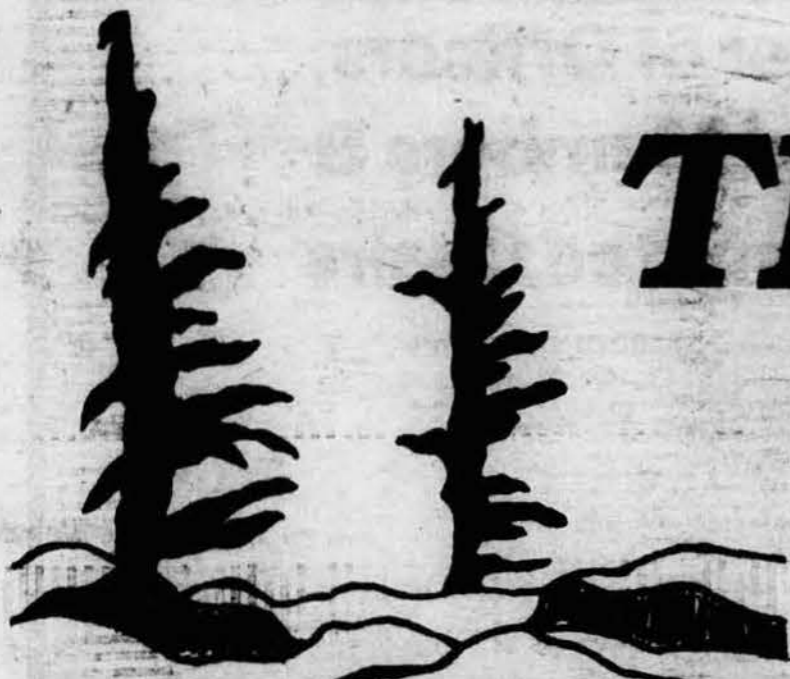


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THE HIGHLANDS VOICE

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Democrats Challenge Each Other in Lively Forum

"Attorney general? Is that something in the Air National Guard?" a bewildered voter asked candidate Si Boettner on a campaign stop. Kanawha County Senator Boettner and fellow Democratic candidates Charlie Brown, former assistant attorney general for antitrust enforcement, and Danny Stagers, Mineral County prosecutor, all agree the office of state attorney general commands very limited voter recognition.

They were glad to have the exposure of the candidate's forum during the May 5 Spring Meeting at Camp Anthony. Mountainnet Radio Network covered the event, the first of a series of live broadcasts of can-

didate debates. Of Republican candidates, James Jeter declined to participate and John McCuskey had another commitment.

Boettner and Brown emphasized enforcement of state antipollution laws and went on to outline their pro-environment, pro-consumer records for an audience of Conservancy members. Their apparent enthusiasm for regulation and enforcement led Gazette reporter Chris Knap to ask, "What do you guys say when you are talking to business groups, anyway?"

Knap was one of four Charleston-based journalists who probed each candidate's political background and position on issues. Deborah Baker of UPI, Wayne Davis of AP, and Nancy

Hill of Mountainnet, also directed questions, with each candidate responding in turn.

Recent polls showed Stagers leading the primary race, and he resisted being drawn into the brawling debate style of the feistier Boettner and Brown, both of whom made plain their resentment of Stagers' name-recognition advantage. Stagers also hung back from the race to claim leadership in environmental protection, consumer advocacy and exclusion of conflicts of interest in the office. He preferred to remind

listeners the office he seeks "belongs to the people" and that he would represent "the people."

On the Business Climate

Brown claimed he was the chief spokesman for small business as assistant attorney general, and that small business is the main source of new jobs. He believes he can increase business confidence in the office by running it "frugally."

Boettner pointed to his co-

(Continued on Page 7)

McCuskey Asks Consideration

Republican candidate for Attorney General John McCuskey came to Camp Anthony early Saturday to visit with members of the Conservancy before they set off on spring meeting trips.

Although he couldn't accept the Conservancy's invitation to join the debate because of a prior commitment, McCuskey asked members to consider his positions and record.

In a written statement provided to the Voice, McCuskey cited his four terms in the House of Delegates and

his work for judicial reform and consumer protection laws. He reviewed his environmental work, including a study of methods to eliminate coal gob piles and support of the Conservancy's position on the Davis Power Project.

"As West Virginia's Attorney General I pledge to remove the political taint of the past 20 years from the office and to aggressively prosecute those who violate the laws that protect West Virginia's land, air and water," he wrote.



Left: Republican candidate John McCuskey visited with Conservancy members Saturday morning at Camp Anthony, but was unable to attend the debate because of a prior commitment. Right: Charlie Brown characterized himself as "a fighter" during the debate, and promised a toll-free number for consumer complaints.

Above: Si Boettner said he believed his legislative experience would allow him to win prosecutorial powers for the office. League of Women Voters President Becky Cain and Conservancy President Larry George listen. Below: Daniel Stagers advocated regional offices and assistance to local prosecutors as ways of improving the effectiveness of the office. Press panelists at the table to the right of the podium include Chris Knapp with the Charleston Gazette, Deborah Baker of UPI, Wayne Davis of AP, and Nancy Hill of Mountainnet.

VOICES

Opinion from members and friends

Environmental Issues and Election Year Politics

By Skip Johnson

Nothing is so certain as death, taxes and the unlikelihood of anything being done environmentally in an election year. Or even talked about.

This year is no different. The campaigns are being waged, but you'd have to listen very carefully to hear anything said about environmental topics. The only exceptions, perhaps, are specific local issues which occasionally get mentioned.

On a statewide basis, the only exception, to our knowledge, is the pledge of Senate President Warren McGraw to clean up the state. McGraw, a Democratic candidate for governor, has proposed a network of trash compacting stations in each county where people may bring household refuse. The garbage would then be transferred to a central landfill.

He coupled this proposal with a plan to beef of the Solid Waste Authority of the Department of Natural Resources, and to jawbone county commissions into becoming more active in ridding their counties of the ugly open dumps that are so prevalent in West Virginia.

Otherwise, sadly, environmental issues are being given short shrift by the candidates.

This is particularly so on the national scene, where acid rain legislation has been sidelined by the House of Representatives and faces long odds in the Senate. The issue is too controversial to face in an election year, so it is swept under the rug until another day. Meantime, the damage from this insidious form of pollution continues.

Less surprising, perhaps, than congressional inaction on acid rain was the decision of the Reagan Administration to recommend further study before pursuing a course of action. This administration's anti-environment record is well documented.

At least the three Democratic presidential candidates—Mondale, Hart and Jackson—have gone on record favoring legislation that would require reductions in the sulfur emissions that are believed to be a major ingredient in the acid rain mix.

Statewide, a perusal of newspaper reports on the utterances and comings and goings of the various candidates has failed to turn up anything of significance any of them is saying about environmental issues.

Would the candidates for attorney general, for example, continue with the environmental task force established by outgoing Attorney General Chauncey Browning? We don't know.

Would any of the major candidates push for protection for the magnificent West Virginia rivers that have been proposed for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic System? We don't know.

Is the present snail's pace cleanup of abandoned mining scars under Superfund satisfactory? We don't know.

Are they satisfied or dissatisfied with the present state of water cleanup in West Virginia? Toxic waste cleanup? Air quality? Again, we don't know.

Perhaps it is partly the fault of the news media. Perhaps we don't ask frequently enough. Perhaps given the chance, candidates would prefer to say nothing about everything. It's much safer that way.

Acid Rain Legislation Dies in Subcommittee

by Linda Winter

As I'm sure you know by now, all hope of passing acid rain control legislation this year has been effectively snuffed out. On May 2 the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment voted 10-9 to remove acid rain control provisions from HR 5314, the comprehensive bill to reauthorize the Clean Air Act. HR 5314, sponsored by Subcommittee Chairman Henry A. Waxman (D-CA), contained the acid rain control provisions of the Waxman/Sikorski/Gregg bill HR 3400 along with language to control toxic air pollution and a reauthorization of the Clean Air Act in its present form. Representative Dennis Eckart (D-OH) cast the deciding vote.

It is doubtful that the Clean Air Act will be reauthorized in 1984. Waxman has no plans to continue markup of HR 5314 without an acid rain control plan included. Also, little time is left for Congress to act on this legislation since the congressional session is abbreviated because of upcoming elections.

In the meantime, millions of tons of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides are being spewed into our atmosphere continuing to cause damage to aquatic ecosystems, forest, building and our health. Use the time that your Members of Congress are campaigning at home to remind them that this issue is one of the most important environmental issues facing this country today. Let them know that you expect them to work for a solution to the acid rain problem.

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Committees Highlight Spectrum of Issues

Vice President Linda Winter, five Committee Chairs and two guests updated the WVHC Board of Directors on issues across the spectrum of air, land and water concerns.

Winter cited pressure against cost-sharing and mandatory scrubbers as key reasons behind the recent defeat of H.R. 3400 in the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health and the Environment. (See article this issue)

She reviewed the provisions of S. 1756 (also H.R. 5166), the "State and Local Rivers Conservation Act," and asked members to write their senators and congressmen to urge support of the bill. The state concurrence provision gives states veto power over dams, a measure which can establish some state restraint over FERC licensing decisions.

Public Lands

Public Lands Chair Sayre Rodman outlined the potential for legislation to add about 3000 acres of Monroe County land to the proposed Mountain Lake Wilderness area. Rodman said the area was of "reasonably good quality" and believed WVHC should favor it as an adjunct to the Virginia area.

The bill has been reported out of the House Interior Committee, but will need to be amended to include the West Virginia area. The WVHC Board voted to endorse the principle of including the area in the larger wilderness and authorized Rodman to communicate that support.

Rodman also explained the Izaak Walton League's support for reestablishing the "Backcountry" designation for areas around the Cranberry Wilderness. The area, once part of the backcountry but not included in official wilderness status, could serve as a buffer zone. Purchase of minerals by the state might be required.

Rivers

River Conservation Chair Ray Ratliff explained the new direction of the committee (formerly the Water Resources Committee). "This is not a nominal change," he said, "but signifies a fundamental change of focus for the committee."

Since the WVHC named the Gauley, Bluestone and Greenbrier Rivers as priorities for the Conservancy's efforts, the Committee has been working to identify potential for protection and set priorities, he said. In making a recommendation that the organization name the Bluestone as its top priority, Ratliff explained the choice was not meant to downgrade the other rivers.

"There is a lot of local support for protection of the Bluestone. We want to start with a river where we can show some success."

The Board voted to adopt the Bluestone as a demonstration project.

Highways

Geoff Green, Highways Committee Chair, expressed the renewed enthusiasm he felt as a result of attending the Environmental Leadership Conference in April. Using an ap-

propriate analogy, he said, "We've filled up with gas and washed the windshield and we're ready to go."

Green said the time for public input on Corridor H is over, but he had renewed hope the fight could be successful. A clause in federal law provide that highways "cannot go through National Forest if there's a good alternative," he said.

Canaan Valley

Linda Elkinton, Canaan Valley Committee Chair, presented a report of their work on the "Canaan Valley Authority Act" and a followup of the session. "We did fundraising and local organizing, lobbied for introduction of the bill, compiled a list of landowners, and researched developments. We prepared drafts of legislation, explanatory material, and legislative packets," she said. The committee also encouraged letters to editors of Charleston and other papers, made press appearances and attended meetings, Elkinton explained.

Mining

Mining Committee Chair John Purbaugh reported on the Omega Mining Company's plans to open a deep mine in Monongalia County. The permit, which is being appealed by a group of local citizens, would allow the com-



WVHC President Larry George and Secretary Lois Rosier share a smile during the board meeting at Camp Anthony. Director-at-Large Skip Deegans keeps his counsel.

pany to open an updip mine in an acid producing coal seam. The permit was granted without bond. Such mines tend to produce perpetual acid mine drainage.

Joan Sims, Chairman of the 4-H Road Community Association, the group appealing the permit, presented a request for financial assistance toward legal costs.

After discussion, the Board agreed to commit up to \$350 to the group for legal costs, provided the association raises \$1000. The matter will be reviewed at the summer meeting.

The Board also heard Tucker County landowner Joe Gregory explain his interests in the Blackwater Canyon.

The WVHC will hold the next board meeting in late July. Dates and locations have not been confirmed.

WVHC Office & Staff Approved

The Conservancy Board of Directors adopted the recommendation of the Management Review Committee at the Spring Meeting at Camp Anthony on May 6, taking the first steps toward opening an office in Charleston.

The committee's report, presented by Senior Vice President Tom Michael, included plans for hiring a half-time Executive Assistant to administer the Conservancy's office, attend hearings, lobby during the legislative session, and mount a membership drive. Under the proposal, the Conservancy would rent office space from Citizens Action Group, a Charleston-based consumer and environmental organization.

In discussion of the proposal, board members urged the committee to seek someone with experience and good ideas, and to consider splitting the responsibility for membership development and legislative lobbying if no one applicant seemed suited for both roles.

"Membership development is very difficult," David Elkinton commented, "and someone who is good at it may not be a good lobbyist."

The board agreed a regular staff person would help the Conservancy grow. Board President Larry George noted that membership in comparable environmental organizations in other states grew tremendously with the employment of staff.

The motion approved the hiring of a person on a consultant's basis beginning July 1 and running at least until January 1, 1985. The success of the plan would be reevaluated before continuing the contract.

In other action, the board approved an increase in membership dues of fifty percent across the board. The new dues structure includes a student category, and provides these membership levels:

Individual	\$15
Associate	30
Family (1 vote)	25
Sustaining	50

Senior citizen/ student	12
Organizational	50

All renewals or new memberships received before July 1 will be accepted at the old rates, and membership can be renewed for more than one year at a time. After July 1, 1984, all new memberships and renewals will be at the higher rate.

New Directors Chosen

In spring meeting action the WVHC elected two directors-at-large to fill vacancies created by the promotion of Tom Michael to Senior Vice President and the resignation of Frank Pelurie. The new directors are Cindy Rank of Rock Cave and Ray Ratliff of Liberty, both in West Virginia.

Cindy Rank started work on Conservancy issues in 1979 when mining operations threatened the headwaters of the Little Kanawha. After helping form the Friends of Little Kanawha, her water quality concerns led to involvement in several other roles. She now serves as a board member for Mountain Stream Monitors, is an alternate on the Water Quality Advisory Committee, and acts as WVHC's representative to the Reclamation Advisory Committee.

As a result of her research and strong interest in sedimentation problems in streams, Trout Unlimited asked Rank to prepare a study on the effects of development of ski resorts on nearby streams. An excerpt of her report appeared in the March edition of the Voice.

Ray Ratliff's work with the Conser-

vancy began in 1970 when the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund, of which he was a co-founder, represented a number of West Virginia Conservation organizations as intervenors in Blue Ridge Project licensing hearings at PFC and through a series of court appeals in the D.C. Circuit Court.

Also while at Appalred, Ratliff participated in Davis Power Project litigation from the very early stages of licensing. When he and Paul Kaufman left Appalred to establish Kaufman and Ratliff, a Charleston law firm, they continued work on both issues. He also handled litigation to hold off mining in the Cranberry Backcountry during the wilderness study period.

Appointed in April to head the reconstituted River Conservation Committee, he will guide the development of strategy for river corridor protection in West Virginia.

President Larry George announced the resignation of Glenn Davis, another director-at-large. The vacant position will be filled at the summer meeting. Terms of the newly elected members will expire in October 1984.

June Is American Rivers Month—

Greenbrier River Rises to the Occasion

Torrential rains greeted Conservancy members as they arrived at the Greenbrier Youth Center at Anthony, WV, on Friday evening May 4th for the Spring Meeting.

By Saturday morning, the Greenbrier River flowed so high and fast one adventurous group was forced to abandon plans to canoe the Fort Springs to Alderson section. But the rain-swollen river didn't stop water lovers altogether. John Purbaugh and Brian Farkis brought their paddlers to join the trip planned for Anthony to Caldwell.

Ray Ratliff and Carter Zerbe, trip leaders on the upper section reported a rapid proliferation of canoes and kayaks around the put-in area at trip time.

One impatient group couldn't wait for drivers to set up the shuttle and pushed off ahead of the pack. While trip leaders Ratliff and Zerbe estimated 17 craft completed the eleven-mile float, they begged off

when asked for accuracy. "One group went ahead, and about nine boats were putting in when four more showed up. There were canoes everywhere," Ray Ratliff said.

The swift water, moving at about five miles per hour, carried the paddlers through one of the normally gentler sections of the river in only three and one-half hours, including a leisurely lunch. The trip normally takes about six hours.

At low water, the river requires some maneuvering around boulders and shallows, but the boulder gardens were 'washed out' (covered) this time, and paddlers were only required to stay upright and pointed down-river.

A few canoeists, including one WVHC vice president, apparently went looking for thrills where side creeks spilled into the Greenbrier. A low branch did in Linda Winter's boat, and its passengers came up sputtering. The water—about 55

degrees—apparently didn't dampen spirits too much. Those who rolled got safely righted and settled for the wide, flat middle the rest of the way.

Despite overcast skies, the rain held off all through the trip, giving almost everyone a chance to relax and stay dry.

River Committee Gets Feet Wet

by Ray Ratliff

Your Rivers Committee has been hard at it ever since the weather turned. Using the motto, "see you on the river", the Committee quickly decided to hold its meetings on the river whenever possible. The Bluestone, Gauley and Greenbrier Rivers have already been run. While particular strategies are being developed for particular rivers in the state, it is my purpose here to generally tell you of certain guidelines in this endeavor:

1. The Committee members will do everything within their power (and means) to assist you in establishing a management plan for your river; so long as

2. local people, landowners, agencies and the like are keyed in to making such a management plan "their plan," and are included in the actual development of the particular strategies for this river; and

3. the river is of the first rank (I'd estimate we have at least thirty, wouldn't you?), which decision the Committee will make.

In addition to our efforts to work on particular rivers, we envision a legislative agenda as well. The next state legislative session, coming as it does during the changeover of administrations, is perhaps an opportune time for environmentalists to sponsor "tax reform" measures to help landowners along riverbanks.



Top left: Conservancy members prepare to put in at the Anthony Creek bridge over the Greenbrier River. Only Thomas Purbaugh, age 2 months, declined to brave the high waters. Lower left: Jimi Bonner, Rachael Zerbe and Terry Bonner make sure the lunch is adequate before setting out. Top right: Jimi Bonner digs in for a stroke while Carter Zerbe guides from the stern. Lower right: Ned Barrett, a writer with the Governor's Office of Economic and Community Development steers photographer Ron Snow through the surging current. Notice the trees partially submerged on the left.



Conservancy Celebrates Early

State tax credits for voluntary cleanup of riverbanks, state tax incentives for certain uses of riverbank property, even technical assistance programs like the Agricultural Extension Service, to name a few, are important beginning steps toward a State rivers policy.

Which brings me to the end of this outline. We cannot possibly, whatever the extent of our commitment or means, "save" each and every river in this State. We must

develop a State policy for our rivers. We must finally develop a common cause with landowners, state agencies and others, with the view that the rivers in this State are perhaps our most important resource. After all, some are calling West Virginia "the rivers state of the East." See you on the river!

(Send your ideas for the Rivers Committee to Ray Ratliff, address in roster.)

Rare Plants, High Water Greet Hikers

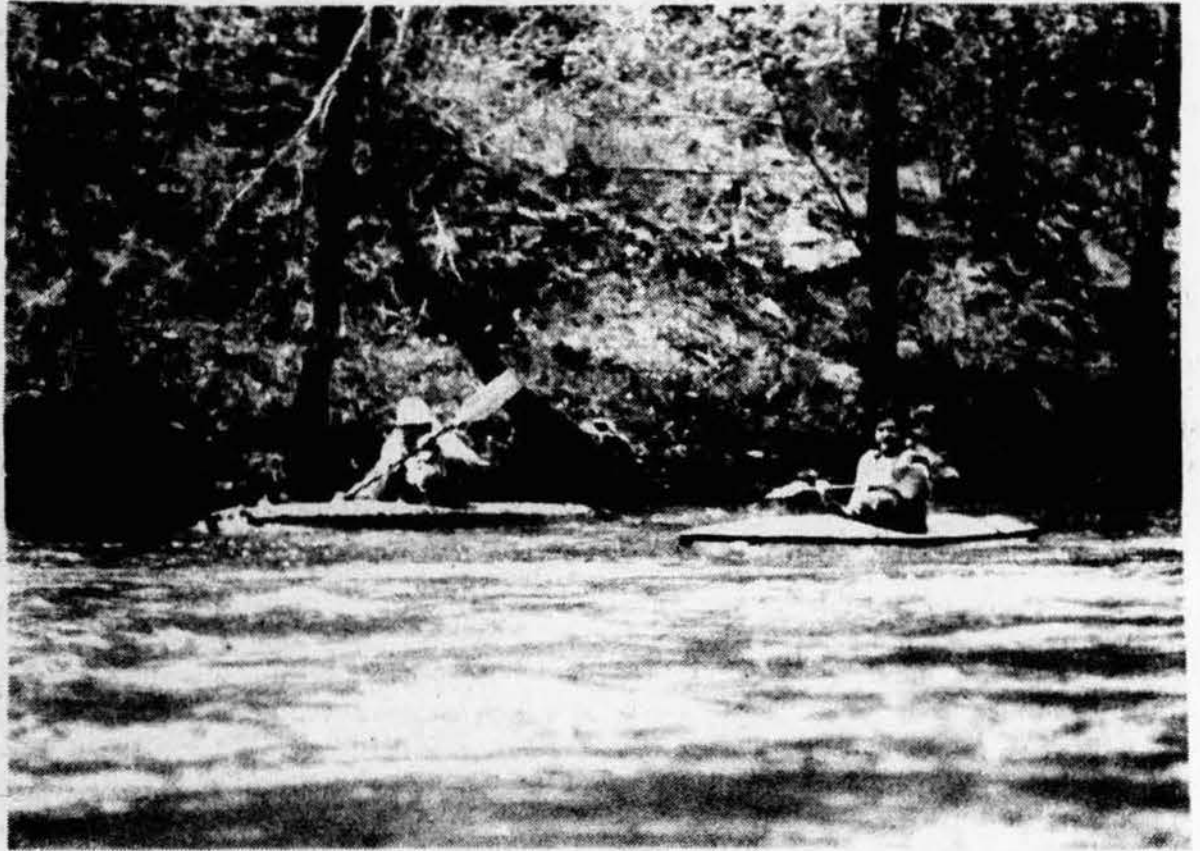
Seventeen spring meeting hikers had to double back on their trail when they found the Cranberry River too high to cross. Led by Charles Carlson, the group planned to complete the full length of the Cowpasture Trail around the Glades.

At one point, the group encountered water backed up from a beaverdam and had to hike up two hundred yards to get around it. But when they reached the rain-swollen river, no convenient grape vines of-

fered passage, and they had to retrace their trail.

The five-mile hike still rewarded participants with looks at 31 wildflowers, a couple of them quite rare. Along the boardwalk, the group saw Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium*) just ready to bloom. They spotted Frazier's Sedge in full flower.

The Cranberry Glades is the most southern area where these plants are found.



Left: Bob Radspinner, Chief Logging Superintendent for Georgia Pacific in Southern West Virginia, gets a leisurely tour of the river from an equally leisurely guide, Conservancy President Larry George. Right, top to bottom: Sayre Rodman and a friend take on the trip in speedy kayaks. The hiking trail on the old railroad right-of-way provides a spot for lunch will above the water. Devin Ratliff and Rachel Martin paddle with trip leader Ray Ratliff, and Terry Bonner mans the bow of Lou Newberger's canoe. (Photos courtesy of Ron Snow, GOECD)

Join the Conservancy



THE BROOKS BIRD CLUB, INC. . . .good friends

by Mary Moore Rieffenberger

The Brooks Bird Club began as a small "bird group" in the West Virginia Nature Association of Oglebay Institute at Wheeling, W. Va. in September 1932. The Nature Association was an outgrowth of public nature walks conducted each Sunday morning by A. B. Brooks, the Institute naturalist. The Club was later named for him. Twelve men and one teen-aged girl were the founders—some of whom are still active in the Club, along with their children and grandchildren.

In 1940, the Club pulled away from the Institute and took off on its own, starting with a week-long nature study Foray at Lost River State Park. The Brooks Bird Club is now an independent, educational, non-profit organization which promotes the study and enjoyment of birds and other elements of the natural world. It seeks to inform its members on environmental issues and to encourage their activism on behalf of intelligent use of our natural resources and preservation of our natural heritage. The Club also undertakes studies which have lasting scientific value, e.g. population and breeding bird surveys at the Forays, and a Breeding Bird Atlas for West Virginia.

The Brooks Bird Club has more than 600 members in 30 states and five foreign countries. There are groups in Harpers Ferry, Morgantown and Huntington, W.Va.; East Liverpool and Columbus, Ohio; the Handlan Chapter in Charleston, W.Va.; and the Headquarters Chapter in Wheeling, W.Va.

Special activities occur almost every month—the Early Spring Meeting in March, Waterfowl Field Trip in April, Century Day Counts, Sutton Search, and Sortie in May, the Foray in June, Field Trip in Terra Alta in July, Labor Day Weekend at Camp Anthony in Greenbrier County, Bird Banding and Hawk Counts in September, Annual Meeting at Cedar Lakes in October, and Christmas Counts in December.

The most treasured event of all these is the two-week-long Foray, which is held each June in a different area of West Virginia suitable for bird and plant study. The purpose is to offer members and others (especially students) the chance to be in the field and take part in an ecological study of a selected area. The program is planned so everyone can pursue his own interest. There are classes and field work in birds, ferns, mosses, flowers, grasses, trees, geology, fungi, reptiles and small mammals. There is bird-banding and nest-finding. The interdependence of all living things is learned anew.

The Foray is the splendid solitude of a forest trail, scientific plotting and impromptu fun. It's an emotional and aesthetic experience that lifts the spirit and lightens the heart. Sometimes it rains.

The Allegheny Front Migration Observatory near Red Creek Campground in Tucker County has been manned for 17 years by BBC banders.

A Wild Life Sanctuary program which offers signs for sale has been very successful in almost every state in the Union.

The Club has been commended by Cornell University for its participation in the North American Nesting Card Program. It usually contributes from 600-800 cards each year.

The BBC sponsored a birding tour of Switzerland in 1978, and members have just returned from a tour of Spain this April.

"The Redstart" is the official publication of the Club. Original papers in the field of natural history have been published in magazine format quarterly since 1933. The quarterly "Mail Bag" is a newsletter. The Club has also published A List of West Virginia Birds by Dr. George A. Hall (1971). The Handlan Chapter has published Birds of the Great Kanawha Valley by Charles O. Handley, Sr.

Inquiries should go to The Brooks Bird Club, Inc., 707 Warwood Avenue, Wheeling, WV 26003.

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Leadership Conference Sparks New Energy

by John Parbaugh

On the fog-bound flanks of Shenandoah National Park near Front Royal, Virginia, over 100 environmentalists from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia met to learn about "broadening our base of support," the theme for the Central Atlantic Environmental Leadership Conference on April 13-15.

The meeting was sponsored by the ten largest national membership environmental organizations: Environmental Defense Fund, Environmental Policy Institute, Friends of the Earth, Izaak Walton League of America, National Audubon Society, National Parks and Conservation Association, National Wildlife Federation, National Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, and The Wilderness Society.

Most of the learning came from each other, as the sessions focused on involvement in the political process, mobilizing volunteers, making the most of media opportunities, when to use litigation, and fund raising. The opportunity to discuss ways to strengthen local environmental groups such as the Highlands Conservancy with experienced hands from other states gave all of us new energy and ideas for future success.

Conservancy members attending were Linda, Dave and Molly Elkinton, Linda Winter, Geoff Green and myself; other West Virginians included Dave McMahon (Oil & Gas Reform Coalition) and Joe McAteer of Fairmont.

In three meetings focusing on West Virginia concerns, St. Albans native Peter Carlson of the Environmental Policy Institute acted as a facilitator. Here, as in the larger meetings, the emphasis was on the **what and how** of broadening support for environmental groups in West Virginia.

Everyone agreed the various environmental and sportsmen's groups, nature and bird clubs and local single-issue groups needed to work more closely together, to form strong coalitions on issues and assist each other. This abstract goal will be pursued by trying to arrange a meeting of the local leadership of the Highlands Conservancy, Citizen Action Group, Izaak Walton League, West Virginia Wildlife Federation, Trout Unlimited, the Sierra Club, Audubon Society/Brooks Bird Club, and The Nature Conservancy.

If these representatives can identify common ground and renew commitments, a similar skills conference for West Virginia environmental leaders will be planned.

LAST CHANCE!!

Renew your West Virginia Highlands Conservancy membership before July 1st at the old rates. Save 50% for the next year, or even more! You can keep your Conservancy membership alive and keep yourself

on top of environmental issues for two, three, or four years at the current rate.

But act now. Memberships mailed after July 1st will be higher. Save money and keep saving the environment. Send your check today.

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THE W. VA. HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

New Renewal

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Membership category (see descriptions opposite)

- | | |
|--|--|
| Individual | Organizational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Regular | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Regular |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Associate | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Associate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Sustaining | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 8 Senior | |

Brief statement of present position, interest, or activities in conservation activities (optional)

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Democrats Challenge. . .

(Continued from Page 1)

chairmanship of the state Economic Summit Conference in December, and linked business climate to "quality of life." He said, "We must have a good educational system to attract business, and we need to plan our economic goals."

Staggers said, "The attorney general represents all the people, the best interest of the people, and not any one group."

On Differences Between Themselves

Brown said he had "the right stuff to fight for West Virginia," cited his record of supporting health care cost containment and opposing "high gas bills and phone bills." He pledged to set a priority on crimes against children, such as child-abuse and drug dealing.

Staggers wants to coordinate prosecutors and law enforcement agencies, and to "protect the people against con artists, business rip-offs, fraud, polluters and political corruption." He cited his experiences in representing state agencies as prosecutor, and proposed to open regional offices headed by assistant attorneys general.

Boettner said, "It is not enough to be right—you also have to be effective," and pointed to his role in enacting health and utility rate control legislation in the State Senate.

On Organized Crime and Political Corruption

All three agreed they would seek legislation granting prosecutorial powers to the attorney general and authorizing appointment of a special prosecutor in cases of political corruption. In a jibe at Staggers, Boettner challenged the others to swear their campaigns would not accept the services of "anyone who would stand in the way of investigating political corruption." Recent charges have named Barron-era figure Curtis Trent as a Staggers campaign worker in southern West Virginia.

On Federal Issues

Staggers affirmed that the attorney general has the power to intervene in federal cases "to protect the people."

Boettner said acid rain is the number one federal environmental issue he would tackle, by gathering facts on its impact in West Virginia, and going to Washington to argue for reduction of power plant sulfur emissions.

Brown recalled he represented the state in federal court on antitrust cases concerning natural gas and phone pricing, and had filed a petition in administrative proceedings to block the merger of the Chessie Rail System with a barge line.

On Chauncey Browning

The three candidates refrained from criticizing fellow Democrat and sixteen-year veteran Attorney General Browning, with Staggers calling him "a fine gentleman." Nonetheless, each promised to reform the office.

Boettner would organize the staff according to specialized expertise in school law, environmental law, etc. He also sees a role for the office as mediator between labor and business.

Brown promised to do more for consumer protection, starting with a toll-free line for citizens complaints, and a mobile office rather than regional offices as proposed by Staggers. "If we can get ski conditions on an 800 number," said Brown, "we ought to be able to get help on consumer fraud the same way."

Staggers would increase efficiency with more computers and word processors for legal research work. He would emphasize the accessibility of the office without adding costs.

On Environmental Protection

Brown claimed he was in a better position to protect "our greatest asset—the environment" than "someone who accepts contributions from natural gas and big oil interests like Si Boettner."

Boettner responded that he was "not aware of any particular contribution to which he (Brown) alludes," and reminded the audience of his successful sponsorship of the Surface Owners' Rights bill, and his endorsement by the Sierra Club for introducing legislation to protect Canaan Valley. Boettner called for an investigation of the antitrust division which Brown headed until his dismissal by Browning in 1982. He accused Brown's division of botching a paving fraud investigation, and of failing to recover sufficient money in settlements with accused firms to fund the division's activities. He also said enforcement of strip mining laws has been weak.

Staggers cited a strip mine visible from I-79 as an example of the need for better enforcement of stripping regulations.

On Representing Legislative and Judicial Branches

Danny Staggers favors the attorney general's office representing "each officer in the state" if this can be done without overextending the office.

Si Boettner opposed AG representation of legislators and other state officers, especially where these are accused of political favoritism or abuse.

Charlie Brown didn't answer directly, but said he would follow the Code of Professional Responsibility. Hitting back at Boettner's accusations, he said, "the entire budget of the antitrust division, \$150,000, was less than Boettner used to redecorate his office."

On Firing a Teacher Reputed to be Homosexual

In a Hampshire County case, Attorney General Browning ruled that the school board had the authority to dismiss a teacher because parents thought she was homosexual and this negatively affected her effectiveness as a teacher.

Staggers referred to a Supreme Court decision declaring that activities outside school which do not affect teaching ability are not grounds for dismissing a teacher. He did not say whether he thought a homosexual reputation affects teaching ability.

Boettner said it would be a violation of due process to dismiss someone without drawing up standards for assessing teaching ability. Boettner said such standards "would include community-based criteria—we have to be realistic."

Brown said he would not allow dismissal of someone on the basis of reputation alone. He also said laws supported by Boettner had made it difficult to fire a bad teacher.

On Manchin vs. Browning

The state Supreme Court has ruled that the attorney general must represent a state agency head in court even if the AG disagrees with the agency's position.

Brown said this case showed the need for the Legislature to grant the AG additional powers, while Staggers said the AG does not represent agencies, but instead represents the people. Boettner agreed the AG's client is the people rather than the agency, and pledged to take the issue back to the Supreme Court for re-hearing.

On Settling Cases Out of Court

Staggers declared he "would use discretion in examining the facts and merits of a particular case, and where these warrant, the case should be sued if it is in the best interests of the people, and not plea-bargained."

Boettner would examine the inventory of complaints and "where the complaints show a pattern of violation, they ought to go to court." He also cited the Legislature's recently passed "lemon law" as an example of specific standards for consumer rights.

Brown defended his record of out-of-court settlements. "The key question," he insisted, "is whether there is a remedy in civil law." He said his settlements had resulted in lower fees for customers of banks in Elkins and refunds to victims of price-fixing car dealers and to schools overcharged for art supplies.

On Private Practices by Assistant Attorneys General

Si Boettner promised to keep his assistants so busy they would not have time for private practice. "They should be full-time public servants," he said, "not political pensioners. I will make the office of AG so exciting that attorneys will want to work not eight, but ten to twelve hours per day, seven days a week, for practically nothing."

Brown agreed assistants would not be allowed to practice privately, but Staggers would "try doing without private practice." The custom comes from low public salaries, Stagger said, but quoted the Bible saying, "no man can serve two masters."

On Crime Victims Reparation

Brown believes the Crime Victims Reparation Fund should be better publicized.

Staggers does not want reparations limited to victims of personal injury, and thinks the 72-hour limit on reporting the crime is too stringent. "The law should be amended to include property loss, and to include victim participation all the way through prosecution," he said. "The victim should have a feeling of retribution."

Boettner took credit for sponsoring the Crime Victims Reparation Bill. He said the real issue is whether the perpetrator should make restitution. He said the law calls for restitution unless the judge has a good reason not to require it.

On Browning's Taking the Fifth Amendment

The three candidates agreed that while an individual is protected against self-incrimination, this right should not shield a public officer from answering for his official actions.

An officer who takes the fifth should be removed according to Staggers, should resign or be voted out according to Brown, and should not continue in office according to Boettner.

On Campaign Contributions

The three candidates compared expenditures in the campaign so far, with Boettner at \$30,000, Brown at \$20,000 and Staggers at \$20,000.

Brown extended a challenge to debate in five urban centers in the state. Although Stagger did not respond, Boettner said he would join the debates if two conditions were met. "First, Danny Staggers will have to change his last name," Boettner joked, "and second, Charlie Brown will have to make public his record as assistant attorney general—what investigations were made, what settlements were taken." Then Boettner upped the ante.

"We won't just have these debates in the cities," he continued, "we'll get and old truck and a microphone and go into every hollow."



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Coming Up...

SUMMER HIKES

● June 10 ● Cranesville Swamp
 ● WV Group/Sierra Club hike with naturalist highlights northern plant life. Limit 15.
 ● Contact Jim Sconyers (789-6889)

● June 30 ● Nelson's Rock, near Circleville
 ● WV Group/Sierra Club hike for five-star view and plant life.
 ● Contact Pat Stanley (485-8293)

● July 14-15 ● Otter Creek
 ● WV Group/Sierra Club backpack or dayhike through Otter Creek hardwood forest.
 ● Contact Pat Stanley (485-9283)

● July 21 ● Kanawha State Forest
 ● Dayhike for nature study and photography.
 ● Contact Charles Carlson (343-2056) or Pat Stanley (485-8293)

● July 21 ● Brush Creek, Mercer County

● WV Chapter/Nature Conservancy sponsors "Adventure Through Brush Creek," a dayhike to one of the state's best stands of Canadian Yew.
 ● Contact Rodney Bartgis (636-9270 evening, 636-1767 day)

BIRDERS' SORTIE

● June 20-24 ● Dolly Sods, Tucker County
 ● Brooks Birds Club sallies forth for birds and fun.
 ● Write: Brooks Bird Club, Rt. 1, Box 116, Triadelphia, WV 26059

RIVER TRIPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

● American Rivers Conservation Council sponsors both eastern and western river excursions in everything from kayaks to dories (canoes and rafts in between). Nine of the seventeen eastern trips between mid-April and late June were held in West Virginia. Ten western trips from the Rio Grande to the Noatak are scheduled between May and October.

Outfitters fees vary.

● Write: American Rivers Conservation Council, 323 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003, or call (202) 547-6900.

WVHC SUMMER MEETING

● Tentatively scheduled either July 22 or 29, possibly at Summersville. Keep your schedules open.

"HIKING GUIDE TO MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST AND VICINITY"

4th Edition - 1982

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West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
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How Does *Your* Member of Congress Vote on Environmental Issues?

by Linda Winter

A nationwide poll conducted in November 1983 by Louis Harris indicated that environmental issues will be a major factor in the 1984 elections.

This news did not come as a surprise to the League of Conservation Voters (LCV). Formed in 1970, LCV is an environmental political action committee which supports proven environmental leaders running for offices in the House, Senate and gubernatorial elections. The League knows from experience that environmental issues can play a key role in a can-

didate's election into office. Since 1970, in every election year, over half the candidates LCV supported were elected.

The LCV's steering committee of leaders from the major national environmental organizations choose to support candidates who are members of key Congressional committees, or those challengers with proven records on the local level. This year, West Virginia's own Representative Bob Wise is among those candidates the LCV will support!

The League also publishes charts every year showing the floor votes of

all Members of the House and Senate on the most crucial environmental and energy issues. Some of these issues include: EPA funding; hazardous waste regulation; air pollution control; soil and water conservation; wilderness; and the coal slurry pipeline. The following chart shows how often *your* members of Congress voted for environmental legislation. The scores represent the percentage of times each Member made the environmentally correct vote. One hundred percent is the highest possible score.

W.V. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VOTING CHART

	1983**	1982*	1981	1979-'80
Senators:				
Byrd (D)		69	75	23
Randolph (D)		62	56	49
Representatives:				
Mollohan (D-1st)	53	46	37	17
Benedict (R-2nd)		7	15	
Staton (R-3rd)		21	36	
Rahall (D-4th)	53	56	53	41
Staggers (D-2nd)	71			
Wise (D-3rd)	93			

*from: How Congress Voted on Energy and the Environment - 1982 Voting Chart, \$4.00, LCV, 320 4th St. NE, Washington, DC 20002

**from: How the U.S. House of Representatives Voted on Energy and the Environment - 1983 Voting Chart, \$4.00, LCV.

Note: Scores were not computed for the Senate floor votes in 1983. They will be combined with the voting record for 1984.

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