



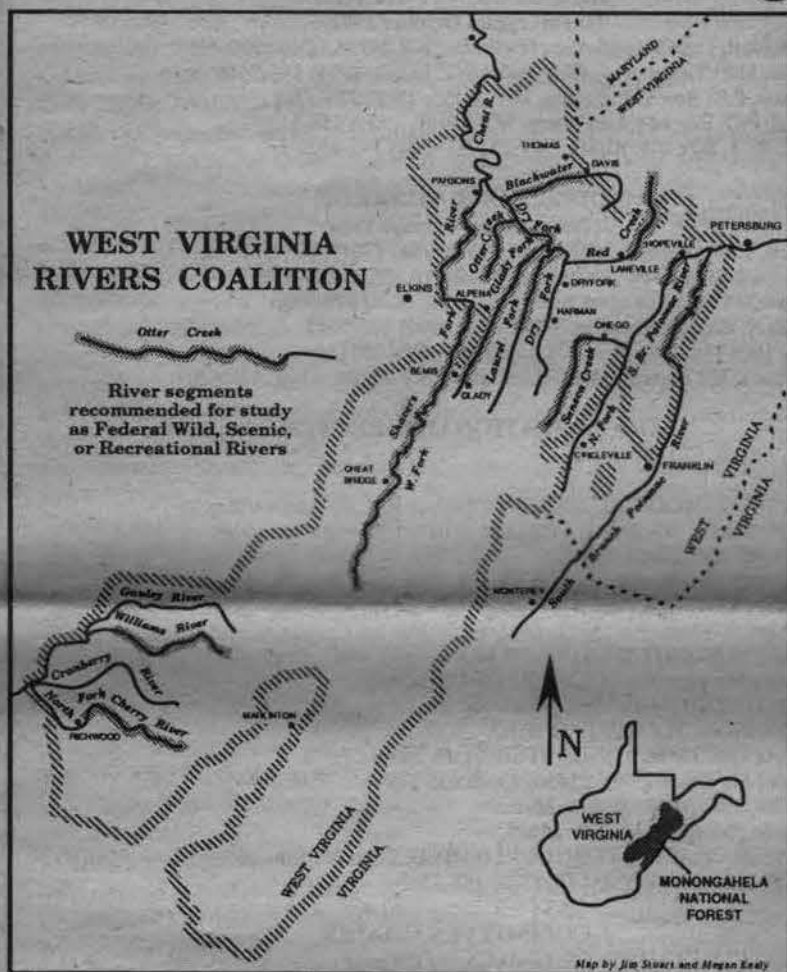
The Highlands Voice

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

Published Monthly by the W. Va. Highlands Conservancy

Vol. 24, No. 7, July 1991

Mon Forest rivers eligible for Wild, Scenic designation



U. S. Forest Service has found 12 mountain rivers within West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

Eligibility is the first step in designating a river Wild, Scenic, or Recreational under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, designed to protect the most outstanding free-flowing rivers in the United States.

Found eligible by the Forest Service were: North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac, Hopeville Canyon Section (3.2 miles); South Branch of the Potomac, Smokehole Canyon Section (22.5 miles); Seneca Creek, headwaters to Monongahela National Forest boundary near Route 33 (13.0 miles); Shavers Fork, headwaters to Route 33 (56.0 miles) and S.R. 33/8 to Porterwood (21.9 miles); Glady Fork, Forks confluence to mouth (31.6 miles); Laurel Fork, entire river (38.2 miles); Dry Fork, Jenningston to Hendricks (13.7 miles); Otter Creek, Wilderness boundary to mouth (11.0 miles); Red Creek, headwaters to Wilderness boundary (8.7 miles); Blackwater River, Blackwater Falls to Hickory Lick (8.7 miles); 11. Williams River, headwaters to Spice Run (25.5 miles); North Fork of the Cherry River, head-

waters to Monongahela National Forest boundary above Richwood (15.6 miles).

"These rivers are the crown jewels of streams in the Middle Atlantic states," said Roger Harrison, Executive Director of the West Virginia Rivers Coalition in Buckhannon.

"They offer outstanding scenic, fish and wildlife, historic, geologic, and recreational opportunities. By designating these rivers as Wild and Scenic, their current uses and natural character will be protected and enhanced, Harrison said. "I congratulate the Forest Service for their leadership in protecting these magnificent streams for generations of West Virginians."

Harrison urged West Virginians to become involved in the decision-making process by sending their comments to the U.S. Forest Service in Elkins.

Under Wild and Scenic protection the rivers' free-flowing status would be ensured since they would be protected from dams and other federal water projects.

Management of the public lands within the river corridor would continue under the U.S. Forest Service. Special attention would be given to the protection and enhancement of the natural characteristics for which the rivers are valued, such as outstanding fisheries and wildlife as well as scenic beauty.

The West Virginia Department of Natural Resources will retain the re-

sponsibility for managing the wildlife within the river corridors. Unlike a wilderness designation, the Act acknowledges existing private land uses and allows for their continued usage.

Only two percent of the rivers in the contiguous United States are even eligible for Wild and Scenic consideration, according to the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, performed by the National Park Service in 1982. Of the 125 rivers catalogued Wild and Scenic nationwide, only 17 are found East of the Mississippi. West Virginia has only one river, the Blue-stone, designated as Wild and Scenic.

The West Virginia Rivers Coalition, located in Buckhannon, West Virginia, represents 23 state and national conservation and recreation organizations including the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, Trout Unlimited (West Virginia Chapter), the West Virginia Wildwater Association, the West Virginia Wildlife Federation, the Wilderness Society, American Rivers, Inc., who are currently garnering support to obtain Wild and Scenic status for the 12 eligible rivers as well as the Cranberry River, which has already been found eligible and suitable.

Suitability studies, the next step in the designation process, will be carried out by the Forest Service for each of the 12 river segments. If the rivers are found suitable, Congress will then vote on designation.

The coming of the Greens, 1991 August 15-21 at Davis & Elkins

The fourth national gathering of Greens working to create sustainable alternatives to the social and ecological crises of our times — alternatives which embrace peace, and social and environmental justice — will be August 15-21 at Davis and Elkins College, Elkins, W. Va.

This year's gathering will begin with a public conference and celebration: a weekend of workshops, panel discussions, speakers, music, hiking, and more. After the weekend, a congress of delegates from local Green groups across the country will meet to decide the direction and program of The Greens.

Everyone is invited to learn and share at the conference and stay to observe at the Green Congress.

Speakers will be Sulaiman Madhi, Center for Environment, Commerce and Energy, Green Justice Council; Margo Adair, Green Letter Collective; and Beth Ising, Student Environmental Action Coalition.

Workshops will include: alliance building, community building, Green Party organizing, Green economics, Greens Cities, the Women's Movement, direct activism, grassroots organizing, animal rights, Green decision-

making, social ecology, international networking.

Panel discussion topics include: Mining, Toxics and Worker's Superfund; Multi-Cultural Alliance Building; International Connections; Local Organizing Strategies; and Green Parties and the Green Movement.

Other activities include: Green Fair, orientation, hiking, campfires, music, open stage, herb walks, The Raucus Caucus, regional caucuses, morning circles, games, children's presentation.

A cost of \$25-50 (sliding scale based on income) per day for adults, includes lodging, food, and all activities. \$10-30 per day for kids 4-15 years old. A \$10 additional fee will be charged for on-site registrations.

Day passes with food are \$15-\$25; without food, \$10-\$20.

To register contact: Greens Gathering 1991, Rt. 1, Box 7, Pullman, WV 26421 (304) 659-3193.

For more information on The Greens (USA), contact The Greens Clearinghouse, POB 30208, Kansas City, MO 64112, (816) 931-9366.

W.Va. Public Radio airs 'Living on Earth' weekly

CHARLESTON — A half-hour, weekly environmental newsmagazine, "Living on Earth," will air on West Virginia Public Radio Sunday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning August 4.

Each week, "Living on Earth," will present consistent, in-depth reporting on the people and politics of environmental change. Key issues to be covered will include overpopulation and family planning, forest loss, toxic contamination, and biodiversity.

The internationally-linked newsmagazine will begin with a five-minute roundup of global and national environmental news. Features from journalists around the world, interviews with leading newsmakers, and commentaries by various contributors, will promote a thorough understanding of the social, economic, and political implications of the changing environment.

Executive producer/host Steve Curwood has worked as a co-host of National Public Radio's "All Things Considered." He has reported on science, politics, and the environment for NPR, the Boston Globe, WBUR radio and WGBH TV in Boston.

— from the heart of the mountains —

by Cindy Rank

The Awakening Giant

I followed a tandem log truck down our county road the other day.

(It's not a bad road — it's not a great road either, but if you're careful and know where the holes are, and remember where the berm drops away so severely from the roadbed that you can't pass oncoming traffic without dropping your wheels into a deep ditch, and watch out for deer at the appropriate times and respect the blind curves, things are usually OK.)

The big truck lumbered and swayed it's way down the hill ahead of me. It's front end, loaded with 16-20 foot logs, would rise above the rest then sink below as the back end, loaded with 10-12 foot logs moved over the same high spots.

I marveled not only at the drivers ability to navigate the road, not only at the roads ability to withstand the weight, but also at the color, size, shape and texture of the logs. They aren't the giant redwoods or sequoias of the Pacific northwest, but they're the sawtimber of West Virginia, the trees that blanket most of our hills, the trees that have come of age and are now valuable at market.....

And Prince Timber is coming of age along with the trees.

But, with green on all sides of me and mesmerized by the bobbing and swaying of the tandem ahead i began to think that maybe there was more truth in the words of the timber lobbyists this past legislative session than i gave them credit for. ...Surely harvesting this relatively renewable resource is less cause for concern than some other extractive activities.

My fantasizing ended abruptly and reality regained control when a nearby creek reminded me of several recent events nearby that confirmed my doubts about the reassuring line: "trust us, the voluntary registration and BMP program is working."

The first time i saw mud in this creek a few months ago, i made one unsuccessful phone call, but didn't follow through. The next time i saw the mud flowing, a few weeks later, i called again. The forester checked on the logging site up the hill and advised the operator of a pond and other corrective actions that were needed.

It's not an unfamiliar scenario: no registration, limited use of Best Management Practices (BMP's), no requirements for prior planning or approval, no regulatory authority that approves, monitors or enforces compliance, no action whatsoever until pollution occurs and then, action at that point only if someone happens to see the pollution and is willing to report it to the local divisions of forestry or water resources.

What happens, one might ask where the operation is out in the middle of a vast stretch of wooded hillsides devoid of human inhabitants? Is it Smokey the Bear who is then responsible for activating this process by spotting and reporting violations?!!?

The June issue of the VOICE detailed another nearby event: the cyanide pollution from a improperly placed and oversized sawdust pile that has killed trees down a steep hillside and scoured the Little Kanawha for a mile or so below the operation. BMP's are on the books to prevent such problems, but were not used while this pile continued to expand the past three years. The problem had been going on for months, but it only came to light when a fisherman stumbled upon the pollution and reported it.

And then there is our neighbor who sold the 75-100 year old oaks on his property this year. The sound of heavy log trucks grinding up out of the valley filled the air for weeks in late spring as a couple hundred veneer logs were carried off.

I kept hoping the relatively decent shape of the haul road as it entered the county road was indicative of proper use of BMP's and thoughtful planning. ...Finally, overcome with curiosity, i hiked down the road in late June.

It continued to be somewhat innocuous for several hundred feet down the hill. Then came the switchback, the deeply rutted roads below, the mounds of earth and slash dozed out of the way into the trees and the landing smeared and cut into the hillside. The stream below was only damp in the unusually dry May-June weather of 1991, but it was two inches thick with earth that had moved on down from the hill above.

It wasn't as bad (or as big) as some operations, but, as many others, it was unnecessarily destructive: unseeded, ungraded, unreclaimed, and yes, unregistered as well.

I remain convinced that there is GREAT contrast between the reassuring stories of the timber lobbyists in Charleston and the disturbing scenes at a significant number of operations out here off the beaten path.

See from the 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: John McFerrin
1105 Tinder Ave., Charleston, WV 25302, (304) 345-5646
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, 702 Eleventh Ave., Huntington, WV 25701, (304) 525-4803

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
PITTSBURGH 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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Federal takeover may be last hope for enforcement of coal mining regulation

Dear Editor,

I believe the coal industry has too much political and economic clout to ever be effectively regulated by state government.

I recently read a well-documented and thoroughly researched book by David Alan Corbin, entitled *Life, Work and Rebellion in the Coal Fields*. Available from Trans-Allegheny Books in Charleston, this book is an excellent source of material for those interested in the history of the coal industry and its relationship with West Virginia state and local government. It was particularly interesting to read about the influence which the coal industry had over state government in the first quarter of the twentieth century and compare that with the situation as it exists today.

For example, in the early part of this century in Logan County, Walter Thurmond was a coal operator and chairman of the Democrat party. The Democrat sheriff and political boss was also in the pay of the coal operators. Over in Fayette County, "King Samuel" Dixon, president of New River Coal Company, was the Republican boss, and he ran that county.

During one year, Dixon appointed three coroner's juries to investigate three separate fatal mine explosions. All 15 appointees were coal company officials.

In 1913, five members of the state legislature were arrested for taking bribes from a coal operator who happened to be a candidate for U.S. Senate. Ironically, his opponent was another coal operator.

The New York Press commented editorially that "the political affairs of West Virginia are dominated by a band of financial adventurers. Men of great capital have bought the coal and timber lands and rule their domains like barons." After months of hearings, the United States Senate released a report which denounced both the Governor and the coal operators for numerous violations of "the U.S. Constitution, West Virginia laws, and human decency."

Now, more than a half century later, our immediate past governor (a Republican) is in federal prison for, among other things, accepting several hundred thousand dollars in sleaze money from a coal operator. According to media accounts, they conducted clandestine nocturnal meetings at the Charleston city dump. The same coal operator apparently contributed generously to his co-conspirator's political opponent (a Democrat).

The federal government has now served notice that it intends to take over enforcement of several aspects of our mine regulatory program, due to the consistent refusal by the state to enforce its own laws. In the midst of this controversy, our current governor (a Democrat) flies off to Pittsburgh to meet with a group of coal operators who are expected to kick in \$1,000 apiece for the privilege.

The point is that the political influence of the coal industry is pervasive in both major political parties — always has been. Our election laws are structured so as to effectively outlaw

any third party reform efforts by denying access to the ballot. We don't have the privilege of voter initiative and referendum.

In short, a federal takeover of the regulatory process is the only apparent source of protection we have from the coal mining industry, short of an insurrection — and that has already been tried.

There is a folksy saying which has circulated around these hills for as long as I can remember. "The first time somebody 'socks it to ya' — that's HIS fault. But the next time he 'socks it to ya' — that's your fault."

The analogy is clear. The first hundred years of plunder by the coal industry was THEIR fault. But now, if we permit it to continue, the next hundred years will be OUR OWN fault.

Over the next several months, the industry will be trying to sell the citizenry on the concept of a "New King Coal." But, I think Tom Rodd and Larry Harless have been right all along. We don't need a "New King Coal," and we sure don't want the "Old King Coal." How about "citizen coal?" Citizen Coal (as opposed to King Coal) would be expected to obey the law, pay his taxes, and in general perform his civic duties, **JUST LIKE THE REST OF US.**

If we buy into some sort of compromise (cop out, in other words) we will probably get a brief respite of six months or a year, during which the industry will make a half-hearted attempt to play by the rules. But they will soon return to their destructive orgy, running roughshod over the land and people.

The pattern of "progress" is predictable. Depleting the resources from one area, they'll move on to the next hollow, where the destructive process begins anew under a different corporate name — leaving behind a legacy of broken hearts, environmental nightmares, and unpaid bills.

Carroll Jett
Sherman, WV

Mon Forest is the greatest

Dear Editor:

The letter from Rod Knight in the June issue about the various areas in the Monongahela National Forest prompted me to write to you. I have hiked all those trails he mentioned.

As a former West Virginian ('42 and prior), I can't say enough about the scenic beauty of the area. In early October of the last five years I have taken a week or ten days for hiking in the areas from Elkins and Lewisburg.

When the autumn colors are exactly right the two most scenic spots in the state are the headquarters of Babcock State Park and the Blackwater Canyon from the point at the lodge. I always make it a point to go to Watoga, Dolly Sods, Spruce Knob and Seneca Rocks. I never tire of enjoying the wonderful fall colors.

We're painting the river(?) red

(An exchange of letters between Lewisburg resident Joshua Lipton and Robert K. Holliday, State Senator, Fayetteville.)

Dear Mr. Holliday,

On May 22, 1991, while in my boat on the Greenbrier River near the old Route 60 bridge at Caldwell, I noticed several large oil slicks with red pigment on the surface of the water. Upon removing my boat I found the residue along the entire length of the boat.

On May 29, 1991, I discovered the source of this contamination was the painting of the I-64 bridge. I found numerous signs of contamination such as seen in the photos enclosed. Obviously the water level had dropped since the spill took place so one can imagine the quantity of paint that had to be floating in the water to have left such marks. On this day the painting crew had completed the sandblasting and priming (red paint) operation. It was obvious no system to retrieve the waste or overspray had been used. Along with paint residue on the surface of the water, the river bottom was and is now covered with blasting compound and old paint. The crew now was spraying a finishing coat of aluminum paint, the overspray drifting down to the water where it appeared as a light haze on the water.

Upon returning home I called DNR Hotline and spoke with Ron Sandy. He assured me that a field officer would check it out and some action would be taken. Days later, I discovered the painting continued as before. On June 4, I called Ron Sandy again. He told me the Department of Highways had assured him that the job had been closed down until proper protection was installed. On June 5, I called the DNR office in Beckley and later met with Lyroy Gilbert (DNR) at the bridge. He was concerned and helpful and instructed the crew to not paint over the water until protection was installed.

Over the next week I observed the painting commence but up to a line drawn vertically from the very edge of the water some 50 feet above the water. It should be obvious that overspray does not drop in a straight line but drifts — by my observation, 75 feet or more in this situation.

Most of the damage has unfortunately already occurred. Hopefully some percentage of the paint now being applied will be prevented from going into the river. Beneath the bridge on the river bottom remains large quantities of sandblasting waste. I would like to know if this will be cleaned up. I have been told by personnel at the DNR that it is unlikely that this waste will be cleaned up or that there will be a fine imposed. Surely this will happen again and again unless some punitive action is taken.

I am asking that you in your official capacity make sure that a fine is imposed and that what waste is still retrievable be retrieved as soon as possible.

The favor of a response to this letter as well as an update on what action has taken place will be much appreciated. If I can be of any assistance please feel free to contact me. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,
Joshua Lipton

On Holliday's Senate stationery

To: Joshua Lipton
Subject: Polluting Greenbrier River

If more citizens were concerned about our environment, as you are, our state truly would be unblemished. If more legislators had thoughts and actions antisepticized, we would have law enforced that would expurgate the open Johnny's, the filthy groundwater conditions, the leaking landfill operations, the acid waters and the lead and copper contents in our water systems.

State employees or private contractors, whatever, have no business in dumping paint into the beautiful Greenbrier River.

The photos you sent looked good enough to eat the contents, but unfortunately even the blue, pink and reddish brown represent a churlish method for greasing up the river, killing its beauty.

I cannot add to the substance of the June 14 letter that you sent to me, and I am going to share the contents of your letter with many state officials. Those who have played havoc and maculated the Greenbrier do need to pay a fine, but even more important, this type of incidence should not be allowed to happen again.

Bob

My ancestors came from Lexington, Va. so I sometimes take a side trip over there to explore the Court House records.

I have one suggestion for the *Voice*. I received my June issue on July 17. Why don't you do like the major magazines do — just skip a month to get on schedule and date it a month later. If my June issue has a July date I would have thought it great.

Sincerely,
Harold G. Paxton

Voice deadline
August 15

Solid Waste Shenanigans in Harrison County

by Carroll Jett

Remember the phrase "nattering nabobs of negativism?" Remember Spiro Agnew?

As near as I can tell, people generally fall into one of two categories with respect to Spiro — those who don't remember him, and those who wish they didn't.

Spiro was Richard Nixon's vice-president and "hatchet man." His job was to launch linguistic counter-attacks and heap verbal abuse upon political enemies of Richard Nixon, foreign or domestic, real or imagined. He used to spout some fairly decent demagoguery, and, if you accept the premise that Nixon needed a hatchet man, he couldn't have done much better than Spiro.

Spiro apparently coined the phrase "nattering nabobs of negativism." In any event, I'm willing to give him credit for it, since I've never heard it used by anyone else. I don't recall the exact scenario in which the terms were used, but some treasonous news reporter or ne'er-do-well probably either impugned the character or questioned the motives of Mr. Nixon.

With the untimely departure of Mr. Agnew from the public scene, this illustrative phrase apparently attached itself to who knows what somewhere in the abyss of my mind. To this day, when I flip on the boob tube and see some political figure trying vainly to ad-lib an alibi, or feigning righteous indignation with the sincerity of Rodney Dangerfield, I remember. In my mind's eye, I can still see Spiro. And my mind's mouth mutters, "If only Spiro were here, he'd know what to say."

A recent front page article in the Clarksburg Exponent-Telegram by Edwin Sweeney has so inspired me that I would like to place his name in nomination for the "nattering nabob" award. These awards are reserved for those who possess that innate audacity to question the motivations of public policy makers and ferret out the truth.

Sweeney's article dealt with the uproar created in Harrison County after H. David Cutlip, chairman of the county Solid Waste Authority, engineered a decision by the SWA to increase S&S Landfill's size by several acres and Meadowfill's volume to 15,000 tons a month.

According to Sweeney's article, Cutlip (in violation of West Virginia's open meeting law) recessed the open meeting and convened a secret meeting with two other authority members prior to taking the vote by "secret ballot." After the secret

This is to certify that
Edwin Sweeney
having exhibited extraordinary
diligence and tenacity
in getting to the bottom of
his story
is hereby declared to be
and therefore is a
Nattering Nabob of Negativism

meeting, Cutlip's three member majority returned to the open meeting and voted to approve the afore-mentioned items. (The fourth member did not vote and the fifth member resigned.)

When questioned about the propriety of the whole matter, Cutlip "seemed puzzled that the vote had caused so much controversy." It is understandable, I suppose, that he would be puzzled. Great pains had been taken to prevent this sort of "unpleasantness." Again, according to Sweeney's article, the SWA "hired Delegate Percy Ashcraft, whose public relations firm is PCA Consultants, to do two press releases concerning its decision." Problem was, the results of the secret ballot were released before it was taken. You just can't stress too much the

importance of timing in these matters.

Although Cutlip said he had no connections with any landfill, our nominee for the "nattering nabob of negativism" award did not accept this statement on face value. Sweeney's article revealed that Cutlip apparently is involved with corporations whose members include a leading proponent of the ill-fated Barbour County mega-dump and a state senator whose vote effectively killed the comprehensive solid waste bill which our enviro-lobbyist heroes fought so hard for this year. (Incidentally, that battle ain't over yet — but, I digress.)

I won't bore our readers with all the intricate details of these corporate connections, but if anyone is interested enough to send a SASE (Rt. 1, Box 22, Sherman, WV 26173), I'll send a copy of Sweeney's article. The gist of his contention is that corporations which share the same P.O. Box, telephone number, and/or have the same people on their boards of directors are "connected."

The person referred to as the proponent of the John Faltis Barbour County dump is James R. Christie. Christie was named by Governor Caperton to be the first Super-Secretary of Commerce, Labor, and Environmental Resources. Part of his area of responsibility in this job was to oversee all the various environmental regulatory agencies of state government. He apparently left state government in order to spend more time promoting the dump.

Another interesting connection made by our nominee was with Earl Young of Operational Security and Investigations, Inc. (OSI). OSI also shares a P.O. Box and telephone number with a company of which Cutlip is president.

Earl is well-known to our WVHC member who have been actively involved in opposition to the LCS/Chambers dump in Berkeley county. Young was recently charged with battery in Berkeley County Magistrate Court for allegedly hitting a woman during a confrontation there. See additional story and photos of LCS/Chambers development elsewhere in this issue of the Voice.

Let's all give Ed Sweeney a hand!

Find out when your county SWA meets and make plans to attend. You don't have to have a particular ax to grind and you don't have to say anything. Your mere presence can be very helpful. Apathy is probably the single worst enemy of good government.

Life in the Trash Lane....



Guard and dog patrol the road into LCS/Chambers dump in Berkeley County.

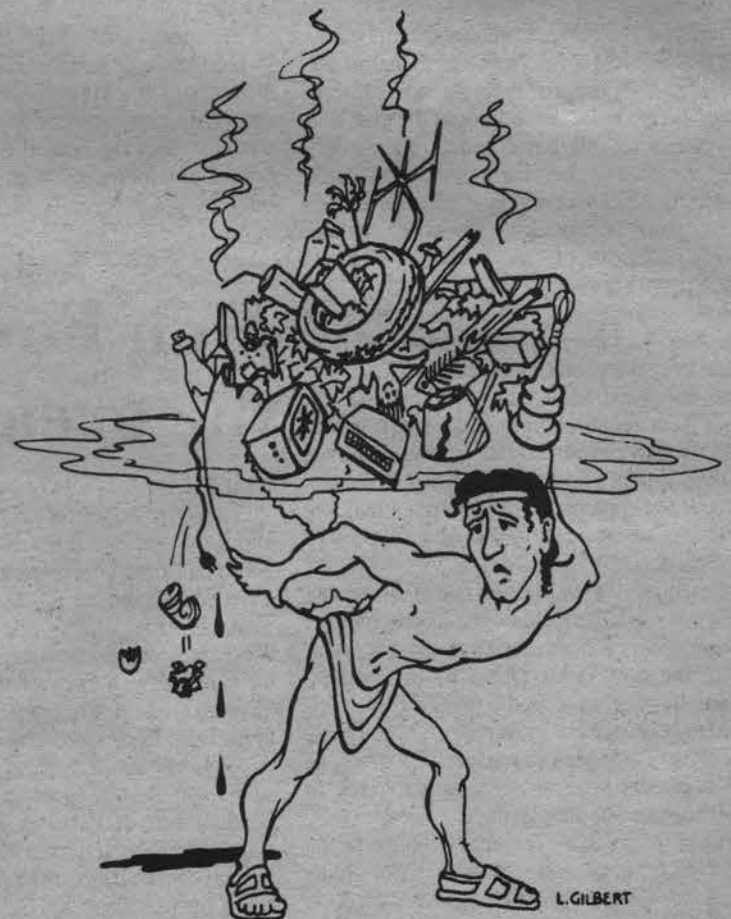


Cavalcades of trash trucks clog country roads in Berkeley County.

In Berkeley County

Citizens turned out in Berkeley County recently to greet their new corporate neighbors. Photos picture the scene as caravans of out-of-state garbage is hauled along a narrow country road enroute to the recently opened LCS/Chambers garbage dump.

No matter how much is spent on media hype about being good corporate neighbors, area residents think living with a landfill is the pits.



L. GILBERT

© Linda S. Gilbert

OVEC gets \$25,000 to further clean air efforts in Tri-State area

The Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (OVEC) has been awarded a one-year, \$25,000 grant from the W. Alton Jones Foundation of Charlottesville, Va. The Foundation funds groups nationwide who are working towards environmental protection and prevention of nuclear war.

"This award by the trustees reflects their enthusiasm for the work of the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition," said J.P. Myers, Ph.D., Director of the W. Alton Jones Foundation.

The grant will be used to further OVEC's goal of cleaner air in the Tri-State area by increasing citizen activism.

"In December, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a two-year study which reported that the Tri-State area has serious air-quality problems which appear to be harming human health," said OVEC chairperson Dianne Bady. "Yet, more than four months later, little progress has been made in carrying out the EPA's own recom-

mendations to deal with these problems.

"We believe that a much larger citizens' movement supporting cleaner air is necessary to insure responsible solutions to the Tri-State's air pollution problems. Changes can be made which will decrease human health risks and make our area more attractive to clean businesses, without jeopardizing existing industrial jobs," Bady said.

"The Tri-State area is unique," said OVEC member Brian Hagenbuch, "in that citizens concerned about pollution must deal with different local, state, and regional bureaucracies of three states. W. Alton Jones funding provides OVEC the opportunity to centralize efforts and commit substantial time and resources towards our goal of a cleaner, healthier Tri-State environment."

Hagenbuch will co-direct the project.

To learn more about Tri-State air issues, or join OVEC, write to OVEC, P.O. Box 970, Proctorville, Ohio 45669.

Proud to be NIMBY

by John McFerrin

One of the first shots fired in any dispute with a promoter of a new landfill or other source of pollution is the hurling of the term NIMBY. In the eyes of the would-be polluters of the world, the term Not-In-My-Back-Yard (NIMBY) has become an epithet.

The opponents of some offensive development are portrayed as churlish grumps who stand in the way of progress. The assumption by the promoters is that whatever they are promoting is necessary for society and that those who stand in the way are somehow not living up to their part of the social contract.

Whenever someone starts snarling about this "bunch of NIMBY's" the unspoken part of the argument is that everyone, including the opponents, benefits from living in this society and that everyone, including the op-

ponents, has a duty to bear the burden of tolerating the messy and offensive consequences of that society.

To the promoters, if people want to enjoy the convenience of a throw-away society, they must be willing to live with a garbage dump. If they want to enjoy the benefits of electricity, they have to learn to live with strip mining.

There are problems with this argument.

The first is that the costs are not imposed upon the same people who benefit. I never could understand why we should have to put up with strip mining so that people in New York or California or even another country could make money and people in Nashville or Boston could have air conditioning. It beats me why we should have to put up with monster landfills so that people in other states can enjoy the convenience of a throw-away society.

The more important problem with this argument is that it ignores the enormous value that those who oppose mindless development — the NIMBY's — have as a driving force for improvement in the way we deal with societal problems.

Consider trash disposal.

So long as those who create the trash can dump it or burn it in somebody else's backyard, is there any incentive for them to figure out a way to create less trash? So long as there is a convenient hollow in West Virginia that is willing to be a final resting place for Pennsylvania's garbage, why should Pennsylvania even break a sweat developing recycling programs or waste reduction programs?

It is the NIMBY's who help force this new thinking. By opposing things like landfills, they force the promoters and society in general to think about the consequences of such things.

By making society consider these consequences of the current way of doing things, the NIMBY's prod society into creating better ways of doing them. By opposing creation of monster dumps, we make recycling more attractive. By objecting to chemical plant emissions, we prod companies to figure out a way to cut emissions.

While the NIMBY's may not know exactly what the alternatives are, this is not our job. We don't have the expertise to design a waste reduction plan for the whole northeast. We don't know how to redesign chemical plants so that there are fewer toxic emissions. Our job is to force society to consider the true costs of a project. We force the promoters of such projects to come up with a better way to deal with the problems that the projects are supposed to solve.

So wear the NIMBY label with pride. We are not quarrelsome grousers intent upon halting progress. We are the engines which drive innovation in approaches to social problems.

Conference will focus on restoring wilderness, ecological sanity to the Appalachians

The Central Appalachian Preserve Appalachian Wilderness Conference *Restoring Big Wilderness and Ecological Sanity to the Appalachians and Beyond: Strategies and Actions*, will be Sept. 13-15 at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

"Some of your members and readers might be interested in our up-

coming conference in which we will call for the re-wilding of the Appalachians," wrote R.F. Mueller of Virginians for Wilderness, which is sponsoring the conference.

"We'll call for a lot more wilderness in West Virginia and present a wilderness/corridor system for the Monongahela, as well as the George Washington. The latter has been accepted as an alternative for the forest plan undergoing revision.

"We're eager to involve as many West Virginians as possible in a big push to restore the Monongahela and vicinity, including Canaan Valley."

Among an "exciting group of participants" at the conference will be: David Brower, founder, Friends of the Earth and Earth Island Institute; Jeff DeBonis, founder, Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (AFSEEE);

Jeff Elliott, PAW co-founder and conservation biologist;

Gary Lundberg, Alliance for a Paving Moratorium, former petroleum industry analyst;



Dr. Reed Noss, conservation biologist and pioneer of ecological reserve systems;

Jeff St. Clair, editor, Forest Watch, Cascade Holistic Economic Consultants (CHEC);

Jamie Sayen, PAW co-founder and rational ecologist of the Northern Appalachians;

David Wheeler, SouthPAW and co-editor, Katuah Journal;

Buck Young, organizer, editor, PAW Journal;

Dr. Robert Zahner, retired Professor of Forestry, Clemson University and ecologist of the Southern Appalachians;

plus notables and activists from hither and yon.

To pre-register, send \$10 to R.F. Mueller, Rt. 1, Box 250, Staunton, VA 24401. (703) 885-6983. Registration at the door is \$15.

Activities begin Friday, Sept. 13 with a get together, 6-9 p.m., at the Arboretum on James Madison University campus, located off I-81, exit 63. Saturday and Sunday activities begin at 8:30 p.m. at Chandler Hall.

Accommodations at Howard Johnson's, across from JMU are \$34/night per room (maximum 4 people), (703) 434-6771.

For camping on private land about 10 miles from the campus, contact Jeff Bradshaw, (703) 896-3456; or in the George Washington National Forest, Hone Quarry, or other campgrounds, P.O. Box 233, Harrisonburg, VA, 22801, (703) 433-2491.

...and still more garbage, this time in Webster County

(excerpted from *The Webster Echo*)

In a civil complaint filed in Webster County Circuit Court Monday, May 20, the environmental group Webster Countians For A Clean Environment (WCFACE) charged that the county's Solid Waste Authority has on occasion violated the state's laws concerning open meetings of government bodies, commonly referred to as the "Sunshine Laws."

The civil action states that the Solid Waste Authority and its Board members are in violation of the law by:

* Not holding regularly scheduled meetings and not notifying the public about meetings;

* Not holding meetings open to the public;

* Conducting business out of the public eye;

* Not recording their business in proper minutes;

* Misusing the executive session privilege; and

* Not promulgating rules for the conduct of their business.

The court document lists several instances of what WCFACE states are in contravention of the law. According to the complaint, at various times in 1991, including prior to the dates events listed in the civil action, members of the Solid Waste Authority told Doyle Coakley [Note from WVHC Solid Waste Committee

Chairman Carroll Jett: Doyle is a member of the WVHC Solid Waste Committee] and other members of WCFACE that the Solid Waste Authority's regularly scheduled meetings were to be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at the high school. On two occasions — January 22 and February 12 — Coakley went to WCHS to attend the meetings, and waited over an hour each time, with no meeting ever taking place.

In the civil suit, the plaintiffs are petitioning the court to:

* Issue a declaratory judgment that the actions of the Solid Waste Authority are contrary to law;

* Require the Solid Waste Author-

ity to produce and provide complete and verified minutes and records of all meetings and business of any sort;

* Require the Solid Waste Authority to produce a copy of the rules by which the time and place of all regularly scheduled meetings are made available, in advance, to the public; and if such rules don't exist to properly enact same;

* To require the Solid Waste Authority to publish in advance in a newspaper of record of Webster County, the times and places of all regularly scheduled meetings, special meetings, and executive sessions, and to hold such meetings unless extraordinary circumstances require their cancellation pursuant to law.

Enviro-radicals or Eco-terrorists?

Do you know which is which? Who is who?

by Brian Hagenbuch

I was recently labeled an "enviro-radical" by the Ashland Oil Employee Action Group, Inc. (AOEAG). The AOEAG is a fanatical right-wing industry employee group closely associated with Ashland Oil, Inc. Those more closely in tune with AOEAG activities realize it is a company-paid public relations vigilante on a one-man crusade with crusade with "Orwellian" consequences for the KY-WV-OH Tri-State.

The AOEAG frequently publishes an "official" newsletter which in their words is "unauthorized, uncompromisingly truthful publication by and for Ashland Oil employees" called *The Voice* (not to be confused with the much more highly credible, factual and entertaining *Highlands Voice*).

Because the term "radical" has such potentially negative connotations and has been over-abused by pro-business and industry folks against dedicated environmentalists, I wanted to get to the radical (adj., of or from the root, fundamental) meaning of the term; and whether the description was truly accurate.

Webster's Dictionary defines "radical" as one who is "favoring basic change, as in social or economic structure (n)." Simple as that!

This rather neutral definition does not suggest any active or passive methods used to bring about that change. Nor does it imply in which political direction the change is to occur.

Thus, any lobbyist at the State Capitol, representing any interest in any legislation (left, right, progressive or regressive) could be deemed a "radical." That's right, next time you see your favorite industry lobbyist, call them a radical! Then watch the sweat bead up on their foreheads as they search vainly for a hole in which to dig themselves.

While radical can be attributed to those working on a multitude of different issues, let's look more closely at the "enviro-radical." Trusty Webster's defines an "environmentalist" as a "person working to solve environmental problems, (such) as air and water pollution (n.)."

From these two definition, I am left with the impression that an "enviro-radical" is one who is working to solve environmental problems by making basic changes in the way the problems are dealt with. (Now that will certainly put all us "tree-hugging, communist-type pinko liberals" under the watchful scrutiny of the FBI, AOEAG, and 'Big Brother'!)

But again, this definition does not mention how that change is brought about. For the most part, citizens must rely on letters to legislators and the media, non-violent rallies and the ballot box.

Call our friends from King Coal, the Chamber of Commerce, and the WV Manufacturer's Association "enviro-radicals" and watch them start to quiver uncontrollably. After all, King Coal, the COC, and WVMA are working hard to increase their "rights" to pollute, while easing their "responsibilities" to clean up, thus "solving" their environmental curses by making it society's nightmare.

On the other hand, as a person who is interested in protecting the long-term sustainability of the Earth's resources for future generations, I guess the AOEAG description is fitting of me and most readers of the *Highlands Voice* (No insults intended).

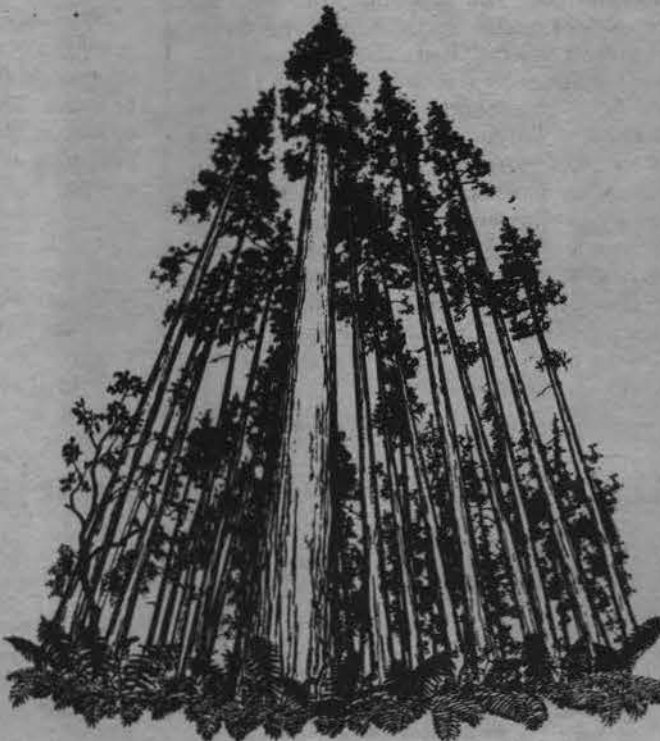
Quite recently, many environmentalists have also been called "eco-terrorists." Now this is a term in which I must adamantly disagree. Webster's defines "terrorist" as one who uses "force, threats, or intense fear to intimidate, especially (with regards to) political policy (n., adj.)."

Thus, an "eco-terrorist" could include those groups who resort to job blackmail, economic impoverishment, and other either aggressive or subliminal tactics to coerce legislators into "pro-industry" policies, despite their environmental/public health ramifications?

The so-called "intimidation" politicians receive from distraught mothers trying to protect their children from the harmful effects of hazardous air and water pollution can at best be considered idle threats. One of the first things elected officials learn is to ignore these concerns, after all it's only one hysterical voter.

A popular example of "eco-terrorism" is tree-spiking. Although I do not condone "tree-spiking," those who partake in the

activity are accused of being terrorists. Oh contraire!! Their activities do not harm the trees, in fact, it may just save them from a chainsaw massacre. Nor do these activities disrupt the natural ecological balance of the forest, which is what these activists are trying to protect.



Except in the political sense, I would not call tree-spikers "enviro-radicals," either! Their efforts are meant to protect and conserve what is already there. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" to borrow an over-used cliché. Conserve! Conservationist!! Now there's a word that may fit out tree-spikers!! Webster's calls the "conservationist" one who is interested in the "official care and protection of natural resources (n.)," i.e. protecting standing forest ecosystems! The root of the term, which is also the root for "conservative" (as in political), is "conserve," which is defined as "to keep from being damaged, lost or wasted (v.); save (n.)."

So, by definition, can we not include "tree-spiker," "conservationist," and "conservative" under the same political umbrella?

Well, maybe on paper, but certainly not in the current political arena. Remember Teddy Roosevelt, arch conservative and conservationist, who led the fight to preserve American wildlands? Where has the heart and soul of the conservative party gone? They're being led by their wallets! Oh, I can feel the flames from the flaring nostrils of my right-wing friends and foes right now! Watch it, that smoke is pollutin' my air! Apologies only to my somewhat moderate Republican Mom!

So just who are the true "eco-terrorists?" In this situation, the timber industry of course. They use intense political pressure and threats of job blackmail to coerce officials into allowing logging techniques which destroy entire forest ecosystems, namely through clearcutting.

You've seen the media attention focused on old-growth forests: "Save a job, eat an owl," "Jobs not owls," etc. This is occurring today in the Pacific Northwest with the rapacious logging of America's last ancient forests. It happened in West Virginia in the early part of this century, and is about to recur.

So who gains in these acts of ecological sabotage? As in most terrorist schemes, it is wanton destruction of a resource (be it a painting, a life, or the environment) for private economic or political gain by a few individuals. It has been reported that the timber industry, themselves, have resorted to tree-spiking to win political favor and anti-environmentalist support.

Despite the local and global consequences of such destructive practices on the Earth and her natural resources, the over-riding factor that is considered is economics, the private bankrolls of corporate America, or what I like to refer to as the "Wall Street

Syndrome!"

In this high-stakes roulette between profit or preservation, it is the underpaid logger that is the unfortunate political pawn. The ancient forests — 1,000-year-old redwoods, Douglas firs, and sequoias — are the sacrificial lambs, lost to all.

In West Virginia, the timber industry that laid waste to millions of acres of virgin forests in the early 20th Century, is once again foaming at the mouth as second-growth timber readies for logging.

And, like so many years ago, the industry is still unregulated by government, save some water pollution control statutes. In this state, the industry does not even have to replant trees they mowed down on public lands. They've convinced the U.S. Forest Service and Congress, that the trees will do just fine in reseeded themselves, without industry expense or further human desecration!

Are the timber operators, and for that matter the USFS and Congress, upholding their custodial "responsibilities" as stewards of our natural resources for the "right" to slay trees they do not own, on land they do not own?

So just who are the "enviro-radicals" and "eco-terrorists?" Force, threats, coercion, and intimidation are not in my personal dictionary, nor that of other environmentalists. The growing political clout of environmentalists is purely just in numbers. This is certainly no match against the financial, legal, and political strength of industries, corporate associations, and their myriad throngs of three-piece-suit lawyers and lobbyists (talk about intimidation).

Do other "eco-terrorist" exist besides the timber industry? Attend a public hearing on an environmental issue and find out. At a recent Water Resources Board hearing on setting a dioxin standard, one industry lawyer argued that the state needed to relax the federal standard in order to compete in luring businesses (more polluters) into the state. That's economic blackmail (i.e. intense fear...intimidation...political policy). "Give us your polluters, your hazardous wastes, your empty promises of economic prosperity, and West Virginia will give you a home, with tax incentives, lax rules and little enforcement," if I may paraphrase a well-known verse.

Other industries, hiding behind a shallow corporate veil, try to intimidate critics by slapping lawsuits, harassment, or public ridicule (the AOEAG efforts) on them! Some try to pretend they are good corporate neighbors by donating megabucks to local community groups, schools, and governments as if trying to redeem themselves for past of present environmental sins. Tell them their smokescreen is fading!

In the end, it is important that a balance must be struck between the divergent fields of economics and the environment. Yes, the "enviro-radicals" and "eco-terrorists" are important components in the political decision-making process. Their presence is essential in maintaining the balance. Tipping the scales too far in either direction can have devastating impacts on long-term environmental and economic stability of a region. Wishful thinking says that politicians will put long-term, progressive, visionary ideas into practice to conserve our precious natural resources for future generations to use and enjoy.

Now, will the real "enviro-radical" and "eco-terrorist" please stand up and be identified!

Brian E. Hagenbuch
"Confessed Enviro-radical"

August Voice deadline is Aug. 15

Help keep all of us informed of the environmental issues facing you and your neighbors, or share your thoughts on the beautiful earth and the joy of nature to give us all strength to carry on the work to keep it going.

Your letters, articles, photos, thoughts, sketches, etc. are always welcome (to be honest, they are craved.)

Send your literary or visual contributions to:

Mary Pat Peck
36 Meade Street
Buckhannon, WV 26201

The Downstream Alliance — A new concept

(From the Mountain Stream Monitors newsletter)

In September 1990, at the suggestion of Mountain Stream Monitors (MSM), representatives of seven watershed associations in northern West Virginia met and decided to form a coalition.

The Downstream Alliance's purpose is to preserve and protect the environment in communities in Northern West Virginia, especially from damage due to coal mining operations. The Alliance has incorporated and is going to seek tax-exempt status so that in the future they may apply for grants.

The coalition includes Laurel Run Watershed Community Association, Laurel Mountain/Fellowsville Area Community Watershed Association, 4-H Road Community Association, and residents of Roaring Creek and Pricketts Creek.

Watersheds represented by these organizations include: Sandy Creek and Roaring Creek in Preston County, Laurel Run in Monongalia and Taylor counties, Pricketts Creek in Marion County, Owl and Booth creeks in Monongalia County.

The Omega Settlement

The 4-H Road Community Association announced a \$1.2 million settlement with Omega Mining on May 21, 1991. The association sued Omega for a severe acid mine drainage problem that resulted in the killing of fish, polluted wells, and stained orange creeks. Acid drainage came from Omega's down-dip, deep mine, located in Monongalia County near Owl, Booth and Cobun creeks.

MSM's Tom Rodd represented the association with Fairmont lawyer Bob Cohen.

In 1983, before Omega's application was approved or mining operations were begun, MSM's Richard diPretoro predicted the mine would cause problems. Some of the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) own experts also predicted the Omega mine would cause major environmental problems. During the public comment period, Joan Sims and her neighbors asked DNR to deny the permit, but it was issued anyway. Six years later, millions of gallons of highly acidic water began seeping out of the mine.

State law requires all coal companies carry liability insurance for damages caused by pollution. Rodd argued that this liability insurance covers the cost of abating the pollution. The insurance companies apparently thought the claim was strong enough.

MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST NEWS

Cave Inventory being developed

A complete inventory of federally-owned caves within the Monongahela National Forest is being developed this summer under a contract with Morgantown-based consulting firm, EEI Geophysical.

The Monongahela National Forest contains more than 100 known caves, ranging in size from very small to several among the 20 largest in the state. The caves represent a unique natural resource and are protected under the Federal Caves Resource Protection Act. Most of the caves found on the Monongahela occur in limestone areas, and many contain small streams which may feed municipal water supplies.

In addition to their importance as sources of clean water, caves offer special recreational opportunities and provide important wildlife habitat. Bats, including two endangered species, use caves on the Forest as brood or hibernating chambers. Some caves on the Monongahela contain archeologic or paleontologic features which make them especially valuable in tracing the history of the area.

EEI Geophysical will develop files and a map inventory of the caves. They will also develop a general summary report of cave resources in the Forest.

They settled out-of-court for \$1.2 million. Most of the settlement money, \$1.1 million, will go into a trust fund to construct a centralized water treatment facility. Unfortunately, this will not completely reverse the damage.

The remaining \$100,000 will pay the Association's legal costs and provide wells, etc. for damaged landowners.

The case is unprecedented in West Virginia. It could be the largest settlement ever obtained by an environmental citizen action group. The outcome of the case should send a message to both the insurance and coal industries that the creation of environmental disasters is not something West Virginians will let you walk away from.

"The Omega Mining Company has been cooperative in working out this settlement," said 4-H Road Community Association President Joan Sims. "This case shows that citizen action can make a difference.

"Because we sued Omega, their insurance coverage was available to pay for water treatment. Our lawsuit actually helped them fulfill their legal responsibility to treat their mine drainage.

"We believe our creeks will be better with a treatment system, but they will probably never be like they were before. Fish may never again live in Owl Creek because of chemicals that must be used to treat the acid mine drainage. The future quality of our polluted wells is still uncertain.

"The funds from this settlement should pay to treat the mine drainage for about 10 years. Then, our state's taxpayers may be stuck with a large water treatment bill for the next 50 years or more.

"The bottom line is this coal should never have been mined. The state's own experts told them this, but the company and state DNR leadership refused to listen.

"The DOE must stop issuing permits in these highly acid-producing coal seams. If the DOE will not do this, the Federal OSM must take over the permitting program to stop these disasters from being created.

"We thank the Conservancy, our lawyers Tom Rodd and Bob Cohen, our consultant Richard diPretoro, and everyone else who helped and wished us well. Let's stop acid mine drainage!"

A Message from "Matewan"

by Mike Withers and Phil Rossano
Mountaineer Chapter, Trout Unlimited

(While written in the first person, the article is the collaborative reflections of both writers after seeing the movie *Matewan*.)

Who is the enemy of our environment? Who is the enemy of the economy? Who is the real enemy of West Virginia?

After viewing a movie of early mine wars in the southern counties of our state, I realized a striking similarity to the battles we are waging today. Two-gun Sid Hatfield did not belong to Trout Unlimited, but...

In the movie *Matewan*, the Baldwin Felts detectives were the bad guys for mistreating the miners. I had empathy for the poor miners and my anger was focused on the cruel mine guards.

After much reflection, I realized that I had been duped and that the Baldwin thugs were not the real evil. The real enemy, corporate greed, was far removed from the streets of *Matewan* and the boundaries of West Virginia. I was the management and executives of the out-of-state corporations who hired the Baldwin thugs, and it was those corporations who created the deplorable conditions of the mining towns.

As the corporations searched for more profit and demanded greater production with less pay, trouble and discontent fermented in mining camps like *Matewan*.

These corporations realized the inherent prejudices of isolated people. They deliberately brought blacks from the south, and Italians fresh from Ellis Island who would have difficulty mixing and working with the native West Virginians. It was unlikely these divergent groups would join forces against them. In early *Matewan*, the miner's major problem was lack of unity.

If the citizens of West Virginia are to have hope for a brighter future, they must overcome prejudice and difference, and unite as finally did the miners in *Matewan*. They must stop listening to the divisive messages churmed out in corporate board rooms. They must use common sense and look at the history of our state.

Another mining company leaves dead creeks and streams

The Laurel Mountain/Fellowsville Area Clean Watershed Association (a member of the Downstream Alliance) has charged the F&M Coal Company with creation of an environmental disaster in their community. Streams as far as 10 miles downstream from the F&M coal mines exhibit the classic symptoms of acid mine drainage: low pH, orange color, and decreased or non-existent aquatic life.

F&M denied that their mine is at fault. They claimed old deep mines in the vicinity are the source of the acid mine drainage. Association members give three reasons why that claim is ridiculous.

First, there has been no mining on Laurel Mountain since the 1950s, but acid mine drainage problem developed in 1987.

Second, a comprehensive water study of Laurel Mountain done by DNR in 1984 concluded streams were in good condition. No sources of severe AMD were found. Clearly something happened between 1984 and 1987 to change the geology of the area enough to create new sources of acid mine drainage. The most likely explanation is the F&M mine which began operations in 1984.

Third, a 1989 DOE/OSM study pinpointed F&M's mines as the source of the new AMD.

State and federal regulators need to step in and demand that the disaster created by F&M be cleaned up, said Dave Houser, spokesperson for Laurel Mountain/Fellowsville Area Clean Watershed Association.

F&M Coal recently declared bankruptcy, and the association is a creditor in the F&M bankruptcy case. The association is now assessing the cost of water treatment and damages. Early estimates put the figure at more than a million dollars.

Tom Rodd, MSM's legal director, has a positive outlook. "It may take a couple of years, but the citizens on Sandy Creek are determined to make the coal companies and their insurance companies pay to clean up their mess on Laurel Mountain."

The corporations had as their only concern (then and now) what they could take from West Virginia. And take they have: billions of tons of coal, millions of board feet of lumber, billions of barrels of oil, and trillions of cubic feet of natural gas.

Despite this activity, West Virginia citizens have a per-capita income much below the national average. As the resources have been depleted and industry has become more mechanized, the citizens have suffered the consequences of a damaged land and increased unemployment.

We no longer buy the old argument of jobs versus ecology. The few workers remaining in the extractive industries realize the enemy of the working man is also the enemy of the environment.

The real enemy is the way of the past.

Are we going to continue with the mistakes of the past and listen to the same corporate spokesmen who have taken so much but have given little beyond unemployment and a damaged land?

If we are going to improve West Virginia's economy, we must save the environment. We must support broad-based citizen coalitions. If we are going to save this state, these new coalitions must force coal and timber to operate as good citizens interested in the long-term future of West Virginia. Their interests must go beyond that seam of coal or that stand of timber. The extractive industries have found it difficult to practice good citizenship voluntarily.

What is it that they should do?

They should pay their fair share of taxes and should employ West Virginians in an environmentally sound and physically safe work arena.

That would be the basis on which to build a diversified economy and provide a real future for our state. Stewardship at last.

(reprinted from *The Mountaineer Monitor*, the Voice of the Mountaineer Chapter of Trout Unlimited.)

1991 Conference on Environment, Oct. 3, 4; focus is on waste prevention and management

CHARLESTON — The seventh annual Conference on the Environment will be Thursday and Friday, Oct. 3-4 at the Charleston Civic Center. Conference topic is "West Virginia Waste: What's to Become of It?"

"The Conference on the Environment has developed into a unique partnership where industry, environmental activists, and government work together to plan and inform each other on ways to protect the environment and, at the same time, maintain West Virginia's economy. Each year our numbers have grown larger and our understanding of each other's viewpoint has been enhanced," said Patrick Gallagher, chairman of the 1991 conference.

The keynote panel includes Don Clay, EPA Assistant Administrator, Allen Hershkowitz, National Resources Defense Council, and Bruce Karrh, DuPont Director of Safety, Health and Environment.

Joel Makower, author of "The Green Consumer," and Dr. Han Srinivasan, Department of Marketing at the University of Connecticut are among panelists who will discuss "Packaging and Marketing."

West Virginia Waste Prevention and Management will be discussed by Jack Martin, West Virginia Solid Waste Management Board, Chuck Chambers, Speaker of the West Virginia House of Delegates, Jerry Englert, Winfield Industries, Timothy Laraway, Mid-American Waste Systems, Inc., and Martha Huffman, Wetzel County Solid Waste Authority.

A workshop, "Ethical Decisions in Waste Management and Prevention," will be held dur-

ing the second day of the Conference.

Industries, companies, and organizations that wish to demonstrate how they prevent and manage waste, or how they help their community with waste disposal are encouraged to join other

exhibitors at the Conference.

As is customary, scholarships are being offered to environmental groups across the state. If you are interested in attending the Conference on the Environment, contact Cindy Rank, (304)

924-5802 or 924-6262 and leave a message.

The annual Conference on the Environment is sponsored by the West Virginia Environmental Institute, an organization of industry, environmentalists, and government, which has evolved from past Conferences. The Institute work toward achieving a balance in environmental and economic policies.

For more information contact:
Cindy Rank, (304) 924-5802, or
Mary Wimmer, W. Va. Sierra Club, P.O. Box 4142, Morgantown, WV 26504.

Nominations open for Environmental Award

CHARLESTON — August 30 is the deadline for submitting nominations for the West Virginia Environmental Award.

Presented at the Conference on the Environment, the award recognizes an individual or entity who has made an outstanding, exemplary contribution to the environment or to the environmental effort in the state.

Anyone may nominate a candidate for the Environmental Award. A person, group, organization, corporation, community, institution, public official, governmental agency, or other entity that resides, operates, or conducts business in West Virginia is eligible.

To qualify, the candidate must have contributed to:

- * the protection of the environment, human health, or preservation of all species
- * improving the environment within West Virginia
- * furthering the cause of natural resources conservation
- * the environment in West Virginia in a manner that the selection committee deems

appropriate.

To nominate a candidate, a completed nomination form and up to a 250-word written description of the contribution must be submitted. The nomination may include examples supporting the nomination, such as press clippings, articles, letters, or photographs. All nominations must be submitted by August 30.

A panel of judges will review the entries and select the award recipient. The panel for this year's award is Dr. Hazo W. Carter, President, West Virginia State College, Dr. J.L. Beasley, President, Concord College, and Dr. Robert Dillman, President, Fairmont State College.

For more information, or to obtain a nomination form, contact:

Award Committee
West Virginia Conference on the Environment
2328 Woodlawn Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303
304/744-4334

from the heart

from page 2

The timber industry may potentially be a gentler, kinder spirit than say strip mining that gouges off mountain tops and shoves them into valleys below, or causes streams to run red with acid.

Nonetheless, the timber industry is an awakening giant that promises to run rough shod over the state for years to come unless we have improved protection measures in place. The administration's current position of urging registration for tax purposes only is a laudable but limited venture. Effective soil erosion control laws, mandatory use of Best Management Practices and strong enforcement of both are needed.

The present practice of throwing away one resource (soil) and polluting another (water) while harvesting another (trees) is just not acceptable.

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: _____

Join the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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

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 \$1.50 for shipping and handling. West Virginia residents include \$.60 sales tax. (\$11.45, or \$12.05 in W.Va.)

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**