



## 2011 SPRING NEWSLETTER

### COOPERS ROCK FOUNDATION BENEFIT CONCERT - SAT, APRIL 9

Nexus will play at Rhythm & Brews (near the Harley-Davidson dealership) on Saturday, April 9, starting (tentatively) at 8 p.m. to benefit the Coopers Rock Foundation (CRF). Everybody welcome!

This concert/fundraiser coincides with the Coopers Rock Spring Cleaning Trailwork Weekend, which will feature trailwork from 10-4 on Saturday and 1-5 on Sunday. Help us kick-off the trailwork season by joining us at Coopers Rock State Forest during the day and relaxing with us in the evening at Rhythm & Brews. For more information on the concert or trailwork, email [trailwork@coopersrock.org](mailto:trailwork@coopersrock.org).

### SAVE THE DATE - CELEBRATION OF THE OUTDOORS - SAT, JUNE 11

For the 22nd consecutive year, the Coopers Rock Foundation will host *Celebration of the Outdoors*, a full day of education and enjoyment for people of all ages and outdoor experience levels. This year, participants will learn about rare animals and endangered species in WV, GPS and geocaching, cairn building, the history of Cheat Mountain and Coopers Rock State Forest, and many other topics. They can take part in hiking, fly fishing, rock climbing, bird watching or just take a guided walk to learn about the indigenous plants in the Forest.



Educational partners participating in this year's *Celebration* include WV Audubon Society, Cheat Lake Environment and Recreation Association, Trout Unlimited, WV Sierra Club, Wild Turkey Federation, USDA Forest Service, WV Raptor Rehabilitation Center, WVU Arboretum, WVU Outdoor Recreation Center, WVU Parks & Recreation Department and more.

Tentative times for the *Celebration* are 8 a.m.– 3 p.m. The *Celebration* is free but some activities require a \$5 donation to participate or have age/size limits; family discounts are available. Space in many workshops is limited and pre-registration via the CRF website is strongly encouraged. A complete schedule of activities for the day will be available soon on the CRF website at [www.coopersrock.org](http://www.coopersrock.org).

### CRSF GETS A NEW TRAIL!

Introducing - *Underlook Trail!* Yes, that's right - *Underlook!* The latest trail to gain official status at Coopers Rock State Forest will provide for a short but strenuous loop hike from the Overlook, down and around and underneath it, and back up again to the Overlook!

Over the past several years, the annual Rocky Habitat Restoration efforts of CRF and others every autumn has helped many areas near this trail begin to recover from overuse. Delineating a well-chosen route for a trail through this area was part of that restoration work, and has resulted in a signed, blazed, maintained loop under the Overlook.

CRF's work in 2010, with permission from the DNR, included painting red blazes, signpost installation, and submission to DNR of a plan to install directional signage in spring 2011. Upon completion of sign installation, even first-time visitors to Coopers Rock's famed Overlook will be able to take a short (but strenuous) hike around the State Forest's signature feature. In addition, hikers walking eastward along Rattlesnake Trail can also use it as an extension of that trail through further rocky terrain.

#### Other Trail News

- Volunteers are needed for the spring Trailwork Weekend, scheduled for April 9-10; times are 10am - 4pm on Saturday and 1-5pm on Sunday. Tasks will include drainage maintenance, trimming, raking, construction and other tasks. This is a GREAT family or organization activity. Contact Trail Coordinator Adam Polinski at [trailwork@coopersrock.org](mailto:trailwork@coopersrock.org) to sign up.
- CRF has officially adopted the Roadside Trail through the DNR's Adopt-A-Trail Program. If your family or group would like to help maintain CRSF by adopting a trail, visit the DNR website at <http://www.wvstateparks.com/community/adopt.htm>

### A BIT OF HISTORY: HENRY CLAY IRON FURNACE

Whereas readers of this newsletter can be fully expected to know quite a lot about the forest itself, many might not know much about the archaeological and historical significance of the Henry Clay Iron Furnace as it relates to the forest. For instance, did you know:



- Henry Clay Furnace, built in 1836 and decommissioned in 1848, exploited the Clay Run stream to power its steam engine, used in the "blast" portion of the smelting process to make pig iron
- there once was a wooden-rail tram road that connected the furnace to the Jackson Ironworks at Ices Ferry on what is now Cheat Lake
- Jackson Ironworks utilized Henry Clay's pig iron mainly to produce cut nails
- pig iron smelting was accomplished by "charging" the furnace with alternating layers of charcoal, iron ore, and limestone, which were loaded from trams dumping from the top, and then fired until brought up to melting temperature
- pig iron is so-called because each sand mold for the molten ore was constructed as a long central channel leading to ingot-shaped voids where the ore could flow, set and solidify, causing the workers to associate the molds with a sow feeding a litter of piglets
- a work force of approximately 50-75 workers and their families, possibly totaling 200 people, lived at what is now CRSF in rough log houses; the community included a school and a church
- eleven current structures in Coopers Rock State Forest are included in the National Register of Historical Places, including the Henry Clay Furnace, the chestnut wood picnic pavilions (the American chestnut is now virtually extinct), and the Forest Superintendent's house on the North side

### 2011 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The issue of which state agency is best suited for overall management of Coopers Rock did not pass due to a lengthy stay in the House and time running out on its consideration. This initiative did receive the full support of the House and we will keep you informed about prospects for next year's session. Thank you to all who called and emailed legislators on behalf of this important resolution. Special thanks to the Mon. Group of the Sierra Club, Delegates Barbara Evans Fleishauer, Mike Manypenny, and Senators Bob Beach and Roman Prezioso; Sponsors for the Coopers Rock Study Resolution: Talbott, Fragale, Guthrie, Hall, Manypenny, Martin, L. Phillips, R. Phillips, Pino, Shaver, Swartzmiller, Wells, Anderson, Duke, Ellem, Evans, Romine.

The news coming from the Capital about Marcellus Shale was not good for public lands. The Marcellus Bill did not make it out of the House in the regular session, and this means no protections for state forests. There is talk of having a special session dedicated to working on the complex issues however, at the time of this writing, no news on this. Please contact your state delegates and senators and urge them to protect public lands like Coopers Rock from Marcellus Shale Drilling.

### CALL FOR PHOTOS!

The Coopers Rock Foundation (CRF) History Committee is searching for historical photos depicting the history of the forest. If you or someone you know has photos you are willing to share, or if you have any ideas about how to obtain photos, please contact [info@coopersrock.org](mailto:info@coopersrock.org)



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Mission Statement: *To preserve and protect the past, present, and future of Coopers Rock State Forest and the Snake Hill Wildlife Management Area*