The Highlands Voice

Published monthly by the W.Va. Highlands Conservancy

Vol. 16 No. 9 Oct. 1984

Choices for ’84—Turning Point For Conservation?

Three Incumbents State Views

Three of the four Democratic incumbents in Congress answered the questions posed by a team of WVHC members about a range of environmental matters hot on the national agenda. Representatives Harley O. Staggers, Jr., Bob Wise, and Nick Joe Rahall returned the surveys.

First District Congressman Alan Mollohan did not respond.

Surveys were also sent to Republican challengers Jim Altmeyer, Cleve Bruner, and Margaret Millard, and none chose to reply.

The questions and candidates’ responses are listed below. Since the three are from different districts, readers can’t choose between them. However, the answers may provide some guidance for voters in November and constituents when Congress goes back into session.

Question: Do you think acid rain is a serious threat to West Virginia’s forests, forests, and streams, or do you consider acid rain a problem only for the Northeast?

Staggers (2nd District): Acid rain is a problem that we must face collectively as a nation. It should not be left to any one region or group to bear the burden of a solution.

Wise (3rd District): I do not consider acid rain as only a problem in the Northeast.

Rahall (4th District): Available scientific data does not indicate that acid deposition in itself is having an adverse impact on West Virginia’s forests, soils, and streams. With respect to aquatic effects, areas with low buffering capacity are the most prone to acid deposition. These areas are primarily in the Northeast. The possible impact of acid deposition on forests presents a more complex question. A number of studies indicate that acid deposition may be just one factor in forest decline with other factors being drought and faulty forest management. I have not seen any study indicating that acid deposition is having an adverse impact on West Virginia soils.

Question: Would you support legislative efforts to protect the environment?

Staggers: WVHC’s survey questions, some national agenda. Representatives Harley O. Staggers, Jr., Bob Wise, and Nick Joe Rahall returned the surveys.

First District Congressman Alan Mollohan did not respond. Both Republican John McCasky of Bridgeport and Democratic Charlie Brown of Charleston replied to the WVHC survey questions, giving Voice readers their chance to compare opposing candidate’s statements and positions on environmental issues.

Question: Would you continue the present practice of intervention in selected environmental issues when you feel the public interest varies from the administration’s views?

McCasky: Yes. The duty of the Attorney General is to represent the best interest of the State and that may or may not coincide with the administration.

Brown: As Attorney General I would vigorously resist any attempts by the Federal government to weaken or retreat from the environmental goals we have set for ourselves in West Virginia. Hopefully, the next governor of West Virginia will continue to press environmental issues, and I intend to work closely with him to encourage that. Though I intend to both privately and publicly pursue environmental concerns, it must, pragmatically, be recognized that the Attorney General is severely limited in his right to unilaterally initiate legal actions, in that he serves as the State’s attorney and must, for the large part, conform his activities to the desires and concerns of the different state agencies that are his clients.

Question: Would you continue, reduce or expand the Environmental Task Force in the AG’s office?

Brown: Presently, two different divisions within the Attorney General’s Office deal with environmental issues—the Environmental Task Force and the Environmental Protection Division. I believe the environmental goals and concerns of the State can be better served by combining the staffs of these two divisions into one blanket environmental group within the Attorney General’s Office. This would promote a more efficient (Continued on Page 6)

AG Candidates Respond

Both Democratic and Republican candidates for the Senate’s highest positions ignored WVHC’s efforts to hear their views on key questions facing voters in November.

U.S. Senate candidates Jay Rockefeller and John Raese remained mum on the same questions which were posed to candidates for the House of Representatives. Gaubertorial candidates Arch Moore and Clyde See failed to respond to questions directly related to the office they seek. A representative of the Moore campaign did reach a secretary at WVHC offices a few days after the deadline, asking whether it was too late to respond, but didn’t leave a return number. Five candidates for the House also remained silent. The Voice deadline was pushed back a week to allow for late arrivals.

Perry Bryant, WVHC Vice President for State Affairs, reacted to the low response rate. “I think this clearly indicates that these candidates, particularly for high office, have no interest in protecting the environment and they neither want nor deserve the support of the environmental community,” he said.

Unlike many organizations, WVHC does not endorse candidates based on their responses to questionnaires.

Question: Since West Virginia has no National Wildlife Refuge, do you favor the establishment of one? If so, where?

Wise: If it is determined that a refuge in our state would enhance wildlife in our state and nation, I would support the establishment of one in West Virginia.

(Continued on Page 2)

Nine Candidates Snub

WVHC Survey

Both Democratic and Republican candidates for the Senate’s highest positions ignored WVHC’s efforts to hear their views on key questions facing voters in November.

If these candidates had no staff assistance, I could understand their asking for time. But we all know that’s not the case. Most of them didn’t even bother to call. The questionnaire went to all candidates for U.S. House and Senate, Governor, and Attorney General. Of the fourteen surveys sent out, only five were returned.

“I think it’s admirable and important for candidates to take time to meet with a small group of senior citizens, for example, to hear their concerns and address their questions. But if the candidates have time for that, they should have time for the large statewide community of citizens who care about protecting our State’s future,” Ratliff said.

In a June Voice editorial, Gazette writer Skip Johnson wrote, “Nothing is so certain as death, taxes and the unlikelihood of anything being done environmentally in an election year. Or even talked about.” The comment proved true for a number of major candidates.
New York's Acid Rain Control Plan

by Linda Water

On August 12, 1984, New York became the first state to pass an acid rain control legislation when Gov. Mario Cuomo signed into law a plan to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions. From 1968 to 1980, estimated sulfur dioxide emissions were reduced in the state from 1.8 million tons per year to 840,000 tons, and, said Cuomo, New York must continue "to set the trend in the fight against acid rain." Approximately 25 percent of New York's acid rain problem is believed to be caused by instate emissions. The new law is designed to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions by 30 percent, or 245,000 tons, by the early to mid-1990s. The legislation requires a two-stage reduction of sulfur dioxide emissions, with a 12 percent or 100,000-ton reduction by 1988 with the remainder to be achieved by the early to mid-1990s. Utilities are free to determine how to achieve the reductions using such options as soil scrubbers and fuel switching.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation has estimated that compliance with the sulfur dioxide reductions will result in a monthly utility increase of about 20 to 40 cents. However, utilities claim the increases will be more like $3 to $4.

Three Incumbents

Rehali: I do favor the establishment of a wildlife refuge in West Virginia. Its location would have to be determined by local citizen input as well as from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Staggers: The possibility of a National Wildlife Refuge located in West Virginia should be explored. Many areas of our state are conducive to the operation of a wildlife refuge. However, economic impact and many other factors should be looked at first.

Question: How will you insure the elimination of toxic waste dumps and landfills in West Virginia and the development of safe alternatives?

Rehali: I am a strong supporter of reauthorizing RCRA and the Superfund laws which govern hazardous and toxic materials. Their proper implementation by the EPA is needed to remove this threat to West Virginians.

Staggers: I believe that the best method for cleaning up toxic waste is through the Superfund. In the past session of Congress, we passed legislation that will insure the elimination of toxic waste dumps and landfills in West Virginia and the development of safe alternatives.

Wise: The federal government, and through it the state government, must be held accountable for administering the Superfund Program, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and other laws that are relevant to cleaning up toxic wastes. I have been, and plan to continue to be, active in holding "their feet to the fire."

Question: Could you support an acid rain control bill that spreads control costs nationwide and mandates use of technology for cleaner burning of fossil fuels? If not, what acid rain control legislation would you support?

Staggers: Our approach to finding a solution for the acid rain problem must be comprehensive. Before we can adequately attempt a cure, we must be completely aware of the illness. In the case of acid rain, we must more adequately define the problem. I support legislation that will provide us with the funding to complete the research that is necessary to give us this definition. When we have defined the problem, then we must move forward toward a plan that will be effective and fair. All parties involved must work together on the solution. The ideal legislation at this point will be that which calls for research, cooperation and fairness.

Wise: Any acid rain program must speak to federal costs nationwide, and must take advantage of the best available technology. I must reserve my support of any legislation until I have had a chance to review it carefully, and listen to the arguments on both sides of the issue.

Rehali: I could not support an "acid rain" control bill which mandates technology nationwide, because southern West Virginia low-sulfur coals can meet emission standards without the use of costly scrubbers. My position on the first question has been, and will remain, the need for further study is needed before considering control measures. However, I have had to consider some type of control legislation based on the premise that some emission reductions in places like the Northeast may be necessary. In addition, I am responsible for a provision that has passed the House to provide the states with funds for the mitigation of lake and stream acidity through the use of technologies such as liming.

Question: If elected (re-elected), will you actively work for an acid rain control measure that both controls sulfur dioxide emissions and addresses the socio-economic impacts such control may have on West Virginia?

Wise: Any solution must do both, and it's a tall order. I must reserve my judgement of any proposal until I have had a chance to study it.

Rehali: Any "acid rain" control legislation, in my view, must address the socio-economic impacts of such controls.

Conservancy Intervenes in Hominy Creek Case

BY John Purbough
Mining Committees Chair

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy has filed a motion to intervene in an appeal filed by Westmoreland Coal Company before the Water Resources Board.

Westmoreland's appeal contends that the water pollution control permit issued for their proposed coal refuse pile on Blue Branch of Hominy Creek of the Gauley River (near Carl, Nicholas County) should be modified by allowing a greater concentration of iron and manganese discharge. They also want to be allowed to place coal refuse in the stream before completing diversion ditches.

The company contends DNR's division of water resources improperly considered Hominy to be a trout water when issuing a permit.

Brown: I do not believe the state should have absolute veto power over federally funded dams and hydroelectric projects. In some respects, this is like asking if judges should be allowed to sentence suspects without trial. The positions of the states should have been overwhelming impact in the consideration and planning of federally funded projects. There is cooperation between the federal government and the states, there will seldom be the need for the question of a veto.

Wise: Yes. Rehali: I do not believe the state should have absolute veto power. Recently, for example, a hydroelectric project was proposed for the Gauley River. This project has some support from the state government. I oppose the project because of its adverse impact on the Gauley—a different view than that held by the state—and for other reasons. The state must have a say in these types of projects, but not absolute veto power.
Life-Giving Rivers — Keeping Them Clear and Free

The Gauley — Too Good To Lose

Touted by Whitewater enthusiasts from around the country as the East’s premier river, the Gauley has been threatened twice in the last decade. While kayakers and rafters thrill to about 26 miles of almost continuous class IV and V rapids (IV requires expert skills, VI is the limit), Corps planners toiled at plans to submerge the raging torrents and reduce them to nothing.

In the late 60’s, the Southeastern Power Administration proposed a dam on the Gauley River at Swiss—an 800-foot dam creating a pool extending back to the Summersville reservoir. They envisioned a complex of pumped-storage generating facilities with a capacity for 2,550 megawatts of peak power by exchanging water between the Swiss and Summersville reservoirs with a regulator lake below Swiss. The proposal was adopted by the Corps of Engineers, and that agency conducted a technical study in 1975. Claiming such virtues as flood control, low-flow augmentation, flat-water recreation, and power generation, the Swiss Dam remained on the Corps’ active list until 1977.

Between 1971 and 1976, Conservancy members fought the proposal. Once the price-tag was finally attached—$4.1 billion—the project died a natural death.

But the Gauley still looked too good to pass up for hydropower, and the Corps launched an alternative plan. They settled on a plan dubbed LT-III, the so-called Long Tunnel Plan. This time, they suggested diverting water from the present Summersville Lake, channeling it three miles downstream through a tube into a generating plant.

This alternative would not have flooded the magnificent Gauley, only dried up three miles of it. Below the plant, the production regime would have caused daily surges of water release and daily dry spells.

But opposition from the Citizens for Gauley River and river lovers from around the country, as well as other factors, have put that plan on the shelf.

Nothing can happen to the Gauley, in terms of hydropower, during the three-year moratorium required for study while the river is considered for Wild and Scenic status. After that, more than one developer may be standing in line for a license to turn the roaring rapids into electricity.

In January, 1984, the Conservancy named the Gauley as one of three West Virginia rivers to be emphasized for protection during its focus on rivers. The story of the Gauley is far from over. West Virginia river lovers plan to make the ending a happy one.

Shavers Fork — If They Only Knew

The long and beautiful Shavers Fork has drawn Conservancy attention for many years. Draining nearly half of the 800,000 acre Monongahela National Forest, the watershed is almost entirely forested. The river begins just south of Cheat Bridge on State Route 250 and 92 and flows north. Many cold, mossy and rock-bottomed tributaries feed Shavers Fork. Some drain areas so remote that they provide habitat and breeding ground for both brook trout and black bear.

Just north of Parsons, the Shavers meets the Black Fork to form the mighty Cheat River. Until recently, Shavers Fork was considered one of the most important trout streams in the East. Today, however, although some undisturbed portions remain, the river is perhaps best described as little more than a strip-mined, logged, road-laced silt trap. Bob Burrell, a fellow member who devoted countless hours to the issues, repeated attempts to arrange open meetings near the Upper Cheat Valley were ignored by elected officials, the Corps, and dam proponents.

Senator Byrd championed the project, and Senator Randolph and former Congressman Staggers lent support.

As WVHC learned in the real purposes of the impoundment were to augment the flow of the Monongahela into Pittsburgh to permit year-round barge traffic, to discharge polluted water into the river, and to improve flood protection for the Monongahela River basin. But a pumped-storage electric power generating facility at the dam site was scuttled over the other reasons.

The Cheat Valley Conservancy, with 400 members in less than a year, and newsletters up-dating members were circulated regularly. Public float trips down the Cheat River in the area proposed for flooding began in 1970 as a means of focusing attention on the area.

In 1972, the Corps of Engineers was forced by citizen action to do technical studies and the privately created EPA had to act on water quality aspects of the project. West (Continued on Page 5)

The Little Kanawha — United FOLK Work for Clean Water

The Little Kanawha River begins in the hills of central West Virginia and flows to the western boundary of the state where it joins the Ohio River at Parkersburg. Since 1978, detailed study have focused on the first 40 miles of the river, from Upshur County to the Burnsville Lake in Braxton County.

The headwaters of the Little Kanawha consist of hundreds of small tributaries cascading out of the hills and down through rhododen­ dron and laurel thickets and an occa­sional farm. The pristine watershed insures pure water for household use, streams abundant with life, including cold-water trout, and fine fishing and swimming opportunities for local peo­ple and tourists.

But this watershed is fragile, the waters lightly buffered and the balance sensitive to the slightest changes. Demands for energy and ex­panded extraction of mineral resources threatens the delicate balance. If water quality

(Continued on Page 4)

A Win, A Loss — Rowlesburg and Stonewall Jackson Dams

Rowlesburg Dam

For miles around the Cheat River upstream from Rowlesburg lies an area of rare scenic beauty. From the more populous section of this country­ side with its array of undisturbed wildlife to the fertile and productive flatlands, the visitor is impressed by the pastural solitude, the tidy farms, and the historic significance of a land inhabited for centuries.

For years, however, there were plans to submerge this countryside under an impoundment so vast as to reach within several yards of Par­ sons. The construction of a massive high dam at Rowlesburg by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers seemed imminent when land acquisition and appropriations earmarked for Congress for dam construction were announced in 1969.

Residents doomed to be flooded out and other citizens quickly organized the Cheat Valley Conservancy. With the expertise offered by the WVHC, the key facts concerning the detrimental and utility values of such an impoundment were gathered, weighed and disputed.

Conservancy leaders traveled to Washington, D.C., Charlotte and Pitts­burgh (the regional location of the Corps) to attend meetings and explain

(Continued on Page 5)
Canaan — Our Refuge

One of the most unusual geographic features of the Allegheny Plateau is an oval-shaped high valley called Canaan. The floor of the valley lies at 3,200 feet and contains thousands of acres of swamps, bogs, and marshes. At the southern end of West Virginia’s year-round resort, Canaan Valley State Park, attracts visitors for downhill and cross-country skiing and ice skating in the winter. In warmer seasons, golf, swimming, hiking and other activities draw crowds in spite of uncertain weather.

Many West Virginians and visitors, however, know little of the virtually inaccessible northern half of this unusual high mountain valley that contains the largest wetlands of its kind to be found in the Eastern United States. With climate and vegetation generally more characteristic of Nova Scotia and Maine, some call the valley “a little bit of Canada gone astray.” With its remnant of Ice Age vegetation, Canaan boasts a history as interesting as its present-day beauty.

The diverse wildlife population includes black bear, snowshoe hare, red fox, mink, muskrat, eagle, osprey, heron, hermit thrush, hawk, a host of warblers, and deer herd and the state’s largest concentration of beaver. Vegetation includes alder, aspen, regenerating spruce and balsam forest, velvet-leaved blueberry and sedges (including three rare species), large stands of cotton grass, snowberry, and sundew standing out in the bogs.

Although still mysterious in many ways, many of Canaan’s resources have been recognized in conjunction with recent efforts to protect it as a National Wildlife Refuge, and counter efforts to destroy it by creating a 7,000-acre reservoir for pumped storage power generation.

While its ultimate fate remains unsettled, Canaan’s commercial popularity continues to grow. A private ski resort has been built to compete with the state facility. Second-home buyer and wildlife resources. Soil conditions and water quality are fragile and cannot withstand massive development. Further delayed protection can only bode ill for this “promised land.”

The Davis Power Project, the pumped-storage power generating plant proposed by the Allegheny Power Company (APC) in 1970, involves one of the most extended and intensive battles the Conservancy has ever waged. The Conservancy has consistently opposed the project, based on its recommendation of 1977, claiming that more power and flat-water recreation were needed in West Virginia. After the FPC issued a license in March 1979, the Conservancy appealed to the Federal Power Commission (FPC) in Washington in 1974 and spanned more than ten weeks. The Sierra Club joined WVHC in the case. After long deliberation and personal visit to the valley, the FPC staff and their admin­istrative law judge both recom­mended denial of the license. The judge recommended licensure of a smaller alternative, the “Glade Run Alternative,” opposed by the power company and conservation groups alike.

Despite these recommendations, the full FPC issued a license in March 1977, claiming that more power and flat-water recreation were needed in West Virginia. After the FPC issued this decision, the U.S. Department of Interior asked for new hearings on the basis that they were studying the valley for designation as a National Wildlife Refuge. The FPC refused these requests.

The persistent housing development could destroy the very beauty and natural richness which draws the second-home buyer in the first place. The generating plant, proposed in an era when demand growth projections seemed downright limitless, would be built in an era of carbon demand and excess capacity.

Efforts to protect Canaan Valley go on. In the 1984 session of the West Virginia Legislature WVHC supported a modest proposal for the establishment of a Canaan Valley Authority, a board of local residents and government officials empowered to control development which the valley could not sustain without environmental damage, a board which could have mapped a sensible future. But progress was slow.

To help the Conservancy continue the battle to save Canaan Valley, send your check (marked Canaan Valley) to WVHC, Canaan Valley Committee, P.O. Box 506, Fair­mont, WV 26554.

Little Kanawha

(Continued from Page 3)

deteriorates, so will the quality of life for the families connected with the water.

Core drilling for coal and seismicographic surveying for oil and gas deposits began in 1977. Applications for strip mine permits were filed in 1979. Area residents, in an effort to protect their homes, communities and wildlife, have joined forces to protect the integrity of the Little Kanawha.

High quality waters, jobs, coal, gas and oil are all intricately connected. WVHC proudly supports efforts of like-minded groups to fight for efforts to protect the integrity of the Little Kanawha. For more information about how you can help, write directly to BWL, P.O. Box 14, Rock Cave, WV 26234.
Corridor H is perhaps the most controversial of 22 planned Appalachian Development Highways funded through the federal Appalachian Regional Commission with cooperation of the 13 states in the region. Six of the 22 highways were located in part or entirely within the Mountain State. Some, such as Corridor D from Parkersburg to Clarksburg (U.S. 50), were completed early after the 1966 initiation date for the program.

Corridor H was designed to link I-79 near Weston and Buckhannon to I-81 in Virginia, near Winchester or Strasburg. Interest of the Conservancy focused on the portion of the planned highway between Elkins and the Virginia State line.

Planning for the entire route from I-79 to Virginia is said to have begun in the West Virginia Department of Highways (DOH) as early as 1967, although the route was spread over several years.

Despite the efforts of Conservancy members acting under the leadership of Presidents Bob Burrell and Dave Elkin, the DOH and Governor Arch Moore decided to "start in the middle" and construct 6.4 miles of Corridor H between Elkins and Bowden. By doing so, State officials ignored the separate recommendations of the Department of Natural Resources and the West Virginia Federal-State Relations Office in 1969 that a route north from Elkins via Parsons should be considered.

The decision to "start in the middle" will be more informed suggestions from various state agencies and citizens has since been the subject of much discussion and speculation. One can only note that the decision was made to get the project moving before the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 took effect. NEPA would allow West Virginia farmers quick access to markets on the east coast (thus FIA in 1968, increased tourist travel, and provide a quick north-south route.

The seven-mile stretch between Elkins and Bowden was the only portion of Corridor H the State was able to complete without being compelled to follow the dictates of the National Environmental Policy Act. Conservancy members and other conservationists opposed the plan as it surfaced and resurfaced through the years. So far, Congress has scrapped it as often as it has come up. The proposal may well surface again as the natural attractions of West Virginia draw more and more visitors from the crowded seashore cities.

Editor's Note: As we publish all we can squeeze in of Linda Elkin's fine retrospective of the WVHC in this section, we hope with last month's part you get the feel for where the organization has been. A lot is here, but in a way, a lot is left out. I'm sorry that the corridor conservancy has grown out of the feeling that we may be losing some of our last chance for a little piece at a time. The diligent work on acid rain, on mining regulations, on soil conservation issues, and on saving wonderful little spots like Hellhole Cave has not been reflected here. But they're an important part of the WVHC's recent history. And we haven't really told the story of the fun we've had, the friendships we've formed, and the visions we share for the future of West Virginia. Maybe there's one more four-page story to tell. Next month, where there's still plenty of space, I'll explain what I have in mind. Watch.
Checking off "Senior Citizen/Full-Time Student"

Make Checks payable to and Mail to: The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Suite 200 Virginia Street East Charleston, WV 25301

Shavers Fork

(Continued from Page 3)

Fork have turned coffee-colored and the pH has declined continuously.

J. Peter Grace, owner of the Mower Lumber Company, holds title to vast mineral acreages on the river. Corporations such as Chessie have leased much of the mineral rights. The key financial success on Shavers is no longer running the railroad or cutting down trees (although the young red spruce are still being harvested, often incorrectly). The exploitation of Shavers Fork for such diverse uses as mining, highway expansion, resorts and industry is now underway.

While the decision to industrialize the upper Shavers Fork watershed may be a sound short-term business decision, the consequences for the river's resources have been devastating.

Private ownership of minerals made efforts to correct excesses very hard. No public access means little public awareness and interest. Even potentially sympathetic legislators sometimes didn't know where Shavers Fork actually was.

Public agencies have often turned their heads. The Department of Highways under former Commissioner Burt Sawyers even dredged the river for gravel. The Forest Service offered little help, mainly because of the ownership problem. The Corps of Engineers not only refused to intervene, but even designed their proposed Rowlesburg Reservoir extra large to catch Shavers Fork's well-known silt. EPA and OSM regulations and their enforcement have turned out to be a joke when applied to Shavers Fork.

Over the years, wildlife biologists at the Department of Natural Resources have seemed to be the only ones concerned about what was happening there. Their records go back many years and adequately document year-by-year degradation.

While the odds against preventing total destruction of the watershed have always been great, the Conservancy has since 1972 been trying to do what it could to protect the river.

The explorers include legislators, high-placed employees in State agencies, newspaper editorialists who deride attempts to regulate the industrial process, and the bulk of the public who are reluctant to criticize anything done on private property to create jobs.

In the late 70's, Mower Lumber Company and its coal lessee, Enviro Energy, Inc., proposed to open as many as 33 mines in the Shavers Fork watershed. Following protests by the Conservancy and other conservation groups, DNR agreed to set limits to reduce the impact of the mining. They agreed to consider Enviro's request for permits only if no more than six mines were in operation at one time and a maximum of 22 miles of haul roads in use at any given time.

Following the 1979 agreement, DNR issued permits for the first six mines in 1980 and 1981. Because all but one of the mines was to be on federally owned surface, Enviro also sought permits from the Federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM), but began development of the first four mines prior to a decision on the federal permits.

WVHC attempted to prevent mining in this fragile area by seeking designation as an "Area Unsuitable for Mining" under provisions of the 1977 Federal Surface Mining and Reclamation Act. However, this petition was denied in 1981.

Subsequently, the WVHC has monitored the permit application process and persuaded OSM to attach specific requirements to the permit for protection of rare species, reforestation, and prevention of acid discharges from the mine openings.

Since 1983, the WVHC has been carrying on discussion with Enviro Energy, Inc., toward an agreement on monitoring water quality and aquatic life during mining operations in the National Forest areas drained by Shavers Fork.

Crossing

members actively participated in every phase of planning that followed. In 1975 and 1976 the DOH announced a series of alternative routes between Bowden and the Virginia State line (again ignoring the so-called Parsons alternative) and invited public comment. Conservancy representatives attended public hearings, worked with DOH officials and their consultants, assisted DNR personnel, and provided testimony to the U.S. Corps of Public Works Congress. In March, 1975, the Conservancy published a 20-page study document by Geoff Green and Lowell Markey, which was circulated to the public as well as political and agency decision-makers.

A victory of sorts was achieved when Governor Rockefeller announced the State would include the Parsons alternative in the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements. Once again the economic analyses indicated the Parsons alternative would be the least costly, not to mention the least disturbance to scenic highlights and outdoor recreation areas on other proposed routes.

During the environmental assessment stage, it became apparent that reduced federal funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission and highway construction in general would place completion of Corridor H on the "back burner." Nonetheless, the State announced its preference for a route in late 1982. The DOH chose the so-called Southern Route from Bowden, through Wymer and Mouth of Seneca to Petersburg, Wardensville, and connection with I-81 near Strasburg, Virginia. While discussion of final routing for Corridor H may be considered moot since the $300 to $350 million needed to complete it is not immediately foreseeable, the Conservancy continues to monitor the situation. The Seneca Trail Highway Association and many other public groups and public officials continue to stress the need for an east-west highway in northern West Virginia. In 1983, several State Senators and Congressmen Harley O. Staggers, Jr., announced support of further consideration of a Parsons alternative.

A Win, A Loss

Virginia's Governor Moore asked for a formal Environmental Impact Study. Funds for land acquisition and construction were frozen by the Corps until the studies were completed.

The project seems to have died a slow death. Although not deauthorized by Congress, no waivers of the National Forest Mining Act have been renewed since 1976. Hopefully, the Rowlesburg Dam proposal is a matter of history, and the Upper Cheat Valley owns the future.

STONEWALL JACKSON DAM

Plans for the Stonewall Jackson Dam proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers go back to the 1920's. This year the dam will begin to rise.

Various schemes for a high-rise flood control dam on the West Fork River above Clarkburg have been devised, but not until 1966 was the project authorized by Congress and set three miles above Weston in Lewis County.

 Authorized to cost $34 million and to include 9,925 acres, the project quickly grew and estimates now exceed $200 million, with a project area of over 20,000 acres. Besides its huge cost, objections to the reservoir concerned and the fact that prime farmland would be inundated. Less costly and less land-intensive alternatives were never adequately studied. Also, fully 50% of the project's purported benefits are for "water quality control," a method of pollution dilution outlawed by the Clean Water Act and its amendments. Plans also include a state park development. Critics believe West Virginia neither needs nor can afford another park. In 1981 the General Accounting Office projected a negative benefit to cost ratio, with only 85 cents in benefits for each one dollar spent.

In 1980 the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy joined the National Wildlife Federation and other groups in a lawsuit against the Corps. Among the claims, the suit charged that:

• The Corps used an illegal interest rate to calculate the cost of the project:
  • water quality benefits were included illegally because EPA never approved them;
  • the authorization expired in 1974; and
  • the present project scope exceed-
  • that authorized.

But the District Court ruled the plaintiff had no "cause of action.

The last fight to stop Stonewall Jackson Dam was waged in Congress, with 3rd District Congressman Bob Wise battling to delete funding for the project. The effort failed in 1983.

Road relocation for the project is underway, and construction is slated to begin this year.

The Highlands Voice

(Continued from Page 5)
How To Save Your Favorite River
by Ray Ratliff
River Conservation Committee Chair

A Citizen's Guide to River Conservation is authored by a whole crowd of people—Rolf Diamant, J. Glenn Eugster, and Christopher J. Duerksen. Yet this book is refreshingly free of cluttered language and clear in its message. It is an important conservation addition to the "do-it-yourself" literature.

The authors coalesce this detailed guide from their respective vantage points. Eugster, as Chief of Natural Resources Planning for the National Park Service, has a long string of credits for his efforts in assisting local groups interested in river conservation. He helped state and local groups implement plans for protecting the Maine rivers, the Mississippi headwaters, and the Upper Delaware river corridor, to name a few. Diamant is a land-use planner with the NPS in Boston; Duerksen is an attorney at the Conservation Foundation who specializes in land-use issues.

The book focuses on private initiative and local planning. These strategies—which range from nonprofit conservation action to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act itself—are always specific with case histories highlighted. The authors make the point early that we must tailor our particular strategy to our own particular region.

Common to all the strategies, however, is the presence of what looks awfully akin to what used to be called "community organizing."

"The programs described have been relatively successful at conserving river resources—but often through much trial and error. As much can be learned from the processes described here as from the final outcomes of any of the programs."

The river conservation strategies are but one topic of many, including a guidelines section, an issues inventory, and a discussion of basic conservation tools. Case histories accompany each of the major discussions, carefully footnoted.

In addition, this book contains 35 pages of appendices, with many useful tables and their sources. One of my favorites measures the values of river conservation. For example, a study of the Platte River (Colorado) revealed that non-user values exceeded the actual recreational use of the river, and that nonusers in the Denver metropolitan area were willing to pay an average of $26.00 a year for the option to make use of the Platte!

All in all, the owner of this Citizen's Guide will not only possess a "how to" book important in the field, but will come away from the reading in an upbeat mood. This mood change is critical in a collective sense, given the period of decline for conservation efforts under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

It's important reading for everyone serious about river conservation in West Virginia—and required reading for Rivers Committee members. See you on the river with the Citizen's Guide.

Available from The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy:

Care of the Wild, Jordan and Hughes
An excellent guide to home emergency care for wild animals. (Reviewed in August, 1984 Voice)

Hiking Guide to Monongahela National Forest and Vicinity, WVHC
Invaluable for hikers—includes trail descriptions, topo maps, 240 pages, with Dolly Sods, Otter Creek and Cranberry.

A Citizen's Guide to River Conservation, Diamant, Eugster & Duerksen
The how-to manual for people who want to save their beloved rivers.

This Christmas, make your gift last...

AUDUBON
WILD BIRD CALENDAR 1985
When you give any of these calendars this year, you'll give both to your friends and to the Conservancy.

Whether you choose the Audubon Engagement Calendar to keep track of busy schedules, or one of the three wall calendars, you'll be choosing a gift that will be enjoyed every day all year. And you'll be giving a big gift to the Conservancy too.

While your friends delight in the incomparable photos of the natural world, the WVHC will put our share of your gift to work for the conservation of this extraordinary earth.

At $6.95, can you think of any other gift that does as much?

Wild Bird Calendars
Nature Calendars
Engagement Calendars
Undersea World Calendar

No. of calendars x $6.95 =
Postage & handling up to 3 (Postage free for 4 or more)

1.50

Total enclosed

Return this order blank and your check to: WVHC, Suite 201, 1206 Virginia St., East, Charleston WV 25301

WVHC Election
issues. Although my background is more in organizational development and that's where I feel I'd be a real asset, the issues are what keep me involved.

Paul Brant, Princeton, WV
*WVHC member since 1983
*Presently Project Coordinator,

Honor Birds of Prey Oct. 7-13

What do eagles, hawks, falcons and owls have in common? They're all raptors—carnivorous birds that hunt their prey. These birds of prey have strong hooked beaks, sharp talons, and great value in the natural world.

They're also the reason the nation will observe "National Birds of Prey Conservation Week" from October 7 to 13, a week set aside to focus public attention on the value of protecting these birds and their habitat.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, the birds of prey most commonly known to Americans are bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, great horned owls, and American kestrels, or sparrow hawks. All are known to occur in West Virginia.
By Voice, memo, phone and street-corner communications. Nominating Committee Chair John Purbaugh has issued calls for nominations and volunteers for expiring positions as WVHC officers and directors. Conservative members attending the 6:00 a.m. October 14th membership meeting and election will choose the leadership positions. The Nominating Committee has elected five directors to rotating four-year terms.

To give members advance information about officers wanting (or willing) to continue active efforts for WVHC and others interested in serving, we asked for a bit of biographical information to pass along to Voice readers. Other nominations are welcome both, in advance and from the floor.

To refresh your memory, officers were last elected in January 1983. The group decided to move the elections to October to coincide with the well-attended Fall Review, so the current terms have run less than the usual two years. The senior vice president position was established in January 1984. Three of the five directors-at-large were named this year to fill unexpired terms.

For President
Larry George, Huntington, WV
• Member, WVHC Board of Directors since 1977
• Member, State Water Resources Board 1978-1982
• A registered professional civil engineer formerly employed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers
• Majority Counsel to State Senate, 1984 Session

I appreciate the consideration of the membership for reelection as the Conservancy’s president, an office to which I was first elected in January 1983.

As president, I have pursued three fundamental goals:
1) expansion of the WVHC’s membership in all areas of WV in the quality of both conservation issues and outings programs;
2) a politically moderate approach to natural resource management which encompasses not only the traditional environmental/aesthetic concerns, but also the state’s compelling needs for economic growth and social progress;
3) effective, centralized administration of the managerial, financial and program aspects of the Conservancy’s operations.

If reelected, I will continue to pursue these goals to achieve the Conservancy’s potential as West Virginia’s leading conservation organization.

The second and third goals have already been implemented to a significant degree. Opening a “new chapter” on Premo’s Charleston office, with ancillary improvements in communications, membership programs, and volunteer time saving, have cut our staff and nearly complete overhaul of Voice production have finally alleviated age-old difficulties which almost became our nemesis. Vice President Tom Michael has chaired the Management Review Committee which developed the new administrative structure and in 1983 completely rewrote the WVHC Bylaws, providing for direct election of all officers by the membership and giving the organization a new management structure.

The Conservancy’s influence with the Legislature, the state’s congres­sional delegation and various other officials has grown steadily through the efforts of Vice President Perry Bryant in Charleston and Vice President Lin­del Winter in Washington. The WVHC’s ability to recognize and work with both conservation and economic goals and its willingness to negotiate first has, and will continue to enhance our ability to influence resources. West Virginia conserva­tionists must accommodate economic growth, foster working relationships with business and build coalitions with educators, coal miners, labor and consumers if we are to have a role in shaping the state’s future.

Our success in achieving the first goal, membership as a conservation tool, has been somewhat more modest. The quality of our issue and outings programs has grown along with the effectiveness during the past two years, a direct function of the number of Conservancy volunteers and the quality of their labor. Our present membership goal is to reach 1,000 members by February 1985 through the most intense, comprehen­sive membership drive in our history. If the WVHC can fulfill this goal, the resulting volunteer and financial base will sup­port the critically issue and outings pro­grams necessary to assure our role as a state conservation leader.

The WVHC’s new office and staff is intended exclusively to support the ef­forts of Conservancy members by pro­viding quality administrative ser­vices, Voice production and lobbying assistance in the Legislature. This new capability will not supplant the roles of volunteers in advocating the Conservancy’s goals; rather, it will be an extension of the program necessary to assure our role as a state conservation leader.

It is essential that individual Con­servancy members take a greater role in working in our various programs. This will be the key to our success during the coming years.

Thank you for your support during my past two years as Conservancy President.

For Senior Vice President
Tom Michael, Lost Creek, WV
• WVHC member since 1979
• Attorney, private practice in Charleston
• WVHC’s outdoor program includes environmental litigation

WVHC should grow into the voice for environmentally sound resource development.

For Vice President for Federal Affairs
Linda Winter, Washington Grove, MD
• WVHC member since 1979
• B.S., Wildlife Resources, Wvu, 1978
• Currently Special Assistant, Natural Resources Department, League of Women Voters Education Fund, Washington, DC
• Ran canoe outings and wrote The National Wilderness Preservation System: A Status Report for the League

It has been my pleasure to serve as Vice President for Federal Affairs of the WVHC since May 1984. I have continued to work on the Conservancy when, while Secretary of the WVU Chapter of the Wildlife Society, these two organizations joined forces in an effort to achieve wilderness status for the Cranberry Backcountry and wildlife refuge status for Canaan Valley. Impressed by the dedicated leaders and their past accom­plishments, I have remained a member of the Conservancy ever since.

From 1979 to 1980 I was a part-time graduate student with emphasis in wildlife resources at Pennsylvania State University. While there I researched literature on bird habitat requirements, conducted several bird surveys by myself and assisted in bird banding and bird feeder research.

Wildlife and natural resource issues have been a lifelong area of in­terest for me. My hobbies include bir­ing, backpacking and canoeing, and I am currently a member of 11 env­ironmental organizations.

The position of Vice President for Federal Affairs has offered me many valuable experiences and oppor­tunities. I’ve submitted articles mon­thly for publication in The Highlands Voice. I maintain contact with the state’s congressional delegation and the staffs of several national conser­vation organizations. I have been able to represent the Conservancy at several excellent conferences in­cluding: Acid Rain ’84 in Manchester, NH; the Central Atlantic Environ­mental Leadership Conference in Roanoke, VA; and the Ninth Annual Na­tional Conference on Rivers in Washington, DC.

If reelected when I first became interested in serving as Vice Presi­dent, I really didn’t know what I was getting myself into. But now I do—enjoy­ably as I continue the work I started.

For Secretary
Losli Kosier, Morgantown, WV
• WVHC member since 1979
• Secretary since 1980
• Presently RN, Fairmont General Hospital

I have filled the office of secretary for two terms to the best of my ability. This is the way I feel I can contribute the most to conservation needs in West Virginia as the demand on my time by my profession leaves no time to attend or participate in hearings or other activities needed to help preserve West Virginia.

In this family and I were in­volved in the years of promoting the Cranberry Wilderness bill. Mainly, I am now involved with promoting the Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide and answering many questions on hiking in West Virginia. My hus­band, George and I spend time preserving and建议ing different trails and hikes for a variety of groups and individuals.

For Treasurer
David Elkinaton, Morgantown, WV
• WVHC member since 1970, Presi­dent 1973-1974, Treasurer since 1980
• Presently Executive Director, Prickett’s Fort

I am willing to continue to serve as treasurer if elected. I have served for the past four years, know the procedures and feel I have assisted the Conservancy to gain a good return on its assets. My belief that the Con­servancy is an important group to West Virginia has been significantly changed since my first year of membership 14 years ago. It still is a pleasure to serve the organization and its dedicated supporters.

For Director-At-Large
Bill McNeel, Marion, WV
• WVHC member since 1979, long­time board member
• Editor, Pocahontas Times

Cindy Bann, Roark Cave, WV
• WVHC member since 1979
• Con­servation Council appointed representative to DNR’s Recreation Advisory Committee
• Active in Mountain Stream Monitors (MSM) and Friends of the Little Kanawha (FOLK)
• Researcher and wrote “‘Ski Development in Trout Country’ for Trout Unlimited

Ray Ratliff, Jr., Liberty, WV
• WVHC member since 1973, River Conservation Committee Chair
• Attorney, private practice; public interest specialty
• Co-founder of Appalachian Research & Defense Fund, a Charleston public interest law firm
• In Counsel in Davis Power Project case involving Canaan Valley; Chief Counsel for Cranberry Wilderness litigation

Your typical friendly public in­terest lawyer, I’ve headed up several fairly successful environmental cases in the past ten years. For the past ten years, I’m in charge of the Bluestone River pilot project. I also see my job as one of increasing Conservancy contact in the rivers community (river rats, canoe and whitewater enthusiasts, and the like).

Adrienne Worthy, Charleston, WV
• WVHC member since 1982
• Head of Citizen Action Group’s funding and outreach program 3½ years

During my work at CAG I actively followed the Legislature and worked with Perry Bryant on environmental (Continued on Page 7)