



# THE HIGH KNOB HERALD

## THANKSGIVING EDITION

The Clinch Coalition  
Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2021, ISSUE 11

## Celebrate the Holidays With Us!

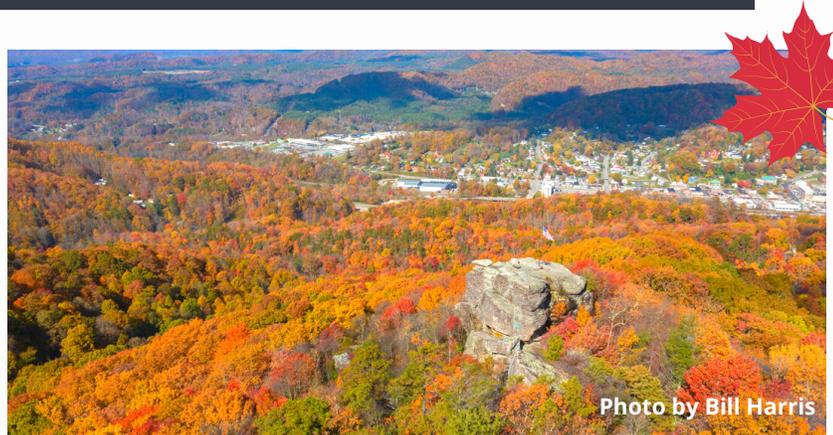
*You are cordially invited to our  
Annual Holiday Gathering!*

TCC is incredibly excited to hold our Holiday Gathering virtually this year. The festive occasion will be on **December 14th, 2021 starting at 6pm**. There will be a social hour, a holiday raffle, and presentations from two phenomenal speakers. David Hrivnak, a previous presenter for this year's High Knob Naturalist Rally, will be speaking more on how we can achieve net zero carbon emissions. Similarly, Wally Smith will be speaking on his new hiking guidebook and his contributions to the local natural area.

It will be a wonderfully festive time, and we hope you will join us! If you would like to support in the planning process and/or have any questions or concerns, please reach out to TCC at [info@clinchcoalition.org](mailto:info@clinchcoalition.org).

Thank You!

Written and Designed by Jala Tyler, Program Director.  
All photography by Bill Harris



# Activities

## What's New on High Knob?

The Clinch Coalition is so happy to announce that we are holding our Annual Holiday Gathering virtually this year!

We are also setting ourselves up for success in 2022 by preparing several advancements in our Forest Watch Group. If you would like to get involved with our work, please reach out to us at [info@clinchcoalition.org](mailto:info@clinchcoalition.org)



Photo by Bill Harris

# Plant of the Month

## American Beech *Fagus grandifolia*

With fall being in full swing, there are beautiful colors throughout the area as reds, yellows, and browns overtake the local forests. Chlorophyll is typically what gives leaves their familiar green color in warmer climates. In fall, however, carotenoids produce the yellow, orange, and brown colors in trees that we all love. One common fall foliage tree is the beech tree, which is usually a vibrant golden yellow to bronze color. Have you noticed them while about in the fall forest?



American Beech in Fall, Stock



# Animal of the Month

## Virginia Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo*



According to the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), Virginia's wild turkey population is estimated to be approximately 180,000 birds. Populations are not uniform across the state however as the highest population densities can be found in the Tidewater, South Mountain, and South Piedmont regions.

Wild turkeys typically weigh 17-19 pounds, with acorns being their favored foods. Unlike deer, wild turkeys have a poor sense of smell and taste and they normally select acorns based on their size and shape. In contrast, white-tailed deer normally select white oaks because of their lower tannin content and less bitter taste.

With its beautifully vibrant colors, the wild turkey is a staple in American tradition and lore. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

If you would like to become a member or make a donation, please visit [www.clinchcoalition.org](http://www.clinchcoalition.org).