

The Gravy Infusion

News, activities, and doings from the Loyal Jones Appalachian Center



Protecting Our Environment

As the seasons change and winter begins to unfold, we've been reflecting on the various organizations that advocate for nature and protect the environment right here in Appalachia. They play a crucial role in maintaining our health and the wealth of Appalachian biodiversity, which too many take for granted.

[Kentucky Heartwood](#) works to protect and restore the integrity, stability, and beauty of Kentucky's biotic communities through research, education, advocacy, and community engagement.

[Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition](#) organizes campaigns to fight against social and environmental injustice. They formed back in 1987 to stop a toxic waste dump/incinerator near Huntington, WV.

[Appalachian Voices](#) has been advocating for healthy communities and environmental protection for over 20 years and is a leading force in Appalachia's shift from fossil fuels to clean energy.

[Kentucky Natural Lands Trust](#) protects over 7,000 acres of wildlands including Blanton Forest Tracts, Colsoon-Fitzpatrick, Crooked Creek Preserve, Hyslope Preserve, Little Rock Creek Preserve, and Salt Trace Gap Preserve.

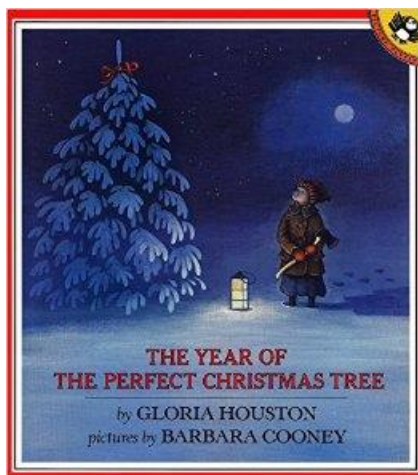
[Berea Forestry Outreach Center](#) provides a space for all ages to learn about the natural world. They act as a bridge between College and community, fostering an attitude of stewardship of the ecosystems and watersheds that sustain us all.

“We need forests
we can get lost
in; trees that
make us gape;
streams we can
drink from.

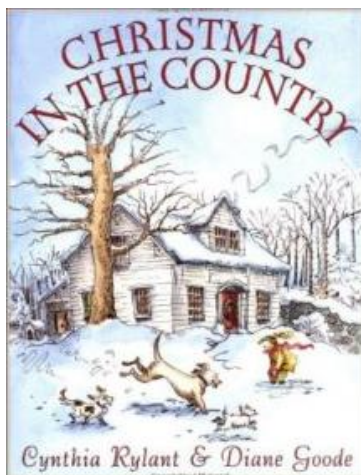
Wild places
sustain and
define us; we, in
turn, must
protect them.”

Kentucky Heartwood
Banner

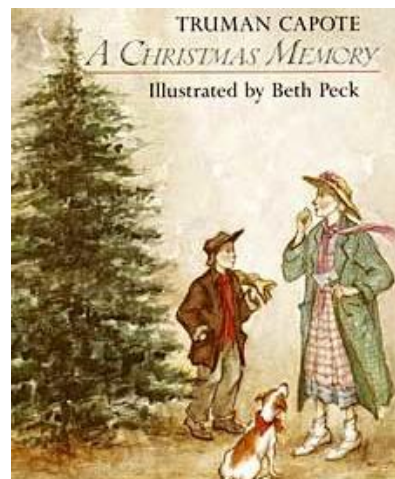
A Few of our Favorite Appalachian Christmas Stories.



The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree



Christmas in the Country



A Christmas Memory

A Bit of Christmas Trivia

Christmas trees were rare in Appalachia until . . .

- A. The first Walmart was built in Hazard, Kentucky in 1989
- B. Daniel Boone carried one all the way from central North Carolina to Kentucky
- C. James J. Audubon came through the region cataloguing trees
- D. The coming of coal camps

Find the answer on the Christmas tree.



Last year we featured local artist Laura Poulette for one of our Dinner on the Grounds. Laura talked about how she draws inspiration from the rich biodiversity here in Appalachia, and you can watch her presentation [here](#).

