**Reports for Green Sanctuary Meeting of August 18, 2024**

**George Banziger**

Save Ohio Parks

The following is an excerpt from a report by a Columbus television station about a rare victory for the Save Ohio Parks movement:

For almost a year now, members of [Save Our Parks](https://saveohioparks.org/about/) and other [fracking](https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/fracking) opponents have faithfully – but futilely – attended meetings of the [state commission](https://ohiodnr.gov/business-and-industry/municipalities-and-public-entities/commissions-and-councils/oil-gas-land-management-commission) that approves drilling for oil and gas under state lands.

Today, they were finally able to let loose with hoops of celebration as they learned the company proposing the [biggest fracking venture](https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/odnr/oil-gas/lmc/nominations/24-DNR-0004-Notice.pdf)yet –- more than 13,000 acres, or over 20 square miles, to frack under [Salt Fork State Park](https://ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/salt-fork-state-park) and Wildlife Area -– withdrew its application.

*Ryan Richardson, chair of the Ohio Oil & Gas Land Management Commission, announced Monday that a proposal to frack more than 13,000 acres at Salt Fork State Park was withdrawn late Friday - at least temporarily. (WSYX/Darrel Rowland)*

The victory may be short-lived, however, the company or another is free to seek drilling rights at any time for the area near Cambridge east of Columbus. The [Oil & Gas Land Management Commission](https://ohiodnr.gov/business-and-industry/municipalities-and-public-entities/commissions-and-councils/oil-gas-land-management-commission) –- stripped of any real oversight power by the GOP-dominated state legislature -– has [little choice](https://abc6onyourside.com/news/local/fracking-under-ohio-state-parks-on-agenda-for-the-first-time-at-monday-meeting-salt-fork-state-park-politics-katie-spilker-randi-pokladnik) but to OK a legitimately completed application.

The commission did approve fracking under two state wildlife areas: the entire [85 acres](https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/odnr/oil-gas/lmc/bids/24-DNR-0002-BidAdv.pdf) for [Keen Wildlife Area](https://ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/keen-wildlife-area) in Harrison County and 30 acres for [Egypt Valley Wildlife Area](https://ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/egypt-valley-wildlife-area) in Belmont County -- which is mostly reclaimed land from surface mining.

Citizens Climate Lobby

The Marietta Chapter of CCL continues to meet jointly with the Mahoning Valley Chapter and members of the Akron-Canton Chapter. Focus has been on the PROVE IT Act, a bipartisan bill before Congress, the Clean Energy Permitting Reform Act, and the recently introduced (in the House) Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.

ReImagine Appalachia

Below are the upcoming events sponsored by RA:

* Register and attend the [Grant of the Month (GOTM): Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) 101](https://reimagineappalachia.org/reimagine-appalachia-grant-of-the-month-club-presents-appalachian-regional-commission/?ms=CU), **August 29, 11 AM - 1 PM EST**
* Register and attend the [Community Conversations working group](https://reimagineappalachia.org/community-conversations-2/?ms=CU),  September 6, 11 AM EST
* Register and attend the Make it in Appalachia Series, (Listening Sessions - virtual):
  + [Appalachia’s Manufacturing Strengths](https://reimagineappalachia.org/make-it-in-appalachia-listening-series/?ms=CU) - **September 12th, 3 PM EST**
  + [Industrial Hemp](https://reimagineappalachia.org/make-it-in-appalachia-series-presents/?ms=CU) - **September 26th, 3 PM EST**
  + [Alternatives to Single-Use Plastic](https://reimagineappalachia.org/the-make-it-in-appalachia-series-presents/?ms=CU) - **October 10th, 3 PM EST**
  + [Green Building Products](https://reimagineappalachia.org/the-make-it-in-appalachia-series-creating-green-building-product-supply-chains-in-appalachia/?ms=CU) - **October 24th, 3 PM EST**
* Register and attend (virtually) the [2nd ReImagine Shuttered Coal Plant Summit](https://reimagineappalachia.org/the-second-annual-redeveloping-shuttered-coal-plants-summit/?ms=CU) on **October 16th, 12 - 3 PM EST.**

The recent news that the Washington County Commissioners have approved sale of the Gorsuch (coal-fired) Power Plant to Southeast Ohio Port Authority is an important event related to the last program offered by RA. I do not know yet what plans that Jesse Roush of SEOPA has for this plant, but he has been in communication with RA about some ideas.

Devola Pollinator Project

Per Rebecca Phillips advice, I have put the project on hold during the hot summer months and am waiting for some cooler temperatures to promote the planting of native seeds in Devola with the ultimate purpose of establishing a pollinator corridor.