



THE HIGHLANDS VOICE

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Published monthly by the W.Va. Highlands Conservancy

Vol. 18 No. 7 September 1985

WVHC challenges

Mt. Chateau land deal

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy has requested the West Virginia Public Land Corporation (PLC) to reconsider the recent sale of Mt. Chateau State Park to private real estate developers on the grounds the sale was unlawful. The request was made the first week of August in a letter from Conservancy President Larry W. George to Department of Natural Resources Director Ron Potesta who serves as ex-officio PLC Secretary.

Mt. Chateau State Park is comprised of approximately 49 acres and is located in Monongalia County five miles east of Morgantown on the east side of Cheat Lake. Prior to its sale, Mt. Chateau was the only public land and access point on Cheat Lake, a large lake subject to heavy recreational use by local residents and West Virginia University students.

Last spring, Gov. Arch Moore and Director Potesta executed a deed conveying the Park to private developers in exchange for a 220 acre tract within Holly River State Park in Webster County. The exchange was made without prior notice to the public or the local legislative delegation and has become the subject of intense controversy in the Morgantown area.

George informed Potesta in the letter of protest that the deed conveying the Park is voidable because the PLC:

1) violated the Open Governmental Proceedings Act by not providing public notice of the Board's intention to meet and consider the Park's sale;

2) unlawfully delegated its discretionary powers to convey real estate to the Governor and DNR Director; and

3) never actually voted, or even met to consider, the sale of the State Park.

George also proposed to Potesta a compromise by which the PLC would proceed to reconsider the sale in a manner required by law, specifically, that the PLC:

1) comply with the public notice requirements of the Open Governmental Proceedings Act in all future actions;

2) hold a public hearing in Morgantown within sixty days on the proposed sale of the State Park;

3) within thirty days thereafter, conduct a lawful vote of the entire PLC Board to ratify, modify, or reject the sale of Mt. Chateau; and

4) take legal action to rescind the deed should the PLC Board fail to ratify the sale.

Although the Conservancy prefers to avert litigation, legal actions to rescind the Mt. Chateau deed should the Public Land Corporation fail to comply with the law will be started within 15 days of sending the letter, George said.

"The Conservancy is not necessarily opposed to this land exchange provided public access to Cheat Lake and traditional recreational uses at the site are maintained. However, the Public Land Corporation must comply with the statutory public notice and procedural requirements to guarantee an opportunity for meaningful public participation in this issue. We believe the Moore Administration should work with the Monongalia County Commission to resolve concerns for land use management and local recreational facilities at Mt. Chateau which are traditionally the responsibility of county government," George said.

The PLC Board is comprised of six ex officio members: the Governor (as chairman), DNR Direc-



Come to Seneca Rocks for the WVHC Fall Review Oct. 11-13, 1985. Photograph by Gerald Ratliff, courtesy of Governor's Office of Economic and Community Development.

tor (as secretary), Commissioner of Agriculture, Attorney General, Commissioner of Culture and History, and the Director of the WVU Engineering Experiment Station. Legal title to most state lands, including the state parks managed by the Division of Parks and Recreation, is held by the PLC which has the exclusive statutory power to acquire, sell and/or trade such lands.

FS invites public comment on management plan

Monongahela National Forest personnel continue to work on preparation of a Final Plan for management of the Forest. A Draft Plan was made available last December and approximately 1,950 copies were distributed to interested individuals and organizations.

During the public comment period open until May 1, the Forest Service received more than 3,500 comments on the proposed management plan. After analyzing the comments, most of which objected to various aspects of the plan such as increased timber removal, road building, etc., the Forest Service identified seven major concerns which will be addressed in the preparation of the Final Forest Plan.

These seven major concerns and their tentative solutions were discussed in the August issue of the Highlands Voice and in a newsletter

put out by the FS.

To involve the public as much as possible in planning final prescriptions for the management plan, a series of six meetings have been planned for August and September.

The purpose of these meetings is to collect suggestions and recommendations, discuss the effects of different courses of action, and try to reach a consensus on the subject under discussion. Each meeting will focus on a different aspect of the Forest Plan and the suggested revisions.

Remote Wildlife Habitat Standards was the topic of the first meeting August 23. The Forest Service proposes to apply Management Prescription 6, which would provide a mix of Forest products and allow for semi-primitive recreation, to areas with natural stands of white pine. Suggestions for Prescription 6 standards were to be considered at this meeting.

On August 30, semi-primitive, non-motorized recreation opportunities in the forest will be discussed. A new prescription is being proposed by the FS to emphasize such opportunities. The purpose of the meeting is to review standards for the prescription and discuss possible Forest locations for it.

Land allocations proposed for the New Forest Plan Alternative will be reviewed at a meeting September 6. What areas and how much land will be managed under the various prescriptions will be the focus of this meeting.

Classification of special areas, such as Research Natural Areas (RNA's), will be discussed September 13. The Forest Service received several suggestions for new RNA's. Other designations are available, however, and this meeting will discuss the various possibilities of

classifying special areas in the Forest.

On September 20 FS personnel will discuss the Implementation Section of the plan. This section is being rewritten to assure continuing analysis and public involvement during project planning.

Specific projects concerning timber sales and roads will be discussed at a meeting September 27. The FS will be looking for input on projects to be included in the Plan Appendix.

The public meetings will all be on Friday mornings at 10 a.m. but at different locations in the Forest. The FS requests participants to contact them at least one week in advance. Materials for study will be distributed so everyone is prepared for the discussions.

No final decisions will be made at the meetings and no votes will be

(Continued on Page 6)

Conservancy endowment fund will aid conservation efforts

On July 21, 1985, the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Board of Directors created the WVHC Endowment Fund to provide a new method for conservationists to support protection of the state's natural resources. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to encourage individuals, corporations, and foundations to make contributions to a permanent, income-producing account in support of the WVHC's conservation work.

All contributions are tax-deductible under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and will be placed in a perpetual fund with only the investment income applied to projects advocating the conservation of West Virginia's natural resources. The WVHC's goal is to build a Fund which can provide financial support in perpetuity for a substantial portion of the organization's conservation projects.

The Conservancy Endowment Fund will accept a variety of liquid assets including cash, stocks, bonds and other securities or financial instruments. Real estate, mineral rights and tangible personal property will also be accepted for sale by the Conservancy with the proceeds to be deposited in the Endowment Fund.

According to Conservancy President Larry W. George the Endowment

Fund creates a unique opportunity for members and supporters of the Conservancy to give perpetual support to efforts to conserve the state's natural resources. The assistance of all Conservancy members not only in contributing to the Fund, but also by identifying possible contributors is requested.

Donors may contribute to the Fund by direct gift, trust or bequest (will). Regardless of the method or nature of the contribution, the property donated to the Endowment Fund will not be expended. Only the investment income from a gift will be used to promote and work for the conservation and wise management of our state's natural resources.

Monetary contributions should be made payable to the "West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Endowment Fund" and forwarded to:

Endowment Fund
WVHC
Suite 201
1206 Virginia Street, East
Charleston, WV 25301

For more information regarding gifts to the Fund, or suggested donors, please contact WVHC President Larry W. George or Senior Vice-President Tom Michael at the addresses and phone numbers listed on page 3 of this *Highlands Voice*.

Development vs environmental protection to be subject of September conference

Ten scholarships to an environmental conference entitled "Economic Development and Environmental Protection—Partners or Adversaries" are available to Highlands Conservancy members.

The conference, at the Charleston House Holiday Inn September 25-26, is sponsored by the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce and the Manufacturing Association.

Panels on environmental topics including air, water, solid and hazardous wastes, and community and industrial relations will be headed by environmentalists and industry representatives.

Conservancy members interested in attending the 2-day conference using one of the 10 scholarships (worth \$75) available should contact Larry George (736-1325) as soon as possible.

The conference schedule will be as follows:

Wednesday, September 25

1:00 p.m.

Introduction and Welcome
David Flannery, Robinson & McElwee
Opening Address
Richard Breslin, Ph.D.
President, University of Charleston

1:30-3:00

Panel Discussion—Community and Industry Relations

This panel will focus on the public policy issues surrounding the sometimes cooperative and sometimes adversarial relationship between industry and the community. Topics will relate to community right-to-know, emergency response, and the obligations of the media, and "business climate."

3:30-5:00

Panel Discussion—Air

This panel will focus on the conference theme from the viewpoint of air resources. Topics will relate to the regulation of air toxics, visibility, acid rain, fugitive dust, tall stacks and the relationship of air resources to the water and land resources of the state.

7:00

Dinner
Speaker: Lee Thomas, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency

Thursday, September 26

8:30-10:00

Panel Discussion—Hazardous and Solid Wastes

This panel will focus on the state hazardous and solid waste program including anticipated changes and agency resources. Topics will also deal with siting and related water quality issues.

10:30-12:00

Panel Discussion—Water

This panel will focus on the theme of the conference from the perspective of public policy over the quantity and quality of the state's water resources. Emphasis will be on the state's policies with respect to ground-water quality, the control of effluent toxicity, and water rights.

1:30-2:30

Panel of Moderators

This panel will be composed of the moderators of each of the four previous panels.

New EPA administrator discusses environmental goals

Top priorities for the new regional administrator for the Pittsburgh office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency include curbing toxic pollution, cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay, and improving the EPA's relationship with states.

James Sief, a Pittsburgh native, was named administrator of the District of Columbia and a

5-state area including West Virginia in March. He is responsible for enforcing a variety of federal programs designed to protect public health and the environment from air pollution, water pollution, toxic waste, and other hazards.

One of Sief's biggest challenges is a cleanup of Chesapeake Bay. A 1983 federal study warned

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Skip Deegans: 126 W. Washington St., Lewisburg WV 24901 (645-1656)
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1105 Tinder Ave., Charleston WV 25302 (355-5646)
PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: Sayre Rodman
32 Crystal Drive, Oakmont PA 15139 (412-828-8983)
RIVER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Ray Ratliff
1206 Virginia St., E. Charleston WV 25301 (344-2437)
OUTINGS COMMITTEE: John Purbaugh
Box 2502 Dudden Fork, Kenna, WV 25248 (988-9024)
WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: Perry Bryant
1324 Virginia St. East, Charleston WV 25301 (346-5891)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Chris Lechliter
Executive Assistant
The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
Suite 201
1206 Virginia Street, East
Charleston WV 25301
(304) 344-8833

Deborah B. Smith
Voice Editor
914 11th Street
Huntington WV 25701
(304) 525-3151

Come to the Fall Review

that crabs, oysters, grasses, and other living things in the bay are in ill health because of mounting pollution from industrial plants and farms and urban runoff. Chesapeake Bay is a major source of fish and other seafood, as well as a playground for sailors and recreationists.

(Continued on Page 7)

Dolly Sods drilling not expected to have much impact

As part of an extensive search for natural gas under the mountains of West Virginia, the Forest Service has given E.S.I. Geophysical Inc. permission to drill holes and set off subterranean explosives in the Dolly Sods Scenic Area. Seismic echos from the explosions will be used to map the underlying geologic structure of the area.

The Forest Service approved the drilling activity July 9 in a "Finding of No Significant Impact" issued in response to an application by E.S.I. to drill a number of rows of small blast holes in the Forest. The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy requested a map of the location of the proposed drilling and information about the work already in progress August 3.

Sayre Rodman, Public Lands Management Committee chair,

received the information from the Forest Service and made the following observations and assessments of the proposed drilling.

A small part of the drilling and blasting is in the Dolly Sods Scenic Area which is of special interest to Conservancy members. The Scenic Area is a skinny buffer strip along both sides of FS-75, the gravel road running level along Allegheny Front giving access to the east side of the Dolly Sods region. It is roughly what can be seen from a car window, not the wilderness area.

Three lines of shot holes are being drilled in the area by E.S.I. They start near Jordan Run in the valley to the east and climb the mountain. Two cross FS-75 and continue west to the edge of the Western Maryland

Railroad land.

One line of holes crosses the road just south of the Red Creek campground and continues about three quarters of a mile almost on top of the Blackbird Knob hiking trail. It appears that the work will irritate large numbers of hikers for a short time but will miss the fragile wetland seen from the Northland Loop nature trail.

Another line of holes runs for about half a mile west of the Bear Rocks parking lot. This area is very open and already quite jeep-tracked.

Forest Service personnel maintain that the effect of the drilling activity on the Dolly Sods Scenic Area will not be severe. Over the side of the Allegheny Front, only enough shrubbery to allow passage of a "drill buggy" will be chopped down.

The "drill buggy," similar to an agile, flexible farm tractor, will be used on land not part of the Scenic Area. A hand-carried power drill will be carried along the drill line in the Scenic Area.

Holes will be drilled every 220 feet. Explosives which will make a subterranean bang but not erupt on the surface will be planted in these holes. Data will probably be collected through a maze of wires.

Once the drilling is complete, survey workers will pick up all the wires, survey ribbons, and other materials and leave only something like a typical survey line in the area, according to Forest Service personnel.

Since the trees are small and sparse the line may not be very obvious, Rodman said.

Roads in National Forests:

Audubon Society campaigns to curb budget

A campaign to reform National Forest road building practices has been mounted by the National Audubon Society. Calling for a reduction in the amount of forest road building done with tax dollars and for the Forest Service to pay more attention to the needs of wildlife and trails, the Audubon Society is requesting the help of conservationists all over the country.

The Society charges that the FS has for years built thousands of miles of roads, many into previously undisturbed wild places, for the benefit of the logging industry. About half of these roads are paid for directly with tax dollars.

Often built in steep and fragile areas, forest roads can create erosion, pollute fishing streams, and destroy the forests which are home to wildlife, according to an Audubon Action Alert dated August 1985.

In June, conservationists went to Washington to present detailed evidence to Congress of the damage new road building brings. They documented FS plans to build thousands of miles of new roads over the next 30 years in all parts of the country.

In response to these complaints, the House Appropriations Committee voted to delete nearly \$50 million from the FS road building program. This amount represents almost all of the money the agency planned to use for actual construction.

Now the Audubon Society is urging conservationists to persuade the Senate to take similar steps to curb road construction by the Forest Service.

Two major reforms are the goal of this campaign. First they want to cut down the amount of road building done with tax dollars. The roads built with these funds are not needed to sustain the logging industry. Logging companies already hold contracts to log 40 billion board feet of surplus federal timber, enough to meet national forest sale quotas for four years without new road construction.

Second, the Audubon Society wants the FS to pay more attention to wildlife and trails. The 1986 FS budget provides \$600 million for resource development programs (including roads) but only \$170 million for resource stewardship programs (water, soil, wildlife, etc.). This imbalance of road building versus protection of forest wildlife and roadless land is of great concern to the Audubon Society.

To achieve these reforms the Senate must also eliminate the Forest Service's road construction budget for fiscal year 1986. The Audubon Society urges all conservationists to write to their Senators, particularly on the Senate Appropriations Committee, asking their support for these reforms.

Not all chemicals on list

A "community right to know" bill designed to protect the safety and health of people living near companies storing or using hazardous chemicals was signed into law by Gov. Arch Moore in May. The law covers 670 chemicals known to be toxic, carcinogenic, reactive, or explosive.

The chemicals which leaked from Union Carbide's Institute plant August 11 were not on the list of chemicals which must be reported under this new law, however. Neither aldicarb oxime nor methylene chloride, the main ingredients in the solution that leaked, appear on the list developed by the state Health Department.

Officials said the list contains chemicals that are hazardous and in common use. Aldicarb oxime is used in only limited quantities on a national scale and was not included on the list. It does not even appear on the most exhaustive list of 70,000 toxic chemicals produced by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

The right to know law requires information about the properties of the chemical, the effects of exposure to it and instructions on emergency response to be filed with the Health Department. Another law gives the Department power to request health treatment information on any chemical used by a company.

The law was designed to protect more against catastrophic disasters such as the Bhopal incident than against long term adverse health effects of chronic exposures. The availability of information about what substances are present should help people become aware of potential health hazards, however.

Ski development threatens Canaan

Owners of the Timberline ski development in Canaan Valley have plans to modify and extend the existing ski slopes, according to Linda Elkinton, WVHC Canaan Valley committee chair.

The proposed ski slope will extend into the Monongahela National Forest and its top will face the Dolly Sods wilderness. Only several hundred feet will separate the slope and the wilderness area. Lights, lifts, and other developments will probably be visible to wilderness users if current plans are carried out.

In addition, the proposed development will cross the habitat of the northern flying squirrel, an endangered species, and the Cheat Mountain salamander, a rare species which may be endangered.

A special use permit from the Forest Service is required before forest land can be used for this purpose. Monongahela National Forest personnel have said that an Environmental Assessment study must be prepared before the permit is granted. This provides opportunity for public comment and discussion on the proposed development.

Use of national forest land for ski slopes and other facilities has gained considerable publicity in recent months as more developers attempt to build ski areas on forest land under the special permit system.

October 11-13

Come to the Fall Review

<p>Membership benefits of WVHC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a one-year subscription to THE HIGHLANDS VOICE, filled with news, analysis, book reviews, and announcements of WVHC activities • outings, hikes, canoe trips around the state • special meetings, with workshops, films and speakers • representation through WVHC's efforts to monitor legislative activities <p>The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is a nonprofit organization. Please keep this for your records. Your contribution is tax deductible.</p> <p>Contribution/Membership to WVHC.</p> <p>Date _____ Amount _____ Check Number _____</p>	<p>Yes, I'd like to support the work of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and receive THE HIGHLANDS VOICE.</p> <p>Please accept my membership in the category I've checked.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>INDIVIDUAL</td> <td>ORGANIZATIONAL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ \$15 Regular</td> <td>___ \$50 Regular</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ \$25 Family(1 vote)</td> <td>___ \$100 Associate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ \$30 Associate</td> <td>___ \$200 Sustaining</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ \$50 Sustaining</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ \$12 Senior citizen/Full-time student</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Make checks payable to: West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Mail to: Suite 201, 1206 Virginia Street East, Charleston, WV 25301 (304) 344-8833</p> <p>Name _____ Organization you represent(if any) _____</p> <p>Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I'd like to volunteer, please contact me.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I can't volunteer at this time, but want to support the work of WVHC with my membership contribution.</p>	INDIVIDUAL	ORGANIZATIONAL	___ \$15 Regular	___ \$50 Regular	___ \$25 Family(1 vote)	___ \$100 Associate	___ \$30 Associate	___ \$200 Sustaining	___ \$50 Sustaining		___ \$12 Senior citizen/Full-time student	
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Allegheny Rock Vistas:

On a clear day you can see forever

by Bob Stough

The following are two of a series about rock vistas in the Allegheny Mountains. The criteria for selection are simply that each area have a sweeping vista (generally 45 degrees or more) at all times of the year, and that the overlook be a natural formation.

I am aware that such areas are ecologically fragile and could hardly benefit from increased human visitation. But I feel our most realistic hope for preserving the highlands wilderness is greater public awareness of the nature of the land. Surely there are few among us who are not moved and inspired by the sight of a grand vista of distant mountainland.

I believe no-one who is even potentially a friend of the earth can come away from such places without a heightened sense of the wholeness of things. In that awareness may be the seeds of conservation and thus an interest in and support of the work of organizations such as the Conservancy.



Looking south, southwest from Table Rock on Canaan Mountain, Mozark Mountain to the left and Shavers Mountain to the right are among the many views of mountainland to be seen.

Horse Rock elevation 4,450 feet

Found near the midpoint of the 10 mile-long crest of Spruce Mountain, Horse Rock is a part of an exposed vein of layered sandstone with quite distinct and regular faults which vividly illustrate the sediment-accumulation process of the ancient sea bottom. The view sweeps from south to west of the Upper Seneca Creek valley and Allegheny Mountain and far beyond to include all the summit ridges of the central plateau, as far as Cheat Mountain in the west, on a clear day.

The vista is framed by a windswept spruce forest in the foreground. It is composed chiefly of old-growth trees whose massive trunks and lower limbs are covered with moss and lichens. This old forest covers a large area of the central section of the mountain, broken only by abandoned grazing meadows now full of berries and gnarled hawthorn trees.

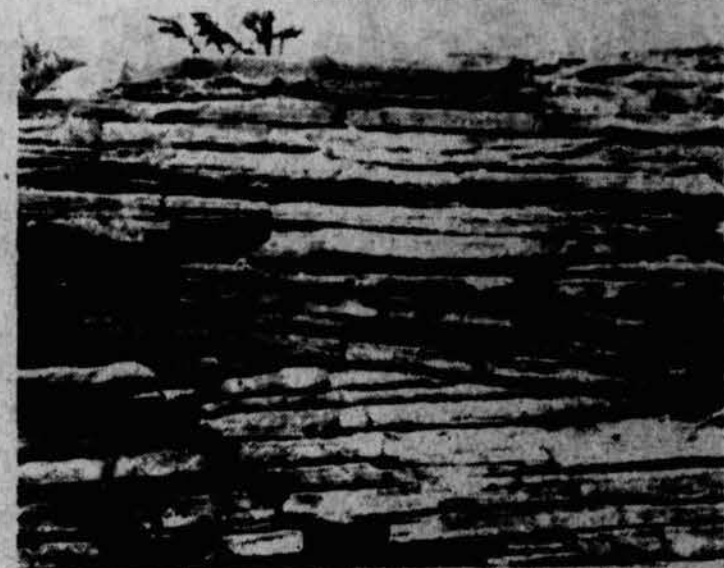
Birds are abundant. Horse Rock is a favorite of ravens and vultures, and the meadows attract hawks and owls. In the forest large numbers of chickadees and juncos, as well as many hermit thrushes, can be found.

Horse Rock can be reached either from Spruce Knob summit going north on the Huckleberry Trail or from Judy Springs campground ascending on the Horton-Horse Trail to a high meadow some 0.2 miles west of the junction of the two, and then proceeding north into the meadow and up through the old forest.

There are a few tent sites on the edges of the meadow but generally the area is rocky. Water is available at a small spring on the Horton Trail 0.3 miles east of the junction.

Table Rock elevation 3,380 feet

Located on the southeast face of Canaan Mountain above the Red Run valley, Table Rocks are large outcroppings of huge faulted blocks. At



Distinctive layered sandstone of Horse Rock on Spruce Mountain provides an interesting sight. The vista from the rock is even more impressive, including all the summit ridges of the central plateau.

places the Rocks are quite level on the tops, hence their name. They present an expansive vista northeast, south and south/southwest of the summit ridge of Mozark Mountain and the entire Red Run valley below the fork. Across the Dry Fork canyon one can see the entire Shavers Lick Run watershed in the Otter Creek wilderness, and far to the south one can see up the long parallel ridges of Middle and Rich Mountains.

The vegetation is mainly young hardwoods, with yellow birch predominating among many different species. A few small conifers eke out a living near the edges of the rocks. In many places there is a dense understory of rhododendron and laurel, and nearby is a small old bog with lush moss and ferns.

Among the most noticeable bird species are juncos, catbirds, jays, and song thrushes. Ravens, vultures, and rarely a golden eagle can be seen soaring on the canyon thermals.

Access is relatively easy. By marked trails on the Canaan Loop road, the Rocks are less than a mile through mostly level rocky woods. There is a fine campsite right near the rocks in a young birch grove. Water must be hauled from a spring about 100 yards east on the loop road from the trailhead.

Hoses, wires, radiators: a banquet for woodchucks

by Ed Lytwak

Who says every backpacking trip has a happy ending? Although my May hike at Otter Creek turned out to be a good one, the ending was somewhat traumatic.

With that spell of hot weather in April, it seemed as if the wildflower bloom and leafing out were weeks ahead of last year. The weather was perfect, not a drop of rain to mar an excellent trip until we were on Turkey Run Trail, heading back to the car. Somehow I kind of like rain when you're heading back, it makes it easier to leave the wilderness. Anyway it was just a light sprinkle, and I was in a very relaxed and peaceful state of mind.

That is until we got back to the car. Our group had come in two vehicles, and we had parked one (mine) at the Big Springs trailhead and the other up at Turkey Run Road. As we took our packs off at the end of another fine trail, everything seemed normal. Just a routine check under the hood before firing up the mechanical beast. What's that? Water in the radiator looks a little low, better add some.

It's hard to describe the sickening feeling that accompanies the sight of water flowing out the bottom of the radiator as quickly as you pour it in. With flashlight in hand, an examination revealed a gaping chunk ripped out of the lower back of the radiator. For those of you lacking "motor awareness", a large hole in the radiator results in the total immobilization of said vehicle.

Marmota monax: that most dangerous of all Appalachian rodents, better known as siffleur to

the Canucks, rockchuck, groundsow, Eastern deep woods marmot, ground hog, or just the woodchuck. Some may fear the rattler, but I've seen far more damage done by rodents than any venomous reptiles.

I've seen mice chew tents apart, chew holes in the sides, then scurry around inside in a mad midnight frenzy. I've seen mice build nests inside the ventilation systems of cars, jamming heater controls and blowing fuzzi and debris throughout the passenger compartment. Now a savage mauling of a human vehicle.

My car was parked half a mile away at Big Springs and I immediately set out toward it. That was the longest half mile I've ever walked. My mind was filled with thoughts of another radiator destruction at this very trailhead several years earlier. But I had parked here before with no ill effects. Think positively. My pace quickened. The car must be just around the bend. There it is. Looks OK, nothing leaking.

I popped the latch and opened the hood. There sitting between the engine block and radiator was the biggest, fattest, meanest looking woodchuck I'd ever seen. Right before my very eyes it was eating my radiator. The woodchuck looked up at the intrusion, and gave a menacing snarl before crawling down under the car. Being a peaceful sort of person, I had to throw stones at it to chase it into the brush, although thoughts of its violent destruction did cross my mind.

Damage: scratches and claw marks throughout the engine compartment, insulation, fittings, and wires chewed, air intake hose destroyed, the

radiator. . . .; the radiator damaged but seemingly intact. At least it wasn't leaking yet. But what about when it's under pressure? Some quick repairs to the wiring and air intake and I'm ready to turn the key. No leaks yet. Temperature rising, radiator under pressure, still looking good.

A miracle! A genuine miracle, which to this day I attribute to the beneficence of the mountain gods. The woodchuck had chewed the fins out of a section of the radiator but had somehow not penetrated the cooling tubes. Well, we made it home that night. Four people and a dog, with full packs, crammed in a Honda. The other car sat forlornly abandoned at the trailhead until a repair mission could be mounted several days later.

While it is difficult to separate fact from myth concerning this creature, an inquiry into this disaster did come to the following conclusions. Some think it is the sweet taste of the radiator fluid that attracts the beasts. I believe it is salt residue left on the radiator, wiring, etc., after winter driving.

The Big Springs (Woodchuck Gap) area seems particularly dangerous. On the repair mission we ran into a couple of Forest Service personnel who told us that woodchucks had been a problem for them and for the logging vehicles in the area. They related a story of how a woodchuck had crawled into the engine compartment of their truck during a lunch break. I guess it was hungry too.

The moral of the story is: if you are leaving your car parked for an extended period of time at one of these

trailheads, Cavec *Marmota monax*: Beware the woodchuck.

There are precautions you can take to minimize the risk from this dreaded rodent.

1) Especially in the spring, make sure the salt is washed from your car's engine compartment, brake hoses, etc.

2) The best protection for the radiator is narrow, square mesh, galvanized wire screen, covering access to the core. In my car I now have a double layer inside, single outside, with a steel plate I slip in to cover the radiator in front.

3) The smell of mothballs is believed to be offensive to rodents. Small cloth bags of these hung throughout the engine compartment can deter mice as well.

4) Some have even advocated putting out salt blocks near your car but others think this might promote a "feeding frenzy."

5) Field repair: if radiator damage is not too severe, a can of "Tiger's Hair", fiberglass reinforcing compound (don't forget the hardener) can save the day. A can of "Bars-Leak" radiator additive can also be helpful for small pinpoint leaks.

Some may laugh at these preparations, but I assure you that on that particular day I wasn't laughing.

Join the Conservancy

Nine WV animals on threatened or endangered lists

Threatened and endangered animals in West Virginia are described in a new brochure published by the Wildlife Resources Division of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources. Eight animals in the state are on the endangered list and one is on the threatened list.

Endangered species are those in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant part of their range. Before a species is designated as endangered, extensive studies must show that it meets requirements outlined by the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. One such requirement is that its population level is so critically low and/or that its habitat is so degraded that immediate action is necessary to avoid its complete loss.

The bald eagle is one of West Virginia's endangered species. Spring and fall migrants are frequently seen in the state but until 1981 no evidence of nesting was found. Now at least one pair is known to nest in Hardy County and Wildlife Division officials hope that the bald eagle will continue to expand its range into West Virginia.

The duck hawk or peregrine falcon once nested in West Virginia but has declined since the 1940's due to widespread use of DDT and related pesticides which inhibit eggshell production. It is now on the endangered list but a strong breeding and reintroduction program by federal, state and private agencies has made some progress toward reestablishing peregrines in the state.

Two bat species are on the endangered species



list in West Virginia. Half of the known population of the Virginia big-eared bat is found in the state—a total of about 3,700 bats. The Indiana bat, primarily a Midwestern species, is also found in West Virginia. Only about 500 of these bats have been found in the state, less than one percent of the known national population. The following story provides more details about the endangered bats in West Virginia.

Another endangered species in West Virginia is the eastern cougar which may or may not still be

present in the state. The cougar was once found throughout the eastern U.S. but no verifiable sightings have been made in West Virginia for many years.

The northern flying squirrel, larger than its southern relative which is still common, is also an endangered species in West Virginia. This animal is becoming increasingly scarce in the Southern Appalachians and is listed as being endangered in several southern states.

Two mollusk species, the pink mucket pearly mussel and the tubercled-blossom pearly mussel, are in danger of extinction in West Virginia. Found only in the Kanawha River below Kanawha Falls, they require clean water with a high oxygen content. Activities producing sediment in the river threaten the continued existence of these creatures. They are indicators of our water quality and must be carefully monitored and protected.

Some animal species are classified as threatened. This designation indicates that they are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future. One species in West Virginia, the flatspired three-toothed land snail, is classified as threatened. This snail is found in several locations in Monongalia County but nowhere else in the world. Personnel of the Wildlife Resources Division are involved in the recovery and protection of these endangered and threatened species in West Virginia. By monitoring known populations and gathering information about these animals they are working toward saving these species from extinction.

Protection needed for endangered bats

Despite the revulsion many people feel toward bats, these small mammals perform numerous tasks which directly benefit humans. Pollinating the flowers of fruits, nuts, and vegetables, and controlling insect pests at night are just two bat activities which produce positive side effects.

Of the five bats listed as Endangered Species in the United States, two live in the Monongahela National Forest. These are the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the Virginia big-eared bat (*Plecotus townsendii virginianus*), both beneficial species which state and federal officials are trying to protect.

Efforts to protect endangered bats in West Virginia were redoubled in the early 1970's when Dr. John S. Hall, professor of biology of Albright College, Reading, PA, was contracted to update data compiled in the 1950's by Wayne Davis. Hall found only a few of the 11 caves documented by Davis as Indiana bat habitats to be still occupied. Many of the approximately 200 caves on and near the MNF were explored but only a few yielded positive results.

Current estimates indicate approximately 3,700 Virginia big-eared bats and 500 Indiana bats spend the summer on the Forest. Even fewer have been found in winter colonies. In contrast, some species of bats number as many as 40 million in a single cave.

The Virginia Big-eared bat, as the name implies, has very large ears in proportion to body size. The ears are more than an inch long, pointed at the tips and remain erect. Only nine summer colonies of this bat have been found in West Virginia—in Tucker and Pendleton counties. They are also found in Virginia and Kentucky but in even smaller numbers. Approximately half of the known population is found in West Virginia.

The Indiana bat has a much more typical appearance—that of a mouse with wings—and is difficult to distinguish from other species except

by an expert. It is found in Kentucky, West Virginia, Indiana, and in small numbers in some other states.

The few remaining Forest caves known as dwellings for these endangered bats have been gated and posted by MNF personnel. Seven more caves within the proclamation boundaries of the Forest but on privately owned land have been similarly marked by the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service.

Protection measures include a sign in front of the cave which reads "Attention. Do not enter this cave between (specific dates)." It goes on to explain that violators are punishable by fines up to \$2,000. These measures are intended to provide solitude to the endangered bats. Very few caves are suitable to their needs and without habitat they cannot survive.

Protected caves may be visited by a biologist for a population count only once every two years. This is done with caution because if disturbed, a hibernating bat may lose up to 30 days worth of its essential fat reserves. Then the bat may be forced to conclude hibernation early and, unable to find food or migrate, it may die. A careless cave explorer may inadvertently kill an entire colony of bats.

Bats need different types of habitat for hibernation, maternity, and nursery purposes. They are very selective and not all caves are used. The Virginia Big-eared and the Indiana bats consider size, air flows, air temperature, humidity and isolation potential when choosing a cave to live or hibernate in.

Scientists know very little about the preferred breeding or nursery colony sites of the Indiana bat although it is known to rear its young outside caves in summer. The only nursery sites found here have been under tree bark and in a hollow tree.

What has caused these bats to become endangered? Bats are vulnerable to disturbances in many ways. Only one bat is produced per

set of parents each year, as opposed to a larger litter typical in other small mammals. Thus if anything happens to the young bat, a whole year's worth of reproductive effort is lost.

The habit of hibernating and establishing nursery colonies in tight groups has also contributed to the vulnerability of the Indiana and Virginia Big-eared bats. When the entire cave population is in one group they are very vulnerable to disturbance.

Bats have other problems. They have been slaughtered for centuries by an enemy who is not a natural predator—man. Fear, myths of demons, blame for disease, and dirt drove men to exterminate millions of bats. In fact only one-half of one percent of bats are undesirable to livestock and fewer bats than dogs and other animals contract rabies.

Despite these feelings of humans toward bats, reasons for protecting them are many. If all bats became extinct, so would many human food sources. Bananas, peaches, carob, avocados, and dozens of other edible plants depend on bats for pollination. Hoards of insects would destroy other crops and spread disease at increas-


ed rates if bats did not help control their populations. One bat can eat 3,000 or more insects in a single night.

Bats are valuable to researchers. Through studies of the remarkable sonar used by bats, humans were able to invent navigational aids for the blind. In addition bats share the distinction with mice of being valuable lab animals—used for drug testing and space biology.

Bats are unusually resistant to disease. Immunological studies on them have resulted in development of vaccines for man. Their lifespan is inexplicably longer than related mammals and they are valuable in studies of aging. The list goes on and on—piling up the compelling reasons for protecting bats in the MNF and elsewhere in the country.

So if you see a cave posted with the bat protection sign, think twice before you try to get any closer!! (Adapted from information provided by the Monongahela National Forest and from the Threatened and Endangered Wildlife brochure published by the state Wildlife Resources Division).

**ORIGINAL AMERICAN
WOODCOCK PRINT**



15" x 18
Pen and ink
signed and
numbered
sepia
reproductions
\$20.
Limit: 35

Karl Badgley, a prominent wildlife artist, donated 100 of his American Woodcock prints to the OVA to aid in the effort to create a wildlife refuge in Cassan Valley. Mail order is.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, Suite 201, 1206 Virginia St. E., Charleston WV 25301

— Publications of Interest —

Outdoor food book now available from Pittsburgh AYH

A new cookbook written by and for active outdoor people is now available from the Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels. Called **The AYH Outdoor Food Book**, it includes many recipes, menus, packing tips, and trip planning ideas from canoeists, bicyclists, etc.

The cookbook is a collection of the experiences of dozens of active, experienced participants. It is locally developed with innovations for saving time, fuel, and weight.

Special sections which deal with backpack stove selection and use, food drying procedures

and bean sprouting techniques are included. In addition, photos, diagrams and anecdotes illustrate the book bringing to life the contributors who learned the hard way.

Beginner trip information, shopping tips, and other material of interest to experienced outdoors people and novices alike round out this offering of the Pittsburgh AYH Council.

The 144-page cook, edited by Chris Reid, is available for \$3.72 (including postage and shipping) from A.Y.H. Books, c/o Fran Czapiewski, 7303 Reynolds St., Pittsburgh PA 15208.

Details of 1,730 West Virginia mines listed in new booklet

"Mines in West Virginia" is a new 65-page booklet published by the West Virginia Geologic and Economic Survey. It lists all active mines in the state.

About 880 underground mines and 800 surface mines are listed by county. The listings include the company and mine names, permit numbers, names and thicknesses of coal seams being mined and the names of the topographic maps on which the mines are located.

The publication number of "Mines in West Virginia" is MB-3 and it can be ordered from Publication Sales, West Virginia Geologic and Economic Survey, P.O. Box 879, Morgantown WV 26507-0879. The booklet costs \$4.20 postpaid. Make checks payable to West Virginia Geologic and Economic Survey.

They also have a free list of publications which can be requested.

New Mountain State hiking book to be published in 1986

A West Virginia Highlands Conservancy member, Sierra Club national activist, and veteran hiker, Allen de Hart, is completing his third summer researching and hiking foot trails in the Monongahela National Forest. The results will be part of a forthcoming book **Hiking the Mountain State**, to be published by the Appalachian Mountain Club in 1986.

The book will include descriptions of all the trails in the Monongahela and George Washington National Forests in West Virginia, the state parks, forests and historical sites, and the county and municipal park trails.

A former resident of Raleigh County, de Hart has spent 50 years hiking in 46 states and 18 foreign countries. In 1978 he completed hiking the Appalachian Trail. He is the author of **Hiking the**

Old Dominion, North Carolina Hiking Trails, South Carolina Hiking Trails, and numerous articles in outdoor sports magazines.

His research on the MNF trails involves careful checking in the district offices and in the field with a team to measure the trails and to determine trails that need maintenance, or that should be relocated or dropped from the list. He has been in communication with Bruce Sundquist, editor of the **Hiking Guide to the Monongahela National Forest**, and he plans to report on the trails to Conservancy President Larry W. George when his hiking is completed.

For more information write to De Hart at 109 Frame Drive, Gassaway WV 26624, telephone 304/364-8263, or to Louisburg College, Louisburg NC 27549, telephone 919/496-2521.

1985 Fall review shaping up to be best ever

Get ready to enjoy fall colors in the West Virginia highlands at the Highlands Conservancy's Fall Review. A full weekend is planned including a Friday night slide show, Saturday and Sunday field trips, and a square dance with live music.

Field trips include something for everyone. A kite hike for families with small children, hikes of different lengths for those who want to get out in the woods, and a canoe trip in the "Trough" are among the planned activities. An auto/walking tour hitting the scenic spots in the Seneca Rocks area is also planned. See page 8 for detailed descriptions of the various field trips.

Saturday evening the Honorable Bob Wise, U.S. representative for the 3rd Congressional District of West Virginia, will address Conservancy members at Yokum's motel. His talk will be followed by square dancing to live music and socializing.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy annual meeting will be Sunday morning at 9 a.m. An election for 5 new directors at large will be conducted at the meeting. The nominating committee will propose the reelection of the directors at large whose terms expire this October.

These directors are: Geoff Green, Sayre Rodman, Skip Deegans, John Purbaugh and Adrienne Worthy. Members wishing to nominate someone for these positions should contact Dave Elkinton, Rt. 5 Box 228-A, Morgantown WV 26505, as soon as possible.

Nominees must be Conservancy members and will serve two year terms as directors at large.

Registration for the Fall Review must be made by October 3 to insure lodging and meals. A brochure with registration information will be sent to all members. Registration can also be completed by filling out the form on page 8 of this **Voice** and returning it to Adrienne Worthy.

October is a busy time in the highlands as people come out to enjoy the fall colors so it is important to have your room reserved if you plan to stay at Yokum's. Single rooms are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Any questions about registration should be directed to Adrienne Worthy at 343-2767.

Don't forget that NATURE SKOOL will be offered for children from 3 to 10 years old. Space is provided on the registration form to sign children up for all or part of the weekend Nature Skool activities. Additional information will be sent to registered children on what to expect at the Fall Review.

HOW TO GET TO THE FALL REVIEW

Yokum's Motel is located in Seneca Rocks, WV, about 25 miles east of Elkins, on State Route 28, near the intersection of U.S. Rt. 33.

—From Morgantown take I-79 South to US 50 East. US 50 to WV 42. Take WV 42 to WV 28 South to Yokum's

—From Charleston take I-79 North to US 33. Take US 33 to WV 28 North to Yokum's

—From Washington, DC take US 50 West to US 220. Take US 220 South to WV 28. Take WV 28 South to Yokum's

FS invites...continued from page 1

taken, according to FS officials. Final decisions are possible only after information on all subjects is reviewed due to the integrated nature of the plan.

For more information about these meetings or to sign up to attend one contact the Forest Service at P.O. Box 1548, Elkins, WV 26241, telephone 636-1800.

"Sang" collectors begin 1985 season

For more than one hundred years, West Virginians have been digging ginseng roots and exporting them to customers abroad where the root is used as a cure-all. Now "sangers" throughout the state are heading to the woods for this year's ginseng digging season.

State law regulates the digging, possession, and sale of native wild or cultivated ginseng and stipulates that the digging season begins August 15 and ends November 30. Possession of green ginseng between January 1 and July 31 is illegal.

The law regulating ginseng collection resulted from public concern that improper collecting techniques might lead to the eventual disappearance of ginseng from the forests. Ginseng seed takes two years to germinate and the plant does not flower or produce seeds for four or five years.

Responsible ginseng collectors know this and select only mature plants for digging. They also plant any seeds they find to insure future "crops." Unscrupulous collectors, however, dig practically any size plant at any time they pleased.

The regulations now require the collector to remove any seeds from the collected ginseng and to plant the seeds at the collection site. In effect, West Virginia's ginseng law simply makes good conservation practices mandatory.

Anyone can dig ginseng during the designated digging period without a permit. But those who buy and sell ginseng must obtain a Ginseng Dealer's Permit. The dealer is required to maintain accurate records for all ginseng acquired, showing the year harvested, the date acquired, county of origin, weight, and whether the ginseng was wild or cultivated. (from the Plant Newsletter, WV Dept. of Agriculture).

Coming Up

Sept. 20-22 Annual Hawk Count, Brooks Bird Club, West Virginia mountains.

Fridays through September, Forest Service public meetings. See story on page 1.

Oct. 11-13 West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Fall Review. Seneca Rocks, WV See page 8 for registration information.

Oct. 18-20 Brooks Bird Club Annual Meeting. Cedar Lakes, Ripley WV.

NATURE SKOOL

Fun for Kids ages 3-10

a comprehensive program of hands-on nature/wildlife education and fun for children, ages 3-10, designed to operate simultaneously with adult meetings and programs.

fees & arrangements
\$2.00/hr. per child

along with funds provided by WVHC cover all costs—instruction, materials, snacks. **ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED** and is done with Fall Review registration. Additional instructions are mailed on how to get ready for a great outdoor time! In exchange for free participation, a child over the age of ten may be a special "SKOOL PAL" and assist Teachers; a younger child, accompanied by parent/caretaker, may also join in the fun. The 10 plus SATURDAY ADVENTURE is a special feature for WVHC, an all day nature exploration hike for children over ten years of age. Your junior naturalist will not want to miss it.

DON'T DELAY
Make Reservations
for your Child(ren)
TODAY!

With NATURE SKOOL's informational, on-site program, both parents in two-parent families and single parents can fully participate in adult events while children, without disruption to adults are fully occupied learning and playing

NATURE SKOOL IS AN EXPERIENCE YOUR CHILD WILL NOT WANT TO MISS AND ONE SHE/HE WILL WANT TO REPEAT AGAIN AND AGAIN WITH YOUR FULL CONCURRENCE!

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!!)

\$50 oil and gas permit fee questioned

Oil and gas industry representatives have questioned putting the required \$50 fee from the new drilling permit program in the general treasury. The new general permit was approved in July by the State Department of Natural Resources.

The industry does not object to paying the fee but says it would prefer that the money, estimated to be approximately \$125,000 to \$150,000 per year, go to a special environmental fund. Money from such a fund could be spent for stream improvements in areas where drilling occurs or even for fish stocking, according to industry representatives.

Other uses could be for research and development projects in connection with drilling and environmental abuses and for costs of administering the permit program.

The oil and gas industry has appealed the fee and other parts of the new general permit program to the water board. The state water resources division and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency support the appeal not to put the fee money into the general treasury.

The 1985 Legislature decreed that it go into the general fund, however, and they are the ones who would have to change the disposition of the money.

Other parts of the general permit system questioned by industry are the requirements that drilling areas be fenced to keep out livestock, that information requested on the drilling application become part of the permit record, and that off-site land used for disposal of drilling wastes must have the approval of the water resources division.

—reported in *The Charleston Gazette* 8/22/85

Fish in Kanawha checked for liver tumors

The health of fish in the Kanawha River is being tested to determine whether they are prone to liver tumors from exposure to chemicals.

Water resources and wildlife division personnel from the Department of Natural Resources are conducting the survey which involves collection of fish near the Monsanto plant at Nitro, the Union Carbide plants at South Charleston and Institute, and the DuPont plant at Belle.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suggested the liver tumor research and will provide a \$42,000 grant to help cover expenses.

State officials have stressed that they are not expecting to find a high incidence of the tumors because water quality studies on the Kanawha usually show that all substances are below acceptable levels.

Livers are being checked because tumor causing chemicals usually affect this organ first, according to a state official.

A professor at the West Virginia University Medical School, Dave Hinton, will analyze the fish.

—reported in *The Charleston Gazette*, 8/22/85

Logging in Cranberry under consideration

Timber cutting and road building are being considered in the Cranberry Back Country for the first time in 15 years by the Forest Service.

The back country includes about 20,000 acres of the Monongahela National Forest near Richwood. The sections where timbering is being considered are North Cove, part of which is in the back country and Rough Run, most of which is in the back country.

Roads would have to be built to remove the timber but Forest Service officials said the roads would be made to serve other uses such as wildlife habitat development.

Most of the timber in this area is about 70 years old; most of the area has not been cut since the early 1900's. Clearcutting in the 1960's prompted public protests and a moratorium on timber removal was imposed.

The wilderness study which resulted in designation of the Cranberry Wilderness, also precluded timbering.

Gauley District ranger, Bob Bodine, said public comments on the possibility of logging in the area are being solicited. Maps, overlays, and further information are available for review at the Gauley District office. Written responses and personal contacts received before September 9 will be included in the analysis.

—reported in *The Charleston Gazette*, 8/15/85

New EPA administrator

Pennsylvania's Susquehanna River supplies nearly half of the bay's fresh water. Runoff of fertilizer and manure from farms in the Valley is a major factor in the decline of the bay's water quality. The Chesapeake Bay Council, which Sief heads, plans to help reverse this trend by showing farmers that a more sparing use of manure and fertilizer will save money.

In an interview with the *Pittsburgh Press* in July, Sief said the EPA is continuing to give high priority to its Superfund program for cleaning up toxic wastes.

—reported in the *Pittsburgh Press*, 7/15/85

Future of Thurmond depot in jeopardy

The historic Thurmond depot in the New River Gorge is in danger of being dismantled by the Chessie System according to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy President Larry W. George.

National Park Service and Chessie System officials are negotiating over the future of the depot which George says is the most significant historic structure remaining in the New River Gorge. Built in the 1890's, the depot is right on the railroad tracks which is causing concern for Chessie officials.

A Chessie spokesman said the railroad is willing to sell the depot to the Park Service if it can be moved from its present site. Concern for public safety is Chessie's main priority, officials said, and the depot presents a threat to safety in its present location.

The Park Service contends that moving the depot would significantly diminish its historical value. They want to acquire the building for use as a museum and interpretive center for railroad history.

George says that the Chessie system has already dismantled several historic structures in the gorge and that he fears the Thurmond depot will be next. He has written to Gov. Arch Moore and West Virginia's congressional delegation to ask their support in saving the depot.

—reported in *The Charleston Gazette*, 8/22/85

Weirton pollution control plan rejected

A plan to measure and control air pollution from the Weirton Steel Company's plant has been rejected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The proposal, which was approved by the West Virginia Air Pollution Control Commission, was a bubble plan, a type of program generally favored by industry.

Under a bubble plan the air quality for an entire area is measured as if a huge bubble contained the air over that plant or area. Such plans represent a cheaper way to control air pollution while still meeting federal standards.

Weirton Steel originally got approval for a three-year bubble plan. EPA and Weirton officials will meet soon to discuss what changes are required for the current plan to receive EPA approval.

Weirton officials said they hoped to reduce air pollution within the imaginary bubble over the plant by controlling dust from the steel mill's parking lots and roads. Contributions from that measure are potentially greater and less expensive than controlling emissions from blast furnaces, according to company officials.

—reported in the *Charleston Daily Mail*, 8/13/85

Burning of low sulfur coal may increase

A study by Southern Appalachian Leadership Training (SALT), an organization providing rural leadership training, indicates that if some type of technology is not applied to reduce sulfur emissions at coal burning power plants, the result may be a shift from eastern to western coal. Western coal is relatively inexpensive to mine and has a lower sulfur content than eastern coal.

The losers if this should happen are the high-sulfur coal producing regions of the country, including parts of West Virginia, according to SALT.

Since 1970 western coal production has increased greatly while Appalachian output has declined. SALT advocates acid rain controls based on technology such as scrubber installation or other types of emission control. Without such controls they said the shift from eastern to western coal will continue.

Their comments on the possibility of coal switching came with the publication of a list of the top 80 sulfur emitting plants in the nation. Six of the 80 are in West Virginia. The Harrison plant of Monongahela Power Co. ranked 11th on the list and the Mitchell plant of American Electric Power Co. ranked 18th.

Other West Virginia plants in the listing were AEP's Kammer Plant at 25, AEP's John Amos plant at 40, Mon. Power's Ft. Martin plant at 44 and the Virginia Electric Power Company Mt. Storm plant at 48.

—reported in *The Charleston Gazette*, 8/20/85

Locals oppose plan to establish wetlands

Plans by the state to establish wetlands along the Meadow River in Greenbrier County have met with opposition from local residents.

The state departments of highways and natural resources have separate plans to develop and manage wetlands along the route of I-64 between San Black Church and Dawson.

Department of Highways officials say federal law requires them to replace 135 acres of wetlands being destroyed by the interstate. To do this they plan to acquire land and build a 6-foot high dam across Meadow River at Dawson.

The DNR has another plan to buy 2,500 acres over the next 20 years to establish additional wetlands along the interstate.

Local residents are upset with the proposed wetland sites because they fear the wetlands will flood their farms, ruin wells and sewage systems, and make their property worthless.

State officials want to establish the wetlands to provide a refuge for waterfowl and say the dam gates will only be closed during the dry season and when the ducklings are ready to leave the nest, about 3 months per year.

—reported in *The Charleston Daily Mail*, 8/13/85.

DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER VOICE

September 20

WVHC FALL REVIEW WEEKEND

Oct. 11-13, 1985

Yokum's Vacationland, Seneca Rocks



Seneca Rocks—site of WVHC Fall Review. Photograph by Gerald Ratliff, courtesy Governor's Office of Economic & Community Development.

Fall Review Program

Friday, October 11, 1985

7-10 p.m.—Registration
 9 p.m.—Potluck Slide Show. Screen and Kodak carousel projector provided. Bring slides of your latest expedition.

Saturday, October 12, 1985

7-9 a.m.—Breakfast
 9-5 p.m.—Field trips (box lunches may be reserved)
 6 p.m.—Dinner
 7:15 p.m.—Speaker-Honorable Bob Wise, U.S. Representative, 3rd Congressional District of WV.
 8:30-11 p.m.—Social Hour and Square Dance with Live Music.

Sunday, October 13, 1985

7-9 a.m.—Breakfast
 9 a.m.—Conservancy 1985 Annual Meeting and Elections.
 9:15 a.m.—Fall Board of Directors Meeting.
 12 p.m.—Lunch.
 1 p.m.—Pooh Stick Tournament.

Fall Review field trips

A. Kite Hike—Bring your own kite and join Jean Rodman for a scenic drive and moderate hike to a mountain meadow for kite flying, scenery, and relaxed nature study. Leave Yokum's at 10 a.m. Suitable for families with children.

B. North Fork Mountain—Great views of Germany Valley and Seneca Rocks from this ridge. Hike starts at Judy Gap on Rt. 33 and goes 11 or 12 miles north to Seneca Rocks. No water, very steep descents, and long day make this trip inappropriate for young children or adults uncertain of their ability. Led by Perry Bryant, this trip leaves Yokum's at 8:30 a.m.

C. Canoeing—The "Trough" section of the South Branch of the Potomac, from Old Fields to Harmison's Landing, is a classic 11 mile trip suitable for novices. Led by Carter Zerbe, this trip leaves Yokum's at 8:30 a.m.

D. Spruce Knob/Seneca Creek—This intermediate 8 mile hike features views from West Virginia's highest peak and a lovely walk along Seneca Creek with shaded pools and waterfalls. Led by Ed Lytwak, leave Yokum's at 9 a.m.

E. Auto/Walking Tour—This trip will be an auto tour of some of the scenic highlights of the area with mild walking at some stops. Lunch on top of Spruce Knob and a drive through Germany Valley. Led by Joe Riffenberger, leave Yokum's at 9 a.m.

F. Spruce Knob/Seneca Rocks NRA—Review development of NRA unit of Monongahela National Forest, potential impacts of forest draft plan, and construction of interstate corridor H. Led by U.S. Forest Service Chief Planner Gill Churchill, Potomac District Ranger Jerry Bremer, and Geoff Green.

SUNDAY

G. Panther Knob—Join the Nature Conservancy for a drive and short walk to their newest preserve. Led by Ed. McGuire and Rodney Bartgis.

RESERVATION FORM

Reservation Deadline October 3, 1985
 (Meals and Lodging)***

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Lodging—Yokum's Motel

Double Rooms/Efficiencies (shared room & bath)

Friday: \$10.00 x _____ = _____

Saturday: \$10.00x _____ = _____

Single Rooms (1 bed & bath-sleeps 2)

Friday \$26.00 _____

Saturday \$26.00 _____

Camping

(Toilet, shower, electric hookup, on Potomac River)

Friday \$2.50x _____ = _____

Saturday \$2.50x _____ = _____

Meals

(Saturday & Sunday breakfast & Sunday lunch on own. Restaurant facilities available locally.)

Saturday box

lunch \$3.00x _____ = _____

Saturday Buffet

Dinner \$6.50x _____ = _____

Registration Fee \$5.00x _____ = _____

Nature Skool

(add total here) _____ = _____

Total Enclosed _____

(Enclose Payment)

*** Note:

Fall is the busy season at Yokum's Motel. If you wish to have lodging and meals guaranteed by the Conservancy, this form must be mailed by October 3, 1985. Yokum's and other local motels may have rooms available if you miss our deadline, however, arrangements must be made on an individual basis. A list of motels and campgrounds in this brochure.

Child Care

\$1.00/hour/child

Saturday Field Trips _____

Saturday Evening _____

Sunday Board Meeting _____

Child/Children's Ages: _____

Nature Skool (see ad on page 7)

\$2.00/hour/child

Friday 7-9 p.m. \$4.00x _____

Saturday 9-5 p.m. \$16.00x _____

9-12:30 p.m. \$7.00x _____

Field Trip Preference

Trip A _____ Trip E _____

Trip B _____ Trip F _____

Trip C _____ Trip G _____

Trip D _____

Mail Form To:

Adrienne C. Worthy
 316 Skyline Drive
 Charleston, WV 25302
 Home: 343-2767

Additional Campsites are available at Spruce Knob Lake and Onego.
 Call US Forest Service at 257-4488

Motels:

Seneca Rocks—Hedrick's 4-U Motel
 567-2111
 Petersburg—Fort Hill Motel
 257-4717
 Hermitage Motor Inn
 257-1711

Park Motel
 257-4656

Townhouse Motel
 257-1588

Meet at Seneca Rocks Visitor's Center parking lot at 9:45 a.m.

For more information about field trips call John Purbaugh evenings at 988-9024.

Don't forget

WVHC Fall Review Oct. 11-13