

The Highlands Voice



VOL. IV, NO. 2

APRIL, 1972

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

I was somewhat stunned to see in the last "Voice" the observation that the announcement of the theme of our last Midwinter Workshop, "Publicity and Public Action" was about all the attention the theme received elsewhere in this issue is detailed how unhappy I am with my own efforts, disorganized and hurried as I am. The above observation is but another example.

What we had intended to do was present four slide presentations of Conservancy activities - Doll Run, Shavers Fork, Cheat Valley, and Cranberry Backcountry. The idea was to let all members know what areas of interest the Conservancy was involved in. These four slide presentations together with those already shown at previous workshops, Otter Creek and Davis Project, are available for presentation around the state at club meetings, schools, etc. This was the "Publicity". We had some discussions on how best we might utilize these presentations and get ourselves on the "banquet circuit".

As each presentation was concluded there followed some discussion as to how we might continue our efforts in each area. This was the "Public Action". This is where your chairman needs help the most; in implementing the action that will hopefully lead to our announced goals.

In the evening, the idea was to have presented representatives of as many other W. Va. based conservation groups as possible to have them tell us about their organizations, what they were doing, and how best we might work with them. Again, this was "Public Action".

We had planned to do a good bit more with publicity, but the flu bug hit us pretty heavily delaying some of our key people from attendance, including our publicity chairman Bobbi Nagy. Sorry that we were not able to make the aims of the theme clearer, but we meant well and as Andy Carnegie used to say "our heads are in the work."

In summary, we hope that the word goes out that the Conservancy can put on programs for meetings at clubs, schools and colleges, etc. For right now, contact the following if you are interested in a particular subject. If that person can not make it, he or she can name an alternate who might also present the subject.

Otter Creek - Herb Eckert, 22 Bates Road, Morgantown, W. Va. 26505
Davis Project - The Elkingtons, Jordan Run Road, Maysville, W. Va. 26833
Shavers Fork - Craig Moore, P. O. Box 2, Green Bank, W. Va. 24944
Cranberry - Ron Hardway, 533 South Main Street, Webster Springs, W. Va. 26288
Cheat Valley - Bob Burrell, 1412 Western Avenue, Morgantown, W. Va. 26505
Dolly Sods - Helen McGinnis, Carnegie Museum, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213

Anyone having publicity ideas or suggestions, please forward them to Bobbi Nagy, Star Route #5, Franklin, W. Va. 26807. Anyone wishing to bring matters before the membership is invited, indeed urged to make contributions to the "Voice" c/o Ernie Nester, Box 298, Alloy, W. Va. 25002.

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AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE CONSERVANCY?

In my first year and a quarter as president of the Conservancy I must say that I am greatly disappointed in myself. It was my original intent to furnish some leadership, point new directions, finish up some old business, initiate new projects, and keep the ball rolling on all fronts. How naive I was! In one of my meetings with the Corps of Engineers in Pittsburgh, one of the beavers asked me, "Do you have a permanent position with the Conservancy?" My surprised reply was, "Heavens no! There certainly is enough to do and we don't have any money."

And this sums up my disappointment. I have not done any of those things I had intended. Rather, I have barely managed to answer my mail. I have been the severest critic of conservation's habit of running from one brush fire to the next, plugging one finger into a leaky dyke only to pull it out to plug another one, and in general running around like a blind dog in a beehive, as a colorful mountaineer I once knew to say. Yet, here am I doing exactly the same thing. The truth of the matter is that, like the rest of us, I have my own full time job and family responsibilities. This has been made worse recently when my superior, erroneously thinking I was an administrator, gave me some additional duties. It's probably part of a general trend. In any rate, it is impossible for such a person to do the kind of work the Conservancy requires in its efforts.

We are faced constantly against professionals whose full time vocation is working for their own destructive empires. They are representing the power companies, the hardwood manufacturers, the game people, the dam builders, the highway constructionists, etc. They are good at it because that is all they have to do. We have to be not only good at what we have been hired to do, but we have to be good at our hobby too. Is this impossible? Are we really giving our causes the attention they deserve. When we come home from a hard day at work, whether at school, store, or mines, can we really do a good job in dealing with the environmental crises left at our door by the mailman each day?

The solution, of course, is to find a competent individual (there are many of these) who could be hired full time to make the Conservancy his business and he would be paid by dollars (and there are many of these). All right, that is an obvious solution - now then Dr. I. Q., where do we get the money?

I was overwhelmed recently when I was going through the daily crises when I found a check for \$1,000, donated by a member who wishes to remain anonymous, but who believes in us to put his money where his mouth is. The money is to be used as "seed money", i.e. to serve as impetus to get other money of this type to comfortably support a salaried position of a go getter to represent the Conservancy's interests full time and whose duties among other things would be fund raising. We, of course, must be careful not to fall into the trap of some organizations of letting the fund raising become the dominant activity of our group. The money is being placed in a separate fund until more is attracted.

... fails to materialize, it will be returned to the donor. Meanwhile, let every member carry the message to Garcia. Spread the word to potential donors from coast to coast. Friends of the West Virginia Highlands can help us materially by making contributions in any amount for this purpose. Peace!

Bob Burrell

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MINERAL RIGHTS IN WILDERNESS AREA UP FOR SALE

Robert Burrell, President of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, has announced that the mineral rights under fifteen and a half thousand acres of land on Dolly Sods, West Virginia's unique mountain area, have been offered for sale at \$35.00 an acre by the West Virginia Coal and Paper Company. The coal company's representative, Mr. Joseph Wallace of Atkins, has offered a six month option on the 15-1/2 thousand acre tract.

At the present time, the Nature Conservancy is leading negotiations with Mr. Wallace who has been most cooperative concerning the sale of the West Virginia Coal and Paper Company's mineral rights in the scenic area.

The Nature Conservancy is a non-profit group that makes purchases of ecological significance for organizations that need to act quickly on sales, but lack the capital to do so. The Nature Conservancy operates a revolving fund for this purpose. This fund, however, must be maintained by repayment of the capital used for purchases.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy feels that the purchase of these mineral rights will lead to the preservation as wilderness of the scenic and ecologically unique Dolly Sods. Burrell has expressed hopes that the Forest Service will act toward purchase of these mineral rights. The Forest Service owns surface land under which the coal company's mineral rights lay, and it is acutely aware of the significance of this wilderness area. The Forest Service, at the present time, however, is somewhat restricted by an administration cut back in the very funds necessary to make such purchases. The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy hopes that the Nixon administration can be made to see the importance of restoring these

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy held its fifth annual mid-winter workshop January 29-30, 1972 at Blackwater Lodge, with over 100 persons in total attendance.

The Board of Directors met Sunday, January 30, at 9 a.m. with the president, Bob Burrell, presiding.

Several members and past officers have left the area. A new chairman for the Wilderness Committee needed to replace George Langford who has moved to North Carolina. Carolyn Killoran has asked to be replaced as a vice-president. Charles Carlson, Chairman of the Nomination Committee, presented the names of Bill Riley and Bill McNeel, who were elected new vice-presidents.

Mr. Carlson reported a balance of \$1,894.56 in the checking account, Kanawha Valley Bank, Charleston, and a savings account of \$1,086.98, making a total of \$2,981.54 in the treasury. A question concerning refunds was discussed. The board agreed that in general, monies will not be refunded, and that expenses, registration fees, etc.

There was a discussion concerning plans for the Highlands Review, set for October 13 - 15,

- 2. Several locations were considered, final decision being to hold the review in Elkins and surrounding areas. Bob Burrell will set up a committee to work out necessary details for the meeting.

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 A report on the Davis Power Project from Richard Ewing has been received. David Elkington stated that hearings could be expected in possibly 90 days from now, since the Power Company has completed Environmental Impact Statements. Requests can be made by the Conservancy or interested persons to the company to have them send out their information. Mr. Ewing will be ready to testify in behalf of the Conservancy and present his rebuttal at the hearings which appear ready to be set up in the near future. Don Good suggested that it may be of benefit for the Conservancy to have an open public meeting in Tucker County to discuss the Davis Power Project, showing arguments for and against the Project. Bob Burrell plans to meet with the Davis Chamber of Commerce, and perhaps other groups of Tucker County, to explain just what the Conservancy is doing regarding the Power Project.

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 David Elkington pointed out that a problem of land transferrals may be arising in the Canaan area, where there has been buying and selling of lots due to the prospective developments expected in the area. Zoning may help to solve the problem.

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 Fried Anderson gave a detailed report as to what is taking place in the Otter Creek area. The Conservancy has an injunction against the Island Creek Coal Company to control prospecting for coal in the Otter Creek area. The coal company has been restricted by the Forest Service in how they can prospect for coal. "The Federal District Court recently gave the Island Creek Coal Company limited permission to drill 5 of the 25 planned test holes in the Otter Creek drainage. The prospecting will be done by pack equipment in on mule back. The Conservancy was expressly permitted to inspect the drilling sites and the court ordered Island Creek to report back to it in May, 1972, on progress with the drilling. The area which the Conservancy has have been expressly preserved."

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 Following some preliminary statements by Bruce Godwin, relative to the proposed Scenic Highway route and the current state of Corridor H, his committee introduced the following resolution:

"The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy has an ongoing interest in land-use planning affecting the West Virginia Highlands;

The planning and construction of highways in the State of West Virginia will inevitably affect the use of lands with which the Conservancy has had an interest;

Therefore, it is resolved that a special committee, The Highway Committee, be formed, and that this committee should study highway planning in West Virginia which affects the highlands. The Committee should concentrate on highways planned for the highland regions of the state. The committee should prepare a preliminary report for the Board of Directors' meeting next following the date of this resolution."

The resolution passed, January 30, 1972.

Bob Burrell presented for discussion several questions on the subject of strip mining:

- 1. What strategy can the Highlands Conservancy pursue to effectively help in the abolition of strip mining?

- 2. What would be some realistic methods that can be used against coal companies to deter their activities?

Conservancy might use:

- 1. Refuse Act of 1899.
- 2. Check with county assessors to ascertain if coal companies that are stripping are delinquent in payment of tax assessments on equipment, etc.

The Act of 1899 provides that prosecution may be brought against an industry that is polluting a stream (navigable by law) by sedimentation, siltation, etc. Data on evidence is supplied by the interested party to the U. S. District Attorney. Further information on procedure of how to apply the Act of 1899 may be obtained from Ray Ratliff, E. D. F., Charleston, West Virginia, and from Jerry Lawson. Bob suggested the 1899 law might be applied against coal companies in the Back Fork of Elk and Shavers Fork areas by the Highlands Conservancy.

Conservancy members are asked to give any pertinent information that they might have to Emie N or The Voice, especially regarding the current strip mining issue. Conservancy members attending Citizen or Abolish Strip Mining meetings should make a report to The Voice.

Bob announced that Bruce Sundquist is compiling a "Hiking Guide for the Monongahela National Forest." About 40 persons are helping with the project. Bruce expects to have his publication for sale by May 30, 1972. Bob Burrell and a collaborator will publish a "Guide to Rivers of West Virginia" this spring.

A discussion of times for Board of Directors' meetings resulted in scheduling two more for this year. Time and place to be announced later.

Eleanor Bush, Secretary

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A LETTER OF PROTEST

MAR. 3, 1972

Benjamin Greene, Chief
 Division of Reclamation
 Department of Natural Resources
 Charleston, W. Va. 25305

Dear Mr. Greene:

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy protests the issuance of a strip mining permit, SMA 39, to the Greer Steel Co. of Morgantown for the strip mining of 25 acres of Sewell seam coal located on Wildcat Run of Shavers Fork. The Greer interests have been very vocal locally protesting strip mines in neighboring counties so it is with great surprise that we see them requesting one of their own.

We protest this permit as we protest all Shavers Fork permits because of the already incredible damage this fine stream has suffered, its already low pH, its already outrageous silt burden, and its serious threat to the water quality of the Bowden National Fish Hatchery located immediately downstream from the proposed site. Finally, we protest this particular site because it will be in view of the heavily used tourist highway of U. S. 33. Is this what we want to lure tourists to the state to see?

There is already an old bench in this area with standing water on it. What is the pH of that water? The Bureau of Outdoor Fisheries (who manage the Bowden Hatchery) are gravely concerned about the declining water quality of Shavers Fork and the effect such has on their operations. In the past, low acidity in this unbuffered water has produced extremely dangerous conditions in the hatchery and siltation has curtailed fish feeding schedules causing loss of growth and subjecting the fish to unnecessary stress. No permit should be granted without first getting the full story from the hatchery personnel. According to your own recently finalized rules for reclamation, Section 2.03 recognizes that the Sewell seam is associated with overburden causing spoil showing a pH of 3.5 or less.

In view of the already dangerous conditions produced on one of West Virginia's finest rivers by open strip mining operations, in view of the very real threat to the Bowden National Fish Hatchery, and in view of the visual affront to tourists along U. S. 33, we see no alternative to denying this permit. Thank you.

cc: Ira Latimer
Ed Henry
Craig Moore
Greer Steel Co.
Bowden Fish Hatchery

Sincerely,

Bob Burrell
President

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PRESIDENT NIXON'S ENVIRONMENTAL MESSAGE

President Nixon sent his third annual environmental message to Congress on February 9, 1972. Nixon's message covered many topics such as pollution control, land use, wilderness areas, off-road vehicles, endangered species and a ban on poisons for predator control on public lands. The proposed 18 new wildernesses are in the states of California, Washington, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Maine. Here is a major portion of the President's comments on wilderness:

Wilderness Areas

"One of the first environmental goals I set when I took office was to stimulate the program to identify and recommend to the Congress new wilderness areas. Although this program was behind schedule at that time, I am now able to report that the September 1974 statutory deadline for reviews can and will be met.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 set aside 54 areas, consisting of about 9.1 million acres, as the nucleus of our wilderness system. Since then, 32 new areas totalling almost 1.2 million acres within National Forests, National Parks, and National Wildlife Refuges have been added to the system. Thirty-one areas totalling about 3.6 million acres, including 18 areas submitted by this Administration, have been proposed to the Congress but have yet to be acted upon. One of the most significant elements of this process has been the active participation by the public in all of its phases. At public wilderness hearings held all across the country, fair consideration has been given to all interests and points of view, with constructive citizen involvement in the decision-making process.

-- I am today proposing 18 new wilderness areas which, when approved, will add another 1.3 million acres to the wilderness system.

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The year 1972 can bring some of the greatest accomplishment in wilderness preservation since passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964. I urge prompt and systematic consideration by the Congress of these 18 new proposals and of the 31 currently pending before it. Approval of all 49 additions would bring the system up to a total of over 15 million acres.

Unfortunately, few of these wilderness areas are within easy access of the most populous areas of the United States. The major purpose of my Legacy of Parks program is to bring recreation opportunities closer to the people, and while wilderness is only one such opportunity, it is a very important one. A few of the areas proposed today or previously are in the eastern sections of the country, but the great majority of wilderness areas are found in the West. This of course is where most of our pristine wild areas are. But a greater effort can still be made to see that wilderness recreation values are preserved to the maximum extent possible, in the regions where most of our people live.

-- I am therefore directing the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to accelerate the identification of areas in the Eastern United States having wilderness potential."

And here is what he said about off-road vehicles:

"A recent study by the Department of the Interior estimated that Americans own more than 5 million off-road recreational vehicles - motorcycles, minibikes, trail bikes, snowmobiles, dune-buggies, all-terrain vehicles, and others. The use of these vehicles is dramatically on the increase: data show a three-fold growth between 1967 and 1971 alone.

As the number of off-road vehicles has increased, so has their use on public lands. Too often the land has suffered as a result. Increasingly, Federal recreational lands have become the focus of conflict between the newer motorized recreationist and the traditional hiker, camper, and horseback rider. In the past, Federal land-management agencies have used widely varying approaches to dealing with this conflict. The time has come for a unified Federal policy toward use of off-road vehicles on Federal lands.

-- I have today signed an Executive Order directing the Secretaries of Agriculture, Interior, Army and the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority to develop regulations providing for control over the use of off-road vehicles on Federal lands.

They will designate areas of use and non-use, specify operating conditions that will be necessary to minimize damage to the natural resources of the Federal lands, and ensure compatibility with other recreational uses, taking into account noise and other factors."

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BOUNTY HUNTING: Have Bounty Will Travel

Concerned about strip mining or stream pollution? Wondering what you can do to help? Now Uncle Sam may pay you to help catch violators who are ruining our waterways. The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, makes it illegal to pollute a navigable waterway or its tributaries without a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. Violators are subject to a fine of \$500.00 to \$2500.00, or thirty days to one year in jail. For each violation, the federal government is responsible for prosecuting violators of this law, but it largely relies on private citizens to "catch" the polluters by obtaining evidence of the pollution. As a reward and incentive, the law provides that half of any fine may be given to citizens who have provided information leading to arrest and conviction. Thus, in addition to helping clean up our rivers, you may be able to collect \$250 to \$1250 for each conviction.

One provision of the law allows industries to apply for permits to pollute. If the polluter has a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, he is not violating the law unless he is violating the terms of his permit. Therefore, write the Corps to find out if the polluter has a permit.

The law includes all rivers and lakes big enough to use for commercial navigation. It also includes direct and indirect tributaries of navigable waterways. However, it is extremely difficult to trace pollutants from the point at which they are dumped into a small creek through several larger creeks to a navigable waterway. Hence, practical considerations limit the law to polluters who dump pollutants directly into rivers and lakes, or into creeks only 2 or 3 removed.

When you are ready to take your samples, you will need a camera, loaded with color film, five to ten sterilized mason jars, a notebook, and at least one friend to operate the camera and serve as a witness. Photograph the pollution source and the pollution as it enters the stream, recording the exact place, time, and date of each photo, the name of the photographer, your name, the names of the witnesses present. Take samples at the following locations:

1. 50-100 feet up stream from the source of the pollution.
2. The pollution itself (if possible



to do so) before it enters the water.

3. The stream at the source of pollution.
 4. 50-100 feet downstream from the source of the pollution. If the pollution is dumped into a tributary at a navigable stream, also take a sample from the tributary 100 feet upstream from its mouth, and a sample from the stream the tributary enters about 50-100 feet downstream from where it enters. Be careful not to scrape bottom or stir up the water when sampling. Have a friend photograph you while taking the sample.
- As soon as you take a sample, cover, seal, and label the bottle with the date and place where it was taken. Have all people present, make a written signed and dated statement of what they witnessed.

Each set of samples constitutes a record of a separate offense. If you sample on several occasions, you

will establish a pattern of pollution which will strengthen your case. So, you will increase the possible size of your bounty. One couple in New Jersey collected \$12,500 under this law.

It is very important to preserve your evidence. If for any reason (such as having it tested) you give the sample to anyone else, make a record with the signatures of the persons giving and receiving the samples, the reason for the transfer, and when and where the transfer takes place.

Your samples are now ready for analysis. At this point, you should file your complaint with the Army Corps of Engineers or the Environmental Protection Agency address and give them your samples; they will usually test the samples for you. Write them at least once a month to find out what they are doing. If they recommend prosecution, either ask a lawyer to help you, or write the local U. S. Attorney to request one-half of any fine assessed. GOOD HUNTING!

ALTERNATIVES FOR PRESERVING WILD AREAS

Under direction from President Nixon the Forest Service is now asking for public comments on the question of identifying and protecting wild areas in the east. Here is a portion of a Forest Service release on the subject:

"Public lands also are relatively limited in the East and South. The National Forests are the most extensive of these, and contain some of the best remaining opportunities for the preservation and management of wild land values. The Forest Service is striving to find the most workable alternative for realizing these opportunities.

Although the criteria of the Wilderness Act do not appear to fit eastern conditions because of the obvious evidence of past land use by man, some proposals have been made that the classification of wild lands could be achieved under the Wilderness Act.

Several other alternatives are available. Some were suggested even before the 1971 Forest Service invitation to the public for discussion of possible solutions. These alternatives can form the basis now for discussion and an ultimate decision.

One array of alternatives deals with action through legislation:

- a) An amendment or supplement to the Wilderness Act to define a new category of wild lands in the South and East could achieve the purposes of new basic legislation and at the same time bring eastern units into the Wilderness System. Provisions for acquiring mineral rights and land could be made, but other amendments are possible once the subject is opened.
- b) New basic legislation to establish a system of wild lands managed to restore their natural values is another possibility. It could authorize acquisition of lands and mineral rights to establish viable units for preservation.
- c) Individual Legislation actions to establish units meriting management to preserve primitive values could achieve the same result as new basic legislation. However, there is the possibility that these Acts could establish diverse management conditions and the legislative process could be lengthy.

Before the Wilderness Act became effective, the Forest Service established Wild and Wilderness Areas through administrative actions. Several alternatives are still available through this procedure. All share the advantage of providing protection early because legislation is not required. On the other hand, they do not solve problems of land and mineral ownership. There is also a concern that administrative actions can be too easily reversed in the future.

- a) Forest Service multiple use plan units can be established under existing authorities with the approval of Regional Foresters.
- b) Classification by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service would assure higher level consideration and public involvement at the national level.
- c) Executive Order classification represents the highest level of administrative action. It has been an effective device in the case of many National Monuments which have been long and effectively protected under these Presidential directives.

Additional alternatives or modifications of those listed should be considered as they are identified."

The Forest Service has requested that comments on the possible alternatives be sent to Regional Forester Jay H. Cravens, 633 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203 or Chief Edward P. Cliff, Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. Comments should be sent to these offices before the end of May.

Tony Dorrell, Supervisor of the Monongahela National Forest, has also requested that comments be addressed to his office by the first of May. Supervisor Dorrell will forward all the comments he receives to Chief Cliff. Here is Dorrell's address:

Mr. F. A. Dorrell, Supervisor
Monongahela National Forest
Box 1231
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

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THE STARS AND ST. GEORGE FOREVER

The annual celebration to save St. George and the upper Cheat Valley, scheduled for the week of May 20-21, 1972, will present some added features to the 2-day canoe trip. On Saturday, May 20, the trip from the park in Parsons to St. George (lunch stop at the bridge near Mark Warner's villa), Mr. Hubert Lake will preside at a unique ceremony in the St. George Academy Building. A portrait of Henry George Tucker, the namesake statesman responsible for Tucker County's existence, will be unveiled. Attending this ceremony will be the most distinguished direct descendants, Dr. and Mrs. H. St. George Tucker, Jr. from Richmond and the most capable artist, Mrs. Grace Gilmore of Bencova, W. Va., who was commissioned by the Tucker County Bank.

For supper, weather permitting, the community of St. George and all the guests will share in a participation picnic. The details for further activities with regard to a special all-inclusive reception are still being worked on.

Camping is available in selected locations around St. George and at the Horseshoe Run Campground. Meet at the St. George bridge at 9:00 a.m. to start the shuttle to the Park in Parsons. Sunday's, May 21, trip goes from the St. George Bridge to Hannahsville.

SEE YOU IN ST. GEORGE!

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BOARD MEETINGS

This is to announce the interim Board of Directors meetings. The first will be held in Webster Springs on April 15 at 8:00 p.m. in the high school. We will have several urgent matters to consider, especially regarding the Forest Service. We hope you make plans to also see some of the "sights" in the area, the Back Fork of Elk and the lower Williams-western Cranberry Backcountry area. There is a small motel in Webster Springs for those of you desiring accommodations.

The second interim Board meeting will be held July 8 near Durbin in the vicinity of Cheat Bridge. I'd like for you to tour the upper Shavers Fork areas of concern. For those desiring accommodations, please make reservations with Dabney Kisner's Motel, Durbin, W. Va.

We know that it is difficult to attend all of these meetings, but we hope as many can come as possible.

Bob Burrell

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A PLEA FOR DONATIONS

Our leader has pointed out the frustrations of trying to do a good job for the Highlands Conservancy and at the same time keep with job and family responsibilities. In the Conservancy there are many hard working officers and committee chairmen, but there are a few positions that are especially demanding. A few of the more difficult positions are the offices of president, treasurer, membership chairman and editor of the Voice. I am sure that Bob Burrell, Charley Carlson, Carolyn Killoran and myself feel the need for help at various times.

I agree with Burrell's idea for an Executive Director for the Conservancy, and I hope that you will support the idea also. You may use the form letter below to indicate your support for a paid position in the Conservancy.

Date _____

Bob Burrell, President
Highlands Conservancy
12 Western Avenue
Martinsburg, W. Va. 26505

Dear Bob:

I agree with your idea for creating a paid position of Executive Director in the Highlands Conservancy and I am willing to donate the amount of money listed below for the express purpose of paying the salary of an Executive Director.

- I pledge the amount listed
- I have enclosed the amount listed
- I have enclosed (or pledge) \$1,000
- \$500
- \$100
- \$50
- \$10

Other _____

Two other young (early 30's) men and I recently enjoyed a winter backpacking trip in the Otter Creek area of West Virginia. We used Victor Schmidt's Otter Creek as a guide and found it indispensable.

All three of us would like to become deeply involved in the fight to save Otter Creek. We understand legislation is currently in Congress related to not only Otter Creek but Dolly Sods and the Cranberry Glades. Would you please send us current information on the status of this legislation? We have slides which could be used in Congressional hearings. Also, we are all scientists with undergraduate degrees in forestry or biology; and with graduate degrees in forest genetics (Ph.D) and forest entomology (M.S.). How can we help?

Sincerely,

Alden M. Townsend

352-1/2 18th Street
Dunbar, W. Va. 25064
March 18, 1972

Dear Ernie:

I need help in getting my address changed - in order that I might receive The Highlands Voice. I have seen exactly two copies since I moved last July - and Bob Burrell was good enough to send me those copies. Please request.

I've written Bob and Carolyn Killoran, to no avail. It is rather embarrassing to have someone tell me that they enjoyed my article in the Voice and I haven't the slightest idea which article they are talking about.

Sincerely,

Gordon T. Hamrick

24 Bates Road
Morgantown, W. Va. 26505
March 20, 1972

Dear Ernie:

Please find enclosed a notice submitted for inclusion in the Highland's Voice if you approve. It makes no difference about a name for a subscript, I'd just as well prefer no name. It's the message that is important.

Thank you for your tremendous efforts in providing a most enjoyable publication.

Sincerely,

Herbert L. Eckert, M. D.

A CHANGE IN THE WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

One of the Highlands Conservancy's most faithful and tireless workers, George Langford, has moved from Pittsburgh to Cary, North Carolina. For several years George served effectively as chairman of the Wilderness Committee. Under his leadership the Wilderness Committee produced comprehensive management proposals and hiking guides for Dolly Sods, Otter Creek and the Cranberry Backcountry. George wrote everything except the trail guide for the Cranberry Backcountry report.

I am sure that all Conservancy members appreciate the services that you have performed and hope that you will continue to work as a member of the Wilderness Committee.

Ron Hardway, a Vice-President of the H. C., is the new chairman of the Wilderness Committee. I hope that everyone will give Ron their support. Ron's address is:

Ronald V. Hardway
533 South Main Street
Webster Springs, W. Va. 26288

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Ernie Nester, Editor
Box 298
Alloy, West Virginia 25002



Mr. J. William Hess
Rte. 9, Box 341
Morgantown, W. Va. 26505