Legislature Ignores Conservation Issues

The 1987 regular session of the West Virginia Legislature concluded on March 14th, without acting on any major conservation issues. The state's fiscal crisis dominated the session and hamstring the Legislature which was compelled to extend the regular session by five days simply to pass the FY 1988 state budget. Beverage container legislation, hunting and fishing license fee increases and the reorganization of the Department of Natural Resources had appeared to be the major environmental measures at the beginning of the session. But they joined teacher pay raises, tax reform, the growing state deficit and nearly every other major policy question in being deferred by the Legislature.

Other conservation issues which were expected to be taken up, including reform of the problematic 1983 Department of Energy bill, conservation easements and an ethics act in government law, never saw the light of day.

Even a bill to transfer the Greenbrier River Trail from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Natural Resources failed to pass. The bill was intended to circumvent the hunting ban in state parks and, although unopposed, fell victim to the lethargy of the session.

The lack of Legislative action required the Conservancy's representatives, including WVHC President John Parburh, to maintain only an intermittent presence at the Capitol this year. The 1987 Legislative session saw fewer demands upon the Conservancy than any in recent memory.

With Governor Moore expected to veto the FY 1988 budget, the Legislature will reconvene on April 4th in another attempt to reconcile declining state revenues with state spending. The hunting and fishing license fee increases are revenue generating and therefore may be considered at that time.

Legislation to require return deposits on beverage containers, better known as the "bottle bill" was the session's primary initiative by the state's citizens groups. This perennial bill has been a favorite of conservation groups who want to decrease beverage litter. West Virginia Citizens Action Group and the West Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club organized a coalition of several dozen organizations, including the Conservancy, to lobby for the bottle bill.

But the traditional opposition of business and organized labor, primarily the AFL-CIO and the West Virginia Manufacturers Association, succeeded in preventing the bill from even reaching the floor of the House or Senate. Opponents expressed concern for increased retail prices for beverages and decreased employment in the glass industry, a major state industry.

During the 1986 Legislative session, then Conservancy President Larry W. George requested the House Judiciary Committee to fund a study of the economic and employment impacts of proposed container legislation. At that time, George testified before the Committee that the available information was not adequate to assess the effectiveness and economic impact of a bottle bill. The Judiciary Committee decided to pass the bill or fund the requested study.

The Conservancy supported the bottle bill this year, albeit with continuing concern for its economic impacts and effectiveness. While the bill appeared dead late in the session, House Speaker Chuck Chambers (D-Doddridge) proposed a comprehensive state solid waste disposal program.

Many opponents had criticized the bottle bill for addressing only that portion of the roadside litter problem, estimated at 25 to 45%, related to beverage containers. West Virginia has no comprehensive solid waste programs and many counties have no landfill or trash disposal service. Solid waste disposal therefore becomes a personal and problematic responsibility, often disregarded, in most rural areas of the state. Speaker Chamber's proposal was intended to address these concerns, but the lack of time and state funds discouraged Legislative action.

George, a former Senate Majority Counsel, concluded that, "the political realities make Legislative approval of the bottle bill quite unlikely without a major improvement in the state's economy. The state's conservation groups will have to pursue alternatives such as Speaker Chamber's solid waste program if they are to succeed in decreasing roadside litter in West Virginia."

The Conservancy submitted a bill to recognize the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This bill included transfer of regulatory authority for water quality and hazardous waste from the Water Resources Board to the DNR in statutory recognition of the Hazardous Waste Division created earlier by executive order and reform of the Public Lands Corporation were also included.

A similar proposal last year was controversial because it authorized the DNR Director to replace the Attorney General's staff with in-house counsel and attempted to.

continued on page 6)

Power Project in Canaan Receives Setback

On March 24, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., rejected the Monongahela Power Company's request for a rehearing on a lower court's decision concerning the building of the Davis Power Project in Canaan Valley.

Nine years ago, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers denied a 404 permit for the company's Davis Power Project. Monongahela Power has challenged the authority of the Corps to handle permits to hydroelectric projects licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Monongahela Power spokesman Bud Stout called the appeals court ruling a setback but said the company still wants to build the plant. The power company filed an appeal on April 13th in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Buckhannon-Tygart Temporary Reprieve

by Richard DiPietro

A controversial mining application by Eanes Coal, Inc., was placed on hold by Governor Arch Moore on March 12, 1987. The next day, Eanes withdrew the proposal for the disturbance of 500 acres of highly acid-producing Kittanning coal on sensitive tributaries of the Buckhannon River in southern Upshur County. A site visit and a public hearing on the proposal, known as Job No 11 (see articles in previous two editions of the Voice) had been scheduled for the following week. As a result of the withdrawal, the visit and hearing were cancelled.

A spokesperson for the Buckhannon-Tygart River Coalition expressed relief and guarded optimism in reaction to Eanes's withdrawal of its proposal. Acknowledging that the withdrawal is a victory for citizens interested in protecting the river, she cautioned that the application may be resubmitted any time. During this respite, she continued, efforts must be maintained and expanded to educate the public and public officials about the economic value of a healthy Buckhannon-Tygart river system and about the threats to that system of mining in the Kittanning coals of Upshur County.

Members of Congress Get "Green Grade"

The League of Conservation Voters, the nation's oldest and largest environmental political committee, released "green grades" for the 99th Congress at a St. Patrick's Day press conference in Washington, D.C. New England Members of Congress received the highest grades, while the Rocky Mountain delegation received a failing score of just 30 percent.

The West Virginia average score for House Delegates was 53%; for Senators, 50%. Harley Staggers, Jr., (D), led the West Virginia Delegates with a green score of 66%. Bob Wise (D) had a 60% score and Nick J. Rahall, 58%. Last on the West Virginia list was Alan Mollohan with a 32% score. Both Senators Byrd and Rockefeller received scores of 50%.

The League of Conservation Voters' environmental scores were based strictly on House and Senate Members' recorded floor votes for the 99th Congress. Votes covered a wide variety of issues, from toxic waste clean-up, to conservation jobs for youth, to expensive federal subsidies for environmentally destructive "pork barrel" highway, water and energy projects.

According to League Executive Director Allen Meyer, the annual ratings serve as the best measure of Members' performance on environmental issues. "In 1986," Meyer pointed out, "more candidates than ever used the environment in their campaigns, clearly showing the importance of these issues to voters. But many of these candidates actually had poor environmental records. We used the League ratings to expose these hypocrites and set the record straight."

Meyer cited last year's Colorado Senate race, where former Representative Ken Kramer paid a price at the polls for trying to misrepresent his consistently poor environmental voting record. "Local conservationists made skillful use of the League's ratings to expose Kramer's bad record and to compare it to Tim Wirth's excellent record," Meyer said.

The environmental group gave its top awards to three Senators and eight Representatives who scored 100 percent. "These elected officials have not only voted with us but have fought hard against this administration's attack on the environment," stated Dr. Brent Blackwelder, League President.

Top awards went to Senators Leahy (D-VT), Stafford (R-VA), and Proxmire (D-WI), and Representatives Bosser (D-CA), Waxman (D-CA), Schroeder (D-CO), Frank (D-MA), Markey (D-MA), Studds (D-MA), Kostmayer (D-PA), and Kastenmeier (D-WI). "Honorable mention" awards were given to Senator Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Representatives Vento (D-MN) and Weiss (D-NY) for their near-perfect 99 percent ratings.

With many Members of Congress running for President, the League also noted that environmental grades for likely (continued on page 3)
—Mountain View—

The Beautiful Valley River

by John Purbaugh

In a state with so much beauty, it is difficult to pick out the most beautiful this and that, but many look to him long and broad Greenbrier Valley for such titles.
(Wildwater West Virginia, by Burrell and Davidson.)

The lovely Greenbrier begins in the high mountains of Pocahontas County as two troutwater forks, which join at Durbin and flow for one 100 miles past Cass and Marlinton, where the valley opens to the rich bottom of Lewisburg and Ronceverte, through the big bend at Talcott to join the New next Hinton.

At the January Board Meeting, the Conservancy voted to seek protection of the Greenbrier as a national scenic river through its addition to Congressmans Rahall's West Virginia National Interest River Conservation Act in this session of Congress. Rivers Conservation Committee Chair Ann Gentry has been leading an effective grass roots effort to demonstrate support for our proposal to Congressman Harley Staggers, Jr., in whose district the protected sections above Caldwell are located.

There is tremendous support throughout the valley for protection, but opinion is divided in Marlinton. Some residents hope the Army Corps of Engineers will build a huge dam to protect the area from recurrence of 1985's devastating flood. The Corps is studying several flood control alternatives, including smaller dams, levees, and other local protection projects. The Corps has wanted a big dam at Marlinton for 20 years, but there's no indication that such a structure, which would flood upstream to almost Cass, can be justified by a positive cost/benefit ratio. Also, Congress is more stingy with flood control funds these days, requiring local contributions to pay a big part of the multi-million dollars the monster would cost. Some flood protection measures for Marlinton are clearly needed, but absolute protection from another Noah's flood by a Hoover-sized dam isn't likely to be economically feasible. The Conservancy is on record as supporting flood control measures which wouldn't disrupt our goals to protect the river.

Other Pocahontas County residents outside Marlinton support river corridor protection, because of the vital part the river, the river trail, and their ever-growing use for recreation plays in the tourist-dependent economy of the county. Valley residents upstream from Marlinton, whose farms and homes would be flooded by a big dam, understandably want the river protected in a way that would preclude a big dam.

In this issue, it's important that all voices be heard. Write or call Harley Staggers, Jr., or your Congressman urging the protection of the Greenbrier as a national scenic river. Talk about the issue with your friends, and call or write Ann Gentry at the address listed in the roster to offer your help.

The brightest spots in the Conservancy's history are our leadership in establishing the Dolly Sods, Otter Creek, Cranberry and Laurel Fork wilderness areas, so that these special places can forever fill man's need for solitude. Our new challenge is to accomplish a similar type of protection for rivers, so that their natural power and beauty can remain the lifeblood of the mountains.

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A Reminder To Express Views

Dear Editor:

As most of us know, our Representative Nick Rahall recently introduced the West Virginia National Interest River Conservation Act. This important legislation will help to preserve several rivers in our state.

Representative Rahall is also the Chairman of the House Committee on Mining and Natural Resources. He says that he has not heard of serious mining pollution problems in West Virginia recently. As concerned conservationists, let's write to Rahall's office first to thank him for introducing the River Conservation Act, and secondly to tell him about some of the serious mining pollution problems that exist in our state. He needs to know that we care! His address is:

The House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515
Joan Sims
Morgantown, W.Va.

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Amendment to High Risk Activities

In The Highlands Voice, February 1987, I noted the article by Sayre Rodman entitled “High Risk Activities in WV State Parks.” As a result of the public hearing we conducted and the input we received on the Rules Governing Public Use of West Virginia State Parks, Forests, and Hunting and Fishing Areas, we amended Section 2.8.

The amended section reads as follows:

2.8 Recreational activities including, but not limited to, rock climbing, rappelling, hang gliding, parachuting, parasailing, spelunking and other like or similar recreational activity that require a high degree of specialized training and equipment are permitted, except where prohibited by posted signs. Persons who intend to participate in any such activity shall register at the area superintendent's office before engaging or participating in it and specify where it will take place on the area and give evidence of having proper training and equipment for the activity. Participants in such activities assume full responsibility and liability for any risk or injury related to the activity. This rule does not apply to golfing, skiing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, or fishing.

Scenic rock overlooks and vistas are for providing scenic beauty and aesthetic benefits for guests; therefore, they shall not be used for, or disfigured by, any recreational activity.

This provision was put into effect as of February 18, 1987. We have received very favorable comments on the amended version. We believe it answers the concerns expressed about the original provisions.

Sincerely,

Gary Worthington, Voice Editor

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Include The Greenbrier In West Virginia Rivers Bill

(Ann Gentry, chair of the WVHRC River Committee, wrote members encouraging them to write to Representative Harley Staggers, Jr. The following comments are taken from the letter sent to U.S. Representative Nick Rahall, all of whom support some form of protection.

Photo by Skip Deegans
ANN GENTRY gives the river report to John Purbaugh.

Great Greenbrier River Race

On Saturday, May 2, the first-ever Great Greenbrier River Race will be held in Pocahontas County. The relay race will involve canoeing, bicycling and running, and teams from all over the area are expected to participate. Each team will need a bicycle (with fat tires), a canoe or kayak, and an oar, and the 17-mile course will begin near Glover Lick, wind down the Greenbrier River and the Greenbrier River Trail, and end near Marlinton.

The section of the river to be canoed is not too difficult, and race sponsors, The Greenbrier River Bike, Bike and Ski Trail Association, anticipate many novice entrants. Most of the course will be done by the bicyclists. A short endurance horseback race will proceed the relays, and then the winning horse crosses the finish line, the relay race will begin. Prizes will be awarded to winners of the relay as well as canoe, bicycle and kayak divisions.

A picnic in conjunction with a local celebration of Pocahontas Pride featuring live music follows the race.

The entry fee for the relay is $70 per person, and each entrant will receive a special T-shirt commemorating the event.

For those who will be staying in the area, local outfitters will guide hiking, canoe, and bicycle trips in Pocahontas County on Sunday. For more information about the race, contact Gill Willis, (304) 572-3771 or Leslie McCarty, (304) 653-4722.

The National Parks and Conservation Association, a private organization formed in 1919 to protect, promote and improve the National Park System, has issued a failure report card to the National Park Service, claiming that in its eight-year tenure in the New River Gorge the National Park Service has done little for the people of West Virginia. The report, "Water Through the National Park Service's Fingers," charges that "the National Park Service has delegated the (NRGNR) to a second-class status." The report gives the NRGNR its lowest mark in land acquisition. Congress authorized 62,000 acres for the park but as of February 1987, the date of the report, only 6,000 acres had been acquired by the NPS. Congress, however, had appropriated $6 million for land acquisition, but the NRGNR is still sitting on the funds. According to the report, what the people are left with is "an imaginary park, unprotected and underutilized by an unreasonable boundary." Furthermore, the report points out, the NPS approved in July of 1984 a revised Land Protection Plan which curtailed fee acquisition by 20,000 acres and suggested local zoning in the area as a means of reducing the recommended area of protection. Only one of the three counties through which the New River flows has a zoning code; the Conservation Association says that only a few laws can offer little, if any, protection for the park. They recommend that the NRGNR do away with the 1984 Land Protection Plan and pursue an expanded fee acquisition plan.

Little can be accomplished in the area of park development until the park itself is protected. Yet, since the NPS owns only 10% of the proposed land, historic structures have not been stabilized and areas for visitor use have not been extensively developed. The New River Gorge National River, the report states, offers "perhaps the best opportunity in the nation to preserve and interpret the rich history of railroading and coal mining in the eastern United States." Use has been made of coal mining camps and rail yards. Outside the state park included in the NRGNR, there are no trails, overlooks or campgrounds complements. Despite the land acquisitions, delays, little development, and limited budget support for interpretation, the report does give good marks to the interpretive division of the NPS at NRGNR. The report thought the placing of NPS interpreters on the Amtrak Cardinal during its run through the gorge was "imaginative, resourceful, and highly successful." The "New River Neighborhood" program and the oral history projects were also praised. The main problem in the interpretive division seems to be the lack of funds needed to hire additional staff.

In the area of resources management, the report calls the NRGNR a "bright spot," and the "NPS aggressive approach to protecting the National Park deserves high praise." This situation should be applauded, encouraged, expanded, and most importantly, firmly reinforced by the regional and Washington offices.

In other areas of resources management, the NRGNR did not receive such glowing marks. The NPS has, according to the report, "failed to complete a plan for managing the totality of the river environment." In setting usage limits for commercial rafting companies, for example, the report points out that the NRGNR continues to defer to the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources. The NPS is now, however, close to finishing a River Management Plan which was developed by a 45-member Citizen Task Force and which addresses the topic of visitor use. The report also states that the NPS should be more aggressive in dealing with the Army Corps of Engineers about the fluctuating water releases from Bluestone Dam, located just upstream of the park's boundary. The Conservation Association says the Army Corps of Engineers can coordinate water releases with the needs of downstream recreation, namely whitewater rafters.

The water quality of the New River continues to deteriorate, according to the report. "Both inside and outside of the National River boundaries, activities such as timber harvesting, mining, and municipal development influence water quality through erosion, acid mine drainage, and sewage pollution," the report states. Although some water quality work has been done, the NPS "has been reluctant to tackle the water quality problem for fear of adversely affecting the recreation economy based on New River. Water quality data goes unpublished, and water quality goes unprotected."

In an effort to provide a regional context to resource management, the report also suggests extending the park boundaries to include the New River to Hawk's Nest State Park and including the Bluestone, Greenbrier, and Gauley Rivers in the Wild and Scenic River System. According to the report, the NPS "should take an active supporting role in a renewed effort to link pieces of the West Virginia landscape together in a quilt that will endure."

"GREEN GRADE" (continued)

Meyer pointed out that "while considerable progress was made in the 98th Congress, the environmental agenda before Congress remains full. Important issues including acid rain control, toxic air pollution, groundwater protection, pesticide control and nuclear industry liability must be addressed, and soon," Meyer said.
BACKGROUND

by Allen Haden

I first remember the Gauley as a gray mist rising from the base of the dam. Looking down through early morning fog, I wondered where that crashing water went as it disappeared into the mist and around the bend. Being on the river only added to the mystery. Great black rocks materialized out of the fog to block the path of our boat. We barely dodged them only to have more appear from another direction. Everywhere we had blocked our view of the channel as the current pushed us into the gorge. All the while, waves of cold water tossed us about, filling our boat and slowly but surely trickling through my collar and down to the small of my back. Thus began my romance with the Gauley Canyon. Now, as a commercial guide it still excites me when I see the same expressions on the faces of passengers in my raft as they come to realize that this is truly a special and exciting place.

The river begins high on Gauley Mountain, flowing through Pocahontas, Webster and Nicholas Counties. The Gauley starts at the confluence between the New River and the Gauley River near the town of Summersville. Steep cliffs and large walled areas along the length of the river as it cuts through the soft sandstones and shales of the Kanawha and New River formations. This topography has deterred access and settlement along the Gauley throughout history. It is ironic that this same geography has been the region’s biggest asset during recent times. The mining of coal, the development of hydro power and recreation along the spectacular river gorge are important aspects of the region’s economy today.

About 34 miles above the mouth, the Gauley is stopped by the Summerville Dam. Since it was built in 1966, the dam has been a major influence on the river environs. The 390 foot high earthen dam and the 14-mile long lake were built to control flood waters and to facilitate low flow augmentation or pollution control downstream. Water would be stored in the lake during the summer months and be released as needed during periods of low water to facilitate barge traffic and pollution dilution on the Kanawha River. In the fall water would be released from the dam to make room for flood water collected during the winter and spring rains. Humans being what we are, we have found a way to have fun with this schedule. All summer, waterskiers and fisherman make use of the lake. Fishermen also make use of the river just below the dam.

The minimal outflow of 300 cubic feet per second comes from the colder regions of the lake and makes it possible to stock trout in the stream immediately below the dam. In the fall, when the flow jumps up to 2400 cubic feet per second, whitewater enthusiasts take advantage of the demanding rapids downstream.

Not all the effects of the dam have been positive. The cold water from the lake has displaced the naturally occurring warm water fishery for the first several miles below the dam. The valves that regulate the flow from the dam are also detrimental to the fishery. Although they aerate the water from the bottom of the lake, any fish that pass through would be killed in the turbulence created. Although they aerate the water from the bottom of the lake, any fish that pass through would be killed in the turbulence created. Although they aerate the water from the bottom of the lake, any fish that pass through would be killed in the turbulence created. Although they aerate the water from the bottom of the lake, any fish that pass through would be killed in the turbulence created.

The town of Summerville in cooperation with Noah Corporation is applying for a permit to build a hydro power facility at Summerville Dam. This facility would utilize the existing water releases from the dam for its 80 megawatt plant. Summerville also has plans to utilize the lake for its water supply. The town would like to expand its water system and use as much as a million gallons of the Gauley’s high quality water per day. All these uses of the Nature Conservancy has identified several rare species that are under consideration for addition to the list. Barbara’s Buttons and Virginia Spirea are both rare plants that thrive in the dam, rocky soil of the Gauley flood plain. The Gauley may be the best place in the world to find these two plants, especially Barbara’s Buttons. The Conservancy also has identified several different plants that are not known elsewhere in the area. There is a wide array of plants and animals that thrive in the Gauley Canyon as a migration conduit and as a unique habitat.

The Gauley Canyon is not particularly concerned with the number of plant and animal species in the canyon, nor do they care about the fishing. Most people are attracted to the Gauley River for its legendary whitewater scenery. Ever since the river was first run by John Sweet in 1961, the word has spread far and wide that the Gauley was the place to be for whitewater. In the past, the river was considered for experts only. The rapids were big, long and technically demanding. The river hasn’t changed since that time, but the skills and equipment of whitewater boaters has. River outfitters have taken advantage of the shoudled releases during the fall drawdown period to market single and multi-day trips along the twenty-four mile stretch between the dam and Swiny. This run has become very popular. Last year, over 28,000 people ran the river during the twenty-day drawdown season. As many as twenty-seven hundred people ran the river on a single day. This has been a great boom to the outfiting industry in the state as well as the communities of Nicholas and surrounding counties.

In year’s past, the only way in and out of the area was to hike along the railroad from Meadow River or to find one of the long forgotten wagon roads that crossed the river. Because of the popularity of single day trips on the first half of the river, many outfitters have found a need to build roads into the canyon in order to transport their clients and equipment out of the river gorge. Consequently, there are now several places where one can drive a truck or a bus to the river’s edge. The canyon, because of its rugged topography, is a romantic place. The Gauley Canyon is a unique and special place. It is not just special because of the plants, animals and rapids that make up the place, but it is special because of the attraction it holds for the people that go there. The spectacular scenery, remoteness and the excitement of running water are the main attractions whether those people be fisherman, hikers, campers, or boaters. Man’s interaction with the river and the canyon has been short lived and trivial so far. Except for cutting some logs and travelling through on occasion, we have pretty much left it alone. The times are changing now. We have gained control over the flow of the river, and we are attempting to gain control over the use of the land around the canyon. The power of modern surface mining machines are nothing compared to the power of modern politics and mass marketing procedures. We must consider carefully not to abandon those qualities that have given the area its reputation.

The First Run

by Sayre Rodman

People seem mildly intrigued by the idea of the first run, ever, on the whitewater section of the Gauley River. Nobody had the faintest idea what was down there, even around the next corner. Jean and I and a few friends seem to have locked into the experience. What was it like?

Compared to the way people think about white water today, any trip in those days was in another world. If you write about a present-day trip to impress people, plenty of potential readers will know what you’re talking about. Hundred will think that they could have run it better. Most of them could. And hundreds of thousands, or maybe millions, have been bounced and splashed on commercial raft trips. They know what Class IV or V water looks and feels like from river level. Serious white water means something to lots of people. Twenty-five or thirty years ago, talk of 500,000 people who’ve felt big water would have sounded like weekends on Mars. Only the idea of a useful computer for a few hundred bucks would have seemed sillier. If you were on or near nice rapids then, you were very alone. Well, almost alone.

One way summer morning in 1956, a young couple was skinning-dipping along the Ohiopyle Loop of the Youghiogheny up in Pennsylvania, confident of privacy. On a day like that today, a few thousand people...
go by. But in 1956, apparently no boats had ever run that river, till Jean and I sloshed into sight, spooking the couple out of the water into the bushes. Sorry about that, you two. Wish we’d told people our names along the river. Don’t you think that “Wrapped Lady Rapids” is more easily remembered than “Cucumber Rapids?” But I digress. Jean and I didn’t write much about being probably first down the Yough and the Gus­key because, over a few shared six-packs, we did tell almost everyone in the Middle Atlantic States who knew what we were talking about. We and a very few friends went down anything we could find within a weekend radius from Pittsburgh, rowing Air Force surplus rafts. Rigid boaters? Berry and Harrigan and Sullivan in Washington and Bickham and Sweet at Penn State were acquiring their impressive skills, swapping river descriptions with us. In 1961, if everyone who’d run West Virginia Class V water into anything that floated came to a High­land Conservancy Review, we still wouldn’t have broken even.

Why do we think we were the first to boat the hard part of the Guskey River for fun? Hard to be sure. Oldtimers at Swiss told me that kids had gone down in dead low summer water a long time ago, walking parts and floating the poos on air mattresses or something. But they were certain that no one was slick enough to have done it in even moderate water before we did.

Real credit for finding the Guskey, and inventing ways to run it, goes to Ray Moore of Alexandria, Virginia. He was an innova­tor, who loved to try his own methods of getting where no one else had been, on rocks, in canoes, or on rivers. His early trips at Cam Cave would give the NSS apoplexy. In the ’50’s, he discovered Air Force surplus rafts and West Virginia white water. He was not a slow learner. A February Clav IV run in the rain in blue jeans, without life jackets, had seemed reasonable but turned out to be totally unsatisfactory. Don’t do it again. He learned efficient ways to row a 6-man raft, solo, with big oars, Western-style. He taught Jean and me what he knew about rafts, short-fused dynamite sticks, and other sub­jects where one should pay close attention. There was no authority to guide people. If trying freaky ideas disturbed you, you stayed off the rivers.

Our first run at the Guskey was a fiasco. Early in 1959, Ray and a few friends from Washington, plus two of us from Pittsburgh, met at Summersville, far beyond our familiar Potomac headwaters. Jean opted out; our first kid was still sort of new. Only Ray knew just where he meant to run, and we didn’t exactly get there.

We put in at Route 39 east of Summers­ville. We hit the first interesting water (now under the lake) at the old Route 19 crossing. The river was sort of high; out of its banks. We soon were in the woods, lining around rapids, laboriously roping from tree to tree in water over our heads. Rafts may be better than kayaks for this. The owner of a house along the river took pity on the sodden group, and sheltered us for the night. He talked betterly about the proposed dam, which would one day drown all his land.

We made a few more miles the next day, but it wasn’t much fun. One shaken man said that his big raft did an under cleanly over his head. Fortunately, Ray’s guys were good at reentering their rafts via the bailing­bucket ropers. Totally exhausted, we camped just above the dam site. Ray wanted to con­tinue but was too tired to argue, except lying down.

Next day, I kicked rhododendrons out to the now-vanished community called Sparks, hitched a ride to the proposed takeout, and returned with a car. I’d already learned that, on Ray’s exploratory run, you bring topo­ maps and pack frames. With enough psy­chological drive, you can hump out two deflated rafts per trip. Ah youth. Guskey 1, boaters 0.

Dave Barbour is about to descend into the good part of Iron Ring. Kay and her boat vanished about 20’ behind him, and later emerged from the black hole below him.

The dumbbells took something very special from you.

Then, on a bright day, six people, more privileged than we knew, were the first semi­competent modern boaters to find and scout and run the rafts that define the Guskey for thousands today. The run to the Meadow River was just fun. We’d earlier scouted a big one below Garnetts Ferry, big waves but no problem. Below the Meadow, we quickly saw that things were getting more interest­ing. The first serious rapids ate one of my oars. Was it Sweet’s “Broken Paddle”? I think the rapids that nearly killed one of us is now called Iron Ring. Several rafts ran it, impressing the operators but doing nothing unpredictable. Then Kay’s boat stalled upstream, and vanished, like a fly taken by a trout, in mid-river. A remarkable lady, she dove, making the snap decision that going thru a hole ahead of a big raft is better than the alternative. We, including her husband, watched the downstream, as did her 6 by 12 foot raft with oars still in tact in the oce­lock. Twice she had come up in the dark, and grabbed a breath. Behind the long slab leas­ing on the bank, river right, flows a lot of water. In hindsight we might have read the surface currents better.

We were then in no mood to see if we could make Sweet Falls. We saw it as a sure-fire slicer of raft bottoms, at that water level. Carrying around was easy. While we did so, Kay’s lost bailing bucket caught up with us.

We found a campsite on a sandbar, built a huge fire, and enjoyed our second night on this lovely river.

The last day was brilliant and clear, and the purple rhododendron was in bloom along the canyon walls. For a while, we had good fast water to enjoy, with nothing to worry Kay, who felt a tad cautious now. When we hit the quieter water above Swiss, we knew we’d had three memorable days.

Ralph Krashbaum ran Iron Ring in com­plete control, right where he wanted to be.

I thought of that stream often in the next two years, as our friends developed a more practiced and conservative approach to raft­time. Row precisely, wear good life jackets, scout big rapids. Details like that.

In late May in 1961, six people from Pittsburgh tried again, with much better results. The river was probably below 1500 CFS, a bit low, no complaints. Jean and I had worth-while outings in nice places. Consider first seeing the tip of Mount Ever­est by moonlight on New Year’s Eve from Tsyangboche Monastery. The first Guskey run was about that good.

On day One, We sat out a snow squall under the old Route 19 bridge, ran superb water the rest of the day, and camped pre­cisely under the present dam. Not many people have run that part. Take the best of the rapids on the Chest run below Albright; add many more; pack them into shorter distance. A few gentleman’s Class V’s; nothing really hairy. I remember it as much better than the part below Sweet Falls. My old slides show a dark foggy day. We enjoyed it, immensely.

You will never see that run, nor will your children. When next you feel grateful for a scheduled release from the Summersville dam, think of the once free-flowing riverbed, down in the mud under the lake. We deligh­ted in running it, a quarter of a century ago.

A small part of Ken Hawker’s boat shows, in a nice bit of water now under the dam. The only runnable jet of water hit the black rock dead on. We had to plow in to the uprarr, and bank blind off the pillow of water against the rock.

Photos were taken by Sayre Rodman who described them as, “Three low resolu­tion photos taken with ancient fast Ektsch­rome on a mini camera carried in a paint can.”
President’s Commission On Americans Outdoors Completes Report

The President’s Commission on Americans Outdoors has completed its task, issued its report to the president, and gone out of business. The 340-page report contains recommendations on how America can achieve their outdoor recreation goals, now and in the future.

The report is not yet available from the Department of the Interior, but WVCH Board Member Jeannette Fitzwilliams has taken excerpts from the major recommendations and included them in the recent issue, “Report #17,” of the reports it started on the Outdoors Commission “to give club members and their clients a chance to make their views and needs known.” Fitzwilliams said, “Report #17 covers what I believe the commission itself considered its major recommendation: the call for local action—and the topics I thought would be of most interest to my reading audience, leadership and federal Perkins.”

The following comments are taken from her report.

Specifically the report recommends that greenways and scenic byways and thoroughfares be established on federal, state, and local level. Greenways, corridors of private and public recreation lands or waters, are needed to link people to open spaces close to where they live and to join together the rural and urban spaces in the nation’s landscape. The report says that groups can be creative in selecting areas to serve as greenways. Utility corridors, golf courses, or abandoned rail lines can serve as well as river and stream corridors and farm fields.

Since the report continues, nearly half of American adults drive for pleasure, local and state governments should create a network of scenic byways over roads that contain historic, natural, geologic or pastoral qualities along their routes. One testimonial in the report calls for cooperation among local, state, and federal authorities: “Local communities and states will make the determination of what roads and route should be part of the system. The federal government will provide technical assistance upon request and matching grant incentives to encourage designation of scenic routes, rather than mandate program activities. The economic advantages of designating local communities will more than offset minimal costs of designated scenic byways.”

According to the report, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, and community authorities must all work together in order to establish and preserve outdoor recreation opportunities. For example, private developers could provide outdoor recreation space in their projects and make an effort to connect their projects to recreation areas through greenways. Conservation and economic needs could be both met by having communities study the development opportunities supported in areas near public recreation resources.

To fund the development of these projects, the report recommends that the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) be succeeded by a dedicated trust fund that should generate at least one billion dollars a year to help pay for federal, state, and local land acquisition and facility development and rehabilitation. Since its inception in 1964, LWCF has allowed over 5 million acres of recreational lands and waters to be purchased by localities or states or federal agencies. However as some of the testimony from the report points out, “Current available funds are inadequate to maintain existing program levels, and yearly fluctuations in funding levels create problems in planning and implementation.” Since the LWCF will expire in 1989, “it is time to consider changes in the bill that will assure a dependable source of money...to meet the nation’s outdoor needs into the next century.”

The commission also made recommendations for improving federal participation in meeting the recreation problems of the future. The Commission suggested that an annual report, "State of the Federal Estate: Resources and Recreation," be submitted to Congress and the President from reports by the seven principal federal land managing agencies. Federal agencies also need to develop a plan of action for meeting future recreation needs and for identification and acquisition of lands which need to be protected for recreational use and agencies should allow for more public participation in the planning process for recreational needs. Also, according to the report, the federal government should specify in its budget request and in its legislative request in asserting its rights whenever it has a legitimate claim to physical resources. The Commission’s report finished when local voices will plan an increasingly critical role in the conservation and enhancement of America’s outdoors, a coherent national voice in support of federal programs will be in opposition to the total effort. The Commission recommends the establishment of "a Congress and the President form a federal, private, nonprofit outdoor institutions, to stimulate grassroots leadership and promote innovation and excellence." Such an institution should coordinate the nation’s many recreation oriented agencies, organizations, and interests into a cooperative network, and it should present itself to the public as a centralized source of detailed information. In addition, each state should establish and entity to encourage innovation and investment in outdoor recreation.

Jeannette Fitzwilliams said, “I believe that the commission’s work indicates that the problem is that the public and the federal government are not aware of the problems, recreation and open space is the lack of public support and that the primary need is for local, not federal, acquisition and development. Public support starts at home. People in general do not care what happens hundreds of miles away in places they never visit. They must see a benefit for themselves.”

As a meeting in February of the American Fish and Wildlife Service, Commissioner Nor­ thrup shocked the audience by saying, “The recommendations are unimportant.” He then went on to say “They are only recommendations. No one has any obligation to do anything.” He also said to the Coalition, “It is up to you and your organizations to get things moved. If you choose not to do things like you’d like, that’s up to you and what you are going to do...Coalitions are important...Stop fighting within your own interest groups. Stop fighting with other interest groups. It’s not ‘Who can I beat,’ but ‘Who can I work with.’ Help light that prairie fire.”

Tennessee Governor Alexander, chairman of the commission, had an earlier meeting presented a prairie fire, starting small, gathering speed, and spreading over a wide area, to the need to ignite interest in creating recreational and conservation objectives at a community level and then having them spread across the nation.

Island, Penn, a nonprofit organization that publishes information on conservation, has been able to print the report. It is available from them at 1718 Connecticut Ave. NW #300, Washington, D.C. 20009 for $24.95 plus $2.50 for shipping and handling.

Guidelines for Articles & Letters To The Editor

The Voice welcomes all well-researched article or editorial on areas of concern, for example, river conservation, public land management, mining, canoe Valleys. General articles on outdoor activities — canoeing, skiing, hiking, riding — and outdoor events are also needed. All submissions are subject to editing. To assure accuracy in the printing of these articles, the following guidelines have been established:

*1.) Whenever possible, articles should be typed, double spaced on 8½ x 11 paper, with at least one-inch margins on each side. If the submission is not typed, the author should indicate whether or not any illustrations or charts can be included.

*2.) Each article should be accompanied by the author’s name, address, and telephone number. (Addresses and telephone numbers will not be printed with the article, but are needed so that the editor may contact the author for additional information, if necessary. ) If the article is more than one page, the author’s last name should be placed under the page number on each page.

*3.) Photographs related to the article are greatly appreciated. Black and white photographs reproduce best, but color photos can be used. Photographs will be returned, if the author requests them.

*4.) The deadline for each issue of the Voice is the last Friday of each month.

The Voice also welcomes letters to the editor expressing views on any of the topics covered in previous issues on other environmental concerns. Letters to the editor should follow the guidelines for articles.
The purple martin is declining within parts of its breeding range. In an attempt to remedy the decline, the Purple Martin Conservation Association (PMCA) has been formed to help coordinate management efforts by attempting to locate and register most of the martin colonies in North America. People have been managing purple martin colonies for years as they are known to prey on insect pests of many different species. Even before Europeans colonized the New World, American Indians were using these omnivorous birds to nest in their villages by attaching hollowed-out gourd "nest boxes" to the support poles of their wigwams. Modern martin needs continue to be a delight with gourds, but they also mount elaborate wooden, plastic, or aluminum multi-compartment bird coops, "martin houses," on poles and proudly display them on lawns. Conservationists, however, are alarmed at the population decline of this man-dependant species. Since 1975, the National Audubon Society has included it on their "blue list," a list of bird species which are not endangered but are declining in numbers either throughout their North American range or regionally. Support for this listing is the findings of the North American Breeding Bird Survey administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Computer analysis of the 21-year data set shows significant nesting declines within parts of the breeding range.Even so, martins can be found by skimming through 19th century ornithology journals. These documents underscore just how extremely abundant the martin was only a century ago before the introduction

The West Virginia Natural Heritage Program

Have you ever been out hiking in the woods and stumbled upon a beautiful wildflower, an oddly colored butterfly, or perhaps a bird that you've never seen before and wondered if your "find" might be something truly rare? Have you questioned if there was a way to determine if your discovery represents a great biological discovery or is instead something which is quite common - even though it may be new to you. Surprisingly, West Virginians have access to a storehouse of information which can answer just such a question.

Somewhat hidden away within the confines of the Wildlife Resources Division of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources exists a scientific program which is charged with the responsibility of maintaining an up-to-date inventory of our state's rare species and unusual plant and animal communities. By doing so, it can provide an ongoing tool for the identification of critical natural habitats, the development of management plans, and the monitoring of population status through population studies and surveys. The program maintains an inventory of our state's rare species and unusual plant and animal communities. By doing so, it can provide an ongoing tool for the identification of critical natural habitats, the development of management plans, and the monitoring of population status through population studies and surveys. The program maintains an inventory of our state's rare species and unusual plant and animal communities. By doing so, it can provide an ongoing tool for the identification of critical natural habitats, the development of management plans, and the monitoring of population status through population studies and surveys.

Information on the status and distribution of rare, threatened and endangered plants, animals, and natural communities — as well as exemplary natural areas — is collected. Computer, map, and manual files keep the information ordered and readily accessible, providing a flexible system that can respond to a wide variety of user needs. This could include an inquiry about your discovery in the woods. Or it could assist a coal operator, utility company, or land developer in planning a project of a major new development from a coal mine. When given the opportunity, most developers would prefer to know about the existence of such natural rarities on their project area well in advance of the threat of committing a vast amount of resources to the project. Such knowledge can be invaluable in avoiding the sort of environmental conflicts which might arise otherwise.

Many state and local governments, as well as organizations which are interested in natural resource issues, have found that this program is an important tool for developing and monitoring management plans and for assessing the status of natural resources within their jurisdiction. In addition, field surveys for rare species and unusual plant communities are conducted on a contract basis. Surveys have been completed for the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Services, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Nature Conservancy.

For information about the West Virginia Natural Heritage Program, call or write to Brian A. McDonald, Coordinator, Natural Heritage Program, WV-DNR, Post Office Box 178, Elkins, WV 26241, phone (304) 636-1767.

New Wildflower Guides

Wildflower Names: Origins of Common Names

80 Favorite Appalachian Wildflowers

Flowers of trilliums, anemones and harbingers-of-spring have turned into seeds along the Ohio, Kanawha and Guyandote by the time the first wildflowers begin to push between dead leaves covering the slopes of Cheat Mountain and Dolly Sods. Spring comes late on the upland and heath cladiolus mountains. These mountain songbirds are harsh environments for people and plants. Large weathered, whitened boulders and rock strata are often exposed on the darker landscape. The consistent winds fiercely force them to grow eastward in search of shelter and people to turn their backs into the west. In the haven of the dappled, foggy green rainforest is the niche for some of my favorite spring ferns and wildflowers. The soft, spongy layers of twigs, needles, mosses, liverworts and bryophytes provide a natural carpet equal to any found in a million dollar mansion.

As you marvel at the running vines of Stiff Clubmoss and the froonds of Mountain Wood Fern you are almost sure to find Canada Mayflower, Painted Trillium and Beadily (Yellow Clintonia). Locally you can find patches of the shrubby Southern Mountain Cranberry with its tiny shining star type flowers.

Some swampy swamp forests and open beech and Dolly Sods' relatively easy place to see Dwar Cornet (Bunchefflower). This miniature version of the flowering dogwood has a large, beautiful white flower in May and even showier bunch of scarlet berries sitting atop a rosette of green leaves in September. Another beauty that prefers the dark shade of the spruce forest is the Mountain Wood Sorrel with shatowroot leaves and a delicate white flower with pink stripes in each petal.

No trip to the high mountains in early spring (May) is complete without a visit to an open heath area. Bear Rocks on Dolly Sods is a good example of such. The deep pink flowers of Rose (Mountain) Aza- lena are obvious. A closer look will reveal millions of greenish-yellow, bell-shaped flowers hanging on the Blueberry shrub and the longer, more reddish flowers of the Black Huckleberry. By the way, the brilliant scarlet flowers of the Black Huckleberry have outstanding color in autumn at Bear Rocks and many other open, rocky crests. In the wet areas of open heath, one can find White Flowers with yellow centers of the Goldthread. A little digging will reveal the delicate gold strands of the roots. Ever present will be the Common Blue and Marsh Blue Violets. Northern White Violet inhabits the cold bog while Sweet White Violet prefers the most rich soils.

In the drier soils, one must marvel at the delicate, dark pink color of the Gaywings which looks so much like a small butterfly hiding at ground level. Here also is the place to look for the glassy yellow flowers of Mountain Bellwort and the fuzzy Pink Ladies' Slipper. Dry openings and thickets are the places to look for the large clumps of Bleeding Heart.

There is no way I can name a favorite wildflower or favorite spot. Each flower has its delicate grace or bold beauty. Seldom have I met with disappointment when I explored a new ravine, swamp or rock outcrop.

If there are no wildflowers, there are always rocks, ferns, insects, lichens or sedges. Be prepared to find luck you previously. The Mountain Salamander or one of our beautiful wood warblers. Almost certainly you will know the beautiful song of the Very or the Hermit Thrush. Our "high mountains" are great in the month of May. I truly hope you will reward yourself with a trip to the top of West Virginia to share the excitement of learning and exploring this spring.

Hunting Wildlife With Binoculars in Canaan

If the idea of seeing wild turkey and other game birds or wildlife interests you but you don't know the best places to see them, or how to see them, you'll want to know about the guided wildlife trips scheduled for the weekends of April and May in Canaan Valley, W.Va.

Organized by Back Roads Adventures, a new West Virginia rural life and outdoors recreation company, these Saturday wildlife exploration trips leave an hour before dawn so participants can be in the woods at the time the elusive wild turkey and other wildlife can be seen. 

"It's not always easy to raise this early," says trip guide Ed Michael, professor of wildlife biology at West Virginia University and an authority on Canaan Valley waterfowl, furbers and upland game birds, "but the wildlife one can see and hear at the early hours makes it well worth the effort." 

Dr. Michael notes that while no one can guarantee that specific birds or animals will be seen on a particular trip, every species has specific habitat requirements, and from the studies he and others have conducted in Canaan Valley, he notes that over 15 years, they pretty well know where certain ones are likely to be. 

"Due to the nature, where they can be found and that's where we're going on the trips." 

Gary Pauley, professor of biology and herpetology at the University of Pittsburgh, and, like Michael, a West Virginia native, will guide some of the trips. Pauley is well-known for his study of West Virginia amphibians and reptiles including the endangered Chamuel Mountain salamander that is found in Canaan Valley.

"Spring is the time when wild turkey, woodcock and snipe, the three species we will feature on the Canaan trips, are most active," says Michael, "and there's no better place to try to see them."

The varied wetland, upland mixed hardwood forest of Canaan Valley offers outstanding opportunities to explore habitat, see wildlife sign, hear birds call and other wildlife sounds and enjoy the varied plant and animal wildlife. These include not only the ever-present white-tailed deer, Canada goose and woodchuck, but also American beaver, mink, muskrat, waterfowl and the blue and greenbacked heron, raven, hermit thrush, many species of warblers, woodpeckers, hawks and owls as well as wild turkey, woodcock, snipe, grouse and occasionally even as osprey or eagle.

"The cool, moist, high elevation environment of Canaan Valley and Dodd's Sycamore are really more characteristic of regions much farther north like in upper New York and Canada," Michael explains, "and the extensive swampy and boggy areas, beaver pond and stream habitat are home to more than 50 different mammals, 160 bird species and a variety of amphibians, turtles and other harmless reptile in addition to over 580 different plant species, several of them unusual and some rare in West Virginia."

Linda Cooper Elkinton, director of Back Roads Adventures Inc., says, "Combining auto tours and short walks, the Canaan Valley exploration makes just the exploration of the area for a few hours or an entire day with these experts a most informative and entertaining experience.

Additional trips are available from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. on Sundays (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.) for extended exploration of the area and for two hours at twilight beginning an hour before sunset at every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night in April and May. "The twilight trips are the best ones to see woodcock and snipe perform their unusual, high elevation flight and driving courtship ritual," she says.

The trips depart at 8 - 10 persons, and Elkinton explains that study, waterproof footwear as well as very warm clothes are necessary for the trips since freezing temperatures are not unusual for Canaan Valley in April and May. Warm refreshments and lunches are provided for the early morning and all-day trips. Participants will also want to bring along binoculars and a camera. Prices for the trips range from $30 for the two-hour trips to $50 for all-day with some special rates for couples and small groups.

Arrangements for the trips are coordinated with the White Grass Ski Tubing Center in Canaan Valley. They will provide local information and handle reservations. Transportation for groups will be provided by Grove Sport Car rentals, a new local cab service. If interest is sufficient, trips will be extended to week-ends and during the Spring season.

Back Roads Adventures, Inc., is a new reservation and trip planning service organized by Harvey Shreve to provide a variety of activities for people to explore rural life and lifestyles in West Virginia including visits with local artists, craftspeople, mountain musicians and guided trips to natural areas, scenic features and State fairs and festivals.

For additional information or group arrangements, call Back Roads Adventure at 304-296-8781 for reservations, call White Grass at 304-866-4114.

National Affiliation Proposed for Conservancy

The affiliation of the Conservancy with a nature conservation organization will be considered at the WVHC Board of Directors meeting on April 25th. Conservancy President Larry W. George will propose that the Conservancy join the Natural Resources Council of America. The Conservancy has not been affiliated with any major conservation organization in its twenty year history.

The Natural Resources Council of America (NRCA) is a 51 member coalition comprised of nearly every major conservation organization in the country. NRCA members include the National Wildlife Federation, Wilderess Society, National Audubon Society, League of Women Voters, National Rifle Association, Sierra Club and Trout Unlimited. The Conservancy would be the only second state conservation organization to be accepted as a NRCA member.

The Council does not take positions on conservation issues and does not attempt to represent or bind its organization intended to enhance the effectiveness of conservation organizations.

NRCA monitors the Congress and the executive Branch, collects technical information and fosters cooperation among its member to council sponsors a pay roundtable for conservation leaders in Wash-

ing, D.C. and other special programs on topics related to conservation projects.

The Council is based in Washington, D.C. where it shares offices with the National Wildlife Federation. It has a full time staff of three members. The membership fee is $10 annually. WVHC membership could be entitled to a seat on the NRCA Board of Directors.

Membership in the Council requires sponsorship by a member organization and is subject to approval by the NRCA Board of Directors. Carl Sullivan, Executive Director of the American Fisheries Society, has offered to sponsor the Conservancy's membership in NRCA on behalf of his organization. Salyan is a West Virginian and a member of the advisory commission of the state Department of Natural Resources.

Larry W. George said, "NRCA membership will reinforce the Conservancy's traditional role as the State's leader in Congressional legislation and Executive Branch policies affecting the conservation of West Virginia's natural resources. NRCA membership should increase our effectiveness on Capitol Hill and enhance our longstanding working relationship with national conservation organizations."

CSX Makes Gift to Conservancy Endowment Fund

Charleston - The CSX Corporation has made a gift of $2,500 to the Endowment Fund of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

John W. Snow, President and Chief Executive Officer of CSX Transportation, stated that the CSX gift was "to help support the fine work of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy...we wish you continued success in your endeavors and are proud to be a part of the effort." CSX operates the former Chesapeake and Seafood Coast Line railroads and is a leading West Virginia employer.

Conservancy Endowment Fund Chairmen Larry W. George, a Charleston attorney, said, "the Conservancy deeply appreciates the support and confidence of CSX Corporation in our efforts to protect West Virginia's natural resources. This is another demonstration of the historical commitment of CSX to improving the quality of life in West Virginia."

CSX and the Conservancy cooperated in the early 1980's to achieve the 1983 Congressional designation of the 35,500 acre Cranberry Wilderness Area in Pocahontas County. CSX owned the mineral estate underlying federal land in the proposed wilderness and suspended proposed coal mining to allow the Congress time to pass wilderness legislation. Cranberry was the first wilderness bill signed by President Reagan and is now the largest federal wilderness in the eastern United States.

The CSX Donated Wildlands Bill was widely cited by news media commentators as the first example in West Virginia of a conservation group and a major corporation cooperating to resolve a difficult environmental issue.

Other Endowment contribution have included Hope Gas, Inc., Consolidated Natural Gas System, The Charleston Gazette, Harvey Shreve Ford-BMW-Saab and the Rockefeller New York City Trust. The majority of Endowment gifts have been made by individual West Virginians.

The Endowment is a perpetual trust established in 1983 to accept tax-deductible gifts in support of the conservation and wise management of West Virginia's natural resources. The Endowment also accepts tax-exempt gifts of real estate, stocks and bonds.

Individuals interested in further information about the Endowment may contact:

Larry W. George
Suite 715
1033 Quarrer Street
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Reasons to Join WVHC

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is a private, non-profit environmental organization started in 1967. Its objectives are to "promote, encourage, and work for the conservation - including both preservation and enhancement - of the scenic, historic, open space, wilderness, and outdoor recreation resources of an area related to the Highlands Region and especially the Highlands Region..."

Members include people and organizations that support their goals and programs but united by a common interest. Most WVHC members are West Virginians but many live outside the state.

The Highlands Voice, a monthly 8-page newspaper, is sent to all Conservancy members. It is filled with environmental news on topics of interest and concern to members as well as articles about trips and outings.

The Conservancy sponsors two special weekly publications. These are some scenic spot in the highlands and feature speakers, outings and board meetings.

Your contribution to WVHC is tax deductible and joining is as simple as filling out the enclosed form and returning it to the office in Charleston.

Join today and become part of an active organization dedicated to preserving West Virginias natural resources.