



Heartwood: People Helping People Protect the Places They Love

# Heartwood 20 Years in Review

By Andy Mahler

The late 1980s represented a period of significant change for forest protection in the Central Hardwood Region, not least because it was the period of time that produced Heartwood, the cooperative regional network that over the next twenty years would achieve remarkable success in protecting the region's public forests, among other accomplishments.

In 1990, I was the president of Protect Our Woods, a grassroots forest protection organization. POW was formed in 1985, in response to a Forest Service proposal to build 112 miles of off-road vehicle trails through the Hoosier National Forest, about half of which would have been located in Orange County, Indiana, not far from my home.

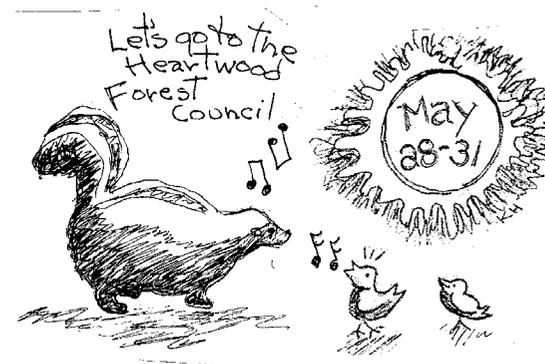
Against all odds, Protect Our Woods was successful in that undertaking, and the Hoosier National Forest was officially closed to off-road vehicles, the first such closure in the National Forest system. Then, working with partner organizations from around the state, including the Hoosier Environmental Council and others, Protect Our Woods organized sufficient public opposition to get the disastrous 1985 Management Plan for the Hoosier NF reversed and a new, far more benign Plan adopted in its place.

The 1985 Plan, the first adopted in the Forest Service's Eastern Region (Maine to Maryland to Missouri to Minnesota), called for virtually the entire forest to be in the timber base, for the entire timber base to be clearcut on either an 80 or 120 year rotation, for five miles of road to be built for every square mile of national forest, and for the entire forest to be open to oil and gas drilling, among other abuses.

In place of that disastrous Plan, Protect Our Woods helped usher in a complete halt to timber sales, a formal closure of the Hoosier to oil and gas drilling, and other protections. It was during that period that Ned Fritz, an attorney and activist with the Texas Committee on Natural Resources and author of the book *Clearcutting: A Crime Against Nature*, helped forge connections among the many disparate local forest protection organizations in the country, traveling from state to state by small plane, with a pilot and a photographer.

When Ned organized the first national gathering of local grassroots forest protection organizations, called the National Forest Reform Powwow, he asked Protect Our Woods to host it, which we did at our farm at the end of a dead end road in the gently rolling forested hills of the Hoosier National Forest we call the Lazy Black Bear.

*This issue of Heartbeat marks an important milestone in Heartwood's history - 20 years of existence! To honor the occasion, this issue of Heartbeat contains articles from various members reflecting on their journey with Heartwood over the past 2 decades. In addition, you will find several articles on the topic of "Trust Nature," which is the theme of this year's 20th Anniversary Forest Council. Thank you to all who contributed articles, photos, artwork, editing, & technical support. We hope you enjoy the issue and that you will join us for the Forest Council.*



Shortly thereafter, my wife Linda and I, accompanied by our dog Min, began what would become regular trips in our Volkswagen van to places where forests were under immediate threat. We traveled to southern Illinois to meet our counterparts in the Regional Association of Concerned Environmentalists, Jan Wilder Thomas, Joe Glisson & Jackie Turner, Bill Cronin & Mindy Harmon, and Mark Donham & Kristi Hanson among them. Later trips would take us to just about every state in the Eastern United States to meet the people there organizing in their local communities to pro-

*Continued on page 12*

**HEARTWOOD  
COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**CORE COUNCIL**

Ernie Reed, Council Chair, VA  
Jillian Borchard, Vice Chair, MD  
Steve Chaplin, Treasurer, IN  
David Nickell, Secretary, KY  
Elizabeth Glass, KY  
Leigh Haynie, AL  
Helen Vasquez, IN  
Jim Scheff, KY  
Corina Lang, IL  
Gwen Marshall, OH  
Davis Mounger, TN

**STAFF & CONTRACT  
EMPLOYEES**

Amanda Moore, Coordinator, TN  
Tammy Ford, Bookkeeper, IN  
Devin Ceartas, Web & Data  
Master, NC  
Andy Mahler, Network Support  
Coordinator, IN

**HEARTBEAT  
LAYOUT & DESIGN**

Jillian Borchard

**EDITING**

Amanda Moore

**MASTHEAD ARTWORK**

Margie VanAuken

**HEARTWOOD**

P. O. Box 332565

Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2565

615-358-8898

info@heartwood.org

www.heartwood.org

# Heartwood Mourns the Passing of Alison Cochran Little

by Andy Mahler



Heartwood mourns the passing of Alison Cochran Little. Alison was among the founders of Heartwood. She was present at the earliest meetings and played a key role in giving expression to the shared vision that would become Heartwood: people helping people protect the places they love.

Alison took notes during those early meetings and later would serve the organization as Executive Director from 1999 to 2001. But perhaps most important was her recognition that while what brought us together was a shared commitment to the intricate beauty and wild diversity of the hardwood forest, what keeps us together and what forms the foundation of Heartwood is the relationships we forge and the work we share: the food we grow, prepare and eat together; the dishes we wash in each other's homes when we gather; the inspiring and productive time spent in discussion and forging common purpose; the fires we build and the stories we tell; the beautiful forests and the wild rivers where we meet; the love we share and the music we play. Alison attended to the 'heart' of Heartwood.

She was also active in the Dogwood Alliance, Protect Our Woods, and the National Forest Protection Alliance, and she was listed as a Green Hero by In These Times in 2001. She was a mother, sister, and daughter; a teacher; an activist; a fiddle player and singer; and a dear friend. She will be sorely missed. Heartwood extends our deepest sympathies to her family.

## Thank You To All Our Recent Donors

Elizabeth Allen	Steve Conard	Sam Flenner	Winnie Hepler	Corina Lang	Karyn Moskowitz	Jerry Redden	Billy Stern
David Anderson	Dave Cooper	Ann Frutkin	Michael Hicks	Ricky Lanham	Davis Mounger	Ernest Reed	Mary Ann Stevens
Stephen Arnold	Ryan Cooper	John Galuska	Robert Holden	Kris Lasher	Hugh Muldoon	Lislott Richardson	David Stewart
Rhonda Baird	Steve Cotter	Michael Garn	Harry Hollis	Ed Lawrence	Jennifer Nalbone	Kay Rippelmeyer-Tippy	Gail Stratton
Peter Bane	T. Peyton Coyner	Don & Glee Gasper	Tom Hougham	Leslie Lihou	David Nickell	Sarah Ryterband	Lauren Taylor
Philip Berck	Donald Cronin	Glen Gelinias	Josh Jackson	Michael Luurtsema	Kari Nolan	Richard Sammis	Nancy Trent
Jeff Biggers	Martha Crouch	Mandeep Gill	Michael Jackson	Richard Lyons	Danna Norman	Scott & Ruth Sanders	Ashley Troth
Peter Boerner	Kate Cruikshank	Elizabeth Glass	john johnson	Andy Mahler	Paul Overhauser	Adrienne Scerbak	Terrie & Terry Usrey
Mary Bookwalter	Alex Dammam	Stacy Gloss	Cara Beth Jones	Annemarie Mahler	Daniel Palmer	Jim Scheff	Helen M. Vasquez
Jillian Borchard	Perrin de Jong	David Govus	Corey Jones	Jon Mahler	Matt Peters	Chris Schimmoeller	Marcia Veldman
William Borchard	Ann Deutch	Carla Gresham	Jessica Jones	Gwen Marshall	Ann Phillippi	Sam Schwartz	James Wagner
Benjamin Bowman	Mark Donham	Gary Grigsby	Tony Jones	Richard & Jean Maxwell	Charles Phillips	Jessica Servi	Dale Wallace
Virgil Boyd	Stephen Dorsett	Phyllis Guskin	Alec Kalla	William & Betty Medina	Nancy Pierce	Kyle Settswart	Melvin L. Warren
Marsha Bradford	Amy Drake	Samuel Guskin	Carolyn Kehoe	Joseph Miller	Kate Pilacky	John Shockley	Daniel Weddle
Marcia Brammer	Rock Emmert	David Haberman	Jean Kelly	Revel Miller	Patricia Pizzo	Carl Shoolman	Jennifer Weiss
Greg Buck	Colin Enford	Melva Hackney	James Keown	Betsy Ogle	Tonya Plachy	Mandy Skinner	Carol Westerman-Jones
Anya Burgess	Jane Evans	Scott Hankla	Robert & Marcia Kern	William Montgomery	Bill Polansky	Elaine Smith	Kathryn Woods
William & Sandra	Tom Farlow	Alex Harrington	Roy & Donna Kimball	Amanda Moore	Carol Polsgrove	Margaret Smith	Christina Wulf
Bussell	Ryan Fitzpatrick	Virginia Harris	Paul Knoop, Jr.	Tony Moore	Evan Prost	Robert Soltess	Brian Yelverton
Becky Ceartas	John Flannelly	Mick Harrison	Marc Koslen	Laura Moorhead	Jerry & Catherine	Southern Environmental	Randy Young
Rodger Clarke	Bob Flenner	Michelle Henry	Drew Laird	Stacie Morris	Ramsey	Law Center	N. Ryan Zaricki

# Management, Gardening, and Trusting Nature

by Sam Stearns

Differences in how people perceive nature begin early in life.

Many people's early encounters with nature evoke positive experiences and pleasant memories. To these folks, being outdoors means the fragrance of wildflowers and the song of a pine warbler. They value the clarity of a stream and the hum of insects. They understand that life in the natural world is a complex and delicate web, with all the strands interconnecting and interdependent. Such folks consider themselves part of nature and look at nature as part of the beneficial nurturing Self. By protecting nature, these people are protecting and preserving the very best part of themselves.

Some people on this planet, however, are not so fortunate in their first contacts with the great outdoors. For these individuals, nature first meant poison ivy, sunburns, and mosquito bites. They fear being lost in the woods and seeing snakes. To them, nature is part of the strange threatening Other: a place that they live in rather than belong to. From such wary and suspicious minds comes the notion that nature must be conquered, tamed, developed, and, at a minimum, "managed." Some insist that this Other must be logged, burned, grazed, plowed, paved, and utterly used up before it gets us.

The spectrum between these two familiar archetypes includes myriad combinations of their basic value systems. One such manifestation includes people who believe that nature can no longer survive without assistance from humans. While it is true that we must set aside and protect places for nature to thrive, the essence of nature -- natural processes -- can occur in these sanctuaries if we have the courage to let them.

For managers of our public land, this courage is hard to come by. The safer route for their career trajectories is to create as many "hands on" management opportunities as possible. Unfortunately, this means viewing projects through the lens of a short-term budget cycle or a few decades of agency career rather than in terms of the centuries that are nature's heartbeats.

The first goal of any bureaucracy is to perpetuate the bureaucracy. This is largely accomplished by protecting its budget. Letting natural processes work on their own -- around the clock, at no cost to taxpayers -- does little to increase a budget. Trusting nature does not further bureaucratic ends. So an easier route to procure funding -- as in other arenas -- is to create enemies and conflicts on public land that can only be defeated or resolved by direct human intervention, facilitated by the managers themselves. Thus, some native species such as oak and hickory are labeled as "desirable," while others such as beech and maple are labeled "undesirable." This may be a way for bureaucrats to justify timber sales, but it shows little faith in natural processes.

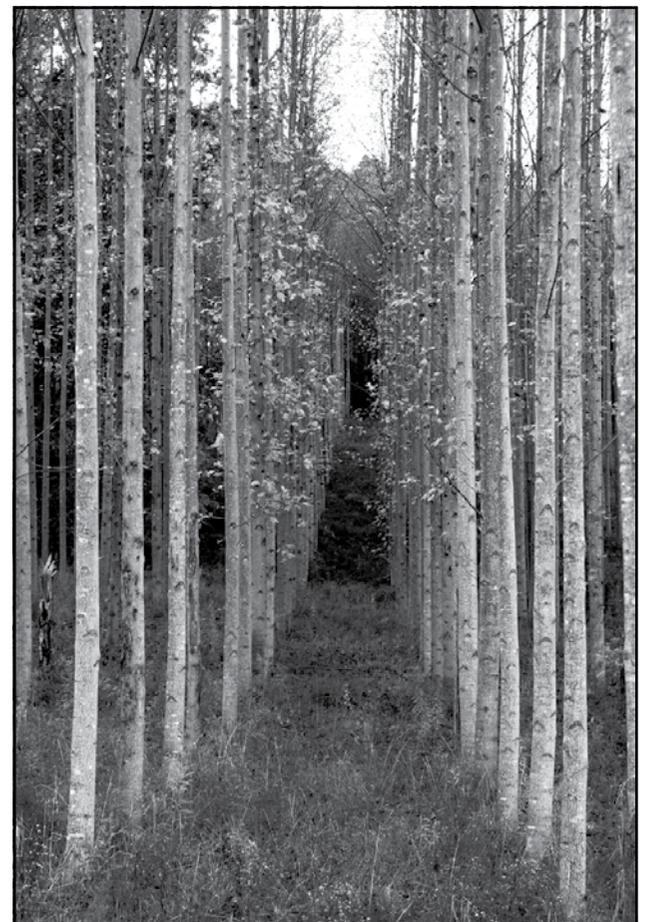
Even easier targets are non-native species that are defined as invaders bent on destroying native ecosystems. These WMDs (weeds of mass destruction) are seen as such a threat that there are plenty of funds available for attacking them. Public land managers eagerly use cocktails of chemical herbicides and arsenals of flaming hydrocarbons to kill these non-native invasive species. Never mind that there is inevitable collateral damage of well-established native species. Also ignored is the fact that their attacks often result in disturbance that allows for re-colonization of the very non-native species that they seek to eliminate. But they achieve their goal of itemizing money for their project and creating a need for even more money spent on similar projects in the future. And there will always be more enemies with which to do battle as non-native species seek to expand their ranges, with or without the help of humans.

There may be times when burn programs are legitimately focused on a small remnant population of fire dependent and fire adapted species, but these are far removed from the landscape-scale poorly targeted "fuels reduction" and the ill-defined "ecological restoration" burn projects that currently dominate public land agencies.

When public land managers are not fear-mongering taxpayers into footing the bill for a war on one plant or another, they are buying the support of various interest groups in their battle against natural processes. Besides their tree farming programs, which favor commercially valuable species, many

agencies maintain artificial "wildlife openings" in the forest to feed game species; manipulate water levels of streams to facilitate waterfowl hunting; install artificial plastic structures in lakes to congregate fish for the ease of anglers; and impose various management measures upon the land to maintain artificially high deer populations. Indeed, the major foci of public land management appear to be little more than gardening for certain plants and ranching for popular game species.

Gardening, farming, and ranching are activities better-suited to private enterprise. Public land offers a unique and necessary opportunity to let nature take its course. This requires the vision to look beyond budget cycles, careers, and our individual lifespan. We can only do this if we trust nature. The courage to do this is attainable. The humility required may be more elusive.



*Forest of the Future: Nature just can't get it right, at least as right as the exploiters need it to be. They cut nature down, plant monoculture poplars in neat rows like corn, sweep up their leaves and fallen branches and then claim that is the "green" or sustainable thing to do. I call it the Forest of the Future. This was shot in October at the Domtar paper mill in Hawesville, KY.*

*-John Blair  
<http://valleywatch.net>*

# Green Nightmare:

## Burning Biomass Is Not Renewable Energy

by Jeff Gibbs

Excerpted from an original post on The Huffington Post, December 17, 2009  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jeff-gibbs/green-nightmare-burning-b\\_b\\_395553.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jeff-gibbs/green-nightmare-burning-b_b_395553.html)

*Number of years the United States could meet its energy needs by burning all its trees: 1*  
- *Harpers List, January 2006*

Ironically, just as world leaders are ramping up efforts to preserve forests globally to slow global warming, a technology that has the opposite effect is poised to wreak havoc on forests around the world. It's called biomass burning: chipping up trees and burning them in power plants to create electricity.

The idea is that if you replace burning fossil fuels with burning wood, the planet and climate will be better off. The concept that burning anything is good for the climate seems a little suspect, but could a civilization with six billion people, spaceships, and microwave ovens power itself by burning trees? Probably not. But after being erroneously labeled carbon neutral at Kyoto, biomass burning is ramping up all over the world in the name of green energy.



*Here is what one local TV reporter found when he looked into what was actually going on in the name of sustainable forestry: the Massachusetts Chainsaw Massacre.*

### **BIOMASS BURNING DELUSION #1 BURNING TREES DOESN'T PRODUCE CARBON DIOXIDE**

Burning any carbon-based fuel produces carbon dioxide. That's what burning is: carbon plus oxygen yields heat and CO<sub>2</sub> and some other stuff called pollution. Woody biomass burning, as it turns out, produces more carbon dioxide than burning fossil fuels. You can pass laws and sign treaties, but when you take a match to wood, it releases carbon dioxide.

"Biomass burning produces fifty percent more carbon dioxide even than coal because it burns less efficiently," says Biologist Rachel Smolker of U.K.-based Biofuelwatch. Some would say three times as much; others argue that wood and coal are closer to equal in CO<sub>2</sub> production. But there is certainly no fuel WORSE than wood burning, carbon dioxide wise.

### **BIOMASS BURNING DELUSION #2 WHEN YOU CUT AND BURN A TREE, IT INVIGORATES THE GROWTH OF THE FOREST, WHICH THEN TAKES UP THE CO<sub>2</sub> YOU RELEASED BY BURNING THE TREE**

Here's what really happens: During simulated timber harvest, on-site carbon storage is reduced considerably and does not approach old-growth storage capacity for at least 200 years.

Turns out, as long as trees are alive, they are growing and storing CO<sub>2</sub> in roots, branches, trunks, and leaves. It makes sense that a one-ounce seedling cannot replicate the carbon uptake of a multi-ton tree, not for centuries anyway. Second growth can seem vigorous because the replacement trees mine the nutrients from previous generations of trees stored in the soil. And after the third or fourth cutting? All bets are off.

"People believe there is some magic in nature," said Smolker. "That you can keep taking and things will grow back."

Apparently not. In many places, industrial monoculture forests are already being fertilized and treated with pesticides and herbicides.

### **BIOMASS BURNING DELUSION #3 IF WE DON'T BURN TREES, THEY WILL EVENTUALLY JUST ROT AND RELEASE THEIR CARBON ANYWAY**

Actually, nature has plans for that dead tree. For one, it's food for the next generation of forest life. And it turns out trees are pretty good at transferring their CO<sub>2</sub> to the soil rather than the atmosphere when they fall over dead. Underground roots of mushrooms called mycorrhiza digest the wood and keep the carbon the trees had sucked from the air in the forest soil.

The proof? It's called coal.

Millions of generations of plants and trees have taken in carbon from the air and deposited it as mountains of coal. It's what trees and plants do. Because trees and plants took the CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere, we have the nice comfortable climate we enjoy today. It's not their fault we're releasing everything they worked so hard to lock away, and if we cut them down, they are going to have that much more difficult of a time soaking the carbon back up.

## **BIOMASS BURNING DELUSION #4 BIOMASS BURNING IS “LOCAL” ENERGY**

An international trade in trees for burning has sprouted up. A recent Bloomberg headline called wood the “new coal.” “Wood is becoming a hot commodity in a new low-carbon world,” the article proclaimed. Indeed, you can find trees for biomass burning, including tropical hardwoods and softwoods, for sale from every continent. This is the opposite of the local biomass miracle we’ve been promised.

Simone Lovera of the Global Forest Coalition in Paraguay told the UK newspaper The Independent, “Europe is going to cook the world’s tropical forests to fight climate change; it’s crazy.”

Of course, just in case Africa, Asia, Indonesia, and South America don’t have enough trees to fuel the biomass burning fantasies of Europe, a nice company from Sweden called JCE Group AB is helping the people of Florida liberate their extra forests. 150 truck loads of trees PER DAY are ground up and shipped to Europe for biomass burning to the tune of 400,000 metric tons per year. Of course they don’t even bother to pretend it’s waste wood.

## **BIOMASS BURNING DELUSIONS #5 AND #6 THAT BIOMASS IS BIOMASS, AND “BIOMASS” BURNING POLLUTES LESS THAN FOSSIL FUELS**

Here in northern Michigan at least two of our “biomass” plants burn old tires. Others shovel in old houses and creosote-soaked railroad ties. I don’t know what’s “bio” about all this crap, but the energy you get is considered carbon neutral and renewable.

Burning anything pollutes, and burning wood, while putting out fewer pollutants such as mercury and sulfur dioxide than coal, also puts out even more fine particulates that are hazardous to human health as well as volatile organic compounds, nitrous oxides, and unusual things like aluminum. Biomass plant advocates often claim they will use advanced technology like gasification, co-generation, and scrubbers. The reality is that whatever applies to “clean wood” also applies to “clean coal.”

And of course since biomass also can include tires, who knows what the heck is in the air. That’s not all that gets burned. Even the world’s largest trash incinerator in Detroit is considered “green energy.” When someone tells you that biomass plants meet air pollution standards and are therefore “clean,” remind them that so does even the world’s largest green energy waste incinerator, as do all coal plants.

## **A PLEA**

I propose something new: if you get a carbon credit for planting a tree, you have to get a carbon punishment for cutting one down and halting its uptake of CO<sub>2</sub>, and another punishment for burning the tree, since you’ve now released its CO<sub>2</sub> when we can least afford it. These punishments, combined with credits for leaving forests uncut, could do the trick, along with banishing woody biomass burning.

The reality is that we got into this mess because we have pigged out on a one-time inheritance of ancient biomass in the form of fossil fuels. We can’t get out of this by burning more stuff and rebranding it “green.” Twenty-five million Americans in the 1800’s ran through most of the trees of North America to heat homes, power trains, and build cities. It’s not going to work for 300 million Americans with far greater energy needs. A civilization trying to run Chevy Volts and a billion televisions on trees is doomed.

Burning trees will make global warming worse, possibly a lot worse. Let’s put a stop to it. The time is now. What other time will there be?



*Stevens Croft Biomass Plant, Scotland, U.K. Opened June 2009 as part of the Scottish Renewables Festival. Photo from [http://li.telegraph.co.uk/telegraph/multimedia/archive/01522/eon3\\_1522465c.jpg](http://li.telegraph.co.uk/telegraph/multimedia/archive/01522/eon3_1522465c.jpg)*



*Leave nothing standing is the motto of many loggers, the ones who leave entire ecosystems denuded and void as this small woods near Cannelton, IN.*

*I have been a believer in biomass as an energy source for nearly three decades. When I first heard about biomass in the late 1970s, using natural waste products like corn stover, yard and wood waste made sense.*

*Unfortunately, I have learned a lot in the last thirty years about our corporate culture and how it stops at nothing once it gets a foothold. Most corporations will tell you anything, forge your trust and then do whatever they want and chalk up violations and fines as a cost of doing business.*

*I worry that most biomass promoters will do the same. They will say they will use only waste but then they will decide they really mean anything that works. Soon clear cutting will replace sweeping and the clear cuts will be replaced by monoculture forest that look and feel distant from the natural world.*

*-John Blair  
<http://valleywatch.net>*

# NUCLEAR POWER BAD CHOICE

by Mark Donham

There's been a lot of hot air spewed lately about nuclear power being an okay way for us to meet our electrical power needs in the years to come. This is because, as some (falsely) speculate, it will counter global warming because nuclear power plants don't produce any greenhouse gasses. That's one of the biggest lies that nuclear power interests are trying to foist on us.

But is it penetrating the society and getting traction? Frighteningly, it is. Even President Obama has said that he'll support building new nuclear plants. But he must not understand how much energy it takes just to get the nuclear material in a condition where we can even hope to have a usable, controllable nuclear chain reaction.

Most of us know that for the most part, nuclear power starts with the element uranium. "Normal" uranium has an atomic number of 238. That means it has 238 protons and electrons. But it has these rogue atoms (isotopes) that have only 235 electrons. Electrons come in pairs, and with an odd number, single electrons are very unstable. Uranium isotopes like to throw off these extra electrons. If there are enough of these atoms, this process of throwing off these electrons can become self-sustaining and generate heat (or even an explosion), a nuclear chain reaction.

But can you just dig up uranium from the ground and turn it into a nuclear chain reaction? Not easily. It has to go through a number of steps.

The first step is actually digging the uranium out of the ground. In the United States, uranium mining has been done in the western U.S. Many of the "best" uranium deposits were on Native American reservations or nearby. We hired a lot of Native Americans to do the digging, and many got sick and died from exposure to the uranium.

Next, that uranium ore, slightly cleaned at the mining operation, goes to a plant in Canon City, Colorado, run by the Kottler corporation. That plant takes the uranium ore and further cleans it, then does some processing to create what is called "yellowcake." This Kottler facility is controversial in the community and has released contamination.

That yellowcake is shipped, by train, to Metropolis, Illinois, where it is "converted." Conversion, in terms of the nuclear fuel cycle, means

Better Active Today



Than Radioactive Tomorrow

Graphic By John Blair

fluorination. The only conversion plant in the United States, operated by Honeywell, is located in Metropolis, Illinois, on the Ohio River across from Paducah, Kentucky. At the Honeywell facility, yellowcake is combined with hydrogen fluoride to create uranium hexafluoride, or UF<sub>6</sub>, which is a gas.

That UF<sub>6</sub> is put into large cylinders and trucked on flatbed trucks across the river to the "enrichment" plant outside of Paducah. There, the UF<sub>6</sub> is run through enrichment "cascades" or "barriers." The natural percentage of 235 atoms in uranium, which is about .7%, is not a dense enough concentration to support a chain reaction and create energy. This concentration has to be increased, which isn't easy. Currently in the United States, it is only done by running the UF<sub>6</sub> gas repeatedly through atomic filters that increase the concentration. This is called the "gaseous diffusion process" and is done at the United States Enrichment Corp. facility near Paducah, Kentucky. There is another process for doing this, called "gas centrifuges," which is used elsewhere. A centrifuge plant is under construction in New Mexico.

But that's still not enough modification to make uranium suitable for nuclear power plants.

It must then go to a fuel rod fabrication facility. There are several of these across the country, depending on what the rods are going to power.

All of these fuel cycle nuclear facilities are power intensive. For example, it is often said that the Paducah facility uses as much electricity as the rest of the commonwealth of Kentucky. Most of the power generated to run these facilities is from coal fired power plants. That is hardly "greenhouse gas friendly." And switching from this very energy intensive and highly polluting fuel cycle to more energy efficient and clean methods of nuclear energy production would be incredibly expensive and would use even more power from our current grid. For now, and for the foreseeable future, we are stuck with this inefficient, polluting cycle to create the fuel for the nuclear power plants. It is simply not true that these are "clean" plants.

In addition, power is consumed, again, primarily from coal fired plants, to store the spent fuel rods, ship these fuels around the cycle, and clean up the contamination already released from all of these facilities. When you add it all up, building new nuclear plants is not a good choice.



Artwork by Cielo Sand

# Soul of the Wilderness: Can We Stop Trying to Control Nature?

by James M. Glover

Excerpted from an article originally published in the *International Journal of Wilderness*  
(April 2000, Vol. 6, No. 1)

“Scientists in particular are uncomfortable with the wilderness idea because it seems so subjective, soft, and nonquantifiable.” —Reed Noss

Author’s Note: Reed Noss’s observation (*IJW*, vol. 2, no. 2, 1996) should not be surprising, since the purpose of Western science has always been to control nature, not leave it alone. And so, in the following essay, I’d like to examine our compulsion to control nature, see how it conflicts with wilderness preservation, and propose we view wilderness as a healthy form of noncontrolling, “nonaction.”

## A Cutting Example

The “control of nature” then, is a doctrine that has so permeated Western culture as to almost define it. A fundamental acceptance of the doctrine, I believe, explains the strong resistance by many—including resource managers—to any more land preservation beyond the 4% or so in the United States that’s presently set aside in wilderness and parks. And an intuitive resistance to controlling nature explains not only the persistence of mainstream preservationists, but also the seemingly more extremist views of those who protest, picket, and practice civil disobedience at various controversial sites.

A good example is occurring in the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois, near my home. Forest officials there have been trying for several years to cut and sell some mature pine trees that, in the 1930s, were planted on ridgetops in a part of the forest called the Bell Smith Springs area. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) originally proposed cutting the pines as a routine commercial harvest. Environmentalists stopped it on the grounds that it was clearcutting. The USFS then slightly altered the plan, called it something else, and tried again. It was successfully blocked again, so USFS came back for a third time and called it “ecological restoration.” This time, they explained, the pines needed cutting to restore the area to hardwoods, which had dominated before the land was cleared for farming about 100 years ago (USDA Forest Service 1996). This move, however, cost the agency credibility, for hardwood saplings were already filling the understory of the mature pines, and everyone agreed the ridgetops would revert to hardwood on their own in another 20 years or so, as the planted pine trees died.

The plan included a great many other interventions, ranging from tree-girdling to road construction, all in a 27,000-acre parcel that even without improvements had already been declared a National Natural Landmark. In other words, to skeptics it seemed mostly like a plan to control nature for the

sake of controlling nature, especially since nature was pursuing the same trajectory on her own.

In fairness to the USFS, the arguments put forth by environmentalists were equally specious. Using what the law gives them, they identified certain of the state’s rare or endangered species that might occur in the area and might be somehow dependent on those pines that had been planted some 60 years ago. They even found themselves arguing in favor of a rather noxious exotic plant, Japanese honeysuckle, which a state-threatened mammal, the golden mouse, has come to rely on (RACE et al, 1996). These individual species, of course, were not the objectors’ major concern. I doubt many protesters knew about them before they went looking. I believe these objec-

tors were mainly rebelling against a culture that has raised rationalism to an irrational level. They see our drive to control as a kind of cultural neurosis, the group equivalent of an overbearing, obsessive-compulsive personality. They are not necessarily, as often accused, looking for a place they imagine has never been disturbed by humans, free from original sin, the Garden of Eden. They just want a few places left alone. They want a little chaos left behind as, out of necessity, we become more organized and systematized in order to deal with the crowdedness and dangerous machinery with which our science has presented us.

sented us.

I believe that was Thoreau’s (1993 [1862]) main point in his famous essay, “Walking,” when he said, “I wish to speak a word for nature, for absolute freedom and wildness, as contrasted with a freedom and culture merely civil ... for there are enough champions of civilization: the minister, and the school-committee, and every one of you will take care of that” (p. 49).

That essay is a rebellion against too much rationality. At one point in it, Thoreau describes how he roots for a neighbor’s cow that breaks out of its pasture in the spring, boldly swimming the swollen river, reasserting its “native rights” (p. 66). This, of course, is a metaphor for the modern human condition. For humans, Thoreau believes, can also be overdomesticated. They need an environment not totally tamed and they need to behave not always rationally.



*Shawnee National Forest. Photo taken by Tony Jones*

*Continued on page 24*

*Page 7*

# What's Cooking With Shane

Interview by Ernie Reed

For 20 years Heartwood has organized semi-annual gatherings, our Spring Heartwood Forest Council and Fall Heartwood Reunion, bringing together citizen activists from all over the country. These gatherings educate and empower the participants to organize against threats to our forest communities and to promote positive solutions to a wide range of environmental challenges. One of the most important aspects of these gatherings is the energy that sustains us, the fabulous food, which provides joy, energy, and delight. Shane McElwee is the heart and face behind so many of these meals that she has earned a special place in our hearts, bellies, and here, in this interview.

**Q:** How did you first come to cook for Heartwood Forest Councils and Reunions?

**Shane:** I met Andy Mahler in 1997 while cooking for a Buckeye Forest Council gathering in Ohio. I guess he liked my cooking, because he asked if I would be interested in cooking for a Heartwood event. Prior to the BFC gathering, I had no experience cooking for large groups of over 100 people. My friend Jason Tockman talked me into cooking for the BFC gathering, so I have him to thank for kick starting my self-taught career in catering.

I've cooked for numerous Heartwood litigation meetings, Reunions, and Forest Councils in Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky. My favorite place to cook is in the Lazy Black Bear (location of the yearly Reunion, in Southern Indiana) outdoor kitchen. Nothing else compares! I remember cooking outside during the wintertime, bundled up in a coat, hat, and gloves. I was literally freezing over a hot stove at 5 o'clock in the morning. My hands and fingers were so cold, I could barely use a knife to cut!

**Q:** What is your "day job?"

**Shane:** I work as a sales representative and Michigan territory manager for a Natural Foods Brokerage. I represent over 100 different natural grocery, supplement, and body care brands.

**Q:** What first got you interested in food and cooking?

**Shane:** While I was in college, I started eating a vegan diet for health and ethical reasons, and I started growing vegetables, herbs, etc. organically. I lived with a bunch of tree hugging, socially enlightened, fun loving people at the Greenhouse Coop in Columbus, Ohio. Every night, we would prepare a vegetarian meal for our fellow housemates. My housemates were so happy and appreciative of the food I prepared for them. Cooking became my escape from school, my job. Mollie Katzen's Moosewood



*Shane McElwee, Beloved Heartwood Chef*

cookbook taught me how to cook. I learned that cooking can have a powerful meditative and satisfying effect on my soul.

**Q:** What motivates you?

**Shane:** Community, the environment, sustainable agriculture, good friends, and good food!

**Q:** What most influences the menus and recipes you create?

**Shane:** I love the endless possibilities of vegan cuisine. I like to take a regular recipe and turn it into a lip smackin' vegan or vegetarian dish. I try to plan menus that are seasonal, substantial, and full of colorful vegan "comfort food." I've also been including more gluten free recipes into my menus. Buying local is just as important, if not more, as buying organic. Eating a vegan diet helps reduce our carbon footprint.

**Q:** What do you find most attractive/interesting about Heartwood gatherings?

**Shane:** The gracious and talented Heartwood community, with their voracious appetites for vegan food, keeps me coming back. Truly, the most kind and loving people I have ever met. I love cooking in beautiful backwoods settings. Besides, it's so hard to say "no" to Andy.

## Fried Green Tomato Sandwiches with Spicy/Tangy Vegan Mayo

Serves 4-6

2 large green tomatoes sliced 1/2 in thick (approx 4 filets per tomato)  
2 cups gluten free all purpose flour  
8 oz almond or rice milk unsweetened  
2 cups fine ground cornmeal  
Salt & pepper  
Seasoning blend such as Spike  
1 cup grated carrots  
1 cucumber peeled and sliced cross wise  
1 small thinly sliced red onion  
1 bunch fresh spinach leaves  
Plenty of canola oil for frying  
1/2 cup vegan mayo  
2 Tbl. lemon juice  
2 cloves of garlic, minced  
1/2 tsp hot sauce  
2 whole wheat pita breads sliced in half

Vegan Mayo: combine mayo, lemon juice, garlic, hot sauce, and salt and pepper. Season to taste. Set the mayo aside and allow the flavors to meld.

Place the flour, milk, and cornmeal in 3 separate shallow bowls. Season the cornmeal with salt, pepper, and Spike. Dip the tomatoes first in the flour, then in the milk, and finally in the cornmeal, pressing gently to adhere.

Heat the oil in a non stick or cast iron skillet over med-high heat. Working in batches, cook the battered tomatoes until golden brown, about 2 minutes each side. Transfer to a paper towel lined plate.

Assemble the sandwiches: spread the mayo in the pita bread halves, then insert two fried green tomatoes, add a few spinach leaves, some grated carrot, slices of cucumber, and red onion. Serve warm.

# The Latest in Heartwood Technology

by Devin Ceartas

For what I believe is the fourth time, I'm helping Heartwood put together a new website. We've got an excellent team including Amy Drake, designer of our current site who is contributing some time with photoshop, some photos, and her design sensibilities, along with Margie VanAuken's excellent artwork. My contribution is writing the "back-end" code and putting the pieces together. I've configured a computer purchased with a grant from Norcross that will host our new site at a location powered 100% by wind. The work is guided by a web committee and the Heartwood Council.

The next website version will sacrifice some of the artistry of the current site's tree-branch navigation for one more easily updated. We will add integration with Facebook, Twitter, and other technologies. But the "featured" aspect of the new site will be a strong emphasis on interactive maps.

Our goal with mapping takes part of its inspiration from a vision articulated several years ago by Heartwood co-founder Andy Mahler of a "state-of-the-region" report. This report would use maps as a primary tool for visualizing the resources and people, the threats and the struggles we work with.

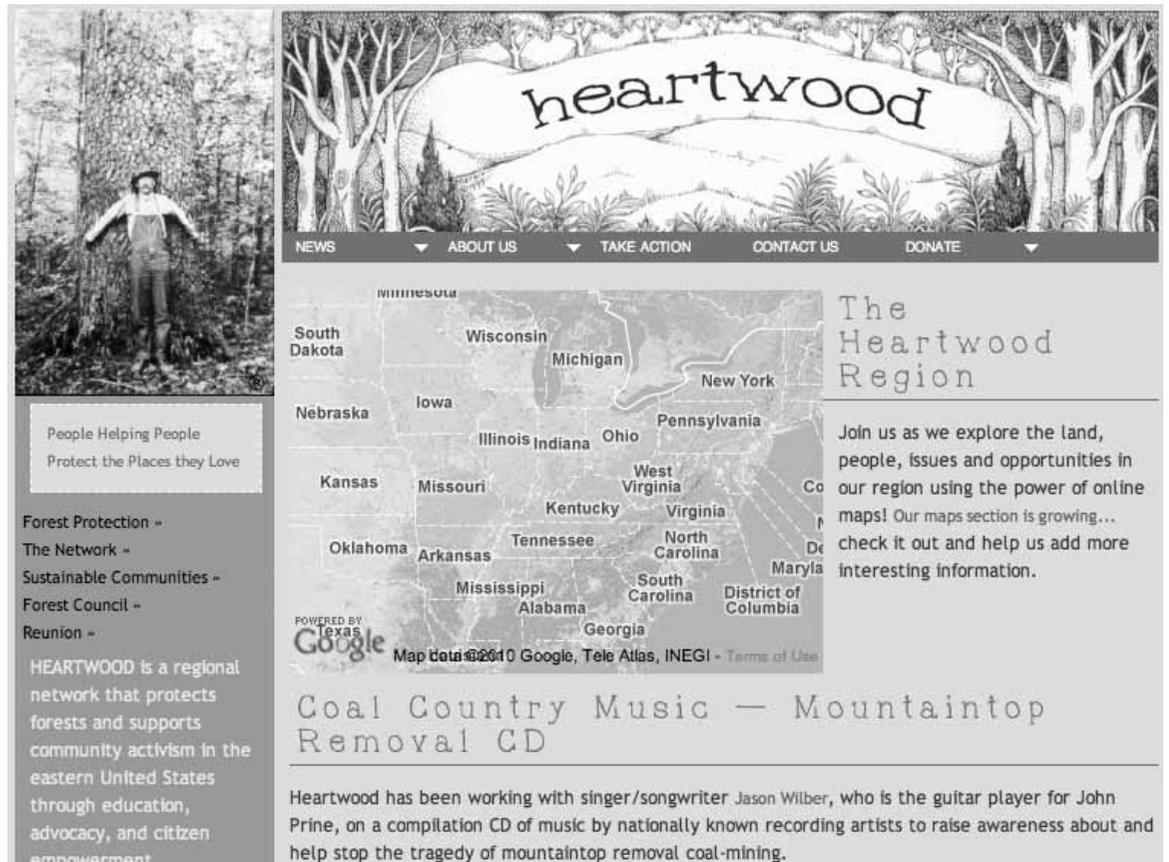
Initially the maps on the site will display a set of standard "base" maps showing the forests in our region and linking them to member organizations. Over time, more "layers" will be added along with more ability for site visitors to interact with the maps.

Much of the geographic data we will use will have been output by a Geographic Information System (GIS). GIS is advanced computer software for manipulating mappable data. The real strength of GIS lies in its ability to manipulate and analyze this data. For instance, GIS could be used to analyze the cumulative impacts of logging across a watershed or the feasibility of a new local-food farmers market. We are exploring opportunities to partner with university classes and others with access to these GIS resources.

We have also begun to explore ways to partner with the Energy Justice Network (EJN, [www.energyjustice.net](http://www.energyjustice.net)). EJN has built a fantastic online map resource ([www.energyjustice.net/map/nationalmap.php](http://www.energyjustice.net/map/nationalmap.php)), giving site visitors GIS-like capabilities to combine sets of data on top of base map layers. EJN has been a national leader in the fight against biomass, a growing concern to Heartwood. While EJN's map data highlight the "point-source" pollution created at the site of a biomass incinerator, and not the "sourcing area" of the forest and broader impacted community with which Heartwood is also concerned, its data represent a huge head-start for us. Even better, EJN is sharing the program code it has developed to organize and manipulate this data, including a mechanism for associating organizations and individuals

with the power plants they are opposing. We are very thankful for their generosity and hope to return some value in future contributions to aspects of this system once we get up to speed.

Heartwood is also reaching out to its network -- to you -- asking for help in gathering data and other resources for this project. Everyone can contribute by working with state and federal agencies, universities, and others with GIS systems to obtain data. The most useful data will be in the form of latitude/longitude pairs for point data and "kml" for area data



*New Heartwood Web Homepage with an Emphasis on Interactive Maps*

like the boundaries of a national or state forest unit. Data in the ArcInfo "shapefile" format is useful as well, as it can be used directly in a GIS and can be converted to kml for online display. If you or your Heartwood member organization has access to a GPS-enabled handheld device (an iPhone will work), we would love to work with you to help you tell your story as a part of our mapping effort.

Once we have the data and the analysis to talk about the data, we will present maps on our website using the free Google Maps utility. We may also provide export files of Google Earth and will look into other opportunities such as Open Street Map ([www.openstreetmap.com](http://www.openstreetmap.com)) and Green Map ([www.greenmap.org](http://www.greenmap.org)).

Of course, even with all the very best social media integration and online mapping technology, the core of a good website is still good content. Over the years it's been one of the most difficult elements to come by. If you like to write, we encourage you to send us your submissions. Once you've written about all your local work, I encourage you to consider working with us to identify and interview other activists in our network who may be less inclined to write about their work.

Lastly, if your organization is promoting an issue or activity, don't forget to send us a press release or, even better, a ready-to-run article! Heartwood is here for you -- People Helping People Protect the Places they Love.

# How Between the Rivers Became Land Between the Lakes: *The Resistance Lives On*

by David Nickell

The 170,000-acre Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area in far western Kentucky and Tennessee stands out from most public lands by having a fully committed community of people who consider it to be their homeland and themselves to be its protectors. These folks have faced multiple challenges, including the federal government's refusal to acknowledge their existence, but thanks to the assistance of the Heartwood network, the Forest Service must take them into account at every turn.

This strip of land, known simply as "Between the Rivers" prior to being converted to a wilderness-like recreation area by TVA in the 1960s, lies between the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers and is the largest inland peninsula in the continental U.S. (For a more detailed description of Between the Rivers and the struggles of the people to protect their homeland, see <http://www.innothere.org/BetweenTheRiversHegemony.htm>.) The Tennessee and Cumberland run northward in their parallel course before emptying into the Ohio. The peninsula, averaging about eight miles wide, was the boundary between the lands of the Cherokee and Chickasaw nations before being ceded to the new U.S. government by a series of treaties in the 1770s and 80s. There had been no permanent settlements between the two rivers since the Mississippian and Woodlands cultures. Until the Jackson Purchase was added, the Tennessee River was the far western boundary of the U.S.

In the 1780s, Revolutionary War veterans were given land on the peninsula as payment for their service in the war. The new government was anxious to establish settlements on its farthest frontier. But the two prominent rivers, with the Mississippi River only a short distance to the west, formed a natural barrier to the waves of settlers that followed, with the result that the descendants of those original pioneers remained relatively insulated from the outside world for nearly 200 years. Access to and from the peninsula was by ferry, and the ferry operators would alert the Between the Rivers people when outsiders were aboard with a recognized ring of their bell. A strong sense of identity with the place



Demonstration, 1965. Photo taken by Corinne Whitehead

emerged, as did a unique culture that allowed life to continue within the limits of what the heavily forested peninsula and its surrounding rivers had to offer. When these first settlers arrived, Kentucky and Tennessee were still counties of Virginia and North Carolina. With formal governance so far away, the people essentially established their own ways of managing day-to-day life on the peninsula.

Living on a peninsula meant the limits of available resources were clearly visible and expansion was not possible. So, cultural patterns for living within these limits emerged over the next six and seven generations. The rugged central spine of the peninsula, known as the Coalins, had been used since the earliest settlements as a commons for hunting and open range grazing. This use was based entirely out of informal community agreement that had adapted as need, awareness of limits, and a strong desire to remain in place dictated. By necessity, they were acutely conscious of where they were, who they were as a people, and how they needed to live to stay there. By the time Kentucky established

its Fish and Game Commission, the only white tailed deer and wild turkey remaining in the state were on the still heavily forested peninsula.

In 1936, the Resettlement Administration, a New Deal program, took possession of the Coalins. It then condemned the farms bordering the Coalins, even burning homes to force acceptance of the "offer" of assistance. This expanded the federally owned land to over 50,000 acres. In 1938, Franklin Roosevelt issued an Executive Order transforming the entire block into the Kentucky Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge. The role of the Between the Rivers people in having preserved such a resource was never acknowledged. In 1941, the Fish and Wildlife Service officials began impounding livestock found in the Coalins area. The first day cattle were impounded, the Between the Rivers people had the Wildlife officials jailed for interfering with their use of the Coalins. The Wildlife officers remained in jail for eight hours, until the federal government intervened.

These disputes over authority and proper use of the land for conservation shaped the fate of



Continued from front page

protect public forests.

We started with the core states of the Central Hardwood region -- Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, and Missouri -- recognizing that the forest we all sought to protect was the same forest, irrespective of the arbitrary political and administrative lines that had been drawn to divide us. We also recognized that there was small satisfaction in protecting our own backyards if that protection came at the expense of something precious to someone else.

It quickly became apparent that stopping logging in the Hoosier National Forest was resulting in increased pressure to get the cut out in other regional forests and that a particularly egregious timber sale was under way in the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois. By the time it was over, the Fairview Timber Sale, as it was known, would galvanize our nascent regional movement and bring Heartwood into being. In that sale, Forest Service officials persisted in plans to log the area, despite persistent and growing citizen opposition, which included administrative appeals of the decision to log, an 82-day occupation of the site by local activists and organizers, a letter signed by the entire Illinois Congressional delegation urging restraint, a bill in Congress that had been passed by the House and awaiting action in the Senate that would have precluded the sale, and a pending lawsuit.

Instead, the Forest Service brought in law enforcement personnel from around the country, at a reported cost of \$350,000, to cut \$50,000 worth of timber, when, as a subsequent FOIA request would reveal, they could have bought the sale back from the purchaser for \$1,100. Sixteen arrests were made in the course of the logging operation as protestors gathered from around the region. One protestor, Chris vanDaalen from Save America's Forests, was run over by a pickup truck as he attempted to block its access to the logging site. Miraculously, he suffered only bruises and abrasions. No charges were ever filed against the driver of the truck.

While Fairview provided the emotional and tactical focus for the coalescing of the regional grassroots forest protection movement, the actual meetings that led to the formal operational and organizational structure of Heartwood were held at the Lazy Black Bear in December 1990 and January 1991. I was named the coordinator of the organization, which was incorporated as an Indiana not-for-profit corporation in the Spring of 1991. Representatives from five states -- Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, and Missouri -- participated in those early meetings.

The name "Heartwood" (heartland+hardwood) was chosen to reflect the group's commitment to the principles of bioregionalism and its primary focus on the health and well-being of the heartland hardwood forest. Heartwood meetings were to be open and inclusive, and decision-making would be by consensus. From the start, it was clear that the development of long-standing relationships of friendship, trust, and mutual support was central to the group's function, hence periods of intense work activity would be combined with socializing, always involving great food lovingly prepared, live music, and beautiful forest settings.

Research conducted by Heartwood and its member groups led to the adoption of the group's first formal policy position: no logging on public lands (the group's second formal policy position would be opposition to off-road vehicles on public lands). Protect Our Woods' new president, Bob Klawitter, had conducted research using Forest Service inventory data in Indiana to demonstrate that there was no economic justification for public forest logging. A large and growing body of scientific evidence suggested that the public forest played a critical role in providing habitat for forest-dependent species, a role that was diminished by logging, road-building, and other forms of forest fragmentation. And perhaps most importantly from a public policy standpoint, new polling data was demonstrating overwhelming public support for comprehensive public forest protection. Even so, the no logging position was considered unrealistic and unattainable, a minority opinion with no chance of prevailing in a political landscape awash in corporate campaign contributions to members of Congress with seats on the key oversight committees. Nonetheless, Heartwood from its inception determined to do what was right for the forest rather than what was politically feasible or realistic.

The first regional gathering, called the Heartwood Forest Council, was held in May 1991 at Camp Ondessonk in southern Illinois. An invitation went out announcing the new organization and inviting participation in a cooperative regionwide network. The program focused on the importance of forests in the hardwood region and the reasons public forests should be protected. It featured two members of Congress, Glenn Poshard from southern Illinois and Jim Jontz from north central Indiana, whose seat on the House Agriculture Committee and long-standing interest in forest issues made him a valuable ally.



Also on the program were Ned Fritz, Protect Our Woods' Bob Klawitter, the Native Forest Council's Tim Hermach, Mark Winstein from Save America's Forests, Jeff DeBonis, founder of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, and story-teller Lou Gold, whose epic efforts and vivid slide show in defense of Bald Mountain in Oregon would mobilize nationwide support for protection of the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest.

That first Forest Council was organized as a combined effort by a representative from the local host organization, RACE's Mindy Harmon, and me acting as the Heartwood coordinator, setting both the standard and the format for the nineteen that would follow, leading up to the twentieth that will again be held at Camp Ondessonk in southern Illinois later this year. Since then, the Forest Council has been held in a different state in the Heartwood region each year. The name in parentheses in the list below is the primary host/partner organization for that year's event:

# Heartwood Annual Review



- 1991 Illinois (RACE)**
- 1992 Ohio (Buckeye Forest Council)**
- 1993 Kentucky (Kentucky Heartwood)**
- 1994 Arkansas (Newton County Wildlife Association)**
- 1995 West Virginia (OVEC)**
- 1996 Alabama (Wild Alabama)**
- 1997 Indiana (Indiana Forest Alliance)**
- 1998 North Carolina (Southern Appalachia Biodiversity Project)**
- 1999 Michigan (Northwest Wilderness Recovery)**
- 2000 Kentucky (Kentucky Heartwood)**
- 2001 Pennsylvania (Allegheny Defense Project)**
- 2002 Indiana (Indiana Forest Alliance)**
- 2003 Kentucky (Kentucky Heartwood)**
- 2004 Virginia (Virginia Forest Watch)**
- 2005 Mississippi (Citizens for the Holly Springs NF)**
- 2006 West Virginia (OVEC)**
- 2007 Missouri (Missouri Forest Watch)**
- 2008 Ohio (Buckeye Forest Council)**
- 2009 Kentucky (Kentucky Heartwood)**
- 2010 Illinois (RACE, Friends of Bell Smith Springs)**

Despite the enormous challenges we faced during those early years, we found remarkable success in combining our efforts for greater effect and great comfort in the bonds of lasting friendship that endure to this day. By 1999, Heartwood and its member organizations had effectively stopped all timber sales in the national forests of the core Heartwood states of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, and Kentucky, with additional stoppages in Pennsylvania and Alabama as well. Though logging has now resumed in several of those states, it is now on a significantly diminished scale, with the burden of proof having shifted from those who wish to protect forests to those who would exploit them. Heartwood has been instrumental in the development of numerous local grassroots groups, has helped organize regional opposition to biomass incinerators, chip mills, giant paper mills, and other industrial scale wood-consuming facilities, and is among the leaders in efforts to stop mountaintop removal coal mining.

We will be discussing the current threats to the health and well-being of the region's forest and making plans for the next twenty years when we gather in southern Illinois in May. We will also enjoy a beautiful forest setting with great food, great music and dancing, and wonderful inspiring people. I hope you will be one of them.

# 20th annual heartwood forest council

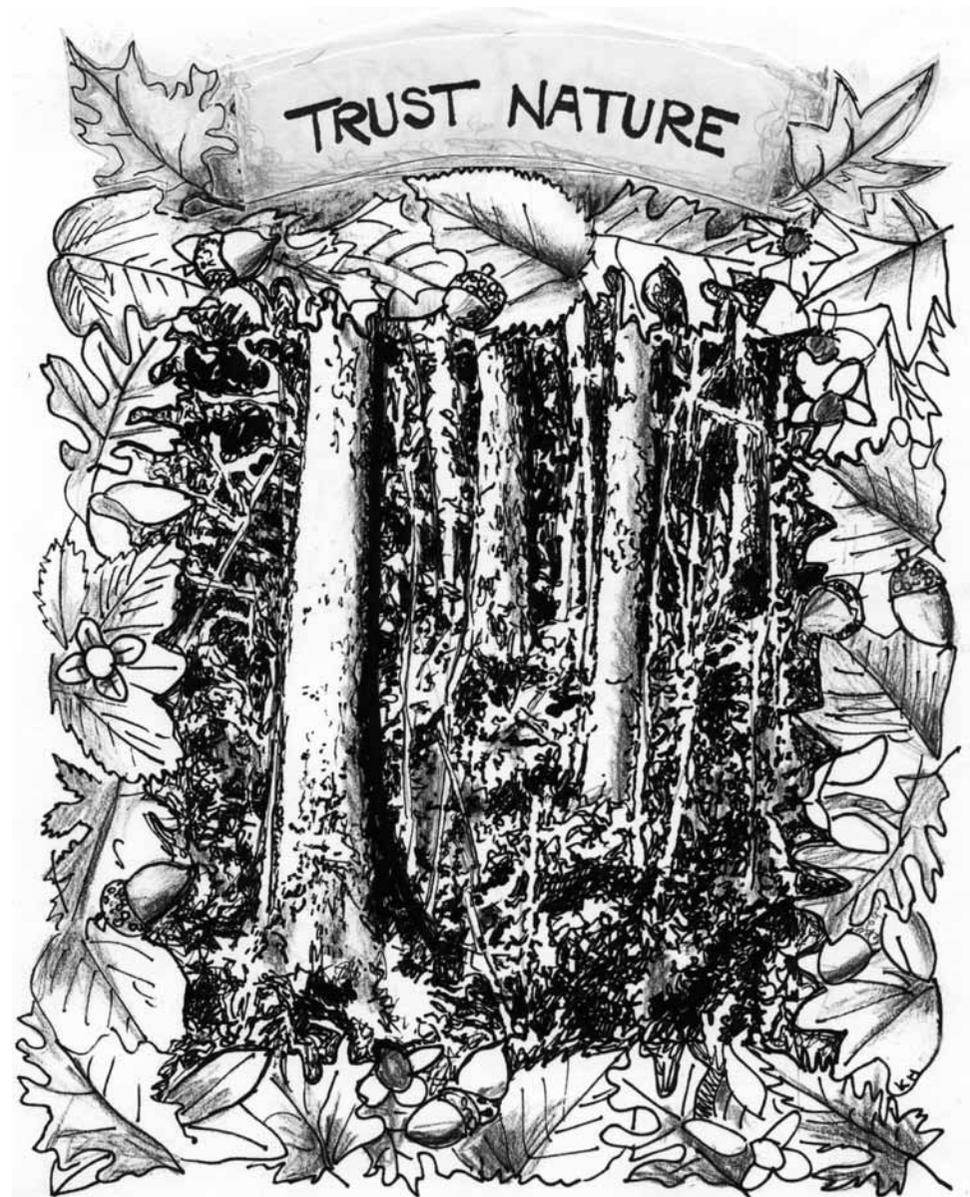
May 28-31, 2010

## Camp Ondessonk, Southern Illinois

Heartwood will be celebrating twenty years of collective action for our forests and communities when we gather for the 20th annual Heartwood Forest Council, to be held Memorial Day weekend, May 28-31, 2010, at Camp Ondessonk in southern Illinois, site of the very first Heartwood Forest Council in 1991. The theme of this year's Forest Council is Trust Nature. The Forest Council will begin the afternoon of Friday, May 28, with a screening of the powerful new documentary *Coal Country*, which Heartwood helped produce. *Coal Country* tells the heart-rending story of mountaintop removal coal mining, which is destroying the land and culture of Appalachia. We also have a very special guest Saturday night as former Member of Congress and Green Party presidential candidate **Cynthia McKinney** will offer a keynote address. The event will conclude mid-day, Monday, May 31 (Memorial Day) with a look ahead to the next twenty years of Heartwood and a celebratory closing circle. The program in between will consist of three days of workshops, discussions, keynote speakers, and field trips -- interspersed with ample social time, leisure, lively local music, dancing, and great food.

Among the featured presenters will be southern Illinois native **Jeff Biggers**, author most recently of *Reckoning at Eagle Creek, The Secret Legacy of Coal in the Heartland*. He will present his traveling multimedia production *Welcome to the Saudi Arabia of Coal* on coal, mountaintop removal, climate change, and clean energy options. Keynote presentations on the theme Trust Nature by **Scott Silver** of Wild Wilderness, based in Bend, Oregon, and **Jim Glover**, Southern Illinois University and the Wilderness Education Association, will explore the complex subject of human interaction with forests and other natural systems. Long time Heartwood activist and organizer **Andy Mahler**, who has helped organize all twenty Heartwood Forest Councils, will reflect on lessons learned over the past two decades.

This year's Forest Council will also feature the first national meeting of the growing network of groups and individuals coming together to oppose the proliferation of forest-consuming industrial **biomass incinerators** and to promote truly **sustainable and renewable energy alternatives** to coal, biomass incineration, and nuclear power. Learn about the history and ecology of the surrounding Shawnee National Forest and current threats to its well-being. There will also be a variety of informative and restorative field trip options to explore the area's wild and rugged beauty and unique ecological features.



Drawing By Kristi Hanson

The Forest Council will be family friendly - kids of all ages are encouraged to attend. As always, this year's Forest Council will feature great food, lovingly prepared by chef Shane McElwee and her kitchen magicians, using the best possible fresh, local, and organic ingredients; live local music and dancing including the **Ol' Fish Skins, Carter & Connelley**, and the **Ivas John Band**; the always entertaining Heartwood benefit auction with **Colonel Clyde Canaveral Kennedy**, auctioneer extraordinaire, and the death-defying Heartwood Talent Show. Rumor has it there will also be an appearance around the campfire by visionary activist John Muir.

It is the personal and organizational connections we make and renew at the Heartwood Forest Council each year that are the heart of the Heartwood network.

**We hope to see you there.**

# forest council program\*

## FRIDAY, MAY 28

3:00pm	Registration opens
4-5:30	<i>Coal Country</i> screening
5:30-7:00	Dinner: Vegetarian shepherd's pie, kale salad with beets & radishes, corn bread, no-cook tofu cheesecake with granola crust
6:45-7:00	Music: Mark Donham & Kristi Hanson
7:00-7:30	Welcome and Introduction to the 20th Heartwood Forest Council; Children of the Movement: 20 Years Later; Introduction to Camp Ondessonk
7:30-8:00	Welcome: Green Party gubernatorial candidate Rich Whitney
8:00-8:30	Regional History, Ecology and Culture: Prof Emeritus Paul Yambert
9:00-9:30	The World According to John Muir (campfire)
10:00	Carter & Connelley at the Campfire

## SATURDAY, MAY 29

6:30-7:30am	Bird Watching, yoga, and other early riser activities
7:30-9:00	Breakfast: Egg/tofu scramble with kale, potatoes & golden gravy, biscuits, fruit & yogurt
8:45-9:00	Music: Carter & Connelley, Morning Announcements, Welcome for new arrivals
9:00-9:15	Nurturing Body & Spirit: Chef Shane McElwee
9:15-10:45	Shawnee NF activism (panel)—Kay Ripplemeyer, Mark Donham, Corina Lang, Sam Stearns, John Wallace, Tom Buchele
10:45-11:00	Break
11:00-12:00	Jeff Biggers: <i>Welcome to the Saudi Arabia of Coal</i>
12:00-12:15	Honoring the torchbearers: Corinne Whitehead, <i>Citizens for Health Concerns</i>
12:15-1:30	Lunch: Tempeh sloppy joes, tahini cole slaw, blue corn chips
1:30-2:15	Keynote: Jim Glover SIU, Wilderness Education Association - TRUST NATURE
2:30-4:00	BIOMASS panel: Mike Ewall, Scot Quaranda, Rachel Smolker, Denny Haldeman, Joy Towles Ezell, Bill Sammons, Cara Beth Jones
4:00-5:30	Biomass strategy session; <i>Coal Country</i> screening; hands-on home solar work shop; hikes & more
5:30-6:00	Music: Ol' Fish Skins
6:00-7:30	Dinner: Spaghetti with spicy chard, walnuts & parmesan, Greek salad with tofu, garlic bread, basil-lime fruit salad
7:30-8:15	Keynote: Cynthia McKinney
8:15-9:00	Keynote: Celebrating 20 Years of Heartwood - Andy Mahler
9:30-12:30	Music and Dancing: Ivas John Band

## SUNDAY, MAY 30

6:30-7:30am	Bird Watching, yoga, and other early riser activities
8:00-9:30	Breakfast: Banana-cornmeal pancakes with maple syrup, scrambled eggs with pesto, roasted sweet potatoes, fruit & yogurt Morning announcements
9:15-9:30	Music: Andy Mahler
9:30-10:15	Scott Silver, Wild Wilderness: TRUST NATURE
10:30-12:15	ENERGY Panel: Coal, Biomass, Nuclear Power & Sustainable Alternatives: John Blair, Ron Lamb, Jeff Auxier, Joy Towles Ezell, Dana Kuhnline
12:15-1:30	Lunch: Curried chip pea mash with mango chutney, sauteed spinach with basil, salad greens, naan
1:30-2:00	Music: Hannah Nickell
2:00-2:10	Keynote: David Nickell - Between the Rivers: Preserving Community & Culture
2:00-2:10	Intros to Hikes and Field Trips
2:30-5:30	Hikes and Field Trips including Shawnee National Forest, Wild-Life Rehabilitation, integrated Forest Management, and more
6:00-7:30	Dinner: Black beans & Chinese greens with brown rice, salad greens with miso dressing, Mexican chocolate cake
7:30-9:00	Heartwood Benefit Auction: Colonel Clyde Canaveral Kennedy, auctioneer extraordinaire
9:00-	Heartwood Talent Show

## MONDAY, MAY 31

7:30-9:00am	Breakfast: Scrambled eggs with leeks, fruit & nut hot cereal, roasted rosemary red skinned potatoes
9:00-9:45	Hugh Muldoon: Gaia Awakening
10:00-11:45	The Next Twenty Years: Heartwood Strategy, Vision & Planning
11:45-12:00	Closing Circle
12:00-1:00	Lunch: Highlights from the weekend's culinary delights

\* **Please Note:** Times are approximate and schedule is subject to change

# registration

**Please Pre-Register!** This will help us to prepare sufficient food & a program that will fit your needs.

Make checks payable to Heartwood & return before May 20th. Registration rates are \$5 more after May 20th.

**You may register online at [heartwood.org](http://heartwood.org)** or complete the front and back side of this panel, detach, and send with check or money order to:

**Heartwood Forest Council**  
**P. O. Box 332565**  
**Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2565**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City, ST, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**No one will be turned away for inability to pay.** Work exchange and scholarships are available.

**Work Exchange** includes preparation and cleanup: Exchange rate is \$8/hour & must be preapproved. Indicate number of hours desired & contact Sam Stearns, [bellsmithsprings@hotmail.com](mailto:bellsmithsprings@hotmail.com), 618.695.2758.

# of work exchange hours: \_\_\_\_

## INFORMATION ABOUT ACCOMMODATIONS

- Registration includes tent camping. However, on-site tent camping is limited.
- Accommodations at Camp Ondessonk are exceptionally nice and reasonably priced.
- Accommodation upgrades available on site.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION INCLUDING CAR-POOLING

- Visit [heartwood.org](http://heartwood.org)
- email [andy@heartwood.org](mailto:andy@heartwood.org), or
- call 812-723-2430



Registration Options	# People	Rate/Person	Total
Join Heartwood at a special Forest Council rate and register as a member		x \$20 =	
<b>Pre-Registration (After May 20th, add \$5.00)</b>			
Full Weekend Heartwood Member		x \$35 =	
Full Weekend Regular		x \$40 =	
Full Weekend + donation to scholarship fund		x \$75 =	
Full Weekend low income		x \$25 =	
Under 18 free		free	free
Friday Only		x \$10 =	
Saturday Only		x \$20 =	
Saturday Only low income		x \$15 =	
Sunday Only		x \$20 =	
Sunday Only low income		x \$15 =	
<b>Accommodations (registration includes tent camping)</b>			
Dorm/Cabin (linens not included; shared bath)		x \$8/day =	
Suites (2 shared rooms with electricity, heat, AC, linens, shared bath)		x \$17/day =	
<b>Meals (child rate for 12 years &amp; under)</b>			
Full Weekend Adult		x \$55 =	
Child		x \$30 =	
Friday Dinner Adult		x \$9 =	
Child		x \$7 =	
Saturday Breakfast Adult		x \$5 =	
Child		x \$3 =	
Saturday Lunch Adult		x \$7 =	
Child		x \$5 =	
Saturday Dinner Adult		x \$9 =	
Child		x \$7 =	
Sunday Breakfast Adult		x \$5 =	
Child		x \$3 =	
Sunday Lunch Adult		x \$7 =	
Child		x \$5 =	
Sunday Dinner Adult		x \$9 =	
Child		x \$7 =	
Monday Breakfast Adult		x \$5 =	
Child		x \$3 =	
Monday Lunch Adult		x \$7 =	
Child		x \$5 =	
<b>Total (registration and meals)</b>			\$
<b>Subtract work exchange hours @ \$8/hr</b>			\$
<b>Additional donation (tax deductible)</b>			\$
<b>Total enclosed</b>			\$

## what to bring

Your own bedding for cabins, mug/travel cup, outdoor gear, water bottles, musical instruments, flashlight, raingear, towels, swimsuits, and sunscreen. Comfortable pads, pillows, cushions, and camp chairs for outdoor seating. **Auction items for Heartwood Auction.** Musical instruments, songs, skits, poems for Sunday night Talent Show. Banners, displays, and information from your organization to share with others.

## what not to bring

**YOUR DOGS!** You love them, we love them, but at a gathering of this size, they are inappropriate.

## directions

**Camp Ondessonk**  
**www.ondessonk.com**  
**3760 Ondessonk Road**  
**Ozark, IL 62972-1257**  
**(618) 695-2485**

Camp Ondessonk is located just east of Illinois Route 45, on Ozark Road, near the town of Ozark, IL.

Ozark Road intersects Route 45 at the Ozark General store. This intersection is 12 miles north of Vienna, IL, 2.7 miles south of New Burnside, IL, or 20 miles south of Harrisburg, IL on Route 45.

A brown Department of Transportation highway sign marked "Camp Ondessonk" and "Bell Smith Springs" marks the turn from Route 45.

From Route 45, take Ozark Road east one half of a mile to Ondessonk Road (look for the camp gate on right). Make a right on Ondessonk Road.

### Airports

- Paducah (45 miles from Ondessonk) at [www.barkleyregional.com](http://www.barkleyregional.com)
- Evansville (83 miles from Ondessonk) at [www.evvaairport.com](http://www.evvaairport.com)
- St. Louis (157 miles from Ondessonk) at [www.flystl.com](http://www.flystl.com)



## co-sponsorship



Lusk Creek, Shawnee National Forest. Photo taken by Tony Jones

### Cosponsor the Forest Council!

We invite you to become a cosponsor of the 2010 Heartwood Forest Council. Funds raised will be used to underwrite the event and make it affordable for those who might otherwise be unable to attend.

As a cosponsor, you or your organization or business will be listed in all applicable promotional materials and have the option of setting up a display table with merchandise and information at the event. Co-sponsorship also entitles you to a one-year organizational membership in Heartwood with full member benefits. Individuals may also cosponsor and may choose to remain anonymous.

For groups and organizations, we offer the following general guidelines based on annual budget:

Suggested donation	Annual budget
\$25	under \$25K
\$50	\$25K - \$50K
\$100	\$50K - \$100K
\$250	\$100K - \$250K
\$500	\$250K - \$500K
\$1000	\$500K and over

To cosponsor, make checks payable to Heartwood, and send to: Heartwood Forest Council, P.O. Box 332565, Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2565.

Please make sure to include your name and contact information, and mention that your donation is intended for the Forest Council.

For more information, please contact:

Andy Mahler  
Heartwood  
812.723.2430 (h/w)  
andy@heartwood.org

## Doris "Granny D" Haddock (January 24, 1910 – March 9, 2010)

Heartwood joins the many friends of Doris "Granny D" Haddock, in celebrating her life, her wisdom and courage, her sharp wit and ready sense of humor, her fierce commitment to justice and her determination to do what she could for her country and her planet home. Granny D died March 9th of chronic respiratory illness at her home in Dublin, New Hampshire. She was 100 years old.



"Granny D" Haddock inspired the crowd giving a speech that brought a long standing ovation. Her message-Stop Global Warming and Mountain Top Removal coal mining. © 2006-John Blair

Granny D first came to public attention in 1999 and 2000, when she walked across the country to call attention to the need for campaign finance reform. Her campaign for the Senate in 2004, at age 94, was the subject of the award-winning documentary "Run Granny Run" by filmmaker Marlo Poras, which includes her reminiscence of time spent at the May 2003 Heartwood Forest Council with actor Woody Harrelson.

Granny D was a friend and supporter of Heartwood, having twice been a Forest Council keynote speaker, in 2003 in Kentucky (at Blanton Forest) and again in 2006 in West Virginia. Her keynote address from 2006 can be found at [www.heartwood.org/GrannyD.html](http://www.heartwood.org/GrannyD.html)

May we all be inspired by her example and renewed in our efforts to seek justice in her memory.

# Missouri Symphony

by Tom Kruzen

In 1979, Angel and I heard about a group of people in the Ozarks trying to save 600 acres from clearcutting. The Iowa corn desert, brown water, and a twenty-acre clearcut adjacent to our home made it clear we needed to move. Our surroundings had quickly become a hideous constant reminder of greed, ignorance, and the way we didn't want to live.

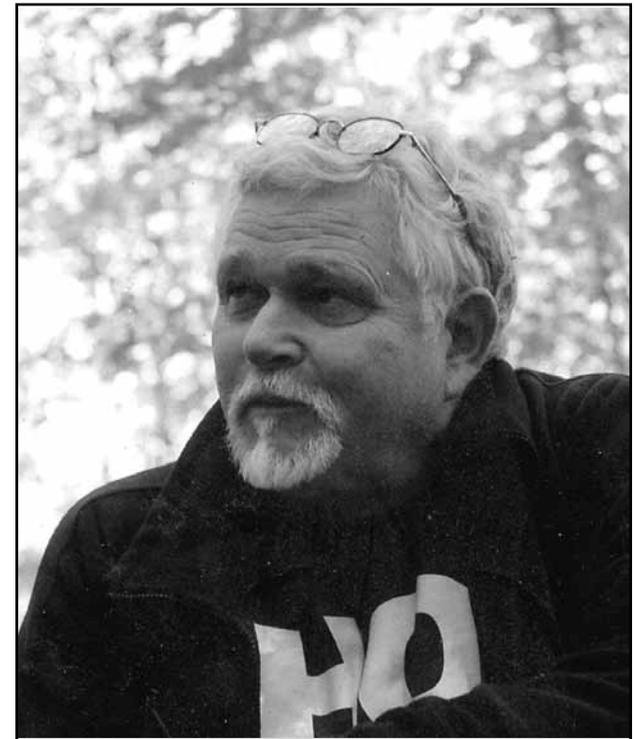
We moved to Greenwood Forest in the Missouri Ozarks in 1981 with our two-year-old son, goats, a car load of houseplants, and everything we owned. Along with 45 other people who had responded to Ken and Sherry Carey's call to save these woods, we purchased 10 acres and helped to do just that. It was the beginning of a grand concert of tree hugging that would take us to meet governors, senators, and a panoply of great souls committed to loving and saving trees and the planet. Forests provide clean air, clean water, and a soul-quenching serenity humans have a way of rendering a rare commodity. We instinctively knew this, and over the next thirty years, we found good science and friends supported our suspicions.

Not long after we came to Missouri, we heard about a mining company wanting to explore for lead and other metals in the Eleven Point River District of the Mark Twain National Forest. All we knew was that lead was poisonous, mining was destructive, and we loved the national forest and the Wild and Scenic River welling up from the magnificent Greer Spring to the tune of 293 million gallons of water daily! A first of hundreds of public meetings left us frustrated, yet hopeful. We had met several people who thought like us. We exchanged contact information, and the first of many associations was formed: the Local Committee for a Lead Free Ozarks. As we educated ourselves, our circle of friends widened. We eventually became the Ozark Riverkeepers Network and began to work in concert with a fellow named Roger Pryor and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club, and a young new group from Southern Indiana called "Heartwood."

The more we learned about lead, mining, and government bureaucracies, the more it looked like David up against Goliath. As we were later to learn from the Brazilian rubber tapper Chico Mendes, individual twigs can break, but a bundle of twigs resists breaking. Opposing the Doe Run Company's plans for our future was a fight we never wanted, but we gladly charged forward with our bundle of newfound friends and compatriots. Had mining taken place, thousands of acres of trees would have been cut or drowned in tailings ponds of mining waste, and the purity of the springs and rivers in our area would have been threatened. Our porous karst terrain (sinkholes, losing streams, and caves) is exactly where such activities should not take place. The proposed mining was directly and personally threatening our lives and future and one of the best and wildest places in the midwestern United States.

One battle was heating up, and collectively we were doing a pretty good job of defense, but we knew we had to do better. Scientific knowledge alone doesn't persuade governmental shakers and movers. Emotional arguments extolling such wimpy ideas as beauty and solitude were more often than not a cause for derision. Don and Becky Horton had met some people from a group of environmentally minded volunteer pilots called "Lighthawk." For the cost of gas, a good bed, and some home cooked meals, these pilots (Elmer Schettler and Rick Durden) would fly us over the Doe Run Company's many existing mines, mills in the Viburnum Trend, and the untouched sections of the Mark Twain National Forest. What was hidden from us behind trees and roads became visible to us from a god's eye view. What came into view was how thoroughly awful Doe Run really was. Thousands of 55-gallon barrels tipped over and exposed to rain and wind. Acres of trees killed by noxious gases from their smelter and plumes of choking deadly smoke that was carried on the wind many miles from its source. Flying over the Mark Twain, we also captured pictures of unbroken forest, the Irish Wilderness, and ribbons of blue green water wending through the dark green hills, not to mention the ice blue springs feeding those rivers.

We had entered the world of comparative photography. One picture speaks loudly. Two photos side by side speak volumes. We had now entered the world of offense! Based on three of our photos, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources offered Doe Run a "surprise" inspection. Then-Attorney General, Jay Nixon (now governor), levied a \$300,000 fine on Doe Run for five separate and repeat



Tom Kruzen, 2008

violations of the Clean Water Act. \$50,000 of that went to the newly formed Missouri Stream Team Program for water testing equipment. The water quality monitoring group now had more tools, and we did as well. This was a major score for the good guys and the citizens.

Concurrently with the ongoing lead battle in 1995, the very misdirected forestry division of the Missouri Department of Conservation invited high-capacity chip mills into the state to grind up our "underutilized" forests. Three of the beasts opened up and began liquidating Missouri's trees, mostly on private land. We began gathering information on these monsters, which operated 24/7 to turn good trees into toilet paper and flakeboard. An already-galvanized environmental community went to work on neutralizing chip mills in our state. We used all the tools we had used against Doe Run. Missouri environmentalists demanded a committee to study the effects of chip mills from then-governor Mel Carnahan. With Heartwood's help and that of the Dogwood Alliance and the national Sierra Club, we applied pressure on Missouri legislators and resource agencies to shut down these diabolical machines. Pictures of their handiwork helped. Endless meetings and press conferences educated the press and public. People did not like what they saw.

Friends and allies became evident and outspoken. Governor Carnahan made it perfectly clear he did not like chip mills and their devastation. Leo Drey's Pioneer Forest showed us and the public what a working forest could look like if good forestry was practiced (it never stops being

*Continued on page 26*

# Long Strange Trip

by Mark Donham

As the Grateful Dead posited, “what a long, strange trip it’s been.” Hasn’t it, though? It seems like another lifetime when, nearly three decades ago, a helicopter came cruising through the air near our property, dropping strange white things on areas where the Forest Service had recently planted pine seedlings on the Shawnee National Forest.

I can’t say I was an ardent environmentalist at the time, probably about 1982, but I had worked as a hoe-dad tree planter for the paper companies in the south. That was enough to make anyone with half a brain somewhat environmentally aware. I had seen the hardwood forests poisoned off to make room for the pines. Clearcuts of hundreds of acres were commonplace. There was something not right about it. That’s one reason we didn’t move any further south than we did - because much more south and you got into the big time corporate loblolly and slash pine plantations. We didn’t want to live among that. So when the Shawnee started planting pines and doing all the heavy-handed corporate forest management stuff, we got alarmed. Thus started our career in what I’ve heard referred to as “forest activism.” It led Kristi and me to be involved in the beginning of a number of organizations, including Heartwood. We didn’t have leaders to follow out there. We were blazing the trail so to speak, treading where others hadn’t gone.

I remember the first time I saw Andy Mahler’s name. It was on the itinerary of the first Ned Fritz flight tour of the national forests, in 1986, I believe. Ned went to Indiana the day before he came here to Illinois, and Andy was his contact in the Hoosier National Forest. I can’t tell you how much it meant to have a wise elder like Ned Fritz come here to look at our clearcuts, meet us and our friends, and ultimately write about the experience. Knowing him made a huge difference in my life.

Interestingly, though, when we started networking with what, at the time, was the “established” environmental movement in the region (mostly the Sierra Club and Audubon in Carbondale), it was just assumed that there would be logging and off-road vehicles on the national forests in our region. We perhaps had some hope of keeping the levels from being too egregious, but that’s how it was. Advocating for no logging and no ORVs (off-road vehicles) just wasn’t acceptable.

That’s why Heartwood came along. The group responded to the need of people in the region that were all suffering from seeing our favorite public lands ravaged by logging, ORVs, and other scourges perpetuated or exacerbated by the Forest Service. It took a whole new organization to take the position that these kinds of activities were not appropriate for our national forests. Heartwood was independent, strong, courageous, and visionary.

Heartwood wasn’t just focusing on one national forest, either. A combination of growing awareness about the natural history of the hardwood forest and effective networking across state lines led to a more regional view of forest protection. It didn’t matter if we stopped logging on the Hoosier if there was logging on the Shawnee. It didn’t matter if we stopped logging on the Shawnee if there was logging on the Mark Twain. And on and on. Our forest is a giant forest that stretches from the Atlantic past the Mississippi, much of which has been destroyed or degraded as the heavy settlement of the post-industrial world moved west across our continent. Heartwood recognized that all that could be saved should be saved, and the public forests

were a good place to start.

We worked together at the grassroots level to stop the obvious destruction of our forests that the Forest Service was perpetrating through clear cutting and other tools of mass nature destruction. We used (and still use) a number of tools, including media, protests, studies and reports, networking, and lawsuits. We brought the Forest Service to its knees. Suddenly, the chain saws were mostly silent in our national forests.

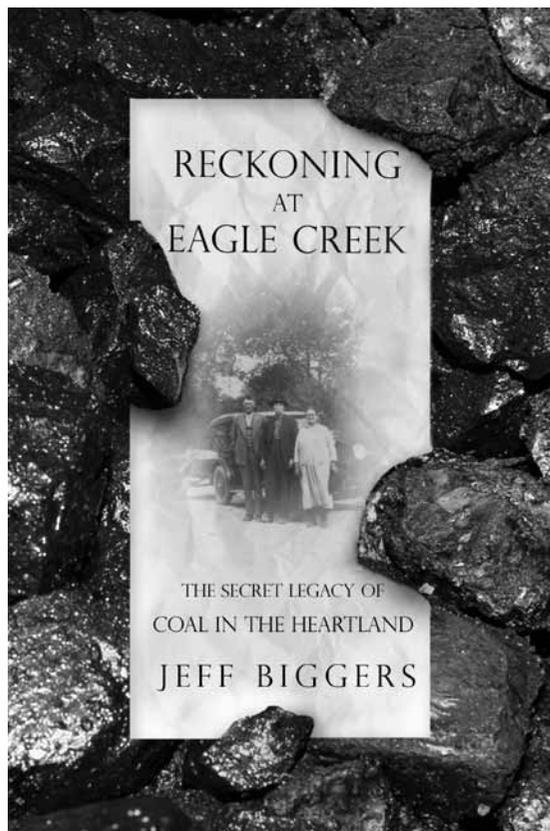
The Shawnee NF in southern Illinois was a hotbed of activism, and leaders of that movement were instrumental in the founding of Heartwood. Movements in Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, and other states contributed leaders to Heartwood’s beginnings. An incredible coalition of people came together to write, march, sing and write songs, protest, make films, put up billboards, travel the country, file appeals and lawsuits, give tours, and get arrested to save the Shawnee and other national forests in our region. Poll after poll taken in Heartwood states showed that people did not want their national forests logged. We won several major legal victories, including having the Shawnee forest plan struck down in federal court, resulting in a ban on commercial logging, ORVs, and oil and gas leasing - a situation that continues today, even though the Forest Service is currently trying to reverse it. Similar things happened on other national forests, such as the Hoosier in Indiana and the Daniel Boone in Kentucky. We stood for the idea that the public wanted its national forests managed for preservation and not for commodity production.



*Artwork by Cielo Sand*

But the Forest Service isn’t an agency that takes kindly to changing its ways. Instead of listening to the public, the Forest Service has focused on finding ways to ignore the public and to force unpopular and environmentally unsound management practices. It has tried to force through regulations to cut the public out of important decisionmaking. It continues to push environmentally unsound forest management practices, such as burning and logging, which we have challenged all along the way. The Forest Service is a well funded governmental agency, with deeply entrenched bureaucrats in

*Continued on page 27*



# Reckoning at Eagle Creek: Welcome to the Saudi

by Jeff Biggers

Excerpted from his book

I stood with my mother and Uncle Richard at the rim of a lunar expanse of ruts and rocks and broken earth. We had to protect our eyes. A dark wind swept along the ridge. Howling little eddies of fury. Huge trucks stormed in all directions. Blocks of sandstone abounded like nameless tombstones on a battleground of slate and clay. Colorless somehow. It looked like an earthquake had devastated the area.

How green was our valley of Eagle Creek, when my

mom and I last walked these hills together. Corn and sorghum tassels had jutted out from the slopes like ancient signposts next to the barn.

Our family homestead, known since 1849 as the Oval Hill Farm, sat on a knoll in the eastern shadows of the Eagle Mountains, which withdrew to the upheavals of 400-million-year-old faulted ridges that were older than many American ranges. To the northeast, across the nearby Wildcat Hills that infested my grandmother's stories of panthers and wolves, hid the ruins of the Great Salt Spring that fed the largest prehistoric civilization north of Mexico City and drove legal slavery into the land of Lincoln and Obama.

On the southeastern horizon, the promontory outlook of the Garden of the Gods Wilderness area, one of a handful of such protected areas in the American heartland, retreated into the traces of the Shawnee National Forest boundaries that looped around the panhandle of our hollow with the intransigence of a national border.

On a clear day, as a child, I once pretended to be an eagle and took flight down the hill, rose above the forests, and soared beyond the Ohio River and Kentucky, which lay only twenty miles away.

"I can't believe this," my mom whispered.

"Beyond description now," Uncle Richard said. "Just wasted."

We could see the route of destruction. The first explosions had taken place in the summer of 1998. The coal company had set off the ammonium nitrate-fuel oil blasts in the surrounding Eagle Creek valley, gnawing away at the edges of our family hill. One thousand six hundred pounds of explosives sat in each hole like a land mine, set to ripple across the valley with enough thunder to bring down the walls of Jericho.

Permits were renewed and modified to move the explosives closer, until harassment became a legally authorized tactic. Dishes shot off the cupboards. Frames unhinged. Every three days the machines moved in closer, carving a rusty horseshoe two hundred feet deep.

Some called our hills the Illinois Ozarks. It was that rare main chain of mountains and hills to stretch east to west. Over 1,100 plant species, 270 birds, two score of mammals and reptiles. A sea of serpents; you could have snake-fenced the entire region.

The back slope of our hollow butted against Colbert Hill on one side, with outcroppings of rock formations and sandstone caves, and then dropped into the Eagle Creek basin, dotted by a handful of slumping farmhouses and cleared fields.

I can hear my mother's voice. That would have been Dallas's house right here. He'd put on his peg leg every time he went looking for work; stood behind the others so as not to be seen. We've made ice cream in that yard so many times. There's a creek we'd jump and fall into and get wet. Alfred built the next house, and Addie and I would stay out in his car and listen to the stories on the radio until the battery died. Get so mad. Once he couldn't get the car started in the middle of winter, so he crawled down and made a fire under the oil pan. 'Bout burned up the car. Our homeplace was up here on the hill. Dad rose before dawn, milked the cows, did the chores around the farm, before he'd head off to the mines.

The rumble of coal trucks cut off her voice.

Before the blossoms on the four wild plum trees turned and fell, the explosions from the next valley had managed to crack the well between the barn and the old homestead in the summer of 1998. Debris clipped the walls, thin loess soil, and bricks colored the water like blue john days, when the rope broke on gallon jugs of stored milk in the well.

Then came the reckoning on our hillside along Eagle Creek.

The throttle of machinery, an industrial cocktail of explosives, and a handful of large equipment drivers removed our Oval Hill farm and leveled the ridge by the end of the fall. Flattened the knoll to its knees, and then to ashes. The old pond, the four plum trees, the sorghum and cornfields, the garden, the barn, and the one-hundred-fifty-year-old log cabin were buried in a crater formed before the Paleozoic era.

The forests had been torn asunder, in King James's terms.

It looked like a black amphitheatre fit for an epic tragedy with no characters but receding trucks, bulldozers, and front loaders.

My granddaddy was a coal miner; he bent his towering frame into

the narrow underground shafts under the hills in this region. Now this work had become the dominion of anonymous heavy equipment operators, non-union transients, who plowed the wound of stripped pits into scabs and then disappeared.

Eagle Creek was all gone.

A representative from another company that had leased the land from the first coal company eventually arrived in his truck. He mistook us for a family on the other side of Eagle Creek, and assumed we wanted to discuss making a lake as part of the mine's



Jeff Biggers speaking at the "NY Loves Mountains Festival" in Brooklyn

## Arabia of Coal

reclamation process. He was halfway through his sentence before he reached us.

“I’ve been doing this for twenty-nine years, and every time we do this someone wants a lake after they’ve seen their neighbors with a lake.” His nasal midwestern accent blended the folksy with the devious; it seemed so at odds with our southern Illinois ways. He spoke fast, as if he had gone over this script many times. “Like I make these lakes with goose-nesting areas out in the middle of the island so the coyotes can’t get to them. And we’ll make nice peninsulas that come out. We make really nice lakes.”

Our two-hundred-year-old family history was nothing more than overburden to this company hack.

But it wasn’t just our family history. It also included a thousand years of bones of the first natives in the region, the modern Shawnee encampments and farms, the pioneering squatters and homesteaders in our family, and the slaves and coal miners in one of the first settlements in the nation’s heartland—all of which had been churned into dust in the race to strip-mine the area. Like the gaping black ruins of Pompeii, I knew this forsaken land now hid the dark legacies of our past in ashes.

There were a lot of secrets in those ashes—secrets that implicated the legacies of our American heroes Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln and Tecumseh, and labor leaders like Mother Jones and John L. Lewis.

As the wind whipped up the blasted dust, which howled in the destruction, I had this strange feeling that I was not only witnessing the stripping of a hill and its ancient flora and inhabitants, but the shredding of a great library of stories that had shaped this region, and our nation’s history.

The coal company representative nasaled on with his monologue. I noticed my mom and uncle had lost interest; had shifted their gaze at a massive pile of rocks and mud to the side of one slope, not far from where my grandmother and great-grandmothers had tended their gardens and canned enough food to last the wintry months of hunger. A patch of corn remained, growing out of the rubble in defiance of the strip mine. There was a mixture of awe and family pride. My mom gripped my uncle’s arm. He wiped at his eyes.

I realized I needed to make this journey to witness that powerful sight.

*Jeff Biggers will be featured at this year’s Forest Council.*

# COAL RIVER MOUNTAIN UPDATE

by Dave Cooper

On January 29, my friend (and fellow Mountaintop Removal Road Show speaker) Eric Blevins from Tennessee ended a 9-day tree sit in West Virginia. Eric, along with two other young activists, Amber Nitchman and David Aaron Smith, climbed three tall trees next to Massey Energy’s Bee Tree mountaintop removal coal mine operation, and set up small wooden platforms where they sat peacefully beneath tarps and endured many days of freezing weather, cold rain, and constant coal company harassment.

By law, the coal company was prevented from blasting the mountain for coal while the three protestors were in the trees. The Bee Tree mine site is on Coal River Mountain, the last major mountain in this area of West Virginia that has not been blasted apart for coal. There is a huge coal slurry impound-

ment lake nearby that is held back by an earthen (not concrete) dam, and the mountain is riddled with old underground mines. We feel that the blasting is very unsafe and could possibly weaken the dam that is holding back billions of gallons of coal sludge.

Massey Energy has had failures of their coal slurry impoundments in the past, most notably in Martin County, Kentucky, in October 2000, when 300 millions gallons of coal slurry poured into

two mountain streams. The disaster was caused by old underground mines beneath the coal slurry lake.

In order to force the protestors out of the trees, Massey employees pointed multiple sirens at the trees. These sirens or air horns are normally used to warn miners before a blast is set off, and they are extremely loud. Massey’s siren tactic is truly shameful. I try to think the best of people, but purposely trying to damage someone’s hearing is a very disgusting and low thing to do.

When I first heard of this situation, I thought about those famous photos from Birmingham of civil rights protestors being blasted with fire hoses in the 1960s. According to some history books, this attack on peaceful protestors caused a wave of public revulsion at the tactics of Sheriff Bull Connor, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was soon passed. I hope that there is a similar wave of disgust at this coal company blasting peaceful protestors.

Eric, Amber and David have now been jailed for trespassing, and we need to raise \$9,625 to bail them out. You can donate and read more updates by going to the Climate Ground Zero website: [www.climategroundzero.net](http://www.climategroundzero.net). Thanks to everyone who has already made donations. The need to raise money is very real and very great.

Dave Cooper travels the country with the Mountaintop Removal Road Show. Call (859) 299-5669 or email [davecooper928@yahoo.com](mailto:davecooper928@yahoo.com) to schedule a volunteer presentation in your community!



*Larry Gibson at Coal River Rally, December 7, 2009*

# Reflections and Recollections: 20 years of Heartwood

by Chris Schimmoeller

Twenty years ago in Kentucky, the Forest Service was cutting 40 million board feet of timber a year on the Daniel Boone National Forest. With implementation of its high-extraction 1985 Plan in full gear and no impediments in sight, the agency was unprepared for what hit them.

We certainly had no idea that our ragtag group with a few signs and a banjo protesting outside Forest Service headquarters would cause the rangers to lock their doors in fear or that our parody of Smokey the Bear would cause the agency to write Congress in outrage, but it did.

Over time the Forest Service got more accustomed to our presence, although they never came out to witness the chainsaw massacre we staged on their treeless front lawn, and they saw no humor when we wrapped the front of the Stanton Ranger District Office with crime scene tape.

The agency's antipathy to us must have cloaked a fear that our passion and persistence had merit.

What drove us to bravely proclaim that zero cut was the best approach to public lands management when no other environmental group in Kentucky had done so?

Where did we find the courage to stand up again and again to an agency at the height of its momentum?

It came from our love of the forest, to be sure, but that love was deepened and emboldened by the funny and fierce band of people united by the daring promise of Heartwood: that the forests can be free and that people can redefine and reclaim self-governance.

The banner raised by Heartwood was seen by people in even the remotest parts of the region, and having experienced the heartbreak of places destroyed, these people emerged to make the trek to Paoli, Indiana. Tucked into the national forest outside of Paoli is the Lazy Black Bear, a rustic and eclectic lodge home to Andy and Linda, a hodge podge of animals, and Heartwood.

It was here, amid the barking dogs and five minute hugs where travel-weary figures sprawled on couches and meetings lasted for hours, that the heart of our movement emerged and was burnished.

Everyone was important: Andy Mahler, our charismatic and visionary leader; Linda Lee with her wit and warmth; Leah Garlotte, her fiery hair and calm voice leading us through a labyrinth of ideas to, more often than not, an exultant meeting of minds; the wise and compassionate Alison Cochran; Denny Haldeman's puns and piercing challenges to the status quo; Jim Bensman's analytic brain and sweeping condemnations of the Forest Service; the wild wilderness guy Steve Krichbaum; Cathy Guthrie, crazily committed; Joe Hazelbaker, ready for action; Lou Coots, comic and caring; Mark Donham's keen mind

and broad experience; Kristi Hanson, another of the wise women of Heartwood; Gwen Marshall's knowledge of Congress; Glenn Scherff, who challenged us to be faithful to the process as much as to the outcome; Jim Reh, Herb Culver, and Karyn Zaremba, homesteader-activists; Bill Cronin, who could make us hoot crazier than the coyotes; Phil Berck's skill and insight; Leaf and Cielo, the bold and funny Riverkeepers; Ann Philippi's strong voice; Jan Wilder-Thomas, Charles Phillips, Devin Scherubel, Rodger Clarke, Basil Kyriakakis . . . The Heartwood circle has continued to add layers of people, all of them extraordinary in their fight for wild places and the depth of their commitment to living conscientiously.

I found myself swelling with love for our crazy bunch of principled people who showed me that a democracy only works if people are involved, that the laws are there for us to know, and that activism can be joyous.

It was the Heartwood circle that again and again buoyed our work in Kentucky.

When I held in my hand the internal memo that blamed excessive logging for the crashing Red Cockaded Woodpecker population in Kentucky, it was the collective gasp of the circle that helped me understand the significance of what we had discovered. Our subsequent legal action to protect the endangered bird suspended logging for nine months on the Daniel Boone National Forest, triggering a 70 vehicle caravan of protest from loggers in McCreary County.

When in frustration I brought the documents about the Leatherwood Fork Timber Sale to the circle, it was Jim Bensman who took the time to look at them and say, "Yeah, there's something wrong here." Not only that, Jim spent the next several months of his life drafting the brilliant legal briefs that not only stopped the Leatherwood Fork Timber Sale, but shut down logging on the entire forest for two years.

When the Forest Supervisor Bradley Powell made a personal visit to warn me of the dangers of walking in the woods, it was the Heartwood circle that helped me laugh it off.

When the work was too lonely, Heartwood was the lifeline that kept me going, and Andy was always at the end of that line. Andy, who literally worked himself to exhaustion fielding calls and getting involved in the endless details

Artwork by Laurie Schimmoeller

# ALL GOD'S CRITTERS

by Paul Yambert

My first recollection of ethics education was in Sunday school. "What kind of world would this world be if everyone in it were just like me?" That little gem has often humbled me and sometimes led me to do or be better than I would have without it. One of the best features of such aphorisms is that they can grow along with us. Kohlberg and Piaget have given us guidebooks for better understanding of moral and cognitive development, respectively. The result is that "what kind of a world" types of questions result in new, broader, and more insightful meanings as we mature. This phenomenon leads me to speculate about what I call our "spheres of concern."

There is considerable evidence that we all have three primary spheres of concern: spatial, temporal, and congenital. Initially, our spatial sphere is "here." It starts in the womb and gradually grows to include our home, our yard, our neighborhood, etc. Initially, our temporal sphere is limited to "now." It starts with immediate wants or needs and moves on to looking forward to tomorrow's breakfast, to graduation, to the first real job, to marriage, and to retirement. Initially, our congenital sphere is limited to "I." Gradually it enlarges to include other family members, other people, and other life forms (such as the family dog) and still later to include many more of our planetmates – regardless of leg numbers, skin color, brain size, or genomes. Each of these spheres is initially quite small, but they all tend to expand – at least for a while (much like the universe in which we live). For those of us enlisted as environmental soldiers, they become much more interesting when we incorporate two of Kohlberg's generalizations: 1) We all go through the stages of development in the same sequence but not at the same rate; and 2) many of us stop short of the identified final stages. For us, the two bottom-line questions are: how can we accelerate the growth of our own spheres of concern, and how can we assist others in moving farther and faster through the sequence of developmental stages? It seems clear to me that we need to work together to move from the "here, now, I" perspective to the "there, then, we" perspective. Without that change, our species will never be able to fit gracefully into a sustainable ecological niche. What kind of world would this world be, if everyone in it were just like we?

After accumulating a significant number of battle scars, I've belatedly concluded that, as a group, we have not been as successful as we would like to be – as we should be – or as we can be. We all know at least a little about such things as normal distribution curves, compound interest, the "balance of nature," the prejudices that are built into our society, and the unreliability of "common sense." What we, as a species, have not yet been able to accomplish is to incorporate these diverse pieces of information into a

comprehensive, internally consistent world view. We tend to think of compounding in economic terms and ignore its ecological implication. E.O. Wilson has speculated in a scholarly, but not totally convincing, manner on the prospects for achieving "consilience," a common perspective and common terminology that could facilitate sharing knowledge – and sharing the advantages of that sharing as we move toward the goal of sustainable societies.



to have had a philosophical transplant. The tax system was extensively revised to favor energy-efficient home design, solar heating for governmental buildings, and not only numerous bicycle paths, but also new laws providing bikers the right of way. The plumbers union took great pride in showing off its solar heated headquarters, and the city parks devoted large tracts of land to organic gardens. Some of the enthusiasm has faded, and some of the innovations were impractical, but many of the improvements, in both infrastructure and environmental awareness, remain intact. The upshot is that the Davis experiment was an important and instructive one but not a perfect one. Sadly, there are not many examples of similar efforts to move toward sustainable societies. It is time for us (yes, you and me) to renew and broaden our efforts. There are some who have drawn a circle that leaves us out, so we must be willing and able to draw a circle that takes them in.

Without that change, we will never be able to fit gracefully into a sustainable ecological niche. "What kind of world would this world be, if everyone in it were just like we?"

*Paul Yambert will be featured at this year's Forest Council.*

## Soul of the Wilderness

Continued from page 7

### Nonaction

There's an old Eastern idea, sometimes called *wu-wei*, which, roughly translated, means nonaction. On a personal level, it means taking some time to do nothing, and just be, to trust things will be OK without relentless effort to control them. As Alan Watts (1989 [1957], p. 18) puts it, it's to restrain from "'action,' 'making,' 'doing,' 'striving,' 'straining,' or 'busyness.'" Or, as Lao Tsu some 2,300 years ago, put it in the classic *Tao te Ching*:

*Less and less is done  
Until non-action is achieved,  
When nothing is done, nothing  
is left undone.*

*The world is ruled by letting  
things take their course  
It cannot be ruled by interfering  
(Lao Tsu 1989, p. 50).*

On a cultural level perhaps it would be worthwhile to view wilderness as the *wu-wei* of resource management. If, as individuals, we can be healthier doing nothing with some of our time, perhaps as a species we can also be healthier by doing nothing with some of our space. The ecological results might be less important than what such a notion does for us. For it reminds us that we need not be striving, improving, and controlling all the time and every place. We can accept some places just as they are, live with certain processes without trying to channel them, watch events happen without judging them. For a culture so enraptured with doing and achieving, the spiritual and symbolic implications of such nonaction are large.

The Western dream of controlling nature is deeply ingrained. Even in wilderness areas, it seems, we can't stop trying to control. I believe we need to take a lesson from Lao Tsu and other Eastern sages and recognize that the world cannot be ruled by interfering.

### REFERENCES

- Lao Tsu. 1989. *Tao te ching*, trans. by G. Feng and J. English. New York: Vintage. (Original work published ca. 350–250 B.C.)
- Noss, R. 1996. Biodiversity, ecological integrity, and wilderness. *IJW*, 2 (2): 5–8.
- Race et al. (1996). Notice of appeal (by "Petitioners" opposing 5/6/96 Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact ... in Opportunity Area 6). (Available from Eastern Region, USDA Forest Service.)
- Thoreau, H. D. 1993. *Walking*. In *Civil Disobedience and Other Essays*. Mineola, New York: Dover Publications: 49–74. (Original work published 1862.)
- USDA Forest Service 1996. Decision notice and finding of no significant impact: ecological restoration and vegetation management in Opportunity Area 6. Pope County, Ill.: Vienna Ranger District.
- Watts, A. 1989. *The Way of Zen*. New York: Vintage Books. (Original work published 1957.)

## Between the Rivers

Continued from page 10

the Between the Rivers people. TVA was established in 1933 with the purpose of bringing the rural south into the modern world. It completed Kentucky Dam and Kentucky Lake in 1944, forcing everyone living along the Tennessee River from their homes and farms. In the early 1960's, the Corps of Engineers constructed Barkley Dam on the Cumberland River, just across the peninsula from Kentucky Dam. Again, families were forced from their homes, the best crop ground flooded, and homes were bulldozed and burned to "encourage" families to leave. These artificial, and permanent, floods reached higher than the worst of the natural floods had ever come—and the government called it flood control.

The Fish and Wildlife Service determined that Barkley Lake would flood the portion of the refuge with the highest wildlife carrying capacity and that it would need 10 to 15 acres for every one acre that was flooded to replace the lost carrying capacity. So, land was taken by eminent domain to add into the refuge, expanding it to 70,000 acres.

Between the Rivers families tried desperately to stay in their homeland, which meant that after the Resettlement Administration, Kentucky Dam, Barkley Dam, and the Refuge replacement, many families had been forced to move numerous times, often just getting a home built and beginning to settle in when they would be informed that they would be forced to move again. When it finally appeared that the water could come no higher, word came that the entire peninsula was to be converted into a public recreation area, and everyone would be forced from their homeland.

The original plan was for the National Park Service to develop and manage this new facility. When it was realized that land values were quickly rising due to the new lakes, and the Park Service would have to go through the lengthy process of getting Congressional approval to take the remaining land, the project was turned over to TVA, which could use eminent domain under its own authority. By this time, the people had determined that the fun had worn off their dealings with the government. TVA responded by "offering" low prices for the land (based on one half the assessed tax rate as farmland prior to it having been converted to lake front property) to discour-

age land speculation—which is how the government perceived the resistance to being moved. The only possible avenue for appeal was to a three-person TVA board, with the result in every case that the "offered" price was lowered, often by half. A date was given by which a family must vacate. On that date a bulldozer would arrive and push the home down, whether the families had vacated or not.

By such bulldozer diplomacy, the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area was established, for the enjoyment of all. By the 1990's, TVA had become a very different kind of agency and was no longer interested in its non-power programs. TVA formally requested that Congress no longer fund its management of LBL.



ORV damage to a ridge at Turkey Bay, LBL. Photo by Southwings.

Without the strings of Congressional funding, TVA was free to do anything it wished with the 170,000 acres of hardwood forest and over 300 miles of undeveloped shoreline. No enabling legislation had ever been passed to formally establish LBL, so it remained a TVA "demonstration project" that could be disposed of as TVA saw fit. TVA announced its intention to transform what had originally been described as an eastern equivalent of the wilderness areas found out west into a commercial complex that would include condominiums along the shores, hotel resorts, and golf courses.

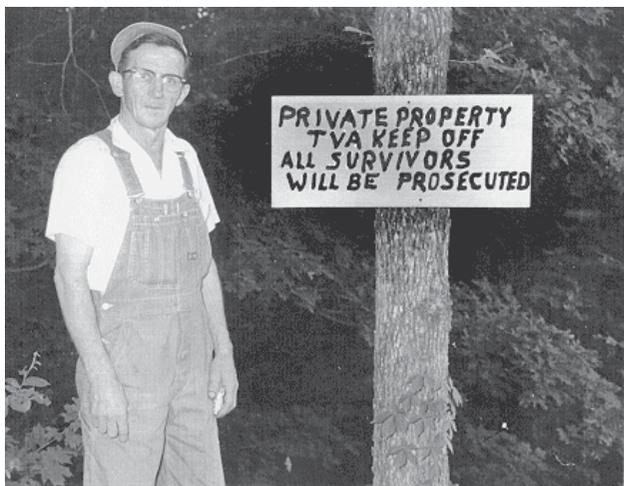
The Between the Rivers people rallied to protect their homeland, even after having been displaced for over 30 years. Despite the publicity their opposition had been receiving, the fight had come to an impasse, and the situation looked lost. At a weekly meeting to discuss strategy, the people were talking of the fight being lost when Mark Donham, a long time activist and Heartwood member, walked in and asked if we had been using the NEPA procedures for challenging the agency. We had never heard of these regulations that the managing agencies are required to follow. He proceeded to conduct a workshop on

how to use the agency's regulations to achieve our goals, and he connected us to a support network of activists we had never known existed. As a result of the more effective resistance to the destructive proposals, legislation was written and passed to remove TVA, and the Forest Service was brought in as the managing agency. The Forest Service quickly proved itself to be as unsuitable a steward of the land as TVA had been, but for different reasons.

The Between the Rivers people continue to push for better management and stand steadfastly opposed to commercial development, commercial logging, the new massive burning plans, heavy ORV use, and other destructive management programs. The Forest Service has responded by attempting to deny the cultural connection the Between the Rivers people still feel towards their homeland. This has, of course, only strengthened the resolve of the people to protect the land they believe they know and love in ways the Forest Service officials never will. They plan to be buried there; the agency officials are held only by a pay check.

Geographers and anthropologists tell us that it is impossible to fully know any place without knowing the culture it gave rise to—and those within such a culture will know the place in ways no one else can. Such peoples will see protecting their land as protecting their own identity. In this age of increasingly migrant populations with no real commitment to any place, we need more such local knowledge of place and firm commitment to protection of the natural world and our relationship to it. We need people who, as the Between the Rivers people say, belong to the place like the stones in the hillside. The role of Heartwood, a network of people helping people protect places they love, could not be more important for these times.

*David Nickell will be featured at this year's Forest Council.*



*Homer Ray, an Icon of the Between the Rivers Resistance*



Coal Country Music is the music compilation CD produced for Heartwood by Andy Mahler and singer/songwriter Jason Wilber, guitar player for John Prine. It is also the companion album to Coal Country, the award-winning documentary by film-makers Mari-Lynn Evans and Phylis Geller that tells the heart-rending story of mountaintop removal coal mining, which has devastated a land area in the Appalachian Mountains larger than the state of Delaware and buried over 1500 miles of virgin streams with toxic rubble. Together, Coal Country Music and Coal Country are headed out on the road this Spring for screenings on college campuses and at film festivals across the country, including a star-studded live concert in Nashville, Tennessee on May 19. Coal Country will be featured at the Music Saves Mountains concert at The Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, hosted by the Natural Resources Defense Council. Musicians from Coal Country Music will be among the performers. Featured performers include Dave Matthews, Emmylou Harris, Kathy Mattea, Buddy Miller, and Patty Loveless.

Along the way are stops at the Environmental Film Festival in Washington, DC; the Appalachian Studies Association Conference in Dahlonega, Georgia; the EcoWatch Green Gala with attorney Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., in Cleveland, Ohio; the University of Tennessee, Berea College, the University of Dayton, and other campuses; Earth Day events; and five venues at SXSW in Austin, Texas. In addition, Coal Country will be shown throughout the year on cable network Planet Green.

Coal Country Music features music from the film as well as contributions from major recording and performing artists, including Willie Nelson, Bonnie Raitt, John Prine, Natalie Merchant, Ralph Stanley, and Justin Townes Earle -- Americana Music Association New/Emerging Artist of the Year 2009 -- with liner notes written by Academy Award nominee Woody Harrelson and actress Ashley Judd. All tracks were donated by the artists and all proceeds will be donated to the Alliance for Appalachia, of which Heartwood is a member, to stop the ongoing devastation of mountaintop removal coal mining. Among the never-before-released recordings on the CD are Willie Nelson performing Bob Dylan's "Blowin' In the Wind" and Justin Townes Earle's "Down in the Valley." All songs featured pay tribute to the central role the Appalachian Mountains have played in American music, history, and culture.

For more information and to order CDs, please visit [www.coalcountrymusic.com](http://www.coalcountrymusic.com).

## ***Reflections and Recollections: 20 years of Heartwood***

*Continued from page 22*

of campaigns across our region and nationally, was once asked, "Why do you take every call?"

"Because it might be Basil or Chris," he answered. (Both Basil in Arkansas and I in Kentucky lived without electricity or telephone and had to go to some effort to reach one.)

We survived for each other and sometimes because of each other. Our common love for the land and grief for what was being lost bequeathed to us a formidable bond that radiated from successful campaigns across the region.

Kentucky Heartwood has grown up since those early days. Now we have our own circle of heroes that has bonded and grown together. Under Perrin de Jong's skillful watch, our membership doubled and our monitoring and defense of the forest redoubled. Subsequent directors Paul Lovelace and Jane Marie Watts have brought diligence and passion to the job. We are lucky to have a smart, experienced veteran-activist, Jim Scheff, as our current director.

We have successfully fought off the Roberts Bend Land Exchange, I-66 (for now), gas and oil leasing under 40,000 acres of the Boone, a highway connector (and forest divider) road in Morehead, and timber sales big and small. We have lost too much of the forest to powerline corridors, gas ROWs, mining, herbicides, logging roads, skidders, and chainsaws.

Through it all we advocate for a forest that is free not just to survive, but to thrive. For the spirit and courage endowed to us by the Heartwood community, I am forever grateful.

# Heartwood as a Membership-Supported Organization

by Gwen Marshall, Membership Committee member

When Heartwood began back in 1991, we were an organization of individuals who financially supported ourselves in our own work for the forests. The problem with this approach was that the people with the most time to work for the forests had the least money to do so. Over the years, Heartwood grew by getting more memberships and grant funding and was able to start paying some Heartwood staff persons to help us save the forests. Unfortunately, because some potential grants had strings attached that would have compromised Heartwood's positions, grant funding became less available. In 2009, the Heartwood Board realized that it had to reduce Heartwood's expenses to the level of its income and basically return to a volunteer-staffed organization. This decision has allowed Heartwood to be independent of funding entities wanting to control its "agenda," but it has increased the need for Heartwood to be membership funded. Heartwood is currently paying for three part-time services: a coordinator, a bookkeeper, and a technical guru. Heartwood has monthly expenses, but these expenses are small compared to "national organizations" that have higher overhead and lesser results. Additionally, the Heartwood Board knows that even as little as \$500 in the form of a grant to a local grassroots forest protection organization can be the difference between that organization succeeding or failing. To that end, Heartwood has brought back its mini-grant program to make grants twice a year to these sorts of groups. In other words, some of the money that comes into Heartwood goes directly back out to the community of forest activists.

*A simple step that you can take to help now:*

You could become a Heartwood monthly donor. If Heartwood had just 100 "Tree" members and 100 "Tree hugger" members, we'd make budget each month. This would not be a hard goal to meet if everyone who can pitched in what they could. The easiest way to become a monthly donor is to go to [www.heartwood.org](http://www.heartwood.org), click on the branch of the tree that says "Support," and then click on the "Join Heartwood" link. You can use a PayPal account that either charges your credit card or takes money out of your checking account each month, depending on what you choose. If you make a monthly donation, you get an automatic email response that you can use for tax purposes, and you never again have to wonder if your Heartwood membership is current. What I like about this system is that I can make a regular donation to Heartwood each month without having to think about it, and I don't really notice it in my monthly budget. I would rather donate monthly than have Heartwood have to send out membership renewal notices, because I'd rather have Heartwood volunteers spend their time on forest protection work. Additionally, if Heartwood takes in more money than its minimum needs, then we can expand the mini-grant program as well as help out the Heartwood volunteers who have more time than money to work on forest protection.

Joining those of us who are giving to Heartwood monthly is a win-win situation, but if you are unable to do so, please consider donating what you can at this time. Here are the Heartwood Individual Membership Guidelines:

<b>Branch</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>Sapling</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>Tree</b>	<b>\$100, or \$10/month</b>
<b>Tree Hugger</b>	<b>\$250, or \$20/month</b>
<b>Treehuggerhugger</b>	<b>\$500, or \$50/month</b>
<b>Ecosystem Patron</b>	<b>\$1000, or \$100/month</b>

## Return of the Mini-Grants!

Heartwood is pleased to announce the return of our mini-grant program! Mini-grants are available to Heartwood members and member groups to provide seed money for grassroots activists who have good ideas and maybe more passion than pennies. Funded projects ideally will include public outreach, education, organizing, or media work on issues near and dear to Heartwood, such as forest protection, sustainable communities, mountaintop removal, biomass burning, or issues we have not yet considered. Grants are available in amounts of up to \$1,000.

We are currently reviewing applications for this first round of grants, with winners to be announced at this year's Forest Council. Interested in applying for a mini-grant? The application form for our next round of grants will be released soon, with winners to be announced at the Heartwood Reunion in October.

## *Missouri Symphony*

*Continued from page 16*

a forest as it does in a chip mill rape, and it very often resembles old growth). Our unified and unrelenting attack on the companies that owned the chip mills, as well as on the bureaucrats who supported them, took its toll. The easy market of unsuspecting landowners began to dry up. Two chip mills closed their doors. Willamette sold its Mill Spring facility to Weyerhaeuser, which operated for a few years and then closed as well. Today, Missouri has no high capacity chip mills.

Heartwood's Devin Ceartas, Denny Halderman, Cielo Sand, and Andy Mahler; Dogwood's Katie Auman, Shireen Parsons, and Lynn Faltraco; Roger Pryor, then-director of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment; Sierra Club's Ken Midkiff and Caroline Pufalt; Pioneer Forest's forester, Clint Trammel and Pioneer's owners, Leo and Kay Drey; Don and Becky Horton and so many more good folks all made major contributions to the end of chip mills in Missouri.

Our network of friends still lives. We are better at what we do now. We are more careful and professional in our dealings. Comparative photography still works, some of us work in the cyberworld, some of us are growing children, and in a few weeks, I'll be planting 3800 trees to heal the damage of a tornado. Leo Drey just celebrated his 93rd birthday. And so it moves wildly for wild things!

# ***Fight Climate Change and Biomass by Improving Energy Efficiency***

by Ned Ford

There are countless theories on how to respond to climate change. But oddly enough, there are few serious efforts to examine the options. Although renewable energy commands a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and support, the renewable potential in the petroleum and natural gas sectors is pretty close to being tapped out already. Electric renewables are almost limitless in potential, but highly constrained in the timing of availability.

And time is of the essence with climate change.

Energy efficiency is the truly important resource. Our decisions on how to increase efficiency, and how fast to increase efficiency, will make more of a difference in the peak of atmospheric CO2 than anything else we do.

Since the year 2000, the cost of almost any new energy resource has more than tripled, largely because oil and natural gas prices shot up, and there is so much oil and natural gas embedded in the cost of a new power plant, wind turbine, reactor, or pipeline, or just extracting coal for that matter, that all these costs have risen faster than oil and natural gas alone have.

So an efficiency strategy is essential not just because it is nice, but because there is more efficiency technology available faster and in more energy sectors than anything else. It not only costs less than all the alternatives, it costs less than doing what we are doing right now. Improving electric and natural gas efficiency costs so much less than the status quo that it can pay for enough renewables to finish a climate response.

And by doing so, efficiency improvements can reduce the escalating pressures to burn wood, forest products, or whole forests to generate electricity.

When it comes to burning biomass for electricity, there is a huge mismatch between the scale of need and the available biological resource. Although a national biomass statistic would be nice, the nature of biomass is

such that it really matters what the local conditions are. Some states have available wood products that can be allocated to power generation and still remain sustainable. But in the last year, a lot of states have seen proposals to burn more wood than can be grown sustainably within the state. It is hard to prove where the limits of sustainability are, and it is easy to exceed them.

The good news is that we don't need biofuels to solve global warming. The bad news is that in order to prevent the unnecessary devastation that is rearing up, we need to develop a much more widely accepted vision of a sustainable future. And we need to get serious and make these improvements to energy efficiency now.

The hardest part of all this is recognizing that we need to develop these very strong efficiency programs and renewables in a declining electric sales environment! Never in the past have we invested in new electricity resources except when growth in consumption forced it. Using efficiency to anticipate future changes in energy consumption is simply a very different approach than we have used in the past. Utilities and regulators need new economic tools to properly plan for and implement these programs.

But the reward, aside from a sustainable energy future, is an outlook that eliminates most of the pressure to build wood-to-electricity plants or any similar technology. There will be no market for new nuclear or carbon sequestration projects. It will be hard to build enough renewables in this environment, but almost everything we dislike, such as coal and nuclear plants, will be even harder to build.

By developing the most aggressive efficiency programs that we can, we solve so many problems it is hard to list them all. The one that makes this easiest is that it can be the foundation of our economic recovery.

## **Long Strange Trip**

*Continued from page 19*

key positions, whereas Heartwood has always operated on a shoestring or less. It has been more or less a miracle, and a testament to how corruptly and illegally the Forest Service often operates, that we have been able to have such a significant influence on the agency. Still, the Forest Service continues to grind away at undoing the victories that we have had in the past. The need for Heartwood to be there as a watchdog is as great as ever.

Nature's timetables for healing are often many generations in length. This is especially true when dealing with or creating old growth forests. Constant interference to try and create "oak hickory" forests doesn't work, is very environmentally damaging, and is expensive. At the same time that the Forest Service is wasting taxpayers' money trying to create a forest that nature doesn't want, campgrounds and picnic grounds are being closed, trail systems are deteriorating, access roads to outstanding features are not properly maintained, law enforcement is inadequate, and monitoring of the forest ecology is lacking.

An agency that is locked into old thinking that nature must be controlled and can't be trusted is an agency that isn't serving the people. Nature does know best. We just have to be able to give it the time it needs to make the corrections that, for the most part, human intervention has made necessary. And in just about every case, trusting nature costs less money and gives us value through ecosystem services. If the Forest Service can't understand the value of nature and insists on squandering our money on trying to control nature when it doesn't need to be controlled, then we need to continue trying to control the Forest Service.

### **STRIP MINE ROADS**

*by Dick Ochs, with apologies to John Denver's "Country Roads"*

*No more heaven, West Virginia  
Mountaintop removal, poisoning the rivers  
Coal is king there, cutting down the trees  
Dusty ghost of mountains, blowing in the breeze*

**CHORUS:**

*Strip mine roads, took my home  
And the place, I once belonged  
West Virginia, mountain blasting  
Took my home, strip mine roads*

*All my memories, become forsaken  
As the fish and wildlife, habitat is taken  
Dark and dusty, painted on the sky  
Barren sight of moonscape, teardrop in my eye*

**CHORUS**

**BRIDGE:**

*I hear her voice in the morning hours she calls me  
spirit of the mountains begs me please stop the pain.  
Lookin' down the road I get a feelin' that  
We shudda stopped it yesterday, yesterday*

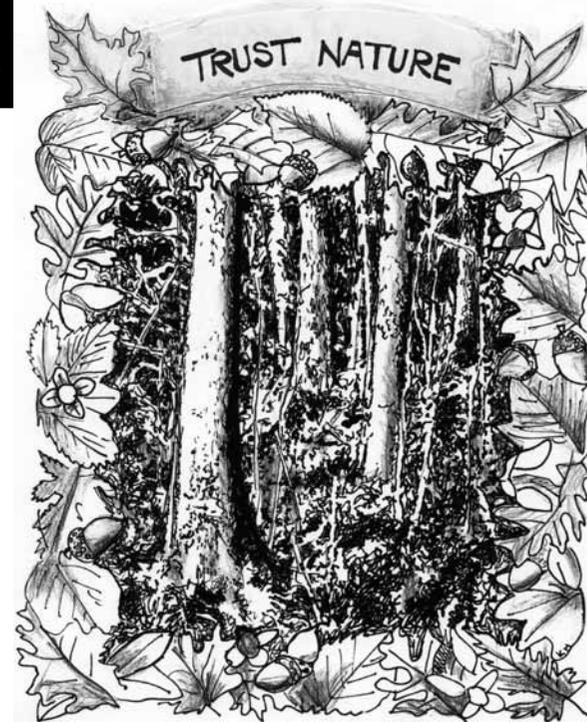
**CHORUS**

# 20th annual heartwood forest council

## YOU ARE INVITED! May 28-31, 2010 Camp Ondessonk, Southern Illinois

The **Heartwood Forest Council** is the largest annual gathering of citizens from across the Eastern, Midwestern, and Southern United States who care about the health and well-being of our nation's forests. The Forest Council is held each year in a beautiful forest setting in a different Heartwood forest state over the Memorial Day weekend. The Forest Council program offers information about threats to our region and to human and community health. But it also focuses on the lasting solutions and proven action steps that will move us as a community toward a shared vision of a healthy, just, and sustainable society.

Complete program and registration information can be found on pages 14-17 and on the Heartwood website <http://www.heartwood.org>



*Drawing By Kristi Hanson*

Heartwood is a regional network that protects forests and supports community activism in the Eastern United States through education, advocacy and citizen empowerment. Heartwood was founded in 1991, when concerned citizens from several Midwestern and Southern states met and agreed to work together to protect the heartland hardwood forest.

**Heartland + Hardwood = Heartwood**

*This edition of Heartbeat is printed with soy-based ink on 100% post-consumer recycled newsprint. Printed by Apple Press, [applepress@sbcglobal.net](mailto:applepress@sbcglobal.net), 317-253-7752.*

### HEARTWOOD

P. O. Box 332565

Murfreesboro, TN 37133



[www.heartwood.org](http://www.heartwood.org)

**PRESORTED  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN**