



THE HIGHLANDS VOICE

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In Barbour County

Mega-landfill goes to referendum

PHILIPPI — Barbour County residents are fighting garbage with music.

A day-long music fest, MOUNTAIN AID — Music to Save Our Home, staged Saturday, Oct. 20 at the Barbour County Fairgrounds, featured national and regional musicians, including Mike and Peggy Seeger, Stark Raven, the Fabulous Twister Sisters and Stewed Mulligan.

The concert raised funds to fight a Class A landfill proposed by Energy Resources Management Services (ERMS), a division of Anker Energy Corporation. The chosen landfill site is north of State Route 57 and west of U.S. Route 119, in a corner of Barbour County adjacent to Taylor,

Harrison and Upshur counties.

The Concerned Citizens are striving to get information out to Barbour County residents, who will vote Nov. 6 on the whether to allow construction of a Class A landfill in the county.

A 600-acre landfill is planned on a 1,300-acre strip mine site, owned and reclaimed by another Anker subsidiary, King Knob Coal.

ERMS proposes to import 7,500 tons of "non-hazardous municipal solid waste" from out-of-state and up to 1,500 tons of garbage from communities in West Virginia.

Out-of-state garbage will come by rail

and ERMS proposes to send West Virginia coal back to Baltimore in the empty garbage cars. They promise to create 200 full-time jobs at the site.

"Our plan is to create the best regional recycling and landfill operation in the Northeast — an example and model for the rest of the nation..." ERMS literature proclaims.

To aid their efforts, ERMS hired Jim Christie, former head of Governor Gaston Caperton's office of community and economic development, to head their public relations campaign.

Singer/songwriter Larry Groce, an 18-year resident of Barbour County and the

host of West Virginia Public Radio's "Mountain State" was host for the concert, which brought together songwriter Kate Long, attorney and musician Tom Rodd, Susan Franco, Upshur County native storyteller Noel Tenney and poet Irene McKinney from West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Other performers included Ace of Clubs, Steve Hill, Phil Bowers and Friends, Second Wind, and Michael Lipton.

Hot air tethered balloon rides and great food rounded out the day, which Philippi-based poet Devon McNamara called "a genuine feast of the power of music to lift spirits and the power of love to overcome obstacles and heal communities."

TU dedicates limer at Holly River

HOLLY RIVER STATE PARK — A liming machine installed on Laurel Creek of Holly River will treat the symptoms of acid precipitation, but it will not solve the problem.

At the dedication of the liming device Saturday, Sept. 29, Division of Natural Resources Commissioner Ed Hamrick applauded the efforts of the Mountaineer Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU) to preserve the trout stream until a solution can be found.

"While it will not be the ultimate solution to the effect acid rain can have on streams with low buffering capacity, we can address the problem in this way while we work on a long term solution," Hamrick said.

The dedication also honored former DNR Commissioner John Rider, who designed the limer in the early 1980s.

The unit replaces one built by Rider in 1981 and installed on Laurel Fork of Holly River by members of the TU Mountaineer Chapter.

Representatives of electric power industry and members of the Rider family joined Hamrick and TU members as the refurbished machine was dedicated to Rider's memory. His wife, Joyce, cut the ribbon and unveiled the dedication sign.

Nearly a decade ago, Rider recognized that acid rain had killed at least a dozen lightly buffered West Virginia streams. To save some marginal streams until a more permanent solution could be found, Rider

designed a machine to mix limestone with stream water to counteract the acidity.

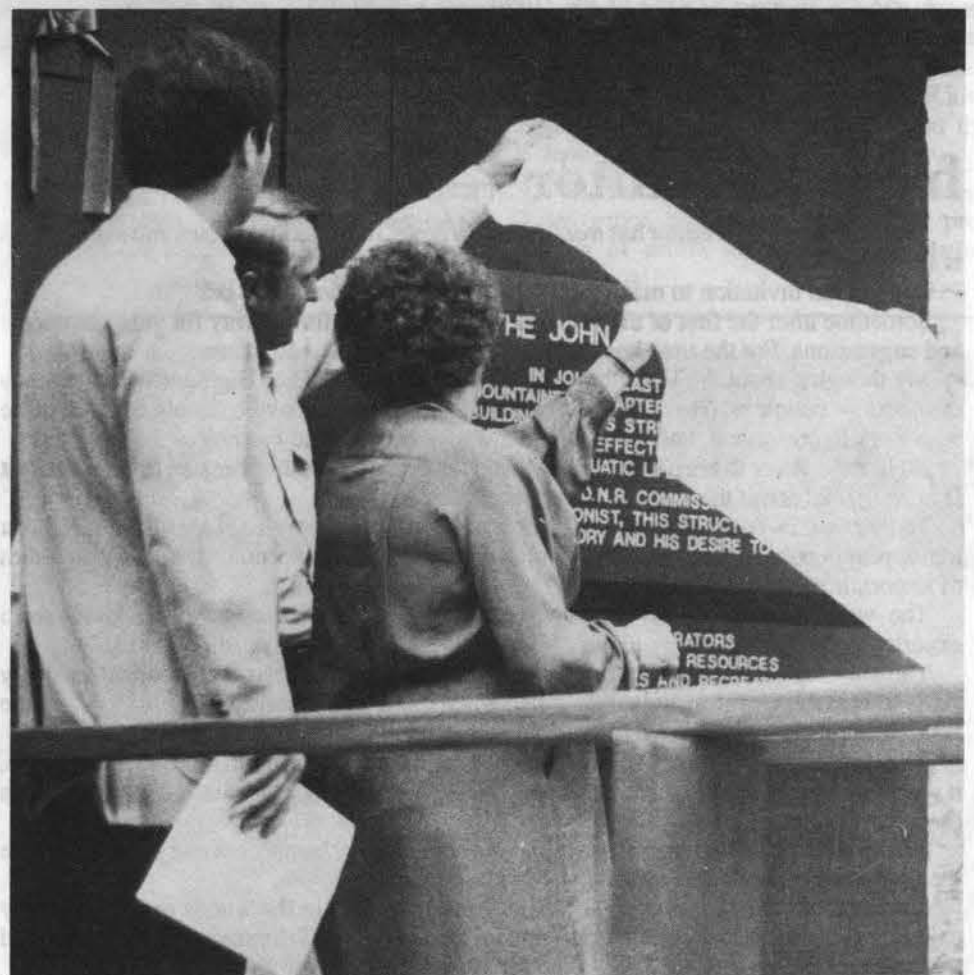
He and his partner, James Wood, build a prototype from scrap metal and plywood. TU members spent more than 13 weekends moving boulders, building a dam and pipeline, and constructing a building to house the machine.

Laurel Creek was an excellent location to test the machine. Records compiled by DNR fisheries biologist Don Gasper reveal average rainfall of more than 60 inches of rain a year. That rainfall is very acidic, with a pH (a measure of relative acidity/alkalinity) of 4.2. A pH of 7 is neutral. Trout and other organisms begin to die at levels below 6.

The replacement unit dedicated on Saturday is constructed of stainless steel to withstand years of wear and tear. Construction was made possible by Living Lakes, a group funded by a consortium of electricity producers, including Monongahela Power Company.

Living Lakes also funded improvements to the original design including a larger pulverized lime-feed hopper, improved intake system and pipeline and an automatic stream-flow sensor to regulate according to stream flow, the amount of lime needed for treatment.

The limer is designed to mix crushed limestone with water from the stream. When the solution is returned to the



Joyce Rider, widow of late DNR Commissioner John Rider, unveiled a sign dedicating the facility to the memory of her husband. Also pictured are TU chairman Lou Schmidt and DNR Director Ed Hamrick.

See Limer, page 3

— from the heart of the mountains —

GO NORTH !!!

by Cindy Rank

Corridor H is on the move again.

Construction on part of the ByPass around Buckhannon has been underway for several months; Senators Byrd and Rockefeller are frequently seen and heard pushing for completion of the highway, and Senator Byrd had money appropriated for the current work and is planning on more next year.

Questions of "if" or "whether or not" it should be built have given way to "when" and "where" and "how quickly".

Governor Caperton is to make the final decision about where the road will finally be built and he should be informed about the concerns of West Virginia Environmental and Conservation groups.

Contrary to a petition widely circulated in Upshur County this past year which said "We don't care where you build it, just build it!", the WV Highlands Conservancy DOES care where and how Corridor H is built.

It IS important that adverse environmental impacts be avoided and that mitigation efforts be made when it isn't possible to avoid those impacts. And it IS important that if Corridor H is to be built that it should follow the Northern most Route outlined in the 1981 Environmental Impact Statement (Alternative E).

The Northern Route will cause the least amount of damage to sensitive ecosystems and important public lands (i.e. trout streams, black bear habitat, Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks area, Bowden Fish Hatchery, Dolly Sods, Otter Creek, Canaan Valley, Blackwater Falls, and other National Forest Land).

The Northern Route is also one of the least expensive routes to build, especially when the expense of environmental mitigation is added to the costs estimated in the 1981 EIS.

The Corridor H Coalition of the WV Environmental Council is urging support for a modified version of the Northern Route. This modification to Alternative E will avoid impacts to the New Creek Drainage and Greenland Gap by heading north at Mt. Storm Lake to Mt. Storm and Rt. 50 rather than following 93 from the lake to Scherr and then north to 50. The Coalition also recommends that highway design include at-grade access points, a minimum width, perpendicular crossings of all high-quality streams, and maximum screening with native trees and shrubs.

The Conservancy is part of this Coalition, supports the above recommendations, and has stated at the Summer Board meeting its concern for needed development of infrastructures along the chosen route of the highway to protect the areas involved.

As individual members of the Highlands Conservancy, or as members of other Environmental or Conservation Groups, make your support for these ideas known to Governor Caperton at the State Capitol in Charleston (Zip Code 25305).

from the editor

I'm sure every Voice editor has made pleas for news, information, photos and stories. This is another one.

It is also an invitation to make the Voice whatever you want it to be.

Sometime after the first of the year, I will ask in a more formal way for your comments and suggestions. For the time being, please call and/or write with ideas.

My thoughts about the Voice have evolved from the way I see Highlands Conservancy members — people who love this particular bit of earth — those who simply enjoy it, those who work to preserve it, and those who manage to do both and more.

I'd like the Voice to keep us all informed on the many issues that threaten to destroy what is most special about the Highlands and the rest of the planet.

To that end, I would encourage everyone to be "a clipping service" for articles of interest that appear in publications in your neck of the woods. I'd also like monthly updates on issues of importance in your area.

The well-researched, well-written article is always welcome, but --- I know from experience that it is also easy to put off writing "until I have time to do it justice."

Those in-depth stories seem most necessary when an issue that has been dormant suddenly starts to heat up. Unfortunately, that's also when those who are most involved in the issue have the least time to sit down to write something that will get the rest of us up to speed.

Regular updates on the small developments could help to keep us all informed. Over time, it would also provide a good record out of which to pull together the over-all view when it's essential.

I'd also like the Voice to lure us (me) out of our offices, businesses and jobs so we take the time to enjoy what we love and want to protect.

Stories about camping, hiking, canoeing, sitting quietly in the woods or just generally enjoying the earth are very, very welcome. So, too, is advance information on events around the state and follow-ups.

A quick look at this abbreviated Voice is a warning that a small radius around Upshur County could end up with a lot of play. There are plenty of important issues here — acid mine drainage, landfills, acid rain, logging, etc., but I'd rather the Voice have more scope.....

Mary Pat Peck

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Annual Meeting/Fall Board Meeting

Catholic Conference Center, Huttonsville

Nov. 11: 9 a.m., Annual Meeting
10 a.m., Board Meeting

For additional information, or for reservations for Saturday night, call Mary Moore Rieffenberger (304) 636-4559.

Environmental Council sets priorities

Groundwater protection, top of list

JACKSON'S MILL — Groundwater protection was identified as a primary legislative goal for the West Virginia Environmental Council (WVEC) at the annual meeting Sept. 7-9.

"West Virginia is the only state in the union without a comprehensive groundwater protection program," said Norm Steentra, lobbyist for the council and coordinator for the convention.

About 250 people gathered at the 4-H center in Lewis County for a two-day meeting to set an environmental agenda for 1991. WVEC draws together traditional conservation and public interest organizations, like the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, and League of Women voters; ad hoc groups formed around a local issue; and individuals concerned about environmental problems "in their own back yard."

In addition to groundwater legislation, the group determined to support legislative action to prevent soil erosion, reduce solid waste, regulate medical and toxic waste disposal, regulate industrial siting, and protect the state's streams and wetlands.

No new regulation was proposed at the convention for mining and other extractive industries. Participants vowed instead to push for enforcement of existing laws. They also insist that the cost of enforcement must be paid by the industries that must be regulated.

The group also voiced support for a state environmental policy act as a framework for all other environmental legislation and to set the direction for a single state environmental agency proposed by Governor Gaston Caperton.

Fog prevented Governor Caperton from making a brief appearance at the convention Saturday morning before the Maryland-West Virginia football game.

Several other state officials participated in the conference. Ed Hamrick, commissioner of the Division of Natural Resources (DNR); Speaker of the House Chuck Chambers and Kanawha County Delegate David Grubb attended much of the convention. Senator Charlotte Pritt of Kanawha County took part in a panel discussion Saturday night.

Hamrick received a sustained standing ovation for his recent decision to classify as a trout stream Ten Mile Creek in Upshur County. The trout-stream classification will require stricter limits for water discharged into the creek.

Despite substantial evidence in DNR files that native trout were found in Ten Mile Creek, previous DNR directors have not been willing to make that designation, said Highlands Conservancy president Cindy Rank when she introduced Hamrick.

The West Virginia Environmental Council made significant impact this year in changing attitudes at the legislature, Chambers told the group in brief remarks Saturday night.

"The environment is the next big issue" Chambers said. "People across the state are concerned. We have to demonstrate that we are serious about protecting what we have here."

Legislative priorities

- * Groundwater protection*
- Soil erosion
- State Environmental Policy
- Waste reduction
- Toxic waste reduction
- Wetlands/riparian protection
- Prohibition of "below regulatory concern" nuclear waste
- Natural areas survey
- Industrial siting
- State-wide building code
- Quarrying regulation
- Budget



Highlands Conservancy President Cindy Rank and Andy Maier of Save Our Mountains spend a few minutes in the sun before lunch.

The state's polluters have always been able to buy expertise to lobby the legislature, Chambers said.

"They make a good case for the other side. The environmental community must develop that expertise," Chambers said, since it can't afford to buy it.

Legislators are well-intentioned, but they do not always know a great deal

about the issues, Chambers continued. In the last legislative session, the environmental community was able to make strides by having knowledgeable lobbyists at the session and maintaining contact with people at home.

Convention participants met in both regional and issue-oriented meetings through the weekend.

Regional meetings provided a forum for individuals from adjoining counties to get acquainted and share their concerns, while the legislative, educational and lobbying priorities were formulated at the issue-oriented sessions.

In the final meeting Sunday afternoon, convention participants developed a program of action for the 1991 legislative session.

Limer

from page 1

stream, the limestone works to neutralize the acidity and raise the pH to a level where trout can survive.

Crushed lime used in the machine is provided by the West Virginia DNR. DNR and Holly River State Park officials assist on a daily basis in keeping the machine in operation.

Hamrick spoke fondly at the dedication about the former DNR commissioner, who died in 1983.

"He was a friend, a true conservationist who loved fishing and all of nature, and a pure problem-solver," Hamrick said of Rider.

The commissioner also praised "the true partnership" of dedicated individuals, DNR and state park personnel and industry support.



Pictured at the dedication are TU state chairman Lou Schmidt, Tom Rider, son of the late DNR Commissioner John Rider, Don Friend of Monongahela Power, DNR Director Ed Hamrick and Dr. David Brown from Living Lakes.

Rivers Coalition gets \$40,000 grant from outdoor industry alliance

The West Virginia Rivers Coalition, a grassroots conservation organization working to protect free-flowing rivers, has received a grant of \$40,000 from a group of outdoor recreation companies supportive of its efforts.

The Outdoor Industry Conservation Alliance, a membership organization comprised of 22 outdoor recreation companies from throughout the country, made the grant to the group. The West Virginia Rivers Coalition, will use its \$40,000 award to seek permanent protection of 12 river segments under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. All 12 river segments are located in the Monongahela National Forest and have outstanding wilderness, scenic and recreational qualities. The Monongahela National Forest comprises a huge, mostly wilderness area in the eastern portion of West Virginia.

Grant monies will be used to conduct a grassroots campaign, monitor National

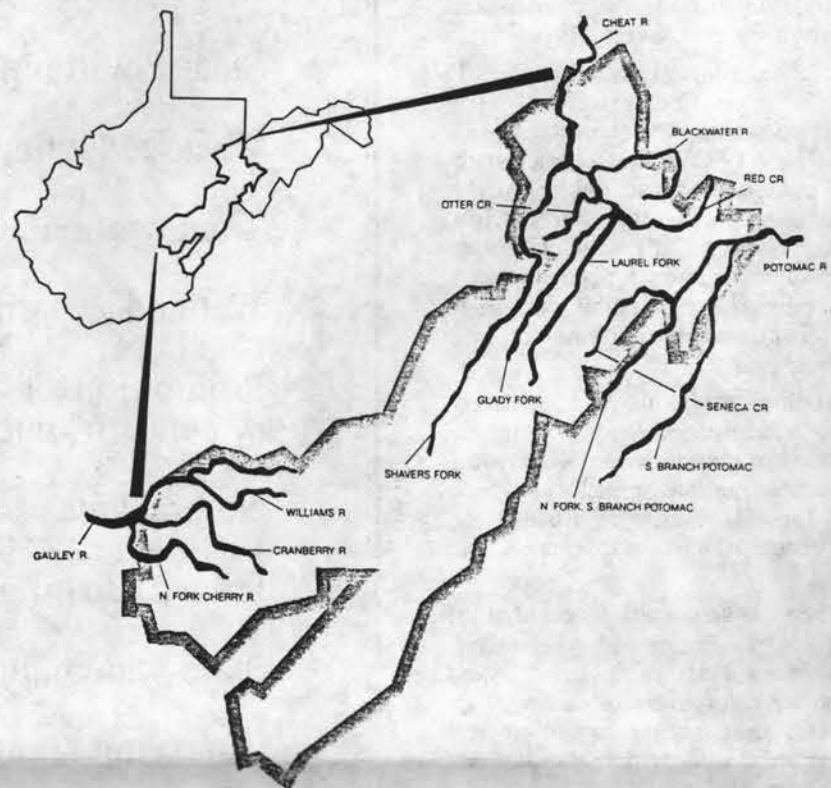
Forest Service studies and management activities, and work to identify political supporters of the rivers' protection campaign.

The Outdoor Industry Conservation Alliance was formed in 1989 for the purpose of bringing together outdoor industry companies to support selected grassroots conservation projects. In its first 18 months, the organization has made grants to conservation groups totaling \$283,532.

Alliance members include: Backpacker Magazine, Backpacker's Pantry, Inc., Burlington Specialty Fabrics, Campmor, Inc., Columbia Sportswear Co., Eagle Creek Travel Gear, Easton Aluminum, Inc., Grabber International, Kelty Pack, Inc., Kenko International, Malden Mills Industries, Inc., Odyssey International, LTD, Patagonia, Inc., Patagonia Sales Reps, Perception, Inc., Recreational Equipment, Inc., Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association, The North Face, W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc., Yakima Products, YKK (U.S.A.), Inc., and Yosemite Park and Curry Co.

The West Virginia Rivers Coalition may be contacted at 322 10th Street SE, Washington, D.C. 20003; 202-543-4923. More information on the Conservation Alliance is available by contacting the organization care of REI Public Affairs, P. O. Box 88126.

GRANT PROPOSAL to THE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE from MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST RIVERS COALITION



Hiking Guide available for Monongahela National Forest

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 Monongahela 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 Monongahela 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, Flatrock 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.

To order your copy of Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide, send \$9.95 plus 6% sales tax for WV residents, plus \$1.25 postage (book rate) to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, P. O. Box 306, Charleston, 25321.

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

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

The Highlands Voice, a monthly

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.

Your contribution to WVHC is tax deductible and joining is as simple as filling out this form and returning it to the office in Charleston.

Join today and become part of an active organization dedicated to preserving West Virginia's natural resources.

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
Mountaineer	200	300	600

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Make checks payable to: West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
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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.

Date _____

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