



# The Highlands Voice

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## Reflections on Spring Review

By Frank Young

As coordinator for WVHC Spring Review 1991, I have a few reflections to comment on; some pleasant, some not so.

The barking dog during the Bob Gates film "In Memory of the Land and People" and the evening Corridor H discussion was a terrible distraction. Although it wasn't my dog, I apologize.

The outings were apparently successful, exciting and satisfying. My group's climb of Seneca Rocks (including two-year-old baby Maier) was accomplished with some huffing and puffing and much exhilaration upon finally reaching the top (actually reaching only the overlook some 200 feet from the top, for me, the wimp).

The trip up Seneca Creek, beaver dams and all, was enchanting and relaxing. It is vital that Seneca Creek be protected from private development.

As usual, the canoeists were late returning Saturday evening; but even later that usual this time. Frankly, I had become worried that they'd encountered serious misfortune and was quite relieved when Sayre and Jean

Rodman showed up about 8:30 p.m. and told us that the others were on the way.

I appreciate those who encouraged me to try to relax, particularly Saturday. As the day wore on, I wore out. I enjoyed the Spring Review undertaking (no pun intended), but the worry of room assignments (which were not all the same for both nights), the financial constraints, and concern that outings be constructive and satisfying, was exhausting.

Although I'm not volunteering immediately, doing another one would probably be easier. It's sort of like having a baby — the first one is most difficult; after that you learn they don't break.

After 9 a.m. Sunday, it all fell on Cindy's and the board's shoulders. That's when she took over. For me, it was down hill from there.

But the most important accomplishment of the weekend was the easiest. About noon Saturday I became concerned about the threatening clouds drifting over Seneca Rocks. I became concerned that rain, and thunderstorms, or whatever could play havoc with canoeists, hikers, and the

evening revelers at the campground pavilion.

If the weather turned bad, then I was sure I'd be cited as the one responsible for a generally lousy weekend. If the weather remained grand, I might be credited with having helped accomplish a successful Spring Review.

In a private moment, I raised my hands skyward and proclaimed divinely "Mother Nature and Father of all that's ours, hold off the rain for 24 hours." That was at noon Saturday. The rain held off until Sunday afternoon. But, really, that power wasn't mine. I'd simply purchased it from a gypsy at a flea market for \$1 several years ago. I'd always had doubts about her genuineness; I hadn't really put much faith in the purchased power. But it worked!

But don't ask me to do that trick again. The power was only for 24 hours and I used it all on May 4 and 5. And I haven't seen that old gypsy since. Word has it she has gone to that great gypsy gathering in the sky; something about being struck by lightning on a sunny afternoon.....?

Seriously, thanks to all of you —

Carroll Jett for reminding me of details and for engaging Bob Gates and the eastern panhandle crowd; Mary Wimmer, Larry Miller and all who participated in the Corridor H discussion; thanks to Bob Gates who helped shed additional light on an area we've realized all along was an environmental abomination — the strip-mining of coal.

Thanks to Cindy, and especially to Pat Riffle, for patience when I was inept. Thanks to treasurer Tom Michael for writing checks as necessary without requiring GAO approval.

(Financially, I'm glad to report that the weekend was affordable and reasonably "within budget".)

Thanks to all the others who helped and especially thanks to all who attended. Attendance was higher this time than at any Spring or Fall Review I recall.

Would I help do it again? Yea, probably about 1999. Someone said there's a big resort near White Sulphur Springs. I wonder if they have a campground, \$35 rooms, and \$50 cabins. I'll call and ask.

## Summer meeting to look at environment in coming decade

Tom Rodd and Norm Steenstra are cooking up another extravaganza to help us focus on long-range (well, sort of long-range — guess it depends on how you define the terms — sometimes thinking about the day after tomorrow seems like long-range planning) goals for the environment and the future of West Virginia.

"1992 - 2002," a summertime discussion on the Environmental Movement in West Virginia — What now? is set for Saturday, July 20, 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the State 4-H Camp at Jackson's Mill, near Weston. The day is sponsored by the W. Va. Environmental Council and Mountaineer Policy Institute, a newly formed "think tank" in Morgantown.

Panels, small groups, and a plenary session will focus on where we want to be in 1992 and what we can do to get there, plus where we want to be in 2002 and what we can do to get there.

Questions posed for the day include:

Where will W. Va. be in 1992? In 2002? What are the economic trends? Political trends? Demographics? What are our options? What will our friends and opponents be up to? What can we do now, and over the next decade, to get where we want to go? What can we learn from other states? How do we build for the long haul? What are we going to do in the 1992 elections?

Tom and Norm promise "provoking presentations from a stellar spectrum of academics and activists," but warn that it won't be what it should if YOU don't come.

For now, mark your calendar. To continue to receive information (even if you're not sure you'll be there) put your request for information about "1992-2002" Conference and your name and address on postcard and send it to MPI, 264 High St., Morgantown, WV 26505.

Plans at present are to bring sandwich makings and drinks and picnic and talk, rather than buying meals at the camp. To stay overnight at Jackson's Mill, call them now directly at 304-269-5100 for reservations.

For more information contact: Tom Rodd, Mountaineer Policy Institute, 304-296-8611, or Norm Steenstra, W. Va. Environmental Council, 304-346-5891.



Starting off the climb at Seneca Rocks.

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Summer board meeting will be piggy-backed with "1992-2002," on Sunday, July 21 at Jackson's Mill. More information on the Summer meeting in June.

**June Voice Deadline:  
June 5**

— from the heart of the mountains —

by Cindy Rank

# A New Language

Putting together remarks for an earth day symposium this year, I realized that we've reached a plateau in our attempts to clean up the earth. We've come a long way over the past two decades, but we seem to be stuck on a level far short of where we need to be.

It's true that public awareness of environmental problems in the 1970's was nowhere near what it is today. And everyone now acknowledges (at least publicly) the need to do what is right for the environment. Newspaper articles, academic studies, political campaigns, advertisements of all kinds, and even job titles these days remind us of how concerned we are, how aware we are of the environment, and how intent we are about doing the right thing.

No, today the question is not whether or not there are problems, or whether or not we have to do something to correct them. The dilemma we now face is one of evaluating those problems, defining our responsibilities and choosing the most appropriate solutions.

And yet, as hard as it was to recognize the problems in the first place, it's even more difficult to deal with the solutions. We seem to have reached a point in time where our technical, legal and political skills have advanced light years beyond our ability and willingness to fully develop our moral and ethical responsibilities to ourselves, to the earth we live in, and to future generations who will depend upon the earth's resources.

We can hardly speak about these responsibilities without sounding too pious, naive or unrealistic. And that, I believe, is the heart of the problem.

The language of moral and ethical responsibility is too fuzzy, too vague, not defined or specific enough to be considered valid or practical in our advanced and specialized society.

And yet, we need to take and speak this language seriously. Our incredible and ever-increasing power to influence and effect the world around us demands that we hasten an honest accounting of our actions, goals and beliefs.

On the one hand, we talk as though the earth, air, and water are basic to survival, as though they are a vital life support system.

On the other hand, we often act as though the earth, air and water are only temporary resources available to us as tools in the process of our evolution toward an existence that is no longer dependent upon the earth.

We have any number of reasons for doing less than what is required to protect this life-support system. The most convincing ones usually center on money and cost.

The crass use of threats of job loss and economic collapse are economic blackmail, pure and simple, but I believe our problems run deeper than that. I think even the more honest representatives of business and industry are ill equipped to assess the true value of the resources we're dealing with. I think we all are only beginning to learn that the true cost of doing business, or even of just existing in today's world, goes far beyond any monetary measures.

We've been following the wrong path so long we've lost our way. We've let ourselves be trapped into using inappropriate tools to measure values. While it's true that there have been valiant efforts over the past several years to equate the value of a lost or damaged resource in terms of money, this is a dangerous trend that will only lead us deeper into that trap.

What is needed is a fundamental change in the way we think. We can no longer think of the earth, air and water primarily in terms of money, and we can't be embarrassed or ashamed to say so. Economic arguments will never fully or adequately argue the case for the environment. The sooner we realize and accept a new language of values, the better off we'll be.

The health and well-being of the global ecosystem is itself at risk, and each time we allow our activities to weaken that support system, we lessen our chances of long-term survival.

If all this sounds fuzzy, vague and unrealistic, it may be because we have yet to allow ourselves to think and measure in terms of anything higher, deeper, or more long-term than economics and money.

The human race may be thousands of years old, and we may have developed our technical skills light years beyond what anyone could imagine even fifty years ago, but we still act like little kids when it comes to pollution. We may think it takes far too much time and energy to clean up our rooms, but what an amazing amount of imagination and brainpower we're willing to expend on devising ways to hide the mess under the bed, or explain why the mess is there, or reason our way out of cleaning it up today.

It's impossible to ignore how preposterous and inexcusable it is that a society with motivation, imagination and money enough to create that technical wonderland of weapons used during the recent war in the Persian Gulf is unwilling to put an equal amount of effort into preserving the life of the earth through conservation, cutting back on consumption, limiting our own greed.

I believe in the old adage, "Where there's a will, there's a way."

I just don't believe that we've yet found the will to accept all that is necessary to spare spaceship earth the disastrous results of our myopic shortsightedness.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Fighting the LCS/Chambers dump

Dear editor:

Not only is West Virginia targeted for new prisons in order to house Virginia and D.C. criminals but now it has come to my attention the Lorton, Va. dump is soon to be closed and I'll give you three guesses, the first two don't count of where all the METRO WASHINGTON trash is to go?

That's right, you guessed it, Berkeley County, W.Va., if LCS/CHAMBERS DEV. CORP. has any say in it. In other words, "THE GARBAGE STOPS HERE."

My association with the citizens group, the Eastern Panhandle Citizens Against Out-of-State Waste Inc. has been the most enjoyable, if not frustrating, time in my life, as we learn about politics, big business, corruption, and public apathy.

Recently we learned from our many contacts throughout the region, and as it was reported in the Fairfax Journal (Va.), the LCS/CHAMBERS dump in Hedgesville is high on the list to receive the trash generated by millions of folk in the D.C. METRO area, (including many congressmen who reside there).

We have Martinsburg Mayor Tony Senecal to thank for being the first to sell out to the garbage barons,

it has since become popular for east coast municipalities to send their garbage via 18-wheel trucks to dump on a very environmentally sensitive area, North Mountain and it's inhabitants.

The LCS/CHAMBERS dump has withstood total community opposition, unsafe roads, and obvious enviro-hazards to install a state-of-the-art MONEY MACHINE, just pay for your tonnage, dump your garbage, and don't worry if the locals don't like it. Don't worry about the known hazards of pollution to the Potomac River, Chesapeake Bay, and residents' drinking water. Wrong again Mr. Snyder and Mr. Rangos, we will not get over it and we won't forgive you for doing it to us.

We, the citizens of the Eastern Panhandle, have strongly opposed this project from the first day we heard of it (five years ago), only to have it forced down our collective throats by a state water resources board in Charleston who failed to do the necessary groundwork and ignored citizen input in granting a permit that wasn't even applied for.

(You see, LCS applied for a Class B permit which limits refuse

tonnage to less than 10,000 per month back in Sept. '89, but was mysteriously granted an unlimited tonnage permit, also called a Class A, without even a local public hearing on the issue.)

Our group will continue to monitor, report via newsletter, and strongly oppose this quasi-legal dump until it's operation is halted. We will continue to support DNR director Ed Hamrick for his continued efforts to have the Berkeley County Solid Waste Authority do their job of siting a Mega-dump in their own county.

We believe the good people of Berkeley County and the state of West Virginia do not deserve to be dumped on by out-of-washed garbage.

Our SECOND ANNUAL EARTH DAY EVENT is set for Sunday, April 21 from 2-6 p.m. at the Hedgesville High School, please plan to attend and join us in celebrating environmental awareness for the eastern panhandle and the state of West Virginia.

Very truly yours,  
John B. Christensen  
2018 Stonylick Road  
Martinsburg, WV 25401  
304-754-8505

## Underlying values are the same

Editor:

In the heat of an environmental battle, it is often easy to forget the underlying reasons why an environmental group is formed. The battle takes on a dimension of its own and the group's purpose becomes hazy to many people. Perhaps now is the perfect time to clearly delineate the reasons why environmental groups were formed and to relate these groups to their surroundings.

Throughout West Virginia's history, we have been exploited by out of state lumber companies, coal operators, and oil industries. These companies did not care about the desecration of the land, the contamination of the water, or the ruination of the air.

Most environmental groups were formed to give input to the common, everyday working man who puts clean air, water, land, and the protection of our mountains over the promise of a short term reward. The environmental groups are much like a union — providing a forum for its members and fighting for what is good for the individual as well as the group.

In reality, the environmental groups and the unions have much in common: both were formed by

the working man to deal with working man's problems; both must deal on a day to day basis with those people who do not really care about protecting the working or living environment of the people.

As the unions work for safer, cleaner conditions within the work place, the environmental groups work for cleaner, safer environmental conditions within the community.

Again, if we look at the history of West Virginia, and in particular the struggle of the miners at Matewan to establish their union, a common bond between the environmental groups and the unions can be established.

Mother Jones traveled throughout the state of West Virginia working for the union movement. Today we have many people who also travel the state working for the environmental movement. The West Virginia Environmental Council presents a yearly Mother Jones Award to the person who most typifies the Mother Jones spirit. This spirit is what links the environmental groups to the unions: the spirit to unfailingly work toward cleaner, safer conditions for the people of our state.

As long as we live in a democ-

racy, the struggle of the union movement will never end. The union and its battles with Pitston Coal, Rhone-Poulenc, Marshall University's football stadium, and RAC must remain upmost in our minds.

As the RAC struggle continues, so does the struggle to protect our environment. Our groundwater is in danger from pollution, our streams are in danger from sedimentation, our national forests are in danger from indiscriminate timbering, our air is in danger from incinerator pollutants, and our soil is in danger from erosion.

We must have a clean, safe place to work. We must also have a clean, safe place to live.

Just as the unions have become the guardians of our personal liberties within the work place, the environmental groups have become the guardians of our personal resources within our communities. It is the joining of these forces that make the difference. By working together, in a democracy, we can control our destiny.

William S. Doyle  
Vice President  
USWA Local 5668  
Ravenswood, WV  
273-9319

## Updates: legal and regulatory

Submitted by John McFerrin

### Mine subsidence rules considered

The Office of Surface Mining (OSM), a division of the United States Department of the Interior, is actively considering proposing regulations to control subsidence damage caused by coal mining.

Subsidence results when the rock and earth on top of the coal collapses when the coal is removed. This can result in damage to water supplies as well as collapse of the surface of the earth and resulting damage to houses and other surface structures.

The controversy has been going on for several years.

Publication of new regulations by the Office of Surface Mining would resolve various issues.

1. Waivers of liability for damage. When mineral and surface interests were severed in the past (often at the turn of the century), the land companies often put waivers of damage claims into the severance deeds. This means that mining companies may mine beneath these lands without any liability for damage to houses, etc. Many believe that this is prohibited by the federal Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Act of 1977 although it is not completely clear.

In West Virginia, this ambiguity means that in many circumstances the industry may mine under houses, etc., and rely upon turn of the century waivers to protect them from liability for any damage that might result.

New regulations could limit this problem.

2. Exemption for longwall mining. Many coal industry representatives believe that subsidence to the surface caused by longwall mining is exempt from the coverage of the Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Act. New regulations would probably clarify that longwall mining is not exempt from the requirements of the federal Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Act.

3. Water replacement. Under the federal Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Act, mining companies have an absolute duty to replace any domestic water supply lost or damaged by surface mining. Under the federal law, this duty does not apply to underground mining. Under West Virginia law the duty extends to both surface and underground mining. New regulations would probably extend this protection of water supplies to other states.

There has as yet been no decision on whether new regulations will be published and what they would say. Those interested in having new regulations published and offering suggestions on what they should say may write:

Manuel Lujan Jr.  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

### Irish Mountain appeal heard

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and the Summers County Chapter of Save Our Mountains have been granted amicus curiae (friend of the court) status before the West Virginia Supreme Court in the controversy surrounding the proposed landfill for Irish Mountain in Summers County. This will enable the Conservancy and Save Our Mountains to present the Supreme Court with their views on important legal issues raised by that case. The Conservancy and Save Our Mountains are being represented by Conservancy member John McFerrin.

The controversy concerns a landfill proposed for Irish Mountain. A group of area citizens, the Tri-County Citizens for Irish Mountain, opposed the landfill. The department of Natural Resources denied the application for

a permit, citing the lack of a leachate control system and no suitable access road to the proposed facility.

The Water Resources Board reversed the decision of the Department of Natural Resources and approved the permit. The controversy is now before the West Virginia Supreme Court.

The Conservancy and Save Our Mountains have asked for, and been granted, status as amicus curiae in order to support the position of the Tri-County Citizens for Irish Mountain in the controversy and address what the Conservancy and Save Our Mountains believe are serious deficiencies in the procedure which the Water Resources Board followed in reaching its decisions.

A decision by the Supreme Court is expected in late summer 1991.

### ERO Landfill trial set

The legal case which the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy filed against the ERO Landfill in Mason County has been scheduled for trial in June 1991.

The Conservancy originally filed suit under the federal Clean Water Act in 1990. The Clean Water Act prohibits discharge of water into any stream unless the landfill holds a permit for the discharge and the water meets certain standards of cleanliness. The ERO landfill does not have the

required permit and the water it discharges is far from clean.

Since the Conservancy's original action, the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources has taken action against the ERO Landfill for violations of the state Solid Waste Management Act and the state Water Pollution Control Act. The landfill has stopped taking garbage although the site has not been cleaned up and remains a source of pollution.



# In conjunction with the West Virginia Environmental Council

## State Senate

### Enviro-Scorecard

#### The House's Septic 17

0%

Bob Burk, Jr.  
Allen Evans  
Charlotte Lane  
Robert Schadler

10%

Barbara Sims

20%

Gene Bailey  
Larry Border  
Ann Calvert  
Bob Conley  
Farrell Johnson  
Otis Leggett  
Joe Parriott  
Bill Proudfoot  
Evelyn Richards  
Dale Riggs  
Donald Stemple  
Gene Wilson

#### Vote Key:

1. Solid waste (Committee Substitute for H. B. 2802): This is the key floor vote on the last night of the legislative session to suspend the constitutional rule requiring that a bill be read on three separate days. The motion needs a four-fifths majority to win. It failed by one vote, thereby officially killing the comprehensive solid waste bill. Defeated 27-7 (March 9, 1991). Yes vote is right.

2. Solid waste (Committee substitute for H.B. 2802): Same vote as #1 above. Double-weighted because of its significance.

3. Solid waste (S.B. 437): Important vote that would allow open burning of paper. Defeated on a 17-17 tie vote. (February 27, 1991). No vote is right.

4. Circuit courts (S.B. 79): This vote involves the issue of whether local circuit courts should handle certain environmental cases. The environmental community fears the prospect of "home-cooking," and therefore supports the current system (which requires that these cases be tried in Kanawha County). Defeated on a 17-17 tie vote (February 18, 1991). No vote is right.

5. Dimilin resolution: Committee vote on passage of a resolution recommending the use of a dangerous chemical, dimilin, in the Monongahela National Forest (to combat the gypsy moth). Passed 7-6 (March 2, 1991). No vote is right.

#### The Senate's Septic 6

William Anderson  
Donna Boley  
J.D. Brackenrich  
Sammy Dalton  
Walt Helmick  
Joe Minard

Legislator	Party	District	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	Score	Total
William Anderson	D	10	W	W	W	W	W	0	0
Billy Wayne Bailey, Jr.	D	09	R	R	R	R	-	100	100
Thais Blatnik	D	01	R	R	R	R	-	100	63
Donna J. Boley	R	03	W	W	W	W	-	0	0
J. D. Brackenrich	D	11	W	W	W	W	W	0	22
Keith Burdette	D	03	R	R	W	W	-	50	39
Truman Chafin	D	06	R	R	R	R	R	100	78
John Chernenko	D	01	R	R	W	R	-	75	62
Eugene Claypole	D	14	R	R	R	R	-	100	100
Oshel Craigo	D	04	R	R	R	W	-	75	84
Sammy Dalton	D	07	W	W	W	W	-	0	42
Robert Dittmar	D	04	R	R	W	R	R	80	41
Charles Felton, Jr.	D	15	R	R	W	W	-	50	39
Thomas Hawse, III	D	16	R	R	W	W	W	40	35
Homer Heck	D	05	W	W	R	W	-	25	58
Walt Helmick	D	12	W	W	W	W	W	0	0
Robert Holliday	D	11	R	R	R	R	-	100	100
James Humphreys	D	17	R	R	R	R	R	100	100
Ned Jones	D	05	R	R	R	R	-	100	85
Sondra Lucht	D	16	R	R	R	W	-	75	77
Don Macnaughton	D	02	R	R	R	R	R	100	100
Joe Manchin, III	D	14	R	R	W	W	-	50	39
Mark Manchin	D	08	R	R	W	R	-	75	54
Joe Minard	D	13	W	W	W	W	W	0	29
Charlotte Fritt	D	17	R	R	R	R	-	100	93
William Sharpe, Jr.	D	13	R	R	W	W	-	50	39
Jae Spears	D	12	R	R	W	W	W	40	51
Earl Ray Tomblin	D	07	R	R	W	W	-	50	39
Keith Wagner	D	06	R	R	R	R	-	100	85
Martha Wehrle	D	08	R	R	R	R	-	100	55
Tony Whitlow	D	10	R	R	W	W	W	40	43
Larry Wiedebusch	D	02	R	R	R	R	R	100	78
Mike Withers	D	15	R	R	R	R	R	100	100
William Wooton	D	09	R	R	R	R	-	100	100
AVG.									64 60

## Random notes and thoughts from the Spring Review

By Mary Pat Peck

Three cheers for Frank Young and a great Spring Review. Add some more for Carroll Jett, who seems always to be in there giving Frank, and lots of others, the moral support they need.

I have only hours before this heads off to the printer, so this is less a coherent, by-the-numbers, report.

I'd like to add a few notes to Mary Wimmer's Corridor H info on page 8.

At the Sunday board meeting, the board reaffirmed a preference for the "no build" option for Corridor H, with improvement of existing roads and upgrading to three-lanes. Also reaffirmed was the Conservancy's STRONG AND VIGOROUS opposition to the southern route.

It was clear during the panel discussion Saturday that advocates for the southern route are alive and well and writing to DOH and congressional delegations.

Despite the obvious logic of the northern route if the road is built and the serious, unavoidable problems

with pursuing the southern route, advocates of the southern route are gearing up to push that through.

Ten years ago, cost estimates for the northern route were less than those for the southern route, Mary reminded those at the meeting. Those costs did not include the costs of "mitigation" of environmental damage, which was not required at that time.

Building any road will be more expensive now than it would have been 10 years ago, but because of the sensitivity of areas along the southern route, the increased cost of going south will be astronomical.

Unfortunately we cannot take comfort in that logic, or in the many other factors that favor the northern route. As we've all found, logic is rarely the driving force in formulating public policy.

Here in Upshur County the prevailing view is that our economic future is dependent on construction of Corridor H. Coming out a county commission meeting last week, someone announced that the W.Va. Rivers Coalition (see page 7), which

has just opened an office across from the courthouse, was organized to stop Corridor H. The commissioners had had a call to that effect from the Chamber of Commerce or similar group in Randolph County.

Public perceptions continue to be very important, and it is up to all of us to explain our own positions and to not let lies stand just because they seem so ridiculous.

Upshur County is, I think, the center of the "I don't care where they build it, just so they build it" sentiment for Corridor H. I'll be encouraging those folks to make good on their assertions and get behind the northern route, since there are many people who do care where it is built — or at least where it must not be built.

Other support for the northern route is coming from development groups in the eastern panhandle.

Larry Miller from the Eastern Panhandle Coalition for Corridor H added his thoughts to the discussion.

"If we're going to build a road in West Virginia it should serve the most numbers of West Virginians," Miller

said. A northern route that would connect with I-81 at Martinsburg would be less disruptive of sensitive ecosystems and be cheaper to build because of fewer cuts and fills. The road would also add to the growth and development in Morgan and Hampshire counties he said.

"If the southern route is chosen, you can forget about West Virginia," Miller said.

Tom Rodd raised questions about the actual effect of highways on rural communities. Do highways bring business to a rural community, or simply provide a fast way for residents of rural communities to shop at the closest large city or shopping center? Does the crime rate for drugs and theft increase in a rural community, while the resources to combat it are drained because day to day business is shifted to a larger areas?

On another issue, Norm Rausch from DOH suggested use of a different name than "parkway" for proposals to build the road in ways that shielded surroundings from the road, but also highlighted the beauty of the

countryside.

In highway parlance "parkway" means a road that is restricted to trucks, Rausch said. If that is not the intention, some problems might be avoided by finding a different term to describe the concept, he said.

Other items at the board meeting included approval for a one-time use of mailing list by the West Virginia Rivers Coalition. A mailing would be sent to WVHC members, said Skip Deegans, in an attempt to identify people in the state interested in rivers and willing to pick up some of the work load on the wild/scenic/recreational designations.

\* Describing the situation at the West Virginia Division of Energy, John McFerrin said, "Everything you see in the Gazette is true, but much worse." (See reprint of Paul Nyden article on page 7.) OSM (federal Office of Surface Mining) is doing an appraisal of DOE, John said, and the federal agency has committed itself to taking over the program if some

See Notes, page 8

# Discarding the throwaway society

excerpted from *Worldwatch Paper 101, January 1991, Worldwatch Institute and submitted by Karen Farris.*

Today's industrial economies were founded on the use of vast quantities of materials and energy, and the economic health of nations has often been equated with the amount they consumed.

But prosperity need not be linked so closely to consumption. A kilogram of steel may be used in a building that lasts hundreds of years or in several cans that end up in a dump after one use. A few hundred grams of glass may be fashioned into a bottle reused 50 times or one immediately discarded.

The amount of material that originally enters an economy tells us nothing about the material's eventual fate or its contribution to human well-being. It tells a good deal, however, about the damage the economy inflicts upon the environment. The devastation wrought by economic production is closely related to the amount of materials consumed.

Extracting and processing raw materials — minerals, wood, and so on — are among the most destructive of human activities. Logging usually ruins forest ecosystems, and transforming trees into paper and other wood products involves several highly polluting processes. Mining regularly obliterates whatever ecosystems or human settlements sit atop ore deposits.

Making metals from ores takes great quantities of energy and produces large amounts of pollution and waste. Unfortunately, much of the damage from producing raw materials occurs in remote areas, so most people know little about it.

The other end of the cycle is more familiar. Industrial economies eventually excrete as waste most of the raw materials they devour. This refuse presents a massive disposal problem.

As the dirty and expensive legacies of careless dumping have come to light, the most visible symptom of profligate materials consumption — the "garbage crisis" — has generated political heat in communities around the world.

Though the symptom gets attention, politicians rarely diagnose the disease: a global economy built on the inefficient use of raw materials and energy.

As a result, the usual prescription — increasingly more sophisticated technology for destroying waste — allows the illness to progress unchecked. Garbage output continues to grow (often faster than population), as does the environmental damage from waste disposal and the even greater damage of extracting, processing, and fashioning materials into consumer goods.

Fortunately, societies need not limit themselves to treating the symptoms of prodigal consumption. They can attack the problem at its source.

From the attempts of people around the world to find alternative solutions to waste problems, a "soft materials path" can be mapped out. Its operating principle is efficiency: meeting people's needs with the minimum amount of the most appropriate materials available.

## Materials and the environment

Human use of raw materials — with the notable exception of timber — was almost insignificant by today's terms until the rise of modern industrial economies in the 19th century.

From then on it grew at an explosive rate. Increases in minerals consumption were

particularly sharp.

Geologist C.K. Leith wrote in 1927: "In these hundred years the output of pig iron has increased 100-fold, of mineral fuels 75-fold, and of copper 63-fold. In the last fifty years the per capita consumption of minerals in the United States has multiplied fifteen times....the world has exploited more of its [mineral] resources in the last twenty years than in all preceding history."

Per capita production and consumption of raw materials by industrial nations continued rising until the seventies. In the United States, for example, per capita consumption of steel, cement, paper, and inorganic chemicals expanded from the twenties through the sixties as the economy grew.

Since the seventies, however, per capita consumption of raw materials in Western Europe and the United States appears to have leveled off or declined slightly. Some observers now believe that basic changes in Western industrial economies have made continued growth in raw materials consumption unnecessary and unlikely.

These changes include the rapid growth of new industries such as electronics and pharmaceuticals. Businesses in these fields use materials and energy far less intensively than do traditional extractive and manufacturing industries, which have grown little or have even shrunk in recent years. Also, because the infrastructure (road, bridges, buildings, telephone lines, etc.) of industrialized nations is now largely in place, raw materials are needed mostly for replacement rather than new construction.

The danger of such high levels of consumption lies less in running out of resources, as was commonly argued in the seventies, than in the continuing damage that their extraction and processing impose on the environment.

Oil provides an instructive example: rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere make it unlikely the world will run out of oil before the environmental cost of its use — in the form of global warming — becomes prohibitive.

Each year, the production of virgin materials (those newly extracted from natural resources) damages millions of hectares of land, destroys millions of trees, and produces billions of tons of solid waste. It also pollutes air and water to a degree exceeded only by production and use of energy — much of which is generated in order to extract and process materials.

Mining, which supplies most of the raw materials for industrial societies, is one of the most damaging human activities — and among the most poorly documented. Private companies, governments, and international organizations collect and publish exhaustive statistics on mineral production, but information on its environmental costs is usually fragmented and out of date.

Although no precise global statistics are kept, it is clear that past and present mines cover a vast area of land. In the United States alone, current and abandoned metal and coal mines cover an estimated 9 million hectares — an area about the size of Hungary — and this figure does not include the sizable but unmeasured area used for extracting sand, gravel, and stone for construction materials.

Over the last two decades, virtually all the industrial market nations have come to realize that the new scale and character of waste are

overwhelming existing landfills, the traditional method of disposal. All landfills eventually leak, releasing into groundwater an often-toxic soup of rainwater, and decomposing waste called "leachate."

This can contain a wide variety of hazardous substances, including heavy metals and organic chemicals. The severity of the problem is illustrated by the fact that more than one-fifth of the hazardous-waste sites in the U.S. Superfund cleanup list are municipal landfills. Decay of garbage in oxygen-starved dumps also produces methane gas, which is both a major contributor to global warming and a fire hazard.

Higher population densities in Japan and a number of countries in Western Europe forced them to face the environmental faults of landfills long before the United States had to.

Those nations experienced shortages of dumping space and rising landfill costs much sooner. Their lower waste generation rates, higher levels of recycling, and greater reliance on incineration reflect this earlier awakening to landfill problems.

Japan, for instance, burns 43 to 53 percent of its garbage and recycles another 26 to 39 percent. West Germany, when it was a separate nation, incinerated 27 percent of its solid waste, and planned to increase that number to 50 percent by 1995. Its citizens recycled about one-third of their paper, aluminum, and glass. Several Western European nations, including Denmark, France, Sweden, and Switzerland, throw half of less of their waste into landfills.

In contrast, the United States landfilled more than 80 percent of its waste until the late eighties. Nearly three-fourths of American garbage still ends up in landfills, with half of the remainder burned and half recycled. The United Kingdom is similarly dependent on landfills, with an even lower rate of recycling.

## Waste Management Hierarchy

Many industrial nations share a common official approach to garbage — the waste management hierarchy.

This sets forth a list of management options in order of priority:

- \* source reduction (avoiding garbage generation in the first place),
- \* direct reuse of products,
- \* recycling,
- \* incineration (with recovery of energy), and as a last resort,
- \* landfilling.

The U.N. Environment Program endorses this hierarchy, as do citizen groups, many industry leaders, and government officials from Europe, North America, and Japan. And it has been enshrined in U.S. law since the passage of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act in 1976.

Unfortunately, practice has run directly counter to principle. Most governments continue to focus on managing rather than reducing waste. When faced with disposal crises, they tend to fund waste management options in inverse proportion to their position on the hierarchy, usually moving one notch up the ladder, from landfilling to incineration. Ubiquitous incinerators throughout Europe and Japan are the product of such decisions.

In the United States, the states — which have almost total responsibility for waste management — have focused heavily on building incinerators rather than on other options. A 1987 survey conducted by the New York newspaper

"Newsday" found that state government had spent 39 times as much money on incineration as on recycling programs. Since 1970, Massachusetts has arranged for over a half-billion dollars in tax exempt financing for incinerators, yet it did not fund a state recycling plan until 1987.

Similarly, New York's 1972 Environmental Quality Bond Act budgeted \$215 million for incinerators and only \$1 million for recycling; additional legislation during the eighties provided only \$31 million more for recycling. Although state governments are increasingly planning and budgeting for recycling, according to a recent survey, 18 in the Northeast and Midwest still expect to spend 8 to 10 times more on incineration than on recycling over the next five years.

Major misconceptions persist about the nature of incinerations. It is commonly referred to as a form of recycling and an alternative to landfilling. Strictly speaking, it is neither. It can reduce the amount of materials requiring final disposal and recover some energy in the process, but it does not recover materials or eliminate the need for landfills.

Burning garbage is not a clean process. It produces air and water pollution and tons of toxic ash.

High-temperature combustion breaks chemical bonds in products containing toxic metals, freeing those substances to leach from landfilled incinerator ash into groundwater.

Incinerators pump into the air nitrogen and sulfur oxides (both precursors of acid rain), carbon monoxide, acid gases, dioxins and furans (extremely toxic substances suspected of causing cancer and genetic defects), and 28 different types of heavy metals, including lead, cadmium, and mercury.

Filtering devices can trap some of these substances, but at a price: air pollution controls create additional toxic ash. Some highly toxic pollutants, including mercury, are not adequately controlled by such equipment.

Another form of pollution is created by using water to quench hot ash; the water inevitably becomes contaminated with chemicals, and poses a disposal problem if not saved and reused.

Incinerators are also extremely expensive. They usually receive a variety of overt government subsidies, plus hidden ones such as higher-than-normal rates for the energy they produce. Although day-to-day operating costs of incinerators may be lower than those of recycling and composting programs, such savings are far outweighed by the extremely high capital cost of incineration.

Rough calculations using conservative figures for capital costs reveal that an \$8 billion investment in additional incinerators could allow the United States to burn one-fourth of its projected solid waste output in the year 2000, whereas the same sum spent on recycling and composting facilities could provide enough additional capacity to handle three-fourths of the nation's garbage that year.

Luckily, communities have more attractive alternatives than incinerators. Waste reduction, reuse, and recycling — the three options above incineration in the waste management hierarchy — can, taken together, reduce landfill needs by at least as much as incineration. In addition, these soft-path solutions can lower not only the environmental impacts of waste disposal, but also the much greater environmental damage caused by extracting and processing raw materials.

# West Virginia Trail Alert *from Greenbrier River Trail Association*

How long is long enough????

After almost six years of waiting for the flood damage to be repaired on the state's oldest and the East's longest rail trail, the Greenbrier River Trail Association has finally decided to call for help. Evidently, it's not enough to have

just one representative call the Department of Commerce every week to check on the status of trail repairs. We need lots of calls and letters to get this project off the ground.

Commerce has had lots of good excuses for not getting the trail fixed. First it was federal

funding, then it was incomplete engineering studies — and now — its the Corps of Engineer and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Corps is saying that there has to be a 404 permit for the work now, since it has been so long since the flood!!! This could take another year!!!

The bottom line is that every day the trail is not repaired is a day we lose recreational and economic opportunities along the trail. So — we need your help as a person interested in this and other trails in West Virginia to let our Congressional delegation and our Governor know that the trail must be fixed, and that they should do everything they can to cut through bureaucratic red tape and any other resistance to giving this premiere trail real priority status both in the Department of Commerce and at the Corps of Engineers.

Tell Governor Caperton and our Senators

that we not only want the Greenbrier River Trail repaired and turned into a real showcase for West Virginia, but we want the State to implement a statewide system of high quality rail trails which will attract thousands of visitors each year, and be a real cornerstone of economic development for the state.

Even a postcard will help us to get our point across that we are a force to be reckoned with and that we are a united constituency for this type of recreation in the state. We really should have done this years ago, but it's never too late to find out how successful we can be NOW!!!!

**Write to:**

Senator Robert C. Byrd/Senator Jay Rockefeller, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510 and Governor Gaston Caperton, Capitol Complex, Charleston, WV 25305.

## OSM still doubtful state DOE can adequately inspect mines Caperton's pledges not enough

(reprinted from the Charleston Gazette, April 19, 1991)

By Paul Nyden  
Staff writer

Harry M. Snyder, director of the U.S. Office of Surface Mining, again warned state officials to give the Division of Energy more resources. Snyder was responding to new Caperton administration proposals to prevent a federal takeover of environmental enforcement in the coalfields.

"We are unable at this time to conclude from your response that resources will be available to remedy deficiencies with respect to staffing and technical resources," Snyder wrote on April 24 to John M. Ranson, secretary of commerce, labor and environmental resources.

Energy Commissioner Woody Wayland apparently felt Caperton's proposals were inadequate. He refused to sign an April 19 letter to Snyder.

Earlier this month, Caperton promised Snyder he would seek additional funding from the Legislature "to the extent that additional funding is needed."

Snyder felt Caperton's promise was too vague. In an April 24 letter to Caperton, Snyder said OSM officials "believe the issue of funding must be presented to the West Virginia Legislature." Snyder again set a deadline of Sept. 30 for legislative action.

Earlier this month, Snyder dispatched seven members of a special task force to Charleston to document problems with inspection and enforcement. In a letter to Ranson, Snyder summarized results of their research and previous federal oversight reports:

\* DOE met the required inspection frequency at only 170 of 237 randomly chosen mines between July 1, 1990, and March 1, 1991. "Since West Virginia inspectors are assigned at least twice the number of inspectable units as their counterparts in other states in the Appala-

chian region, it appears that this problem is primarily a product of inadequate staffing," Snyder wrote.

\* A lack of technical experts, in areas such as hydrology and engineering, prevents DOE from reviewing permit applications adequately.

\* The state's Special Reclamation Fund has a \$8.7 million deficit. This figure does not include costs of treating acid drainage, which would increase the deficit dramatically.

\* The Legislature increased a special reclamation tax from 1 cent a ton to 3 cents a ton in 1990. Snyder said the increase is inadequate.

\* The DOE "has not maintained accurate and complete ownership and control and bond forfeiture records, thus compromising the accuracy and completeness of information entered into the national Applicant Violator System database."

In a related action, Snyder transferred oversight of the enforcement program in Maryland from Charleston to Harrisburg, Pa. "This will allow OSM's Charleston field office to focus all of its oversight and assistance on West Virginia," Snyder wrote to Ranson.

During the legislative session Wayland requested another \$2.6 million for environmental enforcement. Legislators gave Wayland \$1 million from the Special Reclamation Fund and \$1.5 million from surplus general revenue funds — if there is a surplus.

Snyder said the Special Reclamation Fund may be used only for mine reclamation, leaving DOE with \$1.5 million in temporary and questionable funding.

Ironically, the state is not applying for money already available. Three months ago, OSM signed a memorandum of understanding with DOE promising \$500,000 in federal funds for DOE computers. State officials have not yet requested the money.

## W.Va. Rivers Coalition opens office in Buckhannon

Thirteen rivers in the Monongahela National Forest are candidates for Wild, Scenic, or Recreational designation under federal law.

Pursuing study toward those designations will be the West Virginia Rivers Coalition, formerly the Monongahela Rivers Coalition. Skip Deegans told those who attended the Sunday morning board meeting at Spring Review.

WVHC is one of the funding organizations for the coalition, which brings together 22 organizations. Roger Harrison is the staff for the Rivers Coalition and he will be working out of an office in downtown Buckhannon.

Rivers and river segments recommended for

study under the federal law include Williams River, Cranberry River, and North Fork Cherry River, all of the Gauley River system; Shavers Fork, Otter Creek, Blackwater, Gladly Fork, Laurel Fork, Dry Fork, and Red Creek, all of the Cheat River system; and Seneca Creek and South Branch of the Potomac, both of the Potomac River system.

In many cases, only segments of the rivers are suggested for designation.

Roger is just getting settled in the new office. More information and a map of the rivers/river segments will be available in the June Voice.

### State and national meetings focus on trails

**West Virginia:** Representatives from several organizations interested in rail trails in the state met in Charleston May 1 to talk about problems and opportunities facing trails all over the state. These representatives decided it would be a good idea to meet again and invite more people to a statewide meeting to be held in September. Leslee McCarty of the Greenbrier River Trail Assn. agreed to coordinate the meeting, so if you and your group wants to attend or help in the planning, please let her know (Greenbrier River Trail Association, H.C. 64, Box 135, Hillsboro, WV 24946 (304) 653-4722). Contact Lu Shrader, American Lung Assn. of WV, P.O. Box 3980, Charleston, 25339, for a list of all current and proposed rail trails in the state.

**National Conference:** The third annual National Rails to Trails Conference will be June 19-22 near Baltimore. Contact Marianne Fowler at RTC, 1400 16th St. NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 797-5400 for more information.

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

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

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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

# Corridor H: Elkins East Environmental Considerations

presented by Mary Wimmer, Public Lands Chair  
West Virginia Sierra Club

1. The southern route would seriously impact the northern half of the Monongahela National Forest where some of the best remote wildlife, pristine waters, and primitive outdoor recreational lands remaining in the eastern U.S. are located.

The wilds of Dolly Sods, Otter Creek and Laurel Fork Wilderness areas, as well as a number of semiprimitive ("6.2") areas designated in the 1986 Forest Plan, would be threatened by this incompatible development. The northern route would have the least damaging impact on public outdoor recreational lands which provide the basis for the travel and tourism industry of the area.

2. The northern route would avoid major negative impacts (especially siltation, pollution from road runoff, noise and aesthetics) on a large number of the most significant streams and rivers of the Monongahela National Forest, several of which are candidates for Wild and Scenic River designation. The southern route would slice directly across or along them, and fishing, boating, biking, and hiking activities would be impacted.

3. The northern route would have no impact on the north spring groundwater aquifer that supplies pure water to the Bowden Fish Hatchery where trout for stocking purposes are grown. The southern route would directly cut into the aquifer, which is complex in its geology, potentially cutting off or polluting the hatchery water supply.

4. The northern route would meet the requirements of "Section 4f" of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Regulations (23 CFR 771.135) which prohibit use of land from public parks and recreation areas, wildlife refuges, or significant historic sites for federal highway construction if there is a "feasible" alternative. Areas of concern are the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area, Canaan Valley, Blackwater Falls and Canaan Valley State Parks, and the rest of the Monongahela National Forest.

5. The idea of a "Potomac Highlands Parkway" for this



Mary Wimmer talks about impacts of various Corridor H proposals on the Monongahela National Forest and other critical areas.

section of Corridor H may serve as a draw for tourists as well as result in careful design in and along the road to minimize and screen the environmental impacts of such a highway. Tunnels should be considered.

6. Payback of rights-of-way purchased to Wymer along Route 33 as well as to Bowden WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED because so much time has passed.

A new draft environmental impact statement (EIS) is being prepared on Corridor H east of Elkins. Express your opinion about the routing of Corridor H from Elkins east to Route 81.

Send a letter to:

Mr. Fred VanKirk  
WV Division of Highways  
Building #5, State Capitol Complex  
Charleston, WV 25305

or call 304-348-3505

Send copies to:

Governor Gaston Caperton  
State Capitol  
Charleston, WV 25305

304-348-1600

Senators Robert Byrd and Jay Rockefeller  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

202-224-3954 (Sen. Byrd)  
202-224-6472 (Sen. Rockefeller)

Representative Harley O. Staggers Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

202-225-4331

Sierra Club is putting together a computer data base of those who oppose the southern routes along Route 33 to keep them informed about key points in the process when input is needed. If you are interested in being placed on our list, contact Mary Wimmer, WV Sierra Club, P.O. Box 4142, Morgantown, WV 26504 or Tom Prall, Rt. 3, Box 146, Apt. 6, Buckhannon, WV 26201.

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## George joins Perry & Haid as firm's general council

CHARLESTON—Larry W. George, former president of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and former Commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Energy, has joined The Perry & Haid Group as the firm's General Council.

The move was announced April 8 by firm partner Willis J. Perry. George, 36, an attorney and civil engineer, will provide consulting services in environmental management, land use, and other public policy matters.

The Perry & Haid Group, based in Charleston, is a consulting firm providing services in management, environment and land use, public policy analysis, and governmental relations in West Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic region.

George was deputy director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) from January 1989 to June 1990, when he was appointed Energy Commissioner. Prior to joining DNR he was in private practice law. He also served as Majority Counsel of the West Virginia Senate (1984-85 sessions) and Staff Counsel to the House of Delegates (1988 session).

George served as a member of the West Virginia State Water Resources Board from

1978-82. He was a member of the National Coal Council 1985-88 and the Energy and Environment Council of the National Governor's Association (1989-90). From 1983 to 1986 he was president of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

George holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering (1979) from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence (1982) from West Virginia University College of Law. He is a native of Huntington.

**Notes** — from page five  
requirements are not met.

\* Membership secretary Pat Riffle announced that her husband has been notified of a transfer out of state and they expect to move in August. Cindy is looking for a new membership secretary.

\* My thanks to Tom Michael, Perry Bryant, all of the board (and, I suspect to Cindy Rank for suggesting it to Tom) for an increase in the Voice editor stipend, since the present system includes doing all the typesetting and printing costs are down.

I recently splurged for a used computer so I could do much of the work at home, since even on a day off, if I go the office I get sucked into doing Record-Delta business. The increase relieved some of my panic about how I was going to pay for it. Thanks.

### Found

After Spring Review, a forest green rain parka. If you left one at Yokums, call Cindy Rank, 304-924-5802.