Announcing an October 16-18, 2015 Public Conference at Blackwater Falls State Park in Davis, West Virginia

"Climate Change: Science, Impacts, Preparedness, Communication, and Solutions"

"To deny the mounting science of climate change is to stick our heads in the sand."
– Robert C. Byrd, former United States Senator (D-WV).

Global warming and climate change threaten the ecology and economy of the Allegheny Highlands region – and the world. At this science-based program, a wide range of experts will discuss the ecologic, economic, and human impacts of climate change and the solutions we can use to meet this challenge. Get more information, see a complete speaker list, and register at www.allegheynyclimate.org. Scholarship assistance is available to help students and teachers attend; contact Conference Coordinator Brandae Mullins, brandaem@allegheynyclimate.org, 304-345-7663 x2, 304-881-9016.

Conference schedule: Friday, October 16: 4:00 PM: on-site registration opens, meet and greet reception, music/films, interest groups. Saturday, October 17: 9:30 AM – 12:00 noon: plenary presentations; 12:00 noon – 1:30 PM: lunch (included in registration) with roundtable interest groups; 1:30 PM – 5:30 PM: concurrent panel presentations; 7:30 PM: music/films, interest groups. Sunday, October 18: 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM: interest groups, field trips, closing session. Regular Registration (August 1 – October 1) $100; Late Registration (October 2 – October 16) $125. Scholarship assistance is available to help students and teachers attend; contact conference organizers for more information.

Keynote Speaker Sarah Forbes is a Randolph County scientist who formerly worked for the World Resources Institute, and now works for the United States Department of Energy in the Office of Clean Coal and Carbon Management. Forbes' work focuses on the future of fossil energy in a carbon-constrained world. She has travelled extensively in China and will speak about the challenge of climate change in a local and global context.

Plenary Speakers

Jim Schaberl is the Division Chief for Natural and Cultural Resources at Shenandoah National Park, where he plans and coordinates climate change impacts research, modeling, adaptation, and public outreach for the Park.

Amy Hessl is a professor in the Department of Geology and Geography at West Virginia University. She and her students study climatology globally and in the Allegheny Highlands.
Additional Conference speakers

**Dave Bassage** is Chief of Staff at the Ace Adventure Resort, a leading West Virginia outdoor recreation business headquartered in Minden, WV. He is a long-time environmental advocate and was active in climate change communication and education in West Virginia’s regulatory agencies.

**Louis Iverson** is a Landscape Ecologist at the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station in Delaware, Ohio, and a pioneer in GIS modeling of landscape ecology. He helped create the on-line Climate Change Bird and Tree Atlas that models species habitat under different carbon emission scenarios.

**Jamie Van Nostrand** is the Director of the Center for Energy and Sustainable Development at the West Virginia University College of Law, where has convened and led numerous programs focusing on public policy and climate change solutions.

**Herman Mays** is a professor in genetics in the Department of Biological Sciences at Marshall University in Huntington, WV. He has been active in efforts to assure that accurate science, including the science of climate change, is taught responsibly in public schools.

**Lori Petrusaki** is a graduate student at West Virginia University in the department of Wildlife and Fisheries Resources. She is collecting historic phenologic (calendar-related) data about West Virginia flora and fauna related to climate change.

**Brian Bellew** is a 2015 graduate of West Virginia University with a B.S. in Geology. Brian trained with Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project, the National Adaptation Forum, and PowerShift. He is an outreach staffer with Friends of Blackwater focusing on climate change communication.

**Hari Swarup Jammulamadaka** is a graduate assistant at the West Virginia University Industrial Assessment Center with research interests in implementation of green energy solutions in industrial, commercial, and residential settings to control carbon emissions.

**Emmett Pepper** is the Executive Director of Energy Efficient West Virginia and a graduate of the American University Washington College of Law. His work focuses on initiatives to reduce emissions through energy efficiency programs.

**Joe Trimboli** is a Community Planner with the Huntington District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers who works in Flood Damage Reduction, Floodplain Management Services, Planning Assistance to States, and other research.

**Winston Paul Smith** is a conservation biologist and a principal research scientist at the University of Alaska – Fairbanks. He is currently working with Friends of Blackwater, Indiana University, and the Forest Service on flying squirrel research in the Allegheny Highlands.

**Brandi Gaertner** is a doctoral fellow at West Virginia University, where she is conducting research on the effect of climate change on Mid-Atlantic surface water resources.

**Emily Linn** is an Environmental Protection Specialist with the U.S. EPA focusing on clean air initiatives, including the Clean Power Plan. She has a Master's degree in Environmental and Energy Policy and Sustainable Development from the University of Delaware, and a Bachelor's in History and Geology from the College of Wooster.