



THE HIGHLANDS VOICE

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The 1987 Legislative Session

Chambers Elected Speaker



Robert "Chuck" Chambers (D-Cabell) was elected House Speaker. Chambers has been House Judiciary Committee Chairman since 1985 and is generally acknowledged as Legislature's most effective advocate in conservation issues. He has been a Conservancy member for several years.

The 1987 regular session of the West Virginia Legislature begins in January with important issues developing for conservationists. It is expected that the state's fiscal crisis and insurance tort reform legislation will dominate this session. But a variety of environmental bills are expected to be introduced with the prospect for action in selected areas.

The Conservancy will again provide comprehensive representation in these conservation issues during the sixty-day Legislative session.

Bottle Bill

Beverage container deposit legislation, or the "bottle bill," is gaining popular support across the state and it is expected that Delegates James McNeely (D-Mercer) and Marjorie (D-Gilmer) will reintroduce last year's bill. On the other side, Senator Mario Palumbo (D-Kanawha) will continue his four year effort by again sponsoring a similar beverage container bill.

The House bill will include provisions for:

- a five cent return deposit on each plastic or metal beverage container with a \$0.25 deposit on large 2-liter plastic containers.
- a prohibition of pull tab beverage cans and a requirement that all such cans contain a self-saving tabs.
- a partial allocation of the deposit to retailers to offset their increased costs incurred in recycling containers.

Last year, the WVHC supported a study of the economic impacts of the bottle bill since adequate information was not available. Additional information is becoming available, including economic investigations by those states which have already enacted container deposits and a study by the U.S. General Accounting Office. These studies indicate a

minor loss of glass industry jobs as increased recycling decreases demand for new container stock. However, there is also a somewhat larger increase in service jobs related to increased transportation, handling and cleaning of recycled containers.

The provision to require self-saving pull tabs on soft drink and beer cans has been strongly opposed by Weirton Steel. Weirton is the nation's largest producer of the old style disposable pull tab cans. It is expected that the Conservancy Board of Directors will vote to support the bottle bill at its January 25th meeting.

Department Of Energy

The Moore Administration is expected to submit a bill with both substantive and clean-up amendments to the 1985 West Virginia Energy Act which created the state Department of Energy. The specific provisions are yet unannounced, but it is expected that mine safety issues could equal or exceed environmental issues in term of Legislative attention.

However, the Conservancy will be proposing several important substantive amendments to the 1985 Energy Act which has been subject to so much Legislative and public derision. The Conservancy's proposals will be announced after the introduction of the Administration's bill.

Reorganization Of The Department Of Natural Resources

The Moore Administration is also expected to submit a bill to reorganize the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The features of this bill include:

(continued on page 8)

A Wildlife Refuge In Canaan Valley

by Linda Elkinton

What is a National Wildlife Refuge? Why are they important?

National Wildlife Refuges play an important part in the conservation story of the United States. In combination, they make up the National Wildlife Refuge System—a farflung collection of lands and waters selected for their value to America's wildlife populations, particularly migratory birds and rare mammals. Over 400 refuges totaling 34 million acres are now in the System.

These Refuges range in size from just over 200 acres to several million acres and are the primary way our government protects wildlife in American. A federal refuge is a high-quality natural area with unusual and special natural features. Refuges insure the availability of important habitat for wildlife and for research on species whose populations may be little understood or decreasing in number. Through specific management plans, a Refuge's important resources are protected, public awareness of its value to mankind is promoted, and a variety of outdoor recreational activities is provided to the public. Where wildlife populations are especially plentiful, public hunting, fishing and trapping are permitted on a Refuge.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is



Canaan Valley is fourteen miles long, four miles wide and 3,200 feet above sea level, the highest valley of its size east of the Mississippi River.

Photo by Joe Long

still growing. There is a keen awareness that secure habitat for many kinds of wildlife is far from adequate. Many more acres of wetlands — marches, swamps, lakes, and streams throughout the Nation — must be added to the present chain of refuges if water-loving species are to survive as a basic resource.

National wildlife refuges are popular as places to find large numbers of many kinds of wildlife. Few other sites afford opportunities to see such great, stirring concentrations of waterfowl and other birds.

Refuges not only harbor birds and mammals, but also provide for species of plants, insects, amphibians, and reptiles that each

year become more difficult to find in other places. Many refuges have fine scenic and historical values that are preserved, along with the wildlife.

Our national wildlife refuges often are thought of as self-operating wildlife paradises from the time they are established. More often than not, they have been developed from areas misused in the past by drainage, lumbering, burning and overgrazing, and needing restoration to become first-class wildlife habitat. This is accomplished through management techniques that may include regulated livestock grazing to provide habitat for more successful wildlife use, soil conservation practices, or forestry programs.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) of the Department of the Interior administers the System. Some Refuges are managed by States through cooperative agreements with the USFWS. Funds for the purchase and operation of these important areas come from Congressional appropriations, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (primarily collections from the lease of off-shore mineral reserves and fees collected for certain uses of Refuges) and from funds made available to the DOI for use

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—Mountain View— The Bottle Bill

by John Purbaugh

True, there are some people who won't stop littering if we pass a bottle bill. Once, when showing some visiting families the New River Gorge from the Old Fayette Station Bridge, we saw some 'necks down from Ohio gleefully seeing who could come closest to the rafters with their empty bottles. I spoke harshly before bothering to count them and got sucker-punched for my trouble. I don't really believe enhanced enforcement of existing litter laws will affect such people. I have a lawyer friend who while working for DNR got so frustrated that he drafted, only partly in jest, a bill which provided for summary execution for stream littering.

The only mechanism, short of the firing squad, which has a track record of changing littering behavior is a "beverage container deposit law," or "bottle bill." In the nine states with a bottle bill not only has beverage container litter been dramatically reduced, but the total volume of all other litter and all solid waste has also been reduced as the recycling ethic takes hold.

General information on the bottle bill was presented by Charlie Garlow of the West Virginia Citizens Action Group in the December *Voice*. To me, the hardest problem to deal with is the remote possibility that a bottle bill would hasten the long existing downward slide of West Virginia's glass and metal can manufacturing industry. I am not comfortable with the sight of a newly laid-off factory worker, and my guilt is not soothed by studies which show that his union-scale job will be replaced by several low-wage jobs in the new container-handling source sector.

However, speakers for the container industry, as is typical with such folks, give very little in the way of specific facts on the likely impact on West Virginia industry beyond predicting plant closings. How much has industry employment declined over the past five or ten years without such a bill, and why? What percentage of local plants' container production is distributed in West Virginia? Against such unanswered question and more stands the fact the travel/tourism is reported by the West Virginia Department of Commerce to be the second largest industry in the state. A clean, litter-free landscape is required for any expansion of this trend.

Not only West Virginia's but the national economy as well is undergoing fundamental change. A bottle bill is a vital part of that change, a change that will do much more good than evil.

Positive Dialogue Appreciated

Dear Editor:

I appreciated very much two columns by Messrs. Purbaugh and George which ran in your November issue.

Mr. Purbaugh's remarks on the relationship between an employer and its employees on environmental issues are very thought provoking. I further appreciated his remarks that The Conservancy's objections to several of the policies of our administration are not based on partisan politics.

I view our differences of opinion on certain matters which have come before my agency as primarily differences of preferred tactics and differences on rather narrow or procedural issues but not as differences in our fundamental commitments to environmental protection.

It could be fairly said that the goal of this administration is to work within existing state laws and technical standards to conduct the implementation of environmental measures by the State of West Virginia in an efficient and cooperative manner as possible. If we do that effectively, we should be able to link jobs to continued advances in environmental quality.

Mr. George's comments concerning Governor Moore's position on the Davis Power Project is insightful. Mr. George is correct in stating that the State of West Virginia as a major energy producer is in a strong position to be on the forefront of the construction of new, environmentally sound, state-of-the-art electric generating stations. A positive dialogue along the lines which Mr. George suggests is something that the environmental and industrial communities can engage in which will result in long-term benefits to the State's economic and natural environments.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Fotos, Deputy Director
Department of Natural Resources

Objection To Using BTI In New River Gorge

Dear Editor:

As a resident and possible spray target for BTI, I read your previous issue with great interest and was shaken to find nothing in it mentioning the link between rising blackfly populations and sewage in the New and Bluestone Rivers. The NPS report clearly states that the sewage levels in these rivers provides the ideal habitat for Blackfly larva. Clearly this "out break" could be controlled much closer to its source with greater benefit to recreationists and public health with new and improved sewage treatment plants and sewage lines in the rivers adjacent ravines and streams.

The spring and summer months are this areas highest tourist season. Low water flow combined with increased visitation causes a rise in human wastes entering and remaining in the river. These wastes will not be eliminated by BTI application; indeed the labeling calls for an increased dosage of BTI when sewage levels are raised. The label on the container of Teknar HP-D, the brand name BTI which would be used under the DNR proposal, cautions against human inhalation or contact with open eyes or wounds: "Environmental Hazards: Do not apply directly to treated, finished drinking water, reservoirs or drinking water receptacles." Due to BTI's possible health effects, people would be prohibited from using the river on the planned 15 application days in 1987. Residents have no where to run and hide; our property and gardens are prey to aerial drift, our springs and wells to runoff contamination. Pre or post medical research of human side effects has not been done by the DNR or other agency.

I do not care to be a guinea pig for industry when the same amount of money would build proper disposal and treatment of the main culprit.

Carol S. Osgood
Brooks, WV

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Guidelines For Articles & Letters To The Editor

The *Voice* welcomes any well-researched article or editorial on areas of concern, for example, river conservation, public land management, mining, Canaan Valley. General articles on outdoor activities — canoeing, hiking, caving, climbing — or on unusual places or special outdoor events are also needed. All submissions are subject to editing. To assure accuracy in the printing of these articles, the following guidelines have been established:

1.) Whenever possible, articles should be typed, double spaced on 8½ by 11 inch paper, with at least one-inch margins on each side. If the submission is not typed, the author should use lined paper and write legibly on every other line.

2.) Each article should be accompanied by the author's name, address, and telephone number. (Addresses and telephone numbers will not be printed with the article, but are needed so that the editor may contract the author for additional information, if necessary.) If the article is more than one page, the author's last name should be placed under the page number on each page.

3.) Photographs related to the article are greatly appreciated. Black and white photographs reproduce best, but color photos can be used. Photographs will be returned, if the author requests them.

4.) The deadline for each issue of the *Voice* is the last Friday of each month.
The *Voice* also welcomes letters to the editor expressing views on any of the topics covered in previous issues or on other environmental concerns. Letters to the editor should follow the guidelines for articles.

Cross-Country Skiing In The Cranberry Backcountry

by Kitra Burnham

Good news for those who love the Cranberry Glades and Backcountry! Not only can you enjoy these scenic areas hiking the trails in the warm months of the year, but you can also experience their beauty in the winter as well. Cross-country skiing is the perfect way to explore the outdoors in winter, and the Cranberry Backcountry is the perfect place to cross-country ski!

The Richwood Ski Club was formed in 1982 in conjunction with the Richwood Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Forest Service Gauley Ranger District office at Richwood to develop and promote a X-C ski trail system in the Cranberry Backcountry based on the knowledge and experience of local X-C ski enthusiasts.

The Richwood Ski Club and U.S. Forest Service have been working hard to maintain and upgrade the X-C ski trails in the Cranberry Backcountry trail system. All the trails were already in existence and will be familiar to those who have already hiked in the Cranberry Backcountry. For beginner skiers, the Cranberry River Road and Glades Boardwalk is an excellent outing. More experienced skiers would like the Cowpasture Trail around the Cranberry Glades or the Pocohontas Trail around Blue Knob west of the Visitor Center. Closer to Richwood, beginners are directed to the Cherry Hills Golf Club 3 miles out of Richwood or to the Forest Service roads in the Summit Lake area 10 miles east of Richwood. More advanced skiers would enjoy the Pocohontas Trail at the gates above Summit Lake out to Hanging Rock to the west or to Mikes Knob to the east. The Frosty Gap Trail in the Dogway Road area is also a

challenging outing.

The newest development on X-C skiing in the Cranberry is the emergence of X-C ski rentals this winter in Richwood and at the Cranberry Mt. Visitor Center. The rental shop is located at the Richwood Chamber of Commerce, and the Cranberry Nordic Center, located at the Cranberry Mt. Visitor Center, offers X-C ski rentals as well as ski lessons and guided tours of the trails in the area. The Cranberry Nordic Center is also planning to groom and set track on Forest Service trails and roads around the Visitor Center.

The Richwood Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Richwood Winter Festival. Events begin Friday, February 6, with a parade, bonfire and hayride. Saturday, February 7, will feature a chili cook-off indoors and snow fun events outdoors, including snowball throwing, snowman making, 2x4 races, canine races, sled races, and medley relay ski races. The evening will end with a pig roast and dance. The big event Sunday, February 8, will be a 10K X-C ski race.

For more information on any or all of these happenings in Richwood and the Cranberry Backcountry call the Richwood Chamber of Commerce at 846-6790 or the Gauley District Ranger Station at 846-2695. A map of this trail system which includes 75 miles of trails in the Monongahela National Forest from Richwood east to the Cranberry Mt. Visitor Center atop Kennison Mountain was published and is distributed through the Richwood Chamber of Commerce. The trailheads are posted with standard U.S. Ski Association signs as to trail name and difficulty. Also available is a 24-hour ski condition hotline which is located at the Richwood Chamber of Commerce office, 846-6790.

New River Gorge Gets New Superintendent

Joseph Kennedy, currently the Superintendent of Dinosaur National Monument in Utah, has been appointed as Superintendent of New River Gorge National River in West Virginia. As Superintendent of Dinosaur since 1979, Kennedy administers a 211,000-acre park that preserves the fossils of dinosaurs and offers river running on the Yampa and Green Rivers and hiking in the high-desert country.

Kennedy joined the National Park Service in 1961 as an administrative officer at Kings Mountain National Military Park in South Carolina. He later served in the same capacity at Fort Pulask National Monument in Georgia and as a management analyst in the office of the Secretary of the Interior from 1965 to 1968.

From 1968 to 1971, he was Assistant Superintendent of Everglades National Park where he helped acquire land and develop Biscayne National Park, a new national park area of 33 keys. In 1971, he became Assistant Superintendent of another new national park area, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area on Lake Powell, a lake formed from the Colorado River. Much of his effort here went into the construction of boat ramps, marina sites, campgrounds, and employee housing to handle an influx of visitors coming to this recreation area.

"Joe Kennedy's experience in managing river rafting and in developing new park areas will serve him well at New River," said James W. Coleman Jr., Regional Director of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the National Park Service.

Ecological Flood Control

by Robert Stough

During the past year since the terrible floods of November 1985 there has been, understandably, much renewed debate upon technological solutions to help prevent future disasters as well as generate revenue for local inhabitants. These have principally concentrated on the construction of massive watershed control projects that would be so designed and built as to eliminate all significant danger to those living along the rivers from 100-year floods and eventually pay for themselves with hydropower and recreationally created incomes. Accordingly, these proposals would involve expenditures of hundreds of millions of dollars in even their more modest configurations and require the drowning of thousands of acres along the river valleys. This by itself would partially achieve the goal of eliminating risk for river dwellers by eliminating the river dwellers themselves.

Those who would be the principal developers and benefactors of these projects have made, to put it gently, optimistic appraisals of the economic benefits of construction. We are being told of a new boom for the coal industry, lavish revenues from the sale of hydroelectricity, and an influx of tourists, the like of which we have never seen. Perhaps these claims would all come true. The trouble is, however, that if we go ahead with dam building they **must** come true or we will be worse off than before, having degraded our natural heritage once again to satisfy, for the moment, the seemingly insatiable hunger for cheap energy for our metropolitan areas. And even if we do build large dams, they would do nothing for the people in the upper creek valleys, and would certainly result in even more local dependence on out-of-state banks, big-city law firms and government bureaucracies who have, it must be said, historically served their own interests first, to the frequent detriment of the land and people of West Virginia.

We have been and doubtless will continue to be strongly pressured to undertake massive projects by those who have the most to gain and the least to lose, and they will continue to tell us that if we fail to undertake these projects in the near future we may

forever lose the possibility of doing so, to our permanent economic loss. But by far the most valuable commodity of the highlands is the land itself. Revenues connected with tourism and many forms of outdoor recreation are growing fast and should continue to grow apace so long as we maintain the natural integrity of the highlands, and even in times of national economic depression the relative proximity of the highlands to major urban centers would likely provide a continuing source of revenue for local inhabitants, as opposed to the demonstrably wild fluctuations of the energy industry. In order to achieve this kind of stability, however, we must understand that the value of the highlands as a tourist haven depends greatly on its unique and largely unspoiled character, although unspoiled does not have to mean undeveloped, but rather environmentally sensitive development according to specific local needs. Yet even if massive dam-building is not economically or ecologically justifiable we must still concern ourselves with the dangers of flooding, and the need for alternative sources of energy that do not rampantly pollute the atmosphere. By carefully considering smaller-scale watershed management programs (including hydropower developments that would serve local needs without obliterating unique ecological habitats, such as Canaan Valley), both structural and non-structural we should be able to largely eliminate the danger from the 20-year type floods that are likely in the decades to come, and also perhaps consider reforestation projects that could greatly decrease the risk of 100-year floods to future generations. The fact that the floods of 1985 and many previous years could have been mitigated by intelligent conservation practices that would also have been a source of revenue for each generation should not be forgotten. Nevertheless we should all keep in mind that complete protection for river dwellers at an affordable cost, if it is even possible, must depend primarily on personal awareness allied with a determination to achieve local self-sufficiency. If we wish to live in deep, relatively narrow river valleys surrounded by tall, broad mountains it must

become a matter of common sense and social responsibility that we locate and construct our houses and businesses to make them less vulnerable to damaging floods.

We can go the way that many urban developers and politicians are recommending, or we can finally come to the realization that the earth we are exploiting, however bountiful it may seem to some, is not an endless treasure that we may plunder at our whim but an interwoven and counter-balanced system that we disrupt at our peril. Our past failure to acknowledge the interdependence of all things has cost us dearly, and a large measure of the economic hardships we are now experiencing are the results of that short-sightedness. We have seen again and again that development at any cost ultimately becomes development at the cost

of our natural heritage, and thus at the cost of our most viable and stable economic base.

There is nothing that we can do for our children that will benefit them more than our wise use and conservation, and where possible, restoration of our natural resources. And to do less than this, when we know all too well the misery it could cause them would be a sad repudiation of those family values we say we hold so dear. The path of ecological balance isn't nearly as difficult or impoverishing as some would have us believe. It does not exclude careful, patient development or demand unreasonable sacrifices, and it offers the inestimable reward of an economy and communities that are in harmony with the living earth itself and can be sustained and depended upon for generations to come.

Join The WVHC Today

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is a private, non-profit environmental organization started in 1967. Its objectives are "to promote, encourage, and work for the conservation - including both

preservation and wise use - and appreciation of the scenic, historic, open space, wilderness, and outdoor recreation resources of and related to West Virginia, and especially the Highlands Region . . ."

WVHC Membership Categories (Circle One)

Category	Individual	Family	Organization
	\$	\$	\$
Senior/Student	12	---	---
Regular	15	25	50
Associate	30	50	100
Sustaining	50	100	200
Patron	100	200	400
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Membership Benefits

- 1-year subscription to **The Highlands Voice**
- Special meetings with workshops and speakers
- representation through WVHC's efforts to monitor legislative activity.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is a non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible. Please keep this for your records.

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Following Mary's Footsteps — Establishing The Mary Draper Ingles Hiking Trail

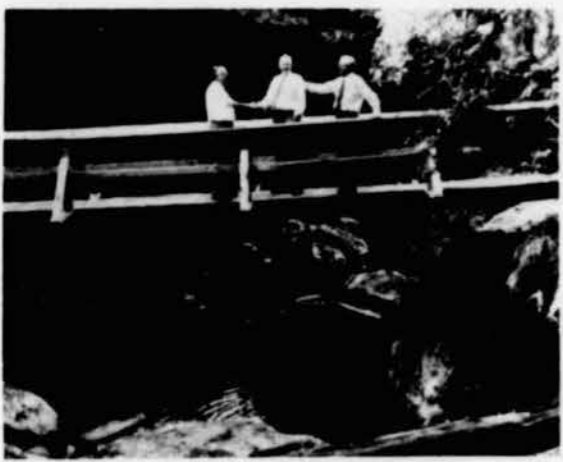
by Elizabeth Watson

The tiny frontier community of Draper's Meadow in western Virginia was enjoying a particularly peaceful Sunday afternoon on July 8, 1755. Having been established only a few years prior by the Ingles and Draper families, it was one of the first white settlements west of the Alleghenies. By total surprise the Shawnee raided Draper's Meadow, killing three people and retreating along the New River on horseback with Mary Ingles and her two children as hostages.

For several days the raiding party traveled downriver and eventually overland to a large Shawnee village near the mouth of the Scioto River along the Ohio. There Mary's children were given as booty to Indian families, and shortly after, Mary was moved to a large salt works in what is now Boone County, Kentucky, near Cincinnati. With an undaunted resolution to return home, Mary plotted her escape. Her co-conspirator was an elderly Dutch woman whom Mary had befriended in captivity. Together in late summer with scant clothing, a blanket a piece, one tomahawk, and no food, the two women slipped away unnoticed and began a most remarkable journey home.

Over the next forty days Mary and the old Dutch woman faced wild animals, an early onset of cold fall weather and near starvation. They traveled more than 450 miles along first the Ohio River, then the Kanawha and eventually the New River, back to Draper's Bottom at present-day Blacksburg, Virginia. To commemorate their miraculous accomplishment a group of modern day hikers is working to establish the foundation of a long distance trail retracing their route and to be named the Mary Ingles Trail.

The initiative to begin the Mary Ingles Trail came from a man well versed in long distance trail development. Bob Tabor of Culloden, West Virginia, had worked for many years with the Roanoke Appalachian



Bob Tabor, center, takes a break from work to show friends the newly completed footbridge over Wolfe Creek in the New River Gorge National River. Photo by Paul Brant

Trail Club on sections of the Appalachian Trail. Upon relocating to West Virginia where he quickly met avid hikers, he was instrumental in organizing the West Virginia Scenic Trails Association (WVSTA) in 1972 and began work on the Allegheny Trail, a 300 mile trail in eastern West Virginia. The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy has always been very supportive of WVSTA and its concept of planning and developing hiking trails for the Mountain State.

While working in Fayette County, Tabor became aware that a 50-mile section of the New River along which Mary journeyed over 200 years ago had become a National River and under the management of the National Park Service. He approached the NPS with his proposal to begin the trail within the national river boundaries and

with its endorsement and cooperation called an organizational meeting in the spring of 1983. Formalized as the Mary Ingles Chapter of the West Virginia Scenic Trails Association, a small and diverse group of interested citizens committed themselves to beginning the project.

Early in their planning, Chapter members recognized from a survey of topographic maps and personal hiking experience that many abandoned logging and mining roads and footpaths existed within the New River Gorge. Because of the natural reclamation that had occurred and the steepness of the terrain, it was agreed that from both an ecological and a practical standpoint it would be desirable to use as much of these existing trails as possible. New construction could be minimal. Exploratory hikes were set up to familiarize everyone with proposed routes.

As the proposed trail corridor developed, Chapter members began to research the ownership of lands that would be traversed. Despite the proposed location of the trail within the national river boundaries, many private owners would be involved and recreational licenses would have to be secured. As the Chapter began to contact property owners, it became clear that there were two areas of concern about entering such licenses with WVSTA. One was a concern over liability, and the other was what effect such licenses might have on future negotiations with the NPS.

To resolve liability concerns with private property holders, WVSTA on behalf of the Ingles Chapter secured a general liability insurance coverage in 1985 and continues to carry it. The other point was addressed in a Memorandum of Understanding between the NPS and WVSTA. It states that any negotiations the NPS may have with a property owner will not be affected by recreational licenses between WVSTA and the property owner. Two licenses have been established to date. Subsequent transfers of those properties to the NPS have nullified them, and licenses for other areas are being sought. The Memorandum also formalizes a cooperative relationship between WVSTA and NPS and defines responsibilities for the Mary Ingles Trail within New River Gorge National River. The Memorandum has been signed within the last few weeks and should allow the NPS a more active involvement with the Chapter on the Mary Ingles Trail.

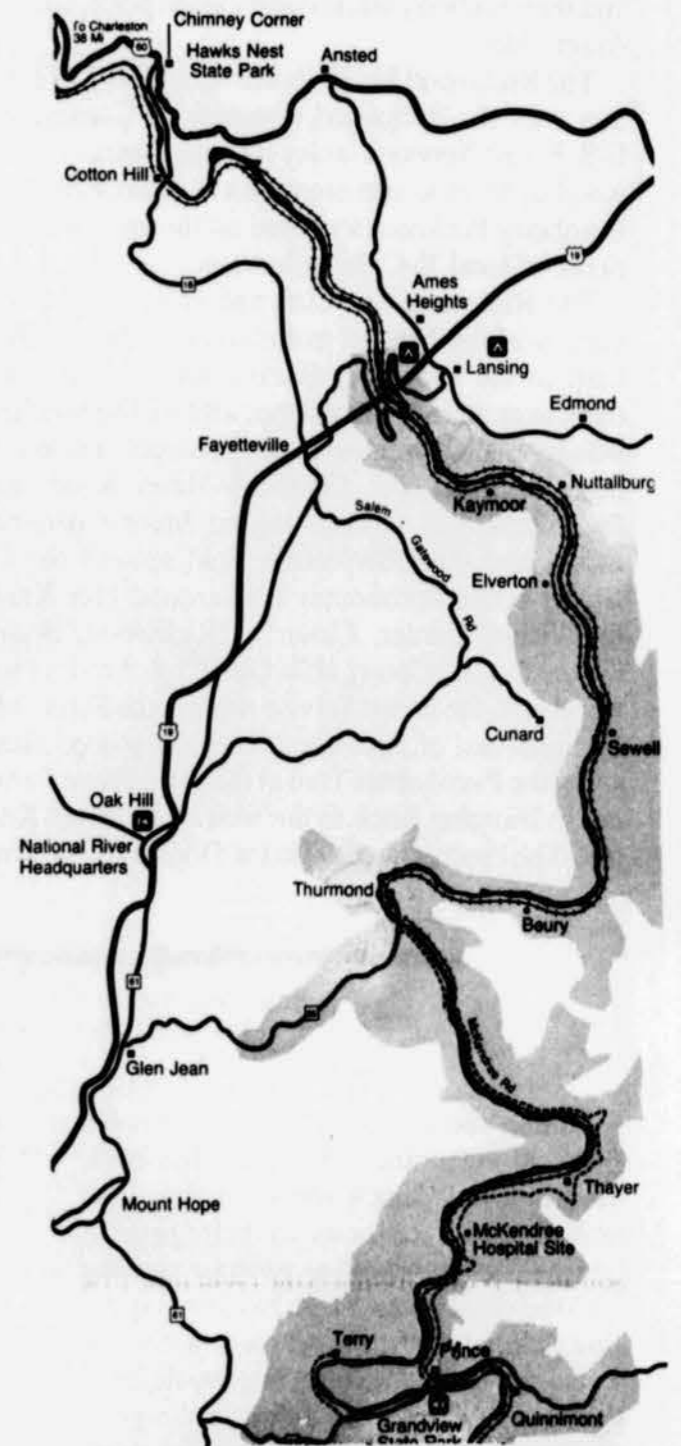
Broad community involvement has under-

girded the Mary Ingles Trail project since it began. When hand tools were needed for light trail brushing and blazing, an area bank donated the money toward their purchase. When a recreational license was in place for a 2-mile section of trail, an area Boy Scout took on developing it as his Eagle project. Another license allowed work to begin on a trailhead parking area, and a local businessman donated dozer time to level the site. Another provided free reddog for the base, and a trucking group donated delivery. A grant from the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources Nongame Wildlife Program also helped cover expenses of the parking lot. The insurance premium for 1985 was paid by an anonymous supporter in the community. And when a footbridge was needed to span Wolfe Creek, NPS personnel designed the bridge and Navy's Seebee's from Charleston did most of the construction. The local newspaper has ran feature articles on the trail project and its volunteers.

Initiative for the Mary Ingles Trail project has come from the Mary Ingles Chapter and WVSTA. The community has recognized the potential of the volunteer project and has responded with generous donations of time, money and labor. In local planning meetings held by the NPS, the community has repeatedly expressed a position that hiking trails be an important aspect of the National River development. And elevating the priority of trail development at the New River Gorge National River in order to utilize the momentum of the volunteer group has been a goal of the Chapter in recent months. Despite numerous delays and setbacks, the Chapter has endeavored to resolve stumbling blocks and hopes to see the first section of trail signed and officially opened this spring.

In much the same manner as the Appalachian and Allegheny Trails were built, the Mary Ingles Trail is underway. With the groundwork laid, other communities along Mary Ingles' route will see the benefits of trail development and organize to extend it through their areas. In no way a small vision, it will take years of work to establish the 450 mile trail, but with continued commitments from private citizens, businesses, and governmental agencies, hikers will some day be able to retrace the entire route of Mary Draper Ingles' return from captivity. Anyone wishing more information may contact: Mary Ingles Chapter of WVSTA, P. O. Box 813, Fayetteville, WV 25840.

New River Gorge

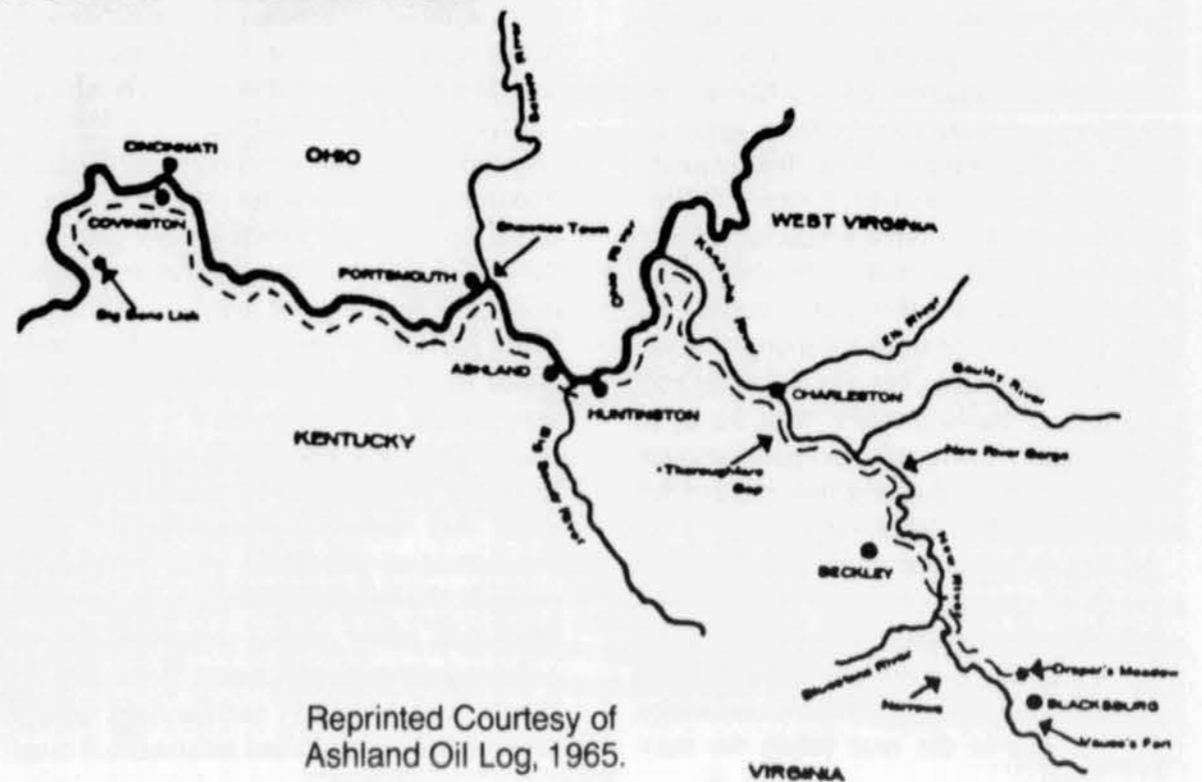


Establishing a trail on the west bank of New River between Cotton Hill and Prince is a long term goal for members of the Mary Ingles Chapter of WVSTA. The Mary Ingles Chapter hopes to see a section of the trail across from Thurmond opened this spring. (Map from the NRGNR)

[Elizabeth Watson is a member of the Mary Ingles Chapter and served as chairperson during its first year. She is also a whitewater raft guide on the New and Gauley Rivers and has worked for the New River Gorge National River.]

Mary's Route Revisited

SUMMER/FALL 1755



Reprinted Courtesy of Ashland Oil Log, 1965.

Retracing the route taken by Mary Ingles in her 1755 journey into the wilderness is not easy even today. The dotted line on the map shows the eastward route, from what is now Big Bone Lick, taken by Mary after she escaped from her captors.

The Bluestone Turnpike Trail

by Jim Phillips



A hiker takes a moments rest to look down into the Bluestone Canyon.

Photo by Jim Phillips

One of the most interesting hikes in southern West Virginia is the eight mile trek from Pipestem Resort State Park to Bluestone State Park through the Bluestone Public Hunting and Fishing Area. This trail has been unofficially named the Bluestone Turnpike Trail. It is believed that the original Bluestone Turnpike followed this same route. If you have an interest in geology, history, flora or fauna or just enjoy walking through some beautiful country, then this is the walk for you.

The exposed rocks in the canyon consist of red, gray and green shales and sandstone. In some places there are small areas of limestone, usually containing marine fossils. The name "Bluestone" may come from a blue-green mineral vein visible in exposed shale. The original Indian name for the stream has been translated as "Big Stone." The source for this name obviously comes from the large boulders found in the river bed. This whole area along the Bluestone River has been described as a canyon or gorge. The depth of this canyon ranges from 300 to 1200 feet. Midway down the canyon wall, especially in and near Pipestem Resort, is a fairly level bench area made up of sandstone cliffs which contain quartzite pebbles.

Human activities along the river date back to about 1000 B.C. Local historians locate a trail of the Shawnee Indians along the river. Apparently the Indians would travel along the river in their journeys from the Ohio River country to western Virginia. Evidence indicates that Mary Draper Ingles, during her famous encounter with the Shawnee Indians, followed the Little Bluestone and on down the Bluestone River. White men first began to explore the region along the Bluestone in the mid-1700's. Migration to the area was slowed by the Indian wars until late in the 1700's. One of the first settlements in the county was located at the mouth of the Little Bluestone River. Until the late 1930's, a community, complete with post office, store, and a grist mill, was located there. Subsistence farming was the

main source of sustenance along the river. Extensive logging was done during the early part of this century. Signs of these early inhabitants can still be seen along the trail in the form of rock piles, fallen-down cabins and road grades.

During the spring, a large assortment of wildflowers can be found along the river. Late April and early May can be like a vision from your imagination with golden ragwort as yellow as gold, blooming under the lavender flowers of redbud. Bloodroot, trilliums and Jack-in-the-Pulpit add to the spring splendor. Various mints, snakeroot and jewel weed are common during the summer, while the fall offers ironweed, goldenrods and witch hazel to the flowering world. The variation of elevation in the canyon produces some of the most spectacular fall foliage.

Sunfish, bass, catfish and other species of warmwater gamefish found in West Virginia can be found in the Bluestone River. Northern watersnakes, snapping turtles and bullfrogs may be found along the banks of the Bluestone, while wood frogs, spring peepers and chorus frogs carry out their life cycles in temporary pools and puddles. Dusky, seal, and other salamanders live in and around the springs and small streams which feed into the Bluestone.

Fence lizards, five-lined skinks and northern copperheads may be found around some of the old cabins and in the drier areas of the canyon. Eastern box turtles and American toads may be encountered nearly anywhere along the way.

Mammals found along the Bluestone Turnpike Trail include the white-tailed deer and the beaver. Many trees which have been cut by beaver will be evident along the river. Minks, raccoons and cottontails are common in the area, and occasionally, bobcat or black bear may be seen searching for food near the river. During early May, over 100 species of birds can often be found in the canyon in one day. Blue-winged and yellow-throated warblers and Louisiana water-

thrushes summer along the river. Belted kingfishers, common ravens and red-tailed hawks may be found during most any season, and a golden eagle or an osprey turns up just often enough to add spice to the hiker's bird list.

The Bluestone Turnpike Trail is located mostly in the Bluestone Public Hunting and Fishing Area and follows the west bank of the Bluestone River. The following description discusses the trail from Pipestem Resort to Bluestone State Park, but obviously, the trail can be hiked from either direction.

Both parks are located along WV Route 20, north of Princeton and south of Hinton. Route 20 is easily reached from north or south by Interstate 77 (WV Turnpike) or east and west by U.S. Route 460. Overnight accommodations are available at both of the parks.

A meeting was held at Bluestone State Park on July 10, 1985, with representatives from the agencies involved with the trail. While a management plan was drawn up, no formal agreement was reached by the various agencies. Therefore, the trail is not signed or blazed. There is little or no trash or brush removal. Camping is not allowed along the trail. Since the trail is already present, there is little problem hiking to Bluestone State Park, but don't expect a perfectly manicured trail.

Access to the trail may be reached from the River Trail in Pipestem Resort. Memorial Day to Labor Day, this can be done easily by riding the aerial tram from the Canyon Rim Center to the Mountain Creek Lodge. The tram descends about 1100 feet in elevation and crosses the Bluestone River.

Since the tickets are sold at the lower tram station, the ride down is free. In order to reach the River Trail during a season when the tram is closed, you may enter the trailhead behind the Main Lodge or begin at the Canyon Rim Center and follow the Canyon Rim Trail to its junction with the River Trail. From either of these starting points it is about three miles to the Bluestone River and one mile from the river to the Mt. Creek Lodge. This requires wading the river. Check at Park Headquarters or at the front desk of the Main Lodge as to the depth of the water.

Once you reach the Mt. Creek Lodge, follow the River Trail downstream. The first section of the trail takes you through deciduous forest with patches of hemlock and rhododendron. At about 1.5 miles the trail enters an open area. A few old apple trees

(left from a farmplot), dogwood trees and blackberries and raspberries make up the vegetation here. At the end of this old field the River Trail takes a sharp left turn up Pilot Ridge and leaves the river. The Bluestone Turnpike Trail continues straight ahead and follows the river.

In a few places where the trail has been washed out there may be a choice of trails. These alternate trails usually follow the next highest piece of ground and then return to the main trail. At any rate, if you follow the trail closest to the river you are bound to reach Bluestone State Park.

Just around Pilot Knob, the Bluestone Turnpike Trail enters the Bluestone Public Hunting and Fishing Area. Most of the trail from here on travels through nice stands of sycamore, paw paw and tulip poplar. Occasionally, the trail passes through an open area, remnant of one of the old homesites. At about five miles, the trail crosses the mouth of the Little Bluestone River. During most of the year, this stream is only about ankle deep and easily waded. About three miles from the Little Bluestone is the gate marking the boundary of Bluestone State Park. This last section of trail is, in places, located a fair distance from the river. The gate between the hunting area and the park is a good place to leave your shuttle vehicle. By road it is about 15 miles back to Pipestem Resort.

Hazards: Other than the usual problems encountered on a distance hike (blisters, twisted ankle, etc.), there are few natural hazards in the canyon. The usually non-aggressive northern copperhead is the only poisonous snake along the trail. Stinging insects such as wasps, hornets and yellow jackets are usually present, and poison ivy and stinging nettle are to be reckoned with. Weather and high water must also be a consideration. Since most of the trail passes through the public hunting area, the hiker should be aware of the various hunting seasons. Hikers should carry in their own drinking water.

More information about the Bluestone River can be obtained from Pipestem and Flat Top topographic maps; Pipestem Resort State Park and Bluestone State Park trail maps; *My Appalachia* by Howard B. Lee; *Proceedings of the New River Symposium, 1985, "History of Pipestem State Park"* by Douglas Ritchey; *Draft Wild & Scenic River Study-Bluestone River, WV* January 1983; and *Wild Water West Virginia* by Bob Burrell and Paul Davidson.



Jim Phillips is the naturalist at Pipestem State Park. He is Field Notes Editor for *The Redstart*, the journal of the Brooks Bird Club.

National Wildlife Refuge (continued from page 1)

with Refuges. Federal law provides that areas where Refuges are located receive special Refuge revenue-sharing funds in lieu of local taxes.

Many refuges contribute substantially to local economies. By law, local governments share in the revenues from grazing, haying, sale of timber, and other economic uses of refuges necessary for the best management of wildlife habitat. Refuges add to the economic bases of their communities through local expenditures for food, supplies, and lodgings by people visiting the refuges for recreation. Nearly 30 million visits are made to national wildlife refuges annually. Wildlife trails, interpretive centers, and other facilities are provided. National Wildlife Refuge resident staffs who typically include a refuge manager, an assistant, maintenance personnel, and/or equipment operators, and clerks also contribute to the local economy.

A Refuge in WV? Canaan Valley?

West Virginia is the only state in the Nation that does not have a federal wildlife refuge within its borders. In the mid-1970s the USFWS, at the request of Senator Byrd, conducted a survey of possible sites for a federal refuge in WV. The survey showed Canaan Valley to be the State's best site for a refuge. Because of a number of imminent threats (including uncontrolled and rapid commercial and resort development and plans for a power dam there) the USFWS moved ahead with the necessary studies to determine the feasibility for establishing a refuge in Canaan Valley.

Many alternatives were explored by interested groups and government agencies in regard to the proposal. The one finally selected for thorough study would protect some 28,000 acres of the Valley's wetlands and surrounding uplands, woodlands and open fields. The USFWS completed an Environmental Impact Study of this Canaan Refuge plan in 1979.

The Canaan Valley Refuge Management Plan

The proposal identified the following management objectives for the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge:

—PRESERVE in perpetuity approximately 28,000 acres of boreal habitat, a unique ecosystem, and its wide spectrum of plants and animals.

—PROVIDE a unique educational resource to all ages by assisting with field studies of environmental interrelationships and stimulating curiosity of living things by offering a variety of first-hand outdoor experiences.

—PROVIDE for bird watching, photography, nature study, hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-oriented activities.

—ESTABLISH a woodcock research and management area. The Valley has the highest density woodcock population in West Virginia and is an important staging area for migratory woodcock.

—PROVIDE and develop habitat for

waterfowl consistent with preservation of existing ecosystems.

The plan provided for hunting for a wide array of game species such as white-tailed deer, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, duck, woodcock and snipe on the Canaan Refuge. Fishing for native trout, trout stocking by the State in the Blackwater River, and for bass found in some of the larger beaver ponds in the Valley would also be a feature of the Refuge.

Opportunities for hiking, camping, canoeing, wildlife observation, nature photography and other forms of outdoor recreation would be expanded, and boardwalks to view the more inaccessible and sensitive wetland areas constructed. Wildlife studies and biological research would guide wildlife management. Activities such as an interpretative environmental education program for teacher training and school-age children would be available.

The Canaan Valley Refuge would be a focal point for regional environmental education. School districts in Tucker, Grant, Randolph and Pendleton Counties would be within easy traveling distance for day trips to the valley. Students and teachers involved in formal environmental awareness programs could use refuge lands and facilities. Use of refuges as outdoor classrooms is nearly always encouraged through refuge sponsored workshops where teachers are familiarized with what the refuge offers.

The Canaan Refuge, it was noted, would also attract visitors from other areas and, to a large degree, enhance the excellent outdoor recreational opportunities already available in the Potomac Highlands area of the State. These include those available in the Canaan Valley State Park, Seneca Rock-Spruce Knob National Recreation Area, Blackwater Falls State Park and the Dolly Sods and Otter Creek Wilderness areas: All within thirty miles of Canaan Valley.

The Refuge Plan and Canaan Valley Residents

It is important to note that as proposed the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge would displace no present residences or businesses in the Valley and traditional land uses such as present farming practices are both compatible and complementary to the Refuge plan. These and other traditional uses of Valley lands would be encouraged. Land use agreements would assure protection of the remainder of Valley wetlands or if available they could be purchased at fair market value on a willing-seller willing-buyer basis. Establishment of the Canaan Refuge will not mean the end of private ownership or development that might be undertaken by private owners in the Valley. The rights of private landowners would not be affected except in cases where land uses or developments planned by private landowners may adversely affect Refuge lands. In such cases the full array of land use management agreements such as scenic easements, purchase of development rights, life use reservations, would be available to land owners.



Canaan Valley's 6,000 acre wetlands complex of marches, bogs, swamps and beaver dams habitat comprises the largest shrub-swamp wetlands in the eastern United States.
Photo by Joe Long

The Canaan Valley Refuge and Local Revenues

The plan called for the initial establishment of the Canaan through the purchase of Valley lands held by the Allegheny Power System and the Chessie System. The estimated cost was \$52,000,000 (1979). Other lands would be added as they and money became available.

While the Refuge would remove lands from county jurisdiction and tax roles, it would increase local government revenues through Refuge revenue sharing payments estimated in 1979 to be \$380,000 annually. This amount was more than 1½ times the total revenues collected in the entire County in 1979. (\$268,000) and nearly ten times that collected in the Valley lands at the time. Neither of these have changed a great deal since 1979. These funds would be available for use for schools and roads and other county government operations.

Administrative personnel, equipment, and facilities would be located at a headquarters complex in the valley. Six permanent and three to five temporary staff were projected to be employed by the time the refuge was fully operative. Projected funding for administration, staffing, and operations would involve annual expenditures of some \$200,000, half of which, it is estimated, would be added to the local economy in return for goods and services purchased for refuge operations and by personnel. Applying a business generator multiplier of 1.21, this would mean the addition of \$121,000 in local expenditures and revenues.

Fishing, a major activity, would remain an important form of recreation. Hunters would continue to come to the area seeking the quality upland big-game hunting experience available in Canaan Valley. Hiking and canoeing and other forms of wildlife-wetlands recreation, such as photography and bird watching, would be encouraged. The geological and historical background of the area all in boreal settings would also draw visitors.

Long-range recreational use of the wildlife refuge was projected to increase, accompanying the growth of tourism in the region. The Canaan Valley State Park and Monongahela National Forest to the south would also attract and accommodate visitors seeking non-wildlife oriented recreation in the area.

A study based on the 1985 visitorship to the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on the Maryland-Virginia border indicated that visitors to that Refuge spend an average of \$33.33 per day on-site for food, beverages, lodging and entertainment. Given an annual visitorship of just 100,000 annually to the Canaan Refuge, this could mean as much as \$33,330,000 to local merchants and businesses.

Current Canaan Valley Refuge Plans

A modified refuge plan being advanced by the National Wildlife Federation and a

committee of interested organizations, calls for a Canaan Refuge of 18,000 acres. It would be composed of lands presently held by the Allegheny Power System and the same lands for which they have sought a license for the Davis Power Project and adjacent lands for partial mitigation of losses of wildlife and habitat associated with the flooding of some 4,600 acres of the Valley's invaluable wetlands.

The plan calls for an exchange of land between the Department of Interior and APS to provide for the establishment of the Refuge.

The addition of either 28,000 (all the land in Canaan Valley except the State Park), as originally proposed, or 18,000 acres, as in the modified plan, to the National Wildlife Refuge System would be a monument to the clear thinking of this and future generations. It would protect the Valley's wetlands — the largest of their kind to be found in the eastern United States; insure the Valley's accessibility to all West Virginians and contribute greatly to the economic well-being of Tucker County, the surrounding area, and the State of West Virginia.

Wide-spread public support expressed in letters from individuals and organizations will be required for a federal wildlife refuge to be established in Canaan Valley. Ultimately, it is the only viable alternative for protecting the wetland and unusual plant and animal life there.

Continued uncontrolled commercial development and land development in general without any kind of overview planning to protect fragile resources and water quality is already impacting the delicately-balanced ecosystem and marring the Valley's outstanding aesthetic qualities. At present, land ownerships are constantly changing and no assurance exists that the large tracts that now protect the overall integrity of Canaan will remain intact.

Despite continued opposition by local political leaders and development interests to protection of the resources of Canaan Valley, the long-term economic benefits of doing so has never been stronger among both old-time and newer residents of the Valley. Local towns and surrounding communities outside the Valley proper could benefit greatly from a Canaan Refuge. And, its establishment would insure protection of the very resources that attract people to the area in the first place. A Refuge in Canaan and an overall management plan would prevent the destructive effects involved in building, literally, on the very land and resources that need protection to insure sound economic growth and development in the area.

Persons interested in having this modified Refuge plan fully considered and acted upon should write Governor Moore, APS, Donald Hodel (Secretary of Interior) and President Reagan, and be prepared to write again as more details of this plan become available.



More than one third of the entire wetland habitat in West Virginia is found in Canaan Valley and on Cabin Mountain.
Photo by Joe Long

NEWS BRIEFS

(Editor's Note: 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 clipping. Thanks!!!)

Elections Show Environmental Concern

John B. Oakes, former Senior Editor of *The New York Times*, feels that last November's election results reflect "a back to environmentalism movement" by the country's voters.

He bases his statement on conservation victories in key issues in New York and California. In New York, voters approved by 2 to 1 a \$1.45 billion bond issue to help clean up toxic-waste sites and to acquire lands in the Adirondacks and Catskills to be added to the state park system.

In California, voters approved by 2 to 1 a measure restricting industrial and agricultural use of more than 200 toxic chemicals in order to prevent contamination of drinking water.

In addition, Oakes pointed out, "Almost every senatorial candidate supported by the nonpartisan League of Conservation Voters won." Although environmental issues were not the leading concerns in many states, in several races "a candidate's stand on the environment made the difference, especially against opponents whose environmental records were particularly dismal."

In a *New York Times*/CBS News poll, nearly two-thirds of the respondents agreed that "protecting the environment is so important that requirements and standards cannot be too high, and continuing environmental improvements must be made regardless of cost." Oakes pointed out that the affirmative vote on this question has risen from 45 percent in 1981 to 66 percent in 1986.

The New York Times, November 10, 1986

Wildlife Funding Victories

Defenders of Wildlife claim victories in gaining money from the 99th Congress for environmental programs despite the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act and President Reagan's proposed cuts in environmental spendings.

Congress provided \$42 million to buy refuge land, a \$2 million increase over last year. Programs to clean up toxic contaminants on National Wildlife Refuges and to investigate nonlethal predator control were also funded. In addition Congress voted \$4.3 million for grants to states for cooperative work with the Fish and Wildlife Service on endangered species. A study to determine the possibility of creating another wildlife refuge along the Upper Sacramento River in California to preserve dwindling riparian lands received \$150,000.

Activist Network News, December 1986

American Outdoors Commission Wants Scenic Urban Corridors

The President's Commission on the American Outdoors recommended that a network of scenic corridors, "greenways," be established along streams, abandoned rail lines and highways to make outdoor recreation more accessible to urban residents.

Since 78% of all Americans now live in cities and towns, and urbanization of the nation will likely increase in the next century, Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander, chairman of the commission, said the commission considered it vital that more recreational areas be established closer to cities, providing a "close-to-home" alternative for many urban residents who did not have the time or money to travel to distant national or state parks.

The panel's report said private interests and communities must take a bigger role in enhancing outdoor recreation because there is only so much the federal government can or should do.

The summary report called for Congress to set up a one billion dollar trust fund to help pay for innovative recreation, wildlife, and conservation efforts.

Some panel members suggested that farmers, particularly those in depressed areas, might gain new income sources by turning over idled farm land for conservation projects.

Charleston Gazette, December 31, 1986

Battling Acid Rain

Scientists at the Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore, California, reported they have developed a process to remove nitrogen oxides from power plant emissions and truck exhaust. Nitrogen oxides account for half of the acid rain in the United States, according to the environmental group Americans Against Acid Rain.

Chief Sandia researcher Robert A. Perry reported his tests with a small diesel engine proved cyanuric acid, a white granular chemical used to stabilize chlorine in swimming pools, is 99 percent effective in eliminating nitrogen oxides from exhaust. Heat from the exhaust system turns the cyanuric acid into a gas that reacts chemically with nitrogen oxides, breaking them down into harmless components of nitrogen and water.

The chemical reaction also produces a small amount of carbon monoxide, another toxic gas, but Perry said, "It's possible to take care of carbon monoxide with a later step. The major stumbling block in emission control has been nitrogen oxides."

Charleston Gazette, December 18, 1986

State Buying 41-Acre Lake Near Ripley

The state of West Virginia is purchasing 41-acre Rollins Lake near Ripley for \$170,000. Seventy-five percent of the money for this purchase will come from the state's share of federal taxes on the sale of fishing tackle and assorted equipment and the remainder will come from state hunting and fishing license fees. The lake, which already has largemouth bass and bluegill, will be stocked with trout in January and March and with channel catfish later in the year.

Charleston Gazette, January 2, 1987

Out On A Limb: Edlerly Help Chestnut Blight Study

Jim Comp, an 86-year-old in a nursing home in Alma, Michigan, and five of his buddies from the home have in the past decade led a corps of volunteer who collected more than 225 million chestnuts. These nuts were used by Michigan officials to raise 100,000 seedlings, many of which were sent back to West Virginia where researchers at WVU have been studying chestnut blight.

Comp remembers playing under chestnuts in Grafton, West Virginia, during the early years of the 20th century. By the time he left Grafton in 1928, all the chestnut trees in the area had fallen prey to the blight, and eventually all the chestnut stands were destroyed.

In spite of the help of Comp and his friends, WVU researcher Bill MacDonald does not foresee the chestnut being returned to its role as a major source of timber and food. MacDonald said, "If a less virulent fungus could be introduced to small forested areas, it might control the blight there. We could produce nuts for people and as food for wildlife and, perhaps, a limited amount of American chestnut lumber."

Pittsburgh Press, December 11, 1986

Too Many Deer?

At a meeting in Nuttall, West Virginia University extension agent Bill Grafton offered tips to Fayette County farmers on how to keep deer away from their crops. Grafton suggested electric fencing and chemical repellants, but he pointed out that the most effective means of control is hunting, particularly if an antlerless season is begun.

He estimates that there are 600,000 to 700,000 deer in the state, and "We need a decrease in the doe population to stabilize the population," he said. Reducing the number of does would help the growers, but, he said, "There are about 300,000 deer hunters and as a rule they're happy with the success they're having." Another problem is that the Wildlife Division of the DNR needs the dollar support from the sale of licenses, and in order to insure good sales, deer need to be available in good numbers.

Grafton said, "I don't know if anyone in the state of West Virginia knows what to do. It's a monstrous problem. Alfalfa is a thing of the past in many parts of the state. We're still able to grow corn if it can get past the six-leaf stage. I think the problem is still coming."

Fayette Tribune, December 8, 1986

Wildlife Group Joins Fight Against Forest Plan

The West Virginia Wildlife Federation has joined with seven other organizations to prevent the U.S. Forest Service from increasing its logging and road construction in the George Washington Forest. These organizations have released an analysis which argues that the forest service plan is not responsive to public needs, is based on flawed data and would violate federal law and policy. A representative of the Natural Resources Defense Council indicated that in 1985 the forest service spent \$2 million more to administer timber sales and build logging roads than it received in receipts from logging operations. In addition, forest scientists have stated that the plan offers no tangible benefits and would be harmful to the forest environment.

Charleston Gazette, January 2, 1987

Population Crisis

In separate articles (from the *Charleston Gazette*) Robert Clarke and Werner Fornos, president of The Population Institute, discussed the problems of overpopulation. Clarke feels that the main problem of the next century will be massive population growth. He points out that people are born today at a rate of 2.5 per second, 9,100 per hour, about 218,190 per day, and 1.5 million each week.

The world's population, now 4.9 billion, will increase to 6 billion by the year 2000 and not stabilize until it reaches 11 billion says Robert McNamara, former president of the World Bank. Certain countries will grow beyond the conditions that are politically and socially acceptable. In Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, the population will grow from 170 million in 1950 to 2 billion by 2100.

Richer countries, Clarke says, cannot allow other nations to deal with the problem alone. A middle ground between China's one child-per-couple rule and general neglect of the problem by most nations must be explored to avert "the most serious crisis the world has known."

Fornos expressed concern that environmental groups are ignoring the overpopulation problem, which in many cases is causing the problems the groups are addressing. Fornos said, "I recently learned from an official of a major environmental organization that its surveys show that of a membership of 450,000 only 1,000 listed high population growth rates as a matter of priority concern."

Environmentalists need to rally to the cause of global population stabilization, he feels, with the same fervor they rally to protecting specific environments and preventing industrial pollution.

Charleston Gazette, December 17, 1986

1987 Legislative Session (continued from page 1)

— Transfer of regulatory authority for water quality and hazardous wastes presently held by Water Resources Board to DNR.

— Statutory recognition of the Hazardous Waste Division created last year by executive order

— Reform of the Public Lands Corporation. This would include limiting the PLC's plenary authority to dispose of state lands and require public hearings prior to any sale.

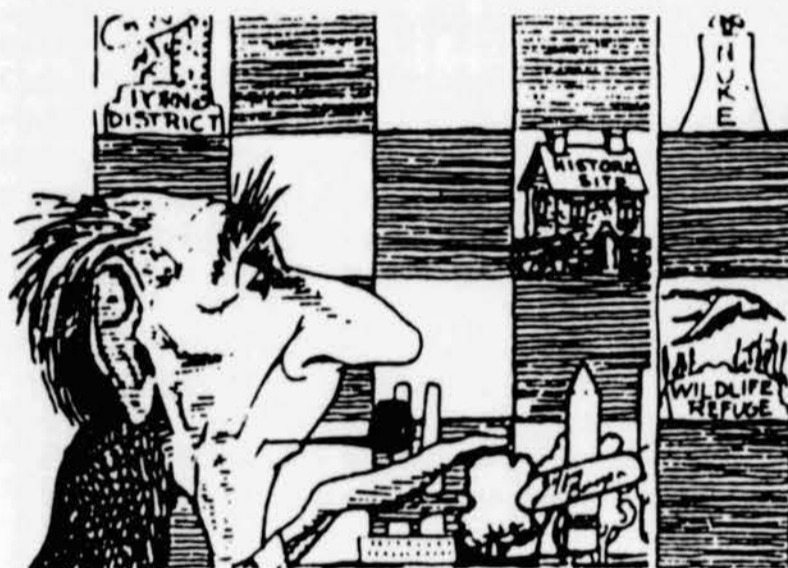
— Transfer of the Health Department's Division of Sanitary Engineering (public water supplies/wastewater treatment) to DNR may be included.

DNR is apparently dropping last year's proposal for statutory authority to retain legal counsel to supplant the Attorney General. It is undecided whether DNR will propose transferring permitting authority from the Chief, Water Resources Division, to the DNR Director. The Conservancy and the League of Women Voters oppose this transfer on the grounds that permitting decisions should be made by a professional, civil service official.

Conservation Easements

Legislation to authorize conservation easements in West Virginia was considered during the 1985 session, but failed to pass the House. The WVHC may again advocate such legislation in the 1987 session.

Conservation easements are a concept by which government or private interests can preserve the aesthetic integrity



of a specific tract of land without acquiring any real property interest in the land. Essentially, the development rights are acquired while the original owner retains all other rights.

The purpose is to maintain the status quo for conservation purposes while permitting the owner to continue his present land use activities. Federal tax deductions are available for contributions of these easements to government or non-profit organizations such as The Nature Conservancy.

Presently, state common law limits such conservation easements to the lifetime of the parties involved, a limit which renders them nearly useless. The Conservancy proposal would amend common property law to authorize a perpetual conservation easement. Such easements are already available in a majority of the states and are often used by the U.S. National Park Service.

Canaan Valley

Delegate Jim Humphreys (D-Kanawha) announced in November that he would sponsor a bill to prohibit construction of the Davis Power Project in the Canaan Valley. Unlike Senator Si Boettner's bill in 1984, this legislation would apparently not include any land use management planning for the Valley. It would simply prohibit the construction of the pump storage hydropower reservoir proposed by the Allegheny Power System and licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in 1979.

Without the land use controls, Delegate Humphrey's bill may gain more support than the 1984 bill. The Conservancy will review Mr. Humphrey's bill upon introduction.

Natural Heritage Program

The West Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy has been working to persuade Governor Moore to submit an Administration bill to dedicate up to \$5 million over ten years to the DNR Natural Heritage Program. Under one proposal, such funds would be dedicated from proceeds of the West Virginia Lottery and used as matching grants to acquire natural heritage lands with private and other public funds.

The DNR Natural Heritage Program is funded primarily by private grants from The Nature Conservancy to inventory and protect exceptional wildlife and plant populations. This program includes the acquisition of real property and other management approaches to secure the location of such species.

DNR and the Department of Energy appear supportive, but no commitment has yet been made by the Moore Administration.

Hunting/Fishing License Fees

The DNR Division of Wildlife has proposed fee increases for hunting and fishing licenses to raise an additional \$5 million annually. In addition to increased license fees, a \$5 conservation stamp would be required on each license.

The new revenue would be used to increase by 25 officers the existing staff of 97 conservation officers in the DNR Division of Law Enforcement. Although their primary duty is enforcing game laws, the DNR conservation officers have the same authority as state police with general law enforcement duties in state parks and, under a state-federal agreement, on the Monongahela National Forest.

The new funds would be used to enhance the state's trout stocking program, provide additional public access to streams and public hunting areas and acquire additional land for wildlife management.

The DNR Division of Wildlife suffered a \$500,000 budget reduction in the 1986 Legislative session and further cuts are expected this year due to the state's fiscal crisis. West Virginia license fees have also been far below the national average for several years. The increased fees are essential to maintain existing programs in the Divisions of Wildlife and Law Enforcement and would provide for modest capitol improvements.

Governor Moore has not yet made a definite commitment to submit legislation for the fee increase. The Conservancy Board of Directors will address the license fee proposal at its January 25th meeting if the Administration submits such legislation.

New State Parks

A bill to upgrade two state Forests to Park status has been proposed by Senator Tod Kaufman (D-Kanawha) and Senator Truman Chafin (D-Mingo). Kanawha State Forest near Charleston and Panther State Forest in the southern coal fields of McDowell County would be managed exclusively for recreation and preservation if designated as State Parks.

The Legislature banned timbering at the Kanawha Forest in 1978 in recognition of its predominant recreational activities. Only a few miles from Charleston, it has traditionally received heavy use by local residents in the Kanawha Valley. In contrast, the Panther Forest is relatively isolated and has been subject to proposals for timbering, gas drilling, deep mining and haul roads from adjacent mining operation for several years.

In 1983, DNR proposed leasing state-owned coal under Panther for deep mining, but no bids were received. In 1985, the Conservancy filed suit in McDowell County Circuit Court and succeeded in temporarily prohibiting coal haul roads for adjacent mining operations from crossing the Forest. This dispute is now subject of negotiations between the Conservancy and the Department of Energy which originally authorized the haul roads.

In 1985, the Legislature transferred the Division of Forestry and the nine state forests from DNR to the Department

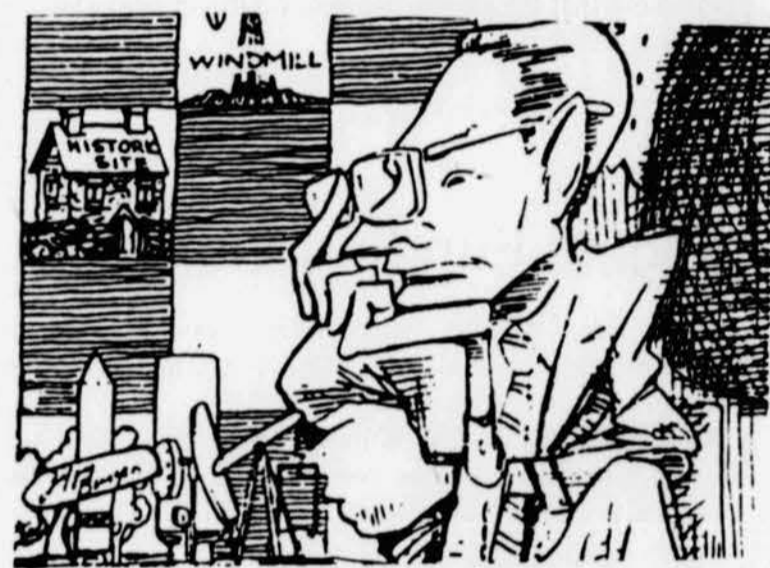
of Agriculture. At the same time, the entire state park system was transferred from DNR to the state Department of Commerce. Therefore, the proposed upgrade of the two Forests would apparently require their transfer from Agriculture to Commerce.

The state Agriculture Commissioner, Gus Douglas, is an elected public official independent of the Governor, and his position on any transfer has not been announced. However, during the 1986 Legislative session, Commissioner Douglas requested the Legislature to remove the timbering ban at Kanawha Forest to allow demonstration forestry sites. These sites would be convenient to Charleston and visits by industry and state officials.

The Commissioner and his Forestry Director, Bill Gillespie, have recently distinguished themselves by working hard to expand the state's underdeveloped forest products industry. They both view demonstration sites at Kanawha Forest as a useful element in the Department's contribution to addressing the state's economic problems.

Trail Bill

A trail bill is being put together by a committee which was formed after last November's West Virginia Trails Conference. The proposal calls for the creation of a statewide trails system, an administrative council, and a State trail coordinator. The council would consist of one representative from organized groups interested in creating and maintaining trails for bicycling, boating, hiking, horseback riding, off the road vehicles, cross country skiing, handicapped, and



scenic highways. The council would work with the Department of Commerce to create a balanced system of trails for the many types of trail users. The proposal is similar to the 1980 Senate Bill 262. John Giacalone, President of West Virginia Scenic Trails Association, is the committee chair and Jim McNeely (D-Mercer) will sponsor the bill.

Ethics In Government

The final legislative matter is generic and not necessarily related to state natural resources policy. West Virginia is one of only five states without lawful standards of conduct for state appointed and elected officials. The West Virginia Chapter of Common Cause is proposing an ethics in government law to remedy this shortfall.

Conservationists have been affected by the lack of ethical standards for many years. The controversy involving conflicts of interest on the part of state Energy Commissioner Ken Faerber is only the most recent example. The propriety and public confidence of state environmental officials could greatly benefit from a rigorous code of ethics and provisions for independent review of official conduct and sanctions.

In the 1986 session, the Conservancy took an unprecedented action by opposing the confirmation of Energy Commissioner Ken Faerber on exclusively ethical grounds. The Conservancy's position contributed to initiating the media and public discussion during the past year concerning the lack of ethical standards in state government. The WVHC Board will also consider a position on the Common Cause bill at its winter meeting.

CORRECTION

The article "Nature Guide to Babcock State Park," which appeared on page 8 of December Voice, was written by Emily Grafton. Her name was inadvertently omitted.

Emily Grafton is a science teacher in Raleigh County and a member of the Brooks Bird Club. She has done extensive natural history work in the New River Gorge area, participating in the West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project and preparing a literature review on the geology, plants, and animals for the National Park Service.

George Appointed To Democratic Post

Conservancy Past President Larry W. George has been appointed to the state Democratic Finance Committee by West Virginia Democratic Chairperson Sally Richardson.

The Finance Committee was established by Richardson last fall to develop and supervise financial support for the West Virginia Democratic Party. George was appointed in November and is the only Committee member who is not an elected public or party official.

George is a Charleston attorney. He previously served as Majority Counsel of the West Virginia Senate and as a member of the State Water Resources Board. George presently serves on the National Coal Council, a federal advisory committee to the U.S. Secretary of Energy.