Traditions of Resistance
Lessons from the struggle for justice in Appalachia

Appalachia’s Contested History

The Spirit of Foxfire

ALSO INSIDE
- TRIP PLANNER: Historical Hidden Treasures
- Rebound of the Peregrine
- Citizens Speak Out on Power Plant Pollution
**A Note from Our Executive Director**

Aphalitica's proud history is traced in the lines of mountain ridges running in the distance, the gentle of cool streams running over ancient brook, and in the songs and stories of the region's people. Aphalitica's human history is intertwined with the history of the land.

In this issue of The Appalachian Voice, we explore these connections between place, people and time. We learn about some of the early advocates who sought to protect the people and land. This issue was published by the Appalachian Voice. Please let us know if you would like to protect the people and land. This issue was published by the Appalachian Voice.

The story of Appalachian's land and people is still unfolding, and every day we have the opportunity to be a part of the future. Appalachian Voices and partners recently launched a unique opportunity for our readers to help shape the future. Appalachian Voices and partners recently launched a unique opportunity for our readers to help shape the future.

Together we can work to make sure the next century's history of Appalachia remains one of a people and region united to hold polluters accountable and build a cleaner, more just Appalachia for all. We hope you'll join us.

For the mountains.

Tom Commons, Executive Director

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**Workers Exposed to Toxins at Kingston Ash Spill Cleanup**

By Kimber Ray

A federal lawsuit alleges that Jacobs Engineering Group knowingly exposed workers to toxic substances during cleanup of the 2008 coal ash spill at the Tennessee Valley Authority's Kingston Fossil Plant in Harriman, Tenn. The lawsuit, filed Aug. 22, claims Jacobs Engineering Group directly manipulated air monitoring equipment by their doctors were also prescribed, but they were excluded from the final proposal, and introduced new regulations that could also be challenged.

The Appalachian Voice is a news magazine founded in 2003 to provide a voice for the people and communities of Appalachia. A non-profit, the Appalachian Voice is funded by contributions from readers like you.

Join the fight to end mountaintop removal mining.

To date, more than 500 mountains and over 2,000 miles of streams have been destroyed by this destructive form of mining. But it doesn't have to be this way. Together, we can stand up to big polluters and create a cleaner future.

Visit appvoices.org/join-the-movement to learn how you can take action to protect our mountain communities.

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**Progress over Black Lung Prevention**

By Kimber Ray

For three years of delay, a proposal for stricter coal dust standards appears to be moving forward. The U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration has submitted a final draft of its rules to the Office of Management and Budget for review. This review was signed by the Office of Management and Budget, which has previously taken many months to approve new mining regulations. Rockstar’s former geologist and environment campaigner was instrumental in pushing for tighter limits on coal dust exposure. The Office of Management and Budget has been instrumental in passing legislation this past July.

For the mountains.

Tom Commons, Executive Director

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**Environmental News From Around the Region**

N.C. Law Flashe Key Environmental Protections

By Rachel Ellen Simon

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory recently signed the Regulatory Reform Act, H.R. 74, which aims to “streamline the regulatory process in order to stimulate economic growth and prevent unnecessary regulation ... and to amend certain environmental protection laws.”

Advocacy groups across the state are calling foul play, arguing that the bill ceters to polluters at the expense of human and environmental health. Under the new law, water quality rules have a one-year review deadline, and any regulations not reviewed by the end of the time frame will automatically expire. The bill also reduces industry regulations regarding water pollution while cutting the funds available to the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources to monitor such pollution.

In addition, the bill extends complience for groundwater contamination, enabling waste facilities to pollute groundwater up to their property line, rather than maintaining a buffer zone as previously mandated. Under the new law, facilities that pollute beyond the boundary are not required to take remedial action unless regulators prove that a violation also threatens the environment, public health or safety.

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**About the Cover**

With a brilliant eye for natural beauty, D. Rex Miller took this scene. His work was published in the Appalachian Voice.

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**Regulatory**

Volunteer to Bring The Appalachian Voice to your community.

Contact Marve at mary@apppalitica.org 828-262-1500
Debate Surrounds Duke Energy Coal Ash Settlement

By Kimberly Ray

Responding to a highly publicized series of water pollution events that occurred near Asheville, the North Carolina Land Trust Alliance Commissioner has received national attention for the actions he is taking to address the issue.

The case was brought to court by several Appalachian-based environmental groups who asserted that the state of North Carolina had failed to take adequate action to clean up coal ash ponds at Duke's Asheville Steam Station. The state was required to use the best technology to prevent pollution, but the coal-fired utility allowed it to discharge toxic waste water directly into the Catawba River.

New River Land Trust Awarded Official Accreditation

After three years of rigorous assessment, The New River Land Trust will be joining the ranks of more than 200 of the nation’s most trusted conservation organization. The New River Land Trust’s commitment to land conservation and the organization has received official accreditation by the National Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

The Trust has helped protect the 130,000 acres of forest and farms along the New River. This year it is shaping up to be both busy and fruitful as the group continues to acquire land and expand their work.
Hiking the Highlands

A Waterfall and a View at Bad Branch State Nature Preserve

By Dana Kuhnline

Bad Branch Falls near Whitesburg, Ky., was one of the first hikes I experienced when I moved to Appalachia almost 10 years ago. I happened to be chaperoning two vans full of at-risk teenagers on a weekend trip from West Virginia to Whitesburg. The last stop before heading home was this hike.

To get to Bad Branch State Nature Preserve from Whitesburg, you take U.S. Route 119 over the impressive Pine Mountain, a ridge stretching from Tennessee to Virginia formed when West Africa collided into North America more than 275 million years ago. Now the second-highest mountain in Kentucky, Pine Mountain’s views and hairpin turns left me gasping at the massiveness of geologic forces and the comparative smallness of 16 sleep-deprived youths gazing quietly into the endless green rolling hills.

I’ve traveled back to Bad Branch State Nature Preserve on the south side of Pine Mountain several times since it first impressed me with its diverse forest and ability to awe angry teenagers. The preserve started as 435 acres in 1985, but has grown to more than 2,500 acres through a state partnership with several conservation funds. Its rich ecosystems contain a number of rare species of wildlife, occasional forest and ability to awe angsty teenagers on a weekend trip from West Virginia to Whitesburg. The last stop before heading home was this hike.

For the rewarding day hike at Bad Branch State Nature Preserve near the High Rock Loop Trail, which travels north up and down the ridge for 42 stennis, view-filled miles. If you have bought a map of the Pine Mountain Scenic Trail, you might enjoy checking out a few of the rock formations and overlooks along this adjacent section – but keep an eye on your time. The lot at Bad Branch does not allow overnight parking, so if you’re looking for a longer adventure along the ridge you’ll need to leave your car at the trailhead for Pine Mountain Scenic Trail located nearby on U.S. Route 119.

The trailhead for Pine Mountain Scenic Trail will twist of the same trail, the vast forest and peaks into the gorge keep the walk interesting. Some, the best walks have rock formations to scramble over, epic views or a waterfall.

Bad Branch Falls State Nature Preserve has all three packed into a strenuous but rewarding day-hike just a few miles off the highway.

The Fall Foliage Primer

Featuring weekly fall color reports starting September 25th through November 6th. These reports include photos, scenic drives, and festivals. You’ll find all that and more at FallFoliagePrimer.com.

Visit any Mast Store for everything you need to savor Mother Nature’s colorful party before winter’s slumber—maps, binoculars, birding and trail guides, packs, footwear and outerwear, and perhaps a little something for a picnic.

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Lessons from the struggle for justice in Appalachia

By Molly Moore

In 1981, a 61-year-old Kentucky woman, Ollie “Widow” Combs, sat in front of a bulldozer to halt the strip-mining of the steep land above her home. She spent that Thanksgiving in jail. Months later, a 62-year-old woman, Ollie “Widow” Combs, sat in front of a bulldozer to halt the strip-mining of the steep land above her home. 

There has always been resistance to the idea of caring for creation. As Stephen Foshan, professor emeritus at Emory and Henry College and editor of “Fighting Back to Save Appalachian Mountains,” notes, “The history of Appalachian justice movements. It’s taken different forms, but one thing that’s clear is that this resistance has no place in the current.”

Neighborhood action to environmental struggles is participation in which people organize to stop a process that is thought to be harmful to their community. 

Traditions of Resistance

By Molly Moore

From the hardwood treasures that could be seen through the windows and no healthcare — you could see the resources falling out. And there’s a bit of truth to it.”

“The Appalachian Voice

Appalachian Voices organization was founded by Ayers. Helped form Christians for the Mountains, a non-denominational religious campaign founded on the idea of caring for creation.

Appalachian Voices in the region’s next chapter.
**TENNESSEE**

Cherokee warrior Junaluska was among the thousands of Native Americans brought to Cades Cove, Tennessee, by the National Park Service to Quetico Scar to help build Trails. In the 1830s, unlike most, Junaluska was eventually able to return home to the land of his Cherokee heritage. Junaluska Reserve is located near Newfound Gap Road below south end of Cades Cove, the land of the Cherokee. The reserve is open to the public on a limited basis only. The Cherokee culture and history, and an adjacent medi- cine plant showcases plants traditionally used by the Cherokee. The trail is less than a mile, including a moderate climb. Open Mar.-Nov.

**WISCONSIN**

Pocahontas Exhibition Coal Mine (Pocahontas)

Most important as it may seem as a title, a mine is also the name of the first mine to open in the town of Pocahontas. In 1914, the mine’s 73 years of operation, over 44 million tons of coal were exported. Now, a National Historic Landmark, the origi- nal mine is an exhibition site and mu- seum. Visitors can take an underground tour about early mining methods and view the famed 15-foot Pocahontas-3 Coal Seam. Open April 1 – Aug. 31. Adults $8.50, ages 5-12 $5.50, under 5 free. Visit: pocahontas.com

**TENNESSEE**

Junaluska Memorial Site, Museum, and Medicine Trail (Robbinsville)

Although Junaluska’s home was not the largest underground lake in America, it remains a major tourist attraction. The lake spans hundreds of feet beneath a moun- tain within the Cades Cove area of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Pocahontas mine was a hub of energy for many mining communities, and many were filled with stories of the life of the mine saltwater during the Civil War. Fragile crystalline clusters known as biotite adorns the cavern walls, a feature found in only a handful of caves worldwide. Open year-round for guided boat tours. Adults $17.50, children $7.95, under 4 free. Visit: thejuleas.com

**VIRGINIA**

Lost Sea / Craighead Caverns (Sweetwater)

Stonespring, Tenn., is home to the largest underground lake in America. The lake spans hundreds of feet beneath a moun- tain within the Cades Cove area of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Pocahontas mine was a hub of energy for many mining communities, and many were filled with stories of the life of the mine saltwater during the Civil War. Fragile crystalline clusters known as biotite adorns the cavern walls, a feature found in only a handful of caves worldwide. Open year-round for guided boat tours. Adults $17.50, children $7.95, under 4 free. Visit: thejuleas.com

**KENTUCKY**

Grove Creek, Mount Archeolo- gical Complex (Mountville)

Well before human beings began tearing down hills in West Virginia, they were busy clearing land around the groves of hundreds of feet beneath a moun- tain within the Cades Cove area of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Pocahontas mine was a hub of energy for many mining communities, and many were filled with stories of the life of the mine saltwater during the Civil War. Fragile crystalline clusters known as biotite adorns the cavern walls, a feature found in only a handful of caves worldwide. Open year-round for guided boat tours. Adults $17.50, children $7.95, under 4 free. Visit: thejuleas.com

**OHIO**

Cultural Center (Pennington Gap)

Though the Lee County Colored Elementary School closed its doors to students in 1956, it opened them again — for tourists — in the late 1980s. The former one-room schoolhouse now serves as a cultural center that aims to preserve the heritage of Appalachian African-Ameri- cans. The center includes a collection of oral histories, histori- cals, and African-Ameri- can culture. It also hosts public forums and an annual summer history, literature, and art programs. Open May 15 – Oct. 31. Adults $6, students $3 (12 and under), under 2 free. Visit: wvculture.org

**OHIO**

Grave Creek Mound Archaeo- logical Complex (Mountville)

The mound, built 3,000 years ago, the area was home to the Adena, a society of Mound Build- ers. Today, the mound is among the thousands of Native American sites located within the Cades Cove area of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Adena left behind massive burial mounds, only a number of which are still intact. The largest of these, the Grave Creek Mound, spans 269 feet in diameter, and reaches nearly 70 feet high. Today, Grave Creek Mound is a prehistoric archaeological site surrounded by the Adena. Open year-round. Free visit: wvculture.org

**TENNESSEE**

The Good Earth

Buck was born in the West Virginia moun- tains, and grew up on a farm near the Grave Creek Mound. In the 1930s, he moved with his family to Kentucky, where he worked at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Though his work was highly classified, he maintained a love for nature, and spent his free time exploring the natural world. He dedicated his life to preserving the culture of Appalachia, and his legacy continues to this day through the work of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Today, the Good Earth is a place of cultural appreciation and education, and serves as a cultural center that aims to preserve the heritage of Appalachian African-Ameri- cans.

**WEST VIRGINIA**

Pearl's Buck Birthplace (Hillsboro)

World-renowned author Pearl S. Buck was born in the West Virginia moun- tains in 1892. Buck wrote the first American novel to win both the Pulitzer Prize and the Nobel Prize for Literature, in 1932 for her novel The Good Earth. In 1942, Oak Ridge was established as a Manhattan Project site, and was quickly transformed into a secret government cily; the town’s near-pure population of 3,000, most of whom had limited knowledge of their work, these uranium plant workers helped create the world’s first atomic weapons. To- day, visitors can explore the American Museum of Science & Energy or tour the grounds around the Secret City Scene Tour. Oak Ridge is also home to the Museum of Appalachia, the Coal Miners’ Museum and Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance head- quarters. Formed in 1989, OREPA raises awareness about the environmental deg- radation caused by the nuclear facilities. Open year-round. Visit: oxforddeiscit.com

**WEST VIRGINIA**

Buck became a devoted student of traditional Appalachian arts and crafts, and engaged in the development of the Foxfire Project, a community-based educational organization that aims to preserve the culture and heritage of Appalachia. The project was founded in 1970 by educators who wanted to share the knowledge and traditions of the Appalachian people with the world. Today, the Foxfire Project continues to inspire people to learn from their ancestors’ practices and skills, and to create a connection to the natural world.

**KENTUCKY**

The Foxfire Museum, demonstrates teaching skills in a rural school setting.

**KENTUCKY**

Dr. Albert Stiles, a former U.S. Department of Education Regional Educational Officer, founded the Foxfire Project in 1970. The project was inspired by a school teacher who wanted to teach her students about their own heritage. Dr. Stiles believed that by learning from their ancestors’ practices and skills, students could gain a deeper understanding of their cultural roots and a greater appreciation for the natural world.

**KENTUCKY**

The Foxfire Museum, demonstrates teaching skills in a rural school setting.
I have been working on this project for nearly 50 years. I first became interested in Appalachian history when I was a student at the University of Kentucky. The book that I wrote on this topic, “The History of the Appalachian Mountains,” was published in 1961. Since then, I have written several other books on Appalachian history, including “The Appalachian Mountains: A History of the People and Their Environment.”

In this book, I have tried to present a balanced picture of Appalachian history, emphasizing both the positive aspects of the region’s development and the challenges that it faced. I have also tried to highlight the contributions of the Appalachian people, who have been at the forefront of many social and environmental movements.

One of the most important themes that runs through this book is the role of coal mining in Appalachian history. Coal mining has been a major contributor to the region’s economic development, but it has also had a devastating impact on the environment and the health of the people who live there. I have tried to present a nuanced view of coal mining, recognizing both its benefits and its drawbacks.

Another important theme in this book is the role of the federal government in Appalachian history. The federal government has been a major player in Appalachian development, providing funding for infrastructure and other projects. However, the government’s role has also been controversial, with some critics arguing that it has often failed to address the needs of the Appalachian people.

In conclusion, I hope that this book will provide a valuable resource for students and scholars interested in Appalachian history. It is my sincere hope that it will also help to raise awareness of the challenges facing the Appalachian region today, and inspire action to address them.

By Bill Kavorka
An Era of Undoing

By Bruce Scully

“We are union,” the marchers chanted. Blanketing the streets of downtown Charleston, W.Va., with banners shouted in supportive pro-labor slogans. They included “oppressive child labor,” a practice they in intolerable hours.”

In Chattanooga, Tenn., Volkswagen built a new factory. Fevered union-porters wherever he went.” Under his leadership, the UMWA became one of the nation’s strongest unions. During World War II, however, labor’s popularity declined as it continued to compel miners to strike in an effort to protect jobs for coal miners who had volunteered to serve. Truman’s disdain for Lewis was no secret; in a 1949 interview, he referred to strikes as “union terrorism.”

Despite his contempt for Lewis and other labor leaders, Truman viewed the Taft-Hartley Act, legislation which would have limited substantially the power of unions. Siding with organized labor, Truman said Taft-Hartley “allowed the right, which millions of our citizens now enjoy, to join together and bargain with their employers for fair wages and fair working conditions.” The Senate, however, easily overruled Truman’s veto by a vote of 66-25 in June 1947. In the journal, Democracy, Rich Yeskelen recently wrote that Taft-Hartley forced unions “to weigh the economic and political costs of doing anything that would put them in the crosshairs of the anti-union forces.”

The UMWA and the heir to John L. Lewis’ rallying rhetoric, has called Patriot a “housebreakers” created by Peabody to “get out of its obligation to pay for the pensions and health care of thousands of people.” Over the past year, Roberts, union members and supporters have shut down major plants in the states of West Virginia, Missouri, where Peabody is located, Charleston, W.Va., and other cities until coal lawfully is delivered. In mid-August, after a year of protests and pronouncements, the UMWA filed a new contract with Patriot Coal that would undo much of the wage cuts and health benefits reductions planned by Patriot. While the new contract is a step forward, Roberts says it does not guarantee the lifetime health benefits for retirees, an obligation he contends is owed by Peabody Energy.

On Sept. 27, a federal judge threw out a class action lawsuit filed by the UMWA to require Peabody to pay for Patriot retiree benefits. Some analysts said the union would appeal.

Coal as a Case Study

Throughout the 21st century, perhaps nowhere have the political struggles and fortunes of the labor movement been more evident than in Central Appalachian coal-mining communities. From the mines to the courts, violent labor dramas in Logan and Mingo counties in West Virginia, several decades of active miners, retirees and families of Patriot Coal employees.

Since then, in courtrooms and cities across the region, the UMWA has rallied to represent its members’ sense of injustice in cities and communities across the region. Photo by Ann Smith, special to the UMWA Journal.

In the fall of 2009, the UMWA and its sister labor unions, including the United Mine Workers of America, announced plans to rescind its promise to terminate its commitment to coal. If the UMWA has been leading the charge, the Workers, the United Steelworkers of America, and the UMW white-knuckled to protect their jobs after coal prices declined. Today, Peabody is accused of using the same legal maneuver — shedding of assets and shutting down its unions by creating Patriot Coal, a spin-off of the parent company — to get out of a contract that will fail — a message that is resonating widely now that Patriot is in bankruptcy.

Cecil Roberts, president of the UMWA and the heir to John L. Lewis’ rallying rhetoric, has called Patriot a “housebreakers” created by Peabody to “get out of its obligation to pay for the pensions and health care of thousands of people.” Over the past year, Roberts, union members and supporters have shut down major plants in the states of West Virginia, Missouri, where Peabody is located, Charleston, W.Va., and other cities until coal lawfully is delivered. In mid-August, after a year of protests and pronouncements, the UMWA filed a new contract with Patriot Coal that would undo much of the wage cuts and health benefits reductions planned by Patriot. While the new contract is a step forward, Roberts says it does not guarantee the lifetime health benefits for retirees, an obligation he contends is owed by Peabody Energy.

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Peregrine Falcons: Flying Back into Appalachia

By Nileen Njachy

High stop the citiescape, yellow-tinged eyes squinting in morning sun, the dark silhouette of a peregrine falcon lies in wait of the perfect ambush. As a low-flying pigeon approaches, the peregrine leaps into a dive, closing the 100-foot gap within seconds. In a flurry of feathers, she plucks the unsuspecting pigeon from the air to feed her young. That is the image that Harris and Blair, W.Va., resident and Appalachian Heritage Museum, executive director Tony Tabler hope to see — a peregrine nest on the corner of Virginia Avenue in Huntington, W.Va. As a child, she was fascinated by an enormous, rattling old wood building that seemed to glow with history. “I’m going to own that someday,” she told her father back in 1967. The dream came true in 2006 when she and husband Chuck bought the Whipple Company Store and prepared to open an antique shop. As neighbors dropped in, they learned that the store had been the headquarters for the old company store, and they started telling stories. Lynn was hooked.

One of the most interesting people to show up at the company store was a former union organizer, who explained, in detail, how the system of company money — wages — and violence and murder. Most miners are allowed to their former comrades in arms. Some union leaders are placed under arrest for treason, it ought to add that they were acquitted, Harris says. But at the very least, the exhibit that history is a living thing, a deep reservoir ranging from mountain music to labor history to personal stories. Lynn began touring the old company store, bought the Whipple Company Store & Coal Mine Collection, and a variety of environmental and historical preservation groups. "It’s an idea that history is a living thing, a deep reservoir ranging from mountain music to labor history to personal stories," Lynn said. "It’s an idea that history is a living thing, a deep reservoir ranging from mountain music to labor history to personal stories," Lynn said. "It’s an idea that history is a living thing, a deep reservoir ranging from mountain music to labor history to personal stories," Lynn said. "It’s an idea that history is a living thing, a deep reservoir ranging from mountain music to labor history to personal stories," Lynn said. "It’s an idea that history is a living thing, a deep reservoir ranging from mountain music to labor history to personal stories," Lynn said.

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**Green Tea With aSplash of Bipartisanism**

By Nilton Njehy

A new bipartisan coalition called Green Tea has emerged in Georgia, seeking to push major energy legislation through the state's environmental and economic legislation. The new alliance of Tea Party Libertarians, environmentalists, Tea Partiers and other conservative interests groups have united around the goal of making energy self-sufficient, especially since the current political climate is one of gridlock.

Although the research required for choosing the best design and materials for a home can be very time consuming, Ironwood says, “it’s well worth it in the end.”

“Anyone that builds using these materials will learn a lot about the house that they’re living in, and suddenly you aren’t living in a house that someone else built, you’re really a part of it,” he says. “That gives the gesture that you actually have a relationship with the system that you’re living in.”

Ironwood advises that even those who aren’t building their homes from the bottom-up can make important strides towards sustainability. Taking simple steps, such as recycling and composting, can work towards a healthier relationship between humans and the natural environment.

To learn more about the Sequatchie Valley Institute, visit svionline.org.

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*Note: Appalachian Voice membership does not include local or national subscription to Appalachian Voice*
By Brian Scrivell

While battles over mountaintop removal permits reach their boiling point and lawsuits are filed and settled, new research unveiling the environmental costs continues to pile up.

In September, a study by Duke University, Kent State University and the Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies compared the environmental toll of mountaintop removal to the economic benefits of coal as an energy source.

Considering the impacts of mountaintop removal on the health of Appalachia’s ecosystems, the study concludes that tremendous environmental capital is being spent to achieve what are only modest energy gains.

“While the scientific community has adequately demonstrated the severity of surface mining impacts,” writes Brian D. Lutz, the study’s lead author, “considerably less attention has been placed on understanding the extent of those environmental impacts in providing the metrics necessary to compare the environmental costs to the obvious economic benefits of coal.”

To most current U.S. coal demand through high surface mining, study found that an area the size of Washington, D.C., would need to be mined in Central Appalachia every 10 years.

Earlier this year, a report by researchers from the University of Kentucky and the University of California found that mountaintop removal coal could turn Appalachia from a carbon sink, absorbing CO2 from the atmosphere, to a carbon source in the next 12 to 20 years.

The new study further considers mountaintop removal’s contribution to an increasingly unstable climate. Based on the carbon sequestration potential of Appalachian ecosystems, researchers found it could take 5,000 years for 100 acres of reclaimed mines to sequester the carbon released from combustion of the coal removed from the same area.

Lutz’s study did not focus on the increased health risks faced by communities closest to mountaintop removal mines documented by more than two dozen studies. Despite the coal industry’s attempts to discredit the research, environmental advocates have used the conclusions to make their case in court.

Taking Coal to Court

In September, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers granted Peabody Coal, a subsidiary of Alpha Natural Resources, a permit to be the first mine to mountaintop removal in Dickenson County, Va. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is concerned that the Doe Branch mine will discharge waste into streams already impaired by its discharge of 244 tons per day. The Doe Branch mine is slated to be part of the 6,000-acre Coots Fork Complex Expressway, a project that would include mountaintop removal to build a highway in southwestern Virginia.

In East Tennessee, Appalachian Power has submitted a permit application for a 600-acre mountaintop removal project in Hawkinsville, Va. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is concerned that the Cane Creek mine will discharge waste into streams already impaired by its discharge of 137,500 kg per day. The Cane Creek mine is slated to be part of the 5,500-acre Cane Creek Complex Expressway, a project that would include mountaintop removal to build a highway in southwestern Virginia.

First Utility-Scale Solar Projects Proposed in West Virginia

By Brian Scrivell

Solar Thin Films Inc., a New York-based company, recently announced a contract to develop up to 35 megawatts of solar capacity in West Virginia. Through an agreement with property owner Tri-State Solar, the solar developer plans to install three sites in three counties, with work being scheduled to begin by early 2012.

Tri-State Solar, a West Virginia company formed by a former coal mining operation, is financing the projects, and is preparing each property for the installation of the solar panels. According to a Solar Thin press release, the company is in the process of finding utility to buy the electricity generated by the solar fields.

Solar Thin Films expects all three solar projects to be completed by fall 2014, with plans to begin installation before the end of 2013.

While solar power currently accounts for just one percent of electricity generated in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, installed solar capacity nationwide is projected to grow by 81 percent this year.

Dominion Power Wins Major Offshore Wind Auction

By Nilen Nijhdy

Dominion Virginia Power won a September auction for a tract that experts estimate has 2,000-plus megawatts of wind-energy potential. The $16.5 million bid purchased 112,800 acres along Virginia’s coastline that, if developed, could power over 700,000 homes.

Dominion’s winning bid, however, may not be a victory for the wind industry, according to Mike Tidwell, director of Chesapeake Climate Action Network.

“For a cheap price, they’re able to back in the glow of perceived greenness and prevent another company from grabbing a piece of offshore wind,” Tidwell told The Washington Post.

Filed on August 30, a week before the utility won the auction, Dominion’s 15-year plan states that a two-turbine “demonstration project” is the only wind farm installation currently in the works.

The agreement does not automatically prevent another coal company from attempting to mine Zeb Mountain in the future. “But if they do,” Tidwell noted, “we’re going to have a problem.”
Community Meetings in Virginia Confront Water and Mine Blasting Problems

Over the summer, the Appalachian Voices program partnered with Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards to host community meetings around southwest Virginia. Meetings were held once a month, moving between Wise, Dickenson and Buchanan counties, with each meeting tailored to address specific concerns within that community. Now, we are helping individuals who attended these meetings to address problems with water contamination and blasting from nearby surface mines. We were able to connect these communities to our water monitoring program and our Appalachian Water Watch Alert System to help report and monitor contamination issues in their areas. To learn more, visit appvoices.org/watertwatch.

Water Pollution Reporting

Water Pollution Reporting

Outreach and Education Efforts in the Region

Our campaign teams are working hard to build community awareness and action on a variety of topics. In Tennessee and Virginia, we’ve been preparing post-mine reclamation surveys and public meetings. In Tennessee, we’ve teamed up with partners to mobilize citizen observers to save our mountains. To learn more and take action, visit our Tennessee website, or consider joining the Appalachian Voices social media team!

Our Energy Savings for Appalachian program is reaching out to electric cooperatives in the Southeast, garnering support for statewide pilot programs that can finance energy efficiency improvements for homeowners. Stay tuned for the full launch of our entire Energy Savings Action Center.

In North Carolina, our Red, White & Water crew has been meeting with people living near coal ash ponds, water utilities, and affected individuals to discuss ways to prevent contamination from water banking. Learn more on p. 5.

Sign the New Power Pledge

Appalachian Voices is excited to welcome several new team members to our staff. Jonathan Harvey joins us from Charlotte, N.C., to serve as our new north Carolina campaign coordinator. He previously worked as a canvassing trainer and organizer for the New Power campaign in 2012, and helped to build successful grassroots campaigns. Jonathan comes with tools and strategies for helping our neighbors with the grassroots organizing and action training they need.

And lastly, we would like to bid a fond farewell to our former north Carolina policy intern. Van Jones will be serving as our new field coordinator, collaborating with volunteers and recruiting new members to further our work in the Old Dominion.

New Campaign to Bring Clean Energy to Virginia

On Aug. 27, Appalachian Voices and our partners in the Virginia chapter of the Sierra Club launched "New Power for the Old Dominion," a statewide campaign to bring smart energy choices to Virginia. The campaign will organize citizens to help shape cleaner energy choice policies, protect rural communities from destructive mining, fight for clean energy, and ultimately create a lively, diverse and clean energy future.

The New Power campaign will hold a series of events across Virginia, outreach and town halls, to educate citizens about the benefits of clean energy, the campaign is offering a series of presentations given around the state and a petition to start a grassroots campaign. The New Power campaign is working with its neighbors to build a grass-roots energy policy, to work with the federal, state and local government to support local initiatives, and to bring clean, affordable energy to all Virginians.

To learn more about these events and the old Dominion campaign, please visit appvoices.org/new-power.

"That's where the New Power for the Old Dominion campaign will make a difference, in growing a statewide movement to pass our leaders to make this a reality." - Van Jones, Appalachian Voices campaign director.

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NewPower4VA Road Tour
Oct. 16, 7-8 p.m. | Sandy Bottom Nature Center, Hampton, Va. ... Oct. 29, 7-8 p.m. | Catoctin Creek Distillery, Purcellville, Va.
Join the movement to bring clean energy to Virginia with the New Power for the Old Dominion campaign! Hear an engaging presentation on renewable energy followed by a panel of local clean energy pioneers. Presented by the Wise Energy for Virginia Coalition. Free. Visit: wiseenergyforvirginia.org

Streambank Repair Workshop
Oct. 16: Learn how to prevent streambank erosion using grading, matting, plants and other natural materials. Workshops include hands-on activities at Cove Creek.$25, includes lunch. Watauga County Community Center, Sugar Grove, N.C. Call Cooperative Extension at 828-264-3061

Laying the Groundwork Lecture
Oct. 17, 8-9:30 a.m.: Learn about building techniques, proper water management, energy efficiency and lessening environmental impact. Free. Richmond, Va. Visit: earthcraftvirginia.org/events

Full Moon Suspension Bridge Hikes
Oct. 18-20, Nov. 15-18 & Dec. 15-16.: Visit Talullah Gorge and hike under the full moon, reaching a suspension bridge that sways 80 feet above the gorge with spectacular views of the river and waterfalls. Times vary by date. Cost: $5/parking, $5/hike.

Black Pot Cooking

Your Gut and the Environment
Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m.: Dr. Chris Magryta of Salisbury Pediatrics will speak about microorganisms and how they influence health. Learn how food, stress and chemicals affect our bodies everyday. Free. The Center for the Environment, Salisbury, N.C. Visit: centerfortheenvironment.org

Mountain Justice Fall Summit
Oct. 25-27: A weekend of workshops and trainings concerning Appalachia’s long history of resisting strip mining and mountaintop removal. You will see mountaintop removal from the top of Kayford Mountain. $25-$75, includes all food and activities for the weekend - lodging is tent camping. Naoma, W.Va. Visit: mountainjustice.org/events

Hemlock Fest
Nov. 1-3: An unparallelled musical experience to help prevent the spread of the invasive HWA beetle and preserve Appalachian forests. This all-ages, eco-friendly event features three days of live music, primitive camping, educational exhibits, arts and crafts vendors, and more. $10-$50. Murrayville, Ga. Visit: hemlockfest.org/blog/

Colonial Thanksgiving Festival
Nov. 3, 12-4 p.m.: Celebrate America’s first Thanksgiving with food, fun and history. Tour the 1726 manor, play colonial games, see musicians, dancers, crafts, a living history program and more. $5/car.


Tanner Station Rifle Frolic
Nov. 2-3: Join state park officials for an off hand championship, night shooting event and three-man team shooting competition with a variety of prizes. Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park, Carlisle, Ky. Contact: (859) 289-5507 or parks.ky.gov/calendar/

Fee Free Days at National Parks
Nov. 9-11: Come enjoy your local national park, free of charge! Fee waiver includes entrance fees, commercial tour fees and transportation fees at all U.S. national parks.

Artisans Studio Tour
Nov. 9-10: See craft professionals at work in their studios. Over 30 artisans in 19 studios will be opening their doors to demonstrate their work in pottery, jewelry, textiles, furniture, and more. Charlottesville, Va. Visit: artisansstudiotour.com

Grow Appalachia Mushroom Workshop
Nov. 12, 4:30 p.m.: Learn the secrets to cultivating and utilizing some of Appalachia’s most pragmatic flora. Free. Pine Mountain Settlement School, Pine Mountain, Ky. Contact Maggie or Kathleen at (606) 558-3416.

Sustainable Agriculture Conference
Nov. 15-17: Attend the 28th annual CFSA conference for sustainable, local agriculture. The 3-day event will include speakers, workshops, and tours of local agricultural endeavors. Cost: $35-$309+. Durham, N.C. Visit: carolinafarmstewards.org/iasc/

James River Natural History Tours
Nov. 2 & Dec. 7, 1-4 p.m.: Ride the James River in a historical pontoon boat while learning about local wildlife and 17th-century history and folklore. $25/person. Henricus Historical Park, Chesterfield, Va. Call 804-318-8728

Winter Wilderness Wonderland
Every Saturday Nov. 30-Dec. 21, 6-9 p.m.: Join Christmas at Karlan, featuring an open house, Santa Claus, live music and a hayride through the wilderness adorned with lights, lasers and holiday decorations. $3/car. $1 Hayrides. Wilderness Road State Park, Ewing, Va. Park Office: (276) 445-3065

Apple Hill Farm Tour
Every Saturday through Dec. 14, 2-3:30 p.m.: Take a guided tour of Apple Hill Farm and learn about the specific species and personalities of animals living on the farm including a mini pig. Banner Elk, NC. Visit: highcountry365.com/events

Feast of the Seven Fishes Festival
Dec. 14, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.: Explore heritage and tradition at the 7th annual Feast of the Seven Fishes Festival in historic downtown Fairmont. Vendors, arts and holiday cheer will accompany live music and entertainment all day. Monroe Street, Fairmont, WV. Visit: mainstreetfairmont.org

Mornings in the Mountains
Saturday through Dec. 28, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.: Join an interpretive hike exploring Wintergreen, Ky.’s natural environment. $3/members, $6/non-members. Register by 9:30am. All hikes leave from the Trillium House unless otherwise noted. Visit: twrf.org