

MCHS Fall Meeting

The Monroe County Historical Society has announced that the speaker for the upcoming QUARTERLY MEETING will be noted land trust conservationist Rodney Bartgis. The title of his presentation will be: "Conservation of Historic Land Trusts in West Virginia." The Conservation Fund and West Virginia Land Trust recently protected land that includes Monroe County's historic Greenville Saltpeter Cave. This presentation will discuss how this and other similar lands in the state are managed, their protection funded, and the potential roles of local historic groups.



Rodney Bartgis has over 30 years' experience in land conservation in West Virginia, including as former director of The Nature Conservancy Fund. He currently works on behalf of the Conservation Fund for which he negotiated the acquisition of the Greenville Saltpeter Cave properties.

The Fall Quarterly Meeting will be held **Sunday, October 8th at two o'clock** at Ames Clair Hall in Union. The public is invited.

Monroe County Historical Society

P.O. Box 465

Union, West Virginia 24983



Virginia Callison Engagement Party, Spring Valley Farm, 1940

Monroe County Historical Society

October 2023 Newsletter



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24983**

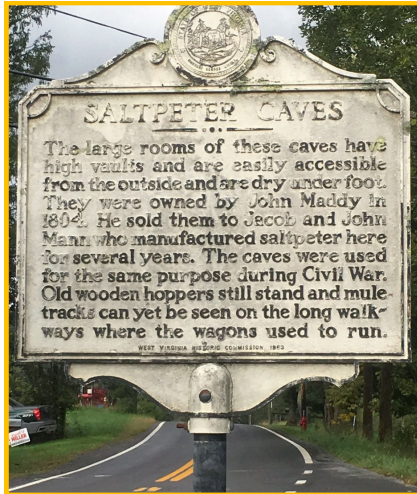
MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESERVING SPECIAL PLACES

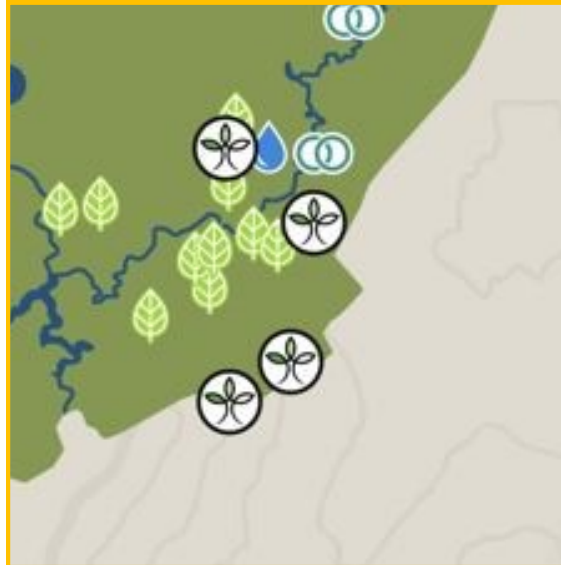
Monroe County has the privilege of having caught the eyes of several organizations working to preserve lands which are special places. Some work to preserve at-risk farmland, some to preserve conservation value, and some to preserve historic properties for future generations.

The latest Monroe County project protects the Saltpeter Caves. These caves are just outside Greenville, alongside Laurel Creek Road. Many locals have stories of the days these caves were open for exploration.

Inscription. The large rooms of these caves have high vaults and are easily accessible from the outside and are dry under foot. They were owned by John Maddy in 1804. He sold them to Jacob and John Mann who manufactured saltpeter here for several years. The caves were used for the same purpose during Civil War. Old wooden hoppers still stand and mule tracks can yet be seen on the long walk ways where the wagons used to run.



The West Virginia Land Trust has an interesting map on their web page which shows the various projects in which they are involved. Below is the Monroe County portion of the map.



If you'd like more information on organizations which work throughout West Virginia to preserve special places, you may wish to do research at:

The Nature Conservancy: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/west-virginia/>

West Virginia Land Trust: wvlandtrust.org

West Virginia Heritage Outdoor Conservation Fund: <https://commerce.wv.gov/boards-commissions/outdoor-heritage-conservation-fund/>

West Virginia Farmland Protection: wvfp.org

Indian Creek Conservancy: c/o Steve VanMatre, IEE1@aol.com



WELCOME AUTUMN!

Judy Wagner directs the Lusk Farm crew as they decorate the Historical Society's lamp post for Fall.