

THE HIGH KNOB HERALD

FALL EDITION



The Clinch Coalition
Newsletter

OCTOBER 2022, ISSUE 22

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act and Support its Protection

Written by Sharon Fisher

October 18, 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act — a landmark law that helped reverse years of environmental damage and pollution to America's rivers, lakes, wetlands, and waterways.

After the Cuyahoga River in Ohio caught fire due to the high levels of pollutants in 1969, the public awakened to the health dangers and environmental damage that can result when activities by corporate polluters and the fossil fuel industry go unchecked. The public pressed Congress to act, and in 1972, the Clean Water Act passed with strong bipartisan support, enough to overcome a presidential veto.

The Clean Water Act reduces the discharge of pollutants and contaminants in our bodies of water and sets standards for water quality to protect wildlife and our health and allow for safe recreational activities. And yet, this landmark legislation is under attack and is being challenged in the U.S. Supreme Court, which heard oral arguments in the Sackett v. EPA case on October 3rd .

This case is about one thing – whether we can protect one of our most important natural resources: clean water. The worst polluters, including oil and gas companies, mining, and developers, along with their pro-polluter allies in Congress, are using this case to hamstring the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to protect communities, public health, and local ecosystems from harmful pollution.



Matt Hepler, Central Appalachian Environmental Scientist for Appalachian Voices (right), shows 2022 High Knob Naturalist Rally attendees the basics of water quality testing. Photography by Bill Harris.

Polluters are pushing the Supreme Court to make it easier for them to bulldoze wetlands and dump waste into our streams, jeopardizing the waters our families and communities rely on for drinking, swimming, fishing, fueling local economies, and more.

Virginia's Senator Tim Kaine is among the clean water leaders in the House and Senate who have introduced a Clean Water Act Resolution that outlines the importance of the Clean Water Act and what is needed to ensure everyone has access to clean water to ensure healthy communities and environments. **Tell Senator Kaine you appreciate his leadership and encourage Senator Warner to do the same.**



Matt Hepler (center) continuing his water quality presentation at the 2022 High Knob Naturalist Rally. Photography by Bill Harris.

Written by Sharon Fisher, BA, MS, EdD; President of The Clinch Coalition



Our Rally Was a Hit!

And it's all thanks to you!

Thank you everyone for coming out to The Clinch Coalition's 16th Annual High Knob Naturalist Rally! It was a huge success due to all of the participants who came out to show their support.

Despite it being our first in-person event since the pandemic of COVID-19, we were so excited and happy to see that there were over 110 people in attendance at this year's rally! Rain or shine, we had an abundance of experts, volunteers, students, and attendees present to show their love of nature. Thank you so much to the members of our community for making the event a success. Planning for next year's event is well underway in order to ensure its success.

If you would like to be a participant or volunteer in next year's rally, please reach out to us at info@clinchcoalition.org!

Thanks again!

The Clinch Coalition Team

All Photography Featured Was Taken By Bill Harris



If you would like to become a member or make a donation, please visit www.clinchcoalition.org.

