Saturday, October 4th:

Goin' With the Flow - Watershed Hike (Thurmond-Minden Trail)
9:30-12:00 2 ½ hrs – 3 miles

Take a stroll by the New River and learn all about watersheds on this three-mile walk along an old railroad grade. Meet at the Thurmond-Minden trailhead off State Route 25.

Bluestone National Scenic River Walk (Pipestem Resort State Park)
10:00 – 11:30 am 1 ½ hours – 2 miles

Meet a ranger at the bottom of the tramway at Pipestem Resort State Park to walk within Bluestone National Scenic River for a mile and return. Along the way, enjoy the flora and fauna and discuss the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the creation of Bluestone National Scenic River. Bring good walking shoes and $2.25 for the return tram ride.

Wild and Scenic River Talk (Grandview-Main Overlook)
2:00 – 3:30 pm

A ranger will present an informal program and exhibit about the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and Bluestone National Scenic River. Visitors are welcome to stop by at any time during the program.

Water Safety Program (Sandstone Falls)
2:00 – 3:30 pm

A ranger will present an exhibit and informal program on water safety. Visitors are welcome to stop by at any time during the program.

Ranger's Choice – Whitewater Rafting (Canyon Rim Visitor Center)
3:30-4:45 pm

A ranger will present an exhibit and informal program on whitewater rafting. Visitors are welcome to stop by at any time during the program.

Sunday, October 5th:

Water, Water Everywhere – Endless Wall Hike (Endless Wall Trail)
9:30 -12:00 2 ½ hours – 2 miles

Learn about the importance of water to the New River Gorge region on this 2-mile hike. Meet at the Fern Creek Trailhead.

Go Fish! (Sandstone Falls)
2:00 – 3:30 pm

A ranger will present an exhibit and informal talk about fishing and aquatic life of the New and Bluestone Rivers. Visitors are welcome to stop by at any time during the program.

Rangers Choice – Recycling (Canyon Rim Visitor Center)
2:00 – 3:30 pm

A ranger will present an exhibit and informal program on recycling. Visitors are welcome to stop by at any time during the program.

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations."

The intrinsic value of rivers to our country's heritage was recognized in 1968 with the passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This act established a new policy of protecting and enhancing the free flowing character of our nation's rivers and their "outstanding remarkable values." To be included in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, a wild, scenic, or recreational river must be a free-flowing stream, and the river and adjacent land must possess scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values.

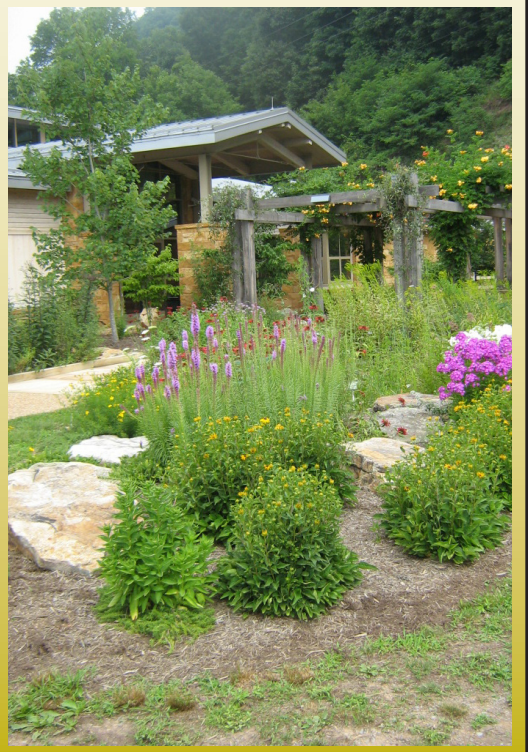
The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is the nation's primary river conservation authority, balancing the federal government's role in damming and channelizing rivers for power, flood control, and agricultural purposes. The act has served as a visionary template for a nationwide system of federal, state, and locally protected rivers providing a wide range of benefits to the American public.

Currently, 11,409 miles of our nation's rivers are protected by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This accounts for only about one quarter of one percent of our rivers. The National Park Service has management responsibilities for over 2,800 miles on 37 rivers across the country.

Bluestone National Scenic River became a part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers system on October 26, 1988.

Visit Sandstone Visitor Center:

A special Wild and Scenic Rivers exhibit will be on display at the Sandstone Visitor Center September 30 through October 2, and October 4 through 6. Sandstone Visitor Center also features interactive exhibits highlighting the natural and cultural history and preservation of the New River Gorge area, a twelve-minute film, a native plant garden, and floor map of the New River watershed. The visitor center is open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and is located east of Beckley, WV, just north of the I-64 and State Route 20 interchange (Exit 139).

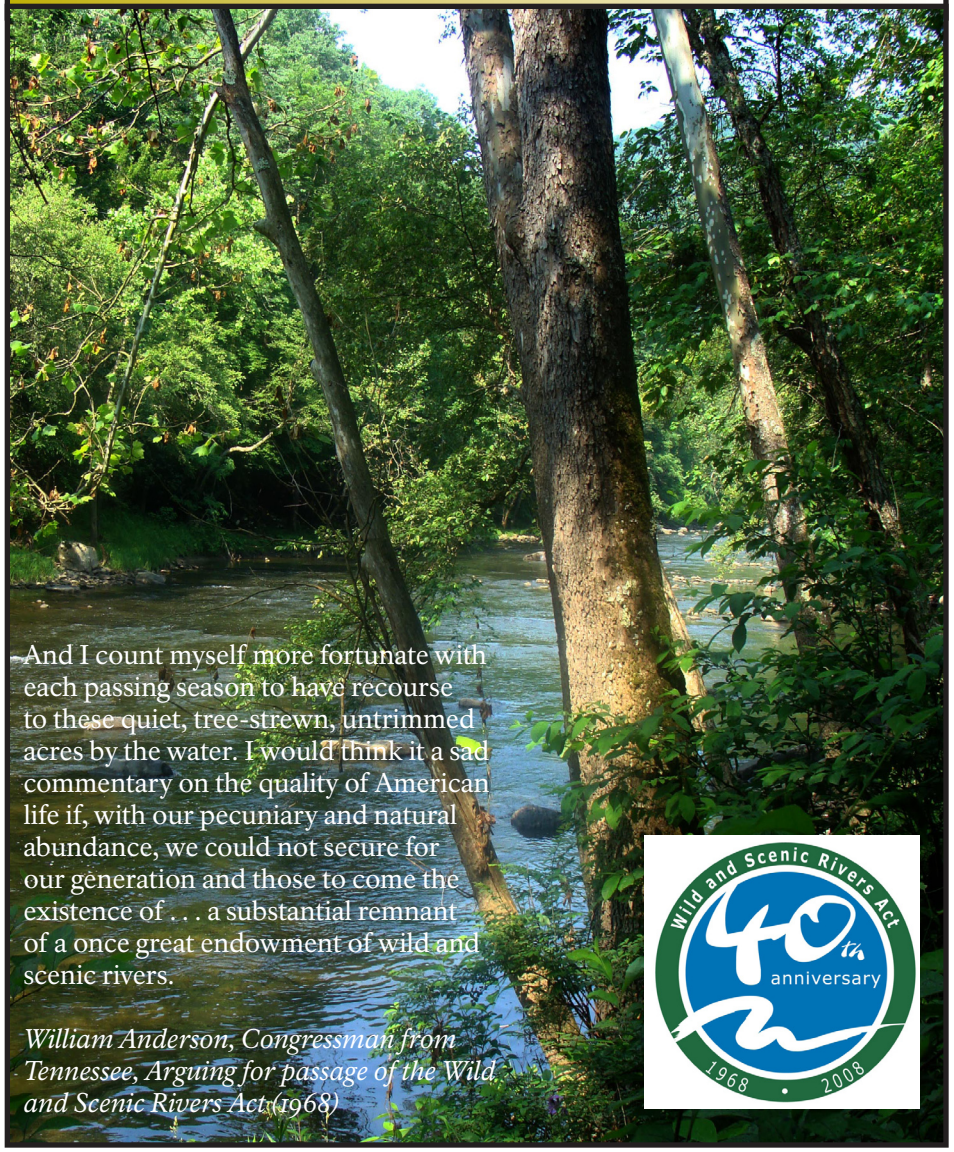


New River Gorge National River
Bluestone National Scenic River
Gauley River National Recreation Area

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

40th Anniversary Weekend Schedule of Events

October 4 - 5, 2008



And I count myself more fortunate with each passing season to have recourse to these quiet, tree-strewn, untrimmed acres by the water. I would think it a sad commentary on the quality of American life if, with our pecuniary and natural abundance, we could not secure for our generation and those to come the existence of . . . a substantial remnant of a once great endowment of wild and scenic rivers.

William Anderson, Congressman from Tennessee, Arguing for passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (1968)