

THE HIGH KNOB HERALD

VALENTINE'S EDITION

The Clinch Coalition
Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2021, ISSUE 2

Reaching Out

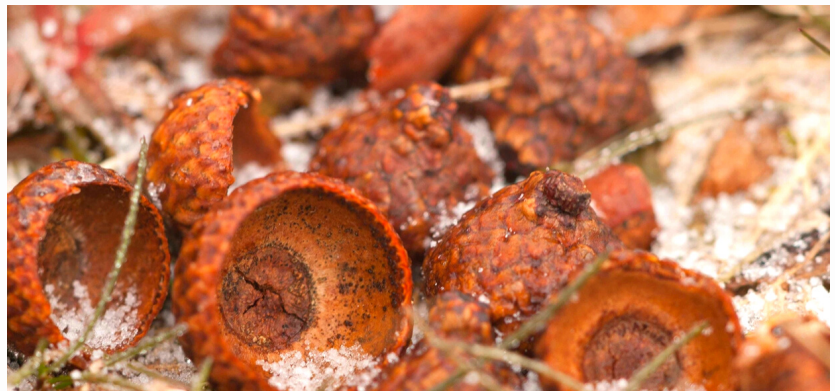
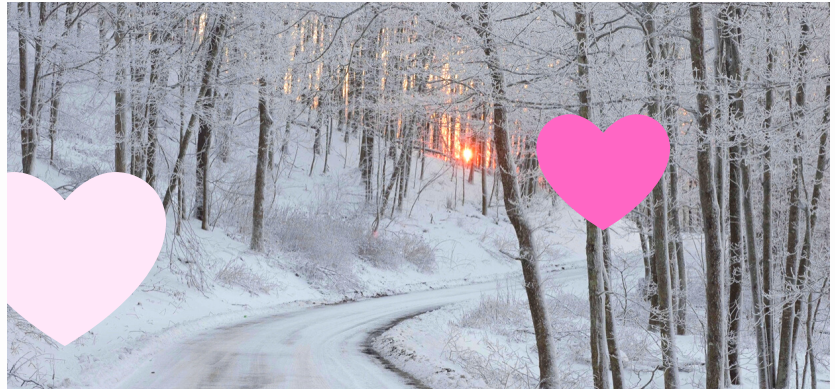
We want to hear from you!

One of The Clinch Coalition's goals of 2021 has been to increase our organization's local community outreach. We believe that it is important that the public have the ability to easily and quickly report environmental concerns they have to us! As such, we have created our Citizen Watch Program. This Program seeks to be on the lookout for activities that may be causing environmental damage to the air, soil, water and forests of the region's public and private lands. Thus, we have recently updated our website so that the community can 'Leave a Tip'. 'Leave a Tip' is a technological solution to address a reoccurring problem: many environmental concerns cannot be made anonymously.

For years, several issues that people have wanted to bring to our attention were done in person. While helpful to our mission to protect and preserve, it also made some individuals concerned if it became known that they were speaking out. "We definitely feel that establishing a safe space for individuals in our community to speak freely on environmental concerns will get people more engaged on issues that affect their community," Vice President Wally Smith stated. "And we want people to know they can talk to us."

Furthermore, our new 'Leave a Tip' feature will help The Clinch Coalition be an intermediary between the public and regulatory agencies. "Citizens often do not know the various local, state, and federal agencies tasked with enforcing environmental regulations, said President Sharon Fisher. "Having this messaging system will allow The Clinch Coalition to intercede for citizens who have become frustrated from not having their voices heard." The ability to add your name to the message is also there, albeit optional. 'Leave a Tip' is found on our website under the section titled "Get Involved". If you would like to learn more, or if you want to 'Leave a Tip' on local environmental issues, please do not hesitate to visit www.clinchcoalition.net!

Written and Designed by Jala Tyler, Program Director.
Edited by Sharon Fisher.
Photography by Bill Harris and Jala Tyler.



Activities

What's Coming Up?

This month we have put together a Citizen Watch Program with our new 'Leave a Tip' website feature! It can be found under the "Get Involved" section of our website. We are also still accepting applications for our [Hellbender 10k](#)! If you would like to reach out for more information, or if you have any questions about our events, you can reach out on our website: www.clinchcoalition.net.

Plant of the Month

Eastern Redbud (*Cercis Canadensis*)

This month's plant is the Eastern Redbud! A native perennial to Virginia in the pea family (Fabaceae), this deciduous tree has clusters of tiny magenta buds that swell into showy rosy pink flowers in early spring! It is absolutely beautiful, and can grow 15 to 30 feet tall and 15 to 25 feet wide. Its flowers are edible, and extracts from the inner bark and roots have been used to treat colds, flu and fever. On another note, the branches and stems are known to be great for basketry!



Animal of the Month

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*)

Since love is in the air, it is only fitting that a native dove is our animal this month! *Zenaida macroura*, commonly known as the Mourning Dove, prefers eating their food on the ground and in open areas. Seeds make up ninety-nine percent of a Mourning Dove's diet, where they roughly can consume twelve to twenty percent of their body weight every day. These lovebirds find their pair or better half and tend to mate for life. When preparing for their brood, the male dove carries twigs to the female while standing on her back, and the female weaves them into a nest. Mourning doves have also been known to reuse nests of other species. Their clutch size is typically two, and their incubation period lasts two weeks before their squabs (the term for a fledgling bird) are hatched.



Fun Fact: Did you know that there are over 270 species of birds on the High Knob Landform?