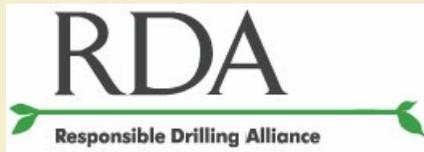


Protecting Communities and Special Places

e-Newsletter September 13, 2013



"A deeper look at the energy picture reveals ugliness ... The beauty of wild nature has no price and therefore is not entered into the formulas of economists obsessed with quantitative measures of value."

~ Douglas R. Tompkins

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Keep It Wild Hike

September 22
10:00 a.m.

Bob Webber Trail
Wolf Run Wild Area
Tiadaghton State Forest
Route 414,
Cammal, PA 17723

This 1.7-mile (x2) out and back trail located in the Tiadaghton State Forest is best suited for fit individuals or families with active kids. Rugged and steep terrain ends on a beautiful vista. The trailhead is at the Clark Farm/Utcer Station Recreational Parking Area.

Impacts of Drilling: A Before and After Visit to Bodine Mountain in the Loyalsock State Forest

By ANN PINCA

Two years ago in July 2011, I visited the Bodine Mountain area of the Loyalsock State Forest. After driving up the mountain on a tree-shaded road, I discovered a recently cleared area and a locked gate to a mountain-top well pad. I was searching for a vista marked on the map and found it along another tree-shaded road to the left of the newly-cleared well pad road. The views of Kinney Ridge and Sugarcamp Mountain to the west were beautiful, but survey stakes in the area and seismic testing trails through the mountain laurel grove across the road did not bode well for the forest.

The current debate over another area of the Loyalsock State Forest, the Clarence Moore lands, gave me reason to revisit Bodine Mountain to see how drilling there was proceeding. I wanted to know what the impacts might look like should shale gas drilling take place in the Clarence Moore lands.

A press release posted by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) in regard to a July 2013 meeting to discuss the Clarence Moore lands with representatives from environmental groups included the following priorities in protecting the Clarence Moore lands:

1. Minimizing surface disturbance to the greatest extent possible.

2. Limiting impacts on trail users on the 27-mile Old Logger's Path trail that circles the lands or relocate trail if necessary.

A tree-shaded road on Bodine Mountain.

A Bodine Mountain road with an

[Look here for more information](#)



www.keepitwildrda.org



SHALE GAS OUTRAGE 2013

September 24-26

Philadelphia, Pa.

Keynote speaker:
John Fenton

Shale Gas Outrage Water
Drive, September 24-26

Freedom from Fracking III
Conference, 2 pm - 8 pm
Thursday, September 26.

The conference is free, but
requires [registration](#).

[Find more information here.](#)

TAKE ACTION!

**One Million Strong!
Protect Our Public
Lands From Fracking**

**Tell your Congressman
to vote "No"
on HR 2728**

The BLM has been hard at
work writing new rules to
govern fracking underneath
public lands, but the [rules,
as currently drafted](#), do little
to protect the health of
communities and the
environment, and the water
and air upon which we all
rely.

[Click here to send a
message to your
Congressman](#)

adjacent pipeline right-of-way.

3. Reducing fragmentation from
pipelines, right-of-ways and roads.

4. Avoiding or minimizing activity in wetland areas and important habitat for threatened or endangered species.

5. Avoiding or minimizing development in the headwaters of the Rock Run waterway.

6. Mitigating noise impacts from compressor stations.

With these priorities in mind, I returned to Bodine Mountain in the Loyalsock State Forest this past July. Referred to as Tract 100, this state forest area is under development by [Seneca Resources Corporation](#), headquartered in Houston, Texas.

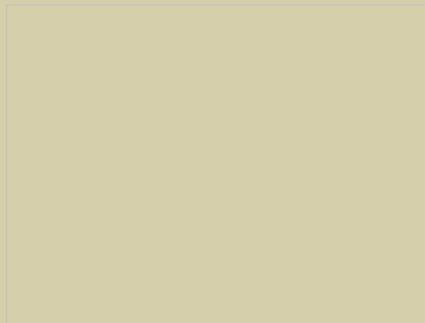
I soon discovered that this trip would be much different. While I traveled at will on the last trip, a guard house greeted me shortly after I drove up Grays Run Road, though I was simply waved on as I turned up Bodine Mountain Road. It



Bodine Mountain vista in July 2011.

was the same tree-shaded road on the way up the mountain as two years ago, but the terrain at the top had definitely changed. Another guard house soon greeted me, where I asked if I could go to the vista. The guard allowed me to go on, but got on the radio to the next guard farther up the road.

Gone was the tree-shaded road of two years ago - in its place was now a sturdy road with a wide pipeline right-of-way (ROW) along side. The



*Bodine Mountain vista in July 2013.
Note the level-cut tree stump that
was the tree in the above picture.*

vista appeared to be gone, too. I followed the road until I reached the next guard house that protected an unseen well pad and a nearby large configuration of pipeline infrastructure, plus another area in the process of being cleared.

Turning back, I finally found my vista of two years ago and realized why I missed it: it was now overgrown and its landmark tree had been cut down.

Gone, too, was the grove of mountain laurel across the road, cleared away for the pipeline ROW. The limited view I could see of the mountains to the west included a drilling rig and other cleared areas in the forest. The sound of a running compressor resounded across the mountains.

Save Pennsylvania's Endangered Species!

As the debate over the proposed changes to the endangered species process in Pennsylvania heats up, the National Audubon Society asks for your help!

[Send an email](#) to your House legislator and ask them to oppose HB 1576.



Great Egret photo by Bill Stripling

IN THE NEWS

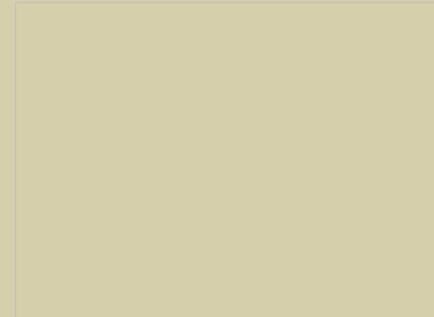
This Week's Scoops

It's been a busy week, with Attorney General Kathleen Kane [filing criminal charges against XTO](#) for that "[worst of the worst](#)" Marquardt well in Lycoming County, and Auditor General Eugene DePasquale [hinting at problems found](#) through the audit of DEP's water testing process.

It almost made one feel a teensy weensy optimistic about the future of shale gas extraction - until the Department of Energy [announced the initial approval of the Cove Point export facility](#) in Lusby, Maryland. Of course, some would argue that exports only make sense, what with that [glut of natural gas](#) that is, by the way, [keeping prices down for consumers](#) - but cutting profits big time for operators.

Markets need to be found, and according to Nick Jones at ExxonMobil, there [will be a big market for at least the next thirty years](#) - in Asia. Not sure what that means for energy independence in the United States, but what it probably

View from Bodine Mountain vista in July 2011.



View of well pad and rig from vista in July 2013.

I left Bodine Mountain and continued on to look for the other marked vista to the west, located off Brown Road. Confused at first because the road patterns had changed, I soon found my way. Luckily, traffic was non-existent; the industry wasn't "doing anything today" said a guard - and there appeared to be no other visitors in this part of forest.

A temporary pipeline similar to other water lines I have seen ran along the road, secured to the trees by straps. After passing a newly seeded pipeline ROW and three more guards, one at a compressor pump area and two at well pads, I was on my way to the vista.

All the guards were helpful and friendly, but I had to sign in at the last guard house because the vista turned out to be across from another well pad at this mountain top. This vista was also overgrown, hard to recognize and the view yielded more rigs on the neighboring mountains.

I exited the mountain top via a new road so heavily sprayed that the substance used on it had pooled and run off the side of the road. Just before turning back onto Upper Grays Run Road, I spotted a rattlesnake by the side of the road and stopped to admire it from the safety of my car. The joy of seeing that rattler soon faded when just down Upper Grays Road I found a less lucky rattlesnake, freshly killed and left in the middle of the road - with its head and rattle tail cut off and missing.

As I left the state forest, I waved to the first and now final guard at the initial check point, pondering if *minimal impacts*, *reduced fragmentation*, and *mitigated noise impacts* will look and sound the same in the Clarence Moore lands as they do in Bodine Mountain's Tract 100. While those terms may look good on paper, they sure didn't look or sound very good on Bodine Mountain.

[See a photo essay of the July 2011 visit here](#)
[See a photo essay of the July 2013 visit here](#)

means for Pennsylvanians is [lots more drilling](#) in the Keystone State. Watch the Delaware Riverkeeper's video [interviews with Dr. Anthony Ingraffea](#) to understand the consequences of increased drilling and industrialization.

But New York citizens are still basically frack free - and now some Empire State residents are lease-free, too, as [Chesapeake Energy gave up the fight](#) to hold onto expired leases.

At least one local official is willing to slow things down, as evidenced by Allegheny Council member Barbara Daly Danko, who called for [a three-year ban on drilling](#) in Allegheny area parks. Too bad others don't follow her lead, as backers of HB 1576 seem determined to speed things up by removing any impediments to permits, no matter what endangered critter gets in the way. Bill sponsor Rep. Jeff Pyle [admits that the gas and coal industries will benefit from his bill](#) and shows the value he places on endangered species when he asked, "But what happens when protecting animals screws up our lives as humans?"

**New Phone Number!
Contact RDA at
888-332-1244**

[Join RDA](#)

We welcome your active participation and are in need of help for special events, publicity, research, and other projects. Contact us for details.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, RDA relies on donations for the important work we do. In order for RDA to continue its valuable education and advocacy outreach in 2013, please consider



*A Seneca Resources well pad at the mountain top near Brown's Road.
All images by Ann Pinca*

Environmental Quality Board Votes to Approve Proposed Update of Drilling Regulations for Public Comment

Late in August, Pennsylvania's [Environmental Quality Board \(EQB\)](#) proposed new regulations regarding surface activities related to oil and gas well development. These proposed regulations are intended to set new requirements related to oil and gas operations to ensure increased protection of public health, safety and the environment.

Former DCNR Secretary John Quigley says these new rules don't do enough to protect Pennsylvania, but instead favor development by the oil and gas industry over the protection of public lands. [Read Mr. Quigley's thoughts here.](#)

The draft regulation will be reviewed by the Attorney General's Office and the Office of General Counsel. After the offices' review, there will be a 60 day comment period and six public hearings will be scheduled to hear public comments on the proposed changes.

Details on where comments can be submitted on the draft rulemaking will be provided when the proposal is published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and on DEP's website. The dates and locations of the six public hearings will be announced by the EQB in the near future on the website and through a news release issued by the department.

For more information, visit DEP's special [Oil and Gas Regulations](#) web page.

Going ... Going ... Gone

As mentioned last week, Julie and Craig Sautner's former home in Dimock was razed by Cabot Oil and Gas, who took possession of the house last summer [through a settlement](#) with the Sautners. As a condition of the settlement, the Sautners were required to sign a gag order, so they are unable to discuss how they feel about the demolition of 1101 Carter Road, where they lived for years amidst the [huge controversy of water contamination](#) caused by nearby gas well activity.

Since the Sautners moved away, no one else has lived in the house. The house appeared to be in good condition, raising the question: Why did Cabot tear it down? Some feel it is because Cabot wants to eliminate all trace of the formerly outspoken Sautners from Dimock; others say it is because the water truly was unfit, rendering the house useless and unfit for habitation.

It's doubtful that Cabot Oil and Gas will offer an answer for the demolition, and if

a tax-free contribution
to our efforts.

the Sautner know the reason - well, they won't be able to tell anyone, now will they?

Join Our Mailing List!

Video by Vera Scroggins



Former Sautner Home Demolition by
Cabot - 9-4 and 9-5-13



Post Demolition Sight of Former-
Sautner House - 9-11-13

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Thank you for your support!

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