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# the Highlands Voice

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Vol. 7 No. 12

## Hechler to Keynote Workshop

December 1975

Congressman Ken Hechler of West Virginia will be the featured speaker at the Annual Mid-Winter Workshop of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, January 24, 1976 at the Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp, Weston, W. Va.

The theme of this year's workshop, traditionally focusing on a major threat to the Highlands, is "Energy Development and the Highlands." Discussion will include the implications of proposed increases in strip and deep mining, hydroelectric power projects, and other energy resources.

Hechler, an enthusiastic supporter of environmental protection, will participate in the morning session, which will feature suggestions for federal legislative activity from several Highlands Conservancy spokespersons.

During the afternoon session, a panel of nationally known leaders of successful strip mine

opposition groups will share their experiences and discuss future activities. Representatives of Save Our Mountains, the Cheat Lake Area Environmental Conservancy, and other groups have been invited to attend.

The evening session will focus on Environmental Lobbying at the state and federal level. Rafe Pomerance of Friends of the Earth in Washington will discuss federal activity. David Grubb and Ed Light of West Virginia Citizen's Action Group will discuss West Virginia issues.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy will hold their annual business meeting Saturday afternoon following the strip mining session. Election of Board of Directors and other business items are on the agenda. The Board of Directors will meet Sunday morning. This meeting is open to all Conservancy members.

No pre-registration is required for the

### Mid-Winter Workshop

Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp  
Weston, W. Va. 26452  
January 24, 1976

#### THEME: "ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND THE HIGHLANDS" PROGRAM

9:00 Registration  
10:00 Morning session

Honorable Ken Hechler Remarks

Panel: "What We Want the Federal Government to do to Protect the Highlands"  
Rep. Hechler has requested that Highlands Conservancy Committee Chairpersons and other leaders present suggestions to him to take back to Washington for governmental action.

12:00 LUNCH  
Afternoon session

Panel: "Successful Strip Mine Opposition"

Rick McDowell, Save Our Mountains  
Don Steinbeck, Cheat Lake Area Environmental Conservancy  
(Others, as yet unconfirmed)

3:30 West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Annual Meeting  
Election of Board of Directors and other business

5:30 DINNER  
7:00 Evening session

Panel: "Lobbying for the Environment at Federal and State Levels"

Rafe Pomerance, Friends of the Earth  
Ed Light, W. Va. Campaign Clean Water  
David Grubb, W. Va. Citizens Action Group

9:00 Socializing - everyone welcome

Guitars, banjos, other instruments and their owners are especially asked to participate.

The Board of Directors of the Conservancy will meet at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 25. Members of the Conservancy and other interested persons are encouraged to attend. Resolutions to be presented, or requests to be placed on the agenda should be addressed to: Charles Carlson, President, WVHC, Box 131, Charleston, W. Va. 25321.

Overnight accommodations for either January 23 or 24 should be made in advance with Jackson's Mill, Weston, W. Va. 26452. 304-388-5100. Facilities available on first-come basis: dormitory, lodge, motel-type rooms and camping. When reserving, please indicate meals you will need.

Mid-Winter Workshop which is open to the general public. However, overnight accommodations are limited and should be made directly with the Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp in Weston, W.V., 26452.

Further information on the Mid-Winter Workshop or the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is available by writing Route 7, Box 755, Morgantown, W. Va. 26505, or telephoning, 296-0565.

#### Room Reservations for Workshop

- Housing
    - Dormitory - Linens, blankets, & pillows furnished by camp  
First night - \$3.00 plus 3% tax  
Second night - \$2.00 plus 3% tax  
Each additional night-\$1.00 plus 3% tax
    - Jackson Lodge  
One person per room-\$9.50 plus 3% tax  
Two persons per room-\$7.25 each plus 3% tax  
Three persons per room-\$5.75 each plus 3% tax  
Four persons per room-\$4.75 each plus 3% tax  
Family Rate: \$12.50 for 2 plus \$1.25 each additional child plus 3% tax
    - Motel-type Rooms  
One person \$7.50 plus 3% sales tax  
Two persons-\$5.75 each plus 3% sales tax  
Three persons-\$4.50 each plus 3% sales tax
    - Cottage Guest Rooms  
\$4.00 each plus 3% sales tax
    - Camper's  
All campers must be self-contained and parked in prescribed area and will pay \$3.00 plus 3% sales tax each night. Driver is responsible for going to Camp Registration Office to register camper.
- Requests for room reservations should be sent directly to Jackson's Mill as soon as possible. Include in your request that you will be attending the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy's Mid-Winter Workshop.

Send reservations to:  
Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp  
Weston, WV 26452

Please indicate on your request for reservations which meals you will be taking at Jackson's Mill.



## First Annual WVHC Conservation Recognition Awards

We must take note that our sister organizations such as the West Virginia Wildlife Federation and the Izaak Walton League spend a considerable effort each year in making awards to outstanding achievements in conservation. Some of these awards have been won by Conservancy members while the Conservancy itself was the recipient of the Mountaineer Chapter of the Audubon Society's annual outstanding conservation award. As well done as these annual recognitions are, we feel that there are still many achievements in conservation that have been - well, overlooked! To fill the gap, we initiate what is hoped to become an annual WVHC event; the singling out of those who have missed receiving the more prestigious awards. The conservancy feels that these people and their efforts should be better known. So here is our first list for 1975 achievements.

The **Babbitt Award** for outstanding booster of the year goes to Elkins Chamber of Commerce president Ralph Hess who stated regarding Corridor H, "the advantages of the highway so heavily outweigh any disadvantages that we find it difficult to understand why the project is not moving rapidly to completion". The award consists of 35 pounds of muck scraped from the Bowden Hatchery's South Spring.

The **Golden Eagle Clean Streams and Rivers Award** goes to Morgantown City Councilman Earl McCartney who, in opposing approval of funds to build a secondary sewage treatment facility for that fair city, stated that he could not understand why Morgantown needed such a facility with such a big river like the Monongahela running right through town. The award consists of an indoor swimming pool constructed in the McCartney home and filled with effluent from Morgantown's overloaded primary facility.

The **American Bicentennial Red, White, and Blue Banner** this year goes to the Mower Lumber Company for making Fort Milroy such an outstanding example of what war can do, i.e., they made it look like a bomb hit it.

The **1975 Thank God Award** goes to DNR Director Sandy Latimer for not appearing on National television again this year. The award consists of a(nother) free subscription to "Green Lands Quarterly."

The **Field and Stream Outstanding Contribution to Ichthyology Award** goes to Mower Lumber Company geologist, Ralph McDonald who recently discovered the cause of fish kills in Shavers Fork to be due

to the fact that the stream is being stocked with sick fish. The award consists of a gourmet fish dinner served at Ralph's favorite Bermuda restaurant. The fish were killed last August. Bon Appetit!

**Order of the Chameleon 1975** recipient is Jay Rockefeller, unemployed.

The **Horace Greedy Award**, consisting of a Woody Guthrie recording of "This Land is Your Land," goes to chief stripper Ben Lusk for his efforts to overturn the moratorium on strip mining in ten West Virginia Counties.

**Foot in Mouth Shoe (Bronze Division)** - the WVHC has been swamped with nominations citing President Gerald Ford's press secretary Ron Nessen whose intemperate remarks concerning the most recent advent of toilets on the West Virginia scene has been duly noted. If the Conservancy went around making an award every time a Federal Government employee stuck his foot in his mouth, particularly presidential press secretaries, it would soon be a meaningless prize and the Conservancy would be bankrupt. Please, Federal employees are ineligible for this award:

The **Sand County Recognition Plaque** goes to Department of Highways Commissioner William Ritchie. The plaque's inscription, written by Sand County's most noted citizen, Aldo Leopold, reads, "Recreational development is not a job of building roads into lovely country, but of building receptivity into the still unlovely human mind."

**Damn the Expense, Feed the Bird Another Seed Award** goes to Homer Gamble whose mine has been dumping from 5,000 to 10,000 gallons of water into Fish Hatchery Run of Shavers Fork every day since September of 1974 without an EPA permit in violation of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972. A steak and mushrooms dinner for Homer and the Region III EPA Permits Branch constitutes the award and will be prepared by the D and E beginners' class in "How to Tell Mushrooms From Toadstools."

The **Talking Pot Award** (consists of a black kettle) goes to affable Ben Lusk (who is certainly walking away with the honors), West Virginia's answer to Phineas T. Barnum, for criticizing the Center for Science in the Public Interest's study of strip mine inspection irregularities as being "vague, misleading, and completely unsupported. It's a sad day when the wire services or newspapers accept the credibility of such reports unquestioned," huffed the miffed Lusk.

This is a real biggy, folks - the **Richard M. Nixon Honesty in Government Award** is presented to Appalachian Regional Commission Co-Chairman Don Whitehead who broke an expensive glass table in the lobby of the DOH building during last July's meeting on Corridor H and was apprehended as he was sneaking out of the building without owning up to the incident. A bottle of Elmer's Glue to Mr. Whitehead and a sympathy card to the alert State Trooper who was probably transferred to Mingo County.

**Order of the Holy Grail (A Bible missing the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and other similar codes of good behavior)**. This is a posthumous award to the descendants of the late Senator Neely who engineered the purchase of the worthless real estate by the Federal Government after being ravaged by ax and fire, and who helped the civic minded owners of the day to preserve titles to mineral rights for a later day.

The **Little White Spots Under the Fingernails Award** goes to Governor Arch Moore for threatening Elkins burghers with taking Corridor H money to Logan County when he knew that no new highway mileage could be added without prior approval of all of the rest of the Appalachian Regional Commission Governors. Mr. Moore has been made an honorary member of the Burlington (Wisconsin) International Liars Club.

**Whose Side Are You On? Award** goes to Deputy Attorney General Frank Ellison.

**Who Me, Conflict of Interest? Award** goes to Board of Reclamation Review member and Coal Man of the Year, Charles Compton.

**Whatever Happened to the Governor's Conservation Awards? Award** goes to the Guv himself. He used to give annual citations to conservationists when that word was applied to a man who one year would get everybody to plant multiflora rose everywhere and then a few years later would come around trying to get you to spray poison all over the place to eradicate the damned nuisance that was threatening to overgrow the state.

Well there you have it, folks, written by Old Ebenezer himself. I am sure you have the idea by now. Begin saving up clippings about people deserving such awards in your own hometown and we can make an annual thing of this. Public spirited citizens may wish to suggest or donate their own awards. I am sure you agree that there are a lot of unsung heroes out there just dying to be recognized. They have been overlooked far too long.

## Snowshoe Potential Still There

by Skip Johnson  
Charleston Gazette

## Rowlesburg Dam Demanded

by Pittsburgh Group

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh, an organization of Pittsburgh businessmen concerned with river commerce, has requested that the federal office of Management and Budget include funding for the Rowlesburg dam in the 1977 federal budget. Harry M. Herald, association president, particularly asked that speed be utilized in financing and authorizing completion of studies by the Corps of Engineers.

The request to the OMB included a plea for speedy consideration of the Stonewall Jackson dam and lake on the West Fork River. The association said that once the two dams (Rowlesburg and Stonewall Jackson) are in operation, flood damage on the Monongahela could be reduced substantially. The association contended that the dams could relieve the problem of low water in the summer months. The Monongahela and West Fork were described in the request as becoming "a series of stagnant pools during the hot summer months."

The association also contended that low water in the West Fork and the Monongahela creates health problems in addition to shipping problems. Herald, who is superintendent of river transportation for the U.S. Steel Corporation, explained that the motive for the association's request was the expectation of increased coal shipments north to Pittsburgh from West Virginia. Herald also cited an increase in the water supply for urban Pittsburgh as a further justification for the dams.

Two weeks prior to Herald's request West Virginia senators Jennings Randolph and Robert Byrd announced that a subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee had recommended the allocation of \$100,000 for "advanced engineering studies" of the Rowlesburg project. The Stonewall Jackson project was not mentioned in the press release. The committee's recommendations were forwarded to the full committee for further action.

## Ford Presents Wilderness Philosophy

On Saturday, December 13, President Ford signed into law a bill placing the Flat Tops region of Colorado under protection of the Wilderness Act. Ordinarily a Presidential action concerning an area so far from home would have little effect on readers of the Voice. But the signing of this particular wilderness may have far-reaching effects on future wilderness fights on the national level, at least while the present administration is in power.

At the signing of the bill Ford said, "three concerns of mine regarding the designation of wilderness within the national forest system" caused him to sign the bill reluctantly.

First, Ford said he has urged Congress not to designate national forest areas as wilderness where the evidence of man's activity is clearly apparent.

Secondly, Ford was concerned that the boundaries of the Flat Top Wilderness did not follow recognizable natural features.

Third, Ford noted that a mineral survey has not been conducted within most of the area included in the Flat Top Wilderness.

Ford noted that he was signing the Flat Top proposal against his better judgment because it is believed that minerals in the region are sparse and would be unprofitable to exploit. Such is not the case in most new wilderness areas being proposed for the eastern United States.

Wilderness proponents in the East will do well to remember President Ford's remarks, and file them for future reference.

From the beginning Snowshoe was too big. One of the first headlines on the project should have been the tipoff: "Million Customers a Year Eyed for New State Resort". It said, Snowshoe was hailed by Governor Moore at the initial press conference announcing its birth on Sept. 8, 1973, as having the potential of becoming "the ski capital of the South."

Was it only a little more than two years ago they were talking about 1200 hotel rooms, 1200 condominiums, 400 homes, 12 ski lifts, 20 tennis courts, several golf courses and a lake?

If it boggled the mind to envision one million people a year visiting a development on top of a rugged, remote section of Cheat Mountain in Pocahontas County, perhaps we were just being too conservative.

There was also a reluctance to accept with unrestrained enthusiasm the development of the upper Shavers Fork river region which had a bigness, solitude and natural beauty unlike any other privately owned area of West Virginia. In this regard it would be nice right now, considering that Snowshoe has slipped into insolvency, to wave a magic wand and transform the mountain back to its original inaccessible state. But it is there, and presumably somebody - if not the present management - will continue to operate it as a ski resort.

Actually, the Snowshoe management deserves a better fate. They are guilty mostly of bad luck and a tendency, perhaps a fatal one, of doing things in a big way. From an environmental standpoint, whoever operates Snowshoe in the future could do a lot worse than Dr. Tom Brigham and his associates.

Snowshoe's bad luck started early in 1974 when it invited French skiing star and Olympic gold medalist Jean-Claude Killy to the site. Killy was under contract with Snowshoe to aid in development of the resort's skiing facilities. Unfortunately, there was no snow on the ground the

day of Killy's visit to Pocahontas County, and the fog was so thick on Cheat Mountain that Snowshoe's future ski slopes were hardly visible. It may have been an omen.

Then the resort got a late start on the 1974-75 skiing season due to late delivery of equipment, and the recession that prevailed at the time didn't help any. Snowshoe never really recovered.

If Brigham and his business partners made a mistake in developing Snowshoe on the grand manner, they were not the only ones who saw the fledgling resort as the next Greenbrier with ski slopes. "If we're going to have change," said then Commerce Commissioner Lyssander Dudley to critics of Snowshoe, "this is the kind we need." And fourteen state banks thought enough of Snowshoe's potential to put up \$3.9 million to get the resort off the ground.

The question now is: Who will buy Snowshoe and who will eventually operate it? The development thus far, environmentally and esthetically, has been first class, but all this could go out the window under a cost-cutting regime.

It might be more beneficial to more residents of the state if the State of West Virginia obtained Snowshoe and operated it as another resort, but the parks system already may be extended to the limit, with resorts like Pipestem, Hawks Nest, Twin Falls and Canaan Valley to run. On the other hand, Snowshoe is located only a few miles from the immensely popular Cass Scenic Railroad, which is a state-operated facility.

The most promising sign for Snowshoe is that its financial problems appear to have nothing to do with its attraction as a skiing area. At last word, more than one-third of its entire 1975-76 winter capacity had already been booked in advance, which indicates Brigham was not wrong in his concept of Snowshoe as a West Virginia recreation mecca. The potential is still there.



## Cooperation Essential Among Environmentalists

Editor  
THE HIGHLANDS VOICE

Dear Sir,

Having just returned from a relatively sparsely attended anti-strip march in Charleston sponsored by Save-Our-Mountains, many thoughts are passing through my mind.

I have encouraged all who I am in contact with to attend the Conservancy's Mid-Winter Workshop. My reasoning behind this is not that all of the diverse groups in W.Va. owe allegiance to the Conservancy, but that it seems like a good time and place for people to get together and try to work a few things out.

It is becoming increasingly obvious to me that if the environmentalists in W.Va. are to have any real bearing on events of consequence statewide, we are going to have to have a degree of cooperation and communication that is not presently in evidence. The number of groups that have some degree of environmental concern is large. They span the spectrum from large to small, statewide to county to district, from militant to soft-spoken.

The problems surrounding communications and cooperation are not small ones. Responsiveness, money, group pride, particular concerns, are all factors. However, unless these problems are surmountable then the amount of duplication of effort, limited effectiveness, and creation of ill will between groups will continue.

I realize that the Conservancy as an organization is successful because it recognizes certain priorities and takes careful aim at appropriate targets. I also realize that the Mid-Winter Workshop is an important part of this process.

But the Conservancy should consider the above problems. Whether or not the Conservancy feels it has the potential and the will to address these problems only the members can decide. It is something that should be discussed in depth.

Sincerely,  
Joe Bastone  
Rt. 1  
Boilington, WV



West Virginia's Congressional delegation fought hard for completion of R.D. Bailey Dam, finally succeeded after a 14 year struggle.

- Raleigh Register photo

## Speech Prepared for R.D. Bailey Cofferdam Dedication

by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Mingo County, West Virginia, November 29, 1975.

This is a great day for me! It is one of the days toward which I have looked since, as a congressman, I visited the flood-stricken areas of Logan and Man in 1957. I realized at that time that something had to be done to halt the endless series of floods to which the people of the Guyandotte Valley were subjected again and again.

Upon my return to Washington, I introduced a resolution to authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to look into possible flood control measures on the Guyandotte River. After many years of careful study and exhaustive surveys, the Corps of Engineers recommended the construction of the Justice Reservoir.

When I was assured that all of the alternatives had been examined, that all of the ramifications for business and industry had been considered, and that the public interest and the rights of the individual residents of this area had been weighed carefully, I called for the prompt authorization of the Justice Reservoir Project. That authorization was approved in October of 1962.

Since that time, I have been able to obtain the required appropriations for the continued progress of the dam. In 1965, the Justice Reservoir was officially renamed the R.D. Bailey Dam.

In the realization of the importance of this project, I have sought continually to provide a full-capability funding for the R. D. Bailey Dam in the interest of seeing this vitally necessary flood-control facility completed at the earliest possible date. Had I not taken this action, the dedication that we are attending today would have, in all probability, been postponed until 1977 or 1978.

For example, the budget for 1976 proposed \$16,400,000 for R.D. Bailey, whereas the capability for this project required an additional \$4,300,000. I believe that it would be unwise to delay the completion of this project just to save a few dollars. Certainly, it would be hard to equate a small saving of this type with the potential loss of the lives, homes, and businesses in this flood-prone area.

This extra funding which I obtained for fiscal 1976 will permit construction to proceed at a timely pace and will advance the completion date of this project by at least six months. I have cited the current year as an example in order to demonstrate

# R. D. BAILEY DAM

## Pork Barrel or Public Service?

The R.D. Bailey Dam, located on the border of Mingo and Wyoming Counties, continues to create controversy in southern West Virginia. Conceived nearly fourteen years ago the project was designed to alleviate severe flooding conditions in the Guyandotte Valley. Over the years, with one snag following another with astounding frequency, costs of the project nearly tripled over original estimates.

The overall project design, calling for a 630 acre impoundment on the Guyandotte River midway between Logan and Mullens, has had its vocal supporters and critics since the project's inception. Unfortunately for those opposed to the plan, West Virginia's Congressional delegation backed the dam solidly. Fortunately for those who supported the project there was no question but that the project was necessary, or at least something similar to it. Devastating floods, occurring regularly in the Guyandotte, provided frequent justification for some sort of control.

Yet, from the beginning, this modest flood control project has created enormous costs. Apart from costing nearly three times more than was expected in terms of dollars, many miles of railroad tracks, highways and homes had to be removed from the prospective reservoir. While the social and economic costs of construction are reliably computed, similar costs of accompanying effects,

such as relocation of homes, cannot be properly assessed.

The R.D. Bailey Dam raises again the question which is being asked more often - Is "something good for the people" really good for the people?

The following articles present three different viewpoints about the R.D. Bailey Dam. First is a transcript of a speech prepared by Senator Robert C. Byrd for delivery at the dedication of the dam on November 29, 1975. Senator Byrd, a strong supporter of the project, explains why the project is a good one. Next is a series of excerpts clipped from press releases of Congressman Ken Hechler, each of which supported the dam, but each of which graphically points out the focus of opposition to R.D. Bailey - the extreme and unnecessary costs of construction. The last article, and editorial taken from the Beckley Post-Herald, November 27, 1975, states that case for citizen opposition to R.D. Bailey.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy has taken no side in the argument. The Highlands Voice is presenting the case not to speak for or against R.D. Bailey, but to inform the membership that what happens once will happen again and again in politics and high finance. With a renewed surge of demand for the Rowlesburg project, a scheme of far greater magnitude and consequence than R.D. Bailey, Conservancy activists may learn some lessons from R. D. Bailey

the efforts that have been chronically needed to keep this project moving as fast as is humanly possible. However, as I contemplate the potential flood protection - not to mention the "life protection" - that this dam will provide, I can say that the results will be worth every amount of energy expended.

When it is completed, this project will have cost an estimated \$148 million. The lake that will be formed behind the dam will have a surface area of 630 acres; there will be 17 miles of shoreline. In addition to the practical value that the R.D. Bailey Dam will have for controlling devastating floods in the Guyandotte Valley, the lake itself will offer opportunities for boating, camping, fishing and sightseeing. The corps of engineers estimates that ultimately as many as a half-million persons annually may be drawn here to enjoy the beauty and the recreational potential that such a body of water will make possible.

The R. D. Bailey Dam is being built to protect the residents of the Guyandotte Valley not only against the height of floods that could occur once every twenty years; this dam, when completed is designed to protect this valley against most of the effects suffered in disastrous floods that might occur once in every 100 years.

This project is an enormous one. But the conditions which it will alleviate will more than justify the efforts and the investments that it has entailed. Because of this dam, the people of Logan, Man, and all the other communities down this valley will be able to look to the future without the continuous fear of the loss of life and property that an unbridled Guyandotte has caused in the past.

This dam is more than just an investment in security. This dam is an investment in the future of this region. Thousands of people will come here to enjoy the beauty of these hills and the peaceful atmosphere that they offer. We have a genuine reason to look with anticipation to the completion of this entire project, but we also have good reason to celebrate the milestone which we have reached today.

In more ways than one, this dam is an investment in the future - the future of this area, the future of Wyoming, Mingo and Logan counties,

and the future of West Virginia. It unites a practical concern with a vision for what can be tomorrow. In building this dam, we show ourselves to be good stewards of our land and our destiny.

## "We Need the Justice Dam!"

by Congressman Ken Hechler

The following statement was released by Congressman Hechler in 1963.

I have been fighting for the Justice Dam ever since the proposal was first brought forward. At the request of Senator Robert C. Byrd and others, the Corps of Engineers made a study to determine what was the best way to control Guyandotte River floods. The clear-cut conclusion of that study was that the Justice Dam was the best method, rather than small dams on tributary streams above or below the dam. Those who continue to press for the small dams are well-meaning, but Congress, when it votes the money, will ask the advice of the Corps of Engineers experts, so I believe that continued agitation for the small dams will only delay construction of the Justice Dam.

Excerpt from Press Release January 25, 1971.

In a sharply-worded criticism of "dawdling, delay and dumb economics," Congressman Ken Hechler, D-W. Va., blasted the "snail-like lack of progress in building the R.D. Bailey Dam and Reservoir or 'Lake' which will now cost the taxpayers nearly \$100 million instead of the \$60 million estimated ten years ago."

In a letter to President Nixon, Congressman Hechler wrote: "Every day that the Administration delays the completion of this project, the higher the eventual cost is going to be - both in terms of money and human suffering from many flash floods. The



Millions of railroad and highways, plus many homes had to be relocated to make way for the R. D. Bailey dam project.

people of southern West Virginia have been patient long enough. They demand and deserve action."

**Excerpt from Press Release, January 16, 1974.**

"Completion of the R.D. Bailey Dam would have cut 7 feet off the recent 8.2 foot crest at Logan and saved an estimated \$6,695 million in flood damages." Congressman Ken Hechler announced Wednesday. Citing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers data, the Fourth District Representative pointed out that the East Lynn Dam had prevented an estimated \$2.757 million in flood damages along Twelve Pole Creek.

**Excerpt from Press Release, February 13, 1974.**

"The R.D. Bailey project, originally scheduled to be finished in 1969, has been thoroughly bungled by administrative delays, the failure to keep a tight control on schedule, and the repeated efforts of the President's budget boys to stretch out the projects. On the heels of serious flooding in both Logan and Lincoln counties, with heavy property damages, you would think the budgeteers would be more interested in impounding flood waters rather than impounding funds. When you stretch out the work on a flood control project, it not only subjects more people to more damage over a longer period of time, but it also means increased costs in the long run as inflation takes hold."

## Bailey Lake Is Really a Colossal Waste

**Beckley Post-Herald**

Last Thursday (Nov. 20) morning's Post-Herald carried an item under a stable heading which purported to be a news report. It indicated that "When Completed in 1977, R. D. Bailey Lake To Provide Extensive Flood Protection" and the article went on to provide rather a lot of detailed propaganda from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The truth of the matter may well be pretty far removed from the claims being made by the gigantic boondoggle which the Corps of Engineers is.

The huge dams which the Army Engineers adore building are not really too practical, especially when they are located halfway down the watershed which is prone to flooding. Even when completed at immense cost, such dams offer no protection to the upper half of the valley. The protection against flooding which they offer down stream is considered by many to be limited to the time it may take their impoundments to begin filling with silt.

In the case of the R. D. Bailey Dam near the community of Justice and the Mingo-Wyoming County line, the area to be protected, according to the Army Engineers, was in large part counterbalanced by the area of the impoundment. Miles of railroad had to be moved as well as a great deal of highway and all or parts of three towns, as we understand it.

The downstream towns listed for "protection" are Gilbert, Logan, Man, Stollings and Chapmanville. The four of those communities which are incorporated had a combined 1970 census population of 6,465. Stollings is unincorporated and unlisted as to population, meaning that it has something less than 1000 people. With some 7000 to 7400 people being

"protected", the likelihood is that it will end up costing nearly \$1 million for each of those protected - an unreasonably high cost to the taxpayer! Clearly, the project is more boondoggle than anything else!

When and if Congress ever wakens to the facts of life, we will cease all this big-dam foolishness and begin operating under the watershed conservancy plan, telling the Army Engineers to go peddle their schemes elsewhere.

The watershed conservancy plan has been proved to work well. It involves numerous small impoundments in all the upper reaches of a watershed along with reforestation, contour cropping, and other advanced hydrological endeavors.

Such a plan, if implemented, often provides fine water supplies for many towns, small impoundments which provide recreation over a wide area, improved forestry and cropland practices, and a far more effective prevention of flooding for an entire watershed, not just its lower reaches. Under the present scheme, where is the protection for Pineville, Mullens, and the rest of the upper watershed?

After 1977 will we have to listen to schemes for more big dams to flood more acreages farther up the Guyandotte?

## WVNC Election Scheduled for Jan. 14

An election will be held at the Annual Membership Meeting of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 24, 1976, at Jackson's Mill 4-H Camp, for five positions on the Board of Directors. The positions are for two-year terms.

Each member present may cast one vote for each candidate. Votes will be by hand-count, or by secret ballot if requested by any candidate. The five candidates receiving the largest number of votes will be elected. Ties will be broken by lot.

Each candidate will have two minutes of floor time to use at will.

**NOMINATIONS**

Each member may nominate up to five

candidates by sending the name and address of the candidate, with an indication that the candidate is willing to serve, to:

Nominations  
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy  
Box 711

WEBSTER SPRINGS, WV 26208

to arrive not later than January 23, 1976.

Candidates must be members of the Conservancy. The following have already been nominated:

Linda Cooper Elkhinton  
Bruce Jarvis  
Sandy Leubers  
Kathy Lively  
Max Smith

# TU Assaults Stream Channelization

The wind may be cold and the ground may be frozen as you read this, but spring is just around the corner. Unfortunately, when spring comes, the stream channelizers are not far behind. Every summer a new list of streams scheduled for "improvement" is drawn up by a variety of organizations, including the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Soil Conservation Service groups, and individual farmers among others. The "list" amounts to an obituary for the stream so unwise as to

assert its independence during the preceding spring thaw.

The West Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited, an organization which speaks effectively for fish in the Mountain State, has launched a serious program to correct abuses and mismanagement of West Virginia's haphazard stream channelization process. The two articles which follow survey the problem of stream channelization and the economics of correcting these environmental nightmares.

## Channelization Must Be Controlled

by Ernie Nester, Chairman  
W. Va. Council of Trout Unlimited

Dec. 1, 1975

During early November this year about 4000 feet of Clover Run of Cheat River near St. George, Tucker County, was channelized. About 900 feet of the channelization was on Monongahela National Forest land. Clover Run is not stocked with trout but the water quality was suitable for trout stocking. This stream channelization was performed by one individual who apparently did not comprehend the magnitude of his destruction.

The November 15, 1975 issue of the Market Bulletin (published by the WV Department of Agriculture) carried an article about flood control work performed on Kelly's Creek in Kanawha County. Included was a photograph of 8 beaming faces including Highway Commissioner Ritchie, Agriculture Commissioner Douglas and 6 past and present legislators from Kanawha County. The "experimental" flood control project on Kelly's Creek was funded with a \$50,000 appropriation from the WV Legislature to determine if dredging, brush removal, and stream bank stabilization would be effective in reducing or eliminating flood damage on small watersheds. Several of the politicians in the touring party suggested that Commissioner Douglas work with other agencies to advise the Legislature on streams throughout West Virginia that could benefit most from similar flood control work.

Stream destruction is often listed as channelization, flood control, dredging, stream cleanout, stream stabilization, channel change, drainage, gravel removal and various other descriptions. All of these activities mean the same thing - complete destruction of that section of the stream as habitat for trout or other game fish. This has been established as fact by scientific studies on streams that have been channelized.

Stream channelization is carried out by many agencies such as the Corps of Engineers, the WV Department of Highways, Farmers Home Administration, Office of Emergency Preparedness, Soil Conservation Districts, the WV Legislature, counties, cities, and by individuals. Counties and cities are now free to channelize at will due to a bill passed in the last session of the Legislature (HB 839).

Once a stream has been channelized it is very,

very difficult to restore the stream to a point where it can support even one fourth of its original carrying capacity. The Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited has estimated that a restoration effort would take at least \$50,000 per mile of stream. Only nature can truly restore a bulldozed stream in the long run, and that takes over 50 years.

At the present time, the WV Department of Natural Resources does not have any effective control over stream channelization. The West Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited is opposed to the destruction of any of our remaining trout streams and we hope that the Legislature will pass corrective legislation to give D.N.R. control over all proposed stream channelization in WV.

## The High Cost of Channelization

by Jerry V. Shuder

Oct. 1975

After spending three days working on Naked Creek, it became obvious that restoring a channelized stream is an extremely costly process. Tuers put in 528 man-hours on the project, and the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation spent \$1300 on the gabion materials and the hiring of a backhoe operator. All of this expense in dollars and manpower, to restore 100 years of stream to suitable habitat for trout.

After tallying up the costs of our extremely small pilot project, it's intriguing to consider what expenditures would be required to expand this restoration effort. Let's use some simple math to

determine what the price of additional improvement would be.

First, let's calculate the cost of our 100 yards of restoration on Naked Creek, using \$3 an hour value for the labor. This would amount to \$1584 for the 584 man-hours put in on the improvements. Add to this the \$1300 required for materials and equipment rental, and the total cost to restore 100 yards of channelized stream is \$2884. WOW!!!

But, let's not stop here. At these rates, the cost of restoring one mile of stream would be \$50,728. To replace fish habitat in the 6½ miles of channelized Naked Creek would cost a whopping \$329,930. If this fact doesn't make you fighting mad at channelizing agencies like the S.C.S. and the Corps of Engineers, then you had better hang up your hat as a conservationist.

After the Camille and Agnes storms, over 800 miles of the streams in Western Virginia were "improved" by federal agencies using "emergency" funds. The streams were "improved" to the point that they would no longer support gamefish populations. At \$50,728 a mile, it would cost a staggering \$40,606,400 to improve these 800 miles of streams so that they could again provide habitat for fish. Over 40 million dollars to put back what the "helpful" federal agencies destroyed.

The costs presented here are very conservative, since only material and labor was considered. No planning, supervision or maintenance costs were included. These items would add considerably to the total costs involved.

As trout fishermen and conservationists, these startling facts should kindle a rededication in each of us to fight the terrible process of channelization wherever it threatens our streams. The high costs of channelization can no longer be tolerated.

## USFS Will Not Appeal Clearcutting Ban

The U.S. Forest Service will not pursue a reversal of the federal court decision which prohibited the controversial timbering technique of clearcutting. The U.S. Agriculture Department has announced that the Justice Department had notified them that no further appeal would be made.

Forest Service Chief John McGuire said that timber sales on national forests will continue throughout the nation, but that no clearcutting contracts will be sold for national forests in West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. The clearcutting ban is now permanent on national forests in those states, including the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia, scene of the original court case.

Readers of THE HIGHLANDS VOICE who are interested in assisting TU's effort to control channelization are urged to contact Joel Lubliner, Rt. 1, Box 216-A, Bluefield, WV 24701, and tell him how you are prepared to help. Lubliner is Vice Chairman of the West Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited.

### ROOM RESERVATIONS FOR WORKSHOP

A variety of accommodations are available at Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp, site of the Conservancy's 1976 Mid-Winter Workshop. After January 1, 1976, the prices listed below will be increased slightly.

# Two Prong Tongue

by Nick Zvegintsov

This is a word of praise, a word of reproach, a greeting, and an invitation to Appalachian Power Co.

First I want to commend you on a fine ad campaign in State newspapers - a campaign which fairly portrays the dilemma of our energy intensive economy, the pleasures of using energy and the bitterness of using it up.

The caption of your ad of November 13, 1975 is: Nothing says we have to stop using hot water to conserve electricity. But when we do use it, make sure we turn it off when we're through.

The picture shows a shower head poking up from the Martian rubble of a strip mine.

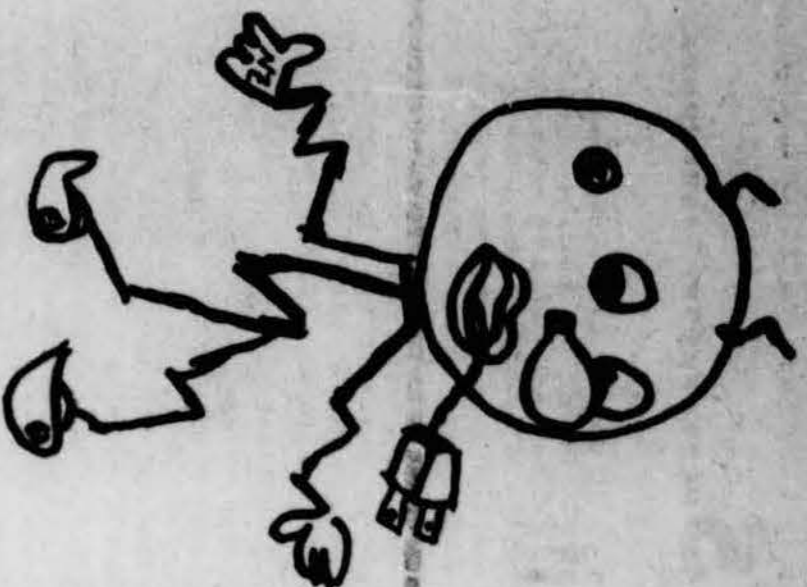
But then you spoiled it by sending me with the November bill for my house in Duo a piece of ranting nonsense entitled "THE BAD GUYS":

"Chances are you are among the bad guys. You know - greedy, wasteful, polluting. A small minority of very vocal people think of you this way because they want to turn back the calendar and stop all progress.

"You're a bad guy all right. You use appliances that make life more pleasant than it used to be.

"You probably have an automobile and it is important to the way you live. Most likely you have a job. And your job simply could not exist without energy, tools and the use of resources.

"You're a bad guy for sure because you work hard and provide for your family. You use energy:



efficiently, and our nation is moving in this direction. But, in the meantime, don't feel too badly about being a bad guy. You've got a lot of company."

When I read this I searched my conscience. I have written hard things about you and your holding company AEP (American Electric Power). But have I called you bad? Have I called consumers bad? In The Rightmost Voice of March 1975 I called AEP a "freezing dinosaur", chiding its expansionism and its \$3.3 million advertising campaign in an era of limits to growth - but ungodly dumbness is not badness. I said it was in business to make money - but capitalism is not badness in the USA. And I said of AEP "We need its strength to do the big tasks that need to be done".

And just as I don't see environmentalists abusing energy companies, I also don't see consumers abusing the use of energy. "Better light a lamp than curse the dark" says the proverb, but these days most people are saying "Better insulate the roof and knit a sweater than curse the power company or the Arabs."

In short you reflect the mood of the people much better in your ad than in the Bad Guys leaflet. Then why this babble about Bad Guys? It reads like fear.

Fear of what? Not fear of poverty surely, because you are a regulated monopoly blessed like the Baptist mortician with a guaranteed rate of return.

Is it fear of futility? After 25 years as the shining heroes of American industrial euphoria, do you now feel unjustly cast as the dark villains of a decade of depression? But nobody says you're villains now, any more than you were really heroes then. You were then and are now human along with the rest of us, making human efforts and human mistakes as we all try to keep warm and fed and have a little time left over for talking and thinking and loving.

I will say no more of Bad Guys if you will promise the same. Instead I wish you all at Appalachian Power a happy and prosperous new year and invite you to Jackson's Mill on January 24 1976 to discuss in good fellowship our common problem of "Energy Development and the Highlands".

## New West Virginia Book In Preparation

An ambitious new Bicentennial book about the Mountain State, WEST VIRGINIA USA, is being compiled now for publication release on June 20, 1976, the anniversary of West Virginia statehood.

The 9 1/2 by 9 1/2 inch, hard-backed volume will be "a blending of prose and graphics designed to capture the character of West Virginia, past and present," explained Harry Seawell of Harry Seawell Communications in Parkersburg, book publishers.

Following a journalistic rather than academic approach, the 190 page WEST VIRGINIA USA will include a mixture of stories with color and black and white photographs. Book graphics are to include contemporary and historical art and pictures.

Seawell, along with Parkersburg photographer Harry Shaffer, edited the well-known book WEST VIRGINIA IN COLOR published for the State Centennial in 1963.

Assisting Seawell in the new undertaking are different editors and writers.

Co-authors Stratton Douthat of Huntington and Jerry Ash of Terra Alta are prominent West Virginia journalists. Ash is editor and publisher of the national award winning PRESTON COUNTY NEWS. Douthat is Southern West Virginia correspondent for The Associated Press.

Along with Seawell, chief photographer is William Kuykendall, originally from Romney. Kuykendall, recently completed a tenure as photojournalism instructor at the prestigious University of Missouri School of Journalism. He has worked nationally as a photo consultant and free lancer.

Printed on high quality, coated paper with a blue and gold binding, pre-publication sales of WEST VIRGINIA USA are being made through members of the West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs. Exclusive of postage and handling, the \$16.50 pre-publication price goes to \$19.76 in early 1976.

A limited number of deluxe, bound leather, 24K gold stamped editions are being offered for \$79.95 each. Seawell noted.

electricity, gasoline, and other fuels. You watch television, cook meals, read and listen to music.

"We at the power company are bad guys too. We make and sell the power that helps make your home comfortable and your life a bit easier. We make and sell the power that is necessary for almost any job you can think of.

"Actually, electric utility companies are worse guys than you. We think that our nation should be building more power supply facilities. Why? Because we're almost certain there will be power shortages in our country before 1980. Our economy depends upon electric power. If the economy is forced further down by power shortages, we'll have a much more serious unemployment problem than we have today.

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"Of course we must use energy wisely and

## 690 Big Ones on Shavers Fork

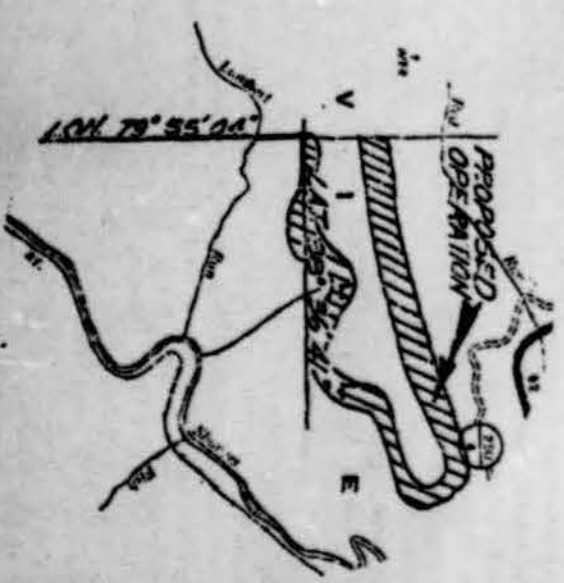
Want to raise some hell? Anyone who reads the Voice regularly is familiar with the overblown file on Shavers Fork and the disasters which constantly befall it. SMA 1767, reprinted below from its original source in an obscure Elkins area newsletter, presents the latest, and the largest, catastrophe to yet beset this unfortunate stream. If you wish to express your thoughts on SMA 1767, keeping in mind that the permit will undoubtedly be approved and, if not, EE will probably mine anyway, unmolested by the West Virginia strip mining law, wherever it is, do so to all or anyone of the following persons:

- Arch Moore, Governor, State of West Virginia
- Ira S. Lattimer, Jr., Director, W.Va. Department of Natural Resources.
- Ben Greene, Chief, Reclamation Division, DNR
- Ben Lusk, Propagandist, W. Va. Surface Mining Association
- Philip Weber, President, Energy Enterprises, Inc.

Peter Grace, Exploiter, Grace Lines, Inc. (check a New York City telephone directory.)

The above list is merely a suggestion. There are dozens of legislators and congressmen who need to know that you are mad about SMA 1767, and that you hold them personally responsible for its fate. Newspapersmen do not mind reading letters from their readers, and sometimes they'll print them. If you can track down candidates for Governor, drop them a crusty line or two. If you want Voice readers to share your thoughts, send a carbon to the editor. Most of them will get printed.

Energy Enterprises, P.O. Box 1147, Beckley, West Virginia 26201 has submitted an application for the surface mining of approximately 690 acres in order to mine the Eagle Summit of coal located on Lambert Run and Red Run of Shavers Fork of the Cheat River 8.0 miles southeast of Huttonville in Huttonville District of Randolph County, longitude 79 degrees-55'-06", latitude 38 degrees-38'-41". Surface of the area to be mined is owned by the Mower Lumber Company of Durbin, West Virginia, 26204, and the mineral to be mined is owned by the Mower Lumber Company of Durbin, West Virginia 26204.



The source of the applicant's legal right to enter and conduct operations on the land to be covered by this permit application is by Lease Agreement. The following is a listing of all active surface mining permits now held by the applicant: 61-74P, SMA 1208.

The reputed owner of all surface area within five hundred feet of any part of the proposed disturbed land in this application is The Mower Lumber Company, Durbin, West Virginia, 26204.

The names and addresses of every officer, partner, director and applicant are: Mr. Philip Weber, President, 108 Pine Ridge Drive, Beckley, West Virginia; Garnie Stidham, Vice President, P.O. Box 1147, Beckley, West Virginia; Carol Roles, Secretary-Treasurer, P.O. Box 1147, Beckley, West Virginia. Energy Enterprises, Inc., any subsidiary, affiliate, or any person controlled by or under common control with applicant has not had a surface mining permit issued under the laws of this state revoked or has not had a surface mining bond or security forfeited.

Written protests to such application will be received until January 3, 1976 or thirty (30) days from original date of publication by the Director, Department of Natural Resources, Room 322, 1800 Washington Street, E., Charleston, West Virginia 25305 ATTENTION: File Number 1767.

(12)4-11-18-(5nc)

The Mid-Allegheny Corporation has requested an application to deep mine in the Cranberry Back Country. The application is due to be filed with the Department of Natural Resources, sometime before the end of 1975.

Senator Jennings Randolph has succeeded in getting another \$15 million for construction on the Highland Scenic Highway. The money would be used to complete the 9 miles of road remaining between Williams River and Rt. 219. That is \$1.6 million per mile.

The West Virginia Department of Natural Resources has agreed to provide the U.S. Corps of Engineers "the opportunity to review and furnish comments" on a surface mine application by Nu-Way Mining on the Little Kanawha river above the Corps' \$42 million Burnsville Lake Project - "when a surface mine application has been filed". (The legal advertisement has already appeared.) According to Campaign Clean Water, Nu-Way is owned by R.N. White Contracting, which was prosecuted at least twice in 1974 for "spoil beyond permit area".

This promise was achieved by a longish chain of requests - local residents to Campaign Clean Water to the Conservancy to Representative Harley O. Staggers to the Corps to the DNR. Over to you, Ira S. Latimer, Jr.

The U.S. House of Representatives struck \$6 billion of Federal "loan guarantees" for oil shale and coal gasification plants (mostly strip mining in the West) from the Energy Research and Development Administration Authorization Act. The vote was 263 to 140 against, and was led by what the Sierra Club's National News Report calls "a very unusual and effective liberal-conservative coalition" including our own Ken Hechler.

In a gesture widely ballyhooed by American news media, the "prestigious" (Newsweek, December 1) Krupp Foundation (based on the profits of Germany's heavy industry and arms manufacturer) awarded a "newly established" prize for outstanding contributions to "energy production friendly to the environment" to West Germany's biggest strip miner. The award was for \$200,000. The company's pre-tax profit last year was \$33 million. Since World War II 44 villages have disappeared (and been rebuilt) resettling 19,720 residents. More than half the reclaimed area has been covered with 33 varieties of trees.

"Before the company came in, that area was covered by monotonous wheat fields" said Norbert Endell, chief ecologist of the German Federation of Engineers, according to Newsweek. "From the environmental viewpoint, we're better off now."

Reporting the same story, the Washington Post (December 4) points out that the bulk of Germany's

brown coal reserves lie under densely populated areas. "Thus, the ability to prove that the land can be made useful again is viewed as essential by industry and government to gain approval for opening new mines to feed West Germany's increasing power demands", writes the Post's correspondent Michael Getler.

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- g. Mtn. Club of Md.: Thurston Griggs, 5128 Rolling Rd., Baltimore Md. 21227
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- i. Nature Conservancy: Marie Wallace, The Hilltop, Rt. 7, Box 347, Fairmont, W.Va. 26554
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- k. Greenbrier Grotto, NSS: Fred Kyle, 910, Pocahontas Ave., Ronceverte, W.Va. 24970
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- n. Pittsburgh Climbers: Bruce Godwin, 621 Gettysburg St., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15235
- o. West Va. Scenic Trails Conference: Robert Tabor, 3007 Briarwood Rd., Culloden, W.Va. 25510

## CONSERVANCY PUBLICATIONS

1. Dolly Sods. Management Proposal and trail guide, includes areas adjacent to the Dolly Sods National Wilderness Area. 1973 edition, 75 pages, 4 maps, 8 1/2 x 11. \$3.25
2. Hiking Guide to the Monongahela National Forest. A survey of hiking and backpacking trails in the Monongahela National Forest. Includes general information on use of the MNF and an essay on winter camping in the Monongahela. 1974 edition, 151 pages, 9 maps. \$3.25.

The Conservancy no longer publishes and no back copies are available of the Otter Creek Trail Guide. For information on use of Otter Creek National Wilderness Area contact the U.S. Forest Service, Cheat District Ranger, Parsons, WV 26287.

A new edition of the Cranberry Back Country trail guide and management proposal is now in preparation. Watch future issues of THE HIGHLANDS VOICE for publication date.

Copies of Dolly Sods and Hiking Guide to the Monongahela National Forest may be obtained at one-third discount to stores and clubs. Address inquiries concerning wholesale orders to Bruce Sundquist, 210 College Park Dr., Monroeville, Pa. 15146.

Address all other trail guide orders to the address below. Make checks and money orders payable to WVHC.

Trail Guides  
c/o West Virginia Highlands  
Conservancy  
Box 711  
Webster Springs, WV 26288

## JOIN THE WEST VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

We travel together, passengers on a little spaceship, dependant on its vulnerable reserves of air and soil; all committed for our safety to its security and peace preserved from annihilation only by the care, the work, and, I will say, the love we give our fragile craft. --Adlai Stevenson

- \$5.00 Individual regular
- \$10.00 Individual associate
- \$25.00 Individual sustaining
- \$20.00 Organization regular
- \$30.00 Organizational associate
- \$60.00 Organizational sustaining

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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Make checks payable to "West Virginia Highlands Conservancy." Mail membership form and dues to:

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy  
Box 711  
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