Stream protection workshops offered

Volunteers are needed to help monitor and protect West Virginia's rivers. The Isaiah Walton League of America will host a series of hands-on training sessions through its West Virginia Save Our Streams Program on May 2 and June 27 from 12:45 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Volunteers will learn to monitor water quality using the League's biological monitoring technique which uses the critters present in the water to rate water quality. By attending one of the half-day workshops, citizens can become part of this fun, hands-on protection and monitoring, and sign up to adopt a river of their choice for a year or more.

"Additional workshops will be held throughout Mason and Jackson counties," said Richard Paterson, NPS Environmental Specialist with the West Virginia Soil Conservation Committee.

The West Virginia SOS program has been active in the state since 1989. Currently, the League maintains 85 volunteer water quality monitoring stations run by concerned West Virginia citizens. Presently no streams in Mason or Jackson counties have been adopted, with those in Calhoun and Roane counties.

Volunteers monitor water quality four to six times a year by using fine mesh nets to trap and identify aquatic insects. The types of critters living in the streams tell volunteers if the stream is of excellent, good, fair or poor water quality. For example, a stonefly is an excellent water quality indicator while a crayfish can be found in moderate quality water.

Data collected by the program is part of the Division of Natural Resources (DNR) Stream Monitoring Program. For more information on the program, call 304-476-4525.

Update from the legislature

by State VP Norm Steinstra

The last week of the session was marked by the passage of the Timber Bill, Roads to Trails Bill, the OVW Resolution, the Clean Air Bill, the Cancer Registry Bill and amazingly, the Hazardous Waste Siting Bill. Let's start with the Hazardous Waste Bill. HB 4224

HB 4224 allows citizens of a county to determine the siting of a hazardous waste facility. Early in the last week of the session, J.D. Brackenrith attempted to "triple reference" the bill (to Senate Natural Resources, Judiciary, and Finance Committees). Several "old-timer" lobbyists scratched their heads and said they'd never heard of a triple reference attempt. In the end, through a series of brilliant maneuvers by Senators Jim Humphreys, Sandra Lucht and Don Macnaughtan, the Finance reference was dropped and the bill passed Natural Resources, Judiciary, and finally the full Senate.

Senator Don Macnaughtan introduced an amendment in the Judiciary Committee which, quite frankly, pulled the rug out from under the chemical industry by removing six main objections. The bill passed the full Senate stronger than when introduced in the House six weeks earlier.

Briefly, the new law provides for a referendum on any Hazard Waste facility that takes more than 10-percent of its hazardous material from another facility. The new law is very similar to provisions in our Solid and Medical Waste laws passed last year.

Governor Caperton traveled to Martinsburg on March 18th, to sign the bill into law in front of several hundred appreciative Berkeley Countians. The law prohibits any WTE-type commercial hazardous waste facilities from siting in our state without voter approval. Literally hundreds of people were involved in the successful passage of HB 4224, but the legislative heroes include Delegate Dale Mantle, John Hartwork, Vickie Doggles, and David Grubbs. The Senators who deserve the most credit are Sandra Lucht, Jim Humphreys, and Don Macnaughtan.

Timber

It may seem odd, but sometimes the passage of an "environmental" bill can be considered a defeat. That was the case with HB 4669. This bill came out of the House, disheartened, and created, last in the session. There was an erroneous perception created by the Timber Industry that this bill was an agreed upon piece of legislation. The bill was to provide for a Timber Industry Program on May 21 and June 27.

"It was agreed upon piece of legislation. The bill was to provide for a Timber Industry Program on May 21 and June 27.

Spring Review

May 15-17

Watoga State Park

Focus on the Forest

(reprinted from the WVLEG Legislative Update)

We celebrated our third annual E-DAY! on Thursday, February 13th. It's really great to be able to have traditions for such a young organization, and E-DAY has truly become a tradition.

Each E-DAY! event has had its own tone and mood. This year's was unique because it was more than just an event; it was an experience, with Lois Gibbs inspiring a new movement. Last year, Paul Connell amased and instructed us on waste management and incineration. The "garbage crazies" dominated the audience those first two years. This E-DAY! was different. A winter storm hit the state the night before and prevented our good friends from both the Panhandle, and the northern part of the state, from coming in their usual numbers. People concerned about toxics, herbicide spraying and divoices outnumbered the "garbage crazies."

Tom Webster, our keynote speaker, was dynamic. He took the complex issue of dioxin and made it understandable for all of us non-science. Other speakers included Bill Doyle, on the Ravenswood locked out steelworkers, Kate Baham on the spraying of pesticides, Cindy Rank on timbering, and Brian Hagenbuch on toxics use reduction and hazardous waste facilities; all of this was masterfully med by WVEC President, Perry McDaniel.

This year included two notable changes. We kept the microphone open to only the issues and not to politicians. Our friendly elected officials of previous years' speakers, such as Chuck Chambers, Charlotte Print and Dave Grubbs, graciously understood our need to focus on the issues.

See E-DAY!, page 9
— from the heart of the mountains —

CANAAN

Valley of Promise / Valley of Conflict

As the population of the East Coast explodes, special places like Canaan Valley are under more and more pressure to fulfill a multitude of different and often conflicting dreams.

There seems to be no end to the tug-of-war over what to do with these thousands of acres of unique wetland ecosystems. Do you flood them for a pump storage electric power plant? Do you drain them for more and more second homedvelopment? Do you drive through them for a wet and wild ORV experience? Do you set them aside as a National Treasure to be visited? Do you protect the lowlying wetlands and create luxury resorts along the upland ridges?

...the list could go on...

The position of the holdings Conservancy has always been clear: Designation as a National Wildlife Refuge would not only protect the wetland complex and the entire ecosystem for its own value, but would also contribute to the local and state economy by protecting the resource and experience that draws people to the Valley in the first place.

And still, after decades of political and legal battles, even the most conciliatory attempts at compromise are being challenged.

As readers of the VOICES are aware, the Canaan Valley Task Force has provided a forum for representatives from Federal and State agencies, local government and business groups and statewide environmental organizations to talk through their differences and often mistaken perceptions of each other and the proposed Wildlife Refuge. Further studies have been conducted to evaluate the possible impacts a Refuge would have on the lives of the people in Tucker County. And the Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed a new refuge boundary that would exclude some of the more developed land in the southern end of the valley.

While the proposal is not entirely satisfactory to any of the groups involved in the Task Force, it could provide a somewhat decent resolution to fears about the Refuge. Informational meetings have been held throughout the county, and yet activities surrounding most recent of these meetings is indicative of the controversy that continues to exist.

The Tucker County Planning Commission arranged and advertised meetings in Parsons and Canaan Valley on the 9th and 10th of April. Their advertisement appeared on page 13 of the April 8th edition of the Parsons Advocate. On the preceding page an ad sponsored by the Citizens for Progress in Tucker County encouraged people to attend the public meetings and opposed positive answers to some of the oft asked questions about the Wildlife Refuge.

However, on the pages before and after these two ads, as well as the entire two page middle spread, are messages from Tucker Countians for Continued Growth clearly opposing the refuge and conjuring up the false and divisive arguments of environment VS economics, about environmental protection measures preventing growth and stifling the economy....

It was disheartening to read this issue of the Advocate, and yet, all hope was not lost. A week later, at Easter morning church services with family in Pennsylvania, I spoke with a member of the parish who owns a home in Timberline and knows of our interest in the Valley. He made a point of saying how much he resented the mailings from Timberline and developers in the area who constantly berate the idea of a National Wildlife Refuge.

As if these remnants of past and continuing struggles to protect Canaan Valley aren't enough, a new element of confusion is about to be added to the pot: fields of wind turbines along the mountain ridges in the valley and up to Mount Storm.

Admittedly, even with a major push for renewed dedication to conservation by all americans, we do need to encourage the development of alternative sources of energy. And wind power is certainly one of the available options. — But, why here?

See Canaan, page 3

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The Highlards Voice is printed on recycled paper.
Free access will give ORV users a stake in the forest

To The Editor

January 20, 1992

I am writing to offer counterpoint to pervasive negative attitudes toward motorized, recreational vehicles which many members of the Conservancy seem to hold. I find these attitudes selfish, hypocritical and — most important — short-sighted. I have been a member of the Conservancy almost since its founding. I lived in Pocahontas County for five years and still maintain a residence there even though I have never owned a trail bike or four-wheeler. I do own a mountain bike which I frequently ride on trails and fire roads in the Monongahela Forest.

When I ride, it is a rare event to encounter anyone; and when I do it is usually either a logging truck or one or two people on four-wheelers. Outside of hunting season I don't think I've run across bikers more than two or three times in ten years. In my view the trails and fire roads in the Monongahela are scantily utilized. That is essentially why I find any attitude which seeks to completely exclude four-wheelers and the like selfish — like the kid who doesn't want anyone else to play with his toys, even though he's not playing with them.

I am in sympathy with those who feel there ought to be places of peace, natural beauty and sounds of silence; that is what wilderness areas are for and I support their existence and expansion. But in the rest of the forest the cacophony of the chainsaw, logging truck and rock music from the ski resort mingles with the wildcat's yowl and the kid's laughter. I personally am not disturbed by encounters — almost all friendly — with occasional four-wheelers. This, to me, is what multiple use is all about.

Conservancy past helps recall fond memories

West Virginia Conservancy

Because of age with its intimacies, I almost did not send my renewal— then I read the last two news letters. This brought back memories of the week-ends we spent there. Bob Harrigan asked my husband and me to visit the wonderful weekend at Snow Knob and the hike led by Joe Rifkenberger. We continued to come weekends until my husband's health started to fail.

I did not remember the date and I do remember many of the names, including the Smits, B. Burrell, Rodman, Cutler, and Dr. King.

I am happy to have the history.

Sincerely,

Francois B. Courter
(Mrs. Anson Courter)

Canaan — Continued from page 2

Once again the resources of the area — this time the wind— offer promise for a multitude of conflicting experiences. The reader might wish to keep this in mind on Bchool Road. The sense of being carried off into a spectacular world of unending vistas of mountains and valleys are also the winds that provide enough velocity to make this an ideal site for windpower in West Virginia. And so, visions of towering turbines may be added to the dreamy-nightmare of lumber records lining the rim of the valley.

But what will be the impact of dozens or hundreds of 80' tall turbines with bladed spans 60' wide???? What impact will these modern day windmills and their accompanying power lines and access roads have on this area that is already being pulled in every conceivable direction? What will it be to have a Wildlife Refuge surrounded on three sides by rotating blades? And what of the unimpressed vistiors from places like Bear Rocks? And what of the eagles and other avian beings that float and soar on the same air currents that thrill the heart and power the turbines?

The Highlands Voice, March/April 1992 - Page 3

Letters - letters - letters - letters - letters - letters

Laws create non-progressive approach

Dear Editor:

Writers to the Highlands Voice seem to be heavy on "big government" type laws to solve environmental problems. My experience with bureaucrats is that they care mostly about covering their tails and care little about protecting the environment — the former WV. Department of Environment being a good example. This is a mistake. We need to work on people solutions to environmental problems. Here are some of my favorite solutions:

1) Find a use for waste products. From growing mushrooms on residual top wood from logged areas to feeding fruit skins to pet rabbits, there is much we can do to better utilize out of whack wood. For example, with the addition of the right nutrients we have on the environment through our purchasing habits. Many West Virginian businesses are utilizing such products as: Organic Gardening, Backwoods Home Magazine, Mother Earth News, BACK TO BASICS by Reader's Digest, THE COMPLETE BOOK OF COMPOST, Backwoods Home, Sierra Club Rocks, TREE CROSSES: A PERMANENT AGRICULTURE by J. Russell Smith.

2) Search for lost & discarded seeds, if necessary, environmentally friendly products. After learning of the crude human waste disposal methods used by weekend boaters in and around Summersville Lake, I decided to do something about it; not by pushing for more laws, but by giving people a better alternative. It being one of the newer composting commodes, that can be installed on a boat as well as at home. But since I have not the time nor a store etc. to promote them, I persuaded a friend of mine to pay for more law. The government is not the answer. It will be those people who will resolve. That is why the environmental protection is their idea increasing their enthusiasm for BMPs. For in recent years this terminology has mixed some people. The program is really both carrot and stick.

Canaan — — Continued from page 2

But the non-progressive approach is one which follows the brain and not the heart. As a West Virginia program for the forest industry is a unique innovative program that has 'recovered the credit it was due.' It is referred to as a voluntary compliance program. In its early years this terminology was useful in obtaining the compliance of loggers. Not only did they register, but he also convinced them that environmental protection is their idea increasing their enthusiasm for BMPs. For in recent years this terminology has mixed some people. The program is really both carrot and stick.

The carrot is: if a logger registers and socially acceptable protection of the environment he isn't immediately fined when a water problem occurs. The stick: if he does register he can be put out of business as happen to Ralph Burns of Oak Hill. But the non-progressive approach is one which follows the brain and not the heart. As a West Virginia program for the forest industry is a unique innovative program that has 'recovered the credit it was due.' It is referred to as a voluntary compliance program. In its early years this terminology was useful in obtaining the compliance of loggers. The key word is "non-progressive."
Conservancy can succeed

Dear Ms. Cindy Rank,

"Is anybody listening? Does anybody care?"

I first heard these questions asked in the musical "1776." It was produced to commemorate our country's 200th birthday. Our founding fathers had the perception they were alone in the effort for independence.

Your Vol. 26, #10/11 "from the editor" H.V. confirmed that concern for feedback for "the affirmed" still exists. You Cindy there are live Highlands Voice subscribers out here. We do exist as certainly as nature, the environment, etc. We do have a concern for maintaining it in the best fashion we can, living in and using it as recklessly as we do.

Xin Chadwell

Conservancy

by Joan Sims

of Mountain Stream Monitors

In 1991, West Virginia Mountain Stream Monitors received a grant from the Virginia Environmental Endowment to educate citizens and legislators about a proposed weakening of the State's water standard. This weakened standard would have been 77 times weaker than the EPA's recommended standard. Dioxin is a by-product of the chlorine-activated type of paper bleaching process. The West Virginia Water Resources Board proposed this new standard to accommodate the construction of the proposed Alabama River Pulp Company's Apple Grove Wood Plant on the Ohio River in Mason County. Governor Caperton was planning to introduce this change during the 1992 legislative session.

Mountain Stream Monitors began the Water Quality Project by organizing a group of scientists and community organizers, coordinated by Anstoch Invern, Tom Wert in Charleston. Dioxin fact sheets were written and distributed to citizens and citizen groups. Meetings were held to discuss the dangers of this toxic chemical, and alternative methods of bleaching paper. Dioxin does not exist in nature, and it is only created by industrial processes. Dioxin enters the cells of humans and animals, and disrupts normal physiological and immune system responses in subtle but measurable ways. Bleaching paper with oxygen or hydrogen peroxide instead of chlorine is being used in Europe and Canada.

To increase public understanding of this dioxin issue, Thomas Webster, a research scientist at City University of New York, came to Charleston and gave an effective speech on dioxin in papermaking bleaching methods at the E-Day rally at the Capitol in February. He asked the audience if slightly whiter and cheaper paper is worth ricketing cancer for. Also during the rally, Tom Rodd and Carol Jackson from Morgantown organized an impressive children's skit about this in contamination, with "Alabama George", the mutated catfish. Then, a major public hearing was held before the West Virginia Senate Natural Resources Committee concerning this proposed change in the State dioxin standards, with many testifiers by concerned citizens.

Our hard work was rewarded when the Governor cancelled his plans to introduce this bill to weaken the dioxin standard. He also dropped the Water Resources Board's proposed Harmonic Mean Flow method of calculating a river's ability to dilute carcinogenic pollution. This would have allowed industries to dump five to seven times more carcinogenic pollution, including dioxin, in West Virginia waterways.

Mountain Stream Monitors used this Water Quality Project Grant to organize an exhaustive team of organizers, scientists, and citizens, which was able to educate and inform the public about these important water quality issues. This has resulted in much better water quality standards for our State. These will help to create a climate that encourages clean industries to locate in West Virginia, but tells polluters that they are not welcome here.

By Joan Sims

of Mountain Stream Monitors

Rivers Coalition seeks members' support

Dear West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Member:

Recently, some Conservancy members sat around the dinner table reminiscing about the spectacular stretch of the Gauley River that now lies beneath Summersville Lake. It offered extraordinary scenery, wildlife habitat, and whitewater.

Over the years, the Conservancy has worked hard to keep West Virginia's rivers free flowing. Dam sites have been fought on the New, Gauley, Meadow, Cheat, and Greenbrier... just to name a few. With renewed interest in hydropower, increased demand for municipal water, schemes to develop small coal-fired power plants, and the push to complete Corridor H, the need to protect West Virginia's streams in as critical as ever.

The legislative success that led to Congress passing Congressman Rahall's West Virginia Rivers Act of 1988 was, in part, the result of an informal coalition of state and national conservation groups, including the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. That effort spawned the idea of a West Virginia Rivers Coalition (WVRC) of which the Conservancy is a charter member and strong supporter.

With 24 state and national organizational members, WVRC also offers to offer individual memberships. As a Conservancy member, your membership in WVRC is free. Simply fill out our enclosed form and mail it to WVRC. Your membership will bring you WVRC's newsletter and timely information about how you can help protect rivers. WVRC is in need of funding, and, of course, a donation would be greatly appreciated.

With a full-time executive director and an office in Buckingham, WVRC is up and running. Its first big project is to protect 11 rivers in the Monongahela National Forest by having them designated as Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers. For this project to succeed, we need your support. Think about the rivers we have lost to dams and pollution. Let's not lose anymore. Please join us!

Sincerely,
Roger Harrison
Executive Director
West Virginia Rivers Coalition

LATE NEWS: Forest Service agrees with WVRC recommendations — 12 rivers in Monongahela National Forest found eligible for Wild & Scenic Rivers designation.

Streams

which uses the information to gauge the quality of rivers around the state.

"Many of these rivers would be unmonitored and unprotected without the help of concerned West Virginia volunteers," said Mike Arceci of the DNR. The program is fun for all ages and currently involves schools, fishing clubs, civic organizations, individuals, farmers and all people concerned with protecting the quality of West Virginia's rivers now and for future generations.

Rivers Coalition seeks members' support

From page one

Friends of the Appalachian Trail, sponsored by the West Virginia Environmental Council and proceeds support both our work and theirs. Cover girls on the tape is our beloved president, Cindy Rank.

Tapes are available for $10, plus $1.25 shipping and handling (total, $11.25 per tape). To order, send check or money order to Mary Pat Peck, 36 Meade St., Buckhannon, WV 26201.

"We Are Not for Sale" is (for sale)

"We Are Not for Sale," a dynamic tape of eclectic, home-grown music with an environmental theme is still available. Musicians include Mike Moominga, Larry Groce, Ron Sowell, Kate Long, Stewed Mulligan, Mountain Thyme, David Morris, Jim Martin, Colleen Anderson, Baynes, and the Bedrockers (Steve Himes), and Tom Rodd.

The tape was commissioned by the West Virginia Environmental Council and proceeds support both our work and theirs. Cover girls on the tape is our beloved president, Cindy Rank.

Tapes are available for $10, plus $1.25 shipping and handling (total, $11.25 per tape). To order, send check or money order to Mary Pat Peck, 36 Meade St., Buckhannon, WV 26201.
Governor's office help sought to save creek from DEP & AMD

by Marvin Gelhaus, Statesman Editor
reprinted from April 20, 1992
Mountain Statesman, Grafton

GRAFTON — Taylor County support is being offered to the efforts of the Fellowsville Watershed Association, the Army Corps of Engineers and others to find a better and more aggressive clean-up of acid mine drainage from the F&M mine sites in Preston County.

The state's three county commissioners have drafted a letter calling for immediate action. Taylor County State Senator Mike Withers, who also represents Preston County, is speaking out on the issue.

Withers in an interview with the Mountain Statesman last week said the coalition of those asking action has included both Taylor and Preston County residents and groups such as Trout Unlimited. He said the suit was filed asking that the West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection be required to assure the clean-up is immediately begun and followed through for as long as it is required.

Withers is also calling for the state to be more aggressive. "I think the state needs to be more aggressive about going after insurance companies for cleaning these sites," he said.

The senator said EPA Director David Callaghan is saying the division will reclaim the sites. But Withers said the EPA will still have to go back in and provide drainage ditches and collection ponds.

"I don't believe they have the technology to solve it," commented Withers, who expressed concern over the far reaching environmental impacts of the problem.

Withers believes inadequate bonding is also at the heart of the problem.

"I think the real problem here is that EPA is trying to avoid the recognition that the mining industry and the state have to amend their bonding requirements."

Withers went on to explain, "In situations where the bonding process is inadequate to cover the cost of the state going in and fulfilling the obligation."

The senator said, "If the EPA admits here that the inadequate bonding in the problem, then it is an admission of the problems at all other sites."

Taylor County Commissioner Tom Spadafore said: "This is not only affecting the environmental performance for not only the Grafton and Taylor County but also for communities downstream."n
Visit the website of Charleston Wither's agreed with her husband, Senator Wither's, that drainage trenches and collection ponds will be an urgent priority for the next range plan to address the problems. However, the family supports the efforts to see that action is taken.

"Not only are we looking at negative impacts upon the water source and recreational uses of Tygart Lake but we're looking at an entire biologic and ecological system for which the impacts are unknown," she said.

Personal perspectives

Dr. George Woodwell
reprinted from Newville
published by the Natural Resources Defense Council

Grassroots lies between what we know in science and what we do in government, and what we do in government, and what we do in government, and what we do in government, and what we do in government. People who say that global warming hasn't been proven, or that it's not serious enough, are both guilty of overreaching. People who say that global warming is a threat, and that we must take it seriously, are both guilty of hypocrisies. People who say that global warming is a threat, and that we must take it seriously, are both guilty of hypocrisies. But they are wrong. People who say that global warming is a threat, and that we must take it seriously, are both guilty of hypocrisies. But they are wrong. People who say that global warming is a threat, and that we must take it seriously, are both guilty of hypocrisies. But they are wrong. People who say that global warming is a threat, and that we must take it seriously, are both guilty of hypocrisies. But they are wrong.
March 1974

Strip Strategy in '74

Strip mining for coal has not gone away, if anything the coal operators are now gouging out of the Appalachian hills at an ever increasing rate. Situation and landslides from stripping and the accompanying destruction has been reduced in the last several years here in West Virginia as citizen protests have brought about more strict law enforcement. The improved situ- ation is at best temporary though, and predictions by knowledgeable people (such as the Pennsylvania Strip Mine Reclamation Director) are that heavy rains will wash out the flimsy earth fill dams. Pray that a number of washouts in one storm will not turn your stream into another Buffalo Creek.

If strip mining damage could be restricted to the property being mined, then it would be acceptable. From an engineering standpoint stripping without damage to adjoining property is possible, but such a method of stripping would not be economically competitive with deep mining. By the same token out West Virginia strip mine laws, if strictly enforced, would eliminate countless cases of damage from the same enforcement would economically eliminate strip mining.

Historically, West Virginia politicians have favored the coal industry and out-of-state interests in general. If not this, then why do the people who live here in the middle of this fantastically abundant natural resources suffer from the lack of adequate health facilities, poor schools, poor roads, and sub-standard communities. Strip mining has added insult to injury, in that in many instances it has taken from the already underprivileged a public resource. Their homes have been repeatedly flooded and their roads, their streams, and their hills have been virtually destoryed.

Robert Handley

Guest Editorial

from Outdoor America

The world's attention is finally focusing on the conservation- ist. Remember when we were stoned radicals, doomsayers, utopian-observationalists...?

Remember when our cautions about untempered consump- tion of natural resources were called crazed and "shock from the hip" approaches detrimental to the national interest?

Some even called us "eco-frakta" because we dared to suggest that man, through his voracious appetite for convenience was eating up the earth's finite sources of energy.

All of a sudden we're first. The public is learning, for the first time, that the real quick-draw experts are the energy purveyors, who have both created and nourished the public's craving for more resource-sapping products. If the "Tonee" had showed off a canoe instead of a Cadillac, the allAmerican family would be healthier and more environmentally aware for having tried to "keep up with them."

Overlook

by Bob Barnett

WVHC Shavers Fork committee member Bill Brister re- cently made the news when he received the Gurney Godfrey Memorial Award for outstanding accomplishment in the conser- vation of Natural resources. Brister's tireless efforts to prevent needless and often unauthorized exploitation of the Monongahena National Forest and Shavers Fork were cited in the award.

Bill Barnett referred to joint committee

by Charles Bowser

Goodnew! I contacted Del. Billy Burke last week for a report on SCR 14, the "Bottle Bill," and she returned with the news that Lew Manzi, chairman of the House Rules Commit- tee, has moved the report on SCR 14 out of his commitee... incidentally, I finally heard former Governor Moore about the "Bottle Bill." He favored relating it to the provisions of the Waste Control program under the jurisdiction of the Alchohol Beverage Commission in order to save money and accelerate the demise of your watching your views in this regard with...should such a measure be presented to me for my signature, I shall give it every proper consideration, keeping your thoughts in mind.

Well, the Governor is at least reading his mail, and he appears to be leaning to our side.

March 1975

FPC Staff Vetoes Davis Power Project

The staff of the Federal Power Commission has recom- mended that the Administrative Law Judge refuse a license for the proposed Davis Lake Power Project on Cranberry Valley. This unexpected recommendation is contained in the FPC Staff Counsel's initial Brief filed Feb. 28, 1975. In the major recom- mendation, the brief notes, "In this instance, the losses in the natural resources occasioned by the Development of the project on Davis Lake Power Project outweigh the resultant benefi-

In brief, the brief finds various alternatives available, both other pumped storage sites and other methods of power generation, and concludes that these would be preferable if a license is issued.

...the FPC staff argues that the law requires the FPC to have regard of the overall public interest. "The public interest is only served, when consideration is given to all other benefits of the Blackwater River and the Cranberry Valley. The Cranberry Valley represents a unique natural ecosystem in West Virginia and some instances the significance of these resources extends to the Central Appalachian Region and even the United States. Be- cause of this, the determination of the public interest requires the weighing of the losses to these resources against the benefits derived from the development of the proposed project."

Speak Out for the Cranberry Back Country

by Ron Hardway

(this) follows a description of the core drilling for coal in the Cranberry done by Mid Allegheny Corporation not long after the release of results of government funded investigation of 240 core holes, new and old, in the Cranberry.

So is the Cranberry Back Country in a lot of trouble. Mid Allegheny has got to come up with more core than Slack's Survey did. To do that they must core drill, core drill and core drill until they strike water or oil, whichever comes first. That means more drilling, and more justification of your views in this regard with...should such a measure be presented to me for my signature, I shall give it every proper consideration, keeping your thoughts in mind.

Well, the Governor is at least reading his mail, and he appears to be leaning to our side.

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our past - our present - our future - our present - our past

Bits and pieces from past Voices
Charles Carlson stated that the Highlands Conservancy was concerned, a litigation in info Cranmer II construction at an upcom- ing meeting on April 12 at Jackson's Mill. The primary objective is to stop construction of any eastward extension of Cranmer II if the western edge of Elkies until EIS was prepared on the entire alignment of the highway.

Why the Cranberry Back Country is not Otter Creek
by Ron Hardway
A couple of years down the road, Otter Creek was faced with the unpleasant prospect of extensive core drilling operations within its boundaries. Island Creek Coal Company, owners of the mineral rights to Otter Creek, had decided to find out exactly what it was they owned. Regardless of the fact that Otter Creek was being reviewed by Congress as a potential National Wilderness Area, Island Creek had laid down plans to build a network of roads throughout the area to get to their core-drilling sites. The Forest Service, stewards of the Otter Creek surface, went along with Island Creek’s roadbuilding plans because the Forest Service hoped to log the entire watershed anyway and would have to do less roadwork themselves.

It was a case of good fortune that happened in Otter Creek as history, yet history it now is that the Conservancy took offense against both Island Creek and the Forest Service, and sued them jointly to prevent the roadbuilding. The Board of the Conservancy won the suit; that Island Creek was compelled to do their core drilling via horseback; that no logging ever occurred; that no roads were built; and that today, they own the Otter Creek Wilderness Area.

Otter Creek is also well and good. But the core drillers and the road builders never die—they just change their name and move to another proposed wilderness area. Island Creek has become Mid-Allegany Corporation, and Otter Creek has become the Cranberry Back Country. But there the resemblance ends, and this time it’s going to be much more difficult to stop what is happening.

It would seem that the Otter Creek decision would have set a precedent, and so it did for areas whose minerals are held under the same conditions as those in Cranmer II. The ownership of Cranberry’s minerals is a totally different story, and the Otter Creek decision does not apply in the least.

March 1976
CAG vs Coal Mine for Water Pollution
The West Virginia Citizen Action Group (WV-CAG) has notified ten coal companies operating 220 illegal mine discharges, of their intent to sue the companies for violation of Federal law. WV-CAG is also threatening to sue the EPA for failure to enforce the Federal Water Pollution Control Act at most of West Virginia’s coal mines...

Rare fish discovered in Shavers Fork
by Paul Frank, Elkies Inter-Mountain
A fish that may be a new species of a kind in the world has been discovered on Shaver’s Fork of the Cheat River, high in the mountains above Huntington, and studies for this fish will be conducted by trained and endangered species, according to the W.Va. Department of Natural Resources.

The news of placing the minnow on the rare and endangered species list of the U.S. Department of Interior, according to officials at the DNR, would be to severely limit the kinds of development to the area, according to the agency

The tiny minnow—barely as long as its scientific name, Richinichthys bowei—was originally discovered in 1899 by two scientists, Goode and Glace, who found specimens of the minnow-like fish in both the Dry Fork near Harmar and at Cheat Bridge. At that time it was thought to be a hybrid—a cross between two other kinds of minnows. Some years later, in 1940, another scientist, Raney, found the same "hybrid" at Cheat Bridge again, and he believed it to be a hybrid. Since 1940 nobody said anything about Richinichthys bowei again.

Now following an August 1975 stream survey by a fish biologist from the Division of Wildlife Resources of the DNR, it is believed that the little minnow is in fact a new species.

It is also believed that the fish may be endemic to Shaver’s Fork—that is, that it may exist nowhere else in the world.

Budgetary Blues
or
The Cheat Chagrin
by Bruce Jarvis
The forest Administration’s Budget Proposal which has been submitted to Congress contains a $216 million appropriation for the West Virginia Dam and Lake in Preston and Tucker counties. This year the state foresters proposed to the budgeting agencies at the Interior Department for the Cheat River area was the "largest uncontrolled tributary in the headwaters of the Ohio River.".

In 1972, after tropical storm Agnes drenched the East Coast, the proposal estimated that a dam at Rowlesburg would have prevented $49 million in damages downstream. If only there had been a dam! The "if only" logic figures heavily in estimating the expected "benefits" of the Rowlesburg Project.

The last paragraph of the proposal, however, state that the Rowlesburg Project is being moved to decrease the planned reservoir storage capacity and to reduce "the magnitude of recreation development.

March 1977
Reclamation Board of Review Hearing
by Nicholas Zvegintz
Included excerpts from the Board’s Decision, March 25, 1977... The reclamation and mining plan which accompanied the application...does not meet the requirements...The Board concludes that the Director did not act unreasonably or unlawfully in accepting the application...and ordering publication of the notice...without requiring the application to be accompanied by a complete reclamation and mining plan. However the Board is convinced that the basic problem is one of the applicant’s ability to complete flood control and further reclamation. The decision should require future applicants to submit such plans...

Damned if you do and damned if you don’t by Nicholas Zvegintz
(Written as Governor Jay Rockefeller signed a cost-sharing agreement to proceed with the Stonewall Jackson Dam project)

...So much for the story of how the three arms of government (the Corps, the Judge and the Senate) twist and squirm to flood Brownsville, Walkersville, Roanoke, and Vandalia, and displace 1,800 peaceful Lewis County people.

But why should the Government go to such humiliating lengths to avoid an alternative proposal that is on its face appears to satisfy somewhat all the announced goals of the project, and in addition to leave the people in possession of their homes, churches, and way of life? Presumably for the mundane reason familiar in all conflicts with the Corps from the top of Spruce Knob to the tip of the Mississippi delta—that the Corps’ oldest mandate is to promote free and unimpeded navigation and that all these lakes are desired in the hills of West Virginia in order to float those new and bigger barges up to Pittsburgh in a dry year.

It is for this reason that (as the Corps frankly says in its Environmental Impact Statement) "would nullify communities and scattered farms will give way to a large transient population looking for recreation and relaxation."

There is an irony in this alternative proposal. The people of the Upper West Fork River Watershed Association are alive and well among the rolling hills of Lewis County, going to church, enjoying music festivals and rump feeds, and generally minding their own business. Such tranquility is the scarcest resource in our society. Its opposite, the apathy, anomie, and anger that go with displaced populations is our society’s greatest burden.

Spring Review is coming
Highlands Conservancy members and friends will meet May 15-17 at Watauga State Park for the Spring Review, which will Focus on the Forest.

The Highlands Board has planned a variety of fun activities for the daytime Saturday—a canoe trip on the Greenbrier River, a wilderness hike and kids, cross-country biking. On Saturday night there is a Barbecue.

Cabin rentals have been proposed for the weekend, but Donna notes this year's trips are being run by the Conservancy and you can give her a call (304-428-7476) and give her names and numbers, or leave the information on her answering machine. Cost for the cabin is $17 per night, per person.

Meals are available from the Watauga Restaurant and they can also provide box lunches for Saturday's outings.

Hope to see many of you there.
Volunteers needed for forest trail work

from Tom Prall MTP Coordinator
Sierra Club
West Virginia Chapter
Once again the Sierra Club will participate in the Monongahela National Forest Trail Project. The MTP provides an opportunity for its volunteers to enjoy one of West Virginia's greatest natural resources while helping to improve recreation opportunities throughout the forest.

This year, five outnings are planned in five different districts of the forest where we will maintain, build and repair trails and trail structures. Friends and newcomers are welcome on all of the outings.

Volunteers can sign-up for one or both days of any weekend outing. Day care may be available on the July 3, 4, and 5 weekends. Please indicate if you are willing to work with day care and at what times.

Through the years, volunteers have come back again and again to help us both get started and to continue work on this trail to make it an example of our Sierra Club efforts. Along with trail maintenance, we also plan to spend some time identifying and enjoying wildlife, and we might even see a bear! Indoor accommodations are available along with camping. Leader: Mary Wimmer - 598-4336.

Outing #3: July 3-5, Potomac District - Our 7th annual Seneca Creek outing will feature accommodations at Shat Cherry Cabin near Spruce Knob, our renowned Saturday night chicken barbecue, two invigorating days of trail maintenance, and a play day Sunday. On this outing, day care may be available. (Camping along Seneca Creek is also possible.) Leader: Mary Wimmer - 598-4336.

Brooks Bird Club Foray is June 4-13

Brooks Bird Club is planning their 53rd Annual Foray, June 4-13 at the Raleigh County 5-H Camp in Daniels, WV.

HEADQUARTERS for the Foray will be at the Raleigh County 4-H Camp, Daniels, WV. The camp is on Rt. 307 and is adjacent to Little Beaver State Park. Easy directions are: 1-77 South-east on I-64 to Exit 129-A (Shady Springs) - Rt. 9 South to Rt. 307 - turn left (South) go past Little Beaver State Park to camp. Look for BBC signs.

ACCOMMODATIONS at the 4-H camp are good. Campers will be housed "barrack style." There are 3 unheated cabins, 16 beds each, for the men and 5 Quonset unheated cabins, 18 beds each, for the women. These cabins have wooden beds with a good plastic covered mattress and good hanging space. The restrooms are centrally located with showers and toilet facilities in a separate building - one for men and one for women.

There is a new heated dorm with 4 rooms, 10 single beds with plastic covered mattress and shower and toilet facilities for each room. Very limited hanging space. These will be on first reserved basis. There are no bunk beds in camp.

You must bring pillow, sheets and blankets OR a sleeping bag for cabins or for dorm. There is room for self-contained campers, trailers, and tenters. Some hook-ups will be available.

There is a new building on the left as you enter camp. This is the dining room, kitchen, rec. hall, and restrooms. All meetings, exhibits, etc., will be in this building. Stop here to register.

The TERRITORY will include all of Raleigh County, plus a short section of Rt. 3 in Summers County from Nitro to Hinton. Raleigh County covers about 610 square miles. The altitude at camp is 2,440 feet and reaches 3,500 at Hull Nob on Flat Top. Woods encountered are composed of mixed oak, hemlock, pines and rhododendron. There are several small lakes in the county and a section of New River, including Sandstone Falls. Little Beaver and Grandview State Parks are in the county, also the newly designated New River Gorge National River.

The PROGRAM will focus on "birds" as this should be the height of the nesting season. The program will include Breeding Bird Surveys, Population Surveys, early morning walks, Nesting Bird Contests, and Trail Work for the forest's northernmost district. There will also be field work on Plants, Ferns, Trees and Shrubs, also Reptiles and Amphibians. There will be lectures on various aspects of nature by professionals and qualified amateurs who are experts in their fields. On two days, Monday and Thursday, there will be all-day trips.

Evening programs will include talks by experts in natural history, slide shows on nature, BBC activities, as well as travelogues. Bring along skis and ideas for campfires.

The STAFF is headed by Foray directors, George and Anne Harley and Helen Conrad. They will be assisted by others.

INSTRUCTORS at the Foray are all experienced field biologists, some professionals, some conservationists, but all special­ists in some phase of nature study. Their informal leadership and enthusiasm to help every camper makes the Foray both an educational and memorable experience.

MEALS at the Foray will be good and will be furnished by the camp. There will be a snack for the "early birds" each morning but no late snack. We will have a bag lunch Monday and Thursday.

RULES governing the Foray are few. We expect you to cooperate at all times and to contribute your share to the success of the Foray. The Brooks Bird Club cannot be held responsible for the safety of any individual; however, every precaution will be taken to safeguard each camper and you will be covered by accident insurance.

SILENT AUCTION - Once again we will hold a "silent auction" to raise money for our Scholarship Fund. Please bring along something to place in the auction.

To help eliminate excessive trash, and celebrate EARTH Day, please try to bring along your own COFFEE CUP for early morning and evening coffee, tea or hot chocolate. If needed we will have an identification marker. We can run this show, if you can bring your own coffee cup.

TRANSPORTATION to and from camp will be up to the individual. Consult your local map.

FORAY ADDRESS: (Your Name) c/o Mrs. Leona Burns 219 James Cren Drive Beckley, WV 25801
CAMP PHONE (EMERGENCY ONLY): 304-763-3489
CAMP PHONE: 304-645-3193 We want full-time campers and they will be given preference.

All reservations must be received by May 1, 1992, and will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. We want full-time campers and they will be given preference.

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Helen B. Conrad, Rt. 1, Box 116, Triadelphia, WV 26059 - Phone - 304 - 547-5253 for reservations or information.

Heartwood Forest Council meets May 1-3

Heartwood will host the second annual Heartwood Forest Council, May 1-3, at City Oyster, Adjacent to Hocking State Forest in southeastern Ohio.

The Heartwood Forest Council will offer people of all ages an opportunity to learn about the history and ecology of the native forest of "heartland" and the traditional music and folk culture of the region. Naturalists will lead forest hikes, and workshops will be offered on citizen participation in forest protection. Miriala Magazine will provide opportunities for lively interaction among participants. Child care and educational programs for children will be provided. Admission will be charged.

Heartwood is an association of groups and individuals dedicated to the health and well-being of the native forest of the Central Hardwood region which once extended from the Appalachian Mountains to the Ozarks, and from the Tallgrass Prairie to the Great Lakes.

The native forest has been reduced to a fraction of its former range by agricultural clearing and human settlement. Of the forest that remains, less than ten percent is publicly owned. The public forests have been subjected to excessive clearcutting, roadbuilding, stripmining and off-road vehicle abuse. Workshops will provide practical, hands-on training for public participation in the decision-making and appeals process for the National Forests of the region, including the Wayne in Ohio, the Daniel Boone in Kentucky, the Mark Twain in Missouri, the Monongahela in West Virginia, and other public forests.

For more information, contact Joe Hazelhacker, 614/499-4258, or Andy Mahler, 812/273-3400, or Rt. 3, Box 428, Pahki, IN 47454.

Springs Review

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy's Spring Meeting will be May 15-17 at Watauga State Park. Watch your mailbox for details. Call 304-428-4740 with reservations.

Anti-WTI Rally!

There will be a march, Sunday, May 17, 2 p.m. from the football field at East Elementary School in East Liverpool, Ohio to the WTI hazardous waste incinerator. Hundreds of participants are expected. Greenpeace Incinerator export Pat Costner will speak, along with union representatives and citizens fighting incinerators in other communities.

For more information, contact Nic at Greenpeace's West Virginia's office, 387-1007.

Green Fair is May 23

Green Fair Benefits for the Environment, Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Holly Gray Park, Sutton, W.Va., will feature music, workshops, food and crafts.

Concert in Lewisburg

MagPie, an environmental folk group from Baltimore will be in concert at Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg, Friday, July 18. Kate Long, producer of "We Ate Not for Sale" will provide the warm-up music. MagPie will soon be releasing a children's album with an environmental theme. For more information, call WV-CAG office, 346-5881, or Kathy Ewing, 645-2191.
chorus of "boo's." The displays and information tables by many groups contributed to a very visual E-DAY.

The Mother Jones Award was presented to two very deserving people at the conclusion of the rally—Terri Swearingen and Jeff Allen. Terri is one of the leaders of the WTI waste incinerator fight in the Northern Panhandle. She could not attend the rally because she was in the middle of the WTI-East Liverpool 33 trial, along with Paul Connett and Martin Sheen. Accepting for Terri was Missy Woolverton.

Reverend Jeff Allen of McDowell County is one of the founders of T.E.A.R.S. Jeff, with his usual modesty, accepted his award. When the presenter mentioned that Jeff was single, he meekly returned to the microphone and gave the world his phone number.

Although the attendance was lower this year, the enthusiasm and dedication made up for the weather. Groups which attended in large numbers included Stonewall Jackson Junior High, Bonham Elementary School's E.Y.E.S. group, the Ravenswood Women's Support Group, WV GREENS, T.E.A.R.S., M.A.C.E., Sierra Club, and others too numerous to mention.

Left, E.Y.E.S group from Bonham Elementary School will sell buttons and jewelry. Above, the pageant began with the invasion of Apple Grove Pulp Mill with it's loads of dioxin.
Freesing the Forest

by Robert Stough

At first glance, this may seem hopelessly idealistic, but if we think of it, as we should, as being a natural process that is part of our own species necessary evolution, it becomes not only possible but eminently practical, for rather than fighting nature we can begin to flow, like water, on the path of least resistance, which is also the path of highest efficiency.

Although wilderness and forest preservation is often portrayed by exploitive interests as an anathema to material prosperity, such assertions are almost entirely fallacious, for there will still be substantial amounts of land around the wild forest for human activities, and such lower elevation land is generally much more productive or human economic purposes than the mountain wilderness.

For example, the logging industry in West Virginia could quite profitably sustain itself exclusively on private forest land even if all public lands in the state were set free from exploitation.

Making peace with the Monongahela Forest need not involve human impoverishment, but for the modest sacrifices it does entail it offers the real possibility of human communities living in relative harmony and balance with the Forest into perpetuity.

It is true that exploitation will have to be replaced by sustainable economics, but that is something that will obviously benefit almost everyone. It has become painfully obvious that we must have a social and governmental agenda that favors sustainable, biococmical ecosystems and includes wild habitats protection instead of the current destructive and wasteful standard business practice, and has been the ruin of both the land and our human communities.

Obtaining some measure of freedom for the Monongahela Forest is something that can only happen through the combined efforts of many friends of the Forest, those people who recognize that old-growth wilderness is essential for the long-term health of the Forest, and for the ultimate health and prosperity of human communities.

song of the glades

by Robert Stough

by evening the rain stops, a few frayed wisps and tatters of clouds drift up from the glades and dissolve in the twilight, after dinner we climb a little hill, and sit among the old oaks and maples, blooming hem again in the spring as we were born and should long after we are gone, i lean back on the deep-furrowed back of a mossy old oak, at peace on Earth, but the dark sad anger of Modern Man wells up in me again, maple's wings will fly only so long as they survive 'higher' civilization, the poison rain, the holes in the sky, the electric blanket of wasted carbon strangling growth, suffocating freedom, when the first peeps of the awakening wood-frogs begin again down in the glades, slowly at first, after the long winter, one by one they sing their age-old songs, and then as the evening deepens into night hundreds of fringes rise with the mist, chanting in harmony, until thousands upon thousands of frogsongs are echoing through the wild valley and weaving among the blossoming stars. we turn around, and see in the west we see flashes of sil ent lightning.

 Truly being friends of the Forest means that we must be friends for the Forest, to protect it from exploitation and to celebrate its beauty and diversity. At this time there are many areas that we need to be working on to help free the Forest. We especially need to become more active in shaping Forest Service management policies at both the local and national levels that will favor Forest preservation and the encouragement of old-growth ecosystems.

There are a number of ways in which this can be done. One is to closely monitor all Forest Service policies and actions concerning extracting natural resources from the Forest (wood, fossil fuels, etc.) and to vigorously challenge those policies where appropriate, especially within core wilderness areas.

Managing the Forest Service involves requesting and scrutinizing all proposals concerning road-building, timber sales, gas drilling and the like. This is important paper work and we need many more people to become active in this process.

We also need people to physically monitor the Forest itself so that we can have a coherent picture of just what is happening to the biodiversity as a result of human exploitation.

Active working with the Forest Service, whether cooperat­ ing or confronting, as the case may be, is very important work at this time, not only because the Forest Service is the principal manager of the Forest, but also because they are relatively open to regional public input and participation.

While it is true that basic policy is largely shaped by a Washington bureaucracy that is open hostile to ecological management, the Forest Service must still be shown to be responsive to public participation, and local policies can at least sometimes be significantly influenced by those committed to local action.

In any case, whatever we try to work with the Forest Service towards shaping those policies in favor of biodiversity and wilderness expansion.

Among the most pressing and critical environmental issues we need to do at this time must be to identify and protect core wilderness areas that will serve to 'seed' the Wild Forest as it expands and grows in the future. Some of these areas are outlined below by a general overview of their topographical and biological characteristics.

It will be noted by those familiar with these areas that none of them are totally comprised of roadsides or otherwise undervalued publically-owned land, although many of them are nearly contiguous wilderness.

Their extent has been determined more by the extent of existing ecosystems themselves rather than administrative boundaries or private holdings. Such artificial and restrictive boundaries have no place in restoring the health of the Forest, although that does mean that all human presence must automatically be removed from the wilderness.

Some road closures will clearly be necessary, as will the purchase of private lands on a willing-buyers basis, to establish viable core wilderness areas, but this certainly should not mean the exclusion of humans. Hiking and gathering, for instance, are legitimate activities for humans in the wilderness, and it will become the overleaf many people currently involved in land management of various sorts to guide those activities towards a truly balanced and sustainable human relationship with the wilderness.

* Blackwater Wilderness: Encompassing the entire drainage of the Blackwater River on the West Virginia side of the national forest, the Blackwater and the Red Run gorge. This area is an extensive catchment basin cut off by the Blackwater and the Red Run gorge. Extensive fires once raged on Canaan Mtn. Following old-growth logging, and some areas of Blackwater Mtn. have been heavily strip-mined, but the Forest has generally been regrowing fairly well with spruce and northern hardwoods.

* Canaan Valley Wilderness: Encompassing most of the northern half of Canaan Valley and all of the Blackwater River drainage east of Brown Mtn. This area contains a unique high-
Forests

continued from previous page

altitude northern bog ecosystem which is the largest of its kind in the Appalachian range, and consequently largest of the region's protected. Unfortunately it is being seriously threatened by ORV abuse, the result of gross mismanagement by Monongahela Forest. It has been shamefully resisting the preservation of the area as a National Wildlife Refuge.

• Daily Sods Wilderness: Expanded to include the entire drainage of Red Creek above Lanville and the upper drainage of the Scenic River above the reservoir, and also extending down the Fort Knobs in the east and the northern end of Cabin Mt. to the west confluence with the Canaan Valley Wilderness. Daily Sods is composed of the deep, rugged canyon of Red Creek, gently rolling uplands and rocky wind-swept mountain ridges. The canyon is nearly completely forested with towering northern hardwoods and conifers. The sods are now a mixture of open grasslands and patches of young forest, but once were largely covered by a magnificent spruce forest containing some of the finest stands in the east. Since that forest was destroyed the sods have been decimated by fires, military bombing and ORV abuse but nevertheless the forest is slowly recovering.

• High Plains Wilderness: Consisting of the Flattop Plains, the Fort Knobs, and the nowhere's end of the Monongahela National Forest. The area is composed of the upper drainage of Scenic River, the upper drainages of Paint Rock Run, Spruce Run, and Mcintosh Run, and most of Long Run and Elklick Run. The High Plains are rocky, rolling uplands with extensive spruce forest and heath thickets. The montainsides are heavily forested with northern hardwoods; this area is very scenic, with wildlife abundant. It is the most remote part of the forest and therefore the most fit for rearing in the bioregion. The microwave tower should be removed, and FS 75 closed and abandoned for good. This area represents only a minor intrusion on the forest, but it must be kept clear by hand, not by the use of herbicides that have been sprayed on it in the past.

• Otter Creek Wilderness: Consisting of the entire drainage of Otter Creek, and expanded in the west to include all of McGowan Mt. south of the Fernow Forest down to or near the Shavers Fork, and also the entire drainages of the Little Black Fork and Ratliff Run, and expanded to the northeast to include all of Shavers Mt., north of CO 12 and including the Glady Fork River. This area is composed of rolling uplands, steep mountainsides and deep river valleys. Almost its entire extent is densely forested with conifers, northern hardwoods and cove hardwoods. This is one of the healthiest and most diverse woodlands areas in the Monongahela Forest. The current wilderness boundaries are much too small, and must be expanded to nearly the true extent of the system.

• Shavers Fork Wilderness: Consisting of the entire eastern drainage of Cheat Mountain south of Bemis and north of US 250, and the entire drainage of Cheat Mountain southeast of Glady south to near US 250 and bordered on the east by FS 44. This area is composed of rolling uplands, steep mountainsides dropping into the Shavers Fork valley and the upper Greenbrier valley. There has been a lot of ex-

ploitation in places by the area is still mostly forested in second-growth hardwoods and contains the vital link in ensuring the survival of the Monongahela Forest. All roads north of US 250 should eventually be abandoned, and mining operations halted as soon as possible.

• Laurel Fork Wilderness: Expanded to encompass most of the drainage of the river from the Dry Fork south to US 33, and most of the drainage south of Lambert divided only by CO 40. The topography is relatively gentle, especially in the upper reaches of the watershed, with the Laurel Fork forming a wide riparian valley. Most of the area is forested in northern hardwoods and conifers, with extensive beaver meadows especially in the upper drainage. Most of the Laurel Fork drainage to the east on the upper slopes of Rich Mountain is now pastured, which is obviously inconsistent with restoring the health of the Forest.

• Spruce Mountain Wilderness: Consisting of the entire drainage of Seneca Creek above White Run, and down the east face of Spruce Mountain north of FS 103 along the upper Forks Knob and Timber Ridge and the upper valley of Brushy Run, and all of Allegheny Mountain from FS 1 north to near Horsec. The topography is composed of the high broad ridge of Spruce Mountain, the deep narrow river of Seneca Creek and the rugged west face of Allegheny Mountain. Most of the area is forested with northern hardwoods and scattered conifers, with extensive stands of spruce in the upper reaches of Seneca Creek and on and near the summit of Spruce Mountain. It has large heart benners and old meadows on top of Spruce Mountain. This area has been mostly left alone since it was originally logged and has been recovering fairly well, except for some continuing passage on the west face of Spruce Mountain.

• North Fork Mountain Wilderness: Encompassing most of the summit ridge of the mountain except for US 33. Extending down the east face to or at near FS 75, CO 2 and CO 8 and the upper mining claim of Potter Knob. Extends to the west face to the Potomac River from Hopeville gap, and continues around Seneca Rocks to Germany Valley and continuing along the west face below Pike Knob south to CO 17 and Panther Knob. Consists of the wild, rugged summit of North Fork and the spectacular River Knobs from Seneca Rocks north. This is a unique, extremely diverse area harboring many rare and threatened species as well as some of the most awesome scenery in the Appalachian range. Its thin rocky soils make it entirely unsuitable for logging, though that fact has not stopped clearcutting on some of the eastern face.

• Allegheny Mountain Wilderness: Encompassing a large wild area east of the Greenbrier Valley, from US 250 in the north to WV 84 in the south, and from VA 600 in the east down to the foothills of the mountain in the west. This large but little-known part of the Forest is another vital link towards restoring the ecological continuity of the entire Monongahela. The rugged, mountainous terrain has extensive forested uplands, ridges, typical of the driest eastern part of the Forest.

• Back Allegheny Wilderness and Cheat Mountain Wilderness: Encompassing most of the drainage of the Shavers Fork south of US 250, nearly all of the Shavers Fork drainage basin and around Bald Knob on Back Allegheny. Some of the highest elevation land in the Forest, including human communities, can be sustained in relative health into the future. Those who believe that the Forest should just be used as a commodity for human consumption will no doubt consider these proposals as unreasonable or even radical in their extent. But large healthy Forest wilderness is actually conservative in the strict sense of the word, for such areas not only protect precious wild habitat but also purify the very air we breathe and the water we drink. It is the continuing exploitation of the Forest that must be seen as radical and destractive, and not efforts to preserve it. That brings us, finally, to another critical area of the nation that we need to work on, which is trying in any way possible to educate and enlighten the American public about Forest preservation, and how help promote understanding of how crucial it now is that large Forest wilderness areas be protected from exploitation.

This is obviously a daunting task, and one that is not likely to produce any immediately tangible results, but it is just as vital as working with the Forest Service and politicians. Indeed, both efforts are parts of a whole, for no matter how necessary the political work of today is, it will ultimately be for naught unless many more people develop at least a minimum of ecological consciousness, and thus come to regard the Forest as their friend and benefactor.

This can probably best be done by trying to teach the deep-rooted emotional and spiritual attachment that even today most people still have for the Earth, however disrupted it may be by our addiction to modern technology. It is very important that those who have been inspired by the beauty and harmony of the wild Forest try to pass that inspiration along in any way that they can, by books, songs, music, photography, etc.

One modest way for us to do this is by publishing such things in the Voice and other regional periodicals. We need to share some of the good things we have experienced, because by doing so we will also be sharing some of the friendship and love between ourselves and the wild Forest, and that will help to sustain and inspire us all.
Update

legislation. NOT TRUE! NOT TRUE! The bill, which passed both Houses, was not agreed to by either the sponsor, or the environmental community. The new law sets a terrible policy in authorizing the Division of Forestry to regulate logging. This same agency is also responsible for promoting the Timber Industry. This is a complete reversal of the “single state agency” concept which was passed in the special session last year. Particularly disturbing, in the fact that the director of the Division of Forestry, Bill Gillepsie, has repeatedly stated that there is no need to regulate the industry. Now, we’ve given that regulation to him. The very “soul” of this bill is wrong and West Virginia’s environment and economy will suffer because of it. Rather than push for a veto of this bill, we’ve decided to get very creative in monitoring the Division of Forestry’s performance — watch for some interesting details on this in the next few months!

ORV’s

The Off Road Vehicles issue, was (to our mind) successfully handled by the passage of HCR 15. This resolution provided for an eclectic study group to investigate ORV trial use and the possible creation of an ORV trail system in the state. Intense lobby efforts by the ORV associations to operate on public lands was defeated by the passage of this resolution. Primary credit for HCR 15 must be given to the Sierra Club, the Farms Bureau and particularly Sierra Club lobbyist, Laura Spadaro.

Rails to Trails

SB #484 was born, died, was reborn, and finally passed during the session. This new law is a gem and will provide our state with an excellent Rails To Trails hiking and biking system. This system can be the cornerstone of a benign nonpolluting tourism industry in West Virginia. Much credit for its inception and successful passage belongs to the various hiking and biking groups, the Sierra Club and particularly Laura Spadaro and Missy Woodworth. Without Missy’s very timely and very gutsy intervention the bill would have died in the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Cancer Registry

SB #272 passed both Houses and provides for a cancer registry compiled by doctors and hospitals. The hope is that this new law will begin to give us a clearer picture of the number and types of cancer cases in West Virginia. The identification of geographical “hot spots” will be of great value in linking environmental health with personal health. Lobbyist Brian Hamborg and Senator Bob Holliday share the credit for SB #272.

Clean Air Bill

HB #4463 was passed by both Houses and signed into law. The bill brings the state into basic compliance with the new Federal Clean Air Act. The Air Pollution Control Commission will soon triple its staff to regulate and implement the Federal Act. Extreme positions by both industry and the environmental community were discarded in a last minute reaching of a consensus on the bill. Basic policy arguments were “put on hold” in order to build the necessary framework to implement the Federal Act. It was unique and refreshing to witness both sides feverishly working with the APCC to come up with a fair acceptable law minutes before its Senate passage. Brian Hamborg and Perry McDaniel provided the environmental input into the bill. An analogy is — a sinking boat — instead of arguing about plugging up the leaks or bailing out the water — both sides decided to do both.

Stuff That Didn’t Get Passed

Successes and failures have been described above. Some issues progressed while others languished in legislative purgatory. The Toxics Reduction and Industrial Siting Bills were not passed, but public hearings and increased awareness must be counted as progress. These bills (or a form thereof) will one day become law in West Virginia. Evidence of the progress can be seen by Industry’s sudden interest in sitting down and talking about the issues. Like John Purbaugh once said, “Sometimes you’ve got to hit the mule over the head with a two-by-four to get him to learn.” The Environmental Policy Act was introduced for the first time and it too begins its inevitable evolution into state law.

The Biggest Success

Sometimes we succeed in getting our bills passed. Sometimes we succeed in elevating the issues and setting the stage for next year, and sometimes we succeed by killing dumb legislation. The biggest win was the battle over Dioxin — the bill that was never introduced! I wonder if many people really appreciate the victory — particularly industry and elected officials. The national trend in recent years has been for poor southern and border states to weaken their di­ oxin standards to please the pulp and paper industry. State after state bought into the Industry’s “Don’t worry, be happy” message on dioxin, and adopted weaker standards — but NOT in West Virginia!

A coalition of labor, Vietnam vets, sports­ men and environmentalists succeeded in mak­ing the Dioxin issue into potential political suicide.

The administration, faced with TV and newspaper ads condemning “Cancer Creek,” never introduced the bill. The national trend was reversed. Many pages could be written crediting all the people and groups who worked on the Dioxin issue, but suffice it to say that the good guys won. One very telling fact is that WV­ CAG and the AFL-CIO used the dioxin ques­tion on their candidate survey forms to evaluate legislative candidates. Over 90% of the respon­ dents to the WV-CAG survey said they would oppose any weakening of the standard. The few who said they would weaken the standard were equally divided between extreme right-wing whackos and delegates who live near the pro­ posed Apple Grove Pulp Mill. Judging from the passage of the dioxin battle, and the overwhelm­ ing public opinion against weakening the stan­ dard, I think it’s safe to say the issue equates to political suicide.

The End For Now

The environmental movement continued to grow and increase public awareness during the past session. Major policy was created, some good and some bad. But, we must keep in mind, that winning legislative battles is only the beginning. Citizens must monitor the regulatory process and force elected officials to be committed to the effective enforcement of the policy we help create.

— Norm Sterrenstra

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