoting Efficiency and Renewables: Thanks to major grassroots pressure, we secured the passage of landmark legislation in Virginia that increases incentives for electric utilities to invest in efficiency programs. This legislation has led to the state's first significant utility efficiency investments, which will reduce pollution and the demand for mountaintop removal coal while saving consumers money and creating jobs.

RePowering North Carolina

We are currently working to build a coalition of environmental groups in North Carolina committed to transitioning the state away from the use of coal for electricity and promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency. We have developed a "NC Power Pledge" designed to build and excite a new base of clean energy supporters across the state. Individuals, organizations, businesses and local governments will be asked to sign the pledge with a goal of leveraging regulatory and legislative changes to make a cleaner energy future a reality.



Working in coalition with statewide groups, Appalachian Voices helped mobilize a campaign against the Cliffside Power Plant in southwestern North Carolina, culminating in a march over three hundred people strong in Charlotte, N.C., in June 2009. Because of our efforts, the plant's proposed capacity was eventually cut in half—from 1600MW to 800MW.

WATER

Coal industry practices and other pollution sources pose serious threats to the health of Appalachian waterways. To date, nearly 2,000 miles of freshwater streams in Appalachia have been buried and destroyed by mountaintop removal coal mining. Massive impoundments containing billions of gallons of coal slurry—a by-product of coal processing—pollute groundwater with dangerous carcinogens. Highly toxic coal ash waste from coal-fired power plants contaminates rivers, lakes

and ground water when proper precautions are not taken.

While much of our water work focuses on region-wide impacts, we also work to protect our local waterways with a special focus on the upper Watauga River in western North Carolina.

Coal Ash

When a billion gallons of toxic coal ash from a Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) power plant in

Harriman, Tennessee, spilled into the Clinch and Emory rivers, Appalachian Voices was one of the first organizations on the scene to collect water samples. Our findings—published in *The New York Times*—showed levels of arsenic, lead, chromium and other metals that exceeded amounts reported by TVA and federal and state agencies.

Since the TVA coal ash disaster, our Waterkeeper team has continued to work for stronger coal ash regulations on both the state and federal levels. We produce technical reports in tandem with other organizations detailing the dangerous effects of coal ash on water quality. Due to our findings on the impacts of coal ash in North Carolina, that state now requires both major energy utilities—Duke and Progress—to perform additional testing near coal ash ponds. On the federal level, we are encouraging the EPA to adopt a proposed rule to treat coal ash as a hazardous waste.



Appalachia Water Watch

Systemic failures in enforcement, regulation and monitoring by state and federal agencies in the Appalachian region demand a watchdog. To meet this need, Appalachian Voices is launching a new initiative that will empirically expose the environmental and human health impacts of coal mining and processing on our waterways. Appalachia Water Watch will engage citizen-scientists to monitor water pollution in their local watersheds and identify patterns of pollution. The program seeks to create an atmosphere of accountability within federal and state agencies charged with enforcing clean water laws.

Waterkeeper Program

The Upper Watauga Riverkeeper program serves as the primary advocate and ambassador for the upper Elk and Watauga rivers, which run from their headwaters on Grandfather Mountain in western North Carolina to Watauga Lake in eastern

Tennessee. The program's mission is to protect and restore the water quality and ecological health of the communities served by this watershed through monitoring and rules enforcement.

In October 2009, the Riverkeeper partnered with local law enforcement to organize Operation Medicine Cabinet, a drug take-back event designed to keep pharmaceuticals out of our rivers and away from our

children. In the first year we collected over 538,000 pills, almost 60 gallons of liquid medicines and 2,000 syringes. North Carolina law enforcement officials recently adopted Operation Medicine Cabinet as a statewide initiative, with the first event scheduled for spring 2011.



The Upper Watauga Riverkeeper helped respond to a fish kill that damaged more than a mile of a creek in Boone, N.C., eventually tracking the source of the kill to an improper application of asphalt sealant. Our Riverkeeper is working with town officials and citizens to outlaw the use of this toxic substance.

LAND

The Appalachians are among the oldest mountains on Earth. The hills, hollows and headwaters are home to a rich abundance of life. The entire cycle of coal—from extraction to processing, burning and waste disposal—poses the most serious threat to this unique, iconic region.

Ending Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining

To date, over 500 mountains have been destroyed, and nearly 2,000 miles of pristine headwater streams buried by mountaintop removal coal mining. When we began our campaign in 2002, most Americans were unaware that the coal industry was destroying America's oldest mountains

for coal. Now, after years of work, the issue is high on the national environmental agenda and ending mountaintop removal is viewed as a dramatic first step in transitioning to a cleaner energy future.

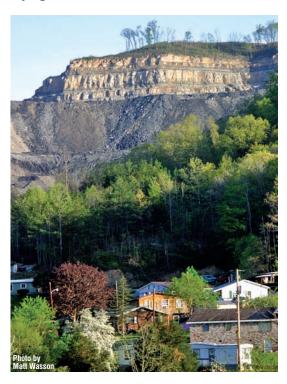
They're Blowing Up Our Mountains and There Oughta Be A Law! While pressuring the Environmental Protection Agency to take action has gone a long way toward mitigating the devastating impacts, mountaintop removal coal mining is still legal. Only an act of Congress can permanently stop this tragic process.

With two bills in Congress—the Appalachia Restoration Act in the U.S. Senate and the Clean Water Protection Act in the House of Representatives—we have an unprecedented opportunity to pass a law.

Engaging Citizens on the State Level: In 2009, we helped craft legislation in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Maryland and Missouri that would make the burning of mountaintop removal coal within these states illegal. With allies in Virginia, we supported legislation to outlaw the dumping of mountaintop removal mining waste into streams.

Reaching Out From Coast-to-Coast: Through our Appa-

lachian Treasures tour, residents personally affected by mountaintop removal share their stories about contaminated water, extreme flooding and compromised health with thousands of Americans in service clubs, churches and organizations across the country. In 2010, the tour reached an even broader audience thanks to coverage from radio and TV outlets in the Northeast and Midwest.



Impacting Decision-makers: Each year we bring citizens from across the nation to Washington, D.C.—including residents directly impacted by mountaintop removal—to educate our leaders about this detrimental practice. In 2009, our 4th Annual Week in Washington brought more than 150 participants from 24 states to ask the Obama Administration and Congress to end mountaintop removal mining.

Growing A National Audience With iLoveMountains.org: Over 43,000 people have signed the pledge to end mountaintop removal through our online action and resource center, and thousands more have seen their connection to mountaintop removal through our *My Connection* tool. Our *America's Most Endangered Mountains* video series—highlighting communities threatened by mountaintop removal—has had more than 677,000 views to date, and our Bloggers Challenge supplies nearly 2,900 online writers with information about the issue, creating a wave of online coverage.

Diminishing Big Coal's Credibility: In contrast to the coal industry's multi-billion-dollar misinformation campaign, the 2009 beta version of our website, OpenSourceCoal.org, provides reliable information regarding the production, consumption, transportation and cost of coal. We will continue to expand this valuable tool in an effort to set the record straight on coal.

Promoting Sustainable Forestry

Southern Appalachian forests are vital to a healthy ecosystem, with each acre of healthy forest sequestering over 31 tons of carbon each year. Appalachian Voices distributes our free *Managing Your Woodlands* handbook and DVD manual for landowners, providing

information on sustainable stewardship including forest health, economic considerations and financial incentive programs for good management. To date, 6,500 concerned citizens—owning an estimated half million acres—have received this informative guide.

National Recognition

Our website, iLoveMountains.org, was featured at the **2009 UN Climate Change Conference** in Copenhagen.

Appalachian Voices was named a "Google Earth Hero" for our innovative use of technology to change the world.

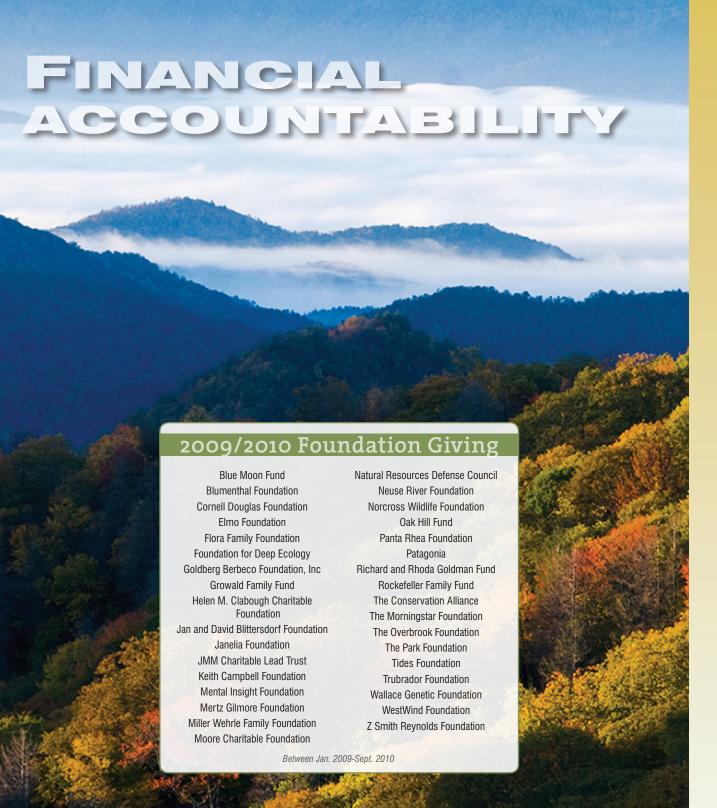
Good Magazine named iLoveMountains.org as one of the first ever "Good 100" people, ideas and organizations changing the world for good.

MANAGING YOUR WOODLANDS



Our science-based approaches have received national attention and generated extensive media coverage in outlets such as *The New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, NPR, BBC World News, CNBC, MSNBC and more.

Appalachian Voices was honored with The *Business Ethics Network's* **Benny Award** as a supporting organization in our partnership with Rainforest Action Network to "transform corporations into socially and environmentally responsible organizations."



Statement of Financial **Position** 2009 2008

	2009	2000
Assets		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$356,452	\$637,278
Accounts receivable	11,543	5,439
Other current assets	2,000	491
Deposits	4,020	2,184
Contributions receivable	85,000	85,000
Total Current Assets	459,015	730,392
Property and Equipment:		

Improvements	8,421	
Equipment	48,770	46,744
Furniture and fixtures	762	762
Less: accumulated depreciation	n (24,582)	(26,180)
Net property and equipment	33,371	21,326
Total Assets	\$492,386	\$751,718

Liabilities & Net Assets

LIABILITIES **Current Liabilities:**

Accounts payable	\$11,772	\$6,934
Accrued expenses	6,423	3,556
Total Current Liabilities	18,195	10,490

NE?

and Net Assets

Total Culterit Liabilities	10,195	10,490
ET ASSETS: Jnrestricted:		
Operating	238,007	438,960
Invested in property & equipment	<u>33,371</u>	21,326
Total Unrestricted	271,378	460,286
Temporarily restricted	202,813	280,942
Total Net Assets	<u>474,191</u>	741,228
tal Liabilities	\$492,386	\$751,718



Statement of Financial Activities

1131111133	2009	2008
Support & Revenues:		
Contributions	\$1,090,554	\$1,333,213
Investment income	9,251	18,027
Voice advertisements	19,317	25,216
Other income	<u>3,416</u>	<u>3,189</u>
Total Support & Revenue	1,122,538	1,379,645

Expenses Program expenses 1,266,324 1,133,608 Management and general 146,940 94,511 Fundraising expenses 28,740 28,511 **Total Expenses** 1,389,575 1,309,059

Change in Net Assets (267,037)70,586

Net Assets

Beginning of year 741,228 670,642 End of year \$474,191 \$741,228

A ppalachian Voices' members, supporters and Business League share our vision for a healthy, Athriving region. They are committed to protecting our land, air, water and communities by providing a reliable source of income, spreading our message and advocating for the mountains. We are deeply grateful for their continued support and would like to thank our 2009/2010* members:

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*Donations made between Jan. 2009-Sept. 2010

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Mountain Protectors pledge a monthly amount to provide a dependable source of revenue for us to work toward protecting the air, land, water and people of Appalachia

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continued on page 16

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