

# 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

### DIRECTORS

Dennis Stottlemeyer  
Robert Miller  
Angie Bailey  
Kathy Hill  
Tena Webb  
Art Shomo  
Frank Coulter  
John Wirts

### FRIENDS OF THE FORKS

Mike Ellis  
Wolf Creek Contracting  
E.L. Robinson Engineering  
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](http://www.forksofcoalfoundation.org) at [www.forksofcoalfoundation.org](http://www.forksofcoalfoundation.org) where you can place your order online or our Facebook page. You can also [e-mail](mailto:forksofcoalfoundation@gmail.com) us with any questions at [forksofcoalfoundation@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

# 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!!

# 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.

# 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](http://www.forksofcoalfoundation.org).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number/E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street Number	City	State	Zip Code
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Amount of Gift  \$25  \$35  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  Other

Please make check payable to: [Forks of Coal State Natural Area Foundation](http://Forks%20of%20Coal%20State%20Natural%20Area%20Foundation)  
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](http://www.forksofcoalfoundation.org)