

Upcoming Dedications in West Virginia

April 15, Fayette County -- Stone Cliff Old Growth of New River Gorge
April 16, Nicolas County - Pierson Hollow of Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park
April 22, Preston County - Cathedral State Park
April 23, Pocahontas County - Gaudineer Scenic Area-Monongahela National Forest

We are very excited to add these forests to our growing Network. These forests will be protected for all time and open to all people.

In April, four West Virginia forests will be added to the Old-Growth Forest Network. This will be part of a 2 week long tour by Dr. Joan Maloof. She will be traveling through West Virginia and Ohio. In West Virginia, she will travel to Fayette, Nicolas, Preston and Pocahontas counties – dedicating a forest in each county.

In Fayette County, on April 15 at 10am a group will gather at the trailhead of ***The Stone Cliff Old Growth of New River Gorge National River*** for a brief ceremony. After the dedication there will be a hike into one of the few old-growth forests that remain in West Virginia. Stone Cliff Old Growth contains 11 acres of chinquapin oaks, northern red oaks, bitternut hickories, and buckeyes that exhibit old-growth characteristics. These large overstory trees are two to three feet in diameter.

The next dedication will be held in Nicolas County on Thursday, April 16, at 10am at ***Pierson Hollow of Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park***. Pierson Hollow's 30 acres of old-growth forest include Yellow- poplar, Hemlock, Oaks and Tulip- poplar with an occasional Northern Red Oak. The trees are between 250 and 300 years old; the oldest tree is reported to be 400 years old.

In Preston County, ***Cathedral State Park*** will be celebrating its inclusion into Old-Growth Forest Network on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 11 am. This forest is described as “an ancient hemlock forest of majestic proportions, and one of the last living commemorations of the vast virgin hemlock forest which once flourished in the Appalachian highlands. Trees up to 90 feet in height and 21 feet in circumference form cloisters in the park. Throughout the woods, eastern hemlock is the dominant species.”

Pocahontas County's ***Gaudineer Scenic Area of Monongahela National Forest*** will be dedicated on Thursday, April 23rd. Approximately 50 acres of the Scenic Area is typical of and considered part of, the virgin red spruce that originally occupied large portions of the highland areas of West Virginia. The composition of this impressive forest consists of virgin and second growth red spruce, yellow birch, beech, red maple, sugar maple, and other hardwood

species. Individual trees range up to 40 inches in diameter and 300 years of age.

Many thanks to our County Coordinators who have helped to make these dedications happen Turner Sharp (Fayette, Preston and Wood Counties, WV); Jane DeGroot (Pocahontas County, WV).

Please join us if you can! If you need more specific information on any of these Forests click [here](#). If you would like information on these dedications please go to our [Events page](#).