

**Eagle Lake Public Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 13, 7:30 pm**  
**Hillsboro Elementary**

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## Mother of Orphans

by Nicholas Zvegintzov

"East-West Shift" is a shorthand term for a national policy decision that faces West Virginia ecologists with strange bedfellows and moral dilemmas.

The East-West Shift is a plan formed by the energy companies, and supported by the present Administration, to shift the extraction of energy out of the Appalachians and into the northwestern plains and the southwest. The moral dilemma for the West Virginia ecologist is to decide whether this

is good.

But before moral dilemmas, consider these questions:

Is there really such a plan?

Does it make sense economically?

If not, why do the power companies like it?

First, there really is a plan to shift the extraction of energy to the west. American Electric Power, the nation's largest utility and parent of Appalachian Power,

has already bought 40,000 acres in Wyoming's Powder River Basin. It is currently buying coal leases on 23,000 acres in Colorado and Montana and is negotiating with coal subsidiaries of Exxon and McCulloch Oil for over 300 million tons of coal in the next 30 years. It has ordered 2,000 railroad cars, 260 barges, 16 towboats by 1975, while building transfer terminals at points in Ohio and Arkansas to ship coal eastward. American Electric Power is also the only energy company to react to last winter's energy shortage by telling the American people to consume more energy. It published this message in full page ads in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Beckley Post-Herald, and the Meadow River Post, to mention only leading newspapers. Where does American Electric Power expect to get this extra energy for us to consume?

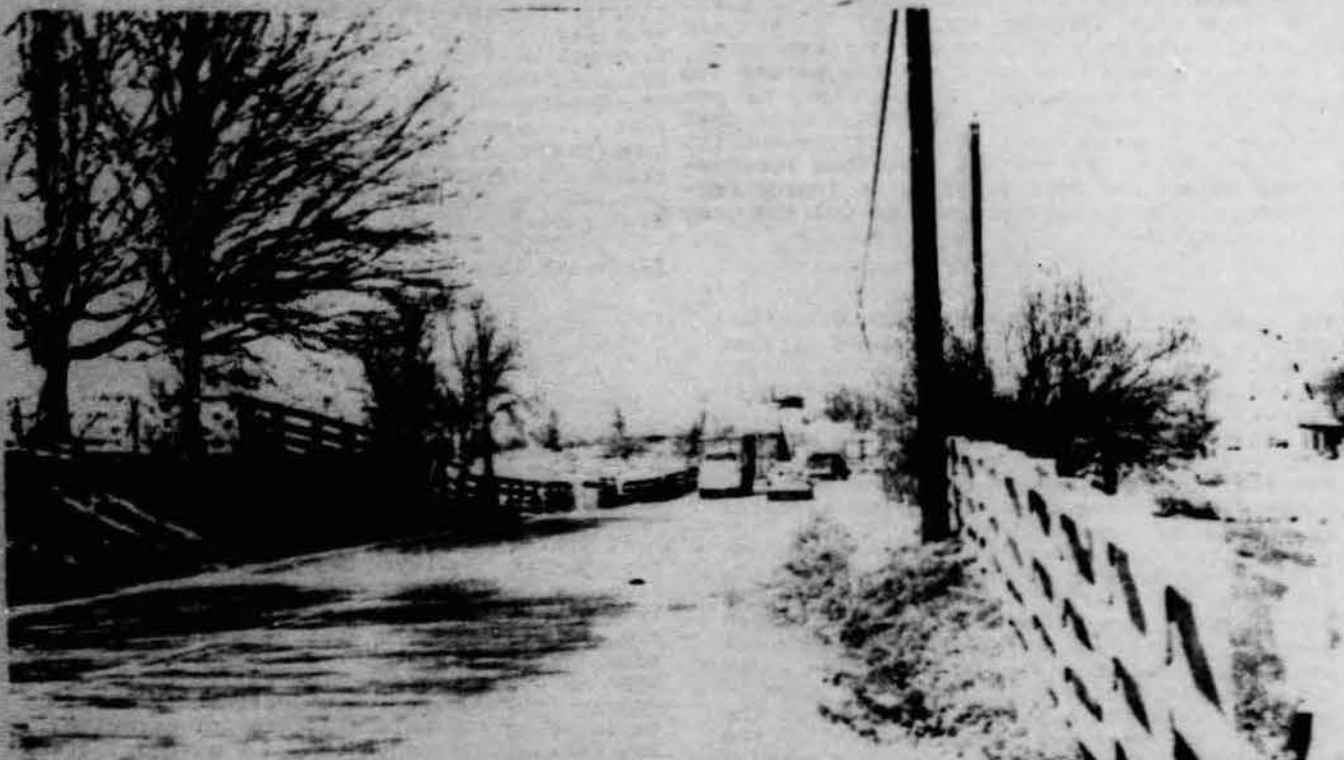
"Coal -- reliable coal -- is the solution. Fortunately, the United States Government is the world's largest owner of coal. The people's coal. The solution to the people's energy problem!"

Needless to say, the U.S. Government owns hardly any coal in Appalachia -- its ownership is in western States under homesteaded land to which it retained mineral right.

If it is the policy of the power companies to shift energy extraction to the west, is it technologically necessary? Has eastern coal run out? Consider West Virginia alone. The U.S. Bureau of Mines calculates that this State has 23 billion tons of minable low sulphur coal. This is not West Virginia's total reserves -- this is just coal that can be mined with present technology and can be burned under current air pollution laws! It is enough to supply total US and export demand at present levels for 40 years. So why move west?

There seem to be two reasons: (1) Energy extracted in the west will cost more to deliver to the consumer, and (2) there is less hassle. The higher costs arise from the transport of fuel (all those barges and railroad cars and oil to haul them) and from the transmission of electricity (capital cost of powerlines and electrical loss in transmission). Since utilities supply power on a cost plus basis, the higher the production cost the higher the profit.

The second reason is hassle. The energy companies imagine that in the west they can escape the stubborn and courageous Appalachian miners and their union, they can escape urban legislatures sensitive to air and water pollution, and they can postpone the day of



Rush Hour on Rt. 219, Pickaway, Monroe County, W.Va.

## Opposition to Roadbuilding Strong in Monroe County

by Karen Mitchell

"Eastern West Virginia has been neglected as far as getting new roads built", says one elected representative from the south east border county of Monroe.

"You know where all the traffic is going now don't you? It's taking the better roads through Virginia, just thirty miles away," says a member of an association dedicated to 4-laning US Route 219 through eastern W.

Va.

These were the two strongest arguments I heard for building a new north-south highway through eight counties. They are not roads through an area. Forgetting for a moment the environmental damage that road construction causes, consider the demands





## The Readers' Voice

April 14, 1974

Editor  
The Highlands Voice

Dear Sir,

As members of the Highlands Conservancy my wife and I were a bit surprised at the generally favorable review of the "Timberline" development in the Canaan Valley that was written by Helen McGinnis and appeared in the March edition of the Voice.

However, after thinking about it awhile we thought that perhaps Mrs. McGinnis was right. If the area has to be developed, better that the people who buy the land be "educated, articulate people who will have a strong interest in the preservation of Dolly Sods."

With this in mind my wife and I spent this past Sat. with Mr. Downs at Timberline looking at land for ourselves. Mr. Downs is very engaging and we were impressed with him and his stated desire to do everything possible to keep this development controlled and preserve the area for the use of the sixty-nine owners of the tracts.

We discovered however, after leaving for home and carefully reading the actual sales agreement that the use of the lake, the hiking and riding tracts on Cabin Mountain is not to be for the exclusive use of the sixty-nine well intentioned owners of land in the development. It is evident after reading the agreement that Downs plans to open the facilities for the "general public." I fear that we and Mrs. McGinnis were somewhat misled by Mr. Downs.

I felt I should write this letter because as Mr. Downs said of Mrs. McGinnis' report: "that article was the best advertisement I have had"...

R.E. Barnett, Jr.  
Richmond, Va.

106 Burton Court  
Charlottesville  
Va. 22901

March 5, 1974

Mr. Kenneth Plumb, Secretary  
Federal Power Commission  
825 N. Capitol St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Plumb:

I am writing to express my concern over the proposed Davis Power Project. I have spent a considerable amount of time in the Canaan Valley and Dolly Sods areas which will be affected by this project; and it is my opinion that the construction of a pumped storage and hydroelectric power generating system would do irreparable damage to the area as a breeding ground for wild animals, particularly deer, bear, beaver, mink and otter. It would spoil its wilderness character which has in the past made it an attraction to hunters, trappers, campers, fishermen, and those seeking solitude and escape from the hectic urban environment from which most of us who use the area come.

The Canaan Valley is unique in many respects and should, I believe, be preserved as much as possible in its present state. It is the largest area of bogs and glades in the state of West Virginia. Its climate and vegetation have a Canadian character unlike that found in most of the rest of the state. Northern trees such as the true balsam fir and quaking aspen which grow naturally in the valley are found in such abundance no where else this far south.

13 W. Maple St.  
Alexandria, Va. 22301

April 9, 1974

Editor  
The Highlands Voice

Dear Sir:

I have read with interest the various articles and letters in the Voice on the subject of Snowshoe. I suspect the first settler made much the same remarks to his wife when the second settler arrived and started to clear the ground round his favorite fishing hole. West Virginia has not stayed still in the last 200 years and it will not stay still for the next 200. The question is what kind of change is going to take place and what kind of constructive role can the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy play in that change.

I suggest for starters that the Voice invite Snowshoe to write an article for the Voice describing their plans for the future with particular reference to their impact on outdoor recreation and the environment. Snowshoe is not going to go away and it cannot be swept under the rug. Decisions for the future must be made on the basis of facts and in the light of what is possible for the future not "what might have been."

If after seeing what they plan, the Conservancy, from its experience, sees any faults, I suggest they work with Snowshoe to amend them. I expect they will be given a thoughtful hearing. After all, if you are going to make a million dollar investment, you would want to correct all the errors you could and obtain the support of your potential clientele. I have been told that Snowshoe's management is environmentally responsible. If that is true then Pocahontas County and West Virginia is indeed fortunate. The Conservancy should welcome them

The commercialization and industrialization which a lake and power station would attract would in the long run destroy the valley and adjoining Dolly Sods as a quiet wilderness retreat and recreation area for those of us in the eastern metropolitan regions who enjoy outdoor activities and prefer a natural setting. The presence of the Storm Mountain Power Plant is already having an undesirable impact on the area in this respect.

In the past the valley has been cut, burned and ravaged by man. The construction of a lake and associated human enterprises will be the finishing blow. Have we not taken enough from the valley? Can we not now return it to nature? Can we not leave a few quiet undisturbed areas for our children in which to walk and hunt? Is the value of the land to be measured only in terms of the electricity, coal and wood we can extract from it?

The energy crisis from which not even our remote valleys are insulated is as much, if not more, a crisis in human values as it is a crisis in resources, technology and a capacity to produce power. We cannot continue to use up land at the present rate for electric power production and distribution. If we did, the entire land area of the United States would be needed for power production in one hundred and twenty-five years. The line must and WILL be drawn somewhere. To we want a simple valley, peaceful and undisturbed? There are not many left beyond the next mountain that we can save. Should we not begin to draw the line here in the Canaan Valley?

Richard J. Van Brunt

and work with them for if it had not been Snowshoe in 1973 it would, and still maybe, someone else in 1976 or some other year.

As regards undesirable development that may come in the train of Snowshoe, that need not be the case. It does happen that developers come in, start something and walk off with the profits leaving a mountain of problems for the investors and the community. Some developers have good intentions but problems arise because of inadequate planning and an inability to foresee the consequences of certain actions. Inequities and bad feeling can also arise when one owner can sell at a great profit while another finds his land used for a street and receives only a meager recompense. There is nothing new in this. Many areas with a recreation potential have had to face these problems. Many solutions--tax adjustments, density transfer opportunities, town planning models--have been devised and tested to meet such situations. Primarily this is a matter for the citizens of Pocahontas County but because so many of those who work and play in Pocahontas County come from surrounding counties and even surrounding states, what happens here is of concern to all.

Again in this connection the Conservancy can make a contribution. Since it represents so many of those who participate actively in the recreational activities of the area the Conservancy can act as their representative. Through its membership, it can make available a good deal of expertise in many fields. Thus if it works with local officials, concerned citizens, Snowshoe and the developers who follow, it will be in a position to make a constructive contribution towards the solution of such problems as may arise. In so doing it will best protect and promote the future of the West Virginia Highlands.

Jeannette Fitzwilliams

Oberlin, OH 44074

Editor  
The Highlands Voice

Dear Sir:

Last week a group of eighteen students from the Oberlin College Outing Club went on a five-day backpacking trip in the Otter Creek Valley. We enjoyed ourselves immensely, and we are writing to express our support of your efforts to preserve the Otter Creek area as a wilderness. The Valley is a rare refuge from the city which definitely should be saved in its natural state for ourselves and for our grandchildren. I also believe that the Valley in its natural state is a valuable economic resource for West Virginia; without it, we would not have gone to West Virginia, purchasing meals, supplies, etc. We hope that the U.S. Congress and the Forest Service will take immediate steps to preserve the Otter Creek Valley in its present wilderness state. It should not be logged, mined, or 'developed'. It should be left just as it is: wild and beautiful and available to all of us to enjoy. We hope that you will share our thoughts with the appropriate governmental authorities.

Peter Maier  
for the Oberlin College  
Outing Club



## President's Comments Opposition Grows Against Davis Power Project

by Dave Elkinton

Hearings before the Federal Power Commission's Administrative Law Judge continued

this month in Washington. Since the last report (VOICE, April, 1974) witnesses for th

three power companies that comprise the Allegheny Power System have completed their presentations and witnesses for the various intervenors have been heard. At press time the final series of witnesses, those sponsored by the FPC's own staff, are completing testimony.

After only a day or two, it became clear that the FPC staff was highly critical of the proposal that would flood 7,000 acres of Canaan Valley and 500 acres atop Cabin Mountain adjacent to Dolly Sods. Repeated cross examination by staff attorneys have produced numerous admissions that the environmental, geological and economic effects have been underplayed by the power companies. In addition, the Administrative Law Judge, Jair Kaplan, asked many witnesses his own questions. He has paid particular attention to the Glade Run alternative, also in the Canaan Valley, but flooding only a small portion of 7,000 acres needed for the larger reservoir proposal. The Glade Run alternative has been favored if a project is built by the so-called "Renegade Five" of the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Resources.

### Help Wanted . . . . .

The Highlands Conservancy is in need of volunteers. A few of our most pressing needs now are:

- (1) Secretary. Part-time, able to answer correspondence; prefer resident of Elkins area, access to electric typewriter preferred.
- (2) Legislative watchdog. Charleston area resident who will monitor W. Va. Legislative activity, prepare reports for WWHC Board and VOICE.
- (3) Key-punch operator. Keyser area resident willing to assist in simple computer use for WWHC project.
- (4) Congressional watchdog. Washington

area resident willing to monitor U. S. Congressional action on legislation of interest, prepare reports for WWHC Board and VOICE.

(5) Trip leaders. Willing to lead hikes, canoe trips, cave exploration, etc. Contact Jerry Kyle, outings chairman, 910 Pocahontas Ave., Ronceverte, WV 24970.

(6) Other. Write your own job description.

Send applications for these low pay, high satisfaction positions to:

Dave Elkinton  
Canaan Valley  
Davis, WV 26260

## Beartown Committee Makes Recommendations

Conservancy Beartown Committee Chairman, Jerry Kyle, has met with the Greenbrier Grotto of the National Speleological Society and the Greenbrier and Ron-Sul-Lew Chapters of the West Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League to formulate recommendations to the Department of Natural Resources concerning future planning for Beartown State Park.

Kyle presented the recommendations to the Highlands Conservancy Board of Directors at the Directors meeting, April 28, at Canaan Valley State Park.

The committee recommended the following:

1. A qualified botanist or naturalist should thoroughly investigate the Beartown area and identify the biological and geological features which must receive minimum disturbance during any construction activity. Similarly care must be taken with problems inherent in any construction activity such as erosion.
2. If walkways are constructed through Beartown they must be kept at a minimum width to prevent destruction of the natural beauty of the area and not detract from it. Handrails are essential to deter tourists from leaving established paths. Trash receptacles must be numerous to discourage any littering of the Beartown trails.
3. The road into the Beartown area should receive minimum development. Parking and interpretive areas should be rustic in nature and blend with natural surroundings. These facilities should not be visible from Beartown itself.
4. Advertising Beartown should not be done. No brochures describing Beartown should be available, and signs directing tourists to the area should not be placed. Beartown is a delicate, fragile area, and overuse here would be disastrous. The effects of heavy traffic and overuse can easily be seen by contrasting the north end of Beartown with the south end. When first acquired by the state the south end had plant life as abundant as the north end has now. But today the south section is virtually barren of plant life.
5. It is essential that the DNR hire a full-time caretaker for Beartown before the park is opened to public use. Ideally the caretaker should be someone genuinely interested in preserving Beartown and its unique natural environment.

Historically the Department of Natural Resources has subjected the state parks to high-pressure salesmanship. This must not occur at Beartown or the DNR may find itself with no product to sell.



R. Hardway

Narrow paths between  
Gigantic boulders  
will be difficult to exploit  
without ruining  
the character  
of Beartown.

## Subpoena

Appearing under subpoena, a rarity in FPC proceedings, but made necessary because Ira Latimer, DNR Director, refused to allow them to appear voluntarily, these five wildlife professionals testified in opposition to the proposed project. The five included Division Chief Dan Cantner, Assistant Chief Pete Zurbach, Assistant Chief James Ruckel, William Santonas, Supervisor of Planning, and Conservancy member Joe Rieffenberger, Wildlife Biologist. Their testimony was lengthy due to attempts by the power company attorneys to discredit their position. The judge seemed impressed, and indeed, these five represented the most damaging threat to the project yet for their expertise is unmatched both for the depth of their analysis and their professionalism.

At this point, after 24 full days of cross examination with more to follow, the consensus seems to be that the project may be in danger. In any event, the three quick weeks of testimony that were expected have been nearly tripled primarily due to the cross examination of the power company witnesses by intervenors, including the Conservancy and the Sierra Club, and by the active role of the FPC staff in both cross examining applicants and in the presentation of their own witnesses. If the project license is denied either because of insufficient evidence or because the judge feels the Glade Run alternative is preferable, the power companies will have to reapply or decide to abandon the entire project. In either case the disposition of the lands in Canaan Valley owned by the power companies will be extremely important to the preservation of this unique area. Efforts are already underway to explore the possibility of permanent preservation in such an event through acquisition by private conservation groups.

### WHY HAVEN'T YOU READ THIS ELSEWHERE?

One of the most disturbing aspects of the Davis Power Project hearings has been the virtual news blackout surrounding them. The power companies have issued press releases every Saturday, but to anyone who has been present at the hearings there has been no relationship between what they report and what actually happened. The very first day the Associated Press sent a reporter who knew nothing whatsoever about the project and the controversy surrounding it. He stayed one hour. The West Virginia press has not been represented at all!



## Senate Agriculture Committee Reports Revised Eastern Wilderness Bill by Helen McGinnis

The Senate Agriculture Committee on April 24th ordered favorably reported a revised Eastern Wilderness Bill (S. 316) with provisions immediately establishing 19 new wilderness areas and study of 40 more as potential additions. As far as we know, Dolly Sods and Otter Creek remain in the instant wilderness list, and Cranberry in the study category. Laurel Fork was not added to the bill. As reported, the bill would immediately add about 250,000 acres to the wilderness system and provide for inclusion of an additional 375,000 acres during a five-year study period. It also provides a ban on timber-cutting in the areas, but permits continuance of existing grazing.

Filing of new mining claims in wilderness areas in both the East and the West would be terminated. The 1964 Wilderness Act permits prospecting and mining claims until 1983. The bill, which was previously reported by the Senate Interior Committee and re-referred to the Agriculture Committee, also would

establish a wilderness advisory board to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, and call for present annual reporting procedures. Senate floor action was expected during the month of May.

Prospects for action in the House of Representatives during this session of Congress are not as encouraging. The chairman of the Public Lands Subcommittee of the House Interior Committee, John Melcher of Montana, is conservation-minded but may not be inclined to give priority to eastern wilderness legislation. If the House becomes embroiled in impeachment proceedings, little or no progress in legislation can be expected for the rest of the year. If it does not vote on the bill this year, we will have to start all over again next year with the new session of Congress. Congress is likely to act in the immediate future only if it feels that eastern wilderness has tremendous public support.

### This Month's Assignment:

(Everybody) Write to John Melcher (House Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20515)

## Fitzwilliams Plans Sods Survey

As a result of our discussion of Dolly Sods at the Midwinter Meeting it became evident that a great deal needed to be found out about the Sods. I plan to spend a week up there--probably the week including July 4. If anybody would like to join me and help in obtaining some of this information I would be glad of their assistance. Among the projects being considered:

Establishing photographic points so the same shot may be taken over a period of years starting with 1974.

Recording and measuring the vegetation at test sites.

Taking a survey of visitors to the area.

In addition I am collecting (1) old photographs of the area, (2) articles about Dolly Sods (3) Details of current research projects.

If anyone has any information or offers of assistance I would welcome them. Please call or write me--Jeannette Fitzwilliams, 13 W. Maple Street, Alexandria, Va. 22301. Home: 703-548-7490. office: 202-447-8836.

They see the plastic, gaudy display that commercial interests inflict on an area where too many people try to live in too little space. They know the outdoor recreation areas are becoming too crowded for any kind of meaningful relaxation; that's one of the reasons why people are hungry for a place in the country.

So, if there is so much resistance among people living in rural Monroe County to building a superhighway through the area why is there also a group of people who want roads and more roads built? Their motives are guided by the principle that "whatever neighboring counties have that seems to draw business is what we want and will try to get from the government." They have not realized that clean air and streams, low population density, no industrial problems to cope with is a big plus. They have apparently bought the idea that technology can save us and make everyone whatever he wants to be. Or they haven't talked to enough people who are running from such things as superhighways, commercialism, pollution and environmental crisis in urban areas. There are enough people living in Monroe County who oppose the idea of building yet another road that would take valuable cropland and grazing land out of production and bring untold damage to the environment to attend in force the hearings that would have to be held prior to building a new road.

Imagine if you will, being able to drive a pickup truck along the beltway that serves Washington D.C. commuters at about 30 mph glancing at the road occasionally and taking a count of your cattle grazing in the field alongside the road. That is one of the pleasures of living in Monroe County. Route 219 is the only road in need

asking him to act quickly on the eastern wilderness bill. The bill should be a matter of concern to westerners as well as easterners, not only because it will preserve examples of scenery not found in the West, but because it will lay to rest the Forest Service's long-held contention that areas once affected by man can never qualify for protection under the present Wilderness Act. The Forest Service is already using the "purity" excuse in recommending "no wilderness" for certain areas in western national forests. If you have wilderness-loving friends in the West, ask them to contact their own congressmen.

(West Virginians, especially those in the eastern half of the state): Write to Harley O. Staggers (same address as Melcher's) asking him to support H. R. 13455, which would designate Otter Creek and Dolly Sods as wilderness immediately and Cranberry (36,300 acres, NOT the 13,200 acres advocated by the Forest Service) as a study area with a moratorium on development. Request that Laurel Fork (11,656 acres) be added to the study list. Staggers, an early supporter of wilderness in the Monongahela, has begun to have second thoughts. He needs to hear from his constituents. If he decides that one or more West Virginia areas should be deleted, they probably will be.

## Mother p. 1

reckoning with the deep mine health and safety laws: The power companies are playing out the fantasy of adolescent America that by going west they can find a territory where nobody looks over their shoulder.

What will shake them out of this fantasy? This is where strange bedfellows are made. This year the West Virginia Legislature took two little-publicised steps. First, it published a paper "West Virginia Coal as an Alternative to the Energy Crisis", which was researched and written by Norman Kilpatrick. Kilpatrick was with the Mid-Appalachian Environmental Center until its demise last year, and is the heart of the Surface Mining Research Library. This paper deals point by point with the ostensible reasons given by the energy industry for the east-west shift -- no coal left in Appalachia, etc. In addition, the Senate (but not the House) passed rather a remarkable motion -- that requested West Virginia's delegation in Washington to support in the pending Federal stripmine bill certain legal limitations on the leasing of U.S. owned coal, supporting the same limitations from the other end of the country, Mike Mansfield of Montana said on the Senate floor in Washington:

"Montana and our neighboring states need not convert from an agricultural economy to a dependence on coal mining. The West need not become the utility backyard for the rest of the nation."

So which bed should the West Virginia ecologist be in? It goes without saying that the energy industry will use the blackmail of this east-west shift to avoid as long as possible the abatement of the human dangers of deep mining and the natural destruction of strip mining, and we must oppose this. But in the long run, should the West Virginian ecologist be for the shift of energy extraction to the west? This is no mere matter of policy. It is a moral dilemma, and one on which everyone must make up their own mind.

Here is one way to look at it. On the one hand, as lovers of nature and West Virginia nature in particular, we might be glad to see the disindustrialisation of the State. On the other hand, "ecology" -- from the Greek "oikos", a house -- is not the study of the earth alone. It is the study of earth as a home for living creatures. In the 1950s the mechanisation of coal mining and the phantom of cheap oil drove a whole generation of West Virginians as orphans out of the hills. I cannot believe that it would be good to make yet another generation of orphans, and leave the hills to those same land companies who brought us Buffalo Creek, Bolt Mountain, and the fires that burned the soil of Tucker County after they cut the virgin spruce.

The earth is your mother. Let her not be

## Roads p. 1

usually made for new roads. First, heavy traffic problems causing delay and accidents. Second, industrial needs for hauling supplies, equipment and products to and from plants, and third, politicians way of keeping campaign promises to "get something for MY people! The first two reasons simply don't apply to a county like Monroe. It has a population of only 11,000 people, only one small industrial plant and a general agriculture economy. Those citizens who maintain homes in the county and drive outside its borders to work do so out of choice. US Route 219 is the principal road through the county from north east to south west and is lightly traveled. Feeder routes to 219 such as State Route 3 and State Route 8 are even less traveled. In other words, the existing roads are adequate to serve the needs of people living here. With the present emphasis on "slowing down to conserve energy" these country roads that follow the terrain much as did the buffalo and Indian trails lend extra enjoyment to today's driver through the lush and lovely countryside. In addition to Monroe County natives who like the county pretty much as it is, there are many more people who come here to buy land and homes for living in an area where the pace is slower, time for enjoying simple pleasures greater; and they want to keep it this way. Why should we not have some areas left in the country that appeal to people in this manner? If they want to go someplace in a hurry there are plenty of superhighways close by. I-64 is a half hour away from the center of the county at Union; I-77 and I-81 can be gotten to in an hour. People here are certainly sophisticated enough to realize the negative aspect of having heavily traveled roads close by. They know about urban sprawl in all its ugliness.



## Lobelia Lake?

by William White

Hills Creek in Pocahontas County, West Virginia, is a quite remarkable stream. The middle reaches have a very high gradient dropping from 3400 feet at the edge of the Yew Mountains to 2500 feet on the valley flats near Lobelia. The sediment-carrying of the middle reach is excellent. The upper reach on the Allegheny Plateau is a pirated segment of a stream that at one time was a tributary to the Cherry River. Gradients here are lower. The lowest reach of the stream is underground and has been pirated from its former surface course. Hills Creek, therefore, is the unusual example of a stream that has suffered piracy at both ends!

The surface flow of Hills Creek is to the southeast almost perpendicular to Droop Mountain that rises like a wall in its path. At some time in the geologic past the route of the creek turned nearly at right angles at the base of Droop Mountain and flowed to the southwest along the Narrow Friars Hole Valley as a tributary of Spring Creek. The drainage of the Friars Hole Valley is now completely underground. The upper section of the drainage fed by Hills and Bruffey creeks has been diverted more directly to the Greenbrier River through a piracy route developed directly under Droop Mountain. The present flow of both streams now rises at Locust Spring. The spring drains through Locust Creek into the Greenbrier River. As a result of drainage diversion, the Friars Hole Valley is a karst valley. All drainage is underground, there is no surface channel, and the valley profile has become a succession of sinkholes and saddles. The tributary surface streams, including Hills and Bruffey Creeks, have incised themselves below the level of the old valley floor, and the remnant valley bottom uplands have become a barrier to any further surface flow.

The underground drainage is quite complex. During periods of moderate to high flow, both Hills Creek and Bruffey Creek sink into open caves about 1000 feet apart. The caves themselves are joined underground into a single cave system. However, during periods of low flow Hills Creek sinks in its bed some distance upstream from the cave entrance. Dye-tracing experiments conducted by Zotter (1965) show that the low flow path of Hills Creek is directly southeast to Locust Spring. During high flows the direct route is not able to carry the entire discharge, and Hills Creek spills over into the Bruffey Creek route, which drains underground almost due east. These waters can be seen

at the southern edge of the Little Levels where they appear first as the stream in the Hughes Creek Caves, again as a large stream in Martha's Cave, and finally drain to

## Canaan Board Meeting Focuses on Eagle Lake

The Conservancy Board of Directors met for its spring session April 28 at the Canaan Valley State Park Ski lodge near Davis. The Conservancy joined other conservationists who have announced opposition to the construction of Eagle Lake and campground proposed by the U.S. Forest Service for the Hills Creek area of the Monongahela National Forest. Calling attention to the fact that Eagle Lake would adversely affect the scenic Falls of Hills Creek, the Conservancy also pointed out that the plan to use Eagle Lake as a trout pond is unwise. It was pointed out that Summit Lake, only fourteen miles away from the proposed Eagle Lake, has never reached its potential as a trout pond, and that Summit's many problems have not been solved satisfactorily.

The campground proposed in conjunction with Eagle Lake would be less than one mile upstream from the Cranberry Glades Botanical Area. The Conservancy expressed its concern that the unique natural features of the Glades would be endangered by sewage and solid waste pollution from the campground. As an alternative to Eagle Lake, further development of the already-existing Summit Lake was proposed. To provide needed camping facilities, the Conservancy endorsed the further expansion of Watoga State Park and other camping facilities in the immediate region.

In other business, Representative Harley O. Staggers was urged to continue his support for the protection of four unique areas in the Monongahela National Forest that are proposed to be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. These areas, Dolly Sods, Otter Creek, Cranberry, and Laurel Fork, are currently under consideration by the United States Congress and conservationists were urged to personally contact Staggers expressing their support for protection of these areas.

Nick Lozano of Charleston was elected Charleston Regional Vice-President for the Conservancy replacing Norman Williams who has moved to Washington, DC. Lozano also currently serves as President of the West Virginia Scenic Trails Conference.

Locust Spring. Hills Creek Cave terminates in a sump, and the complete flow path is not known. It is apparent that the underground piracy route of Hills Creek is not well stabilized and is still in the process of adjustment (White and Schmidt, 1966).

It has been pointed out (White and White, 1968) that closed basins such as the Hills Creek drainage must discharge not only the collected surface water, but also their acquired sediment load through underground routes. The present day sediment load is considerable. Observations of Locust Spring during high flow reveals muddy water and much movement of bedload, including the rolling of boulder-sized material through the underground channel. In fact, all clastic material removed from the mountain side by surface erosion in the Hills Creek Catchment must be transported through the underground conduit system. There is no other exit from the drainage basin.

In view of this peculiar geologic and hydrogeologic setting, the prospect of adding substantial new sediment load to Hills Creek should be evaluated carefully. The underground channel system is not adequate to carry peak flood flows, and much backponding occurs in the lowlands near the swallow holes. An immediate result would be the deposition of some of the excess sediment on the farmlands adjacent to the caves. There is also a more serious possibility. If large amounts of silt and debris are swept into the caves during periods of high flow, it is possible that the marginally competent underground drainage system could become completely plugged. It is not beyond consideration that the plugging of underground routes would cause flooding of the lower end of the Hills Creek Valley up to the level of the surface spillover. The sink of Hills Creek is below 2450 feet. The remnants of valley bottom upland that form the saddles in the dissected Friars Hole Valley occur a little above 2550 feet (Available topographic maps are contoured at 50-foot intervals). Facilitating return of drainage to the surface, if the underground routes were plugged, would require a lake more than 100 feet deep in the lower end of the Hills Creek Valley. Only when this depth was reached would the water spill over the divides and flow down the long-abandoned route in the Friars Hole Valley. Such a lake would extend nearly two miles up the Hills Creek Valley and would put the village of Lobelia under 50 feet of water.

## The Readers' Voice

### The Forest Service and Their ' "Dam-ned" ' Lake

Al Troutt  
Monongahela National Forest  
Elkins, W.Va.

Dear Mr. Troutt,

I want first to say that I did not appreciate your form letter signed by some deputy secretary in response to my first letter to you. Since that time I was paid a visit by some other ranger person from Richwood who was also in response to my letter to you.

Secondly, while I appreciate your mailing me a copy of the draft environmental statement--I had already read the entire statement and that what was raised questions in my mind in the first place! To be perfectly honest, I am totally mystified as to why the Forest Service wants to put a lake in

above Hills' Creek Falls. You should change your agency's name to National Recreational Facilities if this "dam-ned" lake goes in.

To be a little more specific my objections to the Eagle Lake project are as follows:

1- Summit Lake, which is larger and already supplies the needs of flat-water fishermen, is a mere 13 miles away from the proposed site.

2- The 250-person capacity campground will not be needed so desperately by the 25,000 visitors through the Cranberry Mt. Center annually (most of which occurs during a 3-month summer period), because of plans to expand facilities in Watoga State Park with another 100-unit campground.

3- I also seriously question the advisability of establishing such a potential population concentration so near the Cranberry Backcountry, a proposed wilderness

area.

4- You stated in the impact statement plans of a swimming area and trout fishing. My understanding of that is trout need a cold-water environment, which seems somehow unharmonious with beach-bathing.

5- At present, Pocahontas County is largely a farming community as it has been for many years. I too make my living from the land and feel very strongly that this area doesn't need another tourist attraction. Let the campers and fishers and vacationers come, but let them enjoy the magic and majesty of these mountains AS THEY ARE. They, most of them, have flush toilets and parking lots and restricted park areas at home -- what they are really seeking is to



## What's the Value of A Gallon of Gasoline?

by Charles King Ohio Biological Survey

Natural Biological Communities are dynamic, i.e., the constituent plants and animals are continually active. Some are more so than others, but all, so long as they are alive, are active to some degree at least. Activity requires energy. The energy source responsible for the biological activity in natural (ecological) communities is sunshine. Solar energy is absorbed by green plants, modified by the process of photosynthesis into chemical energy, and incorporated into such compounds as carbohydrates, fats, and proteins. Virtually all the biological activities in ecological communities operate from energy recently harvested by photosynthesis. Green plants as the prime harvesters are the first to utilize this energy, but as plant parts are eaten or digested by other organisms and these in turn by others, and so on, the energy is transferred within the community until finally it is completely expended. Recent sunshine energy, therefore, in the form of food is responsible for running the biological machinery of almost all living things including Homo sapiens.

Several years ago on a bright November day while engaged in a secondary harvest operation of solar energy, I was thinking about these concepts. I had planted an acre of corn on my small farm and was harvesting the crop of recent sunshine energy that had first been harvested by the corn plants during the previous growing season. I was husking the ears individually and tossing them into a wagon behind my old Ford tractor. After I'd husked out an area, I'd move the tractor and wagon into some new territory and then repeat the operation. I left the motor idling all the while since the battery was stone dead and beyond repair.

Husking corn is good work since one can think about other things without cutting efficiency of the main job. I kept hearing that tractor sitting there doing nothing and yet doing something, and it bothered me. The idling engine was active to some degree at least and this required some energy, not much, but some. The small amount of gasoline required for idling was no great loss. I used only about 10 gallons for the whole plowing, planting, cultivating and harvesting operations and at \$.35 a gallon, the total gas bill was only \$3.50. And the idling gas was only a small fraction of that.

Continuing with the not-too-demanding job of shucking ears and tossing them into the wagon, I kept listening to the monotonous rhythm of the idling Ford. I wondered about the energy (caloric) requirements needed to run the tractor motor compared with the energy (caloric) yield of the corn I was harvesting. Figuring 100 bushels of shelled grain to my acre, weighing 56 pounds per bushel, I would be able to put 5600 pounds of corn in my crib. This would be the actual, usable, harvestable solar energy for my acre of land for 1 year. Since a pound of corn contains about 1600 kilocalories, the 5600 pounds of corn would yield a total of 8,960,000,000 calories. Thus my acre harvested about 9 billion calories of usable solar energy in one year.

The 10 gallons of gasoline required by the tractor in the farming operation would yield (figuring 31,000 kilocalories per gallon) about 310,000,000 calories. When that cost figure (310,000,000 calories) is compared to the 9,000,000,000 calories of the corn crop, the profit looks really good; invest 1 to make 30. It's hard to beat that kind of profit.

However, something kept nagging at me with every putt-putt of that idling Ford. Maybe I should consider the time factor in all this for more honest ration. The corn didn't just suddenly appear. It developed by photosynthesis over an entire growing season. Not much of a harvest would have been netted in June as compared with November. Time was definitely involved in its photosynthetic formation.

The fundamental process involved in producing the tractor fuel was also photosynthesis, basically the same which produced the corn, except that the harvest of that particular solar energy had occurred in

plants a long time ago. Time and geological processes had modified some of these original photosynthetic plant compounds into fossil fuels. Gasoline, therefore, is just a modified plant product which contains energy of ancient sunshine. The energy it contains just didn't appear instantly either. Time was certainly involved in its formation too.

Physicists, however, recognize no difference in the caloric content of energy sources according to their age. Old calories are equivalent to new ones. Interestingly, neither does our economic system recognize differences in the price of calories from old or ancient sources. A bushel (56 pounds) of corn will yield (at 1600 kilocalories per pound) 89,600,000 calories and sells for \$1 a bushel (before recent price rises). A

gallon of gasoline yields 31,000,000 calories and sells for \$0.35.

Therefore:  
 cost per calorie = \$1.00 ÷ 89,600,000 =  
 from corn \$0.0000000112  
 = \$1.12 × 10<sup>-8</sup>  
 cost per calorie = \$0.35 ÷ 31,000,000 =  
 from gasoline \$0.0000000113  
 = \$1.13 × 10<sup>-8</sup>

There is virtually no difference in these costs. However, from a biological and ecological perspective, the time factor becomes a necessary ingredient to calculate the real value of caloric energy which originates from a photosynthetic source.

For instance, my black angus steer,

next month,  
 the conclusion

## Strip Mining Notes

by Nicholas Zvegintzov

The Federal Surface Mining Bill, HR11500, has been reported out of the House Interior Committee. This bill has had a weary road to travel, via two subcommittees and the full committee. It still has to pass the Rules Committee, the full House, and the House-Senate Conference. Now is the time to write to your Representative, whether or not you are on good terms with him or her, supporting abolition, stringent environmental standards, or anything else that is in your heart. If you are on good terms with any other Representative, write that one too.

Ken Hechler calls this bill "woefully weak." It is. It is the absolute minimum that an aroused public opinion will stomach. But this is why it is especially important that you make your opinion known.

Speaking of "woefully weak" laws, here's the story of a strip mine application that was rejected under the West Virginia law. It was an application by the Dry Hill Coal company of Beckley to strip on Meadow Creek of New River, in Summers County. Meadow Creek is Summers County's only cold water fishing stream, and the county would be eligible to join the "moratorium" (no further stripping) counties if it can stay free for a couple more years. With these points in mind, the Three Rivers Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America organized a magnificent campaign against this application. Over two thousand individuals and eighty-eight businesses signed a petition against the permit. The County's only newspaper, the Hinton Daily News, lent support, as did the County Court, the Hinton City Council, Ruritan Clubs, women's clubs, Jaycees, and other community groups. Dry Hill Coal's application was rejected on October 22, 1973. The good part of this story is to know

that Summers County, which is not economically rich, is rich in pride and public spirit. The bad part is what it tells the rest of us about what it takes to make the State of West Virginia uphold the strip mining law.

And speaking of woeful State governments, the Department of Natural Resources attempted early this year to give up publishing weekly lists of strip permits granted. When queried by THE RALEIGH REGISTER, Beckley's evening newspaper, Reclamation Chief Ben Greene claimed "apparently interest has dwindled off." Under prodding, the DNR consented to issue the lists twice a month. This they have been doing since then with the enthusiasm and reliability of a boy who has promised to wash his hands before every meal.

The Surface Mining Research Library is a deep mine of data on strip mining all across the country. It and its parent, Mid-Appalachian Environmental Service, lost all funding toward the end of last year. (Appalachia is no longer fashionable). But the Library is alive and well under its founder, Norm Kilpatrick, and can be contacted at Box 5024, Charleston, WV 25311.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found "Mother of Orphans", which is a first cut at describing and analyzing the "east-west shift" -- the plan to shift the energy extraction industry to the west. The conclusions are mine, but the hard work was done by Sarah Ignatius. We shall hear more from Ignatius because she is in charge of organizing the lobbying for the COALITION Against Strip Mining in the coming floor fight on the Surface Mining bill.

## Allegheny Trail Advancing

The second annual conference of the West Virginia Scenic Trails Conference (WVSTC), held April 5-6 in Charleston, revealed that a proposed route for the Allegheny Trail has been selected for the entire trail. The Allegheny Trail is envisioned as a supplementary trail to the Appalachian Trail. It would run from Peters Mountain in Monroe County to Blackwater Falls in Tucker County.

During the conference a plan was put forth in which the Allegheny Trail could eventually join other state trail systems to form a continuous trail network throughout eastern United States. The Allegheny Trail could easily connect with such trails as Maryland, Potomac Heritage, Pennsylvania's

Tuscarora and the Cumberland Trail in Tennessee and Virginia.

As with any active organization the WVSTC could use more members and contributions. A year's membership in WVSTC costs only \$3. Student membership is a mere dollar. WVSTC could also use help of a more tangible nature. Trail clearing and blazing as well as route determination and negotiation is an ongoing activity. All offers of assistance will be gratefully acknowledged.

For membership application, information and offers of assistance write to:  
 Bruce A. Bond, Secretary  
 West Virginia Scenic Trails Conference  
 P.O. Box 4042  
 Charleston, WV 25304



## The W.Va. Legislature:

### Environmental Wrap-Up

by Nicholas Zvegintzov

The following five bills of environmental interest were passed by the regular session of the 1973 Legislature, and signed by the Governor.

"Gob-piles". The Department of Natural Resources is empowered to reclaim gob-piles and abate dangers from flood, explosions, and air pollution. More concretely, they are required to make public within 15 months a plan of action, including priorities.

"Strip mines". Closes a loop-hole whereby companies could operate strip mines under the guise of "facing up" deep mines.

"Outfitter". Defines an outfitter to include a person taking land or water expeditions (including whitewater float trips). Requires licensing. Removes residency requirements. It is now up to the DNR to enact a set of rules that will enable outfitters to apply for a license and standards for

outfitters to abide by.

Comment: The previous law only applied to persons outfitting "hunters and fishermen". The new law specifies "hunters, fishermen, or others". This is surely a sign of changing times.

"Out of season bear hunts". The old law permitted these if a bear destroyed property. Cynics said that bears always destroy property on Fridays, convenient to weekend hunts. A bill by Senators Benson and Gainer prohibited such hunts, compensated property owners from a fund raised by bearhunting stamps, and required DNR wildlife biologists to remove the offending bear "to remote areas". An amendment by the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources lifted the requirement to remove the bear, kept the compensation, and kept the out of season hunts too. (This is called having your cake and eating it.)

"Unlawful methods of hunting". According to the preamble, this "clarifies what constitutes unlawful use of an artificial light to hunt, locate, attract, take, trap or kill a wild bird or animal and specifies offense and penalty therefor."

The following two measures were passed by the Legislature and vetoed by the Governor. Both involve ironies.

First, a measure to authorize the West Virginia Coal Research Bureau (part of WVU) to expand their research program to include work on productivity of mines and miners' health and safety. The irony here is why should the Governor of the nation's leading coalmining State wish to veto research on the two items of greatest interest to coalmine management and labor respectively?

Second, a measure to require the state department of health to allow land developments with lots over two and a half acres to use septic tanks and private wells. This passed the Legislature with no problems -- in fact they reduced the acreage from five to two and a half. The Governor vetoed it. (There is something to be said for the separation of powers.)

## Nature Conservancy Acquires Two More Tracts

by Max Smith

The West Virginia Chapter Of The Nature Conservancy has just announced two more additions to the land which it has acquired in West Virginia for preservation for public enjoyment. The Nature Conservancy is the only national conservation organization devoted solely to the preservation of ecological and environmentally significant land. These threatened areas are protected by purchase of land with funds raised by public subscription, by donations of land, and by advance acquisition of land for local, state

and federal governments.

The West Virginia Chapter recently announced the acquisition of 255 acres at beautiful Greenland Gap in Grant County, near Maysville. This property was donated by Greenland Lodge, Inc., a family group made up of the heirs of the late David A. Burt, Sr., of Wheeling. Mrs. Martha Burt Kunkel of Gloversville, N.Y. is the president of Greenland Lodge, and Mrs. David A. Burt of Wheeling is a member of the corporation. The 255 acres will be managed as a nature

preserve in the memory of Mr. & Mrs. David A. Burt, Sr., by the West Virginia Chapter in cooperation with the Brooks Bird Club and Oglebay Institute of Wheeling.

Approximately \$2,500.00 was spent for legal work and surveys in this Greenland Gap acquisition, and the State Chapter must raise this money by public subscriptions. Donations to aid the Chapter in this matter will be welcome. These gifts should be sent to Dr. W. A. VanEck, Conservancy President, 660 Valley View Street, Morgantown, W. Va., 26505, and should be marked "Greenland Gap".

The State Chapter also announced the acquisition of an irrevocable option on 104 acres adjoining the south side of Holly River State Park which is to be later sold to the Department Of Natural Resources for addition to this park. This area includes the balance of Potato Knob not yet included in the park, and also two very beautiful waterfalls.

These two acquisitions will bring to 4971 acres the total land this group has acquired since its founding eleven years ago. In addition to these acquisitions in 1972 The Nature Conservancy paid more than half a million dollars for mineral rights under 15,500 acres in the scenic Dolly Soda area in northeastern West Virginia, thereby saving this area from any threat of coal mining in the future. These rights were later sold to the U. S. Forest Service.

The Conservancy has acquired two other tracts by gift, 276 acres in two parcels in Ritchie County near Pennsboro and 106 acres in Berkely County near Shepherdstown. The Ritchie County grant has been leased to Salem College and the Berkely County Tract is being leased to Shepherd College. Both tracts will be operated as Nature Preserves.

Also among the purchases are 259 acres of Cranesville Swamp in Preston County, which is being managed by West Virginia University. Additions to this area are being planned for the future.

In addition to the Holly River State Park project, the Conservancy has bought for the Department of Natural Resources acreage in Cathedral State Park in Preston County and in Beartown State Park in Greenbrier County.

The Conservancy bought for the U. S. Forest Service 64 acres of virgin hemlock near Spruce Knob, 2424 acres on Spruce Knob and 1381 acres on North Fork Mountain in Pendleton County.

The State Chapter is going forward on many additional projects including one to aid Glenville State College in acquiring a large watershed near the college for use as an outdoor laboratory.

All property owned by The Nature Conservancy is open to the public for Nature Tours and biological research. In order to enjoy these areas contact the management authority for the area you wish to use.

### Membership Coupon



"There is no quiet place in the white man's cities. No place to hear the leaves of spring, or the rustle of insect wings. But perhaps because I am savage and do not understand - the clatter only seems to insult the ears. And what is there to life if a man cannot hear the lovely cry of the whippoorwill or the arguments of the frog around the pond at night.

"The whites, too, shall pass - perhaps sooner than other tribes. Continue to contaminate your bed and you will one night suffocate in your own waste. When the buffalo are all slaughtered, the wild horses all tamed, the secret corners of the forest heavy with the scent of many men, and the view of the ripe hills blotted by talking wires. Where is the thicket? Gone. Where is the eagle? Gone. And what is it to say goodbye to the swift and the hunt, the end of living and beginning of survival." -- Sealth, Chief of the Duwamish Tribe, Washington.

Join the WEST VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

All membership categories include a one year subscription to THE HIGHLANDS VOICE.

- \$5.00 individual regular
- \$10.00 individual associate
- \$25.00 individual sustaining
- \$20.00 organizational regular
- \$30.00 organizational associate
- \$50.00 organizational sustaining



Make checks payable to THE WEST VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY. Mail membership form and dues to: Carolyn Killoran, Membership Chairman, 6202 Division Road, Huntington, WV 25705.

W. Va. Highlands Conservancy



## July 4 Raft Trip Scheduled

Last year the Mountain Stream and Trail Outfitters donated the entire proceeds from its July 4th Raft trip on the Youghiogheny to the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. Unfortunately there was a communications slipup so WWHC received only a few hundred dollars instead of the \$3600.00 that could have resulted from the WWHC actively publicizing the trip. This year all proceeds go to various Sierra Club groups in this part of the country.

So if you would like to enjoy an exciting and enjoyable raft trip on the Youghiogheny this July 4 - and support a worthwhile cause as well - send \$15.00 per person to Mountain Stream and Trail Outfitters, P.O. Box 106, Ohiopyle, Pa. 15470. Make checks payable to your favorite Sierra Club Chapter or group. Northern West Virginia is in the jurisdiction of the Monongahela Group. Southern W.Va. is in the jurisdiction of the Appalachian group (See recent Voice Article). There will be 3 flotillas of 80 people each which will leave Ohiopyle at 9:30 A.M., 11:30 A.M., and 1:30 P.M. McCarthy will contribute the guides, the lunch, the use of rafts, paddles, and preservers, and the bus shuttle ride from the takeout back to Ohiopyle.

To make a weekend of it, especially for those coming from afar, Allegheny Group will lead backpacking trips on nearby Laurel Highlands Trail and/or Cheat Canyon Trail on July 5-6. There will also be some one-day hikes in the area on July 5.

If you prefer, Allegheny Group will be happy to supply you with maps, etc. for your own hikes or backpack trips in the area. Allegheny Group will also assist you in forming car pools to get between your home and Ohiopyle.

No experience is necessary to go rafting on the Youghiogheny. Although the guides will depend on you to paddle and assist in maneuvers. There will be 4-6 people per raft. Everyone should be able to swim - it doesn't help much but one is less likely to panic. Count on getting wet. Wear soft-soled shoes. Everyone should be at least 13 years old. The trip could conceivably be canceled in case of abnormally high or low water.

If there are any questions contact Bruce Sundquist, 210 College Park Drive, Monroeville, Pa. 15146. Tel. 412-327-8737. Don't forget to enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with any inquiry. Mountain Stream and Trail Outfitters has a free brochure for those who want one. (See address above)

## Proposed Outing

June 22-23: A moderate difficulty backpacking trip into the proposed Laurel Fork Wilderness east of Cherry Grove in Pendleton County and adjacent Highland County, Virginia. Please contact Helen McGinnis at least a week in advance (1561 Clark St., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15221; 412-622-3247 most days)

doesn't even assume that having any importance as a geologic phenomenon.

I am sure there is any great amount of support for the proposed dam (!) project--yet it seems to me it is coming from people who either do not live in this area and don't really care about its natural beauty OR people who are in a position to have their pocketbooks increasingly padded by this and similar dis-tractions.

In the reply I received from your office it said there were, at present, no plans for public hearings in regard to this project. I feel that there is a definite need for those hearings to take place AND that they should take place IN POCAHONTAS COUNTY, site of the proposed project, AND that they should happen soon. I believe that the "Comments of Others" included in the impact statement and the questions I, and doubtless others, have raised provide sufficient need for this matter to further and more publicly discuss. I await your reply.

Sincerely,

Lory Condon  
Rt. 1 Box 223  
Hillsboro, WV 24946

## Another Conservancy Hiking Guide

Jim Hays' "Hikers Guide for the Northern George Washington National Forest" (Lee Ranger Dist.) is slated for a reprinting within the next few months. Assuming the Board of Directors approve, it is probable that the Conservancy will be the "publisher" of this second edition. A problem has arisen here in that Jim Hays will be leaving the area soon and the trails are in need of a checkout to be sure that the trail descriptions prepared three years or more ago are still adequate. So if you are planning some hikes in the Highlands in the next few months, why not help out the Conservancy at the same time? Simply do your hiking in the Lee Ranger District of the GWNF with notebook and old guidebook in hand. Then send your comments, corrections, and additions to Bruce Sundquist, 210 College Park Drive, Monroeville, Pa. 15146 (412-327-8737) by June 30. A free copy of the first edition of the guide is available to prospective trail scouts from Bruce to help you get started. Eventually it is hoped that a guide to the entire GWNF can be put out by the WWHC. Those interested in this second-priority project should contact Bruce also.

The Lee Ranger District straddles the W. Va. - Va. border east of Dolly Sods. The present guide describes 16 of the better trails with a total length of about 50 miles. Besides taking hiker pressure off the heavily-used Potomac Ranger District of the MNF, the Lee RD guide will promote non-consumptive uses of the forest. This in turn will help bend forest management policies toward giving greater consideration to the natural values we all hold dear. The guide will also build Conservancy membership and help our treasury out a bit. To avoid possible duplication of effort, trail scouts may want to "sign up" for specific trails or areas with Bruce Sundquist beforehand.

## "Dam-ned" p. 5

leave all that behind, not just expand their front yards or neighborhood ponds.

6- And lastly is the objection I am most vehement about -- the siltation. First, of the Falls, during and even after the construction period. You would be creating an unnatural water flow situation and totally destroying what is now a nationally recognized wilderness scenic area. Secondly, the downstream siltation, -- destroy 1 1/2 miles of native trout stream so casually when there are how few many left!?! And what of the farmers and croplands downstream? There was no mention made of how many tons of silt would be deposited on those fields, much less any plans for re-imbursing those farmers for any crops or stock that might be lost in event of flooding. Also, to my knowledge it hasn't occurred to anyone that all this silt could conceivably block the flow of the sinks where Hills' Creek flows under Droop Mt. There is at least 7 miles of totally unexplored passage there (dye tests not prevailing) and some 300 ft. drop in elevation from where Hills' and Bruffys' Creeks flow into the mountain until they join and emerge as Locust Creek. And that

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