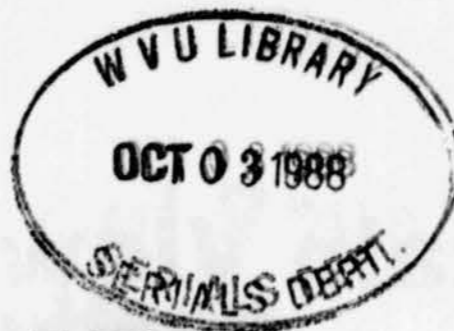




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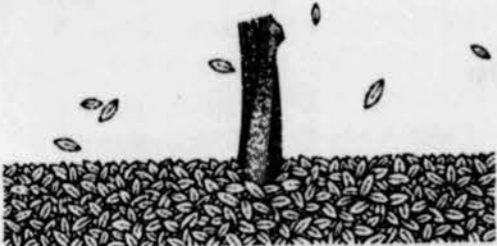
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**WVHC  
Fall  
Review  
October 21-23**

[Details on page 8]



## Hearings Held For Power Plant On Greenbrier River

Last July, United Energy Supply Company (United), a Pennsylvania venture, request variances from the Greenbrier County Planning Commission (Commission) to build a coal fired electric power plant in North Caldwell on the west bank of the Greenbrier River between Route 60 and Interstate 64. Part of Greenbrier County is zoned, and variances are needed to reclassify the proposed site from forest and recreation to commercial and allow construction of a smoke stack which would exceed current height restrictions.

In response to United's request, the Commission held two hearings. During the first hearing on July 27, United presented their proposal and fielded questions from the commissioners (vis-a-vis the county prosecutor) and from the floor.

United is acting merely as a "deal maker" and will not own nor operate the plant. They hope to tie up the site with an option to purchase or lease and obtain an order for electricity from Virginia Electric Power Company (VEPCO). With option and order in hand, United is in position to sell the

"deal" to an owner and/or operator. United has not prepared an economic feasibility study or an environmental impact statement. The Commission determined at this hearing to hold a second hearing at which time the public would have an opportunity to express their support or opposition to the request for a variance.

The second hearing on August 19 provided a forum for anyone wishing to speak to make a limited statement. Although estimates vary, approximately 1,000 people attended the first hearing, and 500 were at the second. Both hearings were lengthy and emotionally charged.

The overwhelming reason for supporting United's proposal has been economic: opportunities for jobs and additional tax revenue. Questions and statements at the hearing by supporters were honest pleas for more jobs and participation in our country's prosperity.

Quickly defined as "environmentalists" by the West Virginia Daily News, a local newspaper, opponents represent a cross section of local residents. Arguments against the proposed plant came from several local

physicians, engineers, lawyers, merchants, college professors, tradesman, farmers and management of the Greenbrier Hotel.

Arguments against the proposal include:

1. Degradation of air quality and resultant health hazards.
2. Degradation of water quality and resultant health hazards.
3. Degradation of water quantities. Lewisburg and communities down river are dependent upon the Greenbrier River for their public water supplies.
4. Adverse impact on the Greenbrier Valley's tourist industry and ability to attract other types of industry.
5. Adverse impact on the Greenbrier Hotel and proposed resort development in Caldwell.
6. Traffic congestion in Lewisburg from coal trucks.
7. Noise pollution.
8. Erosion of property values.

The Commission is reviewing statements made at the hearings and comments that they have received by mail or phone and will (continued on page 6)

## 'Fort' Monongahela?

by Robert Stough

The past couple of years have seen a large increase in the usage of Monongahela National Forest by units of the military for training exercises. The military has indicated that it would like to further expand its activities on the MNF. Apparently they have 'discovered' the MNF and now plan to use it as they see fit. The fact that their use of the forest often involves abusing other people's rights and property seems of little concern to them. And there is the nub of the problem.

Ours is a system of government in which the military have no rights except those given to them by the people. Thus the conduction of exercises on public land must never be considered a discretionary right of military leaders or even government bureaucrats, but a privilege granted to them by the people. This is of course a somewhat idealistic perspective, since ours is a government of elected representatives, but the point here is clear enough: any decision regarding military usage of public land should be made in a public forum, **not** at the whim of generals or congressmen. And yet that is basically what has been occurring.

We are being told what is good for us whether we like it or not, and our protestations have been met with asperities questioning whether we really love our country. Apparently loving your country entails loving its abuse and exploitation to suit whatever transient whim you may have, regardless of its value and importance to others. Perhaps if the military could demonstrate that specific use of ecologically sensitive areas of the MNF is vital to national security, we would have little to argue about, but this is hardly the case at the present time.

Indeed, what the military is doing is to disturb and degrade some of the finest remaining wildlands in the Appalachian range, causing air, water and extensive noise pollution, and yet we are being told that their activities are a good thing for West Virginia, and some politicians are even claiming a number of new jobs will be created by their presence. Those who live near the lines of fire, so to speak, had better hope that is true, for it is doubtful there are many tourists who would be willing to spend their vacations surrounded by military training units. The question we need to ask of the military is why the highlands, which is in the process of becoming a major tourist and recreational area, thus bringing a measure of economic stability to local inhabitants such as they have never known? Why the highlands, which by any standards is an ecologically unique area, and as such highly sensitive to intrusive activities like military maneuvers? Why the highlands, when many other suitable but less sensitive areas could be used, since military training is simply not compatible with recreational uses of the forest?

The answer to these questions seems to be that the military regards such uses as essentially frivolous and unimportant, and the lands they are degrading as commonplace and unimportant as well. But in this they are sadly mistaken, for our dwindling wildlands represent a natural heritage that we all would be sorely impoverished without. The preservation of such wildlands is vital to our quality of life, whether we visit them or not, for they constitute freedom in its purest and most noble form, which is supposed to be what the military exists to protect.

Postscript: I wrote this commentary before learning of the planned Air Force assault on the national forest in September. I presume that by the time this appears that will be past history and the Air Force will have succeeded in imposing its will against virtually everyone who knew about it. I would like to relate, however, an account of an incident that happened to me in May of this year that graphically illustrates what the Air Force considers 'insignificant' disturbance. My wife and I were camped in the Laurel Fork Wilderness, in a peaceful, idyllic spot deep in the valley along the Laurel Fork river. It is an area that has a remarkable abundance and diversity of wildlife, including deer, beaver, bears and a great many birds. Very late one night when we were sound asleep, a military jet came roaring up the valley at supersonic speed, seeming almost to skim the treetops overhead. The noise it made was agonizingly loud, so loud that we were left in considerable pain. I was nearly deaf for some time and was unable to sleep the rest of the night because of the ringing and throbbing in my ears. While I did recover in time, I believe I have suffered a small degree of permanent hearing loss from this 'insignificant' disturbance. And I am sure that many animals and birds must have suffered the same fate. So to reiterate: the military have no rights except those the people give them, and it is therefore the sworn duty of the military to comply with the wishes of the people. If they continue their gross noise pollution of the highlands, it is the Air Force itself that will be guilty of irresponsible, unpatriotic behavior, since it is quite clear that a great majority of the residents and users of the MNF are in opposition to their maneuvers.

## — Mountain View —

# Time For A Change

by John Purbaugh

In a provocative letter, published in the May VOICE, member Tom Ward expressed his view that WVHC was "off course" and needed to return to its traditional issues of protection of the highlands areas of WV, and leave other issues to national environmental organizations. In my published response, I both agreed with Tom and pointed out that an all-volunteer organization like WVHC inevitably goes in the direction of its most active members.

As my term as President of the Conservancy ends in October of 1988 I have tried to assess our accomplishments and address our future needs. Our most critical need is to make better use of our volunteer energy by involving new people in what we do. Because of our successful 20-plus years of conservation advocacy, we are often looked to for advice, expertise and money by small community groups responding to local environmental issues. In helping these people, we need to also draw them into broader involvement in our issues. One exciting idea proposed by board member Kim Taylor is that we help such groups by holding leadership workshops and trainings on how they can deal effectively with government agencies. One of our purposes is public education on environmental issues; our first effort in recent years was the rivers conservation workshop held at Cass in the Spring of 1988. Under the leadership of Jim VanGundy, our education efforts will continue to pursue long-term approaches to our issues.

No environmental issue is ever "over" if it involves differing views on land use, pollution control, historic preservation or tourist development. However, the Conservancy has made significant progress in all of these areas. The WV National Interest Rivers Act, protecting the Gauley, Meadow and Bluestone rivers, is headed toward likely final passage by congress this year, as is the designation of a new wilderness area in Monroe County. We have led the 4-year effort to watchdog the WV Department of Energy, and we are involved in the "garbage wars" by working to obtain groundwater protection standards for WV. These and other measures of progress can comfort us when it seems that no matter how hard we work, the list of things to do gets longer. Without abandoning our work on the issues, we need to make our first priority for the coming years the strengthening of our base of committed and active members, and the fuller use of their talents and energy.

## DNR =

### "Destruction of Natural Resources"

Dear Mr. Potesta:

DNR in West Virginia must mean "Destruction of Natural Resources." I fail to understand the reasoning for your aerial spraying of the major rivers in Southern West Virginia in an attempt to kill black flies.

How can knowledgeable persons be responsible for such an act which will inevitably destroy the aquatic life which sustain the fish population in this drainage system?

Black flies are a nuisance problem in many northern states and Canada. Certainly environmentalists would not attempt to eliminate these as well as other aquatic insects in their many lakes and streams.

Please level with the public! No employee of DNR made a decision to eliminate black flies West Virginia. Actions such as this must originate from the environmentally deprived and politically motivated sector.

Sincerely yours,

Paul A. Reeder, M.D.

## Greenbottom (Glenwood Bend) To Be A Goose Farm

Dear Editor:

I am writing to you as a member of the Highlands Conservancy about an issue which I believe should be worth the attention and support of the Conservancy membership: There will soon be a chance for our State through its Wildlife Resources Division of DNR to establish policy to make amends for West Virginia's sad lack of nongame wildlife areas and natural history preserves. The opportunity is coming with the donation of a fine tract of land in Cabell County to the State by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps has bought up about 900 acres with the intention to preserve it as public land to mitigate for wildlife habitat destruction presently under way at their Gallipolis Dam and Locks project on the Ohio below Point Pleasant, WV. The plan is to convey the mitigation land to the DNR.

The land chosen was the Greenbottom Swamp area, an excellent and attractive place having considerable natural history interest and biological diversity, a favorite of 3 living generations of outdoors people. Many who feared that the Swamp and its surrounding wetlands would be lost to encroaching highway, agriculture, and real estate developments, were pleased to learn of the choice.

Regrettably, this first-class swamp land is destined to become a second class goose farm! A bargain has been struck between the Corps, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the WV-DNR, (with the curious abstention of the EPA's Philadelphia office). The Corps will create an extended wetlands habitat by grading, mixing clay with the native sand,

(continued on page 3)

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# Americans Need To Cut Back On Size of Trash Heap

by Dr. Michael Zimmerman

When, from Rhode Island through New Jersey, beaches are closed in the middle of summer because raw sewage, dead rats and an incredible array of medical paraphernalia make swimming too hazardous, it is time we paid attention.

We are generating far too much waste. Consider the facts.

The EPA estimates that more than 25 states will run out of land-fill space within the next 10 to 15 years.

Our oceans, after years of accepting our indiscriminate dumping, have begun to spew our trash back onto our shores, and marine life is slowly being choked.

In the United States alone we generate about 400,000 tons of municipal waste per day. On average, each American citizen produces approximately twice the amount of garbage that individuals in other developed nations do.

We are wasting precious time. We need to cut back on the amount of trash that we generate. Our long-term goal must be to emulate, if not surpass, the impressive recycling efforts made by most European countries, some of which currently recycle more than 90 percent of their wastes. In the short run we can take a number of immediate steps that will greatly ease the problem.

First, we can demand, either as active consumers or through the legislative process, that the amount of packaging material on consumable products be dramatically reduced. Most of the styrofoam, plastic and other non-degradable material used in wrapping and displaying toys, pharmaceuticals and assorted miscellaneous items are simply unnecessary. The situation has gotten out of hand when the cost of the packaging often exceeds the cost of the consumer goods.

Second, we can demand that all states immediately begin requiring monetary deposits on bottles and cans. According to the Sierra Club, the effects of deposit laws are amazing. The states with such laws on the books each have reduced the total amount of waste going to landfills by 10 percent. In Michigan, 600,000 tons of containers are removed from the waste stream annually. That's a lot of barges of garbage.

Would it really work, would cans and bottles be returned? The evidence from states with bottle bills provides us with the answer. Oregon, in 1971, became the first state to institute a bottle bill. According to the state government, 96 percent of soft drink bottles and 80 percent of beer bottles were being returned. Not a bad compliance rate. Roadside litter in Maine and Michigan decreased significantly after laws went into effect in those states. In Maine, litter attributable to returnables decreased by 78 percent, while in Michigan it was reduced by 82 percent. Total litter was down 32 percent in Maine and 41 percent in Michigan the year the laws went into effect.

As many have pointed out before me, there are other benefits to a bottle bill. Enormous amounts of energy can be saved. Beverages in disposable aluminum cans require five times more energy than do the same drinks in reusable bottles. Although throw-away bottles are better than throw-away cans, refillable bottles still demand 3.5 times less energy than do disposable ones. Estimates from Oregon indicate that 1.3 trillion Btus have been saved annually since their law went into effect.

The available data also demonstrate that bottle bills

create jobs. Although job dislocations have occurred after the passage of bottle bills, there has been a net gain of jobs in every state that has adopted a bottle bill.

Perhaps most significantly, bottle bills appear to change people's perception about their environment. After passage of such laws a slight shift in people's thinking seems to take place, and the beginning of an environmental ethic is born. Former Gov. William Milliken of Michigan said that his state's bottle bill "appears to have fostered a spirit of conservation that goes far beyond bottles and cans." It is the environmental ethic engendered by this spirit of conservation that will allow us to solve our waste problem.

The situation is so critical that we cannot continue to do business as usual. We must press for wider passage of bottle bills and for legislation restricting use of packaging material. No longer can we allow the narrow interests of industry and advertisers to shape our waste disposal policies. We have to learn to hold our ground even when industry spends exorbitant sums of money in an attempt to convince us that the problem is not real. Real it is, and spend they do. Just this past November, for example, national beverage wholesalers spent almost \$2 million in defeating a bottle bill in the District of Columbia. Never again can we let a slick media campaign turn our heads away from the loathsome trash washing ashore on our beaches.

(Dr. Zimmerman is a biologist at Oberlin College in Ohio. Reprinted with the permission of The Charleston Gazette.)

## Letters — Greenbottom (continued from page 2)

and building control structures. The land will then be turned over to the WV-DNR which will manage it for rearing game animal species and as a hunting and fishing area. There will be 300 goose and wood duck nests built at \$50++ apiece. The proposal even contains a bizarre scheme to use the wetlands to rear northern pike for release into the Ohio River.

Concern for the swamp is not over the matter of hunting but with how the land is managed. With management of Greenbottom by the outdated game farming techniques too often still practiced, the swamp seems doomed to follow McClintic in becoming another sorry place with diminished interest for both conservators and users of the land. One only needs to look at the problems caused by simple minded following species-oriented practices and encouraging Canada geese (not necessarily a native species) on our public lands to see how easily things get out of hand and how difficult they are to restore.

West Virginia has no state owned non-

game wildlife areas or natural history preserves worth mentioning. Present policy dictates that WVDNR is bound to follow shortsighted management routines, rationalized by practitioners who prattle "Management for game species benefits all wildlife". At Greenbottom, instead of duplicating what is going on all over WV, we need to move to a more fundamental approach to wildlife conservation. We don't have to look far to see programs in other states where areas are set aside and managed for broader diversity of plant and animal life. A successful natural history preserve at Greenbottom could be an excellent starting place to convey WV-DNR into the 21st century.

I hope that the members of the Highlands Conservancy will join people from other WV conservation groups in bringing pressure on the issue by writing to Governor Moore and Mr. Potesta to change the wildlife management policy to better use special areas like Greenbottom. We should insist that present policy of regulation of DNR holdings solely for game species-oriented

wildlife management needs to be changed to management for preservation of habitat to meet the needs of a more complete spectrum of animals and plants.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. James Arnold  
Huntington

### More On Glenwood Bend

Dear Editor:

I would like to offer an old duck hunter's thoughts on the Glenwood Bend hunting area controversy. I can remember when we had large flocks of ducks wintering at McClintic Wildlife Station and on the Ohio River in the Mason/Cabell County areas. Over the years I have watched these flocks dwindle and all but disappear. I know that some of this can be explained by the decrease in nesting area. But I believe, that in this area, there is more to it than a decreasing

population. There are no good areas left where the waterfowl can rest. They are constantly being harassed. The good safety area ponds at McClintic are no more and the barges on the Ohio River keep the ducks in constant motion.

If you go to the east coast, you will find several wildlife refuges where there is no hunting. The waterfowl spend the night in these safe areas and in the morning spread out to feed in the surrounding country side where they are hunted. Then in the evening they move back to the safety areas.

I know that we can never have the waterfowl that they have on the coast, but if we provide safe areas where they can rest, we will do better than we are now. The answer for the duck hunter is not a hunting area with no birds, but to attract more ducks into the area. For these reasons I think we would be a lot better off if Glenwood Bend was made into a no hunting wet land.

Thank You,

Wendell L. Argabrite

## Measures of Worth

by Robert Stough

Many environmental debates of our present day are centered on their initial cost to the government or particular corporate entity. Such things as controlling acid rain have been focused on the relatively narrow perspective of how much it will cost the polluters in the next few years to clean up their effluent, with little consideration given to how much more it might cost the taxpayers in the long run if that pollution continues uncontrolled. This is not surprising considering that corporations exist to make money, and have usually been concerned primarily with next year's profits above all else, thus virtually insuring a myopic perspective regarding the environmental ramifications of their profit-

taking, which frequently require many years to become apparent. Unfortunately in this deficiency they have had for the past eight years a willing partner in the federal government in the form of Reagan administration policies, which have favored the corporate viewpoint at almost every turn. Thus the government, which at least occasionally in the past provided a buffer between corporate avarice and environmental destruction, seems to have adopted a business philosophy regarding their activities; that it is perfectly all right, even perhaps laudable, to use whatever means you can get away with to achieve your ends. Accordingly we have seen such things as the Environmental Protection Agency become

an apologist for industry and the Department of the Interior run by people whose primary function seems to be to sustain corporate profits at any and all costs. As a result we have also seen the government dragging its feet or evincing outright hostility towards any direction that would mandate polluters to even modestly control their poisonous discharges. The only exceptions are those instances when it can be proven beyond any doubt that such pollution is having a deadly effect on the human population.

This situation has developed because it has always been profitable for individual corporations to pollute the environment (continued on page 6)

# Murder, Mayhem, Hydrophobia Book Review

by Anne Johnson

It all began with a dusty pile of old newspapers, their crusty edges yellowed. As Shirley Grose carefully fingered through the brittle pages of obituaries during a microfilming project, she discovered "a gold mine of information," information that could be of great use to the geneologist and historian and of great interest to others, like me, just to read and enjoy.

After three years of researching, sneezing from the dust of the newspapers, and compiling, a book was bound together and published; thus, the birth of **Murder, Mayhem, Hydrophobia**, the name taken from the most common causes of death at that time. The 100 year old obituaries are actual copies of newspaper clippings. They are full of intimate, flowery details of bizarre deaths, new lives, and even social events of marriages and politics, covering Fayette, Nicholas, Braxton, Greenbrier, Webster and Clay Counties.

**Murder, Mayhem** will pull you into the personal lives of the deceased and will have you mourning their deaths, as their families did, yet, leave you laughing at the exaggerated accounts. Caricatures drawn by Boyd Carr compliment the book; a catch phrase from some of the stories are illustrated in Mr. Carr's drawings.

I call the obituaries "stories" because they read like fiction, unlike the simple, impersonal obituaries we read in today's papers. These obituaries tell us just how different life and our ancestors were a 100 years ago. The 78-page book has an 8½ x 11 inch format and is published by Bookcrafters, Chelsea, Michigan (1987). It sells for \$22.50 (including mailing) and may be ordered from Shirley E. Grose, Box 773, Summersville, WV 26651.

(Anne Johnson is a resident of Nicholas County and a student at Glenville State College.)

Francis Wiley  
Bart Fitzwater  
Exline (Clay County)  
October 17, 1896

## Three Men Killed

INSTANTLY AND THREE  
WOUNDED BY  
THE EXPLOSION OF A BOILER  
NEAR CRAIGSVILLE.

A terrible disaster occurred near Adam Oxier's one mile south of Craigs ville in this county at 11 o'clock on Thursday, October 15, 1896, by the explosion of a boiler, three men were rushed into eternity in the twinkling of an eye and three others wounded—one seriously and two others slightly wounded.

The facts as we learn them are about as follows: Francis Wiley had his saw mill located at the place mentioned above sawing some export lumber. — There were eight persons present at the time of the explosion.

Francis Wiley owner of the mill, Bart Fitzwater, fireman, and a man named Exline, who was driving an ox team, were instantly killed. Clem Furr, a sawyer who was there only a day or two, leg broken near the body and dangerously wounded. Peter Turner, of Savagetown, bone broken in leg below knee and otherwise hurt. A young man named Exline of Clay was slightly wounded. Two men escaped unhurt, one of them was in the saw dust pit and the other perhaps away some distance stacking lumber. Mr. I. A. Dix and some other men escaped being killed by being late upon arriving at the mill. There is no reason given for the explosion of the boiler, the plausible theory being that too much cold water had been turned in, perhaps when the steam was too high. Pieces of the boiler, rocks etc., were thrown hundreds of yards sweeping everything in their way.

We obtained these facts late yesterday evening through the kindness of Mr. L. N. Alderson who went to the scene of the disaster Thursday night. Time forbids us from more detailed account in this issue.

Francis Wiley was about 35 or 40 years of age and was a son-in-law of J. H. Bobbitt, of Glade Creek. He leaves a family. His remains were interred on Glade Creek yesterday evening.

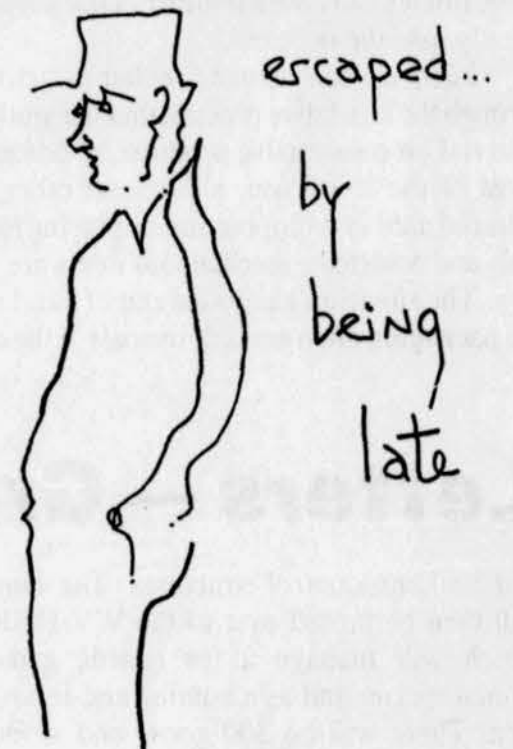
Bart Fitzwater was the youngest son of I. R. C. Fitzwater of this place, and was about 18 years of age, just entering into manhood. His remains were brought to this place and interred about 4 o'clock yesterday eve.

Mr. Exline was perhaps 50 years of age and was from Clay County we are told. His remains we understand will be taken to Clay for interment.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the

bereaved relatives in this their hour of great distress.

(This obituary has been typeset. In **Murder, Mayhem**, the obituaries are actual copies of the old newspaper clippings.



## Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide Now Out

Edition 5 of the WVHC **Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide** is now available. This edition is bigger and better than ever, with 320 pages, 60 maps, 39 photographs, descriptions of 164 trails totalling 780 miles, a new section on ski-touring, and a full-color cover. The authors are Allen de Hart and Bruce Sundquist. Allen has hiked all the trails of the Monogahela N.F. over the past few years. Bruce edited Editions 1-4. The hiking community and the U.S. Forest Service provided the authors with trail reports and photographs.

In the U.S. Forest Service's planning process that led to

the 1986 Land and Resource Management Plan, over 35,000 comments were received from the public. The gist of these comments is that the Monongehela is a "Special Place." And indeed it is. The hiking and backpacking opportunities it provides are among the best in the eastern U.S. The more outstanding areas are becoming known far and wide — Otter Creek Wilderness, Dolly Sods Wilderness, Flat-rock Plains, Roaring Plains, Blackwater Canyon, Spruce Knob, North Fork Mountain, Shaver's Mountain, Laurel Fork Wilderness, Cranberry Back Country, Cranberry Wilderness, among others. This guide will help you get to know

these and other special places in the forest.

Profits from the sale of these guides support a wide variety of worthy environmental projects in the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

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## Reasons to join WVHC

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 an related to West Virginia, and especially the Highlands Region . . ."

Members include people and organizations diverse in their personal interests and professions but united by a common interest. Most WVHC members are West Virginians but many live outside the state.

The **Highlands Voice**, a monthly 8-page

newspaper, is sent to all Conservancy members. It is filled with environmental news on topics of interest and concern to members as well as articles about trips and outings.

The Conservancy sponsors two special weekends each year. These are usually at some scenic spot in the highlands and feature speakers, outings and board meetings.

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## Flat-spired Three-toothed Land Snail Waiting for Extinction In West Virginia

by Jasper Carlton

The warm April rain was a welcome relief from the cold winds of winter on the Appalachian Plateau of north-west West Virginia. I was surrounded by massive sandstone rocks and conglomerates, formed during the Paleozoic era. Below me lay the Cheat River Gorge, carved through millions of years of stream erosion. The waters of the Cheat River were emerald green—a function of mine acid drainage and algae growth. Early spring foliage color was provided by the budding Red Maples, while the lush green foliage of rhododendrons prospered among the sandstone boulders.

I stood beside a crack in a lichen-covered boulder, anticipating the appearance of a rare life form—a species that exists nowhere else on Earth beyond a few locations within a mile of where I was standing. I awaited an event that had eluded many a malecologist in recent years. A spot within the dark decomposing leaf litter in the rock crack began to move; two dark tentacles appeared.

From deep within that room-sized boulder, slowly crawled a small bluish-gray bodied snail trailing a flattened reddish-brown shell. The rare and elusive Flat-spired Three-toothed Land Snail (*Triodopsis platysayoides*) had made its appearance.

The life and times of this unassuming creature have major implications for both its native ecosystem and for threatened species throughout the country.

**HABITAT AND ECOLOGY:** Biologists know very little about the Flat-spired Three-toothed Land Snail (hence, the frequent use of qualifiers, such as 'probably,' in this article). The snail derives its "flat-spired" name from its relatively thin shell sculpture—an evolutionary adaptation that allows it to escape extreme periods of heat and cold by crawling into the crevices of sandstone rocks. The lip teeth are absent in this species, but the lip swelling is somewhat thicker where the lip teeth would occur in other members of the genus. A thick short, white conical tooth is present on the parietal wall (the broader, upper portion of the inner lip). The snail's middle name, however, is from the name of its genus, *Triodopsis*, which means three-toothed.

The rugged and varied habitat of *Triodopsis platysayoides* is a deep canyon of the Cheat River, between 1000 and 1300 feet elevation, in mixed mesophytic forest in Monongalia County, West Virginia. It was discovered by science in 1933 and, by virtue of its extremely limited distribution, ranks as one of the rarest mollusks in North America, probably numbering fewer than 600 individuals.

The snail feeds on decomposing leaf litter and terrestrial lichens on sandstone rock surfaces and is usually found in deep, undisturbed leaf litter and sheltered retreats among sandstone boulders and outcroppings along the top of the Cheat River Gorge. It prefers cool, damp weather and is probably most active at night or during spring rains. During the cold winter and hot summer dry season, the snails retreat into the cool and protected environment of crevices in sandstone boulders and among the boulders and talus just below the rock outcroppings. It is believed that they breed in late April or early May.

Predators of the snail probably include shrews, Carabid Beetles, and Lamprid Beetles. It is believed that they prefer low population densities, with no more than three or four individuals per square foot. In more crowded conditions, cannibalism tends to occur.

Flat-spired Three-toothed Land Snails are a part of the decomposer food web, an intricate system comprised of dead plants and animals as well as the insects and fungi that consume dead things. The decomposers help recycle nutrients and minerals that trees and other plants require to support forest life.

The Flat-spired Three-toothed Land Snail was listed as a Threatened species under the Endangered Species Act in 1978; a National Recovery Plan was developed in 1983. However, five years after the completion of the Recovery Plan for the species, the degree of state and federal agency compliance with the plan can best be described as negligible. Few snail surveys have been conducted and *none* of the few known occupied snail sites are presently protected.

West Virginia's Department of Natural Resources is supposed to be the "lead agency" in the national Flat-spired Three-toothed Land Snail recovery effort. However, when

the Earth First! Biodiversity Task Force initially contacted this agency in the fall of 1987, the response was, "at present, there is no recovery plan for the flat-spired three-toothed land snail." This response is incredible since this snail is the only Threatened or Endangered species endemic to West Virginia. The response foreshadows the increased difficulty of recovery efforts throughout the country that will result from a recent move by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to abolish the Service's Office of Endangered Species in Washington, DC, in favor of regional offices that will be more vulnerable to sentiment against Endangered species listings from local political and economic interests.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service claims that a few additional snail sites have been discovered in the same area since the species was listed, so there are "probably" more snails at the Cheat River Gorge than had originally been believed. However, they are unable to provide any field data to indicate that any of these sites contain viable snail colonies. The EF! Biodiversity Task Force identified this species last year when it began systematically comparing private, federal, and state computer data bases on all species recognized as sensitive, Threatened, or Endangered on public lands in the United States.

**THREATS TO THE SPECIES AND ITS HABITAT:** Due to its extremely restricted range, human-caused mortality, and destruction of its habitat, the Flat-spired Three-toothed Land Snail could become extinct. The known occupied snail sites are on both private and state lands. A few exist in Coopers Rock State Forest and Coopers Rock Recreation Area, which are managed by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and Department of Commerce respectively. Over 400,000 people a year visit this commercially managed State Forest.

The trampling of snail-used plant litter by hikers, picnickers and rock climbers continues to reduce the available food-space for this mollusk and there are no human use restrictions to protect snail sites in the State Forest or Recreation Area (with the exception of a ban on rock climbing in one small area, which is not well enforced).

Biologists have pointed out that people smoking on the high rocky overlooks in the Coopers Rock Recreational Area and throwing away unextinguished cigarette butts pose a threat to the snail. These might ignite in the highly combustible leaf litter beside the rocks. Fire could destroy the leaf litter and lichens upon which the snails depend for food, as well as directly killing the snails.

Amazing though it may seem, the people who visit Coopers Rock State Forest do not realize that they are trampling occupied Flat-spired Three-toothed Land Snail habitat. There is no public education program at either the State Forest or the Recreational Area to foster awareness of the plight of this species.

The species was listed as "threatened" rather than "endangered" in 1978 under the ESA since it was assumed (incorrectly) that the major known occupied sites under West Virginia state ownership would be protected from fire, timber cutting, and recreational impacts. Clearly, the species should be reclassified as Endangered.

Known snail sites on private lands across the gorge from Coopers Rock State Forest are even more threatened. The Boy Scouts of America owned much of the private land in the early 1980's. The West Virginia Nature Conservancy tried to purchase about 50 acres from the Boy Scouts in 1982 to provide protection for two snail sites. Unfortunately, the Boy Scouts insisted on marketing their entire 2465-acre tract—a purchase that would have been too expensive for the Conservancy's West Virginia chapter. In 1986, the property was sold to a lumber company. The company has built roads and intensively harvested timber above and below known snail sites—even on steep unstable slopes within the gorge.

The Nature Conservancy again attempted to save the snail sites by entering into a transaction with the lumber company that would have involved taking title to the snail sites, the state of West Virginia obtaining title to the balance of the property, and the logging company retaining timbering rights on the tract. However, by the time Nature Conser-

vancy was able to obtain the necessary commitments from state agencies (early 1987), a new and even uglier threat appeared from out of the state capitol in Charleston: The West Virginia Department of Commerce proposed to build a huge modern tramway at Coopers Rock State Recreation Area—the major land station of which would be constructed on a snail colony! This new threat has delayed indefinitely the Conservancy's protection strategy, and the logging across the gorge continues. The state of West Virginia has not reached a final decision regarding the tram proposal. Opposition to the project in neighboring Morgantown is growing.

Continued logging would have many deleterious effects on the snail. The removal of large trees adjacent to any colony would increase summer ground temperatures and dry out the site. Trampling by heavy cleated logging boots would crush snails and compact leaf litter. Perhaps the biggest threat of logging at the Cheat River Gorge, however, is the soil and rock instability that results from the removal of large trees that have held the boulders in place. Logging at the lip of the gorge could eventually cause rocks containing snail colonies to crash down into the gorge below.

There are other threats to snail habitat too. A short way down the Cheat River Gorge toward Cheat Lake, coal is being strip-mined. Going up the gorge, and in view of Coopers Rock Recreation Area, a powerline corridor cuts through and over the gorge, close to another suspected snail site. Defoliant sprays, applied in utility corridors, may have adverse effects on snails. Acid rain and other forms of air pollution to which lichens are particularly sensitive may also reduce this snail's food supply.

One last menace looms on the horizon—the possibility of massive aerial spraying in response to the gypsy moth epidemic in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York and New England. The US Forest Service has already begun its environmental impact statement planning process for this project. At least one of the chemicals being proposed for use against the gypsy moth has proven highly toxic to invertebrates.

This article describes the plight of only one invertebrate. Mollusks are not well-known, yet 39 snails and clams are already on the US List of Endangered and Threatened Species. Hundreds more are possible candidates for federal listings—listings that Secretary of Interior Don Hodel and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Director Frank Dunkle have improperly delayed. Many listed species, like the Flat-spired Three-toothed Land Snail, are not being effectively protected as mandated by the Act. The present US List of Endangered and Threatened Species does not begin to reflect the true biological status of imperiled species; and although the Endangered Species Act requires the FWS to conduct a review of *all* listed species at least once every five years, FWS has failed to collect or seriously consider information that documents the need to better protect the habitat and change the classification of many species under the Act.

**LESSONS NOT LEARNED:** If we allow the Flat-spired Three-toothed Land Snail to disappear into extinction, many more species in the food web may also die. Already gone from the Appalachians are such mammals as the Gray Wolf, Eastern Bison, and Eastern Elk, The National Recovery Plan for the Eastern Cougar collects dust on the shelves of delinquent bureaucrats as the species barely survives in Florida.

In the Eastern United States today, not a single large ecosystem remains biologically intact. None contain viable populations of all native wildlife species. The same biological fate will befall Western ecosystems by the year 2000 if present trends are not reversed.

We must develop and implement comprehensive conservation plans for entire ecosystems, as well as a National Wildlands Biodiversity Protection policy to save all remaining native species. We must fight for both large and small legislatively mandated preserves to protect biotic diversity. State parks, National Parks, National Forests, and even designated Wilderness Areas are not accomplishing this objective.

(continued on page 6)

## Extinction (continued from page 5)

Will this delicate snail go the way of the Wyoming Toad; the Santa Barbara Song Sparrow and the Tecopa Pupfish from California; the Blue Pike and Long-jawed Cisco from the Great Lakes; Sampson's Pearly Mussel from the Wabash River in Indiana and Illinois; and the Dusky Seaside Sparrow from Florida — all of which have apparently gone extinct in the US within the past 15 years?

**ACTIONS TAKEN:** The EF! Biodiversity Task Force has filed a complaint with Interior Secretary Don Hodel and with Fish and Wildlife Service Director Frank Dunkle regarding the failure of their departments to properly implement the National Recovery Plan for the Flat-spined Three-toothed Land Snail, pursuant to the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. The Task Force has notified the

governor of West Virginia that the state *must* drop its plans to build a tramway that would adversely affect the threatened snail. The Task Force will take whatever legal actions are necessary against the state of West Virginia if this request is not granted.

(From **Earth First!** Jasper Carlton is the coordinator of the EF! Biodiversity Task Force.)

## Measures of Worth (continued from page 3)

onment, and we have not, at least as yet, been willing to require of industry that it shoulder the primary responsibility for its actions, such as having to prove that any questionable practice they engage in is indeed safe before they are permitted to carry on. Without this requirement hard experience has shown that only when taken to task by the government can gross polluters be controlled. So when the government fails in its primary function, which is to protect the health of the people and the health of the land which sustains them, everyone loses, except perhaps a very few, because experience has also shown that it is much more expensive to try and clean up damage already done than it is to prevent it in the first place. This may seem a moot point after so much damage has already been done, but as bad as things are there is no doubt they can get worse, and little doubt they will get worse no matter what we do. If we continue to do nothing, they will get much worse. Whole forests will begin to die from the effects of acid rain and ozone depletion, and the concentration of greenhouse gases will begin to rise at a more and more rapid rate, causing as yet unpredictable but quite certainly profound changes in the Earth's climate. Regrettably, those relatively small number of narrow-minded business executives and misguided government officials have by their foolish intransigence been contributing significantly to the ultimate severity of these problems. The power brokers have so far gotten away without any meaningful legislation being enacted, in part because of the very unpredictability of the crisis we are facing. Concerning acid rain they have demanded absolute proof of the exact effects various pollutants are having on the ecosystems. This demand represents a far higher standard of performance than they themselves adhere to. Nevertheless everyone agrees it would be preferable to know exactly what is causing the problem and precisely what to do about it. Those who have been working on the causes of forest decline, however, have varying opinions as to the exact chains of events that produce the damage. Many have predicted that it may take decades to find out, but although they may not know the exact causes of the damage, they are quite sure that major acid rain components are having a debilitating and ultimately deadly effect. Additionally, new studies are indicating strongly that the effect of current levels of sulphur dioxide pollution on the human population can be insidious and life-threatening, causing a rogues gallery of respiratory and circulatory diseases, including cancer and heart disease.

So in the face of these growing mountains of circumstantial evidence linking acid rain to a wide variety of environmental problems, we can return again to the question of the cost of trying to mitigate some of the damage by imposing stringent controls on business and industry. If we continue to view this problem strictly from the standpoint of its cost to the corporations in the next few years, it will **never** be economically feasible to clean up the air until it is far too late to make any difference. It would seem this is of little concern to the corporations involved but it simply must become an urgent concern of the general populace, for from the standpoint of the long-term cost of acid rain to our health and our children's health and the health of the Earth it represents a fool's bargain to delay the clean-up another day. It is becoming clear to the point of absurdity that we are degrading our air and water in ways that will be far more costly to us than any possible corporate profits could justify.

In poll after poll taken over the last few years the American people by considerable majorities have indicated their willingness to pay for stringent controls, and even to have that cost shared fairly around the country, thus assuring that no one region or group would wuffer unduly. It is clearly past time for the government to do something to stop acid rain. For the past eight years we have had an administration insensitive and even ignorant of environmental concerns, one that will leave a shameful legacy of small-minded degradation of our national resources. In dealing with acid rain they have been aided and abetted by members of congress who should know better, who have demonstrated in the past that they have the vision and intelligence to sometimes see beyond next year's bottom line. West Virginia Senator Robert Byrd, who, along with others, has been engaged in a hopeless blockage of meaningful legislation, is an example. The problem is obviously not going to go away, and can only get that much worse and be that much more expensive to correct by their obstructive tactics. Perhaps we in the environmental movement have been too polite, more reasoned in this effort than is necessary. The corporations have been bombarding legislators for years with the 'catastrophic' effects to their businesses of any kind of acid rain legislation, not because they would really lose money, since they would simply pass their costs along as they always do, but because they would lose some control over their operations, that measure of power that has so far enabled them to exploit the earth in any direction their greed happened to

take them. So maybe we will have to raise our voices loudly rather than discuss calmly as reason might dictate, for our time is running out. Rivers and lakes and whole mountains are dying and people are dying too, all dying of something we have the technological power **right now** to stop.

We have for too long been measuring the worth of ourselves and our culture by our sheer consumption, as if conservation and cooperation were somehow outmoded, primitive values that have little use in the 'modern' world. We still seem as a culture to be bound and chained by the pioneer ethic — that the land must be overcome, subdued and used however one generation sees fit, regardless of long-term consequences. It is this fossilized mind-set that I believe is our real enemy. We have been concentrating on voracious corporations self-serving government officials simply because they are the necessary starting points in trying to avert total disaster in the near future, but we must not think that they are the roots of our problems. If we believe that merely by electing governments (if it is even possible) more sympathetic to environmental concerns we will then have turned the corner towards ecological harmony, we will be making a serious mistake, one that may even contribute to a worsening of our situation. This is because we have been living in opposition to one of the most basic principles of life on Earth, which states that only by achieving a harmonious balance between itself and the Earth can any species hope to survive for long. There are those who are saying that this is not only impossible but quite undesirable, for it would mean an end to economic growth as we have known it. That much at least is probably true, for unprincipled greed would then be revealed for what it is — a plague upon the land, and those who refused to take responsibility for the full consequences of their actions (or non-actions) would become pariahs. And in spite of what some contend would be a great loss to our culture, we would then have a real chance, that is only a dream now, of offering to each soul born in this world the opportunity to live with dignity and honor, and thus a chance of achieving lasting peace among nations. The first step in achieving peace among ourselves is making peace with the Earth, our mother Gaia, and controlling the poison rain is one of the most critical things we must do. That is why we can no longer view this problem from the vantage point of short-term corporate profits, for that is like sitting in a ditch to look at the sky.

## Hearings Held For Power Plant (continued from page 1)

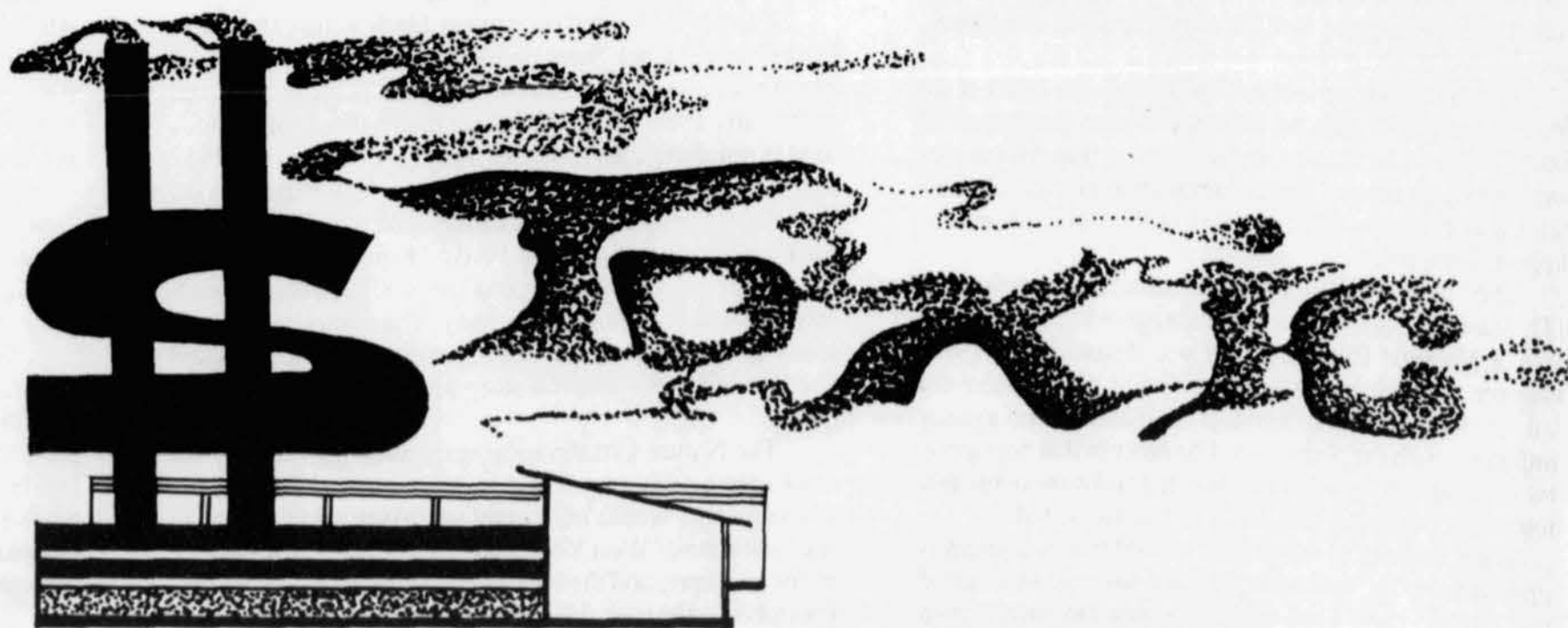
make a decision in late October. In addition to denying or granting the variance as requested, the Commission could approve the variance with conditions. Any decision made by the Commission may be challenged before an appeals board.

If the variance is granted, United's application to VEPCO must also be approved, and the plant's owner must apply for a myriad of state and federal permits.

If you wish to comment on the request for a variance, you should do so very quickly by writing: Greenbrier County Planning Commission, North Court Street, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

[Several of WVHC's members have spoken at the hearings in opposition of the variance. Many (!) hundreds of hours have been expended by WVHC members on this issue. Support for examining issues affecting the Greenbrier River, comes from the Greenbrier River Fund which needs your tax deductible contribution. This fund is admin-

istered by WVHC, and checks may be made to WVHC/Greenbrier River Fund.]



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Rockefeller Proposes Highway Funding Plan

Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W. Va. unveiled a two-part legislative plan to raise the \$1.4 billion necessary to complete the 144 unfinished miles of Appalachian corridors G, H and D. Rockefeller said the first part of his plan will be to introduce legislation in Congress next year calling for an Appalachian Regional Commission budget with three times the funding of the current commission. A Rockefeller aide said a bolstered budget would give the commission \$400 million to pour into West Virginia's highway system within the next decade.

Rockefeller proposes that the federal government pay 90 percent of the \$1.4 billion beeded in West Virginia and the state assume the remaining 10 percent. "At the current level of funding, the corridors in West Virginia would not be complete until the 22nd century," Rockefeller said.

Even at the highest levels of funding in the history of the Appalachian Regional Commission, it would take 33 years to complete the system. "We just cannot wait that long and that is why I'm introducing a plan to get the job done," he said.

Currently, the lion's share of future Appalachian corridor work in West Virginia is a 116.2 mile stretch of Corridor H roadway that will connect Interstate 79 with the West Virginia-Virginia border.

Corridor G in southern West Virginia is 18.4 miles short of completion. The route connects Charleston and Williamson.

Corridor D, which runs between Clarksburg and Parkersburg, is almost complete, save for a 10 mile stretch in the Parkersburg area.

The Register-Herald, September 3, 1988

### Park Service Chief Opposes Gorge Mining

A National Park Service Superintendent Joe Kennedy sent a sharply worded letter to the Department of Energy, asking Commissioner Kenneth R. Faerber to stop further coal prospecting in the New River Gorge. Kennedy wants Faerber to use his authority to "deny or limit permission to prospect [when] prospecting will damage or destroy a unique natural area."

"The New River Gorge was set aside by Congress for the American people because of its scenic beauty and exceptional recreational opportunities," Kennedy wrote. "It is the only natural area in West Virginia to be designated as a unit of the National Park System."

"Disturbance of the vegetation and surface contour by bulldozing new access roads on the walls of the gorge . . . would significantly damage the scenic resources of the New River," Kennedy wrote.

The Erskine Co., a 100 year old landholding company from Staunton, wants to prospect for coal on two sites near the old towns of Terry and Thayer. Erskine President Hugh B. Sproul criticizes the National Park Service for not buying up the land he wants to mine.

Kennedy's letter mentioned a prospecting operation Erskine conducted earlier this year in the gorge. After the Park Service protested that application, DOE placed special restrictions on the company. "All lands visible from the New River were eliminated from the permit," Kennedy wrote. "To be consistent with the restrictions placed on [that permit], none of the prospecting proposed in this notice should be allowed, because it is all in full view of the river."

Robert Grafton, DOE's regional permit supervisor in Oak Hill, said he has sent Kennedy's letter to the Erskine Co. for its reaction. After Erskine responds, Grafton said he will send his recommendations to Faerber. Grafton expects Faerber will make his decision later this month.

The Charleston Gazette, September 3, 1988

### New Wilderness Area

On June 7, the U.S. Senate voted to add a virtually roadless 2,500 acre valley between Potts Mountain and Little Mountain in southeastern Monroe County to the 8,253 acre Mountain Lake Wilderness Area, which adjoins the Monroe County tract on the Virginia side of Potts Mountain.

The 2,500 acres is part of the Jefferson National Forest and accounts for about half of the National Forest land located in Monroe County.

While the area, like all federal wilderness areas, will still be open for camping, hiking, hunting and other non-motorized outdoor activities, it will now literally take an act of Congress to allow logging and road building to take place again within its boundaries.

A 20 mile segment of the Appalachian Trail passes along the eastern boundary of the West Virginia portion of the wilderness, atop the crest of Potts Mountain, which also marks the West Virginia-Virginia border.

"The land in Monroe County is basically an undisturbed area, which is why it was considered for inclusion in the Mountain Lake Wilderness Area in the first place," said Bill Compton of the Jefferson National Forest's Blacksburg office.

Located near the isolated community of Waiteville, the Monroe County Forest Service land had been identified as a roadless area and a prospect for permanent wilderness status in the mid-1970's, during the U.S. Forest Service's RARE I and RARE II planning process.

While deer, bears and turkeys abound in the area, the new West Virginia wilderness is also home to the James spiny mussel, a fresh-water mussel that was placed on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species list on Monday. The Potts Creek drainage in the new wilderness area is one of only four places where the mussels are still known to exist.

The parcel accounts for West Virginia's fifth federally designated wilderness area. The state's other wilderness areas are Dolly Sods, Cranberry, Otter Creek and Laurel Fork.

The Charleston Gazette, August 31, 1988

### Wood Plant Permit Likely

A federal official says he expects the state Department of Natural Resources to grant a permit to a wood treatment plant on the Greenbrier River that many Alderson-area residents are protesting.

"I don't think they have any choice but to give them a permit," said Jim Elder, director of water enforcement and permits for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Elder referred to the Wood Guard plant under construction in Alderson, which would pressure-treat wood with the toxic chemical copper chromium arsenate for outdoor uses. All the state can require is that the plant not discharge any CCA, Elder said and the permit states that the CCA will remain in a closed system.

However, opponents of the plant are fighting on several fronts. They have challenged the permit, saying it does not properly protect the plant, which is nearly built. The DNR should make a decision on the permit within a month.

While other critics of the plant worry about spills to the river, others worry about its potential effect on ground water. The plant sits on karst terrain, in which porous limestone allows contaminants to move quickly to threaten underground water supplies.

In a letter to Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W. Va., EPA head Lee Thomas wrote, "While we believe that locating wood preserving facilities over karst limestone is certainly not ideal, there are no federal or West Virginia laws which prohibit this."

"It does appear, however, that the conditions of the permit are protective of surface water and ground water."

The state has required ground water monitoring through five wells, as well as clay and plastic liners beneath the site.

Elder said that to prohibit such plants, "you need to deal with local and state zoning issues."

The state has failed to pass a law setting ground water standards, which Elder said could also affect such permits. "They could make certain types of operations off limits if they have any risk of contaminating ground water," he said.

The Charleston Gazette, September 3, 1988

### Commissioner Hired To Find Illegal Mines

Energy Commissioner Kenneth R. Faerber hired Democratic Logan County Commissioner Art Kirkendoll to look for wildcat, or illegal, coal mines. Hired on June 22, Kirkendoll said he expects to keep his job through November.

Tony Politino, director of the Department of Energy's regional office in Logan, said Thursday he has no idea what Kirkendoll does. "He's not working out of here," Politino said at first. When questioned further, Politino said, "He may be [working here]. I don't know. He's not working for me. . . . I see him in and out of there. I suggest you contact the Charleston office."

Faerber would not answer questions about Kirkendoll. He said he might respond to a Freedom of Information Act request about Kirkendoll.

Kirkendoll said that Faerber "told me people were hammering him about wildcat mining. He wanted to put that to rest . . . We go to the mine sites and check with the people there." Kirkendoll reports directly to Faerber. He said he has not found any illegal mines since he began looking for them 10½ weeks ago.

The Sunday Gazette-Mail, September 4, 1988

### Effects of Acid Rain Reversible, Study Says

WASHINGTON (UPI)— Environmental damage inflicted by acid rain can be reversed a few years after the pollution ceases, at least in some areas, scientists reported.

In an effort to gauge the ability of the environment to recover, researchers erected a clear, plastic roof over about 1,000 square yards of land in a sparsely wooded region of southern Norway subject to high levels of acid from air pollution. The roofed-in area was "watered" by rain and snow from which acidic chemicals were removed. Two weeks after the protective roof was installed, nitrate concentrations in the water runoff from the soil dropped by 60 percent, while sulfate concentrations showed a general decline starting at four months. After 3.5 years, sulfate levels were about 50 percent of those in a control area subject to acid rain. Reporting in the British journal Nature, Richard Wright of the Norwegian Institute for Water Research and colleagues said their experiment near Risdalsheia, Norway, "indicates that chemical changes caused by acid deposition are largely reversible."

A companion study, in which Wright's team added acid water to unpolluted areas in western Norway, showed the environment was initially resilient to acid rain, capable of absorbing the extra acidity. But after two years of repeated exposure, the equilibrium was upset and water runoff from the soil was so acidic that it killed young salmon in two to four days.

Courtenay Riordan, an acid rain expert with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, said the Scandinavian study "confirms what a lot of people have been saying — if you don't have thick soil and you do eliminate acid deposit, you would expect the water and soil to recover fairly rapidly."

But a major problem facing the United States is that its topsoil tends to be deeper than Norway's and could mean U.S. soil would leach sulfate for a longer period of time, making habitats inhospitable longer, Riordan said.

Although the Scandinavian study does not offer any practical solutions to ending the problem of acid rainfall, Riordan said it helps to quash arguments that reducing such pollutants would be futile in areas already damaged by acid rain.

The Charleston Gazette, August 25, 1988

## West Virginia Highlands Conservancy 1988 Fall Review

### Watoga State Park — October 21-23

#### Focus: Threats to Our West Virginia Environment

The 1988 Fall Review will address some very immediate threats to our West Virginia Highlands. A representative from the WV Department of Natural Resources will speak to us about the new **Solid Waste** legislation, and the pressures West Virginia is receiving to accommodate out-of-state waste.

Saturday evening, a panel of persons involved in the controversies surrounding the proposed power plant on the Greenbrier River at Caldwell and the wood treatment plant in Adlerson will present their views.

Also, representatives from the U.S. Forest Service will present an afternoon seminar about current issues related to the Monongahela National Forest, including the status of military training activities, and future studies to determine rivers around the Forest that are eligible for inclusion into the National Wild & Scenic Rivers system.

We expect this review to be packed full of opportunities to learn about important decisions to be made regarding the future of our Highlands. We hope you'll join us.

#### Location

The review will take place at Watoga State Park in Pocahontas County, West Virginia, just three miles from the town of Hillsboro and approximately 35 miles from Lewisburg via Route 219. Watoga lies in a beautiful rhododendron covered forest that remains green throughout the year. It's hard to predict the weather conditions this time of year, so bring warm clothing.

#### Lodging & Meals

Cabins and camping are available at Watoga State Park and rooms are available at The Current, a Bed and Breakfast Inn near Hillsboro (10 miles from Watoga), and motels in the area. For reservations at the Current call Leslee McCarty at (304) 653-42770.

The cabins are equipped with linen and cooking supplies; meals will also be available at the Watoga Restaurant, located in the center of the park. This year we will pay per meal at the restaurant, but the proprietor would like an estimate of persons to be served, so please list the meals you expect to eat at the restaurant on the registration form. Saturday evening a special buffet and dinner presentation is planned for WVHC visitors.

#### Weekend Schedule

(Registration and meetings will take place in the Recreation Hall)

#### Friday, October 21, 1988

6:00 - 11:00 pm Registration & snacks (Restaurant open until 7:00 pm)  
8:00 pm Slides & movies  
9:00 pm Social Hour

#### Saturday, October 22, 1988

8:00 am Breakfast  
9:00 am Outings  
2:00 - 4:30 pm Public Lands Seminar  
5:30 pm Dinner Buffet  
6:00 pm Dinner Presentation on Solid Waste Issues  
7:30 pm Panel Discussion on Threats to the Greenbrier River  
9:30 pm Social Hour

#### Sunday, October 23, 1988

8:00 am Breakfast  
9:00 am Annual Meeting — Election of Officers and Board of Directors  
9:30 am Quarterly Board of Directors meeting  
12:30 pm Lunch

#### Outings and Seminar

The Saturday outings will last 4-5 hours to allow folks time to return for the Saturday afternoon seminar.

#### Greenbrier River Bike Ride

Roy Shearers will lead a cross-country bike ride on the Greenbrier River Trail that passes through Watoga State Park. Cross-country bikes may be rented from the Elk River Touring Company. Call Donna Borders at 799-4381 to rent a bike for the trip.

#### Tour of Local Natural Areas:

A morning tour, by car, will be led by Bill McNeil. Local scenic areas to be visited include Bear Town State Park, Cranberry Glades Botanical Area, and the High Rocks Natural Area.

#### Cave Trip

A local cave trip will be led by Martin DiLeggi.

#### Cranberry Wilderness Day Hike

A 5-mile hike along the beautiful North Fork of the Cranberry Wilderness Trail, a ridge trail that leads into the Wilderness area from the Scenic Highway. Led by Donna Borders and Gary Worthington.

#### Seminar

Current issues related to the Monongahela National Forest.

## Registration Form WVHC 1988 Fall Review October 21-23

Registration Form Deadline: Oct. 17

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee: \$3.00 adult \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Lodging — Watoga State Park

##### Cabin Reservations:

Friday: \$13.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Cabin Cots \$3.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday: \$13.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Cabin Cots \$3.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Lodging \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Nature Skool (for children age 3-10)

Nature Skool hours available: Saturday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

7.5 hrs. x \$2.00 hr. x \_\_\_\_\_ children = \_\_\_\_\_ total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total for Weekend: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Meals (Please list the meals you expect to eat at the restaurant, we will pay for meals on site)

**Saturday** breakfast buffet (\$4.00) Number of people \_\_\_\_\_

box lunch (\$4.00) Number of people \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Banquet (\$7.00 adults) Number of people \_\_\_\_\_

(\$4.50 children) Number of people \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday** breakfast buffet (\$4.00) Number of people \_\_\_\_\_

Brunch buffet or restaurant menu Number of people \_\_\_\_\_

#### Childcare

Childcare will be available for all age children on Saturday (daytime and evening), and Sunday Morning. Payment will be made directly to the childcare worker (\$1.00 per hour per child). To help us determine how many childcare workers we need, please list the names and ages of children that may use this service.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For more information about any of the above accommodations or programs please contact Donna Borders at (304) 799-6772 (office), or (304) 799-4381 (hm).

#### Field Trip Preference

\_\_\_\_\_ Bike Trip \_\_\_\_\_ Afternoon Seminar

\_\_\_\_\_ Tour of Natural Areas (Does not interfere

\_\_\_\_\_ Cave Trip with any of the

\_\_\_\_\_ Cranberry Wilderness Hike outings.)

Please make check payable to WVHC-Fall Review and return with this form to:  
Donna Borders, 1012 10th Ave., Marlinton, WV 24954

## Notice of Annual Membership Meeting and Election

In accord with the bylaws of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, Inc., NOTICE is hereby given to members, by publication in the August and September 1988 editions of the Highlands Voice newspaper mailed to all WVHC members, of the upcoming annual membership meeting and of the election of officers and board members.

The annual membership meeting, open to all WVHC members and interested members of the public, will be held at 9:00 a.m. on October 23, 1988, at Watoga State Park in Pocahontas County, WV, in conjunction with the conservancy's Fall Review weekend. Business required to be conducted at the annual membership meeting includes the election of officers and members of the board of directors.

A nominating committee consisting of Linda Elkinton (chair), Ron Shipley, Gary Worthington and Jim VanGundy has been appointed and will present a slate of persons to be nominated for each vacancy. Members interested in suggesting someone (including themselves)

for any vacancy are encouraged to contact Linda Elkinton by mail (Rt. 5, Box 228-A, Morgantown, WV 26505) or phone (304-296-0565). Nominations for any vacancy may also be made from the floor at the annual meeting.

Vacancies for office to be filled at the annual meeting are:

- President
- Senior Vice President (assists president and presides in his absence)
- VP for State Affairs (state legislative and agency matters)
- VP for Federal Affairs (congressional contacts and federal agency matters)
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- 5 Directors at Large, for two year terms expiring in October of 1990.