The first expenditure of West Virginia Wildlife Conservation Fund, acquired through the efforts of West Virginia’s US Senator Robert C. Byrd.

Mrs. Bonner, a resident of Canaan Valley, said officials have been studying the possibility of a wildlife refuge since 1961 when a biological survey was conducted by Fish and Wildlife personnel. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was begun in 1977 and finalized May 30, 1979. At any time after that, the purchase of property could have begun.

Fish and Wildlife last week described the new Canaan Valley NWR land as gently sloping, primarily pastureland with 26 acres of wooded swamp including a section of the Balsam Swamp. The property which was purchased is the former Raymond Herr Farm, comprised of 85.76 acres along the north side of Freedom Road near the town of Davis.

"Canaan Valley is a beautiful area, supporting an unusual and rare diversity of plants and animals," said regional Director Ronald E. Lambertson of the Service in the Northeast. The valley is 14 miles long, five miles wide and has an average elevation of 3,200 feet above sea level.

The high altitude and cool moist climate create a unique ecosystem, including the largest wetland area in West Virginia and in the central and southern Appalachian Mountains.

"It’s still important that we have local input," Mrs. Bonner added. Some wildlife refuge areas have citizens’ advisory boards and some do not, but local officials believe it’s imperative that citizens and elected officials have input into management procedures. "It’s vital that we stay involved," she said.

Canaan Valley NWR will become only the second refuge in West Virginia and the first located entirely within the state. Two years ago, Ohio River Islands NWR, encompassing 38 islands in a 52-mile stretch of the Ohio River, was dedicated as the first refuge in the state. The Ohio River refuge extends from Pennsylvania to Kentucky.

Thanks to Chris Clower for this fine photo of Canaan Valley.

The Burreed of Bearwallow Run

Bearwallow runs into Laurel Fork of the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River. Its upper watershed consists of an open, gently sloping valley with a northern hardwood/striped forest cover and many open fields along the run itself. If you didn’t study your map you might think you were still in the highlands of West Virginia, but it’s actually just over the border in East Virginia. This is one of the areas in

First Property

Acquired April II, 1994

A lawsuit blocking the purchase of land for the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge was dismissed Thursday, August 4, 1994 in U.S. District Court in Clarksburg... The first property was purchased Thursday, August 11th... WVHC is pleased to report, with the gracious permission of Parsons Advocate Editor Merwyn McQuain, Smith, her front page coverage of the momentous event as it appeared in the Tucker County newspaper, August 17, 1994: Friday.

from the Parsons Advocate

Wednesday, August 17, 1994

Tucker County to be home of 500th National Wildlife Refuge: After 33 years of planning, West Virginia’s first refuge entirely within state borders has seen its first land purchase. And, that land is in Tucker County.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service purchased nearly 86 acres of critical wildlife habitat Aug. 11, recording that deed in Tucker County Courthouse on Thursday afternoon, establishing Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge as the 500th national wildlife refuge.

The fact that this refuge is designated as the 500th in the nation will be significant in the types of facilities and programs offered.

Karen Bonner, president of Tucker County Planning Commission and an active member of the Canaan Valley Task Force, said last week, “I’m very pleased that it’s finally come to fruition.”

The land purchase represents the first expenditure for land from the $2 million expressly identified for Canaan Valley acquisitions from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, acquired through the efforts of West Virginia’s US Senator Robert C. Byrd.

Mrs. Bonner, a resident of Canaan Valley, said officials have been studying the possibility of a wildlife refuge since 1961 when a biological survey was conducted by Fish and Wildlife personnel. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was begun in 1977 and finalized May 30, 1979. At any time after that, the purchase of property could have begun.

Fish and Wildlife last week described the new Canaan Valley NWR land as gently sloping, primarily pastureland with 26 acres of wooded swamp including a section of the Balsam Swamp. The property which was purchased is the former Raymond Herr Farm, comprised of 85.76 acres along the north side of Freedom Road near the town of Davis.

“Canaan Valley is a beautiful area, supporting an unusual and rare diversity of plants and animals,” said regional Director Ronald E. Lambertson of the Service in the Northeast. The valley is 14 miles long, five miles wide and has an average elevation of 3,200 feet above sea level.

The high altitude and cool moist climate create a unique ecosystem, including the largest wetland area in West Virginia and in the central and southern Appalachian Mountains.

The boundaries of the Canaan Valley NWR encompass approximately 24,000 acres, however land will be purchased for inclusion in the new refuge only from willing sellers as money becomes available to the Service for that purpose. F&W Service has worked with hundreds of private landowners, conservation organizations, and other federal, state and municipal agencies during the years in order to establish the refuge.

Mrs. Bonner said the Canaan Valley Task Force included private citizens, county, state, and federal officials who worked along with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) when the refuge came back into the limelight in the spring of 1990.

The planning commission acted along with and on behalf of Tucker County Commissioners, and numerous open houses and public meetings were held during the most recent few years.

“We didn’t know much about refuges, and were busy of taking more land off of tax books,” Mrs. Bonner said, but added that after extensive research into their options, members of the task force agreed that the wildlife refuge was right for Tucker County.

“We still important that we have local input,” Mrs. Bonner added. Some wildlife refuge areas have citizens’ advisory boards and some do not, but local officials believe it’s imperative that citizens and elected officials have input into management procedures. “It’s vital that we stay involved,” she said.

Canaan Valley NWR will become only the second refuge in West Virginia and the first located entirely within the state. Two years ago, Ohio River Islands NWR, encompassing 38 islands in a 52-mile stretch of the Ohio River, was dedicated as the first refuge in the state. The Ohio River refuge extends from Pennsylvania to Kentucky.
from the heart of the mountains

by Cindy Rank

CANAAN: THE FANTASTIC TOOTH!

Rarely do groups like the Highlands Conservancy have as much reason to be proud as we do after August 11th when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recorded in the Tucker County Courthouse the first deed to the first piece of property purchased as part of the CANAAN VALLEY WILDLIFE REFUGE!!

Granted, there have been several governmental agencies, dozens of organizations and hundreds of individuals who have worked untold numbers of hours over the past three decades to make the Refuge a reality, but for WVHC, names like Linda Cooper, Dave Elkinton and Jenni Vincent will always support the Refuge, and to the local authorities who have a dream and believed in that dream so much that they rebounded time and time again after any number of defeats and setbacks.

Linda's chucked remark at the Summer Board meeting about attending the 44tb() public hearing on the Refuge and her mellow comment left on our answering machine August 12th that she felt "really good, really rich" that day, are two of many reminders to me of that all abiding spirit that sometimes just won't let a person quit, a spirit that brings to life dreams like the Cranberry, Otter Creek, and Dolly Sods Wilderness areas, the New River National Recreation Area, etc., etc.

Of course, not all the battles have ended so well - e.g. hundreds of acres of prime farmland in Lewis county are now left on our answering machine August 12th that she felt "really good, really rich" that day, are two of many reminders to me of that all abiding spirit that sometimes just won't let a person quit, a spirit that brings to life dreams like the Cranberry, Otter Creek, and Dolly Sods Wilderness areas, the New River National Recreation Area, etc., etc.

And certainly there are many more struggles left to resolve. Corridor I, the Alabama Pulp and Paper Mill, numerous other projects that threaten our public and private forestlands, Wild and Scenic Designation for more of our state rivers, Acid Mine Drainage (always there has been the mining) to name just a few.

Nor is all perfect... And we should be grateful to all the other people, to all the other local state and national organizations, to the state and federal agencies, and to the elected officials who have had a hand in inching this project ahead year after year...

Nor is all perfect... And we should be grateful to all the other people, to all the other local state and national organizations, to the state and federal agencies, and to the elected officials who have had a hand in inching this project ahead year after year...

And we should be especially grateful to those residents of Tucker County who have always supported the refuge, and to the local authorities whose increased support these past couple of years, has made it all possible...

...And we should be grateful to Mon Power for banning off road vehicles, (and, of course, hopeful, that the company will come to recognize the full value of the Refuge to W.V. and allow its massive properties in the north to be included in the management and protection of that Refuge).

As current President of WVHC, I extend an official thanks to all. As for me, I'm proud and humbled to be but a small part of the persistent groundswell that has kept the dream alive for all of these years.

---

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The Highlands Voice is always printed on Recycled Paper. Our printer uses 100% post consumer recycled paper when available.
Letters
Announcements

On Canaan
Dear Bill,
I am enclosing a brief article I clipped from the August 12, Charleston newspaper. It is rather nonchalantly announces the purchase of the first parcel of land for the establishment of the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge. I can't help but wonder how many thousands of hours have been spent by Conservancy members to achieve this magnificent victory. How many thousands of hours have been spent by Linda Cooper alone? This is probably the biggest triumph for environmental preservation and protection in the history of West Virginia! To be sure, other spectacular and unique natural areas have been preserved - Cranberry, Otter Creek & Laurel Fork Wilderness Areas, for example. But in those cases, the threat was not nearly so imminent, and the political powers that be were not nearly so hell-bent on permitting their destruction.

I remember reporting to Elkins in January 1971. I was a young Trooper, fresh out of the State Police Academy - and Elkins was my first duty station. Richard Nixon was president, and Arch Moore was Governor. And the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy was already an active organization, advocating for the protection of our unique natural heritage.

Monongahela Power Company had acquired several thousand acres in the Canaan valley area and proposed to build a "pumped storage" facility to provide power during the hours of peak consumption. The local politicians thought this was just a splendid idea. Progress, don't you know?

The public perception was that the Conservancy members and others who opposed this project were fighting a hopeless battle. The folks wanted it, the state wanted it, the locals (politicos) wanted it, and the Power Company already owned the land. The skies were greyed. It was a done deal.

Although I was not a Conservancy member back then, I remember hoping they could pull it off. Now, more than twenty years later, it appears that a major portion of this area will be set aside for future generations of citizens and folks to enjoy. Since the WVHC full review will be at Canaan this year, I believe it would be "altogether fitting and proper" that we propose a toast to the heroes of twenty years ago who took a stand to preserve this natural treasure. Splendid indeed.

Carroll Jett

Fish Advisory
Remains in Effect
The Division of Natural Resources, the Bureau of Public Health and the DEP have renewed fish consumption advisories for the Kanawha and Shenandoah Rivers.

The advisory for the Kanawha River has been in effect since 1986 and is based on results of fish samples taken during October 1993.

Sampling by DNR and DEP biologists revealed the edible portions of channel catfish collected contained traces of dioxin that ranged from .56 parts per trillion (ppt) at Wheeling Island, located 1.5 miles upstream from Montgomery, to 63.3 ppt in the backwaters at Armour Crk., 1 mile downstream of the Nitro-St. Albans bridge. Samples of sport fish, such as bass, did not show high levels.

FDA recommends limiting consumption of fish containing more than 25 ppt of dioxin and not eating fish that show more than 30 ppt contamination.

Dioxins and PCBs tend to persist in river sediments. They also accumulate in tissue of animals and are suspected carcinogens.

Safety Tips
Keep only smaller fish
Eat only skinless and boneless fillets
Remove dark meat form sides and fat form the belly and top of the fish
Bake, broil or grill fish on an open rack so fat drains away form the meat
Discard fats that cool out of the fish.

The emission offsets, it would have had to buy offsets from some industry or other polluter that had either reduced its emissions, or was emitting less than the law allows.

Ann Murtlow, vice president of the AES project in Cumberland, said the state's decision to issue the air permits was legally correct.

The WVHC will be voting on the effect requirements to apply to old power plants, not new, clean-running ones. Creosote and diesel plumes are exempted plants in the process of

The Highlands Voice, September 1994 - Page 3

Dear Friends,
I hope you will pardon a Virginian for what might seem as a rash suggestion. My suggestion is that the WVHC be extended to embrace the entire Central Appalachian Highlands of Virginia and Maryland. It could be called the "Central Appalachian Highlands Conservancy" or just "Highlands Conservancy." My reasons are as follows:

1. There is nothing like WVHC in either Virginia or Maryland, nothing like the organizational structure of WVHC with the potential to accomplish great things in protection and restoration of these mountains.

2. Destructive megaprojects, such as Columbia Gas' ACC, the Powerline cross state lines and need unified opposition.

3. Each extension could capture the imagination of the public, granting foundations and the media and strike fear in the hearts of the developers.

4. There is the possibility that such an expansion could catalyze a large membership increase.

5. Such and extension would result in an area of manageable dimension perhaps less than twice the present WVHC area of interest.

The WVHC has an illustrious history of accomplishment and this needs to be extended to all of what is essentially the same bioregion of folded and gradually less folded mountains westward. The present Board of Directors seems to be ready for resolute action on a number of issues. They have shown this in a host of issues from strip mining to forest protection. The threats and actual degradation of these grand and biologically diverse mountains increase daily. We need a strong organization with the capability and the time and a vision of what the region should be like in the future. I believe and expanded Conservancy could meet that need. Please give it some thought.

Sincerely,
Bob Mueller
Virginia for Wilderness
Route 1, Box 250
Staunton, Virginia 24401

-WVHC Organizational Notes-
Jason huber is the new Board Rep for Mountain Steward Monitors.
Jody Rood of Montevile, WV has been appointed Chair of the Publication Committee. Judy hopes to rejuvenate and expand our efforts to distribute Hiking Guides, the VOICE, and other useful WVHC info to local book stores, libraries, etc. - if you have any suggestions, or would like to help her, contact our Morgantown office at 264 High Street, 26505 - (304) 296-8963.
W.V. Downstream Alliance has applied for a position on the Board as an Organizational Director. Their application will be voted on at the October Board meeting.

Warrior Run
You may remember the VOICE carrying two articles about the Warrior Run plant in the past, one written by Conservancy member Glen Bess. Glen tried to stop them this time too.

From Charleston Gazette (AP) August 17, 1994
Maryland environmental officials have dismissed arguments by a lawyer and an environmentalist who opposed the issuance of key air permits for a $400 million cogeneration plant in Allegany County.

Glen Bess, a member of the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club, and Donald Goldholo, a lawyer from Bethesda, had filed challenges to stop the smoke from issuing a permit the Arlington, VA-based United States Postal Service needed to build a steam and electricity plant outside Cumberland.

Both Bess and Goldholo contended AES should not be exempt from certain provisions of the federal Clean Air Act. Bess objected as an individual, but his challenge was supported by the Sierra Club.

Bess said he thought the Maryland Department of the Environment was giving AES a "free ride" on key requirements in the Clean Air Act.

Specifically, Bess said he thought AES should not be exempted from so-called emission offsets, including those restricting pollutants that cause acid rain. He expressed concern about the AES plant's impact on Shenandoah National Park in Virginia and the Dolly Sods and Otter Creek Wilderness areas in the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia.

Under the Clean Air Act, a company must find a way to offset the pollutants it emits. The act sets up a system where companies buy and sell their rights to pollute.

If AES was not exempted from the emission offsets, it would have had to buy offsets from some industry or other polluter that had either reduced its emissions, or was emitting less than the law allows.

Anne Murtlow, vice president of the AES project in Cumberland, said the state's decision to issue the air permits was legally correct.

The WVHC will be voting on the effect requirements to apply to old power plants, not new, clean-running ones. Creosote and diesel plumes are exempted plants in the process of

 война за жизнь
Keeping 'The Wild' in Wonderful West Virginia

by Steve Hollenhorst and Paul Salstrom

I have extracted two (actually 2.1) sections from Paul Salstrom's and WVU professor Hollenhorst's paper in the summer issue of the West Virginia Public Affairs Suppes. Steve testified on behalf of the plaintiffs in the Kumbrabow Trial. See Paul Salstrom's review of the whole article and address for copies of the paper elsewhere in this issue. I have also included one paragraph (and my hating criticism) of Bill Mason's (FY DOF Chief) response to Steve's article, which was also printed in the summer issue. - Bill

The story of West Virginia has been told and retold, usually in the positive context of the "march of civilization." Early settlers confronted a vast wilderness and set about taming it. State government has long been a partner in the process, promulgating industrial development and economic expansion through supportive legislation and policy. West Virginians have paid a price for this economic success in the form of environmental degradation. The first victim was the vast West Virginia wilderness. Today, wild nature is viewed as a scarce commodity steeped in historic, cultural, and symbolic value. In response, the state legislature has in recent decades attempted to adopt policies to preserve portions of what has in recent decades attempted to adopt policies to preserve portions of what little remains. Yet there is inevitably a lag time between public sentiment and government action. While change has been slow, the growing popular appreciation of wild nature has forced West Virginia's policy makers to face conservation philosophers Aldo Leopold's question, "whether a still higher standard of living is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free."

This analysis is organized around three themes. The first is an examination of the changes that have occurred in the way West Virginians perceive forested wildlands and their relationship to it. Secondly, the evolution and development of state public land management will be examined. Particular focus will be placed on comparing current public attitudes toward wildlands and natural areas with state land policy and management. Finally, a policy section agenda is proposed for bridging the disparities between public sentiment and logged public land policy and management direction.

The purpose of this analysis is not to encourage or decry the practices of West Virginia's public land management agencies. As was pointed out by governo agencies, those agencies are held in high esteem around the world. The resource management paradigms underlying their activities has been a model for other countries. Rather, the focus here is on the emergence of a significant number of West Virginians who have in the last several decades of "wild nature as a vital social value, and
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Where did the Kumbrabow plan go away? Forestry officials believe the main issue was whether or not timber ought to be harvested on state forests. But, actually, the main issue was the process that the Division used to make the decision. The Division's traditional "trust us, we know best" approach proved disheartening to many people who use the forest. As far as they were concerned, no attempt was made to develop alternative plans or to assess the environmental and social impacts of those alternatives. They saw no attempt to consider amenity values that flowed from the forest's remote, rugged character. Thus, a decision process that was once considered a good improvement has now been interpreted as a flippant disregard for citizen opinion.

Will the extension at Kumbrabow be? Past disputes in West Virginia and around the country suggest that, if not given meaningful opportunities for input, interested citizens will "force" their input through litigation and legislation. This was the case at Kanawha State Forest, where citizens angry over Forestry's cutting practices were able to push through a law prohibiting cutting on that forest. For now, at Kumbrabow, the logging contract has been signed, and the outcomes of a lawsuit filed by opponents.

Other section titles from Steve's article
The Evolution of Public Land Management-Policy Agenda Versus Development in the State's Park System-West Virginia's Wildlife Program-A Policy Agenda for the West Virginia Public Land System-

Beanwallow
(from page 1) Others are all forested, often with the Red Pine planted by the CCC in the 30s (Locust Spring Run)

Although Laurel Fork begins on private land used mainly for pasture, by the time it passes through the George Washington National Forest it is quite wild and relatively undisturbed. On the night Tropical Storm Darrell dropped its several inches of rain. Laurel Fork is not an especially easy river to find in dry periods, after the storm passed through it was raging flood. The first day of the trip, it was quite muddy. By the next day, the water had cleansed and the river was still rising slightly. There was no way to cross the river and follow the trail, so we were forced to hike cross country in order to explore the valley. Locust Spring Run was spectacularly beautiful with all the storm water running into many falls and chutes.
**And Political Realities**

by Paul Salstrom

Create a West Virginia "conservation passport." Establish a sales tax on bicoasters, outdoor clothing, boots, and other paraphernalia likely to be bought by non-consumptive state-park users. Those were two of the proposals that Steve Hollenhorst decided to emphasize when the West Virginia Public Affairs Reporter asked him to expand his views at length in its summer 1994 issue. (Copies are free, by the way, from the Institute for Public Affairs, CON 3137, at West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506-6137. Phone 304-293-5423.)

Hollenhorst's goal is to help non-consumptive users of our state parks and forests achieve more influence with the state's resource agencies. He asked me to help him write the Reporter article, especially on the history of West Virginia's wilderness-related policies. So I slipped off the trail to explore the issue closely, and I have spent more time on the history of West Virginia's wilderness-related policies. I found that there are a number of compelling arguments in favor of establishing a West Virginia "conservation passport." • I strongly advise anyone interested in these issues to read this important paper available for free - see Paul Salstrom's article above. But I think this small section is indicative of the mindset of the Division of Forestry - that is, they as experts know best how to manage woodlands for maximum long-term production of timber, a point I have always agreed with.

Without timber harvests - (1) fire damaged trees persist (depress and insect infestation from this damage continues to destroy them), (2) damaged trees are a part of nature, fungi need them, insects need them, as they become hollow, animals use them for shelter or homes)

(2) losses are lost through competition, (This is known as natural selection, the basis of evolution for ecos. The trees are not lost, but actually are more valuable to wildlife and soil health while they are decaying on the forest floor.

(3) growth slows, (true individual trees do not increase in diameter as fast as they grow older, but so what, unless your aim is to maximize timber production?)

(4) trees become overmature and regeneration is shaded out resulting in a virtual desert for most wildlife.

This is just not true, as anyone who has visited an old growth forest can testify, although deer and turkey populations will be less. Most of our forests originated in clearcutting at the turn of the century. At the forest mature the canopy will get thick and block light, but in ages further, trees will die and fall and create gaps that allow light to reach the floor.

Professional foresters know that healthy, productive forests can prove to be a much broader range of amenities. At the same time, timber stand improvement, while temporarily not pretty, promotes greater biological diversity, enhances habitat, reduces insects and disease populations, (flow can you reduce insects and increase diversity?) selects the proper spacing, (proper spacing?) and sets the necessary light to the forest floor to assure regeneration. (I wonder how nature managed regeneration before we had timber cuts?)

**Kumbrawob and the Governor's Committee**

As of midnight August 30, we haven't had any ruling from the Judge on the Kumbrawob/Clay Run Timber Sale. But I finally did hear back from Bill Carter, the Governor's environmental aide. The Governor tossed the ball back to Bill Maxey to form the committee to come up with a plan or method for insuring that WV State Forests are used for the benefit of all West Virginians.

Bill called me the other day and said he would be sending invitations to the prospective members of the committee. I just got a note today. Bill Maxey told me the names of the other committee members, and for the most part they are strictly the only environmentalists on board. Should be interesting but don't get your hopes up - Bill

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Ragette's Response to Maxey's Response to Hollenhorst's paper

I'll apologize here for only including a small portion of Bill Maxey's response (my comments in italics). I strongly advise anyone interested in these issues to read this important paper available for free - see Paul Salstrom's article above. But I think this small section is indicative of the mindset of the Division of Forestry - that is, they as experts know best how to manage woodlands for maximum long-term production of timber, a point I have always agreed with.

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**Some plants of Bearwall Run by the spring**

- Virginia mertica - Sweet Grass
- Thelypterus novaeboracensis Polygonum
- Leptopus uniflorus Glechoma
- Dwarf St Johnswort Viol? 2 species of Carex

**Carex Gyandura from Flora**

Osmunda claytonia - Interrupted Fern Polystichum acrostichoides - Christmas Fern by the old (desired) beaver pond - Carex hartii - yellow green sedge Sparganium eurycarpum - large Burled Polygonum sagittatum - arrowleaf scrub Eriocarpus vernicosus - Spikelet Shield Fern M. marginata - Marginal shield fern Thelypterus novaeboracensis - New York Fern Petasites Aquilinum - Bracken
The Highlands Voice, September 1994 - Page 6

Canaan Valley - An Introductory Guide

Formation of Canaan Valley

Also from Norma Jean Venable's booklet, this is one of four sections in the chapter on Geology.

Canaan Valley today is, in reality, the opposite of what it was 250 million years ago. When the continental plates collided, the rocks caught in the "vise" between the plates were deformed. The sedimentary rocks here were folded upward to form the Blackwater Anticline. At the crest of the anticline, the rocks were stretched rather than compressed, and cracks developed. Running water and weathering eroded these rocks, an soon a valley was formed. More and more rock was exposed as weathering continued and thus the Greenbrier limestone (Mississippian Age) became exposed. Limestone in moist, temperate climates will be dissolved slowly by acid water; carbon dioxide in the air will combine with rain to form a weak acid called carbonic acid. (The role of pop is an example of carbon dioxide being released from water.)

The Greenbrier limestone began to dissolve, leaving behind a residue of minerals that do not undergo a complete solution in this neutral environment. This insoluble residue, combined with clay minerals from the rock above the Greenbrier limestone and the Mauch Chunk siltstone and cherty sandstone washed to the floor of the valley, has formed a blanket of poorly drained sediment. This veneer of sediment on the floor of the valley traps water, and wetlands are formed.

The wetlands on the floor of Canaan Valley are very extensive, and in places a thick, organic-rich layer of peat has slowly accumulated over thousands of years. Where there is a slope, water drains off, providing for what are now open meadows.

The higher topography of the valley and the rise in the center of the valley reflect the more resistant rock, sandstone. The rock forming Cabin and Canaan Mountains in the Puttville sandstone, the rock forming the rise in the center of the valley is the Pocomo sandstone. These rocks are very resistant to weathering in a humid, temperate environment.

The Mauch Chunk formation is capped by the Puttville and thus is protected. It is a rich red-colored rock (there is a good deal of iron oxide) of fine grain size. It is more resistant than the Greenbrier limestone and less resistant than the Greenbrier (though protected by the Puttville sandstone). This rock can be found on the upper slopes of the valley walls.

The Greenbrier limestone has been quarried at the south end of the valley. The Puttville sandstone, at lower elevation, forms the steep valley walls and the falls of the Blackwater River, it is relatively easy to distinguish the different rock formations by their color. The Puttville sandstone is gray-white with some quartz pebbles, the Mauch

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This 12 page booklet is an excellent introduction to Canaan Valley and is available for $6 from Norma Jean Venable Natural Resources Program WV University Extension Service 1074 Agricultural Sciences Building Morgantown, WV 26506-6108

The chapter plants and vegetation

This chapter contains lots of info on the various plant communities growing in the Valley. Beside this selection on the Wetland communities, Norma Jean Venable covers Broad and Mixed Conifer Forests, Quaking Aspen Groves, Northern Hardwood Forests, Fields and Haytown Groves, Aquatic Plant Community, Shrub Thickets, Plant Succession and Wildflowers.

Wetland Communities

There are several kinds of wetland plant communities in Canaan Valley including bogs, wet meadows, sedge meadows, and stream or aquatic plant community. Bogs, also called glades and muskegs, are places where the water level is above the soil surface. Bogs cover many acres in Canaan Valley. However, the areas that are relatively open bogs today probably did not exist in pre-settlement times. The number of stumps, logs, and branches found in today's bogs suggests that the wet areas existed prior to logging but were swamp forests with past soils.

Bogs develop in part because the heavy clay soils prevent drainage. Drainage is further impeded by the deposition of inorganic sediment along streams, causing pools of water to form. These factors promote the development of extensive wet areas.

Water in bogs can be quite acid, which prevents breakdown and decay of plant material. This results in a thick accumulation of a material called peat, which is formed of partially decomposed plant materials. In some places, peat can be several feet deep. The peat soils occurring extensively in Canaan Valley are 2 or more feet deep and usually very acid. Past bogs are characterized by hummocks of hair-cap moss in wetter areas. Sphagnum moss holds large amounts of water, the moss can be picked up and water wrung out of it like a sponge. Unforested areas with a cover of sphagnum moss are considered "true bogs," while those with a cover of hair-cap moss are considered to have more nutrients and are therefore called fens.

Two groups of plants often found growing in bogs are heaths and sedges. Heaths are plants that thrive in acid conditions and include cranberry, waterleaf, blueberry, and teaberry. (These three plants have edible fruits.) Sedges are grass-like plants and include cattail, which in the late winter and fall can cover bogs with masses of cottony-white fruiting heads. Glyceria, a grass, and cinnaminum fern, a common wetland fern, also occur.

Some bogs, especially in the northern part of Canaan Valley, are covered with the shrubbery growth of black chokeberry and violetleaf blueberry. Wild mint, smooth arrowwood and wild holly also grow. Herbs include vervain, gentian, creeping snowberry, the rare wood horsetail, star-violet, and pink lady's slipper. Bogs can be viewed from the nature center and from Abe's Run Trail, across the road from the boardwalk.

Bogs are very fragile habitats. A single footsteps can crush delicate plants. Footprints can last a long time, disfiguring and marring entire wet areas. Care should be taken when exploring these fragile areas. Wet meadows are open areas where water level is about 1 foot below the soil surface. In some instances, these areas have been caused by beaver activities. Cattails, sedges, rushes, grasses, and other marsh vegetation grow in these meadows. During warm weather, these meadows may dry out and cricks may develop in the soil. When rain falls after these dry spells, the meadows act as sponges to help absorb water.

Cranberry, waterleaf, blueberry, and teaberry. (These three plants have edible fruits.) Sedges are grass-like plants and include cattail, which in the late winter and fall can cover bogs with masses of cottony-white fruiting heads. Glyceria, a grass, and cinnaminum fern, a common wetland fern, also occur.

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formation of canaan valley

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above otter creek

The following poem is a reprint of Bob Stough’s epic and includes the 40 lines I inexplicably left out the first time I printed it last year - bill r

first day of the season, the trailhead stuffed full of big shiny pickups, ‘Love it or Leave it’, says a chromium bumper, NRA stickers glaring from the rear-view mirror. up on Turkey Run trail, for the sake of that pillar of the community in for MONEY IN golden SlDl-rays slanting huge birch bronze-leafed eating plain simple food, drinking pure sweet through between

packed up my junk and hiked all the way down into the deep, wild canyon, rock-hopped across the creek, now low and autumn-clear, i rested light the way .

i light my pipe, fill my lungs with sweet poison, i curse in the firelight for what they’ve done, for what you and I have done to our mother Gaia, seed of innumerable wonders, just so that most of us can have much more than we need, though still less than we want, even though most all hearts, however loneliness and rough can be filled to the brim with peace and friendship, and need only the barest spark to shine with love and care for stray dogs and little children...

but who loves the Earth as they love their own flesh, as they love their mate on a night of snow? yet if it is not so rock-bone, tree-muscle, birdwing-minds will be nothing but shit in our sewers, blood on our feet. we cast our eyes to video heroes, fill our larders with rationindicative justifications, cacoon ourselves in steel and glass on the 99th floor, and still we throb and hum with the ancient music of the sun, vultures and mushrooms no less than people, the songs of all woven in timeless harmony, as a living blue planet, child of a calm yellow star, spiraling with a galaxy through the dark and endless space.

written long ago, handed down by sages and fools, fine old words come to mind: ‘never in this world does hatred cease by hatred; hatred ceases by love, and this according to a law that has existed forever.’ i let my fire burn down, and walk out on the rough quartzite rock of this old, wise mountain, the coon-hunters have roared away, back into town, deep night.

just a whisper from the creek, i play my sad flute with the river of stars.

Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide Now Out

Edition 6 of Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide is now available. This edition is bigger and better than ever, with 368 pages, 96 pages of maps, 49 photographs, 177 trails totaling 812 miles, and a new full color cover. West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is the publisher. Authors are Allen de Hart and Bruce Sundquist (same as edition 5). Allen has hiked all the trails of the Monongahela N.F. over the past few years. Bruce was the editor for the first four editions. The hiking community and the U.S. Forest Service provided trail reports and photographs. Edition 6, like edition 5, also provides information for ski-touring and backpacking.

The growing throngs of visitors and the public at large regard the Monongahela National Forest as a ‘Special Place’. And indeed it is. The hiking, backpacking, and ski-touring opportunities it provides are among the best in the eastern U.S. The more outstanding areas are becoming known far and wide - Otter Creek Wilderness, Dolly Sods Wilderness, Flatrock Plains, Roaring Plains, Blackwater Canyon, Spruce Knob, North Fork Mountain, Shaver’s Mountain, Laurel Fork Wilderness, Cranberry Back Country, Cranberry Wilderness, among others. Profits from the sale of these guides support a wide variety of worthy environmental projects in the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

To order your copy of Edition 6 of Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide, send $12.85 (this includes $2.90 first class shipping) to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy PO Box 306 Charleston, WV 25321

West Virginia residents must add $.60 sales tax. (total of $13.45)

I have included a check or money order for the amount of $____ to WVHC for ___ copies of the Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide.

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City, State, Zip: ____________________________
Fall Review Weekend & Annual Meeting October 14-16, 1994

CANANA VALLEY

By Cindy Rank

Set aside some time to relax in Canaan Valley and celebrate the creation of West Virginia's second - and our nation's 50th - National Wildlife Refuge.

Over the years many readers of the VOICE have devoted personal time and effort to protecting the unique Canaan Valley. Others have watched and read with interest as the many chapters of the saga of Canaan have unfolded. Now it's time to take a breath, share a story and smile with some of the people who made it possible.

COME TO CANANA FOR THIS YEARS FALL REVIEW.

Many of our meetings will take place at the Whitegrass Cross Country Touring Center located on Freeland Road off Rt 32 in Canaan - directly across the road from the very first acreage purchased for the Refuge on August 11. COME TO WHITEGRASS FOR A LOOK-SEE.

- Saturday outings will highlight some of the unique areas of the Valley. Of course, there's plenty to do on your own as well - from bike riding to touring the latest real estate. - Saturday evening we'll gather at Canaan Valley fire hall for a fine meal and a program that will feature some special guests with some special words about Canaan. - Sunday the ANNUAL MEETING will take place at 9 am. at Whitegrass. ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED AND URGED TO ATTEND, The main order of business is the election of officers and five Directors at Large, each to serve two years terms ending in 1996. The regular Fall Board meeting will follow.

-WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW -PLEASE REVIEW THE GENERAL INFORMATION BELOW AND LET US KNOW IF, WHEN AND HOW MANY OF YOUR FAMILY MIGHT BE JOINING US on - CALL THE MORGAN TOWN OFFICE AND LEAVE A MESSAGE: 304-296-4565 Thank you, thank you, thank you in advance.

LODGING -We've reserved several nearby condominiums that will house from 4-8 people, (Most have 2 person bedrooms, a sleeping loft and a foldout double bed couch). Filled they'll cost under $20 per person per night, We can set you up with the condo mates of your choice if you all let us know to book you at the same place. - 2) A little less luxurious, the Lanexie Cabin will also be available on down the road spacio toward Dolly Soda. (Will sleep 15 - $10 person per night) 3) Camping for the brave warm souls could be arranged by calling Canaan State Park.

The Village Inn Motel across from the fire hall is available for $47/2 night plus additional person over 6. Call 304-806-4156, 5) Several Bed and Break fasts in Davis, WV 10 miles to the north. (Call for phone #) MEALS Whitegrass: light meal Friday evening, coffee & pastry early Saturday, brunch late Saturday morning, late night party snacks after fire hall program. For the diehards - Sunday breakfast and Sunday lunch.

The Fire Hall - Saturday supper:

WE HOPE TO SEND MORE INFORMATION (with additional detail and more accurate pricing) TO YOU BY MID-SEPTEMBER, BUT PLEASE DON'T WAIT TILL THEN, CALL NOW AND GIVE US AN IDEA OF WHO AND HOW MANY TO PLAN FOR, AGAIN, CALL 304 296-8963... or 304 924-5802.

*** VOICES FROM THE PAST FROM PAST VOICES ***

Collected by Cindy Rank

SEPTEMBER 1974

* RIVER CHASER Bob Darrell writes to Editor Bob Darrell, 2 Peter Grace's concern of Mower lumber company and hence thousands of acres in Shaver's Fork watershed. "...Except for agriculture,appalachian industries are mainly exploiting coal, timber and coal, the removal of which has been historically both environmentally destructive and socially degrading. The natural wealth is retained at the expense of the local economy and the capital gained leaves the area through a steady process of expropriation... It is very difficult if not impossible to sort out the many intricate inter-relationships among all of the different companies involved in the rape of West Virginia's prime river. (Shaver's Fork)" - CANANA VALLEY: A Pictorial Survey was published in 1974. The foreword wrote: "The purpose of this pictorial essay which follows a brief summary of the Davis Power Project is to show the general public what is at stake in Canaan. The photographs are in sequence. Christmasday who once said to me: "There's nothing in the valley but a lot of damned mud and some woodcock anyway"

SEPTEMBER 1975

* THE MASON COUNTY AUTUMN OLIVE FESTIVAL - "The biggest self-congratulatory fest of them all was held this past August in southern WV. This one is an annual tour of strip mines, past and present, whose purpose is to demonstrate to everyone in the DNR and the strip mining industry that there's all a pretty decent bunch of fellows who are trying like devil to do a socially acceptable job in a business that has no redeeming social value. To avoid probable embarrassment the general public, while not prohibited from attending, is not encouraged to attend. Nevertheless representatives of the press do tag along to observe and record the benchmarking tours. Occasionally a private citizen smooths things in to sneak in a drop or two among the pile of linen."

SEPTEMBER 1981 - DNR WANTS CORRIDOR II STOPPED - Not building the fre­ 1 lane, trans-mountain roadway in the "most probable" alternative of the WV Department of Natural Resources... However, if a highway is to be built over objections of the DNR, then "the purpose...can be accomplished with least damage to natural resources, upgrading existing U.S. and state routes...between Elkina, WV and Winchester, VA..." according to DNR Director Dave Calhoun.

* SPEEDY DEVELOPMENT THREATENS VALLEY... "Given the Reagan administration's enthusiasm for federal land acquisition and the direct secret of Interior's Watt played in the licensing of the Davis Power Project proposed for Canaan Valley, questions have arisen as to whether protection of the Valley as a National Wildlife Refuge can now be expected... It's not so much the power dam - although that's not totally out of the picture - but "instead it is the increased pace of other development in the Valley which bodes ill for its overall character."

* THE CONTINUING BATTLE OVER STRIP MINING... "West Virginia does not believe in mandatory enforcement."

SEPTEMBER 1982

* BOGGED DOWN... As officials pass the burden of analysis around, environmentalists four time running out for Cranberry Bill - MUDSTICK Turbid waters in Shavers Fork linked to Snowshoe - DAM RUMMEL... Within 45 days Noah, Corp of Aiken, S.C. will submit draft license applications to the Federal Regulatory Commission (FRC) for hydroelectric facilities at Summersville and Sutton dams... contending that the proposed facilities would not adversely affect either lake or river downstream. - CAN IN THE GROUND, MUD IN THE STREAMS... One tenth of America's National Games reserves in WV - mostly percent of state under lease for oil and gas now.

SEPTEMBER 1984 - Retroactive Edition

* STONEWALL JACKSON DAM... Plans for the Stonecwall Jackson Dam, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers go back to the 1920s. This year the dam will begin to rise.

* VOICE Editor Ron Hardway reflecting on the 1974 Eastern Wildnerness Act which established Dolly Sods and Otter Creek as wilderness areas but left unresolved the question of "the Berry. For the moment (and I do mean no longer than) let us sit down and take a deep breath, perhaps a sigh of relief, and reflect on what has gone before." - On December 20, 1982, at 2 a.m. the Cranberry Wilderness Act became the last bill to pass the 97th Congress... After twelve long years the Conservancy could finally reopen. Along with Cranberry, 12,100 acres of the Laurel Fork had entered the National Wilderness System.

* THOROUGHFARES THROUGH THE HIGHLANDS - Corridor H... Despite the efforts of Conservancy members setting under the leadership of Presidents Bob Barrett and Dave Elkinton, the DOE and Governor Archer Moore decided to "start in the middle" and construct 6.4 miles of Corridor H between Elkina and Bowden... Conservancy members and other state conservationists forewarned environmentalists that the schedule and history proves them correct. The construction disturbed one of two springs serving the Federal Fish Hatchery at Bowden and resulted at one point in a fish kill of over 150,000 four-inch trout who choked to death on silt. Though flow of the affected south spring was restored eventually the hatchery is more dependent on the second spring... recharge area lies in the path of further development... (of the Southern Route).

SEPTEMBER 1987

* CANANA - ALL THE WAY TO THE SUPREME COURT - Washington, D.C., based in Monongahela Power... seeking to appeal a ruling... which upheld the denial of a wetlands permit needed for the Davis Power Project in Canaan Valley... the first time that the group has been involved in a case before the nation's highest court.

SEPTEMBER 1991

* EZAAL WALTON LEAGUE URGES CANANA VALLEY PURCHASE AS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE... "Although we are late-comers to the effort to protect Canaan Valley, we are committed to the cause... because the singular natural values of the valley are in opposition to a petition by Monongahela Power... seeking to appeal a ruling... which upheld the denial of a wetlands permit needed for the Davis Power Project in Canaan Valley... the first time that the group has been involved in a case before the nation's highest court.

SEPTEMBER 1992

* CANANA VALLEY TASK FORCE LAUDED - The Canaan Valley Task Force has been selected to receive a Certificate of Environmental Achievement from Renew America, a national environmental organization based in Washington, D.C... It was conceived in July 1990 to protect the unique ecosystem and natural resources of Canaan Valley while considering local community needs.