



# The Highlands Voice

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 2831  
CHAS., WV 25301

Published Monthly by the W. Va. Highlands Conservancy

Vol. 24, No. 1, January 1991

## Environment has its day at the Legislature

### WVEC names Mother Jones Awardee



WVHC PRESIDENT CINDY RANK was awarded the West Virginia Environmental Council's 1991 Mother Jones Award. This is the second year for the award and it is made, according to the inscription, to one who "fights like hell for the living." WVEC coordinator Norm Steenstra announced the award at the end of the E-Day rally in the Capitol Rotunda, Jan. 16.

CHARLESTON — Hundreds of West Virginians, young and old, rallied at the Capitol Rotunda Jan. 16 to support a clean environment in the state.

West Virginia Environmental Council's second Annual E-Day at the Legislature brought together groups and individuals interested in a variety of issues — groundwater protection, acid mine drainage, municipal, hazardous and medical waste incineration, air quality, and out-of-state garbage, to name a few.

Developments in the Persian Gulf gave new meaning to the Earth Day slogan, think globally, act locally, said Kanawha County Delegate Dave Grubb.

President Jimmy Carter called the quest for energy independence 'the moral equivalent of war,' Grubb said. America was poised "on the brink of war" that day, Grubb continued, because the nation failed to heed Carter and develop a sustainable energy policy.

The success of Barbour County residents in the referendum on siting a Class A landfill in the county was a great example of the strength of individual citizens and of networks of citizens across the state, Grubb said.

'Not in my backyard' has evolved into "not in anybody's backyard," Grubb said, "as we cease to be isolated people working on isolated problems."

Grubb called on E-day participants to fight injustice, inequality and unfairness in health care as much as in environmental causes.

"If we work together — with labor, education, health care, and others — we cannot lose," Grubb said.

Keynote speaker Dr. Paul Connett picked up the theme.

"The only thing that loses when we win is greed and stupidity," Connett said.

If we are to make it in the 21st Century, Connett said, we must "design things to share with the future, not things to sell to the present. 'A clever person solves problems,' Einstein said. 'A genius avoids them.'"

Composting and recycling should be the first alternatives in managing most cast-off household products, Connett said. Beyond all the ill-effects traceable to commercial municipal waste incineration, the process competes with composting and recycling programs for resources, he continued.

"Nature doesn't waste," Connett said. "It is not waste until it is wasted."

Introducing Tom Rodd, WVEC coordinator Norm Steenstra called the Morgantown attorney "the most outrageous Quaker since Richard Nixon."

"We cannot allow the coal industry to destroy the resources of our state," Rodd insisted, as he stood in front of a photographic display of West Virginia streams stained yellow and red by acid mine drainage.

Adapting the old nursery rhyme, Rodd recited:

*"Old King Coal was a  
greedy old soul,  
And a greedy old soul  
was he.  
He wanted to pollute the  
land and the water,*

*And he wanted to  
do it for FREE."*

The time has come, Rodd said, for King Coal to become Citizen Coal, responsible for its actions and responsive to its neighbors. More coal was produced last year than in any previous year, Rodd said, yet the acid mine drainage problems pictured in the Living Streams display were caused by only five percent of the mines.

"We will fight for the coal industry," Rodd said. "For a strong coal industry and a responsible coal industry."

A variety of other individuals and elected officials spoke to the crowd, including Martha Huffman of Wetzel County, Chuck Schnantz of Barbour County, Youth for Earth representatives Arthi Hatiangadi and Kerry Capel, Attorney General Mario Palumbo, Speaker of the House Chuck Chambers, and Kanawha County Senator Charlotte Pritt.

See E-day photos,  
page 5

### Clear your calendar now for the Spring Review.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Spring Review will be May 3-5, and, as usual, the weekend will be chock-full of activities. No detailed agenda has been finalized yet, but the focus will be on Appalachian Corridor H.

"The routing of this proposed four-lane highway has been an important issue in the hearts and minds of many of us for 20 years now," Spring Review organizer Carroll Jett said. "Decisions and commitments made over the next several months by state and federal officials will have a detrimental impact on sensitive areas — no matter which route is chosen."

Nearly every unique natural area

in the Highlands Region is at risk (see the December issue of the Voice for maps and more detailed descriptions of the proposed routes.) For those who view the protection and preservation of these areas as the primary consideration in this process, this could well be our last opportunity for input before the dirt starts to fly.

"All work and no play would, of course, make Highlands a dull Conservancy," Carroll said, and to back it up he and Frank Young are busy with plans for fun, good food, camaraderie, pickin' and grinin', and sing-a-longs by the campfire.

"No place I'd rather be on May 3-5," said Carroll.

# from the editor...

As war loomed on the horizon in early January and environmental folks from throughout the state planned to meet at the legislature, I thought of Cindy's "Earth Day" reflections last year for the Voice.

I told her I would fill this space this month, since she has been devoting much of her time and energy to formulating a consensus groundwater bill (see page 4 for an update of that situation). When that's not on Cindy's mind, the Department of Energy regulations, permitting for the Island Creek Mining site at Ten Mile here in Upshur County and her work at the clinic in Rock Cave have all been clamoring for attention.

Her recollections of the first Earth Day brought back many memories for me. I was acquainted with Cindy then — as Paul's wife, as a relatively new presence in the Campus Ministry, as someone who naturally drew people into worship services with her ability to lead singing, and who brought lightness of spirit to everyday activities while challenging us to question ourselves and heal each other in those very painful and divisive times.

Cindy and I were, I think, already on the way to forging a friendship that has persisted regardless of the directions we've taken. When the Voice weighs heavy on me, the remaining redeeming value is that I keep having to see Cindy — regardless of how heavy our other schedules are.

Cindy's recollections spoke of the first Earth Day, when the Vietnam War continued to haunt the daily life of most Americans and tense marches were still part of the movement for civil rights for African-Americans.

...I wandered on downtown to Point State Park where the Earth Day Rally was to take place. Although I know there were talks of a serious nature and warnings of doom and gloom, what I remember most are the colors: the green expanse of grass at the park dotted with the bright multitude of balloons and signs and clothes. Even the music was bright.

I think I envied the crowd the relatively lighthearted atmosphere so unlike the typical demonstrations I was familiar with. And I think I resented the fact that here were a couple hundred people who could be adding their voices to the more important life-and-death issues of war and poverty and civil unrest.

Little did I know then that I would move from the city in an attempt to simplify my life, to make more sense of a world engorged with gadgets and trinkets and consumerism. Little did I know then that my own personal attempt to make peace with myself and the earth around me would lead to actively defending the very air and water and ground that I so cherish in my own life.

In these past 20 years I've begun to realize the full meaning of that first Earth Day. War and poverty and civil unrest have not been vanquished from this or any other land we humans inhabit. But the message of that Day was the underlying awareness that what we are doing to the earth often has as profound an effect on our existence and future as some of the more blatant acts of violence and aggression we foist upon our fellow man and woman.

A year later, it seems that war has once again raised its ugly head. It threatens great ecological damage, in and of itself. It also threatens to create an excuse for putting environmental regulation and enforcement on hold and to siphon off resources that should be directed to solving present problems and avoiding future ones.

Unrestrained power and greed once again team up to spell only death and destruction for people and the world in which we live.

\*\*\*\*\*

As editor, my apologies for the lateness of the Voice. I keep promising myself, if not you, that the Voice will be in the mail about two-thirds of the way through each month.

Threats of war sapped my energy in early January.

The start of bombing Wednesday, Jan. 16, drained away all of the joy of seeing folks at the Capitol earlier in the day for E-day at the Legislature. I keep trying to shake-off the great sadness and frustration I feel, but I still find my feet and my spirit dragging. Of all possible ecological disasters, war has to be among the greatest.

It seems like a good time to remember and act on Paul Connett's advice — "have fun" — but I'm having trouble finding the energy.

P.S.

I was sufficiently late that Cindy did write a column.

*Mary Pat Peck*

*— from the heart of the mountains —*

by Cindy Rank

## Short and not so sweet

The 1991 West Virginia Legislature appears to be relatively normal in its approach to the difficult task of balancing diverse interests and, oftentimes, opposing value systems in the hundreds of bills and budget items now being considered

This year however, war in the Persian Gulf has injected an additional and especially discomfoting level of irony to the process.

It's difficult to maintain patience in endless discussions that attempt to define levels of protection for groundwater and other life-support systems of the planet in terms of what is the most "practical," when we live in a country where technology has developed military weapons capable of propelling and guiding themselves hundreds of miles across unfamiliar territory to seek out and enter, with great precision, a door, window or air-shaft that has been selected as a target.

It's difficult to be reasonable in discussion aimed at easing, still further, the responsibilities of an industry that profits from the extraction of non-renewable resources, when commitment to a

(See Heart, page 8)

### Roster of Officers, Board Members and Committee Chairs

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Cindy Rank  
Rt. 1, Box 227, Rock Cave, WV 26234, (304)924-5802  
SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT:  
Vacant  
VICE-PRESIDENT FOR STATE AFFAIRS: Norm Steenstra  
1001 Valley Rd., Charleston, WV 25302, (304) 346-5891 (work), (304) 346-8924 (home)  
VICE-PRESIDENT FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS: Skip Deegans  
Suite A 203, 1140 19th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 797-6863 (w) (703)719-7388 (h)  
SECRETARY: Richard diPretoro  
264 High St. Morgantown, WV 26505, (304) 296-8963  
TREASURER: Tom Michael  
Rt. 2, Box 217, Lost Creek, WV 26385, (304) 623-3447  
PAST PRESIDENT: John Purbaugh  
6019 49th St., NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335, (208) 572-4343 (work)

#### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

(Terms expire October 1992)

William P. McNeel, 1118 Second Ave., Marlinton, WV 24954, (304) 799-4369  
John McFerrin, 1105 Tinder Ave., Charleston, WV 25302, (304) 345-5646  
Carol Bradshaw, P.O. Box 177, Ranson, WV 25438, (304) 728-7281  
Richard Wood, P.O. Box 648, Lewisburg, WV 24901, (304) 647-5130  
Frank Young, Rt. 1, Box 108, Ripley, WV 25271, (304) 372-9329

#### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

(Terms expire October 1991)

Donna Borders, 1012 10th Ave., Marlinton, WV 24954, (304) 799-4381  
Geoff Green, Rt. 1, Box 79-A, Burlington, WV 26710, (304) 289-3565  
Sayre Rodman, 32 Crystal Dr., Oakmont, PA 15139, (412) 828-8983  
Carroll Jett, Rt. 1, Box 22, Sherman, WV 26173, (304) 273-5247  
Perry Bryant, 1604 McClung, Apt. 202, Charleston, WV 25311  
Brian Hagenbuch, 126 Shockey Dr., Huntington, WV 25701, (304) 522-7557

#### ORGANIZATIONAL DIRECTORS

KANAWHA TRAIL CLUB:  
Vacant  
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: Virginia Region: Andrew Reeder  
P.O. Box 1355, Dublin, VA 24084, (703) 674-6501  
POTOMAC APPALACHIAN TRAIL:  
Vacant  
PITTSBURG CLIMBERS: Jean Rodman  
32 Crystal Drive, Oakland, PA 15139, (412) 828-8983  
WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAIN STREAM MONITORS, INC.: Craig Mains  
772 Weaver St., Morgantown, WV 26505, (304)292-3463  
BROOKS BIRD CLUB: Mary Moore Rieffenberger  
Rt. 1, Box 253, Elkins, WV 26241, (304) 636-4559  
KYOVA CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED: Frank Akers  
1601 Sycamore St., Kenova, WV 25530, (304) 453-1494  
SAVE OUR MOUNTAINS: Andrew Maier  
509 Jefferson St., Morgantown, WV 26505,  
MOUNTAINEER CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED: Louis W. Schmidt  
Rt. 1, Box 109-A, Bristol, WV 26332, (304) 783-5345

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CANAAN VALLEY COMMITTEE: Linda Cooper Elkinton  
Rt. 5, Box 228-A, Morgantown, WV 26505, (304) 296-0565  
MINING COMMITTEE: John McFerrin  
1105 Tinder Ave., Charleston, WV 25302, (304) 345-5646  
PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: Sayre Rodman  
32 Crystal Drive, Oakmont, PA 15139, (412) 828-8983  
Donna Borders, 924 Second Ave., Marlinton, WV 24954  
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: W.E. "Skip" Deegans  
Suite A 203, 1140 19th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202)797-6863 (w), (703)719-7388 (h)  
AIR/WATER TOXICS COMMITTEE:  
Vacant  
RIVERS COMMITTEE: Donna Borders  
1012 10th. Ave., Marlinton, WV 24954, (304) 799-6865 (work), (304) 799-4381 (home)  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE:  
Vacant  
MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: Frank Young  
Rt. 1, Box 108, Ripley, WV 25271, (304) 372-9329  
WV SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE: Carroll Jett  
Rt. 1, Box 22, Sherman, WV 26173, (304) 273-5247

#### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Pat Raffle: Membership Secretary  
P.O. Box 306  
Charleston, WV 25321  
(304) 768-8961  
Mary Pat Peck: Voice Editor  
36 Meade St.  
Buckhannon, WV 26201  
(304) 472-3049

The Highlands Voice is published monthly by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, P.O. Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321. Articles, letters to the editor and other information for publication should be sent to the editor, 36 Meade St., Buckhannon, WV 26201.

# '60 Minutes' report on Acid Rain disputed

Rick Webb sent a copy of his letter to the producer of CBS's '60 Minutes,' as well as a copy of EPA's response below. Rick also sent along a lengthy article from the Winter 1991 edition of Trout magazine, *Dropping Acid in the Southern Appalachians: A Wild Trout Resource at Considerable Risk*, by Christopher Camuto. Rick, known by many of you from the long fight to have something done about the DLM mine in Upshur County, is now with the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

He is also concerned with the probable impact of 19 proposed coal-fired electric power plants with applications now in to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Twelve others are pending, he said.

"While on a national scale sulfur emissions are projected to decrease as a result of the Clean Air Act, emissions are projected to increase in Virginia," Rick wrote.

Adverse effects are expected in the Shenandoah National Park, Jefferson National Forest and James River Face, a Class I wilderness.

## Air and Radiation office of EPA takes issue with report

### Statement

The theme of the "60 Minutes" story on acid rain and the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program (NAPAP) was that acid rain is not an environmental crisis.

### Response

The issue is not whether or not acid rain is an environmental catastrophe or crisis, but if acid rain is a serious enough problem to warrant action. The answer is yes. NAPAP has documented the following:

- \* Acid rain causes surface water acidification. In regions surveyed by the National Surface Water Survey (NSWS) four percent of lakes larger than 10 acres and eight percent of stream lengths were found to be acidic; of these, 75% of the acidic lakes and 50% of the streams were acidic due to acid rain. Another 20% of the lakes and streams are very sensitive to acidification, whose aquatic life could be damaged by acidic episodes such as snowmelt or storms.

- \* If we look at lakes smaller than 10 acres, that were not included in the NAPAP surveys, the percentage of acid lakes in the Adirondacks jumps to 26% (based on work by the Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation); 14% of the lakes larger than 10 acres in the Adirondacks were acidic.

- \* Although not a focus of NAPAP, the NAPAP reports contain information on the wide extent of acid rain damage in Canada.

- \* Acid rain corrodes building and construction materials and irreplaceable cultural resources such as statues.

- \* Sulfate particles account for more than 50% of the visibility degradation in the Eastern United States, including our national parks such as Shenandoah and the Great Smoky Mountains.

- \* Acid rain contributes to forest damage, particularly for red spruce trees at high elevations.

- \* Acid aerosols can pose a public health threat when concentrations are high enough, and we have already experienced concentrations close to harmful levels. This is documented in a report of the EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee. The acid rain provisions of the Clean Air Act do not represent crisis management, but a measured response to a serious long-term environmental problem.

- \* The Clean Air Act provides for a 10 million ton reduction in sulfur dioxide emissions by the year 2000, with some four year extensions for companies that utilize clean coal repowering technology. The Act contains market-based allowance trading provisions that will allow industry to make cost-effective reductions in their emissions. Our analysis, as well as NAPAP's, indicate that this system will reduce the costs of the acid rain control program by approximately 20% relative to other similar proposals.

### Statement

Science played no part in the Clean Air Act discussions; in particular, the NAPAP reports were ignored; the bill was pushed through at the end of this last session. (Kroft)

### Response

- \* Acid rain has been debated for over 10 years in this country within the Administration and in Congress. Over 70 acid rain control bills were introduced in Congress over that time period.

- \* Science was a key part of the debate within the Administration and on the Hill.

- \* NAPAP, the interagency task force, which includes EPA, as well as the Departments of Interior, Energy, Commerce, and Agriculture, provided major results to these agencies, the Congress, and the public of the research over the past five years. These results have clearly affected public policy making.

- \* Dr. Mahoney briefed the Domestic Policy council on NAPAP results in the spring of 1989, before the President submitted his control program to the Congress.

- \* Substantively:

- \* Science showed us the extent of the problem and how it would change with changes in deposition and air concentrations of pollutants.

- \* The results of scientific research convinced us that a control program was necessary, but that it could be phased in to allow for reduced costs and new technologies.

- \* These results also helped us to confirm the need for a reduction in emissions but to reject calls for rapid, large reductions through forced scrubbing.

- \* The ten year timetable for achieving emission reductions, along with the four year clean coal technology repowering extension is a recognition that we can afford, from an environmental perspective, to give promising technologies a chance to develop commercially, and to make use of all our coal resources, including high sulfur coal.

- \* The timetable also allows the country to spread out the costs of the program and minimize rate increases.

David Reibman, Producer  
Sixty Minutes, CBS  
524 West 57th Street  
New York, New York 10019

Re: Your treatment of the "Acid Rain" issue, 12/30/90

Dear Mr. Reibman:

As a scientist who has spent years studying the effects of acid pollution on Appalachian mountain streams, I find it hard to believe that a news program with a reputation for in-depth investigation would present such a shallow and unbalanced report. Except for one limited exception, the information you presented was completely one-sided and mostly wrong.

The federal NAPAP study you cite has been grossly misrepresented to Congress and the American people. By presentation of inappropriate summary statistics that combine results for dissimilar types of terrain and diverse types of natural systems, the critics of emission controls are able to claim that there is no problem.

Numerous research programs conducted over the last ten years, including the federal government's NAPAP, indicate that the more sensitive small lakes and streams of the Appalachian mountains are acidifying as a consequence of atmospheric acidity. The model employed for the NAPAP assessments indicates that sulfur reductions of at least 70% will be required before this trend will be reversed in Virginia's mountain streams. Unfortunately, sulfur emissions will be reduced by less than 50% under the new Clean Air Act.

Sixty Minutes should readdress this issue. Only this time please exert a stronger effort to present the whole picture.

Sincerely,

Rick Webb  
Research Scientist  
Department of Environmental Sciences  
University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

### Statement

"We know that the acid rain problem is so small that it's hard to see." (Ed Krug)

### Response

- \* In fact, acid rain damage can be seen and it is not difficult to find if one looks at our surface waters, our buildings and monuments, or the vistas in our national parks. These problems and others are documented in the NAPAP reports.

- \* It is unfortunate that CBS chose Dr. Krug as its only scientific expert on acid rain, because Dr. Krug lacks scientific credibility even in the limited area of surface water acidification.

- \* He is not recognized by his peers as an authority on this issue, and is well outside the mainstream of scientific consensus on the acid rain issue.

- \* In a recent peer review of Krug's work by eminent scientists, the following summary statements appeared:

"The most important criticism of the (Krug) manuscript concerns the fact that this alternative hypothesis offered by the author to explain acidification of watersheds was found to be both theoretically implausible and generally inconsistent with empirical observations."

"Major technical points raised by the reviewers of the Krug (1989) manuscript are generally consistent with the following overall conclusion: "...the hypotheses stated by Krug (1) are generally not plausible for most natural systems, (2) are not supported by recent state-of-the-art experimental data, and (3) are not consistent with well-established principles of aqueous geochemistry. In addition, a majority of the reviewers were explicit in noting that the author presented a highly misleading and oversimplified view of inorganic acidification processes."

### Statement

"Factories will be forced to install expensive new pollution control equipment, and utility rates are expected to jump by as much as 30%, and a hundred thousand people could end up losing their jobs, many of them coal miner." (Steve Kroft)

### Response

- \* The Clean Air Act does not require any company to install expensive new pollution control equipment. Companies have a variety of options to choose from, including conservation and fuel switching (e.g., from high sulfur coal to low sulfur coal or natural gas). They also can purchase allowances from companies who achieve emission reductions beyond those required by law.

- \* Utility rates are projected to rise, on a national basis, around two percent due to acid rain controls. Even in heavily affected areas such as Ohio, the statewide rate increases will be around five percent. Higher rate increases for individual companies may occur, but generally those companies have current rates much lower than the national average.

- \* We acknowledge that there may be fewer high sulfur coal mining jobs in the future — about 5-6,000 less by 1995, and 13-15,000 less after the year 2000; but there are expected to be additional jobs in low sulfur coal mining — about 7-8,000 by 1995, and 17-18,000 by the year 2000 (mostly in mid- and Southern Appalachia. (ICF analysis)

See EPA, page 5

# Groundwater: a vital issue for West

## Coal issue bogs down groundwater talks

by Eric Niiler

reprinted from The Charleston Gazette, Jan. 1, 1991

Environmentalists and coal industry lobbyists say they will not have a compromise groundwater agreement before the beginning of the legislative session next week, despite meetings for the past three months.

The groundwater task force, led by officials of the state Division of Natural Resources, attempted to pull together an agreement Thursday, but talks broke down over the issue of an exemption for the coal industry.

"There are still some serious stumbling blocks that we've been grappling with for years," said Mary Wimmer, state chairwoman of the Sierra Club and one of 12 members for the task force.

Despite the setback, both sides agreed to nearly three pages of provisions on groundwater policy. Task force members also agreed to work this weekend, although the entire committee doesn't meet again until Jan. 16.

The proposed groundwater legislation would affect chemical plants, farms, landfills, septic tanks, coal

mines and other potential sources of pollution to underground water supplies.

West Virginia is one of the few states without groundwater regulations even though more than 90 percent of the state's rural residents depend on groundwater for drinking water.

Last year, three separate groundwater bills were introduced in the Legislature with varying degrees of success. A compromise bill that was agreed to by a legislative conference committee died when it wasn't approved before the session ended.

Wimmer and

leaders of the coal, oil and gas, and agricultural trade groups were hoping to put together a bill both sides could live with.

But, Thursday, two top coal offi-

cials left the meeting at DNR offices when talks bogged down.

"What this thing has turned into is banning coal mining in northern West Virginia," said Ben Greene, presi-

dent of the West Virginia Mining and Reclamation Association.

Environmental groups insist that the quality of existing groundwater be protected, especially if it can be used for drinking. Contaminated groundwater moves slowly and is difficult to treat.

Under the proposal, the DNR would coordinate groundwater regulations with the Divisions of Health, Energy, Highways and the Department of Agriculture. Potential groundwater polluters would need to get a permit, just as they do for discharges into rivers and streams.

The DNR would collect permit fees from industries, money which would pay for groundwater treatment, remediation and a database of information on groundwater aquifers.

Deputy DNR director Ann Spaner said a compromise may allow coal industries to pollute groundwater during their operations as long as they provide alternate sources of drinking water and clean up when finished mining.

### Update

Little probability still exists for a consensus Groundwater Protection Bill supported by both industry, environmentalists, and state agencies. DNR would like to keep the Task Force working, even though four separate bills have been or probably will be introduced this year.

\* Senators Sharpe and J. Manchin introduced industry's bill Jan. 16, while deadlines had been extended for work on the consensus bill.

\* The groundwater bill passed last year in the House (old HB 4100) was introduced this year in the Senate by Senator Humphreys.

\* The governor is expected to

introduce whatever remains of the "consensus" bill.

\* Speaker of the House Chuck Chambers and Del. James Rowe introduced "our" bill, HB 2324.

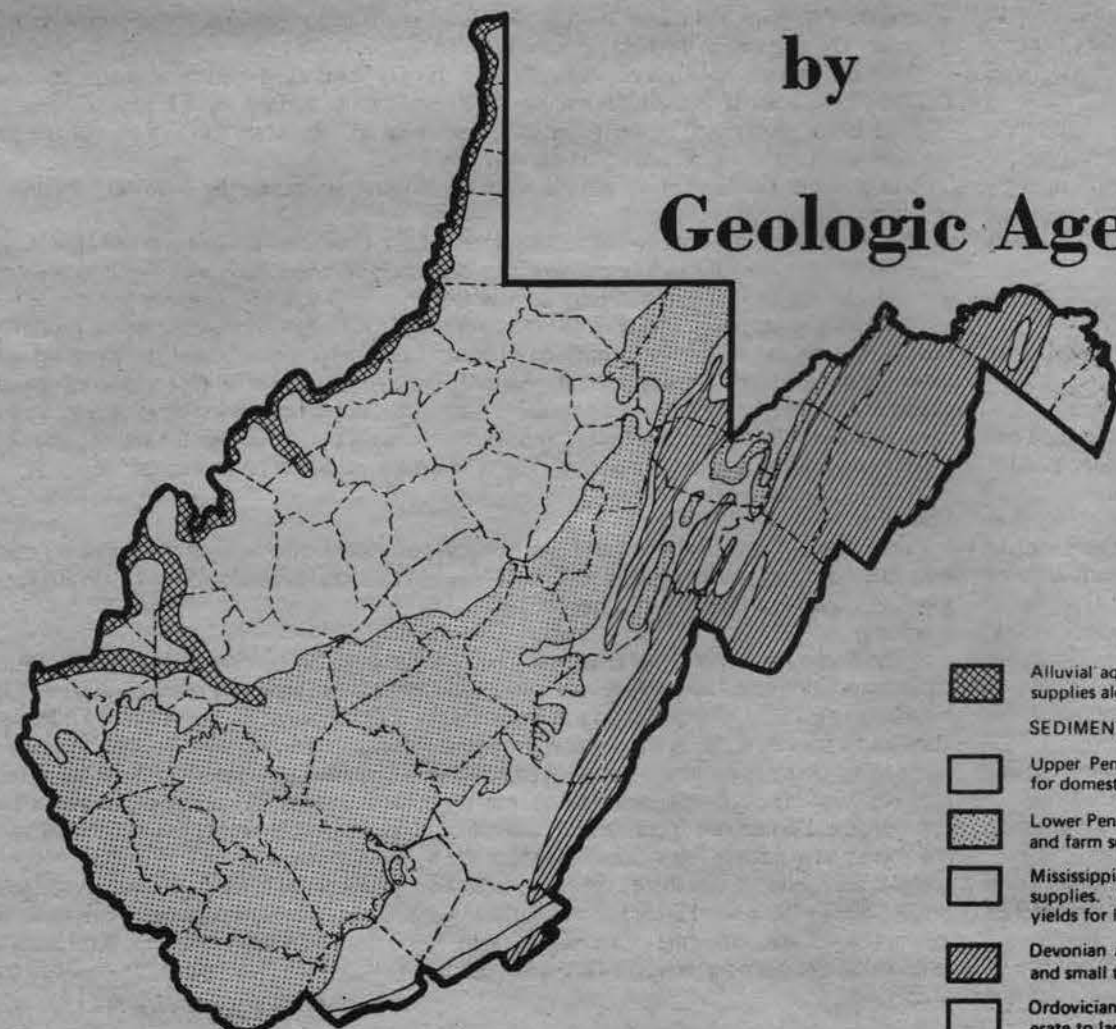
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy President Cindy Rank reported the demise of the consensus Friday, Jan. 18, when she returned home from a busy week in Charleston.







Consensus finally disintegrated that afternoon when it was clear that, despite numerous environmental concessions in the body of the bill, industry would never agree if a standard of "non-degradation" remained part of the expressed rationale for the legislation.

## Aquifer groups of West Virginia

by

### Geologic Age



-  Alluvial aquifers - Sand and gravel, interbedded with silt and clay. Used as source for public and industrial supplies along the Ohio and Kanawha rivers.
- SEDIMENTARY BEDROCK AQUIFERS**
-  Upper Pennsylvanian - Predominantly shale, with sandstone, siltstone, coal and limestone. Used mainly for domestic and farm supplies.
-  Lower Pennsylvanian - Predominantly sandstone, with shale, coal and limestone. Used mainly for domestic and farm supplies.
-  Mississippian - Predominantly sandstone and limestone with shale. Adequate yields for domestic and farm supplies. Springs in limestone units tend to yield larger amounts of water, often producing adequate yields for larger commercial and industrial supplies.
-  Devonian and Silurian - Shale, siltstone, limestone and sandstone. Adequate yields for domestic, farm, and small to moderate industrial and public supplies.
-  Ordovician and Cambrian - Sandstone, shale and limestone. Adequate yields for domestic, farm, and moderate to large industrial and public supplies.

(courtesy of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources)

### Do what you can to protect groundwater

- \* Dispose of hazardous substances and their containers with caution. Never pour substances such as paint, varnish, thinners, waste oils, pesticides, and cleaning products into sinks, toilets or drains.
- \* Collect used motor oil for recycling. Participating service stations throughout the state serve as collection centers.
- \* Use only the recommended amount of fertilizers and pesticides on lawns and gardens and don't use them within 20 feet of a drinking water well.
- \* Don't store or dump wastes in or near a well. Don't locate storage tanks for heating oil, gasoline or diesel fuel near a well, or put livestock pens or barns near by.
- \* If you abandon a well, make sure that it is properly filled in and plugged.; otherwise the well could convey surface water runoff, along with contaminants, directly to ground water aquifers. Cover your wellhead with a cap to protect the well from vandalism. Grade soil so that surface runoff is diverted away from the wellhead.
- \* Have your septic tank pumped out regularly to remove solids that can clog the system.
- \* Report pollution, spills and suspected illegal dumping of hazardous waste to the spill hotline: 1-800-642-3074.

# Virginians in the 1991 legislature

## Rural W. Virginians rely on safe ground water

Groundwater—the water beneath the earth's surface — provides drinking water for more than 50 percent of all West Virginians. But for West Virginians in rural areas, 90 percent depend on groundwater, from wells and developed springs, for their drinking water. In addition, groundwater is an important water source for livestock and irrigation. It is the purest and most dependable water resource.

Groundwater lies in a zone of saturation beneath the surface where it moves between soil particles and through fractures in rock until it surfaces in springs, streams, and lakes.

Because it lies beneath the earth, groundwater is difficult to access or map and once polluted, it is extremely difficult to clean up. Because groundwater moves very slowly through the earth, activities that pollute groundwater could continue for years before the pollution is discovered.

Many times the polluter has moved on and a homeowner or the taxpayers are left to pay for water treatment or clean up.

As coordinator of the West Virginia Ground Water Coalition a few

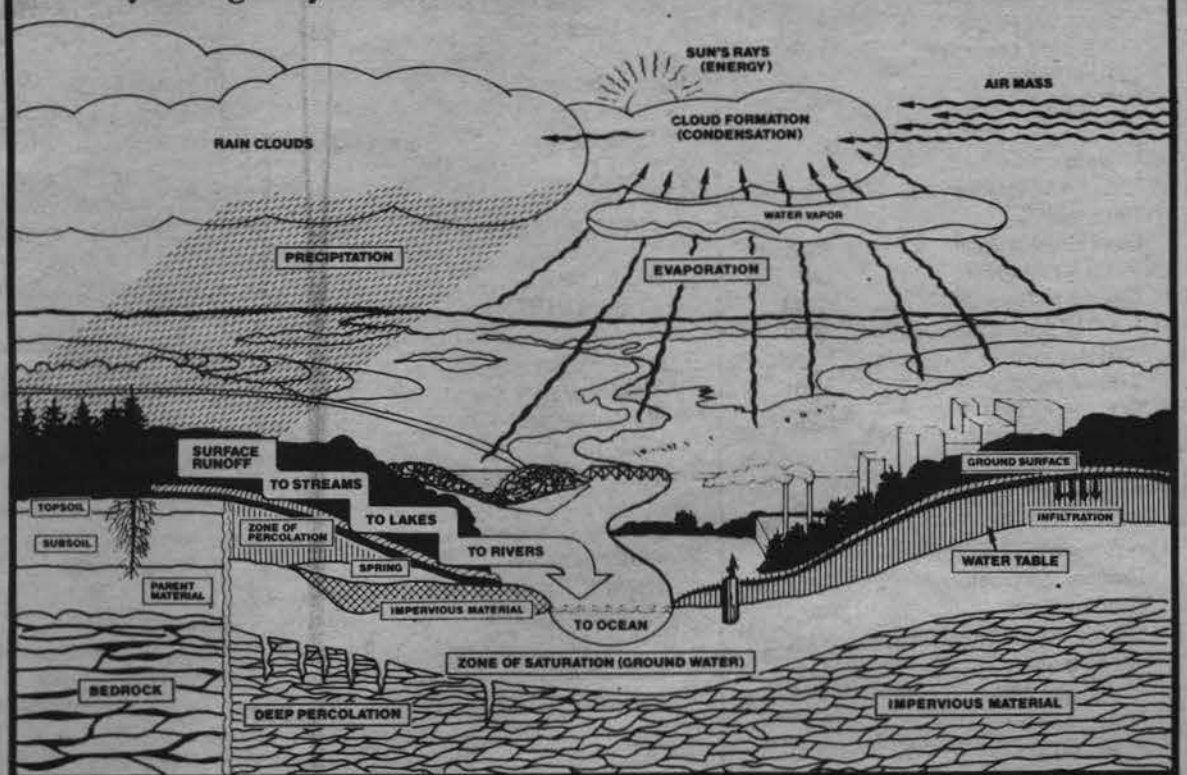
years ago, Norm Steenstra said that by and large, the state's groundwater is pristine. Borrowing a phrase from Ronald Quibell who bottles mineral water from near White Sulphur Spring, Steenstra called West Virginia "a water factory."

West Virginia groundwater bubbles out of the ground in form the headwaters of major river systems of eastern United States. Major tributaries of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers have their sources in West Virginia's hills.

Many human activities can degrade groundwater quality, including:

- \* Hazardous waste dumps and landfills.
- \* Underground storage tanks for petroleum products.
- \* Septic system and cesspools which have been improperly installed or maintained.
- \* Acid mine drainage.
- \* Fertilizers and pesticides when overused or improperly discarded.
- \* Abandoned wells used for waste disposal.
- \* Household chemicals, including paint varnish, lawn chemicals and cleaning solvents.

The Hydrologic Cycle



## Letters to the editor

Dear Editor:

The recent 60 Minutes broadcast on the acid rain study seems to have dealt a hard blow to long-term environmental protection efforts and specifically those aimed at controlling air pollution.

The basic message from the extravagantly expensive study was interpreted as — those crazies who had us worried were greatly exaggerating any danger, we couldn't even find what we are supposed to be measur-

ing.

Regardless of whether the findings of this study can be considered accurate, there is another way to view its results.

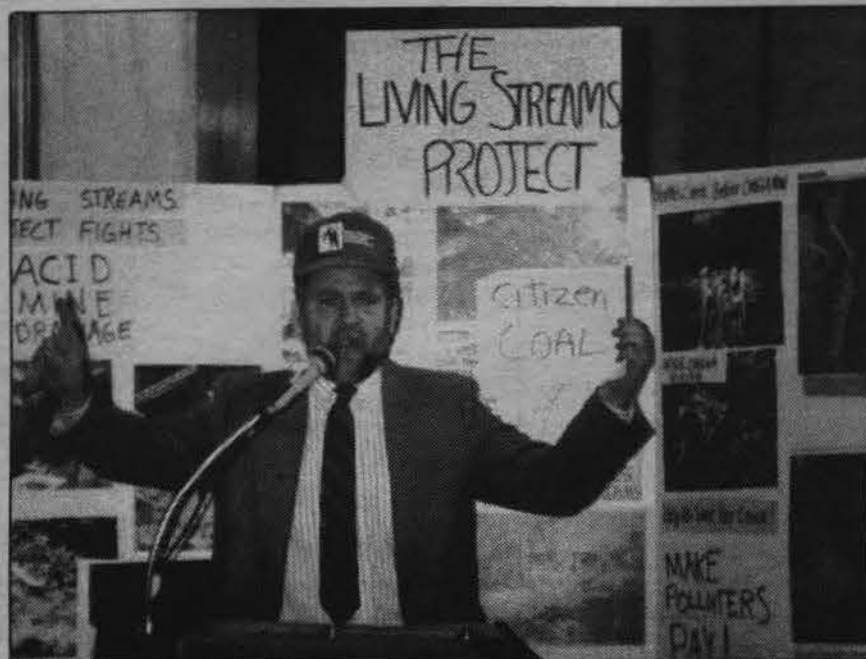
Rather than conclude the dangers of acid rain (and by implication many other environmental hazards) have been exaggerated, this study can be seen as proof that efforts to reduce environmental pollution can succeed. And that such success does not have to involve ruinous costs for industries

affected by necessary regulations.

Should we not be congratulating our environmentalists on their foresight and the success of their efforts? It is only necessary to look to the forests of Germany for an example of what we could be facing if emission regulations had not been enacted.

Sincerely,  
Kenneth W. Spence  
French Creek, West Virginia

## E-Day at the Legislature



TOM RODD insisted it is time that Citizen Coal respect West Virginia's people and our "Living Streams."



NORM STEENSTRA set the tone for E-day.

## EPA comments — from page 3

### Statement

"It (legislation) will cost U.S. industries four to seven billion dollars a year to cut emissions that cause acid rain in half." (Steve Kroft)

"Now that's at five billion a year for whatever, fifty years." (Warren Brookes)

### Response

\* Phase I costs (1995-1999) will be less than \$1 billion a year.

\* When Phase II is fully implemented (post-2005) costs are estimated at \$4 billion per year mainly to control existing plants over a 30 year amortization period.

\* These figures are supported by analysis from ICF, Inc.

\* The benefits will continue well beyond this period.

### Statement

"That comes out to about \$4 billion per lake." (Warren Brookes)  
(comparing his costs of 50 years at \$5 billion per year)

### Response

\* CBS allowed Mr. Brookes to

distort the issue by comparing his own inflated costs of acid rain control to benefits of acid rain control confined solely to some lakes in the Adirondacks.

\* Acidic deposition (which include acid rain as well as dry particles) affects all of eastern North America (including the U.S. and southeastern Canada), damaging buildings and monuments, impairing visibility in our national parks, killing fish in our lakes and streams, and contributing to forest decline at high elevations. Reviews of scientific literature by the Harvard School of Public Health and others have found that acid aerosols (that result from acid rain precursors) may pose a significant public health risk.

\* Those who attempted to do cost/benefit analysis of the Clean Air Act (e.g., Resources for the Future (Paul Portney)) have found that the benefits of the acid rain provisions of the Clean Air Act outweigh the costs, after taking into account the various effect categories.

# Index to 1990 Highlands Voice

compiled by former Voice editor, Karen Farri

<b>Acid Mine Drainage</b>		<i>The Stripmining Handbook</i> by Mark Squillace	July	<b>Defenders of Wildlife</b>		Proposal	May
Citizen suit to stop	April			Cutler, Exec. Dir.	July	<b>Forests</b>	
4-H Road Community	July	<b>Butterflies</b>		<b>Department of Energy (DOE)</b>		Earth First! alternatives	Sept.
Living Streams	Dec.	How to attract	Aug.	Commissioner interviewed	Sept.	<b>Forest reform</b>	
WVHC joins initiative	Nov.	DNR survey	Aug.	Editorial	July	National Conf. of grassroots organizations	April
<b>Acid Rain</b>		<b>Cacapon River</b>		Future direction	Nov.	<b>Fuller, Buckminister</b>	
Clean Air Act lobbying	Jan.	Protected by volunteers	June	Letter to Governor	Nov.	1979 interview reprinted	May
Described	Jan.	<b>Camp Rimrock</b>		Wayland appointed comm.	Dec.	<b>Gauley River</b>	
Gavin Power Plant	Aug.	Hosts WVHC Spring Review	April	Letter from Governor	Dec.	Trust for Public Land	May
Holly River limer	Oct.	<b>Canaan Valley</b>		Spraying herbicides	Sept.	<b>George, DOE Commissioner</b>	
Liming techniques	April	Canaan Valley	Jan.	<b>Department of Natural Resources (DNR)</b>		Appointment as commissioner	July
NAPAP criticism	April	Revisiting proposals	May	Editorial	Aug.	DOE regulatory role	Sept.
NAPAP review	March	ORV threat	June	<b>Dioxin</b>		Fired by Governor	Nov.
Role of mosses	April	(also see Fish and Wildlife Service)		Powerful pollutant	June	Governor explains firing	Dec.
WV streams pH	Aug.	<b>Caperton, Governor</b>		<b>diPreto, Richard</b>		WVHC response to firing	Nov.
<b>Acid soils</b>		Letter to public	July	Awarded German Marshall fund fellowship	Dec.	<b>Gibbs, Lois</b>	
Agricultural research	Feb.	Reply to Cindy Rank	Dec.	<b>Dolly Sods</b>		E-Day address	Feb.
<b>Agriculture</b>		Cheered/editorial	June	Wilderness management	Feb., Aug.	<b>Global Commons</b>	
Companion planting	Aug.	<b>Caudill, Harry</b>		Duck Stamps		Concept discussed	Jan.
Crop rotation	Aug.	Remembered	Dec.	Origins of program	Feb.	<b>Governor's Conference</b>	
Gardening for butterflies	Aug.	<b>CERES</b>		<b>Earth Day</b>		5th Annual Envir. Educ. Conf.	May
Green manure	Aug.	Corp. standards	June	1990 notes	Sept.	<b>Greenbrier River</b>	
Home gardens	Sept.	<b>Christmas Bird Count</b>		Editorial	May	Citizens oppose plant	April
Organic farming in WV	Aug.	Volunteer Data	Feb.	Plans for '91	Sept.	<b>Groundwater</b>	
Research at Beckley lab	Feb.	<b>Coal Industry</b>		Projects and contacts '90	March	Editorial	March
Soil management	Sept.	Letter to Editor	Nov.	<b>Earth First!</b>		<b>Gypsy Moth</b>	
Wasps trained	Aug.	<b>Coal Mining</b>		Alternative forest management	Sept.	Natural enemy	Aug.
<b>Air pollution</b>		OSM comment period on parks	March	<b>Earthwatch</b>		<b>Hamrick, DNR Director</b>	
Emissions	Aug.	Longwall mining subject of study grant	Dec.	Volunteer organization	Aug.	Limer dedicated	Oct.
Top 20 polluters	June	<b>Coal Regulations</b>		<b>Ecology</b>		Editorial	Aug.
<b>American Forestry Association</b>		Editorial	Feb.	Ecologist interviewed	June	<b>Harmony Hill</b>	
Local programs	Sept.	<b>Common Cause</b>		Cacapon River	June	MSOGBA workshop	Aug.
<b>Audubon Society</b>		SOM award	Feb.	Global commons	Jan.	<b>Hazardous Waste</b>	
90th Christmas bird count	Feb.	<b>Companion planting</b>		<b>Election</b>		Treatment methods	May
<b>Barbour County</b>		MSOGBA workshop	Aug.	1990 summary	Nov.	Polluted real estate	May
Landfill	Oct.	<b>Concerned Citizens of Alderson/GlenRay</b>		<b>Energy</b>		<b>Holly River</b>	
Landfill defeated	Nov.	Oppose WoodGuard plant	April	efficiency standards	March	Limer dedicated	Oct.
<b>Bees</b>		<b>Constanz, George</b>		<b>Environment</b>		<b>Horizons</b>	
Beekeeping in WV	Sept.	Interview with ecologist	June	Consequences of roads	Sept.	Soil profiles	Sept.
Economic impacts	Sept.	Pine Cabin Run Ecological Lab	April	Conservation agreement saves butterfly	July	<b>Incineration</b>	
<b>Biodegradable</b>		<b>Corridor H</b>		Degradation threatens fish	Feb.	Workshop topic	Dec.
Plastics research	June	Editorial	Oct.	EPA assesses smog origins	Sept.	<b>IWLA</b>	
<b>Biodiversity</b>		Buckhannon/Elkins route	Nov.	Hazardous waste and land- owner responsibility	May	Media tips	Feb.
Land Planning summary	Aug.	Buckhannon/Elkins wetlands	Dec.	Part of R&D agenda	May	<b>La Paix</b>	
Focus of WVHC founder	July	Comments to DOH commissioner	Dec.	Photographer sees pollution	March	MSOGBA workshop	Aug.
Federal law concerning	March	Scoping meeting report	Dec.	Plant's response	April	<b>Land Use</b>	
<b>Books/Pamphlets/Tapes</b>		Elkins to I-81 route	Dec.	Tons of emissions	Aug.	WV Conference	Nov.
<i>Complete Guide to Environmental Careers</i> Island Press	July	Cranberry Backcountry coal mining threat	March	Tragedy of commons	Jan.	<b>Landfill</b>	
<i>Design with Nature</i> by Ian McHard	April	<b>Cutler, M. Rupert</b>		WV State Dept./editorial	Aug.	Barbour County initiative	Nov.
<i>The Douglas Letters</i> edited by Melvin I. Uprofsky	Aug.	WVHC founder	July	<b>ERO Landfill</b>		Butterfly mascot	July
<i>Killing Roads</i> Earth First! Journal	Sept.	<b>Decade of the Environment</b>		Public Hearing	July	Cost of	May
<i>The Last Forest</i> by G. McNeill	Jan.	Editorial	Jan.	<b>Fish</b>		ERO site	Aug.
<i>Pieces of Heart (music)</i> by Kate Long	Dec.	<b>Defenders of Wildlife</b>		North American perils	Feb.	ERO sued	July
<i>Preserving Communities and Corridors</i> Defenders of Wildlife pub.	July	<b>Department of Energy (DOE)</b>		<b>Fish and Wildlife Service</b>		Last in hierarchy	July
<i>Red Oaks and Black Birches: The Science and Lore of Trees</i> by Rebecca Rupp	Dec.	<b>Department of Natural Resources (DNR)</b>		Canaan Valley Refuge			

# 1990 Index, continued

Referendum Barbour County Water Resources Bd. ruling	Oct. Aug.
<b>Lignin</b>	
Role in degrading plastic	June
<b>Litter</b>	
Governor's letter	July
Conference focus	May
<b>Lobby Team</b>	
WVEC	Jan.
On acid rain, Washington	Jan.
<b>Lost River Committee</b>	
Fight dam	June
<b>Lost River</b>	
Dam proposed again	June
<b>McHarg, Ian</b>	
Design with Nature concepts	April
<b>Media</b>	
Press relations & issues	Feb.
<b>Monongahela National Forest (MNF)</b>	
Campground reservations	April
Coal mining public comment	March
Demo for best management	Sept.
Earth First! alternative	Sept.
National Wild & Scenic Rivers	Oct.
Volunteer Trial Project	April
<b>Moth</b>	
Wax or flame (see gypsy moth)	Sept.
<b>Mountain State Organic Growers and Buyers Association (MSOGBA)</b>	
Walking workshop	Aug.
<b>NIMBY</b>	
Conference topic	May
<b>NEPA</b>	
20th Anniversary	April
<b>Nature Conservancy</b>	
Message to Business	Aug.
Scott, Executive Director	March
<b>Non-Point Source</b>	
EPA application	March
Grant program described	Sept.
<b>Organic farming</b>	
WV organization	Aug.
<b>Ozone</b>	
described	Jan.
International agreement	Aug.
Supersonic research	May
<b>Pine Cabin Run Ecological Lab</b>	
Dr. George Constantz, founder	April
<b>Plant</b>	
Role on earth	Sept.
Responses to environment	April
<b>Recycling</b>	
Waste Management role	July
Principal programs	May
Governor's conference	May
<b>Roads</b>	
Effect on habitats	Sept.

<b>Rodd, Tom</b>	
Lawyer documents AMD	April
<b>Save Our Mountains (SOM)</b>	
Common Cause award	Feb.
Special session address	July
<b>Save Our Streams</b>	
IWLA seminars	April
<b>Scott, Mark</b>	
W.Va. Nature Conservancy	March
<b>Sierra Club</b>	
Special Sessions address	July
<b>Smoke Camp Crafts</b>	
MSOGBA workshop	Aug.
<b>Soil</b>	
Abiotic factor	Sept.
Apple demo	Sept.
Companion planting	Aug.
Garden management	Sept.
Types, properties, comp.	Sept.
<b>Soil Conservation Districts</b>	
WV districts	March
<b>Soil &amp; Water Conservation</b>	
49th Annual meeting	Sept.
<b>Soil &amp; Water Stewardship Week</b>	
National observance	March
<b>Solid Waste</b>	
Community impacts	May
County Authorities	May
Government perceptions	May
Incineration	Dec.
Legislative Committee	Nov.
Municipal, defined	May
Municipal management	July
<b>Spaceship Earth</b>	
1979 "Bucky" Fuller interview	May
<b>Springs</b>	
WV locations and composition	April
<b>State</b>	
Official tree, flower, bird	March
<b>Tenmile Creek</b>	
Editorial	Aug.
Boe Zirkle	Nov.
<b>The Highlands Voice</b>	
Printing changes	Nov.
Recycled paper	June
<b>Tourism</b>	
Natural beauty damaged	Sept.
<b>Top o' the morning</b>	
MSOGBA workshop	Aug.
<b>Toxic substance</b>	
Federal laws listed	July
<b>Tree</b>	
Defined	Sept.
Use in reclamation	Nov.
<b>Trout Unlimited</b>	
Mountaineer Chapter limer	Oct.
<b>Washington's Greenhouse</b>	
Earth Day challenge	May

<b>Wasps</b>	
Training potential	Aug.
<b>Waste management</b>	
Guide for municipalities	July
<b>Water Resources Board</b>	
Irish Mtn. ruling reversed	Aug.
<b>Wetlands</b>	
Corridor H routing (see Canaan Valley)	Nov.
<b>Wildflower Pilgrimage</b>	
DNR annual event	April
<b>WV Archaeological Society</b>	
Chapter documents and digs	June
<b>West Virginia Environmental Conference (WVEC)</b>	
2nd Annual Convention	Aug.
Blueprint for environment	Jan.
EPA award	Nov.
Industry challenge	June
Legislative priorities	Oct.
Lobby WV legislature	April
Lobbying 1990 legislature	Jan.
Regional organization	Jan.
Top 20 polluters	June
Woolverton assessment	April
<b>WV Environmental Institute</b>	
Conference report	Nov.
Land use conference	Aug.

<b>West Virginia Highlands Conservancy (WVHC)</b>	
Cutler, founder	July
Fall meeting	Nov.
George, past-pres.	July
Spring Review report	June
Sues ERO landfill	July
T-shirts & caps	Nov.
Voice on recycled paper	June
<b>West Virginia Legislature</b>	
Mid-point report	Feb.
Special Session rally	July
<b>WV Rivers Coalition</b>	
\$40,000 grant	Oct.
<b>WV Soil Conservation Service</b>	
Districts and organization	March
<b>Wilderness</b>	
Earth First! demo at MNF	Sept.
Grant to study 12 rivers	Oct.
Forest management practices	March
MNF review period	Feb.
% designated in WV	Jan.
Wilderness Act	Jan.
<b>Wilderness Act</b>	
25th Anniversary	Jan.
<b>Wilderness Manifesto</b>	
facts and ideas	Jan.
<b>Zirkle, Boe</b>	
Funeral eulogy	Nov.



The fifth edition is 320 pages and includes:

- \* classic West Virginia hiking areas like the Allegheny Trail, Otter Creek, Spruce Knob, Blue Bend, Dolly Sods and more;
- \* detailed descriptions of 164 hiking trails covering 780 miles;
- \* 60 maps;
- \* 39 black and white scenic photos;
- \* hiking and safety tips;
- \* conservation concerns.

To order your copy of the **Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide** send \$9.95 to:

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy  
P.O. Box 306  
Charleston, WV 25321

Please include \$1.25 for shipping and handling. West Virginia residents include 6% sales tax.

I have included a  check or  money order for the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the WVHC for \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the **Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_

## Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide, Fifth Edition

by Bruce Sundquist and Allen de Hart

with the cooperation of the Monongahela National Forest staff and numerous hikers

# The New River Parkway: a good idea gone wrong

by Joyce Cooper

(ed. note: Joyce Cooper of the Audubon Society offers the following history of the New River Parkway project and will continue to share information with WVHC members and board members if we would like to become involved and develop a position on it.)

In 1985, residents of Raleigh and Summers counties decided to for a locally-based New River Parkway Authority to oversee the planning of a scenic route between the I-64 interchange at Sandstone and Pipestem State Park. They concentrated on Route 26 instead of Route 20 on the opposite side of the river.

West Virginia House Bill 4353 formally created this authority in April 1985, and in 1987 federal funds were authorized to construct the New River Parkway as a demonstration project. The state would provide 20 percent of the authorized \$17.6 million.

In 1987, the authority completed initial planning and published a New River Parkway Concept Plan which addressed topics such as "Important Resources and Opportunities" and "Parkway Planning Issues."

Attention initially has been focused on the first 12 miles from I-64 south along Route 26 to the Hinton By-pass (Route 3).

Broad flat valley floors, interrupted by narrow areas bordered by yellow sandstone cliffs, mark the first twelve miles of the proposed Parkway route along Route 26. The road winds along at or near river level within the boundary of the New River Gorge National River. Sandstone Falls, Brooks Falls and whitewater rapids are occasionally visible through the dense hardwood forest that borders the river.

Farming continues along the flat valley areas at the northern end of the Parkway. Family cemeteries, log cabins and wooden fences add to the beauty of the rural road.

**New River Parkway Concept Plan, 1987**

The Concept Plan called for a "touring parkway," designed to encourage tourism-related development in the region, while maintaining the traditional scenic rural character and private

## ERO lawsuit progressing

by Frank Young

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy's (WVHC) lawsuit against a blatantly unsanitary, unsightly, and illegally operated landfill in Mason County is making its way through federal court.

A pre-trial conference is scheduled for this month (January), according to WVHC attorney Joshua Rose, with trial in March if a settlement is not reached.

The lawsuit specifically charges violations of federal clean water acts. (For a detailed description of conditions at the ERO Landfill, Inc. site, see *A Foray to the Fetid Frontier* in the July 1990 Voice.)

Violators of the federal clean water acts face penalties of up to \$25,000 per day. Potential penalties for ERO are in the millions of dollars.

However, at some point, we might expect ERO to admit to and abate the violations, and enter into reduced penalty agreements, Rose said. Some part of the agreed penalty might go into the federal treasury, and some other used to support mitigation projects agreeable to all parties involved in the lawsuit.

Ironically, soon after WVHC filed the suit, ERO applied to the Mason County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) to expand its permitted landfill area. Several Conservancy members joined

a few dozen others at the public hearing in late June 1990 to oppose ERO's expansion request. Of those at the hearing, only the landfill owner and his attorney supported the expansion.

In September, the Mason County SWA members voted unanimously to deny the request.

The involvement of WVHC is believed to be significant in preventing even further violations and abuses at that Mason County dump which "processes" (most does not appear to be covered) hundreds of tons of mostly out-of-state garbage daily.

Is there a landfill operation near you or near someone you know to be a WVHC member? The Conservancy's solid waste committee would be interested in hearing about it. You may contact Carroll Jett, Frank Young or John McFerrin. If you would like to be on the WVHC solid waste committee contact committee chairman Carroll Jett.

The garbage industry is gearing up to be the next "wave of exploitation" in West Virginia. As usual, the big money is on the other side. At the rate we're going, soon garbage won't be something to "keep out," but rather it will be something to "deal with."

land-ownership patterns along the Parkway route. The stated goal was to maintain existing qualities and specifically mentioned the narrow width and meandering curves that make the road appear as part of the landscape, encouraging the driver to proceed at a relaxing pace.

The West Virginia Department of Highways has been responsible for the engineering work to locate and design the Parkway.

In 1988, they presented their initial work to the authority. There were three "alignments" suggested, two with a 50-mph design and one with a 40-mph design. Each had certain advantages and disadvantages. All seemed disruptive of the natural terrain and strayed from the intent to preserve the rural character.

Public meetings were held and citizen input included an appeal for an alignment that would more closely follow existing Route 26 and cause a minimum impact with regard to construction and displacement of the residents.

Residents also showed concern over the amount of fast moving traffic in the corridor. There was concern that no matter what the posted speed limit, the straight, level, proposed roadway would encourage speeding and increased traffic because drivers would prefer this "scenic" route over State Route 20. Route 20 is a two-lane, blacktop road curving along the opposite mountain and is the current main highway.

A modified (40 mph) alignment showed less change in the roadway itself, but still involved much "cut and fill" and leveling of the contours.

There is support from local Congressmen for the project and more money had been appropri-

ated by Congress. Anticipation for local economic development is a factor in this support. The National Park Service has begun planning for an information center and has projected that 3,000,000 cars will drive through this area each year!

In 1989, the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for this area was released. Based on their findings, the EPA noted the proposed parkway involves extensive hillside cuts and river and wetland fill areas.

They would likely recommend denial of any Section 10 or 404 permits "based on the proposed degradation of an outstanding and unique natural resource, negative social impacts and the availability of practical alternatives."

They recommended three alternatives: the no-build alternative; construction of a smaller highway (originally favored by residents along Route 26); and the Route 20 alternative.

A local citizen group that supported a low-impact, scenic road that would include road widening, roadside pull-offs, shoulder improvements, resurfacing, and realignment (Concept Plan 1987) now supports the EPA alternative #3 — locating the Parkway effort on Route 20.

This is an example of a fine local project that, because of state and federal involvement, has escalated to a point that obscures its original intent. Local support in the immediate area of the Parkway has deteriorated, and general opposition to the project has emerged.

## Heart

from page 2

sane energy policy, suggested more than a decade ago, could have taken this nation and others far away from the dependency on these resources which played a significant role in creation of the Gulf Crisis and eventual War we are engaged in.

And it is difficult to empathize with discussions of band-aid approaches to providing adequate health care to all people in West Virginia

(and the nation) when the cost of just a handful of the high-tech weapons being used today in the Gulf War could have been directed to finding solutions to the ever-growing problems associated with inaccessible health care and other problems of the working-, or jobless and oftentimes homeless, poor.

We seem to be developing our minds, but losing our souls.

### Keep up-to-date on the actions of the West Virginia Legislature

The Legislative Update is published weekly by the West Virginia Environmental Council (WVEC) as part of G.R.E.E.N. To subscribe, send \$20 (\$12 for students/limited income) to:

G.R.E.E.N. Subscription  
1324 Virginia Street East  
Charleston, WV 25301

### Join the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

Category	Individual	Family	Organizaion
Senior/Student	\$ 12	--	--
Regular	15	\$ 25	\$ 50
Associate	30	50	100
Sustaining	50	100	200
Patron	100	200	400
Mountaineer	200	300	600

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: West Virginia Highlands Conservancy  
Mail to: P.O. Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321

### Membership Benefits

- \* 1-year subscription to *The Highlands Voice*.
- \* Special meetings with workshops and speakers.
- \* Representation through WVHC 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Check number: \_\_\_\_\_