

Botetourt Community Partnership tours Ballast Point

By AILA BOYD

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The Botetourt Community Partnership, which is associated with Valley Conservation Council, held its final meeting of the year on Dec. 17 at Ballast Point Brewing Company. The meeting consisted of a review of all of the projects completed throughout the past year, as well as a tour of the brewing facility. "I feel like we've been very active," Genevieve Goss, coordinator, said of the past year to the members who were gathered. "I thank you for all your involvement." Over the past year, the organization:

- Hosted David Tickner, town manager

of Fincastle. He spoke about the progress and implications of the town boundary changes.

- Hosted Carl Absher, of the American Chestnut Foundation. He spoke about his organization's progress in breeding a disease-resistant American chestnut.

- Hosted Christine Lyons, of Roanoke Cement. She spoke about the company's youth environmental programs.

- Hosted Candace Monaghan, founder of the Sunflower Festival.

- Hosted a Greenfield walk on National Walk-on-a-Trail Day on March 27.

- Assisted Cub Scout Pack 211 in a "Conservation Good Turn" pollinator garden.



Partnership members discuss the brewing process with employee Brandon Harmon.

Photo By Aila Boyd

Allison Stanley, events coordinator at Ballast Point, gave a comprehensive tour of the facility. She explained that the beer that's brewed on site is shipped to bars and retailers up and down the East Coast, but not west of the Mississippi River. It started with a look at what Stanley said is commonly referred to as the "Brew House,"

a room which features two 150 barrel copper kettle brewing systems. The two systems came from Berlin, Germany and are not currently in use. The one barrel research and development room, which is newly up and running, was up next. "That provides our employees an opportunity to gain experi-

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