

THE HIGHLANDS VOICE

Published monthly by the W.Va. Highlands Conservancy

Vol. 18 No. 4 June 1985

Conservancy challenges DOE legislation flaws

Following a May 5 Board of Directors' decision to take action against the Department of Energy bill, the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy joined the West Virginia Citizens Action Group and the West Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited May 9 in filing a formal request for Action before the Office of Surface Mining and a Notice of Intent to Sue if the federal government fails to act on this request.

The petition requests that OSM 1) immediately investigate changes in the West Virginia programs, 2) require the State of West Virginia to submit a program amendment for approval of the Office of Surface Mining within 30 days, 3) prohibit the State from implementing any change in law without prior approval of the Office of Surface Mining, and 4) promptly implement a federal reversion of the State program during the period when the State is without legal authority to regulate surface mining so unregulated surface mining does not occur.

The petition was filed with the Director of the Office of Surface Mining, the Commissioner of the West Virginia Department of Energy, the Director of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources and the Attorney General of West Virginia, also states the groups' intent to sue under the citizen suit provisions of state and federal acts if OSM does not take the requested actions within a reasonable time.

"The DOE bill was so sloppily and hastily put together that we are likely to end up with no state surface mine program at all after July 11," Perry Bryant, acting director of WV-CAG, said.

Passage of the energy bill changed the laws governing surface mining in West Virginia. When such changes are made, they must be approved by the OSM before they go into effect. But although the new legislation provides a date for repealing the old law, no effective date for the new law is provided.

"As of July 11, the old law regulating surface mining is repealed," said John Purbaugh, Conservancy member. "It looks like we won't have any new law to replace it until federal approval is given, which could take quite a while given the content of the DOE bill."

If OSM does not approve the changes, the state will not be able to issue permits and inspect strip mines legally. Coal companies need those permits and inspections to operate in accordance with the law.

"If the state reclamation program is not approved by OSM—if they find it is not in line with federal law—then OSM steps in, takes control of the state surface mine program, and enforces federal law," Purbaugh said.

West Virginia receives about \$2 million annually in federal funds to operate the OSM-approved program. If OSM has to run the reclamation program, the state would lose these funds.

Larry George, Conservancy president, said, "It would be preferable to make the necessary adjustments to the bill within the state. The Conservancy would prefer to see the state continue to operate a program that conforms to federal law, but a program operated by OSM would be better than no program at all."

In addition to the possible gap in surface mining regulation, the WVHC and other groups are especially concerned about the fact that the DOE bill does not prohibit the DOE Commissioner from having a financial interest in coal mining.

"The bill leaves governors free to appoint a coal operator as Commissioner, he or she could then issue permits to his or her own company," Bryant said.

Federal law requires all employees in federally-approved programs to be covered by a provision prohibiting conflict of interest. West Virginia received federal approval to operate its own surface mining program in 1981. George said the new legislation means the state will have to go through the process of getting federal approval once again.

There has been speculation that Gov. Arch A. Moore, Jr. will announce that no federal approval is necessary because the law has not been significantly changed. Bryant said Moore will probably characterize the bill as a simple reorganization effort for which OSM approval is not required. (Continued on Page 3)

Continued cooperation essential, Albright says

West Virginia House Speaker Joseph Albright stressed the need for continued efforts at cooperating with Gov. Arch A. Moore, Jr. in an address to Conservancy members at the Spring Review May 4.

Despite challenges to his leadership which arose during passage of the controversial Department of Energy bill in the 1985 legislative session, Albright said the Legislature is obliged to manage the state properly and that this requires cooperation with the governor's office.

"My original idea was to do the best we could to operate in a cooperative spirit with the governor and Senate," Albright said. "West Virginia has some serious problems which haven't yielded to conventional solutions and I realized that out-of-the-ordinary solutions should be considered."

Albright outlined action taken by the House to revise the Department of Energy bill to retain the spirit of Moore's proposed changes while providing for environmental and health protections. This included inserting conflict-of-interest provisions, reducing the politicization of certain positions and generally removing technical errors in the bill.

A House subcommittee, led by Del.



House Speaker Joseph Albright addresses members of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy during the Spring Review May 4 at Camp Anthony.

Chuck Chambers (D-Cabell), spent several weeks rewriting the bill to achieve an umbrella effect. Albright took the revised legislation to the governor to explain what changes had been made and why. He said although Moore was not absolutely pleased with the changes he said he was amenable to them.

The Senate then passed the governor's version of the bill with the understanding that it would go to a House/Senate conference committee. Albright said intensive lobbying of House members by the governor's office and oil and gas industry representatives resulted in rejection of the House's cleaned-up version.

"I quickly realized that the combination of oil and gas industry representatives and the governor was an unbeatable one," Albright said.

The House considered 20 requests from the governor during the 1985 session. Of these, Albright said 17 were acted on favorably, two were abandoned by Moore and one, the Department of Energy bill, was revised by the House. Albright said that in his opinion this represented considerable cooperation by the House with both the governor and the Senate.

"The time for cooperation has not ended, but we may require close vigilance," Albright said. "The energy bill was an exercise in raw, naked power."

Approximately 55 people attended Albright's talk.

**The
Conservancy
Wants You!**

From the editor:

Photos and features needed for the Voice

Over the last two months I have learned much about how the Conservancy works and how dedicated many of its members are to protecting the environment in West Virginia.

The diversity of issues in which Conservancy members are involved is impressive. Conservancy members who are experts in environmental problems such as wilderness designation, highway construction, mining regulation and acid rain seem willing to give infinite amounts of time and effort to finding adequate solutions. The ability of the Conservancy to address each of a wide range of problems in a responsible and rational way seems to me to be the true strength of this organization.

By definition, Conservancy members are interested in the activities of the Conservancy and what it is doing to solve one or more of the problems it faces. Many members are unable, however, to actively participate in devising and achieving solutions.

This where the Voice comes in. Information about actions taken by the Conservancy, problems which need to be addressed and analysis of legislative or court action affecting environmental issues is transmitted to members through the Voice.

Admittedly most of this information could be gleaned by careful reading of daily newspapers. The Voice provides a different and important perspective, however, and brings all the environmental news together in one newspaper.

Since one person (the editor) cannot possibly keep up-to-date on all of the issues important to the Conser-

vancy, Voice contributors are very important. Committee chairs and Conservancy directors-at-large contribute articles and information about problems and progress in their areas of specialty.

General news of local issues around the state and stories about members' favorite places and outdoor activities are harder to come by, however. A newspaper needs to balance serious news and analysis stories with photos, feature stories and other material appealing to readers.

Environmental news is often gloomy because we always seem to be fighting against something or someone. But the Voice doesn't need to present only negative news. There is plenty of room for both serious news and analysis and for lighter articles.

You can help make the Voice a more balanced newspaper by contributing articles, ideas, photos, artwork or any other appropriate materials.

If you would like to help but don't know where to begin, just write and let me know you are interested. I can give you story ideas or help you develop your idea into an article. It's not hard - you just need a pen, paper and a little time.

So if you are a canoeist, naturalist, hiker, climber, birdwatcher and/or have other outdoor interests, please share them with other members. We need your help.

In addition, your views on issues or on the Conservancy's actions in the form of letters to the editor or opinion pieces are most welcome.

Congressional committees begin work on environmental agenda

(Adapted from the **Public Lands Institute Newsletter**, published by the **Natural Resources Defense Council**, April 1985, vol. 8, No. 4)

The following are natural resource bills which have been introduced in the 99th Congress.

H.R. 1027 by Rep. John Breaux (D-LA) would extend the Endangered Species Act for three years without amendments. A bi-partisan group in the Senate headed by Sen. John Chafee (R-RI) introduced S. 725 which would extend the Act five years.

The House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife, chaired by Breaux, held a hearing March 14; a Chafee sub-committee has scheduled one on S. 725 April 16 and 18. Without such legislation, the Endangered Species Act will expire September 30.

Several bills to control acid rain have been introduced. Among them are H.R. 1030 by Rep. Silvio Conte (R-MA), calling for a 12-million-ton annual reduction in sulfur-dioxide emissions over 48 states within 10 years; S. 2, by Sen. Robert Stafford (R-VT), to require a 10-million-ton reduction in 31 eastern states in 10 years; and S. 503, Sen. Gordon Humphrey (R-NH) and Sen. William Proxmire (D-WI), for a 10-million-ton reduction in 31 states in 13 years.

Legislation to reauthorize and strengthen the Clean Air Act is expected.

Bills to extend the Clean Water Act, which narrowly failed last year, have been introduced. They are H.R. 8, by Rep. James Howard (D-NJ) and S. 53 by Stafford.

Since both Howard and Stafford chair the committees handling the bills, early action is likely. Hearings have been held on S. 53 and on Chafee's similar S. 552. Neither measure would change Section 404 which requires a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers for the filling of wetlands and other waters. Conservationists support Section 404 but think the licensing authority should be taken away from the Corps which seldom gets excited about saving wetlands.

S. 124 by Sen. Dave Durenberger (R-MN) would extend and strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act. Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) is expected to introduce an even stronger bill, adding ground-water and aquifer protection.

Superfund legislation got a quick send-off when the Senate Environment Committee voted 13 to 1 to report S. 51, authorizing \$7.5 billion over 5 years for cleaning up hazardous waste sites. This is \$2.2 billion more than the Administration recommends. Last year the House passed a \$10.2-billion bill that died in the Senate. Environmentalists believe \$13.5 billion is needed for an effective clean-up over five years.

H.R. 1204, an Emergency Wetlands

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Resources Act introduced by Breaux, proposes to speed up federal and state acquisition of marsh, swamp, and estuarine wetlands. It would provide the funds by 1) gradually increasing the migratory bird hunting license (duck stamp) over 5 years from \$7.50 to \$15; 2) authorizing a "reasonably paid single-visit-fee" at

selected units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and 3) forgiving the \$154 million owed the Treasury under the earlier Wetlands Loan Act. It also proposes to draw \$25 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for federal acquisition of wetlands and \$50 million for state programs.

Take a part in West Virginia's future!!

Response to MNF plan may be highest in nation

Approximately 3,500 responses to the Monongahela National Forest Plan were received by Forest officials during the public comment period which ended May 1, according to Gil Churchill, Forest spokesman.

"To my knowledge this is more than any other forest in the nation has received," Churchill said. The Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky, which had a similar plan and public comment period, received only 22 responses and the George Washington National Forest in Virginia only about 1,400, he said.

The Forest received approximately 2,400 comments by the original March 29 deadline and an additional 1,100 during the extended comment period.

"We were surprised at the volume of response," Churchill said. "I think it depends on whether some person or organization emerges as a leader to generate public interest. Our plan was not that different from other forest plans."

The Forest Service is putting all of the comments into a data base for analysis. Of the 3,500 comments 300-400 were phone calls and the rest written responses from individuals and organizations. All responses will be used in the analysis.

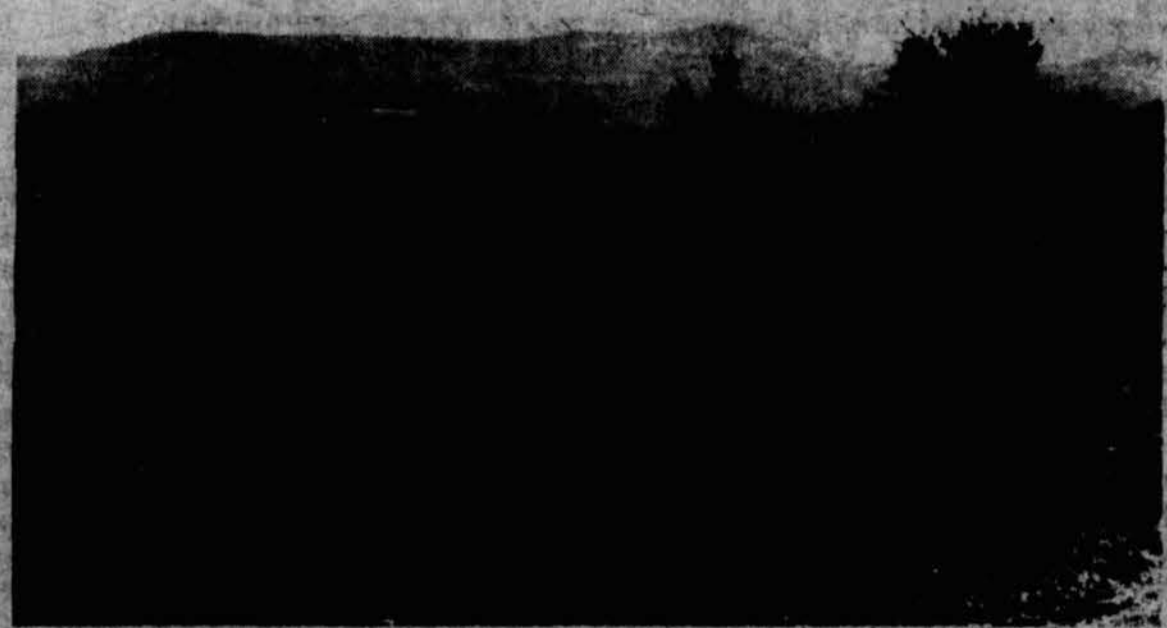
Churchill said the Forest Service will extract from the comments all the different ideas, questions and suggestions made. Interdisciplinary teams will examine the results and identify items requiring a response. Churchill said a response will be made to all questions and suggestions regardless of how frequently they were made.

Preliminary analysis identifies some of the frequently mentioned concerns as: remote wildlife habitat protection, proposed road construction, loss of coal, clearcutting, and conifer conversion. Churchill also said land acquisition and recreation management practices concerned a number of people.

A revised version of the plan should be completed by October or November, Churchill said. Whether revisions will be in the form of another plan or be the final version has not yet been decided.

Churchill said if the teams respond in new or different ways to the comments a new draft will be prepared. If the comments can be adequately addressed through existing alternatives then no new draft will be necessary.

In its comments about the MNF plan, the Conservancy requested that a new draft plan be prepared for public consideration. The need for fundamental and comprehensive revisions to the plan and numerous adverse impacts on the forest occurring from its implementation were cited as reasons for requesting a new draft.



Spring comes slowly in the Cranberry Wilderness but the views are beautiful at any time of the year.

A condensed version of the Conservancy's official comments was included in the May Voice.

Completion of 50-year National Forest Forest Plans is targeted for the end of fiscal year 1985 but the Monongahela National Forest will not meet this tentative deadline. There is no legal date by which the plan must be completed.

If a new draft is prepared another 3-month public comment period will be required.

Although surprised by the volume of response, Churchill said Forest Service officials were pleased that so many people expressed concern about the Forest.

"It is reassuring that so many people have written to say they like the forest the way it is and want us to protect it," Churchill said. "This must say something about the management over the past years."

Board to commission water study in Canaan

A motion approving Conservancy participation in recently initiated legal efforts to protect water quality in the rapidly-developing southern end of Canaan Valley was passed by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Board of Directors May 5.

The Board affirmed WVHC's continued involvement in efforts to protect this important natural area and decided to commission a study to determine future action regarding legal and procedural inadequacies of state regulatory agencies.

WVHC members will recall that water quality and wetland features of Canaan Valley, both their size and character, are what led to a 1979 proposal that the Valley be established as a National Wildlife Refuge. (West Virginia is the only state without such a formally designated area within its borders and WVHC maintains that Canaan Valley with its 6,700 wetland acres eminently qualifies.)

A final decision on this proposal has been delayed until a long-overdue federal court decision on a Canaan hydropower project (the Davis Power Project which would flood more than 7,000 acres of the northern Canaan Valley for construction of a pump-storage, peaking power generation facility) is rendered.

Meanwhile, the course and extent of private

development in the southern headwater area of Canaan Valley, which has sustained a 400% growth rate in recent years, is a source of continuing concern to those interested in maintaining the Valley's natural attractions, ecological integrity and qualifications for Refuge designation.

In her report to the Board, Canaan Valley Committee chair Linda Cooper Elkinton said important Valley features are threatened by the rapid development and lack of prior review of sewage system plans for individual developments.

"Water quality is really taking a hit," she said. "As things stand now, state agencies interpret state law to allow construction of homes, resorts and facilities prior to the granting of water and sewage discharge permits," Elkinton said. "There is no opportunity for evaluation of the appropriateness of a development in terms of such elemental considerations as soil conditions, hydrology, sewage management or overall water quality maintenance before it is constructed."

The committee report also indicated other problems: quarterly reports required by developers operating permitted sewage systems are sometimes not submitted, some reports clearly show improper functioning of a system, and in some cases the reports do not represent the actual situation.

Committee members noted that regulatory agency personnel and experts in the field have confirmed that without proper monitoring and maintenance, illegal and harmful discharges are all but inevitable with package sewage treatment systems.

Elkinton also said some commercial establishments and developments in Canaan operate without legal permits.

"This happens in a variety of instances," she said. "The facility may have been built in an area (Continued on Page 8)

DOE legislation....

(Continued from Page 1)

Governor Moore did just this May 14 when he announced that special approval by OSM was not required. The *Charleston Gazette* reported that Moore planned to meet with Department of Interior officials to discuss the DOE bill but that he did not expect West Virginia to be without mining regulations after July 11.

Moore said the groups filing the suit were "in a clandestine way attempting to do indirectly what they couldn't do in the legislative session."

Federal regulations explicitly state "No ... change to laws or regulations shall take effect for purposes of a state program until approved as an amendment (by OSM)."

"We do not believe OSM can possibly approve the new law as it stands because it conflicts dramatically with federal law," George said.

Ed Hayne, of the Kanawha Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, said the DOE bill was rushed through the Legislature too quickly and few legislators even had a chance to read it. "Our rivers and mountains deserve better than this," he said.

There are other reasons for conservation groups' opposition to the DOE bill. It calls for political appointees to replace professionals currently protected by civil service. Fears are that decisions relating to conditions for reclamation and water discharge permits, enforcement actions, and coal mine health and safety issues will be unnecessarily politicized under the new bill.

"This bill may have been seen by some as a political victory for the governor, but it is a piece of trash, an embarrassment to the people of this state," Bryant said.

Experts trade New River info

Geologists, biologists, historians, and other specialists got together April 11-13 to discuss their area of common interest—the New River—at the 4th annual New River Symposium.

William E. Cox, National Park Service employee and coordinator of the Symposium, said more than 20 papers dealing with a wide range of topics related to the New River were presented at the meeting in Pipestem State Park.

Biologists discussed such topics as rare plants of the gorge, mussel surveys along the river and fish assemblages associated with different habitat types.

The Mary Ingles Hiking Trail which will extend through parts of West Virginia, Virginia and Kentucky and a New River Guide for boaters and hikers were also discussed.

The Mary Ingles hiking trail follows the historic route of Mary Ingles who escaped from Indian

captors and made her way back home through the wilderness. A section of this trail will go through the New River Gorge National River, Cox said.

The Symposium is a multi-disciplinary conference open to anyone with a professional or amateur interest in the New River. Its purpose is to promote the sharing of information among people with specialized knowledge about various aspects of the river.

"We had a good cross section of speakers this year," Cox said. "The symposium brings together a wide range of people interested in the New River."

The symposium, sponsored by the Appalachian Consortium, the New River Gorge National River, Wytheville Community College and the West Virginia Department of Culture and History, will be in Virginia next year April 10-12.

SPRING REVIEW: A WEEKEND OF

Flowers, views and sunshine greet hikers in Cranberry

Twelve eager hikers set off from the Spring Review May 4 on a Cranberry Wilderness hike led by Charley Carlson.

The evening before, Charley showed slides of the area and told stories about his first trip to the Glades in 1925. What is now part of the wilderness was being logged at that time. Second-growth timber has done well, however, and the Cranberry now boasts some of the finest northern hardwood and red spruce stands in the east.



Hikers bushwhack through the woods of the Cranberry Wilderness in search of wildflowers, birds and the trail.

The Cranberry Wilderness was created in 1983 and is made up of about 26,000 acres of the original Cranberry Backcountry and 9,000 additional acres.

Stopping at the Cranberry Mountain Visitors Center, we asked Charley to point out our route on a relief map covered with trails. To our surprise, Charley ignored the marked trails and indicated we were to follow the North Fork for a while, then cut up the mountain, finally joining with a trail to get us back to the starting point.

At the trailhead we got ready and set off into the woods. It was a beautiful sunny day and wildflowers were plentiful.

Trilliums, violets, viburnums and lilies were among the 24 flower species seen along the way. The orchids were not in bloom but several potentially beautiful ones were found.

Several hikers got their first sight—and smell—of ramps. Some were even brave enough to taste them for the first time—raw.

Lunch was eaten in a quiet spot near a fork of the North Fork with no one except Charley really knowing where we were.

After reaching the confluence of two forks of the Cranberry we started up the mountain. When we eventually got to the top and a real trail, we were treated to lovely views of the glades and much of the Cranberry backcountry.

The brochure from the Visitor's



Hike leader Charley Carlson takes a break during a trek in the Cranberry Wilderness May 4.

Center said maps and a compass are important items to take into the wilderness to prevent getting lost. Charley had neither map nor compass but led us unerringly through the woods, along the stream and up the mountain until we reached the Forks

of the Cranberry Trail which took us back to the cars.

Stopping at several scenic overlooks on the return journey provided beautiful views of the wilderness without the hard work of hiking. All in all, a good trip.

DNR wildlife calendar ready

Now is the time to order the first West Virginia Wildlife Calendar published by the wildlife resources division of the Department of Natural Resources. The calendar will run from September 1985 through August 1986.

Each month will feature an 11 x 8 1/2 inch wildlife scene reproduced from an original painting by a West Virginia artist. The painting will have a narrative about the featured wildlife species, including its status and management in the state.

The price of the calendar is \$5.00 postpaid. Simply make your checks payable to the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources and return to CALENDAR, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 57, Elkins, WV 26241.

WVHC Board:

Approves action on DOE bill, Canaan

Discussion on how best to oppose the Department of Energy bill passed in the 1985 Legislative session dominated the May 5 WVHC Board of Directors meeting.

Perry Bryant, vice president for State Affairs, presented an overview of the bill (see article in May Voice) and discussed the possible avenues the Conservancy could pursue in opposing the legislation.

"No legal challenges will fix this bill," Bryant said. "The best thing to do is get it back before the Legislature so they can examine the issues more carefully."

But initiating a legal challenge may be the only way to get the bill reconsidered, Bryant said.

Bryant proposed the Conservancy join other conservation groups in the state in challenging various aspects of the bill. The West Virginia Citizens Action Group and the West Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited had already agreed to participate in legal action if necessary.

A motion that the Conservancy request the Office of Surface Mining to review the bill and notify them of an intent to sue was passed by the board. Subsequent action by the Conservancy is detailed in the article on page 1.

Water quality problems plague Canaan

Water quality problems in Canaan Valley were the focus of a report by Linda Cooper Elkinton, chair of the Canaan Valley Committee.

A preliminary appeal to the Water Resources Board addressing problems with siting of sewage facilities and development in wetland areas was filed by Elkinton. "There is no chance for prior

review of permits," she said.

Elkinton proposed the Conservancy participate in the appeal process to protect water quality in the Valley.

Larry George, Conservancy president, suggested contracting an environmental consultant to conduct a study similar to the one done at Snowshoe. Such a study would show the Department of Health whether or not standards were being met.

The Board passed a motion to conduct an environmental study in Canaan Valley. See related story on page 3.

Board refuses to endorse Corridor H

Another major topic discussed by the Board was the construction of Corridor H. "The corridor H pipe is bubbling once again," said Geoff Green, Highway Committee Chair.

He said the Department of Highways is rewriting the Draft Environmental Impact Statement because the road is being rerouted around Spruce Knob National Recreation Area.

George said it was time for the Conservancy to formally support Alternatives D and E as routes for Corridor H. He said the Conservancy can no longer oppose construction of the road and that Alternative A, Gov. Arch A. Moore Jr.'s preference, can only be defeated if there is an economically feasible alternative.

George proposed adoption of a policy statement to the effect that the Conservancy supports Alternative D or E for construction of Corridor H with provision for skirting Greenland Gap.

"The Conservancy needs to make a move

against Alternatives A, B, and C and for Alternatives D or E," George said.

Several Board members were against any show of support for Corridor H, however, and said the Conservancy should remain opposed to construction of the road.

A motion was passed stating that although the Conservancy remains opposed to Corridor H, for economic and environmental reasons it prefers Alternatives D and E.

Scheduled outings will continue

Outings Committee chair John Purbaugh reported that scheduled outings had been less than successful. Suggested reasons included the fee charged and the novelty of the Conservancy offering outings.

The Board agreed with Purbaugh that the idea had not been adequately tested yet and the committee will continue to plan outings for Conservancy members.

No outings are scheduled for the summer months but a fall and winter schedule of trips will be planned and publicized well before the trips begin, Purbaugh said.

Other action

The Board approved a motion to temporarily waive membership fees for Mountain Stream Monitors and the West Virginia Scenic Trails Club.

In addition, a motion authorizing Conservancy sponsorship of a Nature Skool program developed by Linda Cooper Elkinton was approved.

HIKING, CANOEING, WORKING

Saturday canoe trip thrills and spills

By John Parbaugh

Due to high water on the lower Greenbrier River May 4, the Conservancy's Spring Review canoe trip moved north to the Durbin to Cass stretch of the river for a swift, sunny trip with a few moments of excitement.

Seventeen canoes made the trip, including a sizable contingent from the West Virginia chapter of the Nature Conservancy. With a wide range of skill levels represented, a very swift current, the first part of the trip saw a few spills and rolls, but all recovered without injury or danger.

West Virginia Secretary of State Ken Hochler, in the bow of Ray Ratliff's boat, took to the six

hour trip eagerly, and was rewarded with the scenic beauty of this mostly uninhabited 17 mile stretch of river.

The only real intrusion is the railroad track which connects with the state park line at Cass. Recently, the park has added a rail trip upriver to its regular schedule of runs on Bald Knob. Railroad buff Larry George kept up a running commentary on the area's history and the specifications of the different locomotives in use.

Trip leaders and coordinators Frank Pelurie and Charlie Mullens (Nature Conservancy), and Brian Farkis and Ray Ratliff (West Virginia Highlands Conservancy) deserve a word of thanks for their efforts.



Sunday Wildflowers on Anthony Creek

By Alan Smith

While the Conservancy board met Sunday morning, nine hikers set off to Blue Bend Recreation Area for a morning of wildflower study along Anthony Creek.

Led by Jim Randall of St. Albans, the hikers found many flowers in bloom on the walk to Big Draft, two miles from Blue Bend. Sharp eyes picked out two morel mushrooms from the background of leaf litter, but they were left for others to eat.

Many anglers were trying their luck along Anthony Creek but our questioning indicated there were more anglers than fish.

Luckily, our wildflower hunt was much more successful since we saw many flowers at their peak.

WVHC to sponsor 'Nature Skool'

Development of a program combining nature education and child care will be sponsored by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, the Board of Directors decided May 5.

Linda Gooper Elkinton presented a proposal for Nature Skool which is designed to operate simultaneously with adult meetings and conferences providing educational and entertainment activities for children ages three to ten.

The Conservancy will sponsor development of the program and funding will be sought from other sources to get it started. Elkinton said she expects Nature Skool eventually to become financially self-sufficient.

The program will provide a pre-planned and affordable child care package to meeting planners. Nature Skool directors will make all arrangements and provide publicity materials to be included with registration packets.

"Nature Skool will foster curiosity about the

natural environment and an overall consciousness about environmental quality," Elkinton said. "It is designed to challenge and inform children about the many wonders of nature and the earth on which we live."

The proposed package will be flexible enough to be used at meetings of different lengths ranging from an evening program to a whole weekend of activities. Some of the planned activities include field trips, treasure hunts, natural food snacks and challenging exercises.

Ample opportunity exists for marketing the program to private organizations, institutions and other entities in West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia, according to Elkinton.

Availability of Nature Skool at meetings and conferences will increase the participation of individuals who are parents by providing relevant entertainment and care for their children.

Coming Up

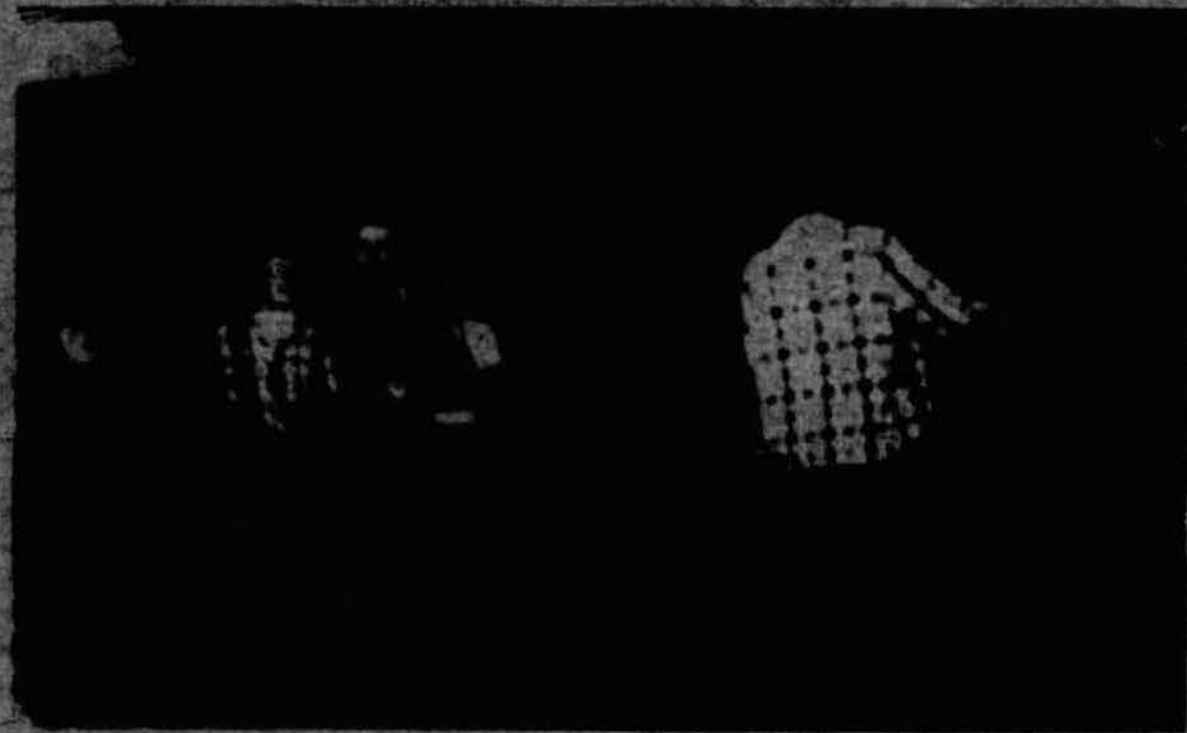
—June 7-9. Fly Fishing School, West Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited, Camp Pioneer, Beverly. Contact: Jack Bell, Box 231, Becksville, WV 26547.

—June 8-15. Annual Foray, Brooks Bird Club, Lost River State Park. Contact: William Murray, Box 82, New Cumberland, WV 26047.

—June 15. Third Annual Picnic, West Virginia Sierra Club, Kanawha State Forest, 10 a.m. Contact: Judith Reynolds-Taylor (345-8945) or Paul Turner (384-9230).

—June 22-23. Spruce Mountain Backpacking, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. Contact: WVHC office or Ed Lytwak (412-832-8278).

—July 7. Barbour County Orchid Tour, the Nature Conservancy. Meet 1:30 p.m. at small park adjacent to covered bridge in Philippi.



Conservancy members exercise their square-dancing abilities to the music and expert directions of 'Caledonia' during the Spring Review weekend.

Square-dancing part of weekend

For those not tired out by the day's activities, Saturday night at the Spring Review was one for square dancing.

Caledonia, a band specializing in traditional American dance, entertained the group with their music and dance instructions.

The band has toured throughout the eastern U.S. and is one of the most

popular dance bands in the mid-Atlantic states.

They provided plenty of action with Appalachian 'running sets', including lots of swing-your-partners, and square dances from all over.

People who weren't tired after canoeing or hiking all day certainly were after the dancing stopped late Saturday night.

Sunshine and camp hospitality make Spring Review memorable

Canoeing, hiking, dancing and talking were among the activities enjoyed by participants at the 1985 West Virginia Highlands Conservancy's Spring Review May 3-5.

Beautiful spring weather and the hospitality of the folks at Camp Anthony combined to make the weekend a memorable one. Approximately 55 people came out to enjoy one or more of the activities.

Conservancy members started trickling into the camp Friday evening and were treated to several slide shows of natural areas in West Virginia.

Saturday morning, hikers set off for the Cranberry Wilderness while canoeists prepared for a fast trip down the overflowing Greenbrier. Others went on a car-trip in the Lewisburg area while still others soaked up some sunshine around the camp.

Canoeing plans were changed somewhat resulting in an alarmingly late return by that group. Fortunately the kind cooks at the camp kept enough food for the hungry paddlers to fill up on when they finally returned about 8 p.m.

House Speaker Joseph Albright addressed the group Saturday night sharing his ideas about the Legislature and the future of environmental legislation in West Virginia.

Then the square-dance band, "Caledonia," urged people out on the floor to try a little dancing. Careful instructions brought out even the most timid dancers and the band played until late.

A short hike Sunday morning while Board members were pondering weighty matters and making important decisions rounded out the weekend.

Help the Conservancy. JOIN!!

**Bring a Friend
to the Fall Review!!**

Reflections on the Way Down

By Mary Ratliff

Books about rivers run the risk of being trapped by an inevitable logical progression. One begins at the beginning and goes down with the flow.

With Tim Palmer's *Youghiogheny: Appalachian River*, I found myself expecting this unimaginative sequence. When the book opened precisely that way, on the high West Virginia ridge which begins the gathering of waters to form the river known best to boaters as the Yough (Yock), I resisted. Palmer would have to do more than follow the river, drawing on topography and tidbits of history to make me stay the trip.

Somewhere downstream, the flow took over. Palmer had succeeded, in spite of the logic, in making the river come alive. His personal fondness for the phenomenon known as a river—each one unique, this particular one invested with personal memory—comes through in a quiet way.

The reader suspects Palmer of certain prejudices about the manners of use appropriate to rivers, but Palmer does a remarkably balanced job presenting the range of ideas and attitudes about the Youghiogheny. From farmers inclined to shoot at the rafts dropped from a bridge at Sang Run to Ohio-pyle old-timers to the outfitters themselves, people talked with Tim Palmer openly and frankly. Generally, Palmer lets the facts, and the people, speak for themselves.

A man named Shelby Mitchell recalls the small mines he worked in 1943. "Water from the mines flowed into a pond, then into Cucumber Run and the river. 'It ran red with iron and acid,' Shelby recalls, 'but no one ever thought about it.' I ask if the miners were fishermen, and if they saw that

the acid was killing fish. 'There weren't any fish in the river back then anyway,' Shelby answers."

Gradually, *Youghiogheny* grows into a case study of the intimate interrelationships between the land, the river, the people and history. Carefully researched and deftly detailed, a picture emerges of the series of realizations about the river.

To George Washington, the Yough represented access to the west and potentially strategic military sites. To his successors who eyed the land for timber and coal, the river became a source of power, a pathway traced by rail to the industrial cities, and a sewer for their wastes.

The railroad, created for coal and lumber, became a conduit for communication and a route for Pittsburgh's city folks to find recreation beside the river's falls and rapids and quiet places. And as the city found the river useful for pleasure, they found it useful for flood control.

But the most important realizations Palmer traces are the personal ones of people all along the river. For each gain there is a corresponding loss. To welcome the people who now fuel the economy of the isolated territory carved by the Yough—the whitewater crowd—local people have given up something of the river they remember.

But to have never had paddlers and environmentalists interested in the river itself, those same local residents might have lost it all to dams and continued acid pollution from abandoned mines.

Palmer puts the question to one of the angry ones—if you had to choose between the wild and scenic river and a dam, which would you choose. The answer—the river.

Youghiogheny APPALACHIAN RIVER



Jacket of *YOUGHIOGHENY: APPALACHIAN RIVER* by Tim Palmer. Published September 18, 1994, by the University of Pittsburgh Press.

More than any other quality, *Youghiogheny* offers perspective on the human struggle in the Appalachians, both the struggle to survive and the struggle to sustain. In the first case, people depend on the land and its resources. In the latter, the land—and the river—depend on the human will to insure a future.

The decision in both struggles are often difficult, but with Tim Palmer's fine book as one text, the decisions could well be more reasonable.

[Tim Palmer, a native of Beaver, Pa., is a writer and photographer who has explored America from Alaska to Florida. His other books are *Rivers of Pennsylvania* and *Stanislaus: The Struggle for a River*.

Youghiogheny is illustrated with maps and sixty photographs.

Copies of *Youghiogheny* may be ordered from the University of Pittsburgh Press, 127 North Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. It is sold for \$19.95 in hardback and \$8.95 in paper.]

Members asked to help in membership drive



Efforts have been made over the past few months to increase the Conservancy's membership. New members are essential to the continued effectiveness of WVHC as a conservation organization in West Virginia.

The new membership brochures have been sent to several thousand prospective members with varying degrees of success. There are many people in West Virginia and finding a reliable method of determining who may be a potential Conservancy member can be difficult.

Brochures have been sent to members of other conservation oriented organizations. To bring in people who are interested in our issues but who are not involved in other organizations, however, requires help from current Conservancy members.

Members are our best source of information about potential new members. Everyone has a friend or neighbor who enjoys outdoor activities or is concerned about any one of the many environmental problems in West Virginia.

Members telling others about the Conservancy is perhaps the most effective way of recruiting new members. Show the *Voice* to anyone you think may be interested in our efforts or give us their names and we will send them our brochure and information about WVHC.

If you know anyone who may be interested in joining the Conservancy please send us their names and addresses on the form below so we can invite them to join.

Please help in our membership drive. You are the Conservancy's best advertisement.

Help Us
Help You

Dangers of lawn care chemicals outlined in new booklet

Information on toxic substances widely used by lawn care companies to try to produce green, weedless lawns is now available in a booklet produced by two Washington, D.C., area nonprofit organizations.

The Rachel Carson Council and the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States co-sponsored publication of "Pesticides in Contract Lawn Maintenance." The booklet explains the human and environmental hazards from some commercially used lawn care chemicals.

Some of the substances used pose special health hazards around homes where the most vulnerable persons spend their time—the very young, the old and those with special chemical susceptibilities or illnesses that reduce resistance.

The booklet provides concerned consumers with detailed summaries of the characteristics of 48 of these chemicals based on the Council's research since 1965 of studies by independent scientists as well as those conducted by government and industry.

Summaries include the following information about each chemical:

- persistence in the environment.
- immediate and long-term toxicity to humans and/or other mammals.

— effects on non-target species of animals and plants.

— special hazards from breakdown products of these chemicals.

Although commercial firms use only substances registered by the Environmental Protection Agency, the findings presented in the booklet point out the inadequacies of EPA testing and registration procedures. For instance, according to a 1984 study by the National Academy of Sciences, only 10 percent of the ingredients in pesticide formulations are sufficiently tested to permit health hazard assessment.

Human and environmental health is the primary concern of the Council and the Audubon Naturalist Society. The booklet stresses caution in the face of evidence that any product may be hazardous and recommends that if a consumer does contract lawn care, it should be with a company that informs its customers of the specific chemicals used before each application and posts a sign on the lawn after treatment to warn people away for a requisite time period.

Copies of the booklet are available for \$2 from Rachel Carson Council, 8940 Jones Mill Rd., Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

I think the following person(s) may be interested in Conservancy membership. Please send them the membership brochure and other information about the Conservancy.

Name _____
Address _____

Name _____
Address _____

Please return this form to:
The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
Suite 201
1206 Virginia St., East
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

NEWS BRIEFS

(Editor's note: Each month I would like to publish a News Briefs page summarizing relevant news stories from newspapers around the state. It is hard, however, for one person (me) to have access to all the different papers. Therefore, help is needed!!! If you regularly read a local newspaper, including the Charleston ones, and would be willing to clip out articles about environmental issues or other topics of interest to Conservancy members I would like to hear from you. Please send any contributions or questions to me at the address listed in the roster. Be sure to write the date and name of the newspaper on the clippings. Thanks!!)

New DNR to stress litter law

Better communications between divisions and enforcement of new litter laws will be emphasized in the restructured Department of Natural Resources, according to Director Ronald Potesta.

The DNR will lose three divisions in July: parks and recreation, reclamation, and forestry. Although much smaller, the DNR will still include solid and hazardous waste programs, a water resources division, a wildlife division, *Wonderful West Virginia* magazine, a youth conservation program and the new litter program.

Potesta said the litter program will be coordinated with the solid waste program. Local government agencies will be contracted to haul away trash deposited in containers placed at certain retail sites.

Inspectors from the water resources division will be responsible for ensuring the new law is implemented.

The law also requires public education about litter control. Potesta said he plans to organize a public information outreach section to accomplish this.

Task forces to ease the transition of the three divisions out of the DNR to their new locations have been created by the governor. The parks and recreation division will go to the Department of Commerce, the reclamation division to the new Department of Energy and the forestry division to the Department of Agriculture.

—reported in the *Charleston Gazette*, 5/9/85

Wilderness suggestions made

President Ronald Reagan asked Congress in April to add more than 382,000 acres of land to the Wilderness Preservation System and almost 174 miles of rivers to the Scenic Rivers System.

The president said he acted on the recommendation of Interior Secretary William Clark and Agriculture Secretary John Elock.

Potential wilderness acres recommended by Reagan include:

—The Powderhorn area in Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties, Colorado; 43,300 acres of subalpine and alpine tundra.

—More than 322,000 acres of desert lava flows in the Great Rift area in Idaho.

—The Humburg Spires area in Silver Bow County, Montana; 8,791 acres of granite spires and domes.

—Approximately 7,600 acres of scenic rocky bluffs in the Sab Creek area in Sublette County, Wyoming.

Recommended for inclusion in the Scenic Rivers System were:

—The North Fork Kern River in Tulare County, California; 60.7 miles in the river in the Inyo National Forest and the Sequoia National Park.

—The Cache la Poudre River in Colorado; two segments totaling 62 miles in the Roosevelt National Forest and the Rocky Mountain National Park.

—The Manistee River in Michigan, a total of 51 miles of the river in the Manistee National Forest.

—reported in the *Charleston Gazette*, 4/27/85

Sierra Club workshop a success

Members of several conservation organizations, media representatives and Representative Alan Mollohan attended the March 23 Conservation in Congress Workshop sponsored by the West Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club.

An overview of the legislative process and how members could influence the outcome of legislative votes was provided by Steve Hiniker, regional SC representative.

Other speakers discussed ways to utilize the media, the Monongahela National Forest Plan and amendments needed to strengthen low level radioactive waste legislation.

Rep. Mollohan outlined his concerns about clean air and acid rain. Although his opinions about acid rain were vastly different from those of most Sierra Club members, he was open to discussion of the problem.

—reported in the *Mountain State Sierran*, May/June

WVHC Summer Meeting

July 20

Mark Your Calendar

EPA meets environmental groups

Representatives from several environmental groups, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Water Resources Board, the Air Pollution Commission and the State Health Department discussed issues of mutual concern at an April 15 environmental 'town meeting.'

Discussion focused on issues over which EPA has jurisdiction. In response to concerns aired, EPA officials promised to take a public position within 90 days on West Virginia's policy of allowing instream treatment facilities at coal mines.

Representatives from the Water Resources Board urged EPA officials to increase the number of Region III staff engaged in coal oversight.

Also discussed was an application by the Water Resources Board to EPA for funding to develop a state groundwater strategy.

—reported in the *Mountain Stream Monitors* May-June Newsletter

New River research continues

Water flow dynamics, air pollution effects, and rare or endangered plant species are just a few of the topics being studied in the New River Gorge this year.

Research projects which provide information used to make decisions on how best to protect the natural and cultural resources of the New River Gorge National River are an ongoing part of life in the Gorge.

A total of 17 projects were continued or initiated in 1984, and several are expected to extend into 1986.

Most of the projects are sponsored by the National Park Service and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, the two agencies responsible for management and protection of the New River Gorge National River.

The U.S. Geological Survey will conduct a study sponsored by the NPS this year to determine how long it takes particulates to travel from one point in the river to another at different flow rates.

From this information, the DNR and the NPS will develop a contingency plan to protect persons using the river from hazardous substances which may be accidentally spilled.

The Wildlife Resources Division of the DNR survey the Gorge this summer for rare, threatened or endangered plant species. Preliminary studies have indicated the existence of several rare or endangered plants in the park.

Locating these plant communities will enable the NPS to develop plans to ensure their survival.

—reported in *New River Gorge Newspaper*, Spring; Summer 1985

Federal water standards needed

An internal Environmental Protection Agency study has concluded that federal rules and standards are needed to protect the nation's drinking water.

The study was conducted after Budget Director David A. Stockman asked the agency to re-examine whether federal standards were the most efficient way to ensure a safe water supply. According to agency officials, Stockman urged that states be allowed to regulate their own drinking water supplies to the degree they wished.

But the EPA study said, "In the absence of a federal standard-setting role, states would not set standards and the public would go without protection from drinking water contamination."

A spokesman for Stockman said the budget director felt results would be quicker, better and cheaper with state regulation.

Giving states the responsibility for safeguarding drinking water would be more costly to taxpayers, the EPA study said. If each state and the more than 60,000 local water authorities in the country had to collect data, determine potential hazards, and set and enforce policy, much duplication and inefficiency would result, the study concluded.

The study also said Congress probably would not permit the administration to turn over its responsibilities to the states.

—reported in the *Sunday Gazette-Mail*, 4/21/85

Superfund legislation proposed

A five-year \$10.1 billion Superfund program will be filed by members of Congress who back efforts to intensify cleanup work at toxic waste sites around the country.

The legislation, announced May 16, would accelerate cleanup efforts by requiring the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that work at 150 sites begins each year.

The sum requested by the bill, sponsored by Rep. James Florio, D-NJ, is far more than that requested by the Reagan administration. The administration requested \$5.3 billion for Superfund for the next five years.

The current Superfund program will expire October 1 if Congress does not act.

Florio's proposal includes provisions requiring factories to tell municipal officials that toxic chemicals are being produced in their communities. The development of emergency response plans is also required by the legislation.

The proposed legislation would ensure that the federal government pays 90 percent of cleanup and maintenance costs, with individual states chipping in 10 percent.

—reported in the *Charleston Gazette*, 5/17/85

The Conservancy wants you!

Coopers Rock climbing ban gets national attention

(Editor's note: Rock climbing at Coopers Rock State Park was unlawfully banned by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources in April 1984. After repeated written and oral requests to rescind the ban, the Conservancy decided in January to file a Notice of Intent to Sue with the DNR. Climbers from West Virginia and Pennsylvania have provided encouragement and support for this action.)

Interest in Coopers Rock among the climbing community is even more widespread, however. In October 1984 the following article (reprinted with permission) appeared in CLIMBING magazine. Written by Richard Thompson of Pittsburgh, the article drew numerous responses from all over the country.)

Situated on the crest of Chestnut Ridge, ten miles east of Morgantown, West Virginia, lies Coopers Rock. Recognized for its outstanding gritstone climbing, Coopers has been popular for years with climbers from West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania, and Eastern Ohio. This unusual climbing area is located in Coopers Rock State Forest, a 13,000 acre multiple-use area that ranks as the largest state forest in West Virginia.

The Coopers Rock formation encompasses close to forty acres of immense boulders and steep walls up to 90 feet high that are composed of 240 million year old Connequenessing sandstone. These outcrops stretch for a mile along the rim of the 1,200 foot deep Cheat River Gorge, providing a spectacular backdrop to this enchanting area.

In addition to Coopers, at least eight other significant formations lie within the forest bound-

aries with a combined total of more than 350 established routes. The forest is managed jointly by the Division of Forestry and the Division of Parks and Recreation of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources.

On April 24th, 1984 a ban was placed on rock climbing in the state forest. Donald Andrews, District Chief of the Division of Parks and Recreation, cited the following reasons for the ban:

1. "The recent increase in the number of climbing related accidents." Last year (1983) four 'serious' accidents occurred. In 1982 there were no accidents and the previous four years had two accidents per year. No fatalities have occurred at Coopers.

2. "Fear of legal liability cases arising from climbing accidents." Though Mr. Andrews mentioned a concern for general liability he specifically cited some pending lawsuits in which rangers are being sued 'personally' for work-related activities. None of the suits he mentioned involve this area, but concern was expressed that the Coopers rangers might suffer a similar fate.

3. "Budget restraints." Due to lack of funding there is a shortage of rangers to adequately oversee climbing activities and supervise the other forest users at the same time. Since climbers make up a small percentage of the total users, Mr. Andrews feels the climbing activities command a disproportionate time input from the rangers. In the event of a climbing accident the rangers must devote their full attention to the rescue, leaving the crowds of tourists unsupervised. Mr. Andrews suggested one possible solution

might by a special 'climbing ranger' who would check credentials and equipment.

4. "To help protect a rare snail that inhabits Coopers Rock." Initially Mr. Andrews indicated this particular issue contributed very little in the decision to impose the ban, but a recent field study by the Environmental Protection Agency suggests there may be greater importance in this issue than first realized. The three-toothed flat spiraled land snail was discovered at Coopers less than twenty years ago. It is classified as a 'threatened' species, but little research has been done to verify the extent of its habitat. Previously thought to only inhabit the Coopers formation, a field study in late May revealed four additional formations near Coopers where the snail thrives. The snail lives in a narrow elevation band between 2,000 and 2,200 feet. The formations within the forest boundaries lie at elevations varying from 1,000 feet to 2,150 feet, which indicates there are crags not inhabited by the snail.

In early June a group of Pittsburgh climbers met to establish an organized campaign to find solutions to these problems and ultimately have the climbing ban lifted. We are currently finalizing our research on these issues, in hopes of presenting our findings at a public hearing in the spring of 1985.

Anyone with comments or suggestions is urged to contact: Rick Thompson, 160 Lawnview Drive, Freedom, PA 15052 or by calling (412) 741-1060 during the day or (412) 728-8230 in the evening. Your input would be greatly appreciated.

Board submits By-Laws Amendments to Membership

Three amendments to the Conservancy's By-Laws were suggested by the Board of Directors January 20 and are now being submitted to the membership for approval. A referendum is being held in which any individual or organizational member may vote. The amendments will not pass unless 2/3 of those voting approve them.

The proposed amendments are intended to correct some technical problems with the recently approved By-Laws.

Article IX, Section 1, is amended to correct poor draftmanship in the original. The intent and operation of the Section is not changed. The Section deals with procedures for increasing the size of the Board.

Article IX, Section 7, is amended to allow the President to fill Board vacancies by appointment. The current Section provides for vacancies to be filled by vote of the Board. The amendment is intended to expedite the filling of vacancies.

Article X, Section 4, is amended to allow the designee of the President to sign checks. This amendment is intended to give the President some discretion in delegating housekeeping chores. Under the present structure it is expected that the Executive Assistant will be authorized to sign checks.

The text of the proposed amendments is included below and followed by a ballot. Members are requested to complete the ballot and return it to the Conservancy office no later than July 15. Ballots can then be counted at the July 20 meeting of the Board of Directors.

Proposed amendments to the WVHC By-Laws

Amend Article IX, Section 1, to read: The Directors-at-Large, who shall be individual members of the Conservancy, shall be elected by the members of the Conservancy to terms of two years, more or less, to coincide with the annual meeting. The

number of Directors-at-Large may be increased or decreased by a majority vote of those members of the Board of Directors elected by the members of the Conservancy, or appointed by the President, to take effect at the next following annual meeting. One-half of the Directors-at-Large shall be elected at-large by the members of the Conservancy at each annual meeting of the Conservancy; provided: that if the number of Directors-at-Large is an odd number, one-half of the number of such Directors plus one shall be elected at the annual meeting at which the number of such Directors is changed to an odd number, and every two years thereafter, unless and until the number of such Directors is altered. The initial terms of newly established Directors-at-Large shall be staggered (one or two years) as required to achieve, insofar as practical, the election of one-half of all such Directors at each annual meeting.

Amend Article IX, Section 7, to read:

Vacancies in the position of Organizational Director shall, unless terminated as provided above, be filled by the appropriate organization. Vacancies in the position of any officer or Director-at-Large, except Past President, shall be filled by appointment by the President as soon as practical; provided that such a vacancy shall be filled by election at the next following annual meeting for the remaining unexpired term, if any, and that the term of any such appointment shall extend only until the next annual meeting.

Amend Article X, Section 4, to read: The funds of the Conservancy shall be deposited in such bank or trust company as the Directors shall designate. Withdrawals shall be by check issued and signed by the Treasurer, the President, or the designee of the President. Vouchers, purchase orders, receipts, statements, or other evidence of purchase or obligation shall be a necessary condition of the issuing and signing of any check.

Amendments to By-Laws Referendum Ballot

This referendum is conducted pursuant to Article XII and XIII of the existing By-Laws of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, Inc., to determine whether the "Proposed Amendments to By-Laws," as set out in this issue of *The Highlands Voice*, should be adopted. Each individual and organizational member of the Conservancy is entitled to one vote which shall be cast by marking, signing and addressing this Ballot and returning it to the below address. Ballots must be received no later than July 15, 1985 to be counted. Ratification of the proposed amendments requires approval of two-thirds of those voting.

Yes, I vote in favor of adopting the Proposed Amendments to By-Laws.

No, I vote against adopting the Proposed Amendments to By-Laws.

Signature _____
Print name _____
Address _____

Return Ballot to:
Committee of Tellers
WVHC
Suite 201
1206 Virginia St., East
Charleston WV 25301

Water study.....

(Continued from Page 3)

so wet no legal system is possible and no enforcement action has been taken, or a system may be functioning inadequately or be out-dated and the developer has never made the necessary sewage and discharge improvements.

"In a fragile area like Canaan Valley, how can the implications of such actions be denied?" Elkinton asked Board members. "We fear for both potable and ground water in the Valley but we need to find out exactly what is involved before we take action."

The study sponsored by the Conservancy will pinpoint areas of concern and provide technical information which can be used in appeals to the Board of Health or the Water Resources Board.