



# *The Highlands Voice*

Since 1967, The Monthly Publication of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

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## **Corridor H: Cease and Desist!**

By Hugh Rogers

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has issued a cease-and-desist order to Kokosing Company, which is building a 7.5-mile section of Corridor H in Tucker County. More than half passes through the Monongahela National Forest.

It's music to our ears: cease and desist! Stop tearing up the forest and dumping mud in the streams! You've treated your permit as a minor inconvenience, built settling ponds that leaked from the start, pushed ahead with the dozers before you did anything to deal with runoff. Wherever a Best Management Practice has been recommended, you have chosen Worse. And now you blame the weather.

Music to our ears – but we shall see how long this dance will last. The first note didn't play for a year. As we reported in the February *Voice*, the Forest Service had been complaining about the company's failures since last October. DEP's order cites inspections since December.

December 20, 2017: no controls along access road; sediment basins too small and/or leaking; maintenance lacking, inlets eroded,

silt fences damaged. January 23, 2018: failure to comply with storm water pollution prevention plan; more basins leaking, diversion pipes broken, sediment deposits "distinctly visible" in Haddix Run, its South Branch, and Baldlick Fork. And so it continued, in May, June (two inspections), August (two inspections), and September (three inspections). Fill slopes were left unprotected, clearing and grubbing went on the same way, no reseeding was attempted after the first round failed to germinate. After each inspection, notices of violation were issued.

On September 28, in a 123-page order, Kokosing was barred from "any further land development activity" until the Department determined that it was in compliance with its permit and "all pertinent laws and rules." More than 150 photos documented a forest becoming a mudhole.

What's interesting to some of us still paying attention to Corridor H after so many years is the difference between this job and the last completed section. That was along Beaver Creek, northeast of Davis. Even on relatively level terrain, the contractor

**(More on p. 3)**

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## Thoughts from our President By Larry Thomas

# Reviewing the Review

October was a very busy month, saddened by the loss of a longtime, from the beginning of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, friend, board member and supporter of the Conservancy Jean Rodman. Postings on the board listserv and stories in this Voice and the many pages in the forty years of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy tell the wonderful story.

The month started with the Fall Review on October 5, 6 and 7 at the Spruce Knob Mountain Center in Pendleton County. <https://experience-learning.org/> The weekend was packed full of activities.

Those who arrived Friday evening shared pizza and lively conversations.

Saturday morning started with a very informative presentation on the history, vision and mission of Experience Learning and the Spruce Knob Mountain Center by David Martin, Managing Director. During the afternoon, participants had a choice of three field trips, the Sinks of Gandy Tour led by David Saville, the Spruce Knob Summit Tour – Understanding the Highlands Landscape, led by Jim Van Gundy and the Spruce Restoration at Experience Learning Facility Tour led by David Martin. Great comments were heard from participants on all of the tours. In the evening there were three very informative presentations, The Nature Conservancy in West Virginia by Thomas Minney, Pipeline Compliance Surveillance Initiative (CSI) by Rick Webb and The U. S. Forest Service Role in the Highlands by Kent Karriker. Afterwards for those brave souls who still had energy in the tank, we enjoyed a great tour of the observatory under a very cooperative dark sky.

Sunday, first was the annual membership meeting during which we elected our new senior vice president Marilyn Shoenfeld, as well as the six directors-at-large recommended by the nominating committee. I want to personally thank Marilyn, our two newest directors and four incumbent directors for volunteering for those positions. We then moved into a very productive fall board meeting.

Planning has already started for the Fall 2019 Review.

Also during October, we took the opportunity to submit three comment letters for proposed projects within the Monongahela National Forest as well as signing-on to letters of comment prepared by other organizations concerning various other issues and projects that were thought to be important to the Conservancy.

Comment letters to the Forest Service were:

**Spruce Mountain Grouse Management Area** - This proposed project is in the Potomac Ranger District west and southwest of Spruce Knob Lake and is near the community of Osceola, WV. The objective of the project is to restore and maintain ruffed grouse habitat in the existing management area by increasing early successional habitat for cover and enhancing species diversity to increase foraging opportunities. Our comments addressed the Draft Environmental Assessment for the project. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51058&exp=overview>

**Panther Ridge Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project** – This proposed project is in the Marlinton Ranger District seven miles east of Falling Springs on County Route 11 with the following project boundaries: Greenbrier River to the west, Little Creek to the east, Hopkins Knob to the south and Spice Run and is

for wildlife enhancement. Our comments addressed the Draft Environmental Assessment for the project. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53685>

**Big Rock Project** – This proposed project is in the Gauley Ranger District within the Cranberry River watershed north of Richwood in Nicholas and Webster Counties and is to provide diverse early successional forest (clearcutting w/reserves 1342 acres), improve forest health and growth (traditional cut 702 acres and helicopter thin 491 acres) and provide water sources for wildlife (creation of 20 vernal pools). Our comments addressed the Draft Environmental Assessment for the project. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=44762>

Already dates have been set to sit down with forest service personnel to discuss our comments.

Again, I would like to thank the members and board members for taking their weekend to participate in the 2018 Fall Review and am looking forward to a very productive year and would like to close with this I found by A, G, Huger.

“No fairer land surely is this, where the hills are feathered with forest and braided with the rills! The mountains that over these green valleys rise, ever woo’d by the winds, ever kissed by the skies; and the homes and hearts that they shall hold. Gifts sweeter than glory and richer than gold.”

## Explanation and Apology

Dear Members,

This is a message – an abject apology - to our members who have recently renewed. There was what I am sure was a frustrating problem, in that many of the business reply envelopes we intended as a service to our members were stuck closed. Several members graciously used their own envelopes to send in their renewal checks, and a few slit the business reply envelope open and then scotch taped it shut. There are signs on most envelopes that it was a struggle to get them open, resulting in torn flaps. I can almost hear the muttered curses.

The problem was caused by the EXTREME humidity we suffered this past summer from the monsoons. Besides business reply envelopes, my cabinet doors wouldn’t close, dresser drawers were stuck, towels got sour smelling from staying damp for days, and mold grew everywhere. I finally purchased a dehumidifier, but not soon enough for the envelopes. Some of the envelopes are not completely stuck, but still too bad to use as is.

Our solution has been to cut the return address end off, so you can slide things in, and also send a blank sticker to use in lieu of tape.

Thank you for your continued support.

Beth

## Corridor H Construction Halted (Continued from p. 1)

silted up that tributary of the Blackwater River. Every month, violations were noted, consent orders were drawn up, and fines were levied. After two years, it was clear that the fines were just a cost of doing business: cheaper to pay than to obey the law.

This time around, the DEP also secured repeated promises to do better. But it charged no fines. Instead, after nine months it called a halt. We can imagine a lesson was learned from the last go-round. Or that the Division of Water and Waste Management and its environmental enforcement office were finally exasperated by how badly the job was being done. We don't know. It remains to be seen whether Kokosing *can* do better.

Meanwhile, the streams get a break from the mud. Scott Weaner, who lives beside South Haddix Run, told the Gazette-Mail, "The sediment's been awful. As soon as they started cutting on this side of the watershed, the stream got so silty. It's twice as muddy." Scott told me he didn't know how long the stream could take such punishment: "Eventually, it will be dead." Two weeks after the order, with no construction taking place, South Haddix ran clear for the first time in months. That doesn't mean it will survive, but it's something.



**These two pictures show how one part of sediment control is supposed to work but doesn't. Water leaving the site is supposed to go into a pond. The dirt settles out and more or less clean water flows out. The picture on the left shows one of the ponds. It is supposed to be collecting water; it is empty. Instead, the water is bypassing the pond and is coming out muddy (picture on the right)**

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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.

# The con at the heart of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline

By Robert Zullo

It can't be said enough, and it's something that's easy to lose sight of amid the labyrinthine legal and permitting debates around the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, which could be getting federal approval to start full construction in Virginia any minute now.

The need for Dominion Energy's 600-mile Atlantic Coast Pipeline is far from proven — certainly not in Virginia — despite the propaganda piece extolling the virtues of the project that company CEO, president and CEO Thomas Farrell got published Sunday in the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Your case should be ironclad before a federal agency gives your company the authority to blast, trench and tunnel your way across 600 miles in three states, trampling on private property rights, national forests and parks, sensitive habitats and waterways and through aquifers remote communities rely on for drinking water.

In fact, the preponderance of evidence points to Dominion being well on its way to foisting a massive con on its 2.5 million ratepayers here, as opponents of the pipeline have warned all along.

Another newspaper editorial page, The Virginian-Pilot, also recently parroted the company line on the project, that the hundreds of landowners and communities along its 600-mile path are the unfortunate eggs that must be broken to cook a reliable, affordable energy omelet for the rest of us.

The only way you can still believe that is if you steadfastly refuse to look behind the curtain.

Dominion will point you to the voluminous work done as part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's certification process for natural gas projects, but what they won't tell you is the agency's review of actual public need is stunningly cursory.

"The shippers on the ACP project supply gas to end users and electric generators, and those shippers have determined that natural gas will be needed and the ACP project is the preferred means of obtaining that gas. We find that the contracts entered into by those shippers are the best evidence that additional gas will be needed in the markets that the ACP project intends to serve," the commission wrote in its certificate authorizing the project last year.

Who are those shippers? They're almost all subsidiaries of the energy companies developing the project, which comes with a 14 percent rate of return they'll try to recoup from their ratepayers.

FERC brushed that aside though.

"The fact that five of the six shippers on the ACP project are affiliated with the project's sponsors does not require the commission to look behind the precedent agreements to evaluate project need," the certificate says.

Because it has basically become a rubber stamp for an industry that is on a wild overbuilding spree, FERC is currently in the midst of a lengthy process to review how it evaluates pipeline projects.

The agency has also shown itself toothless in trying to combine or modify duplicative or dubiously justified projects like the Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley pipelines, evidenced by FERC Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur's rare dissent on the projects.

"My balancing determination was heavily influenced by similarities in their respective routes, impact and timing. ACP and MVP are proposed to be built in the same region with certain segments located in close geographic proximity. ... Both projects appear to be receiving gas from the same location, and both deliver gas that can reach some common destination markets," LaFleur wrote. "I am particularly troubled by the approval of these projects because I believe that the records demonstrate that there may be alternative approaches that could provide significant environmental advantages over their construction as proposed."

The commission staff looked at a merger of the two projects, but ultimately dismissed the idea.

"Commission staff eliminated this alternative from further consideration because it failed to meet the project's objectives, in particular that it would 'result in a significant delay to the delivery of the 3.44 Bcf/d of natural gas to the proposed customers of both ACP and MVP' due to the significant time for the planning and design that would be necessary to develop a revised project proposal," according to LaFleur's dissent.

Translation: We didn't make them do it because the pipeline companies didn't want to. However, ACP did appear to get some credit from LaFleur for at least taking the trouble to sign up subsidiaries, which is more than MVP did.

She noted that while "Mountain Valley has entered into precedent agreements with two end users ... for approximately 13 percent of the MVP project capacity, the ultimate destination for the remaining gas will be determined by price differentials in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast markets, and thus, is unknown."

## Still in need of something to read?

The story above is an abbreviated version of something that first appeared in *The Virginia Mercury*. It is an online publication that mostly covers happenings in Virginia, including the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the Mountain Valley Pipeline. For one perspective on the pipeline approval process, issues it raises, etc. check it out. Three pipeline stories (including the full version of the one above) appear here:

<https://www.virginiamercury.com/2018/10/19/atlantic-coast-pipeline-gets-final-virginia-approvals/>

<https://www.virginiamercury.com/2018/10/18/virginias-pipeline-projects-and-the-aura-of-inevitability/>

<https://www.virginiamercury.com/2018/10/25/the-con-at-the-heart-of-the-atlantic-coast-pipeline/>

There will probably be more in the future.

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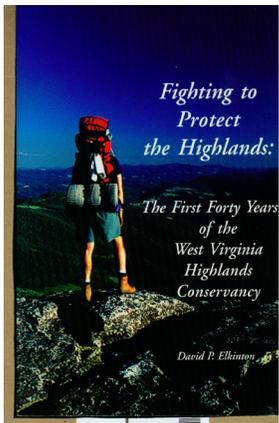
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For the first time, a comprehensive history of West Virginia's most influential activist environmental organization. Author Dave Elkinton, the Conservancy's third president, and a twenty-year board member, not only traces the major issues that have occupied the Conservancy's energy, but profiles more than twenty of its volunteer leaders.



From the cover by photographer Jonathan Jessup to the 48-page index, this book will appeal both to Conservancy members and friends and to anyone interested in the story of how West Virginia's mountains have been protected against the forces of over-development, mismanagement by government, and even greed.

518 pages, 6x9, color cover, published by Pocahontas Press

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**Tell a Friend!**

If you have a friend you would like to invite to join the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy just fill out this form and send it to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321.

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Filling out the form, etc. is, of course, the old school way of doing things. If you prefer, just email the information to Beth Little at [blittle@citynet.net](mailto:blittle@citynet.net).

The way it works: Anyone you refer gets *The Highlands Voice* for six months. At the end of the six months, they get a letter asking if they want to join. If they join, we're happy. If not, then maybe next time.

**SUCH A DEAL!**

**Book Premium With Membership**

Although *Fighting to Protect the Highlands, the First 40 Years of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy* normally sells for \$15.95 plus \$3.00 postage. We are offering it as a premium to new members. New members receive it free with membership.

Existing members may have one for \$10.00. Anyone who adds \$10 to the membership dues listed on the How to Join membership or on the renewal form will receive the history book. Just note on the membership form that you wish to take advantage of this offer.

## 20 Years of Red Spruce Ecosystem Restoration

By Dave Saville

Twenty years ago, Highlands Conservancy members were concerned about the Balsam Woolly Adelgid and the exotic insect pest's decimation of the balsam fir stands in West Virginia. This genetically unique population of trees, at the southern edge of its range, has been a part of the forests of Canaan Valley and the high elevation spruce country for thousands of years. We decided to take action. We collected cones and banked seed to protect the genetic material. We began growing seedlings to help encourage regeneration. We constructed deer exclosure fences around numerous stands of fir to protect young trees from deer browse. We hosted workshops and research meetings to learn more from the experts, to help guide or work.

The effort soon expanded to include red spruce. While the red spruce trees of West Virginia are currently healthy and flourishing, they were once suffering from acid rain. The success of the Clean Air Act has helped to solve this problem. Logging and subsequent fires, however, have reduced by over 90% the forests of spruce trees that once covering over a million acres of the West Virginia Highlands. Furthermore, they have been fragmented into hundreds of small "spruce islands," reducing their wildlife habitat value.

Volunteers have since collected cones, providing seeds, which have grown nearly 1 million spruce and fir seedlings over the ensuing years. These trees have been grown and planted as part of a coordinated, landscape-scale, restoration program called the Central Appalachian Spruce Restoration Initiative (CASRI). Visit us on Facebook, or at [www.restoreredspruce.org](http://www.restoreredspruce.org). CASRI is comprised of private, state, federal, and non-governmental organizations which recognize the importance of the red spruce ecosystem for its ecological, aesthetic, recreational, economic, and cultural values.

The seedlings we have grown each year are used for restoration projects by CASRI members including on the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Monongahela National Forest, and other public lands, as well as on private lands owned or managed by the West Virginia Nature Conservancy. These projects are focused on expanding and connecting existing patches of spruce which increases their wildlife habitat value, as well as their resiliency to climate change.

Our first crop of trees was balsam fir, grown from seed collected by Rodney Bartgis, John and Andrea Dalen, and me, at

Blister Swamp, in 1998. John climbed a 30 ft. balsam fir tree, which was loaded with cones in the top, as far as he could, then shook it. Rodney, Andrea, and I used our jackets in outstretched arms to catch seeds as they helicoptered to the ground. A gentle breeze had us bumping and stumbling around beneath the fir tree trying to catch as many as we could. We grew 1,200 trees from those seeds at a nursery in Minnesota. They were planted in 2000 as part of the Blister Swamp Conservation Project which fenced the livestock out of a large area of this very special place on private lands in the

headwaters of the East Fork of the Greenbrier River. Of course the Balsam Fir, or "*Blister Pine*," is the namesake of the Swamp.

There are very few nurseries that will do this kind of custom growing job. Finding, and keeping, a grower has been a challenge over the years. The trees we currently grow are grown in a "plug," 15 Cubic Inches, approximately 2 inches in diameter and 6 inches deep. In December, they are extracted from the container they are grown in, wrapped, boxed, palletized, and stored in a freezer at the nursery. In March, a 40 ft. tractor trailer freezer truck, hauls all the trees to a warehouse near Morgantown where they

are kept in a freezer until we are ready to plant them. They arrive approximately April 1, and we have into the first week of May or later to get them all planted in the ground.

The advantages of handling frozen trees when they are dormant are several. For one, it expands the window when planting can take place. We keep them in the freezer until a week before the planting date giving them just enough time to thaw out. This gives us 6 weeks or more to get them planted. There is another big advantage too. In nature, spruce trees grow foliage in early summer, May, June, July. Then the foliage hardens off and the plant consumes energy from the sun, combines it with CO<sub>2</sub> through photosynthesis and builds a strong root system where it stores the energy. This primarily happens August – November. Although the plant is dormant during the winter, every time the temperature goes above freezing, the trees breathe, using some of the stored energy. Come spring, only whatever reserves are left are used to grow the new foliage.



**The red spruce trees pictured here are being grown from seeds collected at Spruce Knob, West Virginia. They will be planted back in the West Virginia Highlands in Spring 2019.**

**(More on the next page)**

## Still No Pipeline Crossing the Greenbrier River

The Circuit Court of Summers County, Judge Robert Irons, has now heard evidence and arguments concerning the Mountain Valley Pipelines and its Natural Stream Preservation Act Permit to cross the Greenbrier River. As reported in the October issue of The Highlands Voice, plaintiffs claim that the crossing would be in violation of West Virginia's Natural Streams Preservation Act. The Natural Streams Preservation Act allows the Legislature to designate certain "protected streams" which "shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the citizens of West Virginia in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as free-flowing streams, and so as to provide for the protection and the preservation of these streams in their natural character." One of the streams designated by the Legislature is the Greenbrier River.

In September, Judge Irons ordered construction stopped until he could have a full hearing. On October 23, he heard two hours of argument and testimony. At the end of the hearing he "took the matter under advisement" (law talk for thinking about it). While he thinks the construction remains stopped.

The goal of the Natural Streams Preservation Act is to maintain streams "of an enduring resource of free-flowing streams possessing outstanding scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, botanical, historical, archeological or other scientific or cultural values." The Plaintiffs do not believe that temporarily diverting the river so as to dry it up and then blasting a ditch across it is consistent with this goal.

## Mountain Valley Pipeline No Longer Approved for Stream Crossings

The Pittsburgh office of the United States Army Corps of Engineers has now suspended the Mountain Valley Pipeline's authority to cross streams and wetlands.

**In Previous Episodes (if you have been diligently reading, highlighting, and indexing your *Highlands Voices* for the last few months, skip this part)**

In order to cross streams and wetlands, the Mountain Valley Pipeline must get approval from the United States Army Corps of Engineers. In seeking this approval, it has two choices. The first choice is to do individual applications for each crossing. The second is to seek to approve all the crossings at one time by using the Corps' Nationwide Permit 12 (NWP 12).

Nationwide Permits are issued for large classes of activities. They are appropriate for projects with minimal individual and cumulative environmental impacts. It is a one size fits all approach for lots of nearly identical activities that have small impacts. Nationwide Permit 12 is the one that covers pipelines.

The Mountain Valley Pipeline asked that it be allowed to proceed under NWP 12 and was initially approved. Then, largely due to citizen advocacy, it became clear that the pipeline did not qualify to proceed under that Nationwide Permit.

### **Now what has happened**

At the request of several groups, including the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, the Pittsburgh office of the Corps of Engineers has suspended the Mountain Valley Pipeline's authority to cross streams and wetlands within its jurisdiction.

Just in case keeping up with pipeline developments was not confusing enough, stream crossings are reviewed by two different branches of the Corps of Engineers. The Pittsburgh District had jurisdiction over 59 stream crossings and 62 wetland crossings. The Huntington District has the rest. Approval of stream and wetland crossings within the jurisdiction of the Huntington District had already been suspended. Now all stream and wetland crossings are suspended.

In another development, several groups, including the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, have asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to suspend all construction on the Mountain Valley Pipeline. FERC has overall authority to say whether the pipeline gets built or not. Its approval depends upon the pipeline getting all the appropriate approvals from other agencies: the Corps of Engineers to cross streams and wetlands, the United States Forest Service to cross National Forests, etc.

In their letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the groups point out that approval of all construction depends upon approval of each aspect of construction, including stream and wetlands crossing. If stream and wetland crossings are no longer approved, then no construction should be allowed.

## More about trees (continued from previous page)

Because a plant that is frozen, and stored in a freezer, consumes none of its reserves during the winter, it's able to commit 100% of the energy it stored in the Fall, to foliage and stem growth in the Spring. This is important because most of the places we plant the trees have some kind of competition; ferns, goldenrod, grasses, etc., so getting the trees to grow above the competition as quickly as possible is important. A frozen, dormant, container-grown plant, with a concentrated, fibrous root-mass that is full of energy will grow 6-12 inches, or more, in the first year. This makes not only first year survival much higher, but overall survival, in the fight against competing vegetation, in subsequent years, much greater also. Plugs are much easier to plant, reducing planting costs, and enabling us to use volunteers successfully.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy currently has a limited number of red spruce seedlings available, some of those shown in this photograph, for Spring 2019. The plants are 10-15 inches tall and available April 1<sup>st</sup>. 100 – Minimum order - \$225, 1,000 - \$1,150. Contact Dave Saville at [david.saville12@gmail.com](mailto:david.saville12@gmail.com) to place an order.

## Pioneers Down the Gauley

*The Charleston Gazette* recently had a story about a reunion of the group that first took kayaks and canoes down the Gauley River in 1968, including the part that is now under the dam. It included a nod to Sayre and Jean Rodman:

Walbridge kicked off the event by giving a brief account of the Gauley's whitewater history before the now-famous 1968 run by Sweet and his companions. Walbridge said the canyon was first explored in 1961, by a team led by Sayre and Jean Rodman of the Pittsburgh Canoe Club. The group ran the river in rubber military-surplus life rafts. "They had a very exciting trip that involved boats being torn apart and serious time under rocks," Walbridge said. "After that trip, there wasn't a lot of interest in going back."

The story reminded long time West Virginia Highlands Conservancy members of tales from the Rodmans about their adventure. Here is a story that Sayre wrote for the April, 1987, issue of *The Highlands Voice*.

### The First Run

By Sayre Rodman

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

Compared to the way people think about whitewater today, any trip in those days was in another world. If you write about a present-day trip with intent to impress people, plenty of potential readers will know what you're talking about. Hundreds will think that they could have run it better. Most of them could. And hundreds of thousands, or maybe millions, have been bounced and splashed on commercial raft trips. They know what class IV or V water looks and feels like from river level. Serious whitewater means something to lots of people.

Twenty-five or thirty years ago, talk of 500,000 people who've felt big water would have sounded like weekends on Mars. Only the idea of a useful computer for a few hundred bucks would have seemed sillier. If you were on or near nice rapids then, you were very alone. [Remember, this was written in 1987.]

Jean and I and a very few friends went down anything we could find within a weekend radius from Pittsburgh, rowing Air Force surplus rafts. Rigid boaters? Berry and Harrigan and Sullivan in Washington and Bickham and Sweet at Penn State were acquiring their impressive skills, swapping river descriptions with us. In 1961, if everyone who'd run West Virginia Class V water in anything that floats came to a Highlands Conservancy Review, we still wouldn't have broken even.

Why do we think we were the first to boat the hard part of the Gauley River for fun? Hard to be sure. Oldtimers at Swiss told me that kids had gone down in dead low summer water a long time ago, walking parts and floating the pools on air mattresses or something. But they were certain that no one was idiot

enough to have done it in even moderate water before we did.

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

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

We put in at Route 39 east of Summersville. We hit the first interesting water (now under the lake) at the old Route 19



**First Launch**  
Photo by Sayre Rodman

crossing. The river was sort of high, out of its banks. We soon were in the woods, lining around rapids, laboriously roping from tree to tree in water over our heads. Rafts may be better than kayaks for this. The owner of a house along the river took pity on the sodden group, and sheltered us for the night. He talked bitterly about the proposed dam, which would one day drown all his land.

We made a few more miles the next day, but it wasn't much fun. One shaken man said that his big raft did an ender cleanly over his head. Fortunately, Ray's guys were good at reentering their rafts via the bailing-bucket roper. Totally

(The adventure continues, next page)

## The Pioneers Press On (Continued from p. 4)

exhausted, we camped just above the dam site. Ray wanted to continue but was too tired to argue, except lying down.

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

I thought of that stream often in the next two years, as our friends developed a more practiced and conservative approach to rafting. Row precisely, wear good life jackets, scout big rapids. Details like that. Then in late May in 1961, six people from



Photo by Sayre Rodman

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

On day One, we sat out a snow squall under the old Route 19 bridge, ran superb water the rest of the day, and camped precisely under the present dam. Not many people have run that part. Take the best of the rapids on the Cheat run below Albright; add many more;

pack them into shorter distance. A few gentlemen's Class V's; nothing really hairy. I remember it as much better than the part below Sweet Falls. My old slides show a dark foggy day. We enjoyed it, immensely.

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

Then, on a bright day, six people, more privileged than we knew, were the first semicompetent modern boaters to find and scout and run the rapids that define the Gauley for thousands today.

The run to the Meadow River was just fun. We'd earlier scouted a big one below Carnifax Ferry, big waves but no problem. Below the Meadow, we quickly saw that things were getting more interesting. The first serious rapids ate one of my oars. Was it Sweet's "Broken Paddle"?

I think the rapids that nearly killed one of us is now called Iron Ring. Several rafts ran it, impressing the operators but doing nothing unpredictable. Then Kay's boat stalled upstream, and vanished, like a fly taken by a trout, in mid-river. A remarkable lady, she dove, making the snap decision that going through a hole ahead of a big raft is better than the alternative. We, including her husband, watched the downstream, as did her 6 by 12 foot raft with oars still intact in the oarlocks. Twice she had come up in the dark, and grabbed a breath. Behind the long slab leaning on the bank, river right, flows a lot of water. In hindsight we might have read the surface currents better.

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

We found a campsite on a sandbar, built a huge fire, and enjoyed our second night on this lovely river. The last day was brilliant and clear, and the purple rhododendron was in bloom along the canyon walls. For a while, we had good fast water to enjoy, with nothing to worry Kay, who felt a tad cautious now. When we hit the quieter water above Swiss, we knew we'd had three memorable days.

### The Adventure Continues

See the related story on the next page, wherein Jean Rodman offers a few of her memories, written in 2018.

The rest of the story

## A few additional notes on that first run of the Gauley River

By Jean Rodman:

The trip was run over the long Memorial Day weekend of 1961. It was cold. At one point it snowed on us. There were no easy roads down to the Gauley in those days. So, to drive from western PA, it took a 4-day weekend to even think about such a trip. We paddled on 3 days and camped for 2 nights along the river.

Our group of 6 from the Pittsburgh Climbers was made up of Sayre & Jean Rodman, Ralph Krichbaum, Dr. Kay Thompson, David Barbour, and Ken Hawker. The Climbers had been doing all sorts of things like rock-climbing, caving, mountaineering, backpacking, skiing, and white-water boating since the 1950s and earlier, long before any one thought to call them "adventure sports".

At the start of the trip, Kay and Ralph Krichbaum discovered that they had not packed their life jackets (Personal Flotation Devices) and went off to look for replacements, while the rest of us set the car shuttle. They found some orange "horse collar" vests somewhere. Hurray and thank goodness for WV country stores. Later, I saw Kay suddenly disappear underwater at what would later be called Iron Ring, and she was underwater for a long time before popping up downstream. I'd only ever read about it happening, but at that moment, my knees really did give away.

We used inflatable, military surplus life rafts. My raft was made of cotton with a rubber lining. The inflatable tubes were divided into upper and lower chambers. It was manufactured in 1944. Metal frame rowing decks that add stiffness had yet to be invented. You just had to keep pumping your raft back up as they inevitably leaked and softened. The raft came with tiny aluminum oars that we pried apart, inserted bigger blades, and riveted shut again. These were not self-bailing rafts.

We carried around several rapids because the biggest water would have just torn the bottoms out of our boats. With even a few inches of water in the boat, they could be like trying to paddle your kids' backyard pool, so a large bailing bucket was a must. Keep in mind that we also had food and camping gear for 2 nights with us. We did stop to scout bigger rapids and then take them one boat at a time for safety and the chance to take pictures. We ran our boats with one person per raft; you picked your own line thru the rapids and took them all solo – just the greatest.

In late October, I will be 88 and it's fun to remember a river trip like this. Especially that part of the river above the dam that only a handful of people ever got to fully experience. But you need to keep looking ahead, or downstream. Last month I bought another canoe.

### A touch of sadness

There is a touch of sadness attached to this story. See the story on the next page.

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## Saying Goodbye to Jean

It is altogether fitting that Jean Rodman's last contribution to the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy was the story on the facing page, and that its last line was, "Last month I bought another canoe." That's the way she was. She died with her boots on, or at least nearby, close enough that she could quickly grab them and head out for the next adventure.



Jean runs the Upper Youghiogheny River  
Photo by Sayre Rodman

She wrote (or at least dictated) those words just a few days before she died. Even then she was as she always had been, anxious to see what was around the next bend.

Her roots with the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy ran deep. Although nobody kept an attendance list at the very first meeting, she was probably there. By that time she and her husband Sayre were already canoeing legends. She served on the Board for many years, all the way until she took senior status in 2010. Senior status Board members may come to the meetings (which Jean did) and occasionally toss historical perspective and other pearls of wisdom into the discussion. She accomplished this with gusto.

She was there for both the beginning and recent (but not the end) of our advocacy for free flowing rivers. She was a member of our very first committee, the Scenic River Committee; the October, 2017, issue of *The Highlands Voice* has a picture of her paddling the Blackwater River, one of the outings for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

She will be remembered for her cheery face and bright laugh and sharp mind as well as her contributions to WVHC Board meetings. She was a champion and an exemplary person. She was a kind woman in spirit and it showed through on her face.

Jean was born in 1930. She passed on Sunday, October 28, 2018.

Born in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, Jean and her younger sister, the late Marion (Winne) Birmingham, grew up and lived for many years in Coraopolis and Moon Township with their parents Harris B. and Marie (Mollenkopf) Winne. Surviving family includes

daughters, Elizabeth "Buff" Rodman of Oakmont and Ann (Colleen Eldred) Rodman of Gardiner, MT; grandchildren, Benjamin and Isabel Rodman; and numerous nieces, nephews, and in-laws.

Jean graduated from Moon Township High School (1948), and Slippery Rock State Teacher's College (1952). After a few years teaching High School Physical Education and Science, she met Sayre and they set out to enjoy life and raise a family together, exploring wild places through rock-climbing, mountaineering, caving, hiking, skiing, and boating. An early pioneer of eastern white-water rafting, Jean was one of the group of boaters making first descents on the Youghiogheny, Cheat, and Gauley rivers.

Later in life, the transition from raft to canoe allowed Jean to continue camping and running rivers into her eighties. She was a founding member of the Pittsburgh Climbers, served on the board of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, former Commodore of the Sylvan Canoe Club, past President of the Oakmont Garden Club, and a member of the Oakmont Women's Club. Jean was also an accomplished photographer, a voracious reader, especially mysteries, and she loved her gardens, cats, and Saturday yard sales.

A celebration of Jean's life will be planned for a later date.



Ready for the next adventure

## Mon National Forest Hiking Guide

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, the new edition of the treasured guide to every trail in the Monongahela National Forest features brand-new topographic maps and Kent Mason's gorgeous photos, all in color.

The Guide has been updated with the cooperation of National Forest District Rangers and Recreation Specialists to reflect changes in the past ten years:

- \* newly designated wilderness areas
- \* new trails near campgrounds and sites of special significance
- \* a new complex of interconnected trails on Cheat Mountain
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- \* ratings for difficulty, scenery, access to water, and much else

The definitive guide to the Mon adds a wealth of information about history, wildlife, and botany; safety, preparation, and weather; horseback and mountain bike riding and cross-country skiing; as well as sources of further information on the Forest and its environs.

The Monongahela National Forest has long been known as a 'Special Place'. The hiking, backpacking, and cross-country skiing opportunities it provides are among the best in the eastern U.S. New wilderness and backcountry trails have been added to the outstanding areas we have appreciated for decades – Otter Creek Wilderness, Dolly Sods Wilderness, Flatrock Plains, Roaring Plains, Blackwater Canyon, Spruce Knob, North Fork Mountain, Shaver's Mountain, Laurel Fork Wilderness, Cranberry Wilderness -- and there are lesser-known gems to be found in between.

Profits from the sale of these guides support a wide variety of worthy environmental projects for the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

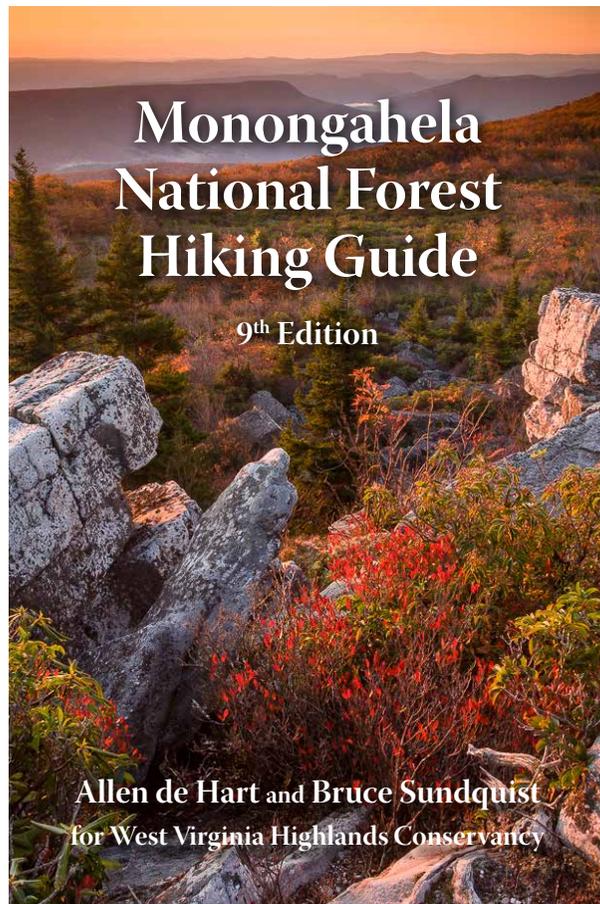
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The Highlands Voice is now available for electronic delivery. You may, of course, continue to receive the paper copy. Unless you request otherwise, you will continue to receive it in paper form. If, however, you would prefer to receive it electronically instead of the paper copy please contact Beth Little at [blittle@citynet.net](mailto:blittle@citynet.net). With electronic delivery, you will receive a link to a pdf of the Voice several days before the paper copy would have arrived. The electronic Voice is in color rather than in black and white as the paper version is.

### 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.

# Highlands Conservancy Finds Flaws in Proposed Spruce Mountain Grouse Management Area Project

By John McFerrin

The United States Forest Service wants to create and maintain habitat for Ruffed Grouse. In order to do this, it has proposed its Spruce Mountain Grouse Management Area Project. The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy has commented on the project, generally supporting the project while having some reservations.

The project is located west and southwest of Spruce Knob Lake. According to the Forest Service it intends to “conduct approximately 354 acres of regeneration harvests and associated selective herbicide treatments, 10 acres of thinning, 68 acres of cut-back borders, 625 acres of non-commercial timber stand improvement; construct 2.1 miles of temporary road; add 0.4 miles of an existing road corridor to the Forest transportation system as a National Forest System Road (FSR); maintain 3.6 miles of FSR 916; create, expand, and maintain wildlife openings; develop wetland areas for wildlife benefit; complete watershed and riparian restoration improvement activities including, large woody material placement; and ancillary activities.”

The point of the project, according to the Forest Service, is to improve habitat for Ruffed Grouse. Because the same habitat that Ruffed Grouse prefer is also used by assorted other species, the project will help them as well. According to the Draft Environmental Assessment that the Forest Service prepared, Ruffed Grouse need a mixture that has some places with young forested areas, some shrubs and small trees, some mature forests that produce food, some open fields, and some conifer patches such as spruce and hemlock to provide cover during the winter.

In general, the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy supported the project. In its comments, it said,

In general, WVHC supports work that enhances habitat for the wildlife species that help to draw visitors to the Highlands. The Forest Service’s proposed project for the Spruce Mountain Grouse Management Area has the potential to provide beneficial habitat for grouse and other species that require early successional habitat. Additionally, the project area lies in the heart of the central Appalachian red spruce ecosystem. Activities that enhance and connect red spruce habitats are crucial for the restoration of this ecosystem. We are heartened by the inclusion of red spruce restoration activities in the proposed project.

The support was not, however, unconditional. The comments noted several areas where the project needed to be improved.

The first difficulty is the lack of commitment to measures to protect sensitive resources. The Environmental Assessment contains an appendix which lists several measures that the Forest Service has identified as useful in protecting sensitive resources. These include such things as scenic impacts, herbicide use, and soil loss. While the Environmental Assessment identifies things it could do to avoid these impacts, it does not actually commit itself to actually doing them.

For example, the appendix suggests that skid roads that would be used to remove timber would be decommissioned using several practices that are listed in the appendix. The text of the Environmental Assessment itself, however, does not commit to

using these more protective methods. At some points it even assumes that less protective methods would be used.

The squishiness of the Forest Service’s commitment to, among other things, decommissioning the skid roads comes into play in the impacts upon the Pearl Dace, a Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species. The Environmental Assessment says that the Project “could have implications to the viability of this population.” The cure for this problem is for the Forest Service to make a firm commitment to decommissioning the skid roads (making erosion and sedimentation less severe) as well as taking more specific measures to protect the Pearl Dace.

The most problematic difficulty with the Project is its impact on the West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel. In order to thrive, the Flying Squirrel requires that the forest canopy remain intact. The Flying Squirrel is specifically addressed in the Forest Plan (the overall planning document that dictates how the Monongahela National Forest is managed). The Forest Plan limits activity that would have any adverse impact upon the Flying Squirrel.

Many of the cuts that are proposed are essentially clearcuts. In preparing its comments, the Highlands Conservancy calculated that the proposed operation would remove 140 acres of forest canopy within Flying Squirrel habitat. This puts the project at odds with the squirrel protection mandate found in the Forest Plan. To fix this problem, the comments make several suggestions of actions that should be eliminated from the Spruce Mountain Grouse Management Area Project. The actions to be eliminated would all result in more forest canopy remaining intact.

The comments also criticize the Project’s treatment of the Blue Ridge St. John’s wort, a Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species. The Environmental Assessment identifies places within the Project area where it occurs. It does not, however, commit to any specific measures to protect it during the project. Without any plan for specific measures to protect it, the species will probably disappear from the Project area. This would put the Project at odds with the Forest Plan.

Finally, the Project is inadequate in how it intends to address non-native invasive species. When there is new disturbance, as there will be in this project, these species often invade and become established. If there are infestations nearby seeds can be carried in by vehicles and equipment. The Forest Plan has requirements that all projects avoid allowing invasive species to spread or become established.

This Environmental Assessment has some suggestions on achieving this goal. They are not enough, however, to avoid problems with invasive species. The Conservancy’s comments suggested several specific steps the Forest Service should take to address problems with invasive species.

## Board Highlights

By John McFerrin

The October, 2018, gathering of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy featured two meetings. The first was the Annual Meeting, held once a year to elect officers and directors and conduct any other business that may come before the membership.

The election of officers featured all the same drama and excitement that we used to have when Robert C. Byrd ran for re-election: all current officers were elected for another term. The only change in the officer corps would be Marilyn Shoenfeld's moving from Vice-President for Federal Affairs to Senior Vice-President.

We also re-elected George Beetham, Jackie Burns, Randy Kesling, and Kent Karriker. Although Kent Karriker was re-elected, he is still semi-new. He was recently appointed to fill an unexpired term. New-new Patricia Goodrum of Charleston was elected to replace the retiring Bill McNeel. We noted that this would be the end of Mr. McNeel's service on the Board (a service that began approximately forever ago) and expressed appreciation for his service.

The membership meeting was followed by the quarterly Board meeting. There we had the usual stuff. We also, however, had progress reports on how the new Hiking Guide is going, plans for the upcoming legislative session, and some updates on ongoing efforts.

Beth Little reported that the Hiking Guide is selling well and that she has received great feedback from those who purchased it. But progress on a digital version has stopped, in part because we're over budget. Beth repeated our debt to the late Jim Solley for his work on CD versions of the 7th and 8th editions. There are some technical problems with Amazon (picture still shows old edition) but we are working to whip Amazon into shape.

While she was at it, Beth reported that membership was up slightly in the third quarter.

In matters legislative, Frank reported that the West Virginia Environmental Council had met the day before, a conflict with our weekend meeting. Because we help support the legislative efforts of the Environmental Council, it did not want to finalize legislative priorities without us.

Frank Young reported that the preliminary priority-setting tracked pretty well with our recommendations:

(1) Encouraging renewable energy, a bill written by Energy Efficient WV would allow "power purchase agreements" between private parties, such as landlords selling to tenants power generated by rooftop solar collectors. (These agreements are different from "green tags" that track the sources of power provided by existing utilities.)

(2) Water protection measures that would update state water quality standards to EPA-recommended health standards.

(3) Public lands protections, including a ban on logging in state parks as per the original understanding when they were established.

On the odds of achieving these goals, Frank said #1 depended on the election. If Republicans continue in control, it will be a multi-year effort. And every session, we wind up spending most of our effort on defense against bad bills. He added that last year, Rivers Coalition led the effort to stop logging in state parks. This year, their staff has been reduced by three, and they will need more help from the Highlands Conservancy.

In July, West Virginia Environmental Council rehired Karan Ireland to lobby at interims and to coordinate the lobby team at the regular session.

Beth will handle the annual fund appeal with editing assistance from Cindy Rank and Hugh. We should focus on our support for Pipeline CSI (seeking to reimburse our investment) and our successes in court. Beth will aim at getting the appeal out by Thanksgiving. Larry has been writing more thank-yous recently for large donations (\$200+). He noted the importance of the Voice to members – often mentioned by donors.

The Board also talked about a replacement for Membership Secretary Beth Little. The core of her duties has always been managing our membership list (sending out renewal notices, communicating with members, etc.). In recent years she has assumed responsibility for managing our on-line store (Hiking Guides, t-shirts, hats, bumper stickers, etc.) There was long

discussion of whether we should split the duties into two jobs (the store and the rest, e.g., member communication, board meeting attendance). Beth and Jim Solley used to split it that way. There was also discussion of whether we should add outreach to the job description. After much discussion, we decided to keep the job as it is, not splitting it among two people. We have a committee working on this.

Treasurer Bob Marshall presented the treasurer's report, which had a short third quarter because we were meeting earlier in October than usual. Our accountant, Susan Graves, did not have the bank statements for September. Bob did not expect any surprises.

Kent Karriker agreed to serve as chair of our **public lands** committee, joined by Marilyn, Frank, Larry, and Hugh. Monongahela Forest Supervisor Clyde Thompson will retire in January, and his interim successor, at least, will be his deputy, Ray Torres. Kent anticipated a good relationship and suggested reaching out to him. Kent talked a little about the proposed Spruce Grouse Area Management Plan; he and Larry are working on our final comments to the Forest Service.

We talked about Fall Reviews in 2018 and 2019. Although attendance this year by our members was disappointing, the experience of our board and officers could not have been better. Field trips – to Sinks of Gandy, Spruce Knob, and spruce restoration—all received rave reviews, as did he informal field trip to Joe Morris's observatory on the west ridge.

For 2019, Jackie, Jim, Marilyn, and Larry will begin planning right away.

Rick Webb had done a slide show on Saturday night, highlighting the range of the information on the Pipeline CSI web site. Rick also shared the Incident Report Form for a few board members who had "seen something." Recalling our decision at the last meeting to invest \$75,000 in this project, Rick shared how the first installment is being used. The largest part (almost half) goes to a West Virginia field coordinator (her salary is split with Rivers Coalition) with the rest going to water monitoring equipment, legal expenses, GIS and spatial analysis, the Pipeline Air Force, and travel.

## Seeing the Sinks of Gandy

One of the field trips offered at the Fall Review was to the Sinks of Gandy. It was way fun.

Before it gets to the Sinks of Gandy, Gandy Creek behaves as any other creek would. The land is relatively flat and the valley is wide so it just meanders along, not seeming in any hurry to get any place. Then, all of a sudden, there is a hole in the side of the hill and the creek disappears into a cave only to reappear some three quarters of mile downstream.

It is possible to follow the creek all the way through the cave and come out with the creek at the other end. Lots of people have done it but we didn't. It takes lights, hats, the right kind of shoes, etc. We did not come equipped for any serious caving; we walked up the hill, down the other side, and met the creek as it emerged.

The Sinks reminded Beth Little, who was on our trip, of a similar sink near Hillsboro where Hills Creek disappears into a cave. There the water disappears in a long horizontal slit only a few inches high, so it would be impossible to go through the cave. It would be equally impossible to bushwhack up a few hundred feet

in elevation through steep forest and private land, across Rt 219, and back down through more private land, to get to where Locust Creek (supposed the waters of Hills Creek and Bruffey Creek) comes out of the other side of the mountain.

At the exit (downstream) end of the Sinks of Gandy there are two caves. One contains the stream and is referred to as the "wet exit." It is where a caver who entered at the upstream end of the Sinks and followed the stream would end up.

Over to one side and twenty to thirty feet up there is another cave, referred to as the "dry exit." It has no creek and, except for the ordinary dampness that is in most caves, is dry.

Even without the proper equipment (we had a flashlight) we could manage that so in we went. For the most part it was pretty easy going. There were lots of places where one could stand up. There were also enough places where one couldn't that we had

to be careful not to whack our noggins. We went, maybe, three hundred yards in and ended up in a substantial sized room. There might have been a way to go farther but it would have required equipment, some belly crawling, etc. so we passed.

In the room we turned off our light, trying to experience the total darkness that cavers experience deep inside bigger caves. It didn't work. The wet and dry exits are not entirely separate. Sunlight from the outside reflects off the water in the wet exit and through small connecting pathways into the dry exit. It was still dark, darker than anything you are likely to see on the outside but not the complete and total darkness of big caves.

There was another treat waiting for Beth on the cliff over the egress where ground hemlock, *Taxus Canadensis* or Canadian yew, was growing. The Yew Mountain Center (where the Conservancy had a board meeting last year in Pocahontas County) was named after the Yew Mountains, but the founders weren't sure about the source of the name. Some even thought it was a misnomer for red spruce. Now they know.

Because we had Dave Saville as our leader and guide, we got

to learn about other things on the way to the Sinks. We saw and learned something about:

- Crossing the Eastern Continental Divide. It is possible to see little streams, starting their journey to the Monongahela River and, ultimately, the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico. On the other side of the ridge they were headed for the Atlantic Ocean.
- The Spruce Mountain Grouse Management Area (see the story about it on p. 13)
- The very spot where the foundational meeting of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy was held. The spot where Robert C. Byrd gave the famous speech, the lights went out, etc.

It was a great day, perfect sunny weather, and exactly the right distance for a gentle workout.



### Leave a Legacy of Hope for the Future

Remember the Highlands Conservancy in your will. Plan now to provide a wild and wonderful future for your children and future generations. Bequests keep our organization strong and will allow your voice to continue to be heard. Your thoughtful planning now will allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness, wildlife, clean air and water and our way of life.

### Send Us a Post Card, Drop Us a Line, Stating Point Of View

Please email any poems, letters, commentaries, etc. to the VOICE editor at [johnmcferrin@aol.com](mailto:johnmcferrin@aol.com) or by real, honest to goodness, mentioned in the United States Constitution mail to WV Highlands Conservancy, PO Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321.

# HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY BOUTIQUE



- ▶ The baby shirts are certified organic cotton and are offered in one infant and several toddler sizes and an infant onesie. Slogan is "I ♥ Mountains Save One for Me!" Onesie [18 mo.]---\$25, Infant tee [18 mo.]---\$20, Toddler tee, 2T,3T,4T, 5/6---\$20
- ▶ Soft pima cotton adult polo shirts are a handsome earthtone light brown and feature the spruce tree logo. Sizes S-XL [Shirts run large for stated size.] \$ 25.00, 2XL \$26.50

To order by mail [WV residents add 6 % sales tax] make check payable to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and send to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, Online Store, PO Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321-0306

**The same items are also available at our on-line store: [www.wvhighlands.org](http://www.wvhighlands.org)**

## 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. Short sleeve in sizes: S, M, L, XL, and XXL. Long sleeve in sizes S, M, L, and XL. **Short sleeve** model is \$18 by mail; **long sleeve** is \$22. West Virginia residents add 6% sales tax. Send sizes wanted and check payable to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy ATTEN: Online Store, WVHC, P.O. Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321-0306.



## HATS FOR SALE

We have West Virginia Highlands Conservancy baseball style caps for sale as well as I ♥ Mountains caps.

The WVHC cap is beige with green woven into the twill and the pre-curved visor is light green. The front of the cap has West Virginia Highlands Conservancy logo and the words West Virginia Highlands Conservancy on the front and I (heart) Mountains on the back. It is soft twill, unstructured, low profile, sewn eyelets, cloth strap with tri-glide buckle closure.

The I ♥ Mountains The colors are stone, black and red.. The front of the cap has ♥ MOUNTAINS. The heart is red. The red and black hats are soft twill, unstructured, low profile, sewn eyelets, cloth strap with tri-glide buckle closure. The stone has a stiff front crown with a velcro strap on the back. All hats have West Virginia Highlands Conservancy printed on the back. Cost is \$20 by mail. West Virginia residents add 6% tax. Make check payable to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and send to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, Atten: Online Store, P.O. Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321-0306