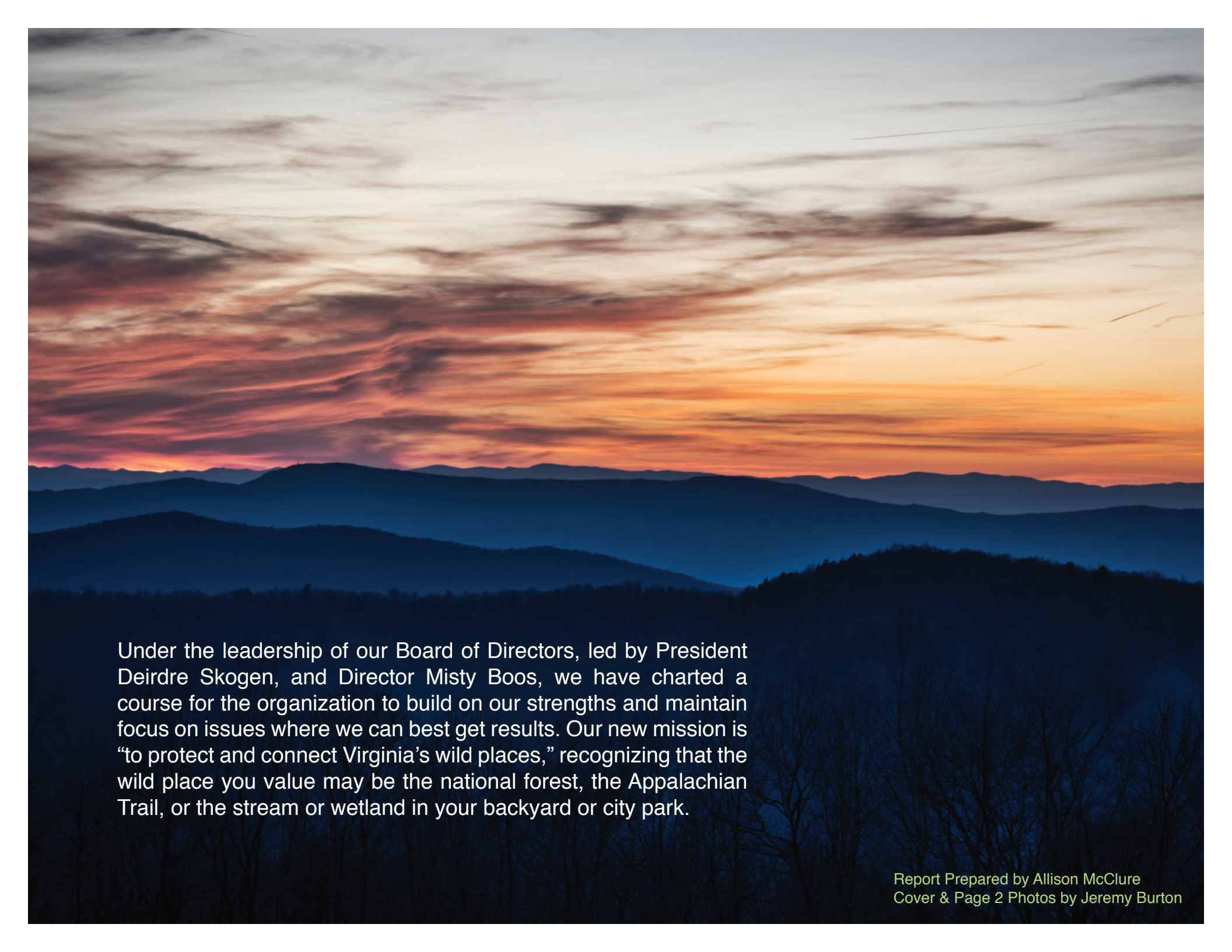


2018



Wild Virginia Annual Report





Under the leadership of our Board of Directors, led by President Deirdre Skogen, and Director Misty Boos, we have charted a course for the organization to build on our strengths and maintain focus on issues where we can best get results. Our new mission is “to protect and connect Virginia’s wild places,” recognizing that the wild place you value may be the national forest, the Appalachian Trail, or the stream or wetland in your backyard or city park.

Report Prepared by Allison McClure
Cover & Page 2 Photos by Jeremy Burton

A Message from Leadership

Dear Friends,

In 2018, Wild Virginia continued working to protect our public lands through advocacy, education, and influence. Along with our partners and alliances, we pressed on in the fight against the Mountain Valley and Atlantic Coast fracked gas pipelines. Both of these pipelines pose great risks to the water quality, connectivity, biodiversity, and resilience of our forests and surrounding communities. Stopping the construction of these pipelines would maintain intact forests and protect our region's water supply. Wild Virginia is working to stop these projects by bringing regulatory and legal challenges and mobilizing citizens like you to monitor and report environmental destruction created by construction activities. We're also working to improve habitat connectivity throughout the entire Commonwealth and to ensure that our waterways are granted all the regulatory protections they deserve.

We also want to help you experience Virginia's wild places and learn how to help protect them. Throughout the year, we offer a wide variety of ways to do just that. If you prefer to get outside, you can join our camping, hiking and paddling trips. For indoor activities, we offer the Wild and Scenic Film Festival, comment writing nights, classes, lectures, and book clubs. Both indoors and out, there are plenty of ways to get involved and stay inspired with us all year long.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Misty Boos, Director
Wild Virginia



2018 Highlights



Advocacy for Water Protection

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, passed by Congress 50 years ago, provides for recognition of especially notable streams and gives them enhanced levels of protection. Virginia has so far failed to have any Wild and Scenic Rivers named, and we intend to fix that. We are organizing an effort with other Virginia-based water advocates to provide extra water quality protections through federal and state programs where special designations can be acquired. Read on to page 5 to learn more about Wild Virginia's efforts to enhance the protections in the state.



Educational Programs

Our volunteers maintain one of the most active local programs to get citizens into our treasured natural areas to learn about the values they hold and the threats we need to confront, and to have fun and find peace that only wild places can supply. We also have "innings," films and talks to enhance knowledge and inspire action. Our work with school groups is also a highly valuable program we will continue to develop. Keep a lookout for the details on all of the outings and innings and come join us for the activities that suit your abilities and interests.



Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Each year, we screen selections of films as part of our Wild & Scenic Film Festival, giving you the chance to be educated, inspired, and motivated. We'll continue the tradition with showings in Staunton and Charlottesville in late April and early May of 2019. These events bring a large community together and help us reach audiences in a way that is fun and accessible. In 2018, we hosted the Wild & Scenic Film Festival for the ninth year with sold-out shows and more than 400 people in attendance. Read on to page 7 for more details.



Battles Against the Pipeline

In 2018, we continued to lead fights against the Mountain Valley and Atlantic Coast Pipelines, and these efforts are far from over. We helped you make effective comments to the Virginia State Water Control Board and the Air Pollution Control Board, publishing guidance to advocate for your values and interests in ways that carry legal weight in the regulatory processes. We were there with written and verbal presentations at every opportunity to advocate for proper protections for air and water. Read on to page 8 for more information.



Habitat Connectivity

Wild Virginia has helped to create and lead a broad coalition of groups called the Virginia Safe Wildlife Corridors Collaborative. The aim of the collaborative is not only to reduce wildlife-vehicle conflicts, but also to work towards implementing measures, like wildlife crossings, that allow the safe movement of wildlife across roads. We are also working on larger initiatives to identify animal/vehicle crash hot-spots and to improve habitat connectivity for wildlife throughout Virginia. Read on to page 9 for more details on these efforts.

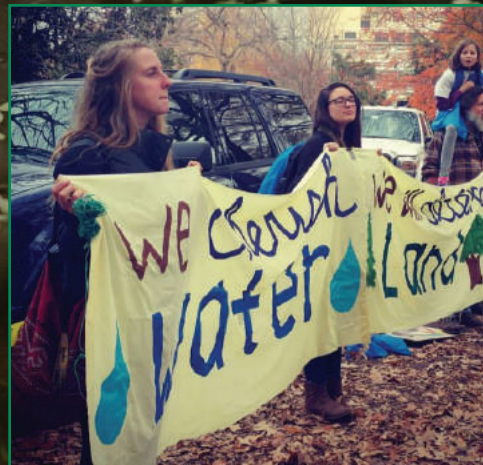
Advocacy for Water Protection

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created by Congress "... to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Act is notable for safeguarding the special character of these rivers, while also recognizing the potential for their appropriate use and development. It encourages river management that crosses political boundaries and promotes public participation in developing goals for river protection."

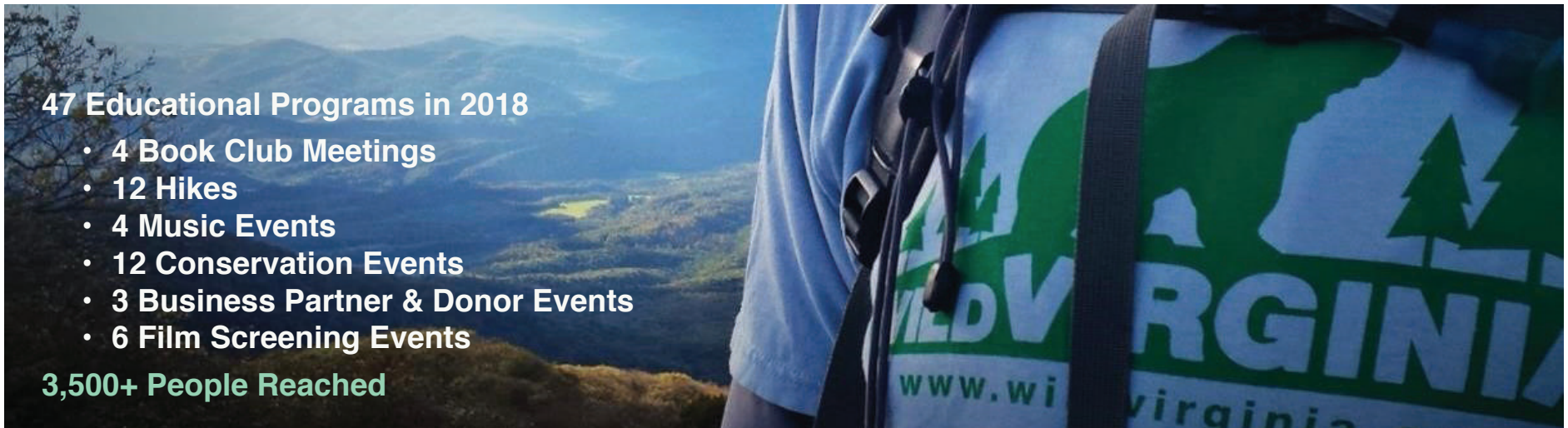
Virginia has so far failed to have any Wild and Scenic Rivers named, and Wild Virginia is working to fix that problem. We are organizing an effort with other Virginia water advocates to provide extra water quality protections through federal and state programs where special designations can be acquired.

3639

People Reached
In-Person in 2018
Outings/Education
Programs



Education & Outreach Programs



47 Educational Programs in 2018

- 4 Book Club Meetings
- 12 Hikes
- 4 Music Events
- 12 Conservation Events
- 3 Business Partner & Donor Events
- 6 Film Screening Events

3,500+ People Reached

Wild Virginia's volunteers maintain one of the most active local programs to get citizens out into our treasured natural areas, to learn about the values they hold and the threats we need to confront, and to have fun and find peace that only wild places can supply. We also have "innings" including book club discussions (held on the second Monday each month) as well as films and talks to enhance knowledge and inspire action. Our work with school groups is also a highly valuable program we will continue to develop. Keep a lookout for the details on all of the outings and innings and come join us for the activities that suit your abilities and interests.





In 2018, Wild Virginia hosted the ninth annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival, with sold-out shows in Staunton and Charlottesville. The festival introduces attendees to wild and special places and to the courageous individuals who work to protect and preserve them. It highlights environmental concerns and provides solutions, reaching people through beautiful imagery. It's an inspiring evening of empowering films. We continue the tradition this year with showings in Staunton and Charlottesville in April and May 2019.

405

**Attendees at
the Wild & Scenic
Film Festival
in 2018**

Wild & Scenic Film Festival 2019 Showtimes

Staunton Show
Sunday, April 28
Visulite Cinema
6:30pm

Charlottesville Show #1
Wednesday, May 1
Violet Crown
6:30pm

Charlottesville Show #2
Thursday, May 2
Vinegar Hill Theater
6:30pm

You are also invited to be part of this great event as a sponsor. By becoming a sponsor of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival, you help bring these important environmental films to our community. Learn more about sponsorship at wildandscenicfilmfestival.org.

Battle Against the Pipeline

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) is a proposed 600-mile long natural gas pipeline to carry natural gas from West Virginia through Virginia to North Carolina. The Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) sources the same fracked gas and has the same delivery destinations as the ACP. The pipelines directly threaten local drinking water, homes, endangered species' habitats, parks, economies and other vital interconnected systems and attributes of the Southeast. They simply cannot be safely built. Both companies have begun permitted tree felling. In March 2018, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality approved the MVP's additional plans, and construction has now begun.

While we could only get three of the seven Water Board members to support revocation of the state approvals earlier in 2018, we didn't stop making the case and, in an unprecedented move, the Board voted to start the revocation process for MVP at the end of the year. Wild Virginia also joined numerous lawsuits when federal and state regulators failed to do their jobs on both MVP and ACP. Earlier in 2018, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals knocked down the Forest Service permit for MVP and did the same for ACP on December 13. Other cases and new administrative processes forced by our actions are yet to be decided, and we'll be there fighting at every step.



20

Events Attended for
Pipeline Opposition
in 2018

Habitat Connectivity



Habitat connectivity, in the form of large cores of intact habitat and corridors connecting them, is critical to ensuring a sustainable future for Virginia. Wild Virginia has been leading the way, bringing people to work together to improve habitat connectivity throughout Virginia.

Wild Virginia is the driving force behind the multidisciplinary, multi-agency group called the Virginia Safe Wildlife Corridors Collaborative (VSWCC). The organization believes in taking a multiple stakeholder approach to solving complex transportation and ecological problems along Virginia roads. The VSWCC aims to reduce habitat fragmentation issues and improve habitat connectivity in the state. Its partners work together to identify and implement innovative solutions to address human safety, wildlife conservation, and habitat connectivity concerns. Through the VSWCC, Wild Virginia is working to protect people and wildlife and reducing animal-vehicle conflicts and improving safe wildlife passage.

We recognize Wild Virginia's unique role as an advocacy organization and a leader in the collaborative, so we will work to keep the group focused on larger habitat connectivity concerns while working on the specific fragmentation impacts of roads.



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Instagram: @wildvirginia

How you can help Wild Virginia today:

- Tell another person about Wild Virginia.
- Share with us how Wild Virginia has touched your life. Drop us a note or leave a review on Facebook.
- Consider a financial gift or increasing the amount of your annual contribution. Join or renew your support today by visiting <http://wildvirginia.org>.
- Support our cause and help us raise awareness by purchasing Wild Virginia merchandise from our online store.
- Volunteer. Call 434-971-1553 or email info@wildvirginia.org to find out how to get involved.

In 2019, you can rely on Wild Virginia to continue providing the access, tools, knowledge and confidence for citizens to act effectively to protect natural ecosystems and to promote stewardship of Virginia's 1.8 million acres of national forests and other wild spaces.

