

THE HIGH KNOB HERALD

ST. PATRICK'S DAY EDITION

The Clinch Coalition
Newsletter

MARCH 2021, ISSUE 3

Leaving a Tip for the DEQ

*The new 'Leave a Tip' Feature
on our website does wonders!*

Happy St. Patrick's Day, everyone! We are feeling very lucky this month, after the 'Leave a Tip' section of our website has shown great promise. We wanted to give an update on the new feature, and to let you all know that we are doing everything we can to let your voices be heard!

Recently, we received correspondence through 'Leave a Tip' that a member of our community was concerned about the lack of fish in the river behind their house. The contact shared that in previous years they saw fish jumping out of the water whenever food was thrown in. Within the past five years or so, however, the fish have dwindled in the river to almost nothing. We sought answers for our contact, as it would be very pertinent to know what was causing the glaring absence of fish; could it be pollution? A presence of a predator yet unknown? A dip in the water quality that went unaccounted for? To glean an answer for our concerned individual, we contacted the Department of Environmental Quality, better known as the DEQ. We wanted to make sure they were aware of the worry so that they may look further into the issue. They responded immediately, and have shown great support for the concern.

While the work is still ongoing and the process is long, we are very happy with how much good can be done for the community through our feature. If you would like to reach out to us about environmental concerns in the area, you may do so on our website at www.clinchcoalition.net under the "Get Involved" section.

Written by Jala Tyler, Program Director.



Photo by Kaye Buchanan

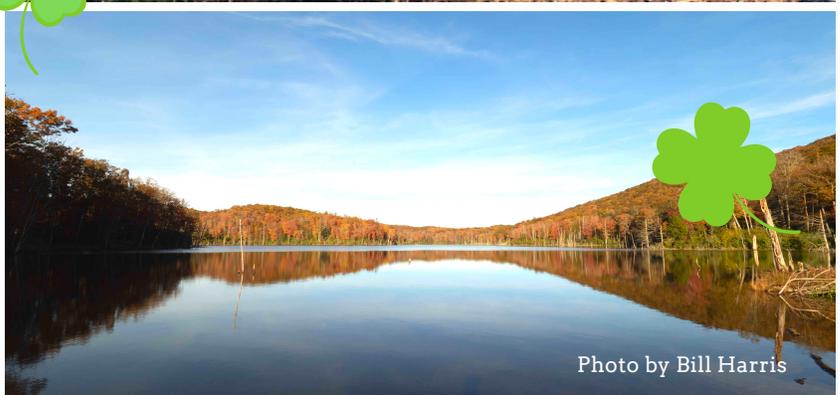


Photo by Bill Harris



Photo by Bill Harris



Photo by Bill Harris

Activities

What's new on High Knob

Earth Day Bonanza: We are working on some fun activities for Earth Day next month, on Thursday, April 22nd! Keep up to date with our plans on our Facebook and Instagram (@theclinchcoalition), as well as our website! If you would like to be involved or volunteer, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at clinchcoalition@gmail.com.

Plant of the Month

Kate's Mountain Clover (*Trifolium virginicum*)

Kates Mountain Clover, or *Trifolium virginicum*, is one of only three clovers that are native to Virginia. It was first discovered on Kate's Mountain in West Virginia in 1892 by botanist, John Kukul Small. This perennial plant exists only in four states and in a very specific and desiccated habitat. In all four states it is listed as threatened or endangered, and it has yet to be studied extensively in science. Suffice to say, finding this rare clover would make one lucky indeed!



Photo credit: Bill Harris



Kates Mountain Clover, (*Trifolium virginicum*). Photo credit: Lonnie Murray

Animal of the Month

Eastern Cottontail Rabbit - *Sylvilagus floridanus*

(*Sylvilagus floridanus*), or the Eastern Cottontail, is an extremely common animal of the forest. This adorable little bunny can be found in every county within the state of Virginia, without fail. Chances are if you see a rabbit, it's this species! So why, then, are rabbits seen as lucky despite being so common? The origin of the lucky rabbit's foot is, in fact, unknown! While many speculate that the rabbit was seen as lucky in the past due to its high fertility rates and are related to spring and renewal, there is lack of evidence of the superstition of its luck prior to the early 20th century for Western cultures. In East Asian culture, however, the rabbit spirit animal is considered to be a symbol of prosperity, abundance, and fertility, and it is a Chinese Zodiac sign known for its cleverness. What a lucky animal!



Fun Fact:
Did you know that the high country of the remnant massif of High Knob is larger than some counties in eastern Virginia and the Commonwealth of Kentucky?