Spring Review to feature mining film; discussion of Corridor H.

Spring Review is just around the corner. So, if you haven’t told Frank Young you are coming, DO IT RIGHT NOW. He’s been holding his breath waiting for your call (304-372-9329).

Lots of fun is organized for the weekend — canoing Smoke Hole Canyon, tour of Dolly Sods or Seneca Rocks climb, plus music from the Zacchini Pickers augmented by those of you who can whistle, sing, clap, or play a more musical instrument.

(See Page 8 for complete registration information if you did not receive a flyer — or it is lost in that pile of other really important stuff on your kitchen table.)

Nature School will be available for the kids. (Don’t delay in registering. Enrollment is limited, so call 296-0365 by April 25.

Deadline for May Voice: April 30

An Earth Day Symposium on the State of the West Virginia Environment is underway.

The program will include approximately 80 presentations on topics including acid mine drainage, chemicals and community health, communication strategies, composting, incineration, protection of Canaan Valley, greenhouse and other aspects of our natural heritage, timber regulation, waste reduction, and many other subjects.

The first of two separate meetings was April 6 at West Virginia Institute of Technology, Montgomery, in conjunction with the West Virginia Academy of Science Annual Meeting. The session included presentations concerning timber and mining industries and their environmental impact, as well as a variety of other subjects.

Authors for the session included West Virginia Highlands Conservancy secretary Richard DiPietro, William Gillespie of the West Virginia Division of Forestry, Steven Stevenson of Fairmont State College and Mary Wimmer and Paul Zarnikiewicz of West Virginia University.

Keynote speaker was West Virginia House Speaker Chuck Chambers.

The second meeting will be April 19-20 at West Virginia State College, just outside Charleston. More than 50 papers on environmental issues will be presented at this time. Exhibits, information tables and open-panel discussions are planned.

U.S. Representative Bob Wise will be the keynote speaker at West Virginia State, Friday, April 19.

Published proceedings of the symposium will include the papers, selected questions and comments from the audience and the authors’ responses.

An intriguing aspect of both sessions of the Earth Day symposium will be discussions/debates involving papers that are open for review and discussion prior to (and during) the symposium. Issues treated in this way include acid mine drainage, ground-water pollution, incineration of municipal waste, investigations of community health, and timber regulation...

WV Environment gets Earth Day scrutiny

also at

Spring Review:

For Kids:

NATURE SKOOL

A comprehensive program of hands-on nature while education and fun for children, ages 3-12

Saturday - MAY 4th

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

$20

To register, call: 296-0365 for April 30

Enrollment limited
Bring on OSM

Systemic change is required in order to improve the W. Va. Surface Mining Regulatory Program. (Not news to anyone!) The deeply entrenched power and influence of the coal industry in the State will not allow any such far reaching change to be initiated on the State level. (W-eat to anyone?)

Direct Federal involvement is essential to achieve change of the depth and magnitude that is needed. (!!!)

In 1988, the W. Va. Highlands Conservancy joined 14 other organizations in a lawsuit against the State of West Virginia and the W. Va. Division of Energy for failure to perform their statutory duties mandated by both State and Federal Surface Mine laws. The suit attempted to define some of the deficiencies in the program and to bring about some serious changes to correct these deficiencies. Other options at that time included calling for Federal takeover of the State program.

As a new Governor took office in W. Va., he brought with him what appeared to be sincere resolve to do the right thing in matters of this DOE stepchild of the former administration. Hopes mounted that the lawsuit had been the right course of action. A Settlement Agreement was signed in July 1989 which outlined reasonable actions the primacy in 1981. The agreement was signed in July 1989 which outlined reasonable actions the State was required to take in order to improve the program. Even the loftiest of good intentions must be involved in every aspect of the program.

It was granted in July 1989 and in the three years since then, the program has been implemented. However, two-and-a-half years and three Legislative Sessions after filing the Notice of Intent to Sue, I finally must agree with those who, back in 1988, argued against the lawsuit and in favor of filing a "773 Action" under Federal regulation that would call for the Federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to step in and correct the deficiencies in the State regulatory program deficiencies that had been enumerated not only in the lawsuit, but also in each of the OSM Annual Reviews of the State program ever since W. Va. was granted primacy in 1981.

For me, the recent 1991 Legislative Session provided the final straw. The coal industry, which benefits from chaos and confusion in the coal fields and in the regulatory scheme of things, also flourished in the confusion that it created in the minds of legislators who were asked to fund the needed improvements in DOE. (See related story, page 9)

It became clear that the coal industry was not willing to spend any additional money to strengthen the Surface Mine program, but insisted instead, that extra money be allocated at the expense of other portions of the state budget. After much debate, and in the midst of much confusion, new monies were allocated by the legislature, but the amount falls short of the need and the sources are questionable at best (i.e. possible surplus monies and an already under-funded special reclamation account.).

What we’ve got is a small band-aid for a large sore. It is certainly not a cure. Even as a small band-aid, that is an equal partner with the long term sustainable future of the State, its economy, people, and environment, is long overdue.
Media ignores scientific studies

Dear Editor:

Thanks for the rundown on the 60 Minutes presentation about the NAPAP study in the January VOICE. Irresponsible treatment by the media seems to have alarmed EPA too. The Conservancy is lucky to have well-informed and vocal citizens like Mr. Webb and a newsletter that presents the issues.

A Conservancy sponsored forum on acid rain held in 1988 featured Mr. Webb and others concerned about the acid rain issue and its effects on West Virginia streams and forests. Anticipation about the newly-elected governor and the upcoming congressional reconsideration of the Clean Air Act provided the political context. The upcoming release of the NAPAP study was not anticipated to strengthen arguments for more stringent pollution controls. After release, media coverage of the study was limited.

To the national media, the story was the release of the study at the conclusion of the designated ten-year period. Perhaps the story seemed to be no additional story in acid rain as a phenomena of local impact and national significance.

Garbage broker is a growing problem

Full text of a Letter to the Editor from our Waste Management Committee Chairman Carroll Jett. An edited version appeared in the Charleston Gazette.

Dear Editor:

I'd like to respond to Lee Snyder's letter which appeared [in the Gazette] Feb. 11, 1991. Mr. Snyder runs a giant garbage dump which recently opened in Berkeley County. I think it is fair to say that the operators of this dump have "burned" their way into the community.

The local residents have voiced their objections to this monster dump for years by picketing the area, holding protest rallies, etc. Last year, many of these people made the six- to eight-hour trip to Charleston to lobby for the law which would require the inspection of garbage dumps. The admission fee to visit the site beforehand anyone can open a class "A" landfill. Although the legislature passed this law, the operators of the LCS dump have failed to comply with it.

Mr. Snyder states that "West Virginia has a serious and growing waste disposal problem." This is true. Mr. Snyder (and other "trash tycoons") who want to enrich themselves at the expense of our quality of life are a terrible problem. As other states have tightened their environmental regulations with respect to landfills, garbage brokers have looked to West Virginia as a place to establish an East Coast dumping ground.

Environmental regulatory agencies here are understaffed and underfunded, and groundwater protection laws are non-existent. A plague's paradise.

Although Snyder listed a Martinsburg address, his business is definitely not a locally-owned "mom and pop" garbage dump. LCS appears to be a front for a Dallas-based corporation which is heavily involved in interstate garbage trafficking. Their intent is obvious. In their dealings with local residents, they appear to have been schooled by Southern West Virginia Coal Operators. Besides denying access to DNR inspectors, they have employed goon guards, attack dogs, barbed wire, "Philadelphia" lawyers, and an unremitting PR campaign.

I'm against this dump.

I'm particular about the kind of people who handle my garbage.

Sincerely,
Karen S. Farris

Tom Roud urged others immediately to send letters similar to the one below to Director Snyder with a copy to Congressman Nick Rahall, 343 Cannon House Office Building, 1st and Independence Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20515.

Canaan Valley is subject of WVU Extension publication

West Virginia University Extension Service has a publication available on Canaan Valley. A 32-page publication written by Norma Jean Venable, with original illustrations by Ann Payne, Canaan Valley describes the valley, its history, culture, geology, plants, wildlife, and trials. It contains checklists of birds, plants, and wildlife.

Price is $6, and includes shipping.

Included on the Natural Resources Program Publication List from the WVU Extension Service are:

- Introduction to Dragonflies of West Virginia
- Night Birds: Owls
- Aquatic and Wetland Plants of West Virginia
- Introduction to Ferns of West Virginia
- Winter Birds: Waterfowl and Ducks
- Winter Birds: Winter Warblers
- Winter Botany, Common Trees of West Virginia
- Selected Trees and Shrubs of West Virginia
- Common Herptiles of West Virginia
- Canaan Valley

Publications are non technical with original illustrations. Prices include shipping.

Send orders to:
Norma Jean Venable
Natural Resources Program
West Virginia University Extension Service
1074 Agricultural Sciences Building
Morgantown, West Virginia 26506-6108

Make check payable to: West Virginia University.
DOE & the Land of OZ

by Cindy Rank, president, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

Remember the land of OZ... where things were always as they seemed?...

"Where the scarecrow danced, the tin woodman talked and the lion was afraid of his tail... Where a wonderful horse changed colors in a blink of an eye... and the powerful Wizard was only an ordinary jimmint man who created elaborate special effects from a control panel behind a curtain...

The recent legislative attempt to address the funding needs of the Mines and Minerals Section of the W.Va. Division of Energy (DOE) has been a little like paying a visit to a land of OZ.

To their credit, leadership in the Department of Commerce and the Division of Energy began months ago to broadcast the message, "Yes, seriously folks, we need more money.

"We need more money to comply with the W.Va. Surface Mining laws and regulations; we need more money to effectively enforce those laws; we need more money to do thorough and adequate review of permit applications, especially for sites which pose potential environmental problems; we need more money to set up a program which will provide us with adequate backgound checks on ownership and control matters where corporate "shell games" occur such as "The Reconstructor" or "Prairie Dog", etc., etc., etc. We need more money to do a good job...PERIOD!

"And if that isn't reason enough to increase our funding, we need more money to comply with the Settlement Agreement (OSM) or the Surface Mining Act or to protect the state's coffers as the federal government continues to demand more protection...".

By the time the Wicked Witch of the Senate Finance Committee finally considered the new "fees bill" (proposed DOE no-name legislation which(defun of the needed funds, which was passed out of the House of Delegates), the Committee hurriedly whittled it down from providing some $1.7 million to providing less than $500,000.

The beautiful field of poppies at the end of the yellow brick road turned out to be a cruel illusion. The legislation which would have brought the journey to a complete halt, far short of its goal.

Originally anxious to support efforts to obtain additional DOE funding, the leadership of the environmental community had a giant step back from the fray during the last weeks of the session. For the Legislature to approve sufficient funding levels, they recognized, industry would have to make it happen. If coal wanted to keep the Feds out, they would have to do a better sales job on their home turf of the Senate to get approval for the needed funds.

***

In July 1988, plaintiffs in the Save Our Mountains lawsuit (including the Highlands Conservancy) refrained from calling for Federal intervention by OSM into the sadly deficient W.Va. Surface Mining Program. They chose rather to sue the state and the Division of Energy for failure to comply with the statutory mandates of both federal and state Surface Mine Laws and Regulations. The intent at that time was to seek state solutions to state problems.

In recognition of a more responsive attitude on the part of the new administration, all parties signed an out-of-court Settlement Agreement in July 1989 which listed a number of severe problem areas in the state program, and set forth corrective measures with reasonable time frames in which to undertake them.

From 1989 to 1991, efforts to improve the program, to implement the Settlement Agreement, or to generally bring the program into compliance with federal requirements have been plagued by the same financial and staffing constraints which contributed to the underlying problems within the state program.

As the 1991 Legislative Session approached, the Conservancy and other plaintiffs in the SOM lawsuit decided to forego pushing for the impossible. Instead, we would focus on funding: funding to alleviate the financial and staffing constraints.

Time had come to put an end to the sad faces and sorry excuses from DOE: "Well, we'd like to be able to track inactive sites, bond forfeitures, ownership records, etc., etc., but we just don't have the staff and we don't have the time.

"And, yes we know the regulations require us to do more in several other areas, but we just don't have the staff and we don't have the time."

Appeals to industry and to the Legislature would have to produce the additional monies needed to beef-up the program, to hire additional staff, and to create more time by expanding the capabilities of the staff.

When confusion about these funding needs turned the Legislative process into an adventure as incredible as the fabled journey to the Emerald City in the land of OZ, plaintiffs had little choice but to revisit their original decision and reconsider the wisdom and advisability of federal intervention in the state program. If sufficient new monies were not found, we would have to support and encourage OSM to perform its statutory duty under Section 733 of Federal Regulations to come into West Virginia and straighten out the deficiencies in the program.

The Legislature was extended for an extra week solely to deal with the budget; DOE funding was a major source of debate. As best we can tell, on March 17 the Legislature approved the following funding for DOE:

1) Start with General Revenue monies: $67,000 was allocated for DOE... Administration, Mines and Minerals, Oil and Gas, and Health, Safety and Training. (This amount was approximately equal to the money appropriated to DOE last year from General Revenue.)

2) Then add new monies for the Mines and Minerals section and relief for the Surface Mining Program

• $1 million was allocated from the special reclamation account. (This is the fund designated by state law to be used in reconditioning mine sites forfeited since 1977 — the same fund that is already desperately underfunded by millions of dollars, especially if you take into account the perpetual treatment of acid wastes which are leaking from many of these sites. Shortfalls of the special reclamation fund are at the very heart of major portions of the SOM lawsuit and OSM's dissatisfaction with West Virginia's program.)

"Another $1.2 million was allocated to come from surplus monies expected to remain in the state's coffers at the end of the fiscal year. (The first $2 million surplus is to go to the Division of Health and then, if an excess of money has materialized, DOE is to get its $1.5 million.)"

3) However, you must be aware that DOE is now operating on $1.2 million, which represents funding available to DOE last year on a one-time-only basis, and therefore must be used up for in DOE's 1991 budget to break even.

The result?

According to Energy Commissioner Woody Wayland, the total increase in funding approved by the Legislature "could be as little as $300,000." (A创意 from the original request for $3 million in new monies)

At present, there seems no way to wake up from this most recent twisters dream ride to the baffling Emerald City, Nor is it possible to predict what additional special effects the GREAT OZ will produce from behind that curtain.

In the meantime, endless meetings and frantic phone calls are taking place between Washington, D.C., and in Charleston, W.Va.

Although visions of working with the Federal bureaucracy are not all pleasant or comforting, involvement of OSM at this point may well be a refreshing change and may, over the long term, create some of the reform and direction to badly needed in the state surface mine program.

Committee Notes

Waste Management

Chairman Carroll Jett has added two new members to the committee: Doyle Caudley of Webster County and John Christiansen of Berkeley County.

"Doyle was very instrumental in organizing the recent uprising in Webster County which resulted in the proposed "Waste Land" in "Mia doon," Carroll wrote. "John still stands with the many other 'Hedgeville Heroes' who continue to resist the LCI Enterprise, John's favorite quote: 'When the people lead, the leaders will follow!'"
Reflections on the legislative session

by Missy Woolerton

The legislative session is over, and after a couple of weeks away from the Capitol, I may be gaining some perspective on what did and did not happen with environmental legislation.

It was a mixed bag to be sure. We had the considerable successes of groundwater, BRC (below regulatory concern) nuclear waste, and medical waste. As an active observer during the groundwater negotiations, I applauded Cindy Rank, Mary Wimmer, Chico DePreiston, and Norm Steinstra for their dedication, acumen, and patience.

With this year’s expanded lobby team the enviro-presence was felt continuously in both House and Senate — in public hearings, committee meetings, and up and down the halls. The team was also active in working on timber, DOE, industrial siting, and ORVs; and while none of the related legislation was passed this session, much educating on the issues was accomplished.

But the evening of March 9th in the Senate was real disappointment. It was there that this year’s progressive solid waste legislation — HB 2802 — was killed by a Senate which refused to act until it was too late. Among the provisions of this bill was a mechanism for limiting out-of-waste-bin garbage, a prohibition on commercial solid waste incineration, a cap on Class A lauddins, a Class B referendum, and funding for recycling and landfill closures.

With the death of HB 2802, it is obvious that many of our senators are not willing to protect West Virginia’s environment. Folks, the environment is simply NOT a priority for many of our representatives. Those of us who would advocate stewardship of the environment over special interests such as the coal, manufacturer's, chemical and waste management lobbies, are persona non grata under the dome.

We are criticized for alleged sedgery, but the environmental community does not compromise easily, and hold the bizarre belief that legislatures should represent the citizenry and should work to preserve the quality of life for all West Virginians. We don’t have big money to throw around, but we tend to be very vocal on behalf of the preservation of this state. Many of us write letters, make phone calls, pound the halls, and in general, don’t respect the private club atmosphere that pervades the Senate.

With the election of several environment­ally-conscious senators and delegates we ARE making inroads. We must continue to elect replacements for those who would sell out the state. In this entrenched network, it won’t be easy, but it is possible.

We must keep hammering, working on our legislation, increasing our numbers across the state, honing our strategies, and electing more of us. In the meantime, I’m going to work on getting my sense of humor back. I think I lost it somewhere in a natural resources committee meeting...and I hope to find it during the special session.

Key Democrat assails park air quality, EPA

reprinted from the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Friday, March 22, 1991

Times-Dispatch state staff

A California congressman yesterday called air quality in Shenandoah National Park “a disgrace” and charged the Environmental Protection Agency for maintaining a position that “is bad for the environment and bad for the Virginia tourist industry.”

The unusually heated comments from Rep. Henry A. Waxman, D-Calif., followed a hearing yesterday in Washington by a subcommittee headed by Waxman that is dealing with amendments to the Clean Air Act.

The congressman blasted EPA officials for maintaining that some 20 proposed powerplants in Virginia will not harm environments such as the Shenandoah national Park and the James River Face Wilderness area in the Jefferson National Forest.

“It is inconceivable that anyone could think that these plants can go forward as planned without further damaging the park,” Waxman said.

Similar arguments last week split the state Air Pollution Board when it granted permits to Multirad Luxembourg Limited and to Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, two companies that are planning powerplants.

The permits were the first issued by the state in the face of opposition from environmental groups, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Forest Service. They argue that pollutants from the plants will further harm the two so-called Class I areas as well as the Chesapeake Bay.

Both permits are subject to an amendments that would require modifications if methods now under development are able to clearly establish the impact of the plants. Such methods also must incorporate the impact on Virginia of out-of-state emissions sources.

Waxman, who holds considerable influence over air quality matters through his chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, asked the EPA earlier this month to supply detailed information about its approach to overseeing air quality in Virginia.

The state is undergoing a surge in plant construction that is believed to be the most ambitious in the country. One key study says that air quality in Virginia actually will deteriorate over the next 10 years even if air act amendments reduce harmful emissions in most states.

Citing what he called the “apparent lack of thorough analysis,” Waxman said that he wants the EPA to review studies that showed the 20 power plants would have no harmful impact on sensitive areas of Virginia.

Waxman has described as impressive efforts by the Park Service and Forest Service to show harmful effects from the plants and called on the EPA to establish whether the new amendments adequately protect visibility and the environment in protected areas.

Review

"...Through the sheltered lives of those who have experienced strip mining firsthand, the basic values of contemporary society are called into question. As one informant in the film expressed it: 'If we lived in a country that loved the land, then we'd live in a country that loved people.'

After supper Saturday, we'll talk about another aspect of land and wilderness in the Appalachian Corridor H It will be the focus of a panel discussion which will include Dr. Mary Wimmer of the..."

from page 1

W.Va. Sierra Club, representative of the West Virginia Department of Highways and some folks from the Eastern Panhandle.

Routing for the four-lane highway from east of Elkridge to the state line has been an important issue for Conservancy members for many years. No matter which route is chosen, sensitive areas of the state will be impacted. Almost every unique natural area in the Highlands Region is at risk.

Earth Day Resolution: Cut down on trash

Americans throw away enough iron and steel every day to supply the nation's automakers. With landfill space rapidly shrinking, we need to reduce the amount of garbage we generate.

Earth Day, April 22, is a good day to start reducing the amount of goods we throw away, reusing what we buy and recycling to save energy as well as landfill space. Below are some suggestions on how to be conservative:

• Use washable china and silverware instead of plastic or paper.
• Bag fruits and vegetables yourself to avoid buying excessively wrapped foods on throw­away trays.
• Invent in five or six washable cloth grocery bags you can reuse. Some stores now pay you to bring your own bags.
• Use reusable cloth napkins and dish towels instead of paper.
• Avoid throwaway lighters, cameras and other minimum-use convenience items.

• Buy the largest shampoo container and refill a smaller bottle you keep in the shower.
• Use both sides of scrap paper.
• Buy beverages in returnable containers to save money and landfill space.
• Switch to reusable razors and blades or an electric razor.
• Avoid buying single-serving containers.
• Recycle cans, paper, and glass whenever possible.
• Use products that come in recycled paper containers. Look of a gray interior, indicating recycled paper, in boxes containing cereals, detergents, and cake mixes.
• Look for unbleached paper products like coffee filters, toilet paper, paper towels and tissues. Bleaching paper with chlorine can create one of the most toxic man-made chemicals, dioxin.

(Reprinted from the WVU Cooperative Extension Service April newsletter, Upshur County)
The Highlands Voice, March-April 1991

**REVIEW**

The Holy Earth
by Liberty Hyde Bailey
The National United Methodist Rural Fellowship, Columbus, Ohio
117 pages. $5 paper.

Reviewed by Marta Cleveland

If you accepted the premise that the earth was created by God, then it follows that the earth is baledowed and should be treated as such.

This is the fundamental theme of The Holy Earth, Liberty Bailey’s 1915 classic on environmental ethics. He wrote, “to live in sincere relationship with the company of created things and with conscious regard for the support of all men now and yet to come, must be the essence of righteousness.” Because Bailey's message of moral responsibility for caring for the earth is even more pertinent today, The Holy Earth has been reprinted by the National United Methodist Rural Fellowship.

The book sets forth a philosophy of rural life we cannot afford to lose. Bailey asks, “Are we to make righteous use of the vast accumulation of knowledge of the planet? If so, we must have a new formulation. The partition of the earth among the millions who live on it is necessarily a question of morals; and a society that is founded on an immoral partition and use cannot itself be righteous and whole.”

From his viewpoint as head of the Horticulture Department of Cornell University in 1915, Bailey, like other environmentalists, stresses the equally important roles of spiritual life, and the spiritual life, and the roles of industry and government. The book’s language conveys the flavor of the early 1900s era, so although it is not inclusive (he used “man” when we would prefer “people”), it has a gracefulness often missing in modern text.

Every page invokes a thought worth remembering, a scene worth visualizing, a pledge worth keeping.

(reprinted from Winter 1991) Land Stewardship Letter, Land Stewardship Project, 14758 Ostlund Trail North, Marine, Minnesota 55047. Marta Cleveland is LSL’s Public Information Coordinator.

"The earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. This we know. All things are connected like the blood which united one family. All things are connected." Chief Seattle

**Soil and Water Stewardship Week**

AS YOU SOW is the theme of the 37th annual Soil and Water Stewardship Week sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts. The dates for the 1991 observance are April 28-May 5. The art on this year’s materials is a reproduction of an oil painting by the famous Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh. The art and the theme remind us that our individual actions (good or bad) have an impact on the earth’s environmental health and that we will reap the consequences.

Conservationist Neil Sampson wrote the text for this year’s booklet. It concludes with the following conclusions:

One hazard of discussing the global scope of today’s environmental problems is that people may spend too long searching for solutions at the global scale, in reality, most solutions to global problems begin at the local scale and build upward. They start with people...you and me.

...We must each see ourselves as sowers—for good or for bad. Every action we take, every decision we make, has an effect on the people and the natural world around us. Every sweep of our hands carries seeds—of some variety—somewhere. Our responsibility, then, is to become a skilled, responsible, loving sower whose effect is positive rather than negative.

...Starting with everyday living and building to the community and political action level, every person can be a sower, not just in the fields where food crops are grown, but in the broader fields of life, where God’s people live and labor together, as part and partner in the ongoing march of Creation.

For you now...

You can order a sample kit of 1991 Soil and Water Stewardship materials, which include a reference booklet, church program, childrens’ educational materials, bookmark, poster, placemat, bumper sticker, and letters for $27.50. Slideshows or video presentation also available. Contact: NACD Service Center, 408 E. Main, P.O. Box 855, League City, Texas, 77574-0855, (713) 332-3304.

(reprinted from the Winter 1991 Land Stewardship Letter, Land Stewardship Project, 14758 Ostlund Trail North, Marine, Minnesota 55047)

The fifth edition is 320 pages and includes:

- classic West Virginia hiking areas like the Allegheny Trail, Cheat Creek, Spruce Knob, Blue Bend, Dolly Sods and more;
- detailed descriptions of 164 hiking trails covering 780 miles;
- 60 maps;
- 39 black and white scenic photos;
- hiking and safety tips;
- conservation concerns.

To order your copy of the Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide send $9.95 to:

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
P.O. Box 306
Charleston, WV 25321

Please include $1.50 for shipping and handling. West Virginia residents include $6.50 sales tax. ($11.45, or $12.05 in W.Va.)

I have included a _check or money order for the amount of $ _ to the WVHCC for _ copies of the Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide.

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

1991 timber sale data available for Monongahela National Forest

A complete report on the timber sales from the Monongahela National Forest is now available from the Supervisor’s office in Elkins.

Timber sales in the Monongahela National Forest in 1990 produced total revenues of $2,553,216 from a 28.3 million board foot harvest, forest Supervisor Jim Page reported recently.

Once expenses were deducted, the forest service made $501,991, or $17.73 per thousand board feet on the sale. The state of West Virginia got another $21.33 per thousand board feet for the same timber, for a total public income of less than $40 per thousand board feet.

In addition to revenues to the U.S. Treasury and the State, the Monongahela timber program produced in fiscal 1990 generated 299 direct and indirect jobs for the local economy, according to the Monongahela National Forest News.

The annual report is compiled from the Forest Service Timber Sale Program Information Reporting System (TSPRS). TSPRS tracks and records costs and benefits of the timber sale programs on every national forest. The total Forest Service timber program produced national revenues of $3,170,400,000 from a 10.3 billion board foot harvest.

"Over the past several years the public has questioned the costs and benefits of timber sales on the national forests," Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson said. "TSPRS information is invaluable in our efforts to increase the cost efficiency of our timber sale program nationally and to explore opportunities for improving the efficiency of the program on each National Forest."

A complete report of the TSPRS information for the Monongahela National Forest is available from the Supervisor’s Office, 200 Sycamore Street, Elkins, WV 26241-3962. In addition to the statement of revenues and expenses, the report includes an economic report and a report of social and economic impacts.

**DNr to survey for endangered spiraea**

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources will survey Virginia Spiraea this summer along the Gauley, Meadow, and Blenecome rivers.

Virginia Spiraea is a shrub in the rose family and is listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

The survey, is to be conducted by DNR’s Natural Heritage Program, is being performed under a contract between DNR and the National Park Service, said Bob Miles, chief of DNR’s Wildlife Resources Section.

Information obtained during the survey will be used by the National Park Service to ensure that future development of these river segments will not jeopardize the rare species, Miles said.

Pre-planning of this nature saves both time and money, he added, by preventing conflicts.
Spring Events provide lots of chances to learn and enjoy

Symposium focuses on climate change

National Weather Service, Charleston, and the College of Agriculture and Forestry, West Virginia University, will sponsor a symposium on climate change in West Virginia April 24 at the Ramada Inn, South Charleston.

Global warming and its possible effects on life on earth is a widely discussed topic. This symposium will address the possible effects of global warming in West Virginia and examine responses to problem.

Topics and speakers include:
- Global Warming and Climate Change, Dr. Stanley J. Tchachman, Professor of Forest Meteorology, WVU Division of Forestry.
- Climate Change and Forests, Dr. Alia Qureshi, Climate Institute, Washington, D.C.
- State and Regional Climate Program, Dr. Warren W. Knapp, Professor of Atmospheric Sciences and Director of the Northeastern Regional Climate Center, Cornell University.
- Forestry, Climate Change, and Regional Economics, Dr. Robert Phelis, Forest Inventory, Economics and Recreation Research, USDA-Forest Service, Washington, D.C.
- Climate Change in West Virginia over the Past 30,000 Years. A Geologic Perspective, Dr. Robert E. Behling, Professor of Geology and Dr. J. Steven Kite, Associate Professor of Geology, WVU Department of Geology and Geography.
- Wildflowers in West Virginia. A Centennial Perspective, Dr. Neil McQueen, WVU College of Agriculture.

The symposium is open to the public. Cost is $15, or $5 for students. For additional information, call (304) 574-3036; or 1-800-CALL-WVA, or write North Bend State Park, Cairo, WV 26337.

Richwood schedules Cranberry Mountain Spring Nature Tour

Richwood’s 25th Annual Cranberry Mountain Spring Nature Tour will be Friday and Saturday, May 10-11. The event is sponsored by the Richwood Area Chamber of Commerce, Rhododendron Garden Club, W.Va. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Forest Service.

The beauty of the area and the quality of tour leaders have attracted nature lovers to the tour for a quarter of a century.

Actual tours arc Saturday, Friday’s events include slide and lecture programs and dinner and nature talk.

Spring has finally sprung so why not enjoy it on the Spring Nature Tour. For more information call (304) 643-2931 or 1-800-CALL-WVA, or write North Bend State Park, Cairo, WV 26337.

Spring Nature Tour at North Bend State Park

Dr. Bill Gravenor, naturalist, and wildlife biologist, will be the featured guest speaker at the annual Spring Nature Tour set for April 26-28 at North Bend State Park. Dr. Gravenor has been with the WVU division of Forestry for the past 25 years as an Extension Wildlife Specialist.

The weekend is filled with events such as the Premier of the Rail Trail. Three hikes, of varying distances, on the Rail Trail are planned for Saturday morning, April 27.

Entertainment ranges from the Glenville State College Barber Shop Quartet on Friday night to the Rocky Mountain Bluegrass Band on Saturday night.

Crafixa area tours, slide shows, and delicious gourmet offerings from the North Bend Restaurant round out the weekend.

Richwood schedules Cranberry Mountain Spring Nature Tour

Richwood's 25th Annual Cranberry Mountain Spring Nature Tour will be Friday and Saturday, May 10-11. The event is sponsored by the Richwood Area Chamber of Commerce, Rhododendron Garden Club, W.Va. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Forest Service.

The beauty of the area and the quality of tour leaders have attracted nature lovers to the tour for a quarter of a century.

Actual tours are Saturday. Friday’s events include slide and lecture programs and dinner and nature talk.

Spring Nature Tour at North Bend State Park

Dr. Bill Gravenor, naturalist, and wildlife biologist, will be the featured guest speaker at the annual Spring Nature Tour set for April 26-28 at North Bend State Park. Dr. Gravenor has been with the WVU division of Forestry for the past 25 years as an Extension Wildlife Specialist.

The weekend is filled with events such as the Premier of the Rail Trail. Three hikes, of varying distances, on the Rail Trail are planned for Saturday morning, April 27.

Entertainment ranges from the Glenville State College Barber Shop Quartet on Friday night to the Rocky Mountain Bluegrass Band on Saturday night.

Crafixa area tours, slide shows, and delicious gourmet offerings from the North Bend Restaurant round out the weekend.

Spring has finally sprung so why not enjoy it on the Spring Nature Tour. For more information call (304) 643-2931 or 1-800-CALL-WVA, or write North Bend State Park, Cairo, WV 26337.
Spring Review: May 3, 4, and 5

Yokum's Vactionland and Campground

Located at Junction of U.S. Route 33 and State Route 55 at Seneca Rocks

Three outings are planned for Saturday:

Tour Dolly Sods, Smoke Hole and Canaan Valley, all areas of long-standing concern to WVHC members. Tour will be primarily by vehicle with a small amount on foot. Contact for this tour is Joe Rieffenberger, (304) 636-4559.

Canoe Smoke Hole Canyon, one of West Virginia's most scenic runs. The rapids through Lower Smoke Hole are fairly steep and with enough complications to make paddling interesting. Contact for the canoe trip is Charlie Mullins (304) 342-0183 or 776-6220.

Climb Seneca Rocks on a developed trail and tour Spruce Knob, one of the highest of the W.Va. Highlands and the surrounding Monongahela National Forest areas, including lower Seneca Creek. Contact for the climb and tour is Frank Young, (304) 372-9329.

All trips leave from the Seneca Rocks Visitor Center. Canoists have to get up early to be ready to leave at 8 a.m. SHARP! Folks heading for Dolly Sods and Seneca Rocks get an extra hour sleep. Both depart the Visitor Center at 9 a.m.

Join the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| * 1-year subscription to *The Highlands Voice*.
| * Special meetings with workshops and speakers. |
| * Representation through WVHC efforts to monitor legislative activity. |

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is a non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible. Please keep this for your records.

Date: ___________________________
Amount: _________________________
Check number: ___________________

MAIL TO: P.O. Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321

Return this section with check payable to W.Va. Highlands Conservancy to: WVHC Spring Review c/o Frank Young Rt. 1 Box 108 Ripley, WV 25271

NAME _________________________
ADDRESS _______________________
CITY ___________________________ STATE ______ ZIP __________ PHONE ( )

TOTAL # (in your party) Reservations: cabins $50.00 to $120.00, depending on size and number of people; for exact rates and cabin reservations call Frank Young (304) 372-9329. Registration fee: $3.00 for each adult attending. Campsites available: Pay the small campsite fee upon arrival but return this form to us.

Efficiency apartments (sleeps up to six): # of nights X $50.00/nt. $ ________

Motel rooms (one or two double beds): # of nights X $35.00/nt. $ ________

Make checks payable to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

WANT ANSWERS? call Carroll Jett (304)-273-5247

Questions? call Frank Young (304) 372-9329

WVHC Spring Review 1991
1-800-336-1346
WVHC Spring Review
1991 WVHC SPRING REVIEW—REGISTRATION FORM—Return before April 15, 1991

1991 WVHC SPRING REVIEW—REGISTRATION FORM—Return before April 15, 1991

NAME _________________________
ADDRESS _______________________
CITY ___________________________ STATE ______ ZIP __________ PHONE ( )

TOTAL # (in your party) Reservations: cabins $50.00 to $120.00, depending on size and number of people; for exact rates and cabin reservations call Frank Young (304) 372-9329. Registration fee: $3.00 for each adult attending. Campsites available: Pay the small campsite fee upon arrival but return this form to us.

Efficiency apartments (sleeps up to six): # of nights X $50.00/nt. $ ________

Motel rooms (one or two double beds): # of nights X $35.00/nt. $ ________

Questions? call Frank Young (304) 372-9329

WANT ANSWERS? call Carroll Jett (304)-273-5247