

The Current



News from the Forks of Coal State Natural Area Foundation

Winter-Spring 2021

BUILDING NEARS COMPLETION

Progress on building the Claudia L. Workman Wildlife Education Center has continued this winter. Interior walls in place and the windows have been installed to allow for heating. Due to the COVID-related delays in materials deliveries, the date for construction completion has been moved back to mid-May.

Several board members traveled to the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge visitor center to learn about aquarium maintenance. We will be assisting with care of the Center's 1500-gallon aquarium.



Penny Johnson photo

EXHIBITS ARE ON THE WAY

Meanwhile, the design and creation of the exhibits is under way, thanks to the federal grant funding approved last year through the AML Pilot Fund program. One exciting development is the purchase of a full body mount taxidermy elk which will be partially funded by a grant from the West Virginia Trophy Hunters Association.

The complete array of exhibits from Split Rock Studios of Minneapolis, Minnesota is expected to be delivered and installed by Mid-August.



Penny Johnson photo

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JUNE 7TH AT 6:00 P.M.

The Foundation's annual meeting will be held virtually as a **webinar** on June 7th at 6:00 p.m. See our Facebook page for the invitation link to attend.

PLACE BRICK ORDERS BY MARCH 30 FOR FIRST ROUND!

The deadline for ordering commemorative bricks for the first placement at the wildlife education center will be March 31st. *Orders received after that date will be included in the next round.*

COAL RIVER EVENT NOTICE *Mark June 5th on your calendar*

The City of Madison, assisted by the Boone Career Center, will host a Kayak Paddleboard event on June 5th at the Madison City Park.

Shuttles up Pond Fork, big screen movies, bands and paddleboard lessons will be available, along with lots of food and games.

"Recreational Awareness" will be the theme of the event. No work - just fun. For more information, contact Robert Miller at Boone Career & Technical Center. 304/369-3585

**THE FORKS OF COAL
STATE NATURAL AREA
FOUNDATION**

OFFICERS

President - Leanna Preston
Vice President - Betsy Walker
Secretary - Penny Johnson
Treasurer - Diana Green
Immed. Past Pres.-Kim McCluskey

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Jane & Leigh Shepherd
Kevin & Kathy Hill
Tomi Bergstrom
Carol & Jeff Stevens
Greg Stamm
Brad Leslie, P.E.
Sam England
Zack Brown
Tony Green

**THE FOUNDATION'S
MISSION**

The mission of the Forks of Coal State Natural Area Foundation is to work with the WV Division of Natural Resources to preserve, protect and enhance the Forks of Coal State Natural Area by providing leadership in communication, funding, advocacy and conservation education for children and the community.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...
VOLUNTEERS INVITED

Well here we are in 2021. Time to move forward and leave this pandemic behind!

If you haven't visited the Forks of Coal recently, I encourage you to go out and look at the new Wildlife Center. The building is almost done and the exhibits are being fabricated now and should be installed sometime this summer. That being said, we are looking for an "opening" by September (maybe even mid-late August!)

As a grassroots community organization, the Forks of Coal Foundation will be depending on its membership and other community groups for volunteer participation in its activities. There will be many opportunities to get involved, such as assisting with trail maintenance, leading group walks, gift shop workers, building docents, and dog-waste station sponsorships, to name a few.

In the coming months we will develop a way for volunteers to sign up for specific needs. I hope you will consider ways in which you can lend your talents to make the FOC State Natural Area and the Claudia L Workman Wildlife Education Center a thriving outreach in the community.

Leanna Preston

TIME TO ORDER BY MARCH 30
Order your brick today!

Commemorative bricks can still be ordered with inscriptions up to 3 lines. Bricks are \$125 each or 10 for \$1,000.

For information please contact us or visit our **website** at www.forksofcoalfoundation.org where you can place your order online or our Facebook page. You can also **e-mail** us with any questions at forksofcoalfoundation@gmail.com.



Bricks ordered *after* March 26 will be included in the next order.

KAYAK DRAWING POSTPONED-TICKETS STILL SELLING

The drawing for a new kayak has been postponed until this fall due to the coronavirus emergency health rules. We will continue to sell tickets. Please contact us through the website or e-mail us at forksofcoalfoundation@gmail.com to purchase tickets.

THANK YOU, SUPPORTERS!

We are sincerely grateful to these most recent members and generous donors for their support.

Wolf Creek Contracting Co.
E.L. Robinson Engineering Co.
Jane and Leigh Shepherd
Tony Green
Kathy and Kevin Hill
Elizabeth McClintock
Robert Fala
Kimberly and Dave McCluskey
Martha C. Hopper
Katharina Mooney honoring John H. Mooney
Cheryl Carroll honoring Tony Mooney
Gregory Mooney in remembrance
of John Henry ("Tony") Mooney
Michelle Browning
Alice McClure
Brandon Conley
Jackie Fletcher Breland
Ken Tawney
Wes Lafferty and Liam Lafferty
Jack and Faye Chafin
Kimberly Bradley
Victoria and Jeffrey Russo
Jeff Nelsen
Paul J. and Anne Wheeler
Sarah Walls
Terry Ballard
Michael Bailey
Ann Hall
Danny and Ligeia Dooley
Tena and Bill Webb
Diana Green
Louis K. and Teresa Watts
Leanna Preston
Elk River Getaway (Steven Grau)
Steven Romono
Dennis Stottlemeyer
Peter Sullivan
Doug Wood
Kylie Farmer
Susan Thompson
Anna Hudson
Robert Montgomery

THANK YOU, KROGER DONORS!

We appreciate the three good neighbors who donated a total of \$28.21 to the Foundation through the **Kroger Community Rewards** donation program between December 1, 2020 and February 28, 2021.

DOG OWNER HIKERS DONATE DOG WASTE STATIONS

Trail users who like to hike with their dogs have donated two dog waste disposal stations to help keep the Forks of Coal trails free of canine waste. This is Ellie and the pet waste station she sponsored with her owner, Steven Romano!

Ellie's thoughtfulness inspired her friends to sponsor a second waste station that will be installed at another location. This will help prevent bacteria from washing into the nearby Coal Rivers. Please do your part to help us in this endeavor by picking up after your pet and properly disposing of it.



Ellie the dog waits for her owner after a hike on the Orange Trail

Board member Frank Coulter installed the first waste station at the entrance by the lower gate. Thanks to everyone to donated and participated in this environmentally friendly project! Happy trails!!

PLEASE JOIN US AND SUPPORT THE FORKS OF COAL FOUNDATION TODAY!

The Forks of Coal State Natural Area Foundation was formed in 2016 to work with the West Virginia DNR to build a wildlife education center and support the conservation area on the 102 acres at the Forks of Coal. The Foundation and the DNR are working together in the development of the center and educational activities and programs which will benefit our local Coal River and Kanawha Valley communities.

Please join us! To learn more, go to Facebook or our website at www.forksofcoalfoundation.org.

Name _____ Phone Number/E-Mail _____

Address _____
Street Number City State Zip Code

Amount of Gift _____\$25_____ \$35_____ \$50_____ \$100_____ \$250 _____ \$500_____ Other

Please make check payable to: Forks of Coal State Natural Area Foundation
P.O. Box 5556, Charleston, WV 25361

The Forks of Coal State Natural Area Foundation is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Forks of Coal State Natural Area Foundation
Post Office Box 5556
Charleston, West Virginia 25361**



Deadline for 1st round of brick orders is March 30!
Annual meeting set for June 7 at 6:00 p.m.
www.forksofcoalfoundation.org