



The Highlands Voice

The Monthly Publication of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

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What Is To Be Done?

CANAAN VALLEY WILDLIFE REFUGE PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge is currently preparing a Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Once completed, this plan would guide management of the Refuge for the next fifteen years.

The planning is guided by the Refuge Improvement Act of 1997. It requires the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a conservation plan for each Refuge within fifteen years, and to revise the plan every fifteen years thereafter. Plans must describe: 1) the purposes of the Refuge; 2) the fish, wildlife and plant populations, their habitats, and the archaeological and cultural values found on the Refuge; 3) significant problems that may adversely affect wildlife populations and habitats and ways to correct or to mitigate those problems; 4) areas suitable for administrative or visitor facilities; and 5) opportunities for fish and wildlife dependent recreation. The Secretary must ensure adequate public involvement in the preparation of the plans. Fish and wildlife dependent recreation is defined as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, nature photography, environmental education and interpretation

What is called the scoping phase of the effort ended the first of March. In this phase, the planners figure out what the issues are and what the Comprehensive Conservation Plan



needs to address.

To do this, the Refuge held four public open houses and performed outreach to seek comments on ideas and issues that it should consider as it develops the draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan. The draft Plan will be available for public review and comments.

Currently the Refuge is planning meetings with local residents or organizations that have previously expressed interest in or concerns about our management. The purpose of these meetings is to gather more information to better inform the decision making process. Social scientists from U.S. Geological Survey will work with these individuals and group representatives to better define and prioritize ideas on Refuge issues. Invitees include, but are not limited to representatives from West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, Timberline Homeowners Association, Friends of the 500th, the Ruffed Grouse Society and the W.V. Mountain Biking Association.

The Refuge is also meeting with experts in rare plants, and migratory bird management. Future meetings will be on deer management and public use.

Creation of a wildlife refuge in Canaan Valley was first considered in the 1950's. The creation of a formal refuge was proposed in

(Continued on p. 3)

What's Inside

Thoughts from President Hugh	2	MTR road show	8	Forests and cathedrals	12
Roster of officers	2	Requiem for the bottle bill	9	Shirts for sale	13
A friend remembered	4	Brochures	9	Cheat River canyon	13
Selenium from coal mines	5	Film festival	9	Another friend gone	13
Speakers	5	How to join	10	Outings	14
Bumper stickers	5	Hats for sale	10	Get a Hiking Guide	15
Early leaders	6	If everybody did	10	Hopeful tale of forest life	16
Longview power plant	7	Trip to Great North Mountain	11		

From the Heart of the Highlands
by Hugh Rogers

Miss Potter's Example

Most readers know of Beatrix Potter, the all-time best-selling author of children's books. The Tale of Peter Rabbit, published a hundred years ago, began her string of twenty books in nineteen years, and they're still in print. Miss Potter (recently the subject of a film by that name) had a business sense as well as artistic talent, and she happily marketed her brand as dolls, toys, wallpaper, furniture, and general bric-a-brac. But most people don't know what she did with her money.

Only three years after Peter Rabbit came out, she bought a farm, Hill Top, in England's Lake District. She had grown up in London with parents who considered the North to be a fine place for holidays—even three-month holidays—but unacceptable for social climbing. They'd hardly anticipated that their daughter would put down roots in rural soil, much less that she would become a breeder of sheep. Evidently, it mattered more to Miss Potter that she was the first woman to be elected president of the Herdwick Sheep Breeders' Association than that her books would be read by millions of children. She once remarked that the "modern child" was "pampered and spoiled with too many toys and books."

Nevertheless, she continued to profit from modern parents' pampering, and when her father died she inherited more money. She bought a neighboring farm for her own agricultural interests; her more general interest in preserving the Lake District from land speculation/development led her to cooperate with the National Trust in buying up many more farms as local people left the land. The Trust asked her to manage those as well. At her death in 1943 she left fourteen farms with thousands of acres and large flocks of sheep to the National Trust. Today we can still see Lake District landscapes that William Wordsworth walked, thanks to this writer-farmer who lived midway between his time and ours.

That's one model of conservation. In our Highlands we have examples such as The Nature Conservancy's preserves at Bear Rocks and on the Shavers Fork. As TNC's work has spread over the globe, it has had to seek more sophisticated arrangements to leverage the effects of its money. To save fast-disappearing mahogany in Bolivia, rather than buy forests outright it bought up logging rights and gave the landowners further financial incentives.

If The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, and similar organizations feel stretched to their limits while spending millions of dollars, what about groups with a passion for saving natural resources but no financial resources?

Boycotts have been a popular tactic. In the early 1990's, a "Mahogany is Murder" campaign cut British imports of mahogany by 95%. But other importing countries took up the slack—and activists realized that even if they had equal success in the United States, mahogany would still be at risk from logging for other species and from pressure to convert the forests to other uses. In the Brazilian Amazon, not only mahogany but jatoba, ipe, and other rare trees are being cut at unsustainable rates, and not all the wood is sold. Much is simply burned to make way for beef production.

Speaking of meat, let's return for a moment to Beatrix Potter's sheep. As she found it, the Herdwick breed was well adapted to hill-side foraging in wet Northern landscapes; but even before the De-

(Continued on p. 11)

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CANAAN VALLEY PLANNING (Continued from p. 1)

the late 1970's and an Environmental Impact Statement was done at that time.

At about the same time as the Environmental Impact Statement, the Monongahela Power Company made another proposal. It wanted to build a "pumped storage" hydroelectric facility. This would have involved building a dam and flooding much of the valley's wetlands. It would work by pumping water into the pool behind the dam when demand for electricity was low and then releasing it through the turbines to generate electricity when demand for electricity was high.

Opposition (including substantial opposition by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy) resulted in abandonment of the project. The project, as proposed, would have included filling wetlands; Monongahela Power could never get the permits required by the federal Clean Water Act.

After more study, the Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge was established in 1994. Subsequent acquisitions of land have brought the Refuge to its current size of over 15,000 acres.

The Refuge opened designated trails, 31 miles for pedestrian use, 23 miles for bicycle use, 22 miles for horseback use and 7 miles of roads for licensed vehicles to provide public access for wildlife observation, photography, fishing and learning about nature. Hunting is also available on the Refuge.

Now the Wildlife Refuge is in the midst of planning its future management. Information about the planning and about the Refuge is on the Refuge web site at <http://www.fws.gov/canaanvalley>. If you would like to be added to the planning mailing list, please contact the Refuge at:

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**CANAAN VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
VISION STATEMENT**

Draft -January 2007

Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge showcases the largest contiguous, high elevation wetland complex in West Virginia and harbors a vast assemblage of rare plants and animals normally associated with more northern latitudes. The refuge conserves, protects, and manages a mosaic of wetlands, grasslands, and forested habitats that support migratory birds and threatened and endangered species. As stewards of a significant portion of the headwaters, the Refuge ensures the integrity of the natural resources of the upper Blackwater River watershed. Refuge habitats and wildlife are conserved and managed through research and collaboration with federal, state, and local conservation partners.

As an integral part of the surrounding community, the Refuge provides high quality, safe, wholesome and diverse opportunities for education and recreation, especially hunting and wildlife observation. The Refuge experience fosters public interest in the beauty and unique character of Canaan Valley, an appreciation of fish and wildlife ecology, and stewardship of the natural world. Visitors develop a greater understanding and appreciation for the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System and refuge management programs and for the importance of protecting lands for wildlife conservation.

**Refuge Goals
Draft**

Goal 1: Conserve, manage, and where appropriate, restore a diversity of natural wetland and aquatic habitats for native plants and wildlife, especially migratory birds and regionally rare plant communities.

Goal 2: Conserve, manage, and where appropriate, restore a mosaic of upland communities for native plants and animals, with an emphasis on migratory birds and threatened and endangered species.

Goal 3: Visitors of all abilities enjoy opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation and education to enhance public appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment of Refuge habitats, wildlife, and cultural history.

Goal 4: Collaborate with the local community and other partners on management and educational programs on the Refuge and the surrounding landscape.

The Draft Vision Statement and Goals are from the Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge website.

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The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy web page is www.wvhighlands.org.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is a non-profit corporation which has been recognized as a tax exempt organization by the Internal Revenue Service. Its bylaws describe its purpose:

The purposes of the Conservancy shall be to promote, encourage, and work for the conservation—including both preservation and wise use—and appreciation of the natural resources of West Virginia and the Nation, and especially of the Highlands Region of West Virginia, for the cultural, social, educational, physical, health, spiritual, and economic benefit of present and future generations of West Virginians and Americans.

A FRIEND REMEMBERED

Farewell to Rev. Joseph R. Hacala, S.J.

Joe Hacala was born in Charleston, West Virginia and became a Jesuit priest when he was 30.

Rev. Hacala was appointed President of Wheeling Jesuit University in 2003 and served in that position until serious health problems forced his resignation in the fall of 2006. He died on Presidents Day, 2007.

Of the several tributes that have been written about Joe, my favorite quote came from Monsignor Sadie of the Wheeling-Charleston diocese who said Joe “wasn’t into bricks and mortar”. Indeed, anyone who knew him can attest to the fact that Joe was far more concerned with issues of social and environmental justice especially for his native state of West Virginia and Appalachia.

I first met Joe in 1961 when he visited Wheeling College where I was attending classes. I occasionally heard about him after that – working first in southern West Virginia, then in D.C. as assistant to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. But we didn’t reconnect until he returned to Wheeling in 2001, established the Appalachian Institute at Wheeling Jesuit, and attended gatherings like the 2002 Coal Summit at the Charleston Civic Center.

I can’t speak directly to the details of his involvement in the social turmoil of southern West Virginia in the 1970’s. However, I do know that while exercising his priestly ministry in Lincoln County he helped organize the outpouring of local sentiment that played a major role in DNR director David Callaghan’s decision to declare Lincoln County off-limits to strip mining. (A decision that held firm until the 1990’s when Arch Coal’s Hobet 21 mine expanded across the Boone County line.)

Coincidentally, just a week before Joe died — and while looking through dusty files for some bit of historical information about coal mining in Upshur County — I came across a copy of a letter he wrote to Director Callaghan more than a decade after that remarkable Lincoln County hearing.

Highlands Conservancy members and readers of the VOICE will recall the 1981 efforts of Rick Webb and the original WV Rivers Coalition to have DNR (then the mining regulatory agency) declare portions of the Buckhannon and Middle Fork Rivers as Unsuitable for Mining. In his letter, Joe reminded the Director of the enlightened stance he took in Lincoln County and urged him to exercise the same “moral courage and responsible leadership” in protecting the “invaluable water resources of central West Virginia”.

Of course, Joe wasn’t successful in swaying the final decision, but his words reflect his lifelong commitment to Appalachia, his belief in our responsibility to be good stewards of the earth, and his service to the people and resources of his home state of West Virginia.

He will be missed.

Cindy Rank

A reflection about Joe

Joe Hacala was able to move between places like Lincoln County West Virginia and the halls of power in DC (for years he had an office immediately adjacent to the Secretary of HUD) with an authenticity and integrity which is extremely rare.

Most of us here in WV knew him best, and saw him most, years ago, when he was here more often, and involved on a daily basis with the same things that we were. I saw him much less in recent years, when he was in DC and then in Wheeling. As a result, I felt less “connected” with him. But there often is a disconnect which typically comes when someone moves into positions of power which I never felt with Joe.

He did not seem “changed by power” the way I have seen in others and come to expect as an inherent part of human nature. When I saw him in recent years, he was the same Joe.

There are lots of examples of how his basic values, expressed in his work from years ago, still guided his work in more recent years, when he was more tied in to and constrained by institutional power and structure. But for me the most graphic example of his authenticity was a brief non-conversation.

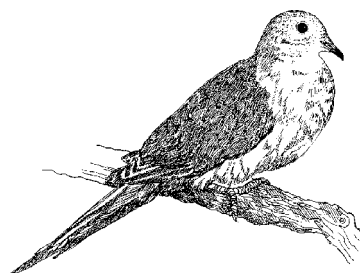
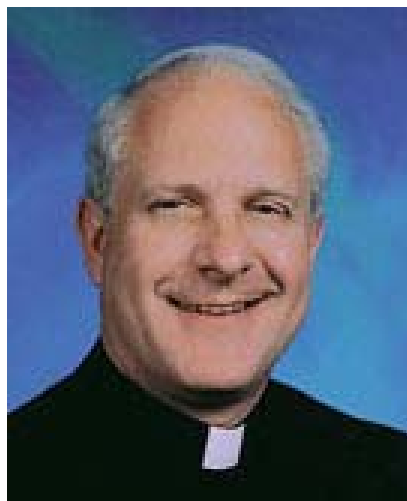
I recall running into Joe once here in Charleston, and being frustrated that he did not have more time to chat. In my mild frustration and my cynicism I started to dismiss the experience as evidence that Joe had changed. But then I recalled incidents many years ago when a mutual friend (a fellow organizer) used to mock

Joe (in an affectionate and admiring way), for the sometime abrupt way he moved on to the next thing in what was then a very busy schedule. Joe’s energetic and fast-paced approach to grass-roots work was “remarkable” in an Appalachian culture which places an emphasis of taking time with folks, whether the conversation is important or not and whether or not it makes you late for something else that you have committed to. In general, Joe was very good at connecting with folks, and his approach clearly made him very effective wherever he went.

One time while Joe was at HUD, he was the Secretary’s contact to a couple from Kanawha County who had been the victims of racial intimidation. It was a case I had worked on, so I knew these folks well, and was aware of their discomfort in dealing with the federal government. Joe went to great lengths, and was very successful at making them feel at home when they traveled to DC for various events related to their experiences.

In brief, he had patience - or impatience - for the same things and the same people, whether in Lincoln County or DC.

Paul Sheridan



SELENIUM IN OUR INBOXES

— and in our fish

— and the birds that eat them....and....

By Cindy Rank

Persons who signed up to receive email notices from Department of Environmental Protection about pending permitting actions were puzzled to have their inboxes crammed full with over 100 public notices a few of weeks ago.

Why?

DEP is proposing to extend the time they've allowed for mining companies to comply with selenium limits. That type of adjustment to permits must first go to public notice – hence the multitude of ads in local newspapers across the state and email notices from DEP.

Background:

Studies published in the 2002 Mountaintop Removal/Valley Fill Environmental Impact Statement identified streams located below several valley fills as selenium hot spots.

Once the problem was identified, and with the insistent prodding of folks like Margaret Janes (Appalachian Center), selenium limits and compliance orders to meet those limits are now part of some 123 NPDES water discharge permits.

In November, the Highlands Conservancy and the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition challenged two specific mining operations for failing to comply with these permit requirements. The companies had 60 days to clean up their acts or face Citizen Suit lawsuits over the ongoing violations.

In a bit of an end run, DEP decided to take action against those companies itself — essentially taking it out of our hands.

As for the larger universe of similar permits, DEP is retreating from its earlier actions and is now giving operations more time to come

ent at low levels (...found in the foods we eat and in daily vitamin tablets), it can be extremely toxic at higher levels causing hair and fingernail loss, damage to kidneys and liver, and damage to nervous and circulatory systems. Ingesting high levels of selenium – from the water you drink or eating fish from streams where selenium is a problem – can be a serious problem.

Admittedly questions remain about how best to measure and evaluate dangerous levels of selenium and whether it's more appropriate to set numeric limits for selenium or to set some body burden/fish tissue criteria – or both – as limits to require in water discharge permits. But what had been a positive step by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to begin the process of curtailing selenium in discharges from mines in selenium prone areas, is now turning into more foot dragging.

And as we wait, waters in areas such as the Mud River below the Hobet 21 mountaintop removal mine – and the Mud River Reservoir just downstream – continue to accumulate high levels of selenium in the fish and other aquatic life and vegetation that people in the area enjoy every day.



into compliance.

Why the concern?

Selenium is a toxic mineral that builds up in living organisms when levels in the water are elevated. The potential effects of excess selenium on aquatic life are severe and include reproductive failure, birth defects, damage to gills and internal organs, and ocular disease. In humans, while selenium is an essential nutri-

Speakers Available !!!!!

Does your school, church or civic group need a speaker or program presentation on a variety of environmental issues? Contact Julian Martin at 1525 Hampton Road, Charleston, WV 25314, or Martinjul@aol.com, or 304-342-8989.

BUMPER STICKERS

To get free **I ♥ Mountains** bumper sticker(s), send a SASE to Julian Martin, 1525 Hampton road, Charleston, WV 25314. Slip a dollar donation (or more) in with the SASE and get 2 bumper stickers. Businesses or organizations wishing to provide bumper stickers to their customers/members may have them free. (Of course if they can afford a donation that will be gratefully accepted.)

Also available are the new green-on-white oval Friends of the Mountains stickers. Let Julian know which (or both) you want.

THE FOUNDERS: THEIR AVERAGE AGE WAS THIRTY SOMETHING

By Dave Elkinton

As I have been researching the early days of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, beginning with the earliest Highlands Review on Spruce Knob in 1965, followed by a second one in 1966, and the decision to organize a new conservation group, which was made formally at Blackwater Falls State Park in January 1967, I have been reminded how young the founders were.

By the time I attended my first Conservancy function, the Fall Review of 1970, at least three of the original organizers had moved on to other endeavors. In fact only in 2007 did I meet Bob Harrigan, and have only corresponded with Rupert Cutler and Lou Greathouse. As a twenty-six year old, many of those I met in the Highlands Conservancy seemed a generation older than I was, and anyway, age made little difference; we were all involved in saving West Virginia from the litany of threats that existed, and have continued to exist. Some were my contemporaries, like Helen McGinnis, Bruce Sundquist, and Ron Hardway, among others.

In January 2007, I spent a lovely, sun-lit morning with Bob and Lucille Harrigan in their home in Bethesda, Maryland. I had read that the decision to organize what would become the Highlands Conservancy was made "at Bob Harrigan's camp." Yes, he and Lucille confirmed, they had leased a house from the Yokum family, proprietors of Yokum's Motel, near Seneca Rocks. In fact, like the Pittsburgh Climbers who rented a house on Roaring Creek near Onego, the Harrigans had rented theirs along with several families they paddled with from the DC area. It had served as a base camp for many weekend outings.

Bob Harrigan was a champion canoeist, the National Slalom C-1 Champion in 1958. His "day job" was with Fisher Scientific, but his passion was running rivers. He credited Andy Thomas for getting him started, and they had been instrumental in founding the Canoe Cruisers Association in DC. I remembered the CCA as the group that started and sponsored the highly successful Petersburg White Water Weekends, an annual canoe race and slalom course on the North Fork and the main South Branch of the Potomac River, upstream of Petersburg. The White Water Weekend grew into a major tourism attraction during the 60s and 70s, and ultimately was terminated because too many people overran the small communities.

This was a period of rapid change in boat construction. Most paddlers had started in aluminum canoes, but with the advent of fiberglass, design changes came quickly. Bob Harrigan and his

friend John Berry even designed a pattern that they sold to the Old Town Canoe Company that became known as the "the Berrigan." Bob told me that he, and many of his paddling friends, made their own canoes and kayaks in their back yards or garages, and applied the fiberglass themselves.

Bob loved the races, whether in DC on the Potomac, in Petersburg, or elsewhere. He paddled in Europe, and anywhere in the United States he could. Interestingly he had first been in Europe, not in a canoe, but on a bicycle. He and Lucille had joined an American Youth Hostel (AYH) trip in 1952 to France, Italy, and Switzerland. (Ironically, my parents too, had been AYH bicyclists and I remem-



ber riding on Dad's "kiddie seat" on weekend youth hostel trips in eastern Pennsylvania.)

Stewart Udall, President Kennedy's Interior Secretary, asked Bob to work on a committee to preserve eastern rivers, and Bob was more than willing.

At a very active 80, that January morning Bob was as ready for my visit with reference books, photographs, and clippings. He told me that one way he had spread his enthusiasm for paddling had been by writing articles for *the Washington Post* and *Evening Star* newspapers, often with photos of paddlers shooting rapids. Later he authored two books, and has a third at the publishers. It will be his memoir and will no doubt make interesting reading.

I had read of Lou Greathouse in the early accounts of the Conservancy, and knew he had moved to Georgia. Bob Burrell's second paragraph of Volume 1, number 1, of the Scenic Rivers Subcommittee *Newsletter* in March 1968 read: "The first and saddest bit of news was to find out that our chairman Lou Greathouse was moving to Georgia. Lou's drive, enthusiasm, and technical knowledge will be a great loss to West Virginia and the Highlands Conservancy, but we wish him the best of luck in his new venture."

I had also read Lou's article in the October 2005 *Highlands Voice*, in which he recounted his role as the author of the first West Virginia State Recreation Plan, and how naturally he had wanted to bring the "users" of the highlands region together. He had written letters to the presidents of all the major outdoor organizations in West Virginia and surrounding states, inviting them to affiliate together. I had his letter of September 1966, thanks to Sue Broughton.

Then in February 2007, we had a great phone conversation. I discovered that Lou had worked on several recreation plans in Georgia. Of the five governors he worked under, he had the most praise for West Virginia's Hulett Smith and Georgia's Jimmy Carter. He retired from state government in 1979, and had a second career with Lockheed, retiring again in 1989.

Lou told me, "A pretty good size piece of my heart is still in West Virginia." As a youth, he had spent nine summers on the headwaters of Shavers Fork, which understandably would leave a mark on anyone. His membership may be the longest on record in the Conservancy (*Highlands Voice*, Feb. 2007), although the records are admittedly unreliable for the earliest years. Lou, the inveterate planner, submitted detailed comments to the Forest Service last year for their forest plan revision. And I hope to rendezvous with him in West Virginia this spring, during his annual trek from Georgia, and finally meet him face-to-face.

M. Rupert Cutler was another key founder. He has shared his reminiscences with *Voice* readers (Aug/Sept. 2000 and March 2005). His career had been more widely known. As a young staffer with the Wilderness Society, Rupe had helped organize that first Spruce Knob gathering. I understood that he used the Society's printing equipment to duplicate the first brochure. The invitations had been sent to Society members within a several state region. And his boss, Stewart Brandborg, attended that

USEPA notified that Air Permit is invalid

Longview Power Plant Starting Construction with Expired Permit

By Paula Hunt

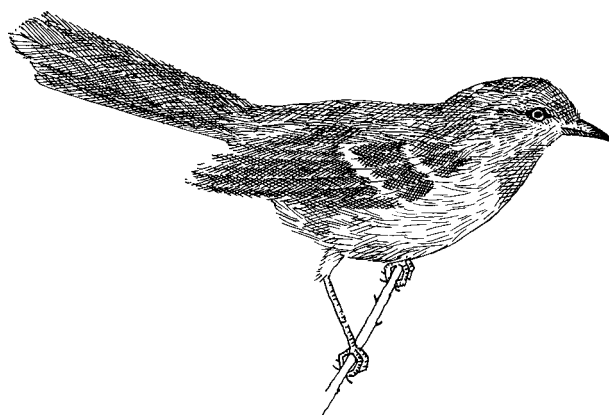
It appears that Longview Power may be building a proposed 695-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant with an expired Air Quality Permit. Two homeowners' associations and a private citizen filed a legal Complaint in Federal Court on February 13, 2007 naming Longview Power, LLC, its parent companies, and three other firms as Defendants. The lawsuit alleges that Longview's permit for the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (or Air Quality Permit as it is commonly known) expired on September 2, 2005 and seeks a restraining order and injunction to stop construction on the plant until the Defendants have a valid permit from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Air Quality (WVDEP/DAQ).

If built, the proposed Longview plant would be located in Monongalia County, West Virginia, just north of Morgantown on a ridge overlooking Allegheny Energy's existing Fort Martin power station.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was notified that Longview appears to be starting construction with an expired Air Permit. Judith Katz, the Director of EPA's Division of Air Protection, told Plaintiff's attor-

ney Phil Gaujot via e mail that she is reviewing the facts of the case.

Longview received permits from the West Virginia Public Service Commission (PSC) to build a 600 MW coal-fired power station and associated transmission lines, but recently announced it intends to build a 695 MW power station instead. Longview claims no permit modifications are necessary for this 16% increase in generating capacity.



Progress Made

The beleaguered Longview project has faced many hurdles since it announced its intentions in 2001. Repeated lawsuits and po-

tential lawsuits have forced the project to lower emission rates for NO_x and SO₂, significantly tighten monitoring requirements for a long list of pollutants, improve its mitigation plan for Class I Areas (Dolly Sods, Otter Creek, and Shenandoah National Park), and establish an acid rain and greenhouse gas mitigation fund.

Citizens' appeals of the PSC permits resulted in a \$3 million fund for removal and remediation in the event the project goes bankrupt during or soon after construction. Appeals from local citizens motivated the PSC to require more stringent noise standards and noise monitoring requirements. In addition, the PSC is requiring Longview to notify the WVDEP/DAQ of the proposed increase in generating capacity, building heights, and related changes in plans, something Longview was unlikely to do on its own.

Had it not been for the work of concerned citizens, it is probable that Longview would have received its permits from State agencies without a second glance. Local citizens can have a positive influence by becoming involved in the permitting process.

Keep up to date on the happenings with Longview at www.nolongview.org.

More About the Founders (Continued from p. 6)

rainy night on Spruce Knob. Subsequently, Rupe had pursued a PhD at Michigan State University and returned to Washington in President Carter's Administration, as Assistant Agriculture Secretary, overseeing the Forest Service. Rupe was the father of the RARE II process, in which all national forests were required to identify "roadless areas" (potential wilderness areas). Following that, he became Senior Vice President of the National Audubon Society and reappeared in West Virginia in October 1981 lobbying for the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, during a retreat of the Democrats in the US Senate, held at Canaan Valley State Park.

Rupert Cutler now lives in Roanoke, where he served on the City Council and currently serves on the boards of the Western Virginia Water Authority and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. He also writes op ed commentaries and reviews books for the local paper.

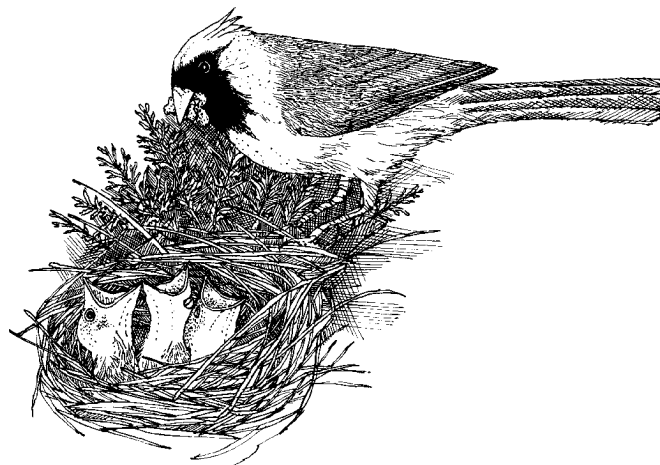
Tom King, the Conservancy's first president (*Highlands Voice*, April 2006) was the senior member of the founding group. When I interviewed him in 2006, he was 85, which means he was 46 in 1967. He told me he had been paddling the streams of the Monongahela National Forest with his son and others for several years before the idea that would become the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy began to develop.

Previous articles have profiled Tom King and Bob Broughton (June 2006). As I thought about my three new friends, described above, and King and Broughton, who I had met and known earlier, I began to calculate their ages in 1967. Broughton was only 32, Cutler 34, Greathouse 36, Harrigan 40 and King 46. There were others involved too, but they were of similar ages. My imagination looked ahead another forty years.

Now the challenge: Anyone under forty reading this article, please take inspiration. Gather together with like-minded friends, organize to preserve or protect what you are passionate about. (Did I hear global warming, or wilderness preservation?) What organization will be celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2047 because of what you did?

Note: Dave Elkinton can be reached at daveelkinton@hotmail.com, and welcomes comments and information as he continues his re-

search and writing on the Conservancy's first forty years. A book-length publication is planned later in 2007.



WHOLE LOT OF PREACHIN' GOING ON!

Here's a quick update of my current and upcoming travels. This past weekend I attended the Southeast Student Renewable Energy Conference at Clemson University in South Carolina. Over 300 students from nearly 100 colleges and universities from University of New Orleans to Valdosta State in Georgia to Northern Kentucky University attended the conference to learn more and share tactics and strategies about organizing clean energy campaigns on their campuses. See www.climateaction.net

The momentum of this Campus Climate Challenge movement is amazing and I encourage all of the leaders in the MTR movement to watch these folks closely in coming years - these students are our future leaders in the MTR movement and there is incredible talent and energy coming up as students learn about organizing, mountaintop removal and clean energy. Many of the students are joining Mountain Justice Summer and now organizing major events such as Mountain Justice Spring Break (Mar.10-18 in Charleston WV) and our MJS 2007 Training Camp in Tennessee in May.

I am traveling with several different students and mentoring and encouraging them to do their own road show presentations - as well as continually traveling and speaking with experienced coalfield residents leaders like Teri Blanton, Judy Bonds and Larry Gibson.

My schedule is packed for the next two months (see below) - I hope to see some of you on the road. Thanks again for all your support!

Recently Completed Road Show Presentations (attendance):

Jan 15 Central Michigan Sierra Club, East Lansing MI (50)
 Jan 16 Ann Arbor MI Sierra Club (60)
 Jan 17 Michigan State University, E. Lansing MI (15)
 Jan 18 Three Lakes Sierra Club, Sault St. Marie MI (25)
 Jan 27 Chapel Hill NC High School w/ Larry Gibson (100)
 Jan 27 "Mountaintop Removal" Film Screening, Pittsboro NC w/ Larry Gibson (60)
 Feb 1 Southeast Michigan Sierra Club, Southfield MI (35)
 Feb 13 Furman University, Greenville SC w/ Willie Dodson and Eric Blevins (100)
 Feb 14 Coastal Carolina Univ, Conway SC w/ Willie Dodson (Climate Action) and Eric

Blevins (UMD) 2 classes (40 total)
 Feb 15 Winthrop Univ., Rock Hill SC w/ Eric Blevins (130)
 Feb 16-18 Southeast Student Renewable Energy Conference, Clemson SC w/ Eric Blevins and Graham Boyle (SEAC) and Ivan and Sarah Kidder - 2 presentations (100 total)
 Feb 19 Univ. of S. Carolina, Columbia SC w/ Graham Boyle (SEAC) and Eric Blevins (15)
 Feb 20 Ferrum University, Ferrum Va w/ Graham Boyle (SEAC) and Eric Blevins - 3 classes (55 total)
 Feb 21 Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond KY w/ Teri Blanton (KFTC) and Graham Boyle (70)
 Feb 22 IUPUI-Columbus IN - w/ Graham Boyle (SEAC) 2 classes (55 total)

***** Upcoming **** For times and more info, go to www.mountainroadshow.com**

Feb 26-27 Brevard College, Brevard NC w/ Eric Blevins
 Feb 28 AB Tech College, Asheville NC w/ Eric Blevins
 Mar 1 UT-Chattanooga 3 classes, Dr. Alice Tym w/ Eric Blevins
 Mar 1 UT Chattanooga - EDGE Student group w/ Eric Blevins
 Mar 1 Sewanee (Univ. of the South), Monteagle TN w/ Eric Blevins
 Mar 6 Anderson University, Anderson IN
 Mar 7 West Lafayette IN Sierra Club
 Mar 8 Heartland (Indianapolis IN) Group Sierra Club
 Mar 11 Louisville KY Heartwood fundraiser
 Mar 12 Berea College, Berea KY w/ Teri Blanton
 Mar 14 "Mountaintop Removal" film Screening, Lexington KY
 Mar 15 Casa Latina, Louisville KY
 Mar 20 Oberlin University, Oberlin OH w/ Larry Gibson
 Mar 20 Hiram College, Hiram OH w/ Larry Gibson
 Mar 21 Wittenberg Univ. Springfield OH w/ Larry Gibson
 Mar 22 Denison Univ. Granville OH w/ Larry Gibson
 Apr 3 Wayne State Univ, Detroit MI
 Apr 3 SOLAR Southfield MI
 Apr 4-5 Union College, Barbourville KY
 Apr 8 Yellow Springs OH UU Church
 Apr 9 Northern KY Univ.
 Apr 11 Knox College, Knox IL
 Apr 11 Monmouth College, Monmouth IL

Apr 12 Transylvania Univ, Lexington KY
 Apr 13 Somerset Community College, Somerset KY
 Apr 14 Clifty Falls State Park, Madison IN
 Apr 18 Vanderbilt Univ, Nashville TN
 Apr 19 Bluegrass Community & Tech College, Lexington KY
 Apr 19 Lexington-South Lions Club
 Apr 23 Manchester College, N. Manchester IN
 Apr 24 Murray State Univ. Murray KY w/ Teri Blanton
 Apr 29 (tent) Cincinnati Newman Center
 May 9 Chatham College, PA
 May 10 Mt. Lebanon High School, Mt. Lebanon PA
 May 19 Peace Fair, Lexington KY

Fall 2007

Davis & Elkins College, Elkins WV
 Kentucky Museum of Arts & Crafts, Louisville
 Western Carolina Univ.

Dave Cooper
 The Mountaintop Removal Road Show
<http://mountainroadshow.com/>

608 Allen Ct.
 Lexington KY 40505
 (859) 299 5669

Call for a volunteer presentation in your community!

Editor's Note: *With financial support from the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and other sources, Mr. Cooper has been making presentations about mountaintop removal mining. Catch him in a town near you or, if you invite him, in your town.*



LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES

Banff Mountain Film Festival

The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour brings mountain films to thousands of people around the world who cannot make the annual trek to the Canadian Rockies for the main event. The Film Festival brings you the world's best mountain films. It enables you to experience the adventure of climbing, mountain expeditions, remote cultures, and the world's last great wild places - all brought to life on the big screen.

This year, the festival will once again make a stop at Morgantown West Virginia's Historic Met Theatre, April 4th at 7pm. Sponsored by Adventure's Edge, one of Morgantown's premier outdoor gear shops, part of the ticket sales and proceeds from the raffle at the event will benefit the West Virginia Wilderness Coalition!

Always a popular event, be sure to get your tickets ahead of time to ensure you'll have a seat. Visit www.theadventuresedge.com. Advance tickets \$9 students, \$12 adults. Whether you are an experienced mountaineer or an armchair adventurer, this event is for everyone. Don't miss the excitement. Experience the beauty of mountain landscapes and hear from the world's top adventurers. Listen to their stories, relive their challenges and reconnect with adventure.

Morgantown Adventure Film and Photo Festival

In the same spirit of the Banff Festival, Adventures Edge is also sponsoring the Morgantown Adventure Film and Photo Festival! Open to all film makers and photographers whose hearts and souls abide in West Virginia. To enter, go to www.theadventuresedge.com. These are a great combination of events that bring the outdoor community together for fun, but also to benefit our own West Virginia Wilderness Coalition!

The Photo Festival portion of the event is displayed at our favorite Morgantown eatery, Black Bear Burritos, one week prior to the Film Festival which takes place across the street at the popular alternative music venue, 123 Pleasant Street, on April 20. Advance tickets for the Morgantown Film Fest are \$4 students and \$5 adults. Winners for both contests are chosen by the public. These are very popular events drawing hundreds of people from all over the region. Come! See! be inspired, have fun, help a great cause!

RIP
WEST VIRGINIA BOTTLE BILL 2007
DEAD ON THIS DAY
FEBRUARY 22
CAUSE OF DEATH KILLED IN
THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

MAY IT NOT REST
BUT
CONTINUE ITS
FORWARD MOMENTUM
IN THE COMING MONTHS
MAY MANCHIN SEE THE
BRIGHT LIGHT OF RECYCLING
AND LESS LANDFILLS
MAY THE LYING LEGISLATORS
THAT SAID THEY WERE SUPPORTING IT BUT DID NOT
FIND TRUTH
AND MAY WEST VIRGINIA ADOPT A HIGHWAY GROUPS PLEDGE
TEMPORARILY TO WITHHOLD THEIR SERVICES
UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT SEES THAT SUPPORTING OUR FRONT-
LINE LITTER TROOPS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN
BEING BOUGHT BY FOR PROFIT CORPORATIONS Keep mailing
the Governor Cans !
THIS IS THE 4TH YEAR THEY REJECTED IT ! HOW MANY MORE WILL
IT TAKE ?
HOW MANY MORE YEARS OF CLEANUP CAN YOUR GROUP TAKE
UNTIL THEY PASS A BOTTLE BILL?
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Editor's Note: This comment was submitted by Mark Blumenstein of Alderson, WV. *The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy wholeheartedly supports the bottle bill.* We have never taken a position, or even thought about, whether mailing the governor cans would help it pass or not. Neither does the Highlands Conservancy have any direct knowledge of lying legislators, although past experience in other contexts makes such an assertion plausible.

BROCHURES

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy has joined with the Sierra Club, Coal River Mountain Watch, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, West Virginia Rivers Coalition, Appalachian Voices, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Keeper of the Mountains Foundation and Christians for the Mountains have put together a new brochure entitled "**Mountaintop Removal Destroys Our Homeplace STOP THE DEVASTATION!**" For a copy send a self addressed stamped envelope to Julian Martin, 1525 Hampton Road, Charleston, WV 25314.

Quantities are available for teachers, civic and religious groups and anyone who can distribute them.

Join Now !!!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Membership categories (circle one)

	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Org</u>
Senior	\$ 15		
Student	\$ 15		
Introductory			
Other	\$ 15		
Regular	\$ 25	\$ 35	\$ 50
Associate	\$ 50	\$ 75	\$ 100
Sustaining	\$ 100	\$ 150	\$ 200
Patron	\$ 250	\$ 500	\$ 500
Mountaineer	\$ 500	\$ 750	\$ 1000

Mail to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy PO Box 306 Charleston, WV 25321

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
Working to Keep West Virginia Wild and Wonderful!

If Everybody Did

By John McFerlin

One of the books of my youth was *If Everybody Did*. This was a series pictures of behaviors followed by what would happen if everyone took the same actions. My personal favorite was, "You throw your oatmeal on the floor. Think what would happen if everybody did." Turn the page and there was the same kitchen, waist deep in oatmeal.

Which brings us, sort of, to the New River Gorge National River's Sandstone Visitor Center, the site of the January, 2007, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy board meeting.

The Visitors Center was designed with all manner of features to conserve energy and generally minimize its impact upon the earth. It is heated and cooled by circulating water underground until it reaches the earth's natural temperature and then returning it to the Visitors Center for heating and cooling. Its roof is a light color to reflect heat, making it easier to cool the building in the summer. It is landscaped with native plants that require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides than non-natives. What water they do need comes from runoff

from the roof and storm water.

The lights are controlled by sensors that automatically turn them off when there is enough natural light. During the board meeting the lights kept going off and on as the sun went behind clouds and then emerged again. At first



this is disconcerting since it activates the primal urge to sprint to the fusebox. Then you realize that, even when the room lights turn themselves off, there is plenty of light and it becomes business as usual.



There are lots more features. The Visitors Center brochure lists twelve in all.

As Humphrey Bogart said, sort of, in *Casablanca*, "the efforts of one little Visitors Center don't amount to a hill of beans in this crazy world." But think what would happen if everybody did?

HATS FOR SALE



West Virginia Highlands Conservancy has two models of caps for sale.

One is khaki and the pre-curved visor is forest green. The front of the cap has West Virginia Highlands Conservancy in gold above *We ♥ Mountains*. The heart is red; and lettering is black.

The other model is tan with a muted green pre-curved visor. The front sports the lovely, in color, logo that appears on the VOICE masthead. Beside the logo is "West Virginia Highlands Conservancy" in green. The lower back of the hat has the *We ♥ Mountains* slogan.

Pictures of both appear on our website www.wvhighlands.org. Both are soft twill, unstructured, low profile with sewn eyelets, cloth strap with tri-glide buckle closure. Cost is \$12 by mail. Make check payable to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and send to Julian Martin, P.O. Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321-0306

Shivering but Loving It**HIKING ON GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN**

By Susan Bly

In spite of below freezing temperatures, 10 winter travelers and a big black dog climbed a mountain and discovered a frozen wonderland. Parking at the first Forest Service gate on the Laurel Spur Trail, we began our warming exercises by ascending a gentle rise on the road to the true intersection with the woods. This extension added a couple of miles to the hike overall but we were nonplussed.

The 2.5 mile climb up to the crest of Great North Mountain caused all of us to warm up in the 20+ degree sunshine. We took a couple of rest breaks; first, to admire the view of Great North Mountain from a meadow (excellent camping spot except for lack of water nearby) and secondly, at a frozen pond with camping spot as well. No one was foolhardy enough to walk out on the ice.

We continued to follow the footsteps of three or four travelers with dog who had gone before us in the freshly fallen skiff of snow. We stopped a couple of times for views of the Shenandoah Valley spread out to Skyline Drive. We didn't stop for long as wind blew across the top of the mountain from the west. We were actually hiking the warmer of the two weekend days as Sunday was to be colder yet.

Thinking Stack Rock Trail's first overlook would be a good spot for lunch, we headed there. But alas, there was a bit too much snow and the sun had not warmed things sufficiently, so after admiring the view, we trotted back up 200 yards to the Great North Mountain trail again and ate in the sunshine and drier leaves. Lunchers did not linger long over their tasty meals due to a slight wind chill, and so, without a siesta period, we strode on.

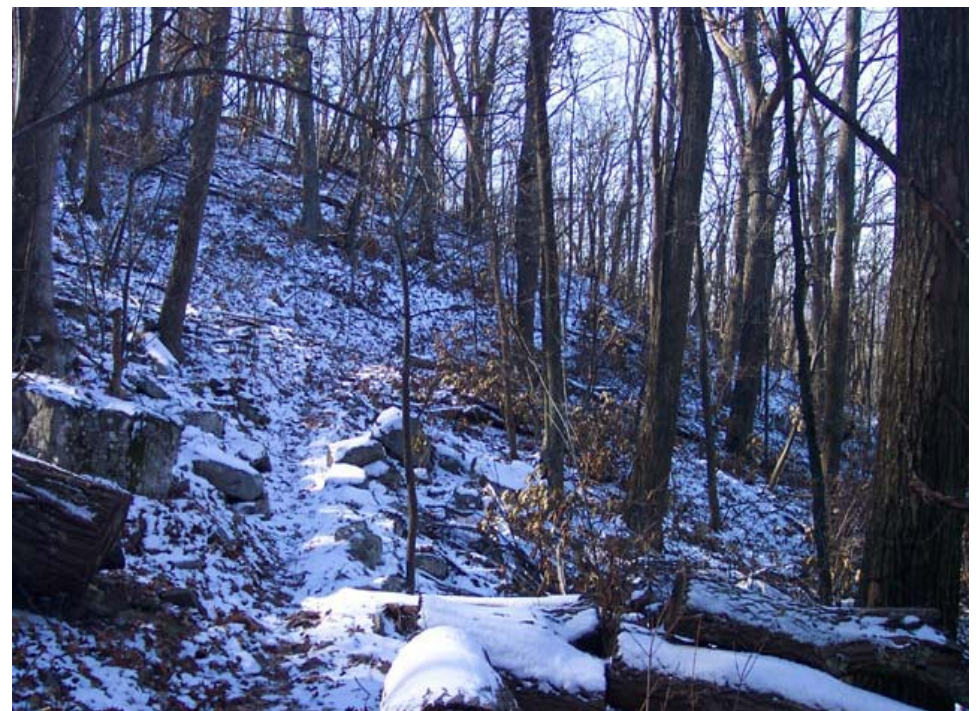
Down the Falls Ridge trail, leaving the mysterious three or four-some behind on their descent of Stack Rock. However, the dog tracks continued down Falls Ridge and disappeared into the bush, which makes me wonder if we were following coyote tracks. Quite likely. Stopped to look at the official campsite on Falls Ridge, at the source of the stream which would produce our waterfall later.

Reconnoitering the troops, we continued our descent with the junction of the purple hair clip. This visual jolt told us without a doubt that we had come to the unofficial waterfall trail. After a brief consultation as to the continuing stamina of the participants, we all followed the trail. I accidentally went too far and had to backtrack 150 yards to where the

trail splits at a barely noticeable turn. Otherwise, we would have continued to the stream and then to the lip of the waterfall. Knowing that ice usually forms at the bottom of falls, we headed towards the bottom.

Down, down, down along an even more obscure but definite trail to the base. From a distance one could see the glint of wedding dress white, draping the shoulders of several boulders at the base of the aerie falls. We were rewarded with a massive chunky cliff face with weathered boulders stacked between us and the base. We took our time gazing at and snapping photos of the ice and falls. Rattlers and copperheads probably call this their summer resort but for now they were in Florida or more likely, on the semi-permafrost setting deep in the rocks.

We tore ourselves away after a one half hour (frozen to the rock you were sitting on anyone?) and completed our descent to the Laurel Spur Road. It was a mere march of the troops back to the car along a "less than scenic" road as one lady put it. We arrived back safely and all headed for their car heaters to warm any fingers and noses that may have been pinched by the cold.

*And the Words Just Keep on Coming...More from President Hugh (continued from p. 2)*

pression, the breed was on its way out, a casualty of the punishing economic pressure on small hill farms. Potter recognized the paradox that the best way to save a rare breed was to eat it. Partly due to her keen business sense, today the British prize Herdwick sheep as a premier source of mutton.

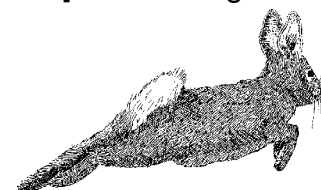
Fine woodworkers have an equally paradoxical relation to their materials. Dependent on the beauty of trees for their art and their livelihood, they have had to become active conservationists. (I learned this by watching the person closest to me who is closest to trees, my brother Alan, a furniture maker and vocational arts teacher.) For the past fifteen years or so, they have led the effort to preserve tropical forests, effectively increasing the cost of exotic

wood so it would continue to be available. The Woodworkers Alliance for Forest Protection morphed into a broader group, the Rainforest Alliance, and by the way spawned a movement to establish independent certification of businesses that practice sustainable forestry.

However, in Southern West Virginia as in the Amazon, there can't be forestry without forests. Slash and burn persists in both places. In Brazil it's illegal, though the law is widely ignored; in West Virginia, in spite of the best efforts of the Highlands Conservancy and other groups, so far it's an unregulated consequence of a primitive method of mining known as mountaintop removal. Mountain by mountain, we're losing an extraordinarily diverse temperate forest. Miss Potter would tartly remind us

that our values are out of whack.

We'll continue to reexamine our tactics, market-based or not. Meanwhile, for inspiration, here's a quote from a book by a writer with the Potterish name of Colin Tudge. In *The Tree: A Natural History of What Trees Are, How They Live, and Why They Matter*, he contemplates what trees are from several points of view. As a functional matter, he says that all living tissue, including our own bodies, "is constantly replacing itself, even when it seems to stay the same. [A tree] is not a thing but a performance."



GOD'S GREATEST CATHEDRALS

By Bob Marshall

However much time you and I spend in our churches, my guess is that like me, you find that a particularly fitting place to commune with your God is in His own wilderness.

An Arizona pastor tells of asking his congregation, "When have you felt closest to God?" and reports that they rarely answer, "During your sermons." Like them, many of us here in West Virginia find some of our most profound spiritual experiences in the greatest cathedral of them all — in solitude beside the still waters or in a deep forest lit by sunlight dappled through the forest canopy. Or, here in the Monongahela National Forest, beside the not-so-still waters of a gloriously wild, rushing mountain stream such as Seneca Creek.

As a Christian who reads the Bible regularly, I know that the greatest prophets sought the wildest places in nature for their most intense spiritual renewal. Moses convened with God on Sinai for "forty days and forty nights" (Exodus 24:18). And Mark tells us that Jesus sojourned in the wilderness for "forty days" (Mark 1:13). In short, wilderness is part of our Biblical heritage.

The Lord, I believe, did not place us in this earthly garden to see us despoil every part of it, or to turn every acre to our immediate needs for food, fiber and money. There is a deep inborn reason that our hearts respond with a joyous leap to great vistas of unspoiled nature. His Creation as He created it.

This is why I am working through my organization, Christians for the Mountains, and religious leaders in our state, including the West Virginia Council of Churches, to encourage our members of Congress to protect additional areas of wilderness. Thanks to the visionary and bipartisan Wilderness Act that Congress passed in 1964, we have the means through our democratic process to see that a reasonable sample of the wilderness solitudes of the Monongahela National Forest will be preserved for all time to serve many values, not least being our spiritual needs.

For us, this is an act of humility. Surely it would be immoral for our generation to deny future generations of West Virginians what the Wilderness Act terms "the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness." Our obligation to them, and to our Creator, runs deeper. Preserving wilderness areas such as Seneca Creek, Spice Run and the Dolly Sods Expansion, is a form of tithing, setting apart some of the natural bounty given to us as a wild sanctuary, protecting it in its undefiled natural condition for the benefit of generations unborn.

So, we ask our elected officials to take a political action in a nonpartisan way. We ask them to preserve more of the wilderness of the Mon. Far into the future our descendents in these mountains will lift their eyes unto the hills. They will need and treasure these quiet reserves of God's wild solitudes so much more in their crowded world than we can even imagine.

The great Republican Teddy Roosevelt spoke of our obligation to the future, railing against "the short-sighted men who in their greed and selfishness will, if permitted, rob our country of half its charm by their reckless extermination of all useful and beautiful wild things."

The "greatest good for the greatest number," Roosevelt reminds us, "applies to the number within the womb of time, compared to which those now alive form but an insignificant fraction. Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us restrain" ourselves "from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations." I personally want to know that my four grandchildren, and their children, will be afforded the same opportunity to experience the awe-inspiring wild places we seek to protect.

Today, you and I bear this moral responsibility to those within the womb of time. Yes, we could develop the remaining unprotected wild places in our national forest if we chose to; that decision is in our hands. But in a very real way, all those yet unborn are watching us, praying (as writer Terry Tempest Williams so eloquently puts it) for us to see beyond our own time. They are kneeling with clasped hands hoping that we might act with restraint."

We humans live only by grace, and Williams reminds us that it is within our legislative powers — held by our elected representatives — to take care that a good, big, generous sample of God's wilderness lives on as well. Wilderness areas such as Cranberry Glades and Dolly Sods that Congress has already protected in this way, offer places to play in, to be sure, for hunters, fishermen, campers and hikers, young families, and sturdy mountaineers who remain young at heart.

And, for many of us, wilderness offers the very best places in which to pray.

Marshall, of Kenna, is a native West Virginian, avid fly fisherman, hunter and a practicing veterinarian. He co-founded Christians for the Mountains, and helps lead the Religious Campaign for Wilderness. For information about citizen wilderness proposals, visit www.wvwild.org



Kumbrabow State Forest, West Virginia

We report, you decide..



Notre Dame, Paris

CHEAT RIVER CANYON PROTECTED

On February 5, 2007, U.S. District Court Judge Stamp approved a settlement agreement that requires Allegheny Wood Products to work with Friends of Blackwater, the Sierra Club, and CLEAR (the Cheat Lake Environment and Recreation Association), to create a habitat protocol for the Cheat snail; and then to mark this habitat on the ground so that it can be protected from logging, road building and other disturbance. This groundbreaking partnership will also protect Cornwell Cave, the home of a large colony of Indiana bats. Your support of Friends of Blackwater made this historic agreement possible.



T- SHIRTS

White, heavy cotton T-shirts with the **I ♥ Mountains** slogan on the front. The lettering is blue and the heart is red. "West Virginia Highlands Conservancy" in smaller blue letters is included below the slogan. Sizes: S, M, L and XL. **Short sleeve** model is \$10 total by mail; **long sleeve** is \$15. Send sizes wanted and check payable to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy ATTN: Julian Martin, WVHC, P.O. Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321-0306.



Drop Us A Line

Your comments and opinions are important to us.

Please email any poems, letters, commentaries to the VOICE editor at johnmcferrin@aol.com or send real, honest to goodness, mentioned in the Constitution of the United States, mail to **WV Highlands Conservancy, PO Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321.**

GEORGE BREIDING 1917-2007

George Breiding, 89, Naturalist and teacher, died peacefully at his home in Morgantown on Feb 02, 2007. He remained alert, active and busy until his final moments.

George was born in Wheeling, WV on August 11, 1917. At an early age he developed a love for the outdoors. He became deeply interested in nature study, wildlife and resource conservation, and in particular, ornithology, the study of birds. This interest was to last a lifetime and he shared it with all those he met.

From 1950 to 1963 George held the position of Director of Nature Education and Naturalist at Oglebay Institute Nature Department, Oglebay Park, in Wheeling. During that period

he also wrote a weekly nature column in the Wheeling Intelligencer and participated in nature education oriented local radio broadcasts. He was also published in the ornithology journals *The Auk* and *The Wilson Bulletin* and popular publications such as *Wonderful West Virginia Magazine* and *Bird Watchers Digest*

In 1963 he accepted a position as State Program Leader for Outdoor Recreation with the WVU Extension Service in Morgantown. He retired in 1979.

In his lifelong pursuit of furthering his nature education, George traveled widely. He explored 49 of the 50 states and travelled to Africa, Australia, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Mexico and the Galapagos Islands.

George used his constantly expanding knowledge to educate others about the world of nature, wildlife and resource conservation. His lifelong teaching passion was evangelical in it's scope, longevity and importance and he touched the lives of thousands of people while spreading the gospel of loving, understanding and appreciating the world of nature.

George was a lifelong Catholic and attended weekly Mass at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Morgantown.

He is survived by his 6 children: Joan, Susan, Sutton, Michael, Wayne and William; two grand children: William Taymor and Miguel Marqueda; and Jane Rector Donaldson, his former wife.

Persuant to his wishes there will be no funeral or memorial service. Burial will be in the family plot at Mt. Calvary Cemetary in Wheeling.

In his memory a scholarship fund is to be established for Oglebay Institute's Junior Nature Camp.

Memorial donations should be sent to:

Oglebay Institute
George Breiding Scholarship Fund
1330 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003



West Virginia Mountain Odyssey



Outings, Education and Beyond

Open Dates: Visit **Kayford Mountain** south of Charleston to see mountain top removal (MTR) up close and hear Larry Gibson's story about how he saved his mountain, now almost totally surrounded by MTR. Bring lunch for a picnic on Larry's mountain. Call in advance to schedule. Julian Martin (304) 342-8989; martinjul@aol.com or Larry Gibson (304) 586-3287; (304) 549-3287

March 24th (Sat.) MNF WV Spice Run day hike - loop. Five mile bushwhacking mostly along ridge tops and old log roads. In the center part of the Spice Run area which is on the Greenbrier/Pocahontas county line. There are no established trails in this proposed Wilderness. Moderately difficult - Contact Bob Handley 304-497-2276 gbrbat@ntelos.net.

April 21 Spruce Knob/Big Run tour. We will meet at the Spruce Knob parking lot at 11 A.M. and spend about 1 hour in the area orienting by foot and map to the area and its spruce ecosystem. Then we would travel to a small patch of virgin forest; again just a short walk where we all might eat our lunches. Then on to the North Fork and lower Big Run and its brook trout fishery, to a clear-cut on a feeder stream for perhaps a 2 mile easy hike up, ending the day at 4 P.M. No need to contact anyone, just show up; your leader is Don Gasper 304-472-3704.

***April 21-22 (Sat – Sun): GWNF, Pedlar Ranger District, VA: AT/Mau-Har overnight backpack:** Strenuous 12.7 mile loop with 6800 ft elevation change offering outstanding views and an impressive canyon. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis at 410-439-4964 or E-mail at mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

May 12 Buckhannon River Canoeing. This is a short 3 mile long canoe run in a very safe reach. The bed in the 100' wide lower Buckhannon is bed rock, shallow then, but very interesting. We will bring lunches, and stretch our legs. We would meet at **Sheetz** in Buckhannon at 11 and take out by 4 P.M. Good for beginners or old folks. Don Gasper, old himself, is the leader. No need to contact him, just show up. Canceled if raining. 304-472-3704

May 26-28 (Sat – Mon Memorial Day Weekend): Cranberry Wilderness, WV Backpack Trip: Backpack in about 7 miles on the Big Beechy Trail and set up a base camp on day one. On day two do a 10+ mile day hike through the Wilderness. Day three backpack out about 8 miles along the scenic Middle Fork of the Williams River. Some potentially challenging stream crossings. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis at 410-439-4964 or E-mail at mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

June 2 This Otter Creek Wilderness hike. Downhill, smooth, and easy, and slow. We may have one moderately difficult crossing that will be managed well- or not at all. We will cancel if the water is too high. We begin down the Big Spring Trail about 1.5 miles to the crossing. Then 5 miles on a big good trail along the beautiful Otter Creek. We will not hurry out but we should reach Dry Fork and our cars by 5:00 p.m. We will meet at Sheets in Parsons at 11:00 a.m. No need to contact, just show up. This trip's leader is Don Gasper, 304 472-3704.

***June 30–July 2 (Sat – Mon): SNP, VA - Brown Mountain-Rockytop Backpacking Trip:** Strenuous 18 mile trek spread out over 3 days. Lots of vistas and beautiful streams. Total elevation gain approximately 5100 ft. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis at 410-439-4964 or E-mail at mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

July 13 - 15 (Fri -Sun) BACKPACK, Seneca Creek in the Spruce Knob/Seneca Rocks NRA, WV: This 22.5 mile moderate backpack will take us along a beautiful stream in the Seneca Creek Backcountry. We will hike in 5 miles past the Judy Springs campground to the Upper Falls of Seneca Creek for basecamp. Saturday will involve "stream whacking" along Seneca Creek to explore the sights and sounds of this seldom seen area. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/258-3319 7pm - 9pm.

July 28-30 (Sat – Mon): MNF, WV, Dolly Sods Backpacking Trip: An approximately twenty mile moderate trek through portions of beautiful Dolly Sods North and Dolly Sods Wilderness. Visit Raven Ridge, Rock Ridge, the Lions Head, the Forks and more. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis at 410-439-4964 or E-mail at mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

September 1-3 (Sat – Mon Labor Day): MNF, WV, Laurel Fork Wilderness /Allegheny Trail Backpacking Trip: Approximately 28 miles. Main trails are old railroad grades that parallel beautiful streams. Cross-connectors are a mixture of footpaths and old woods roads with modest elevation gains. Approximately 5 miles of road walking and rail trails required to close the loop. Some potentially challenging stream crossings. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis at 410-439-4964 or E-mail at mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

September 15-17 (Sat – Mon):MNF, WV, Roaring Plains Backpack/Base Camp: Day 1 – Backpack in 2.5 miles on the east segment of the South Prong Tr visiting several vistas along the way and set up a base camp in a pretty hollow next to a stream. Explore a seldom-visited vista of the South Prong drainage. Day 2 – 11 mile day hike over some of the most rugged and beautiful terrain on the east coast. Day 3 – Backpack out from whence we came. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis at 410-439-4964 or E-mail at mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

(More Outings on the Next Page)(

Even More Fun (Continued from p. 14)

October 6 - 8 (Sat-Mon) BACKPACK, Otter Creek Wilderness, WV: Enjoy the fall colors at their max in a justly famous Wilderness. Count yourself among the lucky ones to see brilliant golds, russet reds and rustling rusts as we backpack 20.6 moderate miles in the Wilderness. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/258-3319 7pm - 9pm.

October 6-8 (Sat – Mon Columbus Day): MNF, WV, Cranberry Backcountry Backpacking trip: 31 mile strenuous trek with 4500 ft elevation change utilizing the beautiful Pocahontas and Fork Mt trails. Several vistas. Three miles of road walking required to close the loop. Tentatively, the trek starts at Summit Lake near Richwood. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis at 410-439-4964 or E-mail at mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

***October 20-22 (Sat – Mon): GWNF, VA, Cole Mt, Mount Pleasant Backpacking Trip:** Day one – Backpack approximately 4 miles and set up base camp at Cow Camp AT Shelter. Day 2 – day hike approximately 12 moderate miles visiting 3 magnificent vistas: Cole Mt, Mount Pleasant and Pompey Mountain. Day 3 – backpack back down the mountain. Note: Elevation Gain on day one is approximately 2400 feet over 3 miles. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis at 410-439-4964 or E-mail at mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

***November 3-4 (Sat – Sun): GWNF, VA, Big Schloss Overnight Backpack:** 12 mile moderate backpacking trip. This may be suitable for novices if you are experienced hikers. The hardest part is a 1400 foot climb over 4 miles on the first day. The short out and back to the primary vista will be packless. Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis at 410-439-4964 or E-mail at mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

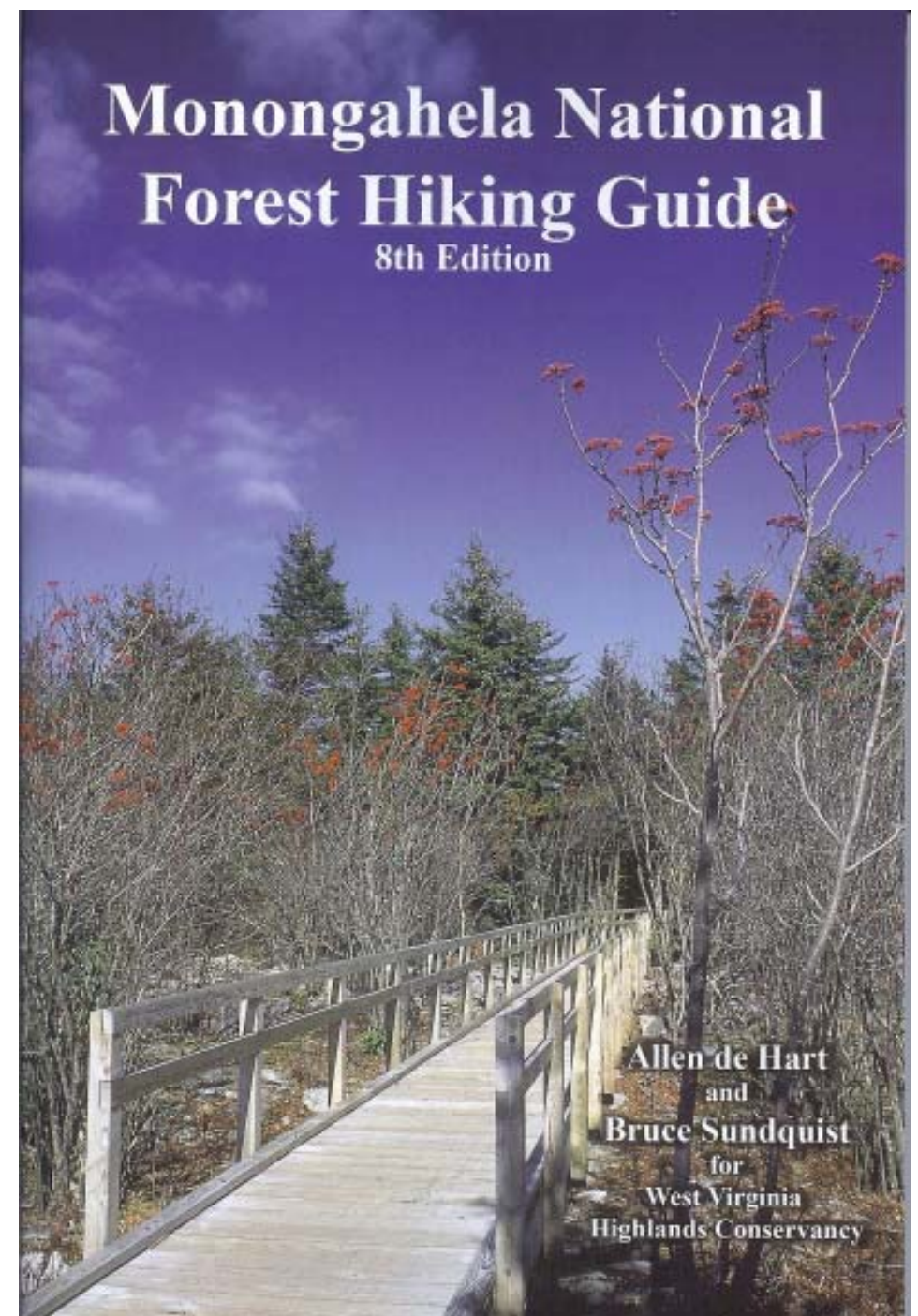
Items with an (*) are VA trips.

MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST HIKING GUIDE

by Allen de Hart & Bruce Sundquist

The Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide describes 180 U.S. Forest Service trails (847 miles total) in one of the best (and most popular) areas for hiking, back-packing and ski-touring in this part of the country (1436 sq. miles of national forest in West Virginia's highlands). 6x9" soft cover, 368 pages, 86 pages of maps, 57 photos.

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A FOREST RECOVERING

By Don Gasper

“Watersheds in some federally owned forested areas of the Pacific Northwest are growing healthier, thanks to a large-scale Forest Plan” in place since 1994.* Covering 25 million acres in Washington, Oregon and California, the “Northwest Forest Plan” was primarily to protect the spotted owl and its habitat. Monitoring results for the past 10 years indicate that watershed conditions have improved over a wide area.

What Happened in the West

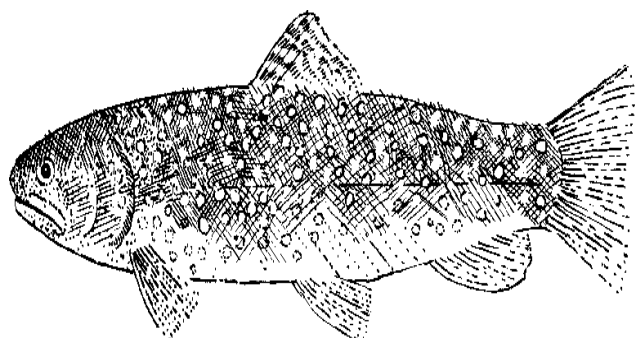
In the early 1990’s federal forests were managed primarily for timber harvest, with wildlife and streams receiving less attention. Consequently the numbers and diversity of wildlife were on the decline - including the endangered spotted owl.

Aquatic degradation was becoming evident and reflected up-slope watershed problems. Timbering from riparian areas resulted in stream exposure to sunlight and becoming too warm to support salmon and other cold-water fish. Sediment that eroded from timber harvesting and poor road maintenance clogged streams reducing available spawning habitat.

President Clinton directed a team of scientists to construct an integrated forest plan that would be scientifically sound, ecologically credible and legally responsible, crafted to protect the long term health of our forests, our wildlife and our waterways, and to produce a predictable and sustainable level of timber sales that will not degrade the environment. This resulted in the 1994 ground breaking land management strategy for this large scale regional landscape to restore and maintain the health of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

The nearly 25 million acres were carefully managed. The 25 million acres are not only assigned to particular land use allocation categories, but are also subject to additional management depending on the watershed in which the acres occur. Scientists assessed the watersheds and assigned them into one of three watershed priority categories:

Tier 1 Key Watersheds, which



include those directly contributing to conservation of habitat for at-risk fish species (33 percent of total acreage);

Tier 2 Key Watersheds, which include those serving as important sources of high quality water (four percent of total acreage); or

Non-key Watersheds, which include all other watersheds (63 percent of total acreage).

The key water protection element of the Plan is known as the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS). The goal of the ACS is to maintain and restore ecological health of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems. The ACS consists of a system of these Riparian Reserves and Key Watersheds, a series of watershed analyses, and a program of watershed restoration. For more information about the ACS, see www.reo.gov/library/acs.

The riparian reserve network established by the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) was a significant change from previous forest plans. Before the ACS the riparian ecosystem was generally defined as 100 feet on either side of fish-bearing streams. The ACS riparian reserve network is based on an ecological function approach that includes the entire stream network, not just fish-bearing streams. Implementation led to expansion of the protected riparian zone to 300 feet along fish bearing streams and 150 feet along permanently flowing and intermittent non-fish bearing streams.

The Results

The monitoring component of the ACS assesses aquatic and riparian ecosystem conditions and tracks trends in watersheds. Although most assessment data are collected annually, meaningful trends may not be detected for several decades because watershed processes operate over the course of decades or longer. However, after ten years of implementation, there are several key findings:

An estimated 97 percent of the watersheds assessed showed a stable or improving trend. The three percent of the watersheds that showed a declining trend were in watersheds that experienced significant fire events.

74 percent of the ACS-designated “key” watersheds that were targeted for restoration

showed improvement.

The decommissioning of roads was determined to be a significant factor in the watershed improvements. The miles of roads decommissioned was nine times greater than the amount built between 1995 and 2002, the reverse of the trend before the Plan went into effect.

The amount of timber harvest in riparian areas decreased substantially and any of the activities that could have had negative effects on aquatic ecosystems have declined under the ten years of the Plan.

Watersheds with more non-federal ownership had the lowest changes in watershed condition scores, indicating that conditions are improving more rapidly on federally owned land.

The evidence of a beginning regional recovery is convincing after only 10 years under this nurturing Forest Plan of 1994.

The ideas that contributed to this plan that is described are “a significant change from the past”, a phrase used by President Clinton’s USFS Chief Mike Dombeck when, in the year 2000, he authored a directive on how all the new Forest Plans were to be made.

What Might Have Been

That Plan Guidance was immediately set aside by the Bush Administration and has remained unused for over 6 long years. In this interval The Monongahela National Forest Plan was so unfortunately made without the benefit of this up-to-date, marvelous guidance that emphasized watershed health and aquatic ecosystem recovery. The evidence, briefly described here, indicates on the Monongahela in 10 more years a top-down stream channel recovery could be expected - first through native brook trout headwaters. Brook trout streams and their potential were not even identified. Famous brook trout populations would be so valued that they would never again be threatened by watershed disturbance. Eventually recovery would tend to reduce the terrible flooding in the communities below. Neither was identified as goals or issues in the Monongahela’s new plan for the next 15 years of its management. They were not even mentioned. How satisfactory is that?

Chief Dombeck’s 2000 directive for the making of USFS plans remains as an irrefutable standard for all such plans. It remains as an almost sacred, haunting echo in the minds of scientists and citizens alike.

