



## Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program West Virginia

### What's Happening Right Now...



### Projects and Partners 2008

1. **Cacapon Oral Histories: Caring Voices, Protecting Lands**  
Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust
2. **National Coal Heritage Regional Trail Plan**  
National Coal Heritage Area
3. **Groundwork Wyoming County**  
Rural Appalachian Improvement League
4. **National Rivers Trail**  
Town of Ansted

#### About Us

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program provides staff time and technical assistance for 1-2 years to projects that need an extra hand to take the next leap forward to success. We work with citizens' groups and non-profits, helping them realize their vision of how to improve their communities, whether it's through a rail-trail, urban park, or a restored river. The National Park Service helps make it happen.



Monongahela River Water Trail Art Project

# Recent Success

## Monongahela River Water Trail Engages Community

The Mon River Recreation & Commerce Committee is engaging the community to promote the Monongahela River Water Trail. In 2007, RTCA helped update and publish 15,000 copies of a 70-mile water trail guide, funded by \$5,000 in community donations. Residents continue to paint cardboard fish for display and discussion, an ongoing community art project started in 2004. The 3rd Mon River Summit will be held in spring 2008.



Easement signing for 180 acre parcel

## Think Chesapeake, Act Locally: Lost-Cacapon River Conservation

RTCA is partnering with the Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Trust to carry out strategic, proactive conservation. In the past two years alone, the Land Trust signed 18 conservation easements totaling 2,925 acres, and including a joint agricultural conservation easement with the Hardy County Farmland Protection Board. As the largest land trust in the Potomac River watershed (and ninth largest in the Chesapeake Basin), the Trust is also supports the Chesapeake Bay Program through local conservation action.



Hiking the National Rivers Trail

"My work with the RTCA staff has made me aware that there is a wealth of highly motivated professionals that are at my disposal, all interested in assisting communities in their goals and programs to enhance the recreational assets of our parks and nearby communities."

- Mayor R. Pete Hobbs, Ansted, WV

## National Rivers Trail Links Two National Park Areas

The Town of Ansted has teamed up with RTCA to plan a new trail connecting the town center to two National Park units, New River Gorge National River and Gauley River National Recreational Area. RTCA coordinated GIS mapping, secured funds from the Challenge Cost Share Program, and created a database of stakeholders. Ansted is already reaping the social and

economic benefits of improved communication with the State Park management team, resources with NPS and new opportunities for tourism and commerce.



Cardboard fish painting community art project

### 2007 Success

Northeast Region

Miles of new trail (land): 25

Miles of new trail (water): 10

Miles of river restored or improved: 40

Acres conserved and protected: 500

Number of communities assisted: 125

Number of organizations established or enhanced: 150

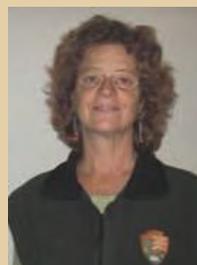
Dollars leveraged for our projects: \$75 million



[www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)

### We want to help you.

Could Your Project Benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance?



#### Peggy Pings, West Virginia Director

Peggy Pings has been an outdoor recreation planner with RTCA since 1995. While willing to learn and try anything new, her expertise is in rail-trails, water trails, ecotourism, organizational development, regional planning, mapping and public input workshops.

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