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**1967 - 1992: 25 years working for
West Virginians and the environment**



Stream protection workshops offered

Volunteers are needed to help monitor and protect West Virginia's rivers.

The Izaak Walton League of America will host a series of Hands-on training sessions through its West Virginia Save Our Streams Program on May 2 and June 27 from 12:45 p.m. to 5 p.m..

Volunteer will learn to monitor water quality using the League's biological monitoring technique which uses the critters present in the water to rate water quality. By attending one of the half-day workshops, citizens can become part of this fun, hands-on protection and monitoring, and sign up to adopt a river of their choice for a year or more.

"Additional workshops will be held throughout Mason County and the Western Soil Conservation District area during the summer months for individuals and groups who wish to participate in the SOS program," said Richard Patterson, NPS Environmental Specialist with the West

Virginia State Soil Conservation Committee.

The West Virginia SOS program has been active in the state since 1989. Currently, the League maintains 85 volunteer water quality monitoring stations run by concerned West Virginia citizens. Presently no streams in Mason or Jackson counties have been adopted, with one each in Calhoun and Roane counties.

Volunteers monitor water quality four to six times a year by using fine mesh nets to trap and identify aquatic insects. The types of critters living in the streams tell volunteers if the stream is of excellent, good, fair or poor water quality. For example, a stonefly is an excellent water quality indicator while a crayfish can be found in moderate quality water.

Data collected by the program is sent to the Division of Natural Resources (DNR)

See Streams, page 4

Update from the legislature

by State VP Norm Steenstra

The last week of the session was marked by the passage of the Timber Bill, Rails to Trails Bill, the ORV Resolution, the Clean Air Bill, the Cancer Registry Bill and amazingly, the Hazardous Waste Siting Bill. Let me start with the Haz Waste Bill, HB 4224.

HB# 4224 allows citizens of a county to determine the siting of a hazardous waste facility. Early in the last week of the session, J.D. Brackenrich attempted to "triple reference" the bill (to Senate Natural Resources, Judiciary, and Finance Committees). Several "old-timer" lobbyists scratched their heads and said they'd never heard of a triple reference attempt. In the end, through a series of brilliant maneuvers by Senators Jim Humphreys, Sondra Lucht and Don Macnaughtan, the Finance reference was dropped and the bill passed Natural Resources, Judiciary, and finally the full Senate.

Senator Don Macnaughtan introduced an amendment in the Judiciary Committee which, quite frankly, pulled the rug out from under the chemical industry by neutralizing its main objections. The bill passed the full Senate stronger than when introduced in the House six weeks earlier! Briefly, the new law provides for a refer-

endum on any Haz Waste facility that takes more than 10-percent of its hazardous material from another facility. The new law is very similar to provisions in our Solid and Medical Waste laws passed last year.

Governor Caperton traveled to Martinsburg on March 18th, to sign the bill into law in front of several hundred appreciative Berkeley Countians. The law prohibits any WTI-type commercial haz waste facilities from siting in our state without voter approval. Literally hundreds of people were involved in the successful passage of HB 4224, but the legislative heroes include Delegates Dale Manuel, John Huntwork, Vickie Douglas, and David Grubb. The Senators who deserve the most credit are Sondra Lucht, Jim Humphreys, and Don Macnaughtan.

Timber

It may seem odd, but sometimes the passage of an "environmental" bill can be considered a defeat. That was the case with HB #4669. This bill came out of the House greased, and creased, late in the session. There was an erroneous perception created by the Timber Industry, that this bill was an agreed upon piece of

See Update, page 12

Spring Review

May 15-17

Watoga State Park
Pocahontas Co.

Focus on the Forest

(Brochures should be in the mail soon. If you know you are going to attend, please call Donna Borders, 304-428-4746. See page 7 for more information.)

E-Day! at the Legislature combines work, art, fun

(reprinted from the WVEC Legislative Update)

We celebrated our third annual E-DAY! on Thursday, February 13th. It's really great to be able to have traditions for such a young organization, and E-DAY has truly become a tradition.

Each E-DAY! event has had its own tone and mood. The first one was a grand experiment, with Lois Gibbs inspiring a new movement. Last year, Paul Connert amused and instructed us on waste management and incineration. The "garbage crazies" dominated the audience those first two years. This E-DAY! was different. A winter storm hit the state the night before and prevented our good friends from both the Panhandles, and the northern part of the state, from coming in their usual numbers. People concerned about toxics, herbicide spraying and dioxin outnumbered the "garbage crazies."

Tom Webster, our keynote speaker, was dynamite. He took the complex issue of dioxin and made it understandable for all of us non-scientists. Other speakers included Bill Doyle, on the Ravenswood locked out steelworkers, Kate Basham on the spraying of pesticides, Cindy Rank on timbering, and Brian Hagenbuch on toxics use reduction and hazardous waste facilities; all of this was masterfully mc'ed by WVEC President, Perry McDaniel.

This year included two notable changes. We kept the microphone open to only the issues and not to politicians. Our friendly elected officials and previous years' speakers, such as Chuck Chambers, Charlotte Pritt and Dave Grubb, graciously understood our need to focus on the issues.



Rev. Jeff Allen from McDowell County was one recipient of the Mother Jones Award.

The second area in which this year's E-DAY! was unique was that it was far more visual than previous rallies. Carol Jackson and Tom Rodd's children's pageant was both amusing and poignant. Tom and Carol never fail to entertain and instruct their audiences. The Stonewall Jackson Junior High Environmental Club provided a "cast of thousands" for Carol's skit. Even Jack Fugett's papiermache head returned to a

See E-Day!, page 9

— from the heart of the mountains —

by Cindy Rank

CANAAN

Valley of Promise / Valley of Conflict

As the population of the East Coast explodes, special places like Canaan Valley are under more and more pressure to fulfill a multitude of different and often conflicting dreams.

There seems to be no end to the tug-of-war over what to do with these thousands of acres of unique wetland ecosystems.

- Do you flood them for a pump storage electric power plant?
- Do you drain them for more and more second homedevlopment?
- Do you drive through them for a wet and wild ORV experience?
- Do you set them aside as a National Treasure to be visited?
- Do you protect the lowlying wetlands and create luxury resorts along the upland ridges?
- ...the list could go on....

The position of the Highlands Conservancy has always been clear: Designation as a National Wildlife Refuge would not only protect the wetland complex and the entire ecosystem for its own value, but would also contribute to the local and state economy by protecting the resource and experience that draws people to the Valley in the first place.

And still, after decades of political and legal battles, even the most conciliatory attempts at compromise are being challenged.

As readers of the VOICE are aware, the Canaan Valley Task Force has provided a forum for representatives from Federal and State agencies, local government and business groups and statewide environmental organizations to talk through their differences and often mistaken perceptions of each other and the proposed Wildlife Refuge. Further studies have been conducted to evaluate the possible impacts a Refuge will have on the lives of the people in Tucker County. And the Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed a new refuge boundary that would exclude some of the more developed land in the southern end of the valley.

While the proposal is not entirely satisfactory to any of the groups involved in the Task Force, it could provide a somewhat decent resolution to fears about the Refuge. Informational meetings have been held throughout the county, and yet activities surrounding the most recent of these meetings is indicative of the controversy that continues to exist.

The Tucker County Planning Commission arranged and advertised meetings in Parsons and Canaan Valley on the 9th and 10th of April. Their advertisement appeared on page 13 of the April 8th edition of the Parsons Advocate. On the preceding page an ad sponsored by the Citizens for Progress in Tucker County encouraged people to attend the public meetings and offered positive answers to some of the oft asked questions about the Wildlife Refuge.

However, on the pages before and after these two ads, as well as the entire two page middle spread, are messages from Tucker Countians for Continued Growth clearly opposing the refuge and conjuring up the false and devisive arguments of environment VS economics, about environmental protection measures preventing growth and stifling the economy.....

It was disheartening to read this issue of the Advocate, and yet, all hope was not lost. A week later, at Easter morning church services with family in Pennsylvania, i spoke with a member of the parish who owns a home in Timberline and knows of our interest in the Valley. He made a point of saying how much he resented the mailings from Timberline and developers in the area who constantly berate the idea of a National Wildlife Refuge.

As if these remnants of past and continuing struggles to protect Canaan Valley aren't enough, a new element of confusion is about to be added to the pot: fields of wind turbines along the mountain ridges in the valley and up to Mount Storm.

Admittedly, even with a major push for renewed dedication to conservation by all americans, we do need to encourage the development of alternative sources of energy. And wind power is certainly one of the available options. — But, why here?

See Canaan, page 3

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Conservancy can succeed

Dear Ms. Cindy Rank

"Is anybody listening? Does anybody care?" I first heard these questions asked in the musical "1776." It was produced to commemorate our country's 200 birthday. Our founding fathers had the perception they were alone in the effort for independence.

Your Vol. 24, #10/11 "from the editor" H.V. confirmed that concern for feedback for "the affected" still exists. Yes Cindy there are live Highlands Voice subscribers out here. We do exist as certainly as nature, the environment does. We do have a concern for maintaining it in the best fashion we can, living in and using it as recklessly as we do.

You wonder about the Conservancy. Living 300 miles from Monongahela National Forest, Dolly Sods, Canaan Valley and the polluted Blackwater River of the West Virginia High-

lands, your comments cause me concern. I cannot see what is going on, as you can, from Rock Cave. Like the editor of a 1897 New York newspaper did with Santa Claus, I have faith that the Conservancy will succeed. You, doing your best to maintain as much of nature's beauty as possible, can succeed.

From your efforts gain what satisfaction, happiness you can working and living in difficult times in a trying place. Nobody ever said life in West Virginia was going to be easy. Fun is an intangible. It is a feeling we all need to persevere with our lives. I hope yours improves and 1992 fulfills all your goals and expectations.

Respectfully,
Theodore A. Beadle
Ardmore, Pa.

MSM Project Prevents Dioxin Pollution

By Joan Sims

of Mountain Stream Monitors

In 1991, West Virginia Mountain Stream Monitors received a grant from the Virginia Environmental Endowment to educate citizens and legislators about a proposed weakening of the State dioxin standard. This weakened standard would have been 77 times weaker than the EPA's recommended standard. Dioxin is a by-product of the chlorine-activated type of paper bleaching process. The West Virginia Water Resources Board proposed this new standard to accommodate the construction of the proposed Alabama River Pulp Company's Apple Grove Wood Pulp Plant on the Ohio River in Mason County. Governor Caperton was planning to introduce this change during the 1992 legislative session.

Mountain Stream Monitors began the Water Quality Project by organizing a group of scientists and community organizers, coordinated by Antioch Intern, Tom Leet in Charleston. Dioxin fact sheets were written and distributed to citizens and citizen groups. Meetings were held to discuss the dangers of this toxic chemical, and alternative methods of bleaching paper. Dioxin does not exist in nature, and is only created by industrial processes. Dioxin enters the cells of humans and animals, and disrupts normal physiology and immune system responses in subtle but insidious ways. Alternate methods of bleaching paper with oxygen or hydrogen peroxide instead of chlorine are being used in Europe and Canada.

To increase public understanding of this dioxin issue, Thomas Webster, a research scientist at City University of New York, came to Charleston and gave an effective speech on dioxin dangers and alternative bleaching methods at the E-Day rally at the Capitol in February. He asked the audience if slightly whiter and cheaper paper is worth risking cancer for. Also during the rally, Tom Rodd and Carol Jackson from Morgantown organized an impressive children's skit about dioxin contamination, with "Alabama George", the mutated catfish. Then, a major public hearing was held before the West

Virginia Senate Natural Resources Committee concerning this proposed change in the State dioxin standards, with many testimonies by concerned citizens.

Our hard work was rewarded when the Governor cancelled his plans to introduce this bill to weaken the dioxin standard. He also dropped the Water Resources Board's proposed Harmonic Mean Flow method of calculating a river's ability to dilute carcinogenic pollution. This would have allowed industries to dump five to seven times more carcinogenic pollution, including dioxin, in West Virginia water ways.

Mountain Stream Monitors used this Water Quality Project Grant to organize an effective team of organizers, scientists, and citizens, which was able to educate and inform the public about these important water quality issues. This has resulted in much better water quality standards for our State. These will help to create a climate that encourages clean industries to locate in West Virginia, but tells polluters that they are not welcome here.

Rivers Coalition seeks members' support

Dear West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Member:

Recently, some Conservancy members sat around the dinner table reminiscing about the spectacular stretch of the Gauley River that now lies beneath Summersville Lake. It offered extraordinary scenery, wildlife habitat, and whitewater.

Over the years, the Conservancy has worked hard to keep West Virginia's rivers free flowing. Dams have been fought on the New, Gauley, Meadow, Cheat, and Greenbrier... just to name a few. With renewed interest in hydropower, increased demand for municipal water, schemes to develop small coal-fired power plants, and the push to complete Corridor H, the need to protect West Virginia's streams is as critical as ever.

The legislative success that led to Congress passing Congressman Rahall's West Virginia Rivers Act of 1988 was, in part, the result of an informal coalition of state and national conservation groups, including the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. That effort spawned the idea of a West Virginia Rivers Coalition (WVRC) of which the Conservancy is a charter member and strong supporter.

With 24 state and national organizational members, WVRC also seeks to offer individual memberships. As a Conservancy member, your membership in WVRC is free. Simply fill out our enclosed form and mail it to WVRC. Your membership will bring you WVRC's newsletter and timely information about how you can help protect rivers. WVRC is in need of funding, and, of course, a donation would be greatly appreciated.

With a full-time executive director and an office in Buckhannon, WVRC is up and running. It's first big project is to protect 13 rivers in the Monongahela National Forest by having them designated as Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers. For this project to succeed, we need your support. Think about the rivers we have lost to dams and pollution. Let's not lose anymore. Please join us!

Sincerely,

Roger Harrison
Executive Director
West Virginia Rivers Coalition

Skip Deegan
VP/Federal
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

LATE NEWS: Forest Service agrees with WVRC recommendations — 12 rivers in Monongahela National Forest found eligible for Wild & Scenic Rivers designation.

Streams

which uses the information to gauge the quality of rivers around the state.

"Many of these rivers would be unmonitored and unprotected without the help of concerned West Virginia volunteers," said Mike Arcuri of the DNR.

The program is fun for all ages and currently involves schools, fishing clubs, civic organizations, individuals, farmers and all people concerned with protecting the quality of West

from page one

Virginia's rivers now and for future generations.

Funded by the Virginia Environmental Endowment and the Department of Natural Resources, the program is a cooperative effort among DNR, the State Soil Conservation Committee and the Izaak Walton League's Save Our Streams Program. Any and all rivers are eligible for adoption by concerned citizens.

The Saturday, May 2 workshop will be on the Little Kanawha River at Mountwood Park. Call 304-574-3036 with questions or to get directions.

Saturday, June 27 will be the Eastern Panhandle Workshop, sponsored by the Izaak Walton League Berkeley County Chapter. Call 1-800-BugIWLA with questions or to get directions.

Also call 1-800-BugIWLA to register for the workshops. There is no registration charge, but space may be limited.

To learn to become a river monitor, attend one of the free workshops, or plan to attend one this summer.

The agenda is the same for all workshops. Call 1-800-BugIWLA or contact Richard Patterson at the Western Soil Conservation District office, 224C First St., Pt. Pleasant, WV. Phone, 675-3054 to set up a workshop or receive additional information on the Save Our Streams program in your area.

"We Are Not for Sale" is (for sale)

"We Are Not for Sale," a dynamite tape of eclectic, home-grown music with an environmental theme is still available. Musicians include Mike Morningstar, Larry Groce, Ron Sowell, Kate Long, Stewed Mulligan, Mountain Thyme, David Morris, Jim Martin, Colleen Anderson, Barney and the Bedrockers (Steve Himes), and Tom Rodd.

The tape was commissioned by the West Virginia Environmental Council and proceeds support both our work and theirs. Cover girl on the tape is our beloved president, Cindy Rank.

Tapes are available for \$10, plus \$1.25 shipping and handling (total, \$11.25 per tape.) To order, send check or money order to Mary Pat Peck, 36 Meade St., Buckhannon, WV 26201.

Governor's office help sought to save creek from DEP & AMD

Dave Haggerty
Laurel Mtn. Watershed Assn.
Rt. 1, Box 173
Thornton, W. Va. 26440
265-4806
April 13, 1992

Mr. Tom Heywood, Esquire
Chief of Staff
Governor Caperton's Office
State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

By Mail and Fax

Dear Mr. Heywood:

Members of our watershed association have often joined other community groups and environmentalists in praising the Caperton administration's work to improve West Virginia's environmental protection climate.

But today, a grievous wrong is being done to an innocent community, by authority of Governor Caperton's administration. Because I feel that the Governor personally hasn't been told the straight facts, I am writing you, and asking that you inform the Governor.

Here's what is happening:
Our creek is dying.

The Left Fork of Sandy Creek, in Preston and Barbour counties — where our children play and fish (or did before the pollution), where our cattle water, where many of our grandparents were baptized — is today receiving 800,000 gallons per day of untreated, poisonous, highly toxic acid mine drainage, from the F&M Coal Company strip mines.

Since chemical treatment of the mine drainage stopped on March 7, 1992, the stream has been receiving these immense flows of mine acid, loaded with toxic metals, delivering greater and greater insults to the stream's biological systems every day.

The state of West Virginia controls the site, and has \$435,000 of the company's money. A drainage treatment system built by the coal company is in place. The state refuses to chemically treat the drainage to neutralize the drainage and precipitate the metals, despite the state's explicit and repeated promises to do so.

Based on these facts, should I tell my kids that our state government is a polluter and a liar, and is killing their creek? It seems to fit, doesn't it?

Here are some more facts for the Governor: In a series of conversations between West Virginia Environmental Protection Director Dave Callaghan, and Callaghan's lawyer Assistant Attorney General Jay Lazell, Callaghan assured Lazell that the state would take over chemical treatment of the acid mine drainage from the F&M mines, if F&M forfeited its mining reclamation bonds.

Lazell repeated these assurances in several bankruptcy court hearings. DEP staff were there and heard them. A federal judge heard Lazell state, with DEP staff present, that DEP would be there to supply and operate the drainage treatment facilities on the very next day after the coal company employees were laid off.

Relying on these promises, all parties, including our community watershed association, withdrew objections to the coal company's bond forfeiture, and stopping of chemical treatment. Which happened on March 7, 1992.

But Mr. Callaghan reneged. DEP never showed, and never treated. So, today, the mine sites are spewing rivers of poison into our creek. David Callaghan now claims Lazell had no basis for making such a promise.

This is hogwash. Our lawyer, Tom Rodd, has worked with Mr. Lazell for many years. Rodd and all the other parties to the case know Lazell to be an experienced professional. It is impossible that Lazell would have so clearly misstated his client's position. DEP staff were present at the hearings. Lazell's assurances were certainly based on conversations with Callaghan (and, incidentally, upon the law's clear language).

Mr. Heywood, how these promises were authorized is ultimately irrelevant. The fact is, they were made — and we the people relied on them — and they were broken.

Now, as a result, our creek is dying. It's like watching a freight train wreck in slow motion.

My children see it every morning when they get on the school bus. Where I fished with them, where rock bass and freshwater clams thrived, is becoming each day more of a poisoned, biological desert.

Thanks, in part, to Governor Caperton's appointees.

Now what? All the state technical and enforcement field staff I have spoken with believe that the state should maintain the chemical treatment system. They are afraid to speak their

minds.

Director Callaghan's instructions to ignore chemical treatment, and plan an experimental "passive" anoxic trench drainage treatment system, are a legal, technical, and moral mistake. My wife's professor at WVU, Jeff Skousen, told Callaghan that anoxic trenches won't work.

And what hypocrisy, to make a coal company spend hundreds of thousands on chemical treatment, and then blow it off when the state takes over! No wonder the coal industry complains of stupid and unnecessary regulations, when the state won't abide by what it imposes on coal operators!

Mr. Heywood, the keeping of these promises is a fundamental issue for our community - and for the wider community of West Virginians

concerned about environmental protection. We and our friends across the state will exert continuous, escalating, and unrelenting pressure on as many fronts as possible, until the state honors these assurances.

We're just starting and we won't stop. It's serious, and personal. We're angry, determined — we're fighting for our homes, our creek, and for a government we don't have to be ashamed of before our children.

Please help us. In the name of all that is decent, get this to Governor Caperton and tell him to stop killing our creek now!

Your friend,
David Haggerty

cc: a whole lot of people

Withers calls for bonding changes

by Marvin Gelhausen, Statesman Editor
reprinted from April 20, 1992
Mountain Statesman, Grafton

GRAFTON — Taylor County support is being offered to the efforts of the Fellowship Watershed Association, the Army Corps of Engineers and others calling for immediate clean-up of acid mine drainage from the F&M mine sites in Preston County.

Taylor County's three county commissioners have drafted a letter calling for immediate action. Taylor County State Senator Mike Withers, who also represents Preston County, is speaking out on the issue.

Withers in an interview with the Mountain Statesman last week said the coalition of those seeking action has included both Taylor and Preston County residents and groups such as Trout Unlimited. He said the suit was filed asking that the West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection be required to assure the clean-up is immediately begun and followed through for as long as required.

Withers is also calling for the state to be more aggressive. "I think the state needs to be more aggressive about going after insurance money to clean-up these sites," noted Withers. The senator said EPA Director David Callaghan is saying the division will reclaim the sites. But Withers said the EPA will still have to go back in and provide drainage ditches and collection ponds.

"I don't believe they have the technology to solve it," commented Withers, who expressed

concern over the far reaching environmental impacts of the problem.

Withers believes inadequate bonding is also at the heart of the problem.

"I think the real problem here is that EPA is trying to avoid the recognition that the mining industry and the state have to amend their bonding requirements."

Withers went on to explain, "In situations where the company doesn't do what it was supposed to in protecting the environment or allowing acid mine drainage to enter streams, the bonding is inadequate to cover the cost of the state going in and fulfilling the obligation."

The senator said, "If the EPA admits here that the inadequate bonding is the problem, then it is an admission of the problems at all other sites."

Taylor County Commissioner Tom Spadafore said, "This is not only affecting the pristine lake, but it is a water source for not only Grafton and Taylor County but also for communities downstream."

Commissioner Charlene Withers agreed with her husband, Senator Withers, that drainage trenches and collection ponds will be an unavoidable necessity of any long range plan to address the problems. However, she firmly supports the efforts to see that action is taken.

"Not only are we looking at negative impacts upon the water source and recreational uses of Tygart Lake but we're looking at an entire biologic and ecological system for which the impacts are unknown," she said.

"Personal perspectives" is a forum in which NRDC members, trustees, and staff talk with *Newsline* about their individual environmental convictions and ideals. This issue features Dr. George Woodwell, one of the five original founding trustees of NRDC and a Vice Chairman of our board since 1973. Dr. Woodwell is the Founder and Director of the Woods Hole Research Center. He worked at the Brookhaven National Laboratory for 14 years, and also founded and directed the Ecosystems Center of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole. He is widely considered one of the nation's foremost environmental scientists.

There was never a moment when I "became" an environmentalist. I was born one. I grew up close to nature, because my parents had an old family farm in southern Maine where we spent a great deal of time. And although I majored in biology when I went to college, I suppose I really majored in the Outing Club — walking all over the mountains of southern Maine and New Hampshire. But all of this just reinforced what I always knew: that what I wanted to do in life was research and teaching in the biological sciences.

I've done research in ecology almost all my life. But to me, research for its own sake isn't enough; it has to be linked with

Personal perspectives

Dr. George Woodwell

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public affairs. Great gaps lie between what we know in science and what we do in government, and they exist because government really does not want to hear what science has to say. Scientists are suggesting that there are finite limits to what we can do to the Earth; government and politics are concerned with economic interests, which means exploiting the Earth for profit. And therefore it is hard to get government to listen to what scientists would call reason. The powers of greed and corruption can be much stronger than the powers of common sense, wholesomeness, and restraint.

The problem is most obvious in the effort for a global warming treaty. The potential of global warming for destruction is virtually infinite. Living on Earth with the temperature rising year by year is simply not going to be possible for human beings. Agricultural fields will warm up — but erratically, so that yields will fall. In 1988, there was a 30 percent drop in the yield of all

grains grown in North America. If that had been repeated the next year, there would have been a shortage all over the world. And global warming would destroy forests. It's easy to destroy forests, but very hard to build them up; it takes a year to kill a forest. 50 years to restore it.

Those kinds of changes constitute wrecking havoc on the human enterprise. For any government to say that global warming hasn't been proven, or that it's not serious enough yet to worry about, is the ultimate in foolhardiness.

But I'm optimistic. Despite the lack of government leadership, people have recognized what a serious problem we face. People and corporations are moving. Utilities and foreign automobile manufacturers, for instance, are recognizing the economic advantages of advanced energy-efficient technologies. Whether they can move quickly enough is a question; it will take imaginative and aggressive action, because we must virtually abandon fossil fuels.

But yes, I'm optimistic. We can back away from global warming, and without hurting human potential — in fact, we would preserve the human potential. And NRDC is right there in front, leading the way. NRDC is one of the biggest reasons I'm optimistic.

our past - our present - our future - our present - our past

Bits and pieces from past Voices

March 1974

Strip Strategy in '74

Strip mining for coal has not gone away. If anything the coal operators are now gouging coal out of the Appalachian hills at an ever increasing rate. Siltation and landslides from stripping and the accompanying destruction has been reduced in the last several years here in West Virginia as citizen protests have brought about more strict law enforcement. The improved situation is at best temporary though, and predictions by knowledgeable people (such as the Pennsylvania Strip Mine Reclamation Director) are that heavy rains will wash out the flimsy earth silt dams. Pray that a number of washouts in one storm will not turn your stream into another Buffalo Creek.

If strip mining damage could be restricted to the property being mined, then it would be acceptable. From an engineering standpoint stripping without damage to adjoining property is possible, but such a method of stripping would not be economically competitive with deep mining. By the same token out West Virginia strip mine laws, if strictly enforced, would eliminate off-site damage, but this same enforcement would economically eliminate strip mining.

Historically, West Virginia politicians have favored the coal industry and out-of-state interests in general. If not this, then why do the people who live here in the middle of fantastically abundant natural resources suffer from the lack of adequate health facilities, poor schools, poor roads, and sub-standard communities. Strip mining has added insult to injury, in that in many instances it has taken from the already underprivileged a place to live. Their home have been repeatedly flooded and their roads, their streams, and their hills have been virtually destroyed....

Robert Handley

Guest Editorial from Outdoor America

The world's attention is finally focusing on the conservationist. Remember when we were termed radicals, doomsayers, unpatriotic obstructionists — and a lot worse?

Remember when our cautions about untempered consumption of America's natural resources were called unreasoned and "shoot from the hip" approaches detrimental to the national interest?

Some even called us "eco-freaks" because we dared to suggest that man, through his voracious appetite for convenience was eating up the earth's finite sources of energy.

All of a sudden the shoe is on the other foot. The public is learning, for the first time, that the real quick-draw experts are the energy purveyors, who have both created and nurtured the public's craving for more resource-sapping products. If the "Joneses" had showed off a canoe instead of a Cadillac, the all-American family would be healthier and more environmentally aware for having tried to "keep up with" them....

Overlook

by Bob Burrell

WVHC Shavers Fork committee member Bill Bristor recently made the news when he received the Gurney Godfrey Memorial Award for outstanding accomplishment in the conservation of Natural resources. Bristor's tireless efforts to prevent heedless and often unauthorized exploitation of the Monongahela National Forest and Shavers Fork were cited in the award....

Bottle Bill referred to joint committee

by Charles Bowers

Good news! I contacted Del. Billy Burke last week for a report on SCR 14, the "Bottle Bill," and he returned the call with the news that Lew McManus, chairman of the House Rules Committee, has moved the report on SCR 14 out of his committee....

Incidentally, I finally heard from Governor Moore about the "Bottle Bill." He said, "Your letter relating to providing of Waste Control program under the jurisdiction of the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission has been received, and I am most appreciative of your sharing your views in this regard with me...should such a measure be presented to me for my signature, I shall give it every proper consideration, keeping your thoughts in mind."

Well, the Governor is at least reading his mail, and he appears to be leaning to our side.

It's not nice to short-change Mother Nature

by Nick Zvegintzov

....More sober than Mr. Plass's madcap scheme to combat tooth decay by growing bushier mustaches is the plan of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation to provide a new category of park — wasteland. Observing that kids of every age traditionally use wasteland in back of town for joyriding and gunfire and fornication, the Bureau has funded demonstration projects throughout the country for this type of development. One is 600 acres of stripped land at Pendleton Run in Tucker County. At \$1,000 an acre they are fitting it out for "off road recreation vehicles and shooting sports. They estimate that there are 2.2 million acres of unreclaimed stripped land in the country, so we can be assured of lots of wasteland recreation in the future. (Read about it in their pamphlet, "Sources of Assistance in Reclaiming Surface Mined Lands for Outdoor Recreation.")

It is ironic that the soberest study of the actual economic value of un-wasted land comes from Oak Ridge National Laboratory, a notorious consumer of electric power generated by TVA from strip mining. The paper is "Opportunity Costs of Land Use: The Case of Coal Surface Mining" by R.L. Spore and E.A. Nephew. It weighs on the one side the known reserves of strippable coal in the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River and the predicted costs and rates of mining, and on the other the present recreational use in visitor-days and the predicted future use. Like any economic calculation involving the future, this one depends on a forecast of such factors such as inflation, change in demand, and so on, but the authors conclude that under almost any combination of such assumptions the present value of the unstripped land is higher than the present value of any future mining....

March 1975

FPC Staff Vetoes Davis Power Project

by Dave Elkinton

The staff of the Federal Power Commission has recommended that the Administrative Law Judge refuse a license for the proposed Davis Power Project in Canaan Valley. This unexpected recommendation is contained in the FPC Staff Counsel's Initial Brief filed Feb. 28, 1975. In the major recommendation, the brief states, "In this instance, the losses of the natural resources occasioned by the Development of the proposed Davis Power Pumped Storage Project outweigh the resulting benefits." In addition, the brief finds various alternatives available, both other pumped storage sites and other methods of power generation, and concludes that these would be preferable if a license is issued.

....the FPC staff argues that the law requires the FPC to have regard of the overall public interest. "The public interest is only served, when consideration is given to all other benefits of the Blackwater River and the Canaan Valley. The Canaan Valley represents a unique natural ecosystem in West Virginia and some instances the significance of these resources extends to the Central Appalachian Region and even the United States. Because of this, the determination of the public interest requires the weighing of the losses to these resources against the benefits derived from the development of the proposed project."

Speak Out for the Cranberry Back Country

by Ron Hardway

(This follows a description of the core drilling for coal in the Cranberry done by Mid Allegheny Corporation not long after the release of results of government funded investigation of 289 core holes, new and old, in the Cranberry.)

So is the Cranberry Back Country in a lot of trouble. Mid-Allegheny has got to come up with more coal than Slack's Survey did. To do that they must core drill, core drill and core drill until they strike water or hell, whichever comes first. The Back Country is going to suffer for it. Already Rt. 108 is ruined and unusable for the upcoming hiking season. The Middle Fork is sometimes muddy, and an occasional patch of oil comes slinking down it's rocky course. The Laurelly Branch Trail is gone for the next several years. We fear similar damage has been

done to the North-South Trail and Rt. 76 on the North Fork of Cranberry. There is litter scattered hither and yon along Rt. 108, litter which was not there this time last year, nor even last August. It is there now, rusting away in the mud or flapping from a laurel bush.

What can we do?

Go out and look at the Cranberry Back Country. Listen. Is it the sound of a pheasant drumming, or is it a truck grumbling along Middle Fork? Live in the CBC for a weekend or a week. Catch a trout. Fry it over a campfire and eat it. Find a dead trout floating upside down. Cut it open and look for mud inside. Dig some ramps, cook them, and eat them. Catalogue all the flowers, birds and trees in the area. Catalogue all the beer cans, soft drink cans and candy wrappers in the area. Take the coldest and most refreshing swim of your life in the Middle Fork. Bust your ass trying to jump across the stream and landing on a rock covered with oil. Sit under a hemlock in the evening and listen to the owls. Sit under a hemlock at noon and feel the ground shake. Lie down at the head of Hell-for-Certain Branch, and realize you are in Heaven-for-Sure, but that Hell-for-Certain is just around the corner. Fall in love. Get damned mad....

The Freezing Dinosaur or The Crazyness of American Electric Power

by Nick Zvegintzov

The winter of 1974 was a time when every sane inhabitant of this space ship earth realized that the rules for the use and distribution of energy were permanently changed. One warm note in a cold time was to see how many sane people there are, how many human beings will accept the inevitable with creative courage. But there were chilling notes too, crazy responses calling for more of the policies that got us into these troubles. One of the craziest responses was from American Electric Power (AEP), which is the world's largest private utility and a major industry in our area, consuming over 10% of the coal delivered in West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky.

AEP's crazyness took many forms. The most obvious was to spend \$3.3 million of its customers money on 34 advertisements when your product is supposed to be electric power, but the content of the ads ranged from high comedy (the suggestion that you can avoid polluting the air if you send your smoke up VERY TALL CHIMNEYS - October 25) to low farce (including this fine poem from November 7:

There once was a man from Rhode I,
Who didn't quite see eye to eye
With the experts on scrubbers.
So he donned only rubbers,
Then waded through gook to his tie.)....

April 1975

Corridor H Construction Problems Discussed at Elkins

On March 26 a meeting was held at the DNR Operations Center near Elkins to discuss the problems of Corridor H construction....

Duane Wainwright gave a summary of recent developments at Bowden Hatchery resulting from Corridor H construction. He stated that he had observed a direct correlation of turbidity of the South Spring and rainfall. He also felt that Corridor H construction was responsible for this condition, and it was his opinion the south Spring would not recover from damages already incurred....

Don Culbertson stated that litigation under the Transportation Act (SEC 4-F) was considered due to the effect of highway construction on the South Spring. Culbertson does not know what action will be taken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at this time, but feels they are in a better position to make their interests known because of the recent effects of construction....

Mr. Culbertson stated that an EIS will be required for the Bowden to Wymer segment. This will provide time to study probable effects on the North Spring. He also stated that he thought a court order could be requested by a governmental agency, group of private citizens, or individual to demand an EIS on the total alignment of Corridor H....

our present - our past - our future - our past - our present

Charles Carlson stated that the Highlands Conservancy was considering litigation to halt Corridor H construction at an upcoming meeting on April 12 at Jackson's Mill. The primary objective is to stop construction of any eastward extension of Corridor H past the western edge of Elkins until an EIS was prepared on the entire alignment of the highway....

Why the Cranberry Back Country is not Otter Creek by Ron Hardway

A couple of years ago Otter Creek was faced with the unpleasant prospect of extensive core drilling operations within its boundaries. Island Creek Coal Company, owners of the mineral rights in Otter Creek, had decided to find out exactly what it was they owned. Regardless of the fact that Otter Creek was being reviewed by Congress as a potential National Wilderness Area, Island Creek had laid down plans to build a network of roads throughout the area to get to their core-drilling sites. The Forest Service, stewards of the Otter Creek surface, went along with Island Creek's roadbuilding plans because the Forest Service hoped to log the entire watershed anyway and would have to do less roadwork themselves.

It is difficult to think of all that happened in Otter Creek as history, yet history it now is that the Conservancy took offense against both Island Creek and the Forest Service, and sued them jointly to prevent the roadbuilding; that the Conservancy won the suit; that Island Creek was compelled to do their core drilling via horseback; that no logging ever occurred; that no roads were built; and that today the nation owns the Otter Creek National Wilderness Area.

Otter Creek is alive and well. But the core drillers and the road builders never die — they just change their name and move to another proposed wilderness area. Island Creek has become Mid-Allegheny Corporation, and Otter Creek has become the Cranberry Back Country. But there the resemblance ends, and this time it's going to be much more difficult to stop what is happening.

It would seem that the Otter Creek decision would have set a precedent, and so it did for areas whose minerals are held under the same conditions as were those of Otter Creek. The ownership of Cranberry's minerals is a totally different story, and the Otter Creek decision does not apply in the least....

March 1976

CAG to Sue Coal Mines for Water Pollution

The West Virginia Citizen Action Group (WV-CAG) has notified ten coal companies operating 220 illegal mine dis-

charges, of their intent to sue the companies for violation of Federal law. WV-CAG is also threatening to sue the EPA for failing to enforce the Federal Water Pollution Control Act at most of West Virginia's coal mines....

Rare fish discovered in Shavers Fork by Paul Frank, Elkins Inter-Mountain

A fish that may be the only one of its kind in the world has been discovered on the Shaver's Fork of the Cheat River, high in the mountains above Huttonsville, and studies slated for this spring and summer may result in its being designated as a rare and endangered species, according to the W.Va. Department of Natural Resources.

The net effect of placing the minnow on the rare and endangered species list of the U.S. Department of Interior, according to officials at the DNR, would be to severely limit the kinds of development that would be permitted on the river....

The tiny minnow — barely as long as its scientific name, *Rhinichthys bowersi*, was originally discovered in 1899 by two scientists, Goldsborough and Clark, who found specimens of the minnow-like fish in both the Dry Fork near Harman and at Cheat Bridge. At that time it was thought to be a hybrid — a cross between two other kinds of minnows. Some years later, in 1940, another scientist, Raney, found the same "hybrid" at Cheat Bridge again, and he again believed it to be a hybrid. Since 1940 nobody said anything about *Rhinichthys bowersi* again.

Now following an August 1975 stream survey by a fish biologist from the Division of Wildlife Resources of the DNR, it is believed that the little minnow is in fact a new species.

It is also believed that the fish may be endemic to Shaver's Fork — that is, that it may exist nowhere else in the world....

Budgetary Blues or The Cheat Chagrin by Bruce Jarvis

The Ford Administration's Budget Proposal which has been submitted to Congress contains a \$216 million appropriation for the Rowlesburg Dam and Lake in Preston and Tucker counties. Since the last Rowlesburg Proposal, the price tag has soared by \$27 million — due to inflation. To date, \$3 million has been allocated and most of it spent for planning the project.

The Budget Proposal notes that the Cheat River is the "largest uncontrolled tributary in the headwaters of the Ohio River." In 1972, after tropical storm Agnes drenched the East Coast, the proposal estimated that a dam at Rowlesburg would have pre-

vented \$49 million in damages downstream. If only there had been a dam! The "if only" logic figures heavily in estimating the expected "benefits" of the Rowlesburg Project.

The last paragraph of the proposal, however, state that the Rowlesburg Project is being redesigned to decrease the planned reservoir storage capacity and to reduce "the magnitude of recreation development."

What? The two major selling points of the project are in doubt?...

March 1977

Reclamation Board of Review Hearing by Nicholas Zvegintzov

Included excerpts from the Board's Decision, March 25, 1977

"...The reclamation and mining plan which accompanied the application...does not meet the requirements... The Board concludes that the Director did not act unreasonably or unlawfully in accepting the application... and ordering publication of the notice... without requiring the application to be accompanied by a complete reclamation and mining plan. However the Board is of the opinion that persons who might desire to protest surface mining applications would be better informed if complete mining and reclamation plans were filed prior to publishing notice of application. The Board is of the further opinion that the Director should require future applicants to submit such plans..."

Dammed if you do and dammed if you don't by Nicholas Zvegintzov

(Written as Governor Jay Rockefeller signed a cost-sharing agreement to proceed with the Stonewall Jackson Dam project)

...So much for the story of how the three arms of government (the Corps, the Judge and the Senator) twine and squirm to flood Brownsville, Walkersville, Roanoke, and Vandalia, and displace 1,800 peaceful Lewis County people.

But why should the Government go to such humiliating lengths to avoid an alternative proposal that on its face appears to satisfy somewhat all the announced goals of the project, and in addition to leave the people in possession of their homes, churches, and way of life? Presumably for the mundane reason familiar in all conflicts with the Corps from the top of Spruce Knob to the tip of the Mississippi delta -- that the Corps' oldest mandate is to promote free and unimpeded navigation and that all these lakes are desired in the hills of West Virginia in order to float those new and bigger barges up to Pittsburgh in a dry year.

It is for this reason that (as the Corps frankly says in its Environmental Impact Statement) "small rural communities and scattered farms will give way to a large transient population looking for recreation and relaxation."

There is an irony in this alternative. The people of the (Upper West Fork River) Watershed Association are alive and well among the rolling hills of Lewis County, going to church, enjoying music festivals and ramp feeds, and generally minding their own business. Such tranquillity is the scarcest resource in our society. Its opposite, the apathy, anomie, and anger that go with displaced populations is our society's greatest burden....

Spring Review is coming

Highlands Conservancy members and friends will meet May 15-17 at Watoga State Park for the Spring Review, which will focus on the Forest.

Donna Borders has planned a variety of fun activities for the daytime Saturday -- a canoe trip on the Greenbrier River, a wildflower nature hike, and cross-country biking.

Dinner Saturday night is a Barbeque.

Cabins have been rented for the weekend, but Donna needs to verify who and how many will be coming, so if you can give her a call (304-428-4746) and give her names and numbers, or leave the information on her answering machine. Cost for the cabins is \$17 per night, per person.

Meals are available from the Watoga Restaurant and they can also provide box lunches for Saturday's outings. Hope to see many of you there.

Corridor H and our Monongahela National Forest

As you read this, the decision is being made in Charleston as to whether or not to recommend that a four-lane super-highway known as Corridor H be cut straight through some of the wildest land of our Monongahela National Forest. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is being reviewed internally by the agencies involved. The decision rests with the WV Division of Highways and the Governor, with political input from Senators Robert Byrd and Jay Rockefeller who are committed to building this road.

A major political push is on by a group of politicians and business people, with no regard to environmental impacts to the Mon NF, to get the highway routed along Route 33 and through Petersburg. The word we are getting is that one of the "southern" routes along 33 is likely to be the route recommended when the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Decision Notice are released for public comment this coming spring. Threatened even more than the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Areas area Dolly Sods and Otter Creek Wilderness Areas: a new route has been proposed that would go along Red Creek to Laneville, and follow along the border of Dolly Sods Wilderness! after passing within a mile all along the eastern boundary of Otter Creek Wilderness. The route also impacts two of the Mon's semiprimitive ("6.2") areas designated for non-motorized recreation in a naturally-appearing, undisturbed environment.

We need your help now to increase our chances that the

chosen route will be the one least impacting to the Mon NF if this road is to be built. In order to emphasize how much opposition exists to southern routes along Route 33, we are asking that you join us in writing a brief letter to Senator Byrd, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510 or simply call his office at 202-224-3954. (He will respond by telling you he has no say in the decision; you should challenge this, as we have been told differently.)

Inform him of your opposition to any route for Corridor H that would follow Route 33 east out of Elkins because of the negative impacts to the special natural resources of the Monongahela National Forest. (There are "northern" route alternatives if the road must be built.) Copy your letter to Gov. Gaston Caperton, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305 and Sen. Jay Rockefeller, address same as Sen. Byrd.

Once the Draft EIS is released in the Spring, we will be reviewing it and getting back to you with advice concerning further correspondence. To get on the WV DOH mailing list to receive a copy yourself, send a request to Ben Hark, WV Division of Highways, State Capitol Complex, Charleston, WV 25305 or call him at 304-348-3505. Your help in protecting the Monongahela National Forest is very much appreciated.

For more information, contact Mary Wimmer, WV Sierra Club, or call 304-598-0135 (p.m.)

PLAY AND WORK ON THE EARTH

Heartwood Forest Council meets May 1-3

Heartwood will host the second annual Heartwood Forest Council, May 1-3, at City Oty Okwa, adjacent to Hocking State Forest in southeastern Ohio.

The Heartwood Forest Council will offer people of all ages an opportunity to learn about the history and ecology of the native forest of the "heartland" and the traditional music and folk culture of the region. Naturalists will lead forest hikes, and workshops will be offered on citizen participation in forest protection. Meals and nightly entertainment will provide opportunities for lively interaction among participants. Child care and educational programs for children will be provided. Admission will be charged.

Heartwood is an association of groups and individuals dedicated to the health and well being of the native forest of the Central Hardwood region which once extended from the Appalachian Mountains to the Ozarks, and from the Tallgrass Prairie to the Great Lakes.

The native forest has been reduced to a fraction of its former range by agricultural clearing and human settlement. Of the forest that remains, less than ten percent is publicly owned. The public forests have been subjected to extensive clearcutting, roadbuilding, stripmining and off-road vehicle abuse. Workshops will provide practical, hands-on training for public participation in the decision-making and appeals process for the National Forests of the region, including the Wayne in Ohio, the Daniel Boone in Kentucky, the Mark Twain in Missouri, the Monongahela in West Virginia, and other public forests.

For more information, contact Joe Hazelbaker, 614/299-4529, or Andy Mahler, 812/723-2430, or Rt. 3, Box 402, Paoli, IN 47454.

Spring Review

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy's Spring Meeting will be May 15-17 at Watoga State Park. Watch your mailbox for details. Call 304-428-4746 with reservations.

Anti-WTI Rally!

There will be a march, Sunday, May 17, 2 p.m. from the football field at East Elementary School in East Liverpool, Ohio to the WTI hazardous waste incinerator.

Hundreds of participants are expected. Greenpeace incinerator expert Pat Costner will speak, along with union representatives and citizens fighting incinerators in other communities.

For more information, contact Niaz at Greenpeace's West Virginia's office, 387-1007.

Green Fair is May 23

Green Fair Benefit for the Environment, Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Holly Gray Park, Sutton, W. Va., will feature music, workshops, food and crafts.

Come hear Stewed Mulligan, the Elktones, Mike Morningstar Kate Long. Talk about/experience bartering, networking, mid-wifery, and the Green party.

Sponsored by West Virginia Greens, admission is \$4 for adults; \$1, children.

For more information, contact West Virginia Greens, P.O. Box 144, Pullman, WV 26421 or call 304-659-3193.

Concert in Lewisburg

MagPie, an environmental folk group from Baltimore will be in concert at Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg, Friday, July 10. Kate Long, producer of "We Are Not for Sale" will provide the warm-up entertainment. MagPie will soon be releasing a children's album with an environmental theme. For more information, call WV-CAG office, 346-5891, or Kathy Ewing, 645-2019.

Volunteers needed for forest trail work

from Tom Prall
MTP Coordinator
Sierra Club
West Virginia Chapter

Once again the Sierra Club will participate in the Monongahela National Forest Trail Project. The MTP provide an opportunity for its volunteers to enjoy one of West Virginia's greatest natural resources while helping to improve recreation opportunities throughout the forest.

This year, five outings are planned in five different districts of the forest where we will maintain, build and repair trails and trail structures. Friends and newcomers are welcome on all of these outings.

Volunteers can sign-up for one or both days of any weekend outing. Day care may be available on the July 3, 4, and 5 weekend. Please indicated if you are willing to work with day care and at what hours.

Through the years, volunteers have come back again and again to get some exercise and enjoy each other's company. We work at our own pace so you don't need to be a Daniel Boone type to join us.

Tom needs to know by May 6 how many people will sign up for each outing. The outing leader will then contact you with specific information sometime before the date of the outing.

Send name, address, telephone number, day(s) of outing by May 6 to Tom Prall, P.O. Box 155, Weston, WV 26452.

Outing #1: June 6-7, Cheat District — Our first outing of the year will take place on trails in the Horseshoe Run Area of the forest's northernmost district. Camping will be available and indoor accommodations at Camp Horseshoe are a possibility. If you'd like to stay at Camp Horseshoe, it is advisable that you

contact one of the leaders of this outing right away. **Leaders: Ray Henderson - 363-3269, Jim Kotcon - 594-3322.**

Outing #2: June 20-21, Greenbrier District — For this outing we'll be building a new trail to connect the Little Mountain and Peters Mountain Semiprimitive Areas near Bartow. Camping will be available at a forest service drive-in campground nearby, with spaces for tents or campers. **Leader: Jim Sconyers - 789-6277.**

Outing #3: July 3-5, Potomac District — Our 7th annual Seneca Creek outing will feature accommodations at Shot Cherry Cabin near Spruce Knob, our renowned Saturday night chicken barbecue, two invigorating days of trail maintenance, and a play day on Sunday. On this outing, day care may be available. (Camping along Seneca Creek is also possible.) **Leader: Mary Wimmer - 598-0136.**

Outing #4: July 18-19, Gauley District — This outing will take place on the popular Cow Pasture Trail, a seven mile loop trail running between the Cranberry Glades and the Cranberry Wilderness. In future years, we hope to continue work on this trail to make it an example of our Sierra Club efforts. Along with trail maintenance, we also plan to spend some time identifying and enjoying wildlife, and we might even see a bear! Indoor accommodations are available along with camping. **Leader: Beth Little - 653-4277.**

Outing #5: August 28-30, White Sulphur District — On this outing we will help the West Virginia Scenic Trails Association and forest service build a new segment of the Allegheny Trail in southeastern West Virginia. Blue Bend Recreation Area will be the headquarters for our crew and camping there is free for our trail workers. Swimming in Anthony Creek and an evening get-together in the lighted picnic shelter is planned. **Leader: Jim Miller - 497-2241.**

Brooks Bird Club Foray is June 4-13

Brooks Bird Club is planning their 53rd Annual Foray, June 4-13 at the Raleigh County S-H Comp in Daniels, W. Va.

HEADQUARTERS for the Foray will be at the Raleigh County 4-H Camp, Daniels, WV. The camp is on Rt. 307 and is adjacent to Little Beaver State Park. Easy directions are: I-77 South-east on I-64 to Exit 129-A (Shady Springs) - Rt. 9 South to Rt. 307 - turn left (South) go past Little Beaver State Park to camp. Look for BBC signs.

ACCOMMODATIONS at the 4-H camp are good. Campers will be housed "barrack style". There are 3 unheated cabins, 16 beds each, for the men and 5 Quonset unheated cabins, 18 beds each, for the women. These cabins have wooden beds with a good plastic covered mattress and good hanging space. The restrooms are centrally located with showers and toilet facilities in a separate building - one for men and one for women.

There is a new heated dorm with 4 rooms, 10 single beds with plastic covered mattress and shower and toilet facilities for each room. Very limited hanging space. These will be on first reserved basis. There are no bunk beds in camp.

You must bring pillow, sheets and blankets OR a sleeping bag for cabins or dorm. There is room for self-contained campers, trailers, and tents. Some hook-ups will be available.

There is a new building on the left as you enter camp. This is the dining room, kitchen, rec. hall, and restrooms. All meetings, exhibits, etc., will be in this building. Stop here to register.

The **TERRITORY** will include all of Raleigh County, plus a short section of Rt. 3 in Summers County from Nimitz to Hinton. Raleigh County covers about 610 square miles. The altitude at camp is 2,440 feet and reaches 3,500 at Huff Nob on Flat Top. Woodlands are composed of mixed oaks, hemlock, pines and rhododendron. There are several small lakes in the county and a section of New River, including Sandstone Falls. Little Beaver and Grandview State Parks are in the county, also the newly designated New River Gorge National River.

The **PROGRAM** will focus on "birds" as this should be the height of the nesting season. The program will include Breeding Bird Surveys, Population Surveys, early morning walks, Nesting Bird Contests and Point Counts. This latter is another way to census for birds. The study is a complement to the Breeding Bird Survey, but is conducted on foot rather than by driving.

There will also be field work in Flowering Plants, Ferns, Trees and Shrubs, also Reptiles and Amphibians. There will be lectures on various aspects of nature by professionals and quali-

fied amateurs who are experts in their fields. On two days, Monday and Thursday, there will be all-day trips.

Evening programs will include talks by experts in natural history, slide shows on nature and BBC activities, as well as travelogues. Bring along skits and ideas for campfires.

The **STAFF** is headed by Foray directors, George and Anne Hurley and Helen Conrad. They will be assisted by others.

INSTRUCTORS at the Foray are all experienced field biologists, some professionals, some amateurs, but all specialists in some phase of nature study. Their informal leadership and enthusiasm to help every camper makes the Foray both an educational and memorable experience for all who attend.

MEALS at the Foray will be good and will be furnished by the camp. There will be a snack for the "early birds" each morning but no late snack. We will have a bag lunch Monday and Thursday.

RULES governing the Foray are few. We expect you to cooperate at all times and to contribute your share to the success of the Foray. The Brooks Bird Club cannot be held responsible for the safety of any individual; however, every precaution will be taken to safeguard each camper and you will be covered by accident insurance.

SILENT AUCTION - Once again we will hold a "silent auction". The money will go into the Scholarship Fund. Bring something to place in the auction.

To help eliminate excessive trash, and celebrate **EARTH DAY**, we are asking everyone to bring his own **COFFEE CUP** for early morning and evening coffee, tea or hot chocolate. If needed we will have an identification marker. We can run them through the dishwasher or you can wash your own.

TRANSPORTATION to and from camp will be up to the individual. Consult your road map.

FORAY ADDRESS: (Your Name)
c/o Mrs. Leona Burns
219 James Crest Drive
Beckley, WV 25801

CAMP PHONE (EMERGENCY ONLY): 304-763-3498
COST includes lodging, meals, morning snack, camp fees. We want full-time campers and they will be given preference.

All reservations must be received by May 1, 1992, and will be acknowledged. Do not come without a reservation. Contact Helen B. Conrad, Rt. 1, Box 116, Triadelphia, WV 26059 - Phone - 304 - 547-5253 for reservations or information.

E-Day! at the Legislature — continued

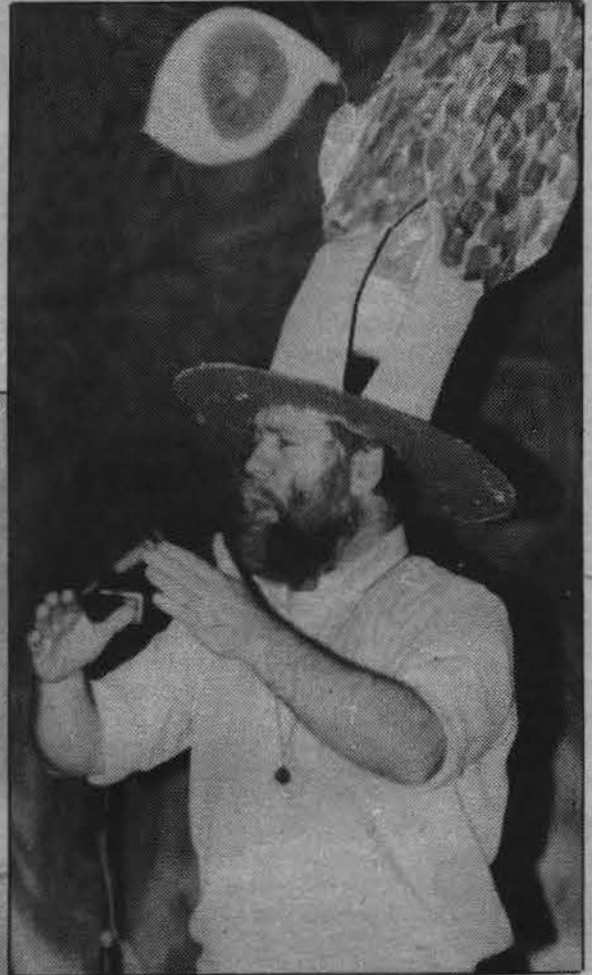
chorus of "boo's." The displays and information tables by many groups contributed to a very visual E-DAY!

The Mother Jones Award was presented to two very deserving people at the conclusion of the rally—Terri Swearingen and Jeff Allen. Terri is one of the leaders of the WTI haz waste incinerator fight in the Northern Panhandle. She could not attend the rally because she was in the middle of the WTI-East Liverpool 33 trial,

along with Paul Connett and Martin Sheen. Accepting for Terri was Missy Woolverton.

Reverend Jeff Allen of McDowell County is one of the founders of T.E.A.R.S. Jeff, with his usual modesty, accepted his award. When the presenter mentioned that Jeff was single, he meekly returned to the microphone and gave the world his phone number.

Although the attendance was lower this year, the enthusiasm and dedication made up for the weather. Groups which attended in large numbers included Stonewall Jackson Junior High, Bonham Elementary School's E.Y.E.S. group, the Ravenswood Women's Support Group, WV GREENS, T.E.A.R.S., M.A.C.E., Sierra Club, and others too numerous to mention.



TOM RODD provided direction for a pageant devised by Carol Jackson and acted by students from Stonewall Jackson Junior High Environmental Club.



Left, E.Y.E.S. group from Bonham Elementary School will sold buttons and jewelry. Above, the pageant began with the invasion of Apple Grove Pulp Mill with it's loads of dioxin.



HIS GARBAGENESS, the papiermache head of Jack Fugett, put in an appearance.

Freeing the Forest

by Robert Stough

Here in the central Appalachians, also called the Allemong bioregion, we live in what is one of the most biologically diverse and fecund areas in the temperate zones on the Earth.

We sometimes tend to think of it as rather ordinary and commonplace but in fact our bioregion, and particularly the Monongahela Forest, is quite exceptional in its range of habitats and species.

This alone is enough to warrant saving large, interconnected portions of the Forest as an ecological preserve. But the Monongahela Forest has also historically been a repository and sanctuary for a wide variety of threatened and endangered plants and animals.

During the last ice age, when massive glaciers covered eastern North America as far south as Pennsylvania and Ohio, the Monongahela Forest was a great refuge for many northern species that would otherwise have perished. Today wild beings are faced with a similar situation, though the reasons are now human domination and exploitation of their natural habitats. For many plants and animals the Monongahela Forest is the only place left for them to live.

But the Forest is now also once again under increasing attack and debilitation from extractive industries such as logging and mining, unprincipled land development, and Forest management policies that are largely predicated on a medieval silvaculture which assigns little value to the Forest other than its monetary and recreation potential.

The repressive, short-sighted land use practices need to be replaced by a new/old ethic that considers Forest stewardship from the perspective of what is best for the long-term health and stability of the Forest itself, and All of the beings present in a thriving Forest ecosystem.

The first step on this ancient path of wisdom is to make peace with the Forest, by setting at least part of it free from slavery to humans, and so help to set our culture free also from our consumptive degeneration, for we cannot ever have true freedom ourselves until we begin to give freedom to other things.

We must understand that the necessities of the whole Forest community are intrinsic with our own. Some people might say that this is putting trees before people, but in reality it is simply putting the needs of the whole community of beings, of which we are a part, ahead of our own often grossly excessive and destructive 'needs.'

Our narrow-minded pursuit of those 'needs' have in the past resulted in the destruction of the Forest, as well as almost all other wild ecosystems in the world, and is quite certainly the root cause of many of our economic and cultural problems of today.

Those problems can only be solved by making some semblance of peace with the Earth, and specifically within the bioregions where we live.

Thus it is clear at this time that we must take steps to free the Forest, and help to heal the wounds we have inflicted upon it, and so on ourselves as well. Our goal must be the eventual restoration of the old-growth Forest in areas large enough for the Forest to regain most of its original diversity and evolutionary creativity, and thus its inherent long-term balance and resiliency.

Such a healthy eastern Forest ecosystem needs to have tens of thousands of acres of contiguous free wilderness, composed of large core areas that encompass entire watersheds and are connected together by wide protected corridors to facilitate the movement of species and encourage the maximum possible biodiversity.

Ultimately we must nurture the growth of interconnected wilderness throughout the entire Appalachian range from Maine to Georgia, and so restore at least in part the Great Forest of eastern Turtle Island, not just for the good of the Forest but for our own health and welfare too.

The Monongahela Forest is also clearly one of the most important places to begin this process. In spite of being wastefully butchered in the past by industrial logging and mining it has largely grown again into a relatively healthy second-growth woodland that is nearly continuous over a large area of the West Virginia highlands. Therefore a substantial portion of the Monongahela Forest now has the potential to evolve into old-growth before the end of the next century.

For this to happen, however, we must stop viewing the Forest as a commodity for our own strictly monetary and recreational interests. Those needs must become secondary to the far greater need for healthy ecosystems.

At first glance, this may seem hopelessly idealistic, but if we think of it, as we should, as being a natural process that is part of our own species necessary evolution, it becomes not only possible but eminently practical, for rather than fighting nature we can begin to flow, like water, on the path of least resistance, which is also the path of highest efficiency.

Although wilderness and forest preservation is often portrayed by exploitive interests as an anathema to material prosperity, such assertions are almost entirely fallacious, for there will still be substantial amounts of land around the wild Forest for human activities, and such lower elevation land is generally much more productive or human economic purposes than the mountain wilderness.

For example, the logging industry in West Virginia could quite profitably sustain itself exclusively on private forest land even if all public lands in the state were set free from exploitation.

Making peace with the Monongahela Forest need not involve human impoverishment, but for the modest sacrifices it does entail it offers the real possibility of human communities living in relative harmony and balance with the Forest into perpetuity.

It is true that exploitation will have to be replaced by sustainable economics, but that is something that will obviously benefit almost everyone. It has become painfully obvious that we must have a social and governmental agenda that favors sustainable, bioregional economics and includes wild habitat protection instead of the rip-and-run mentality that has all too often been standard business practice, and has been the ruin of both the land and our human communities.

Obtaining some measure of freedom for the Monongahela Forest is something that can only happen through the combined efforts of many friends of the Forest, those people who recognize that old-growth wilderness is essential for the long-term health of the Forest, and for the ultimate health and prosperity of human communities.

song of the glades

by Robert Stough

by evening the rain stops,
a few frayed wisps
and tatters of clouds
drift up from the glades
and dissolve in the twilight.
after dinner we climb a little hill,
and sit among the old oaks and maples,
blooming here again in the spring
as they have since long before we were born
and should long after we are gone.
i lean back on the deep-furrowed bark
of a mossy old oak, at peace on Earth,
but the dark sad anger
of Modern Man wells up in me again,
maple's wings will fly only so long
as they survive 'higher' civilization,
the poison rain, the holes in the sky,
the electric blanket of wasted carbon
strangling growth, suffocating freedom,

when the first peeps
of the awakening wood-frogs
begin again down in the glades,
slowly at first, after the long winter,
one by one they sing their age-old songs,
and then as the evening deepens
into night hundreds of frogsongs
rise with the mist, chanting in harmony,
until thousands upon thousands of frogsongs
are echoing through the wild valley
and weaving among the blossoming stars.
we turn around, and far in the west
we see flashes of silent lightning.

Truly being friends of the Forest means that we must be voices for the Forest, to protect it from exploitation and to celebrate its beauty and diversity. At this time there are many areas that we need to be working on to help free the Forest. We especially need to become more active in shaping Forest Service management policies at both the local and national levels that will favor Forest preservation and the encouragement of old-growth ecosystems.

These are a number of ways in which this can be done. One is to closely monitor all Forest Service policies and actions concerning extracting natural resources from the Forest (wood, fossil fuels, etc.) and to vigorously challenge those policies where appropriate, especially within core wilderness areas.

Monitoring the Forest Service involves requesting and scrutinizing all proposals concerning road-building, timber sales, gas drilling and the like. This is important paper work and we need many more people to become active in this process.

We also need people to physically monitor the Forest itself so that we can have a coherent picture of just what is happening to the biodiversity as a result of human exploitation.

Actively working with the Forest Service, whether cooperating or confronting, as the case may be, is very important work at this time, not only because the Forest Service is the principal manager of the Forest, but also because they are relatively open to regional public input and participation.

While it is true that basic policy is largely shaped by a Washington bureaucracy that is openly hostile to ecological management, the Forest Service must still by law be fairly responsive to public participation, and local policies can at least sometimes be significantly influenced by those committed to Forest preservation. In any case it is vital that we try to work with the Forest Service towards shaping those policies in favor of biodiversity and wilderness expansion.

As part of this process, one of the most critical things we need to do at this time must be to identify and protect core wilderness areas that will serve to 'seed' the wild Forest as it expands and grows in the future. Some of these areas are outlined below by a general overview of their topographical and biological characteristics.

It will be noted by those familiar with these areas that none of them are totally composed of roadless or otherwise undeveloped publically-owned land, although many of them are nearly contiguous wilderness.

Their extent has been determined more by the extent of the ecosystems themselves rather than by roads, utility swaths or private inholdings. Such artificial and restrictive boundaries have no place in restoring the health of the Forest, although that does not mean that all human presence must automatically be removed from the wilderness.

Some road closures will clearly be necessary, as will the purchase of private lands on a willing-seller basis, to establish viable core wilderness areas, but this certainly should not mean the exclusion of humans. Hunting and gathering, for instance, are legitimate activities for humans in the wilderness, and it will become the work of many people currently involved in land management of various sorts to guide those activities towards a truly balanced and sustainable human relationship with the wilderness.

* **Blackwater Wilderness:** Encompassing the entire drainage of the Blackwater River west of Blackwater Falls state park and south of Douglas, the entire drainage of Red Run on Canaan and Mozark mountains, and the upper drainages of Canaan Mountain south of the state park and west of WV 32. This is mostly high plateau country cut by the deep canyon of the Blackwater and the Red Run gorge. Extensive fires once raged on Canaan Mtn. following old-growth logging, and some areas of Backbone Mtn. have been heavily strip-mined, but the Forest has generally been regrowing fairly well with spruce and northern hardwoods.

* **Canaan Valley Wilderness:** Encompassing most of the northern half of Canaan Valley and all of the Blackwater River drainage east of Brown Mtn. This area contains a unique high-

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Forests

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altitude northern bog ecosystem which is the largest of its kind in the Appalachian range, and obviously must be completely protected. Unfortunately it is being seriously threatened by ORV abuse, the result of gross mismanagement by Monongahela Power, who have been shamefully resisting the preservation of the area as a National Wildlife Refuge.

*** Dolly Sods Wilderness:** Expanded to include the entire drainage of Red Creek above Laneville and the upper drainage of the Stoney River above the reservoir, and also extending down the Fore Knobs to the east and the northern end of Cabin Mtn. to the west to connect it with the Canaan Valley Wilderness. Dolly Sods is composed of the deep, rugged canyon of Red Creek, gently rolling uplands and rocky windswept mountain ridges. The canyon is nearly completely forested with maturing northern hardwoods and conifers. The sods are now a mixture of open grasslands and patches of young forest, but once were largely covered by a magnificent spruce forest containing some of the finest stands in the east. Since that forest was destroyed the sods have been decimated by fires, military bombing and ORV abuse but nevertheless the forest is slowly recovering.

*** High Plains Wilderness:** Consisting of the Flatrock Plains, the Red Creek Plains and the Roaring Plains, and extending part way down the Allegheny Front to the east and the ancillary ridges to the north, west and south. Encompassing most of the drainage of the South Prong of Red Creek, the upper drainages of Flatrock Run, Spruce Run, and McIntosh Run, and most of Long Run and Elklick Run. The High Plains are rocky, rolling uplands with extensive spruce forests and heath thickets. The mountainsides are heavily forested with northern hardwoods. This area is very scenic, with many expansive vistas, some of the most far-reaching in the bioregion. The microwave tower should be removed, and FS 70 closed and abandoned. The pipeline swath could remain, since it represents only a minor intrusion on the forest, but it must be kept clear by hand, not by the poisonous herbicides that have been sprayed on it in the past.

*** Otter Creek Wilderness:** Consisting of the entire drainage of Otter Creek, and expanded in the west to include all of McGowan Mtn. south of the Fernow Forest down to or near the Shavers Fork, and also the entire drainages of the Little Black Fork and Rattlesnake Run, and expanded to the northeast to include all of Shavers Mtn. north of CO 12 and including the Gladly Fork River. This area is composed of rolling uplands, steep mountainsides and deep river valleys. Almost its entire extent is densely forested with conifers, northern hardwoods and cove hardwoods. This is one of the healthiest and most diverse woodlands areas in the Monongahela Forest. The current wilderness boundaries are much too small, and must be expanded to nearly the true extent of the ecosystem.

*** Shavers Fork Wilderness:** Consisting of the entire eastern drainage of Cheat Mountain south of Bemis and north of US 250, and the entire drainage of Shavers Mountain near Gladly south to near US 250 and bordered on the east by FS 44. This area is composed of rolling upland ridges with steep mountainsides dropping into the Shavers Fork valley and the upper Greenbrier valley. There has been a lot of ex-

ploitation in places by the area is still mostly forested in second-growth hardwoods and conifers. It is a vital link in reconnecting the Monongahela Forest. All roads north of US 250 should eventually be abandoned, and mining operations halted as soon as possible.

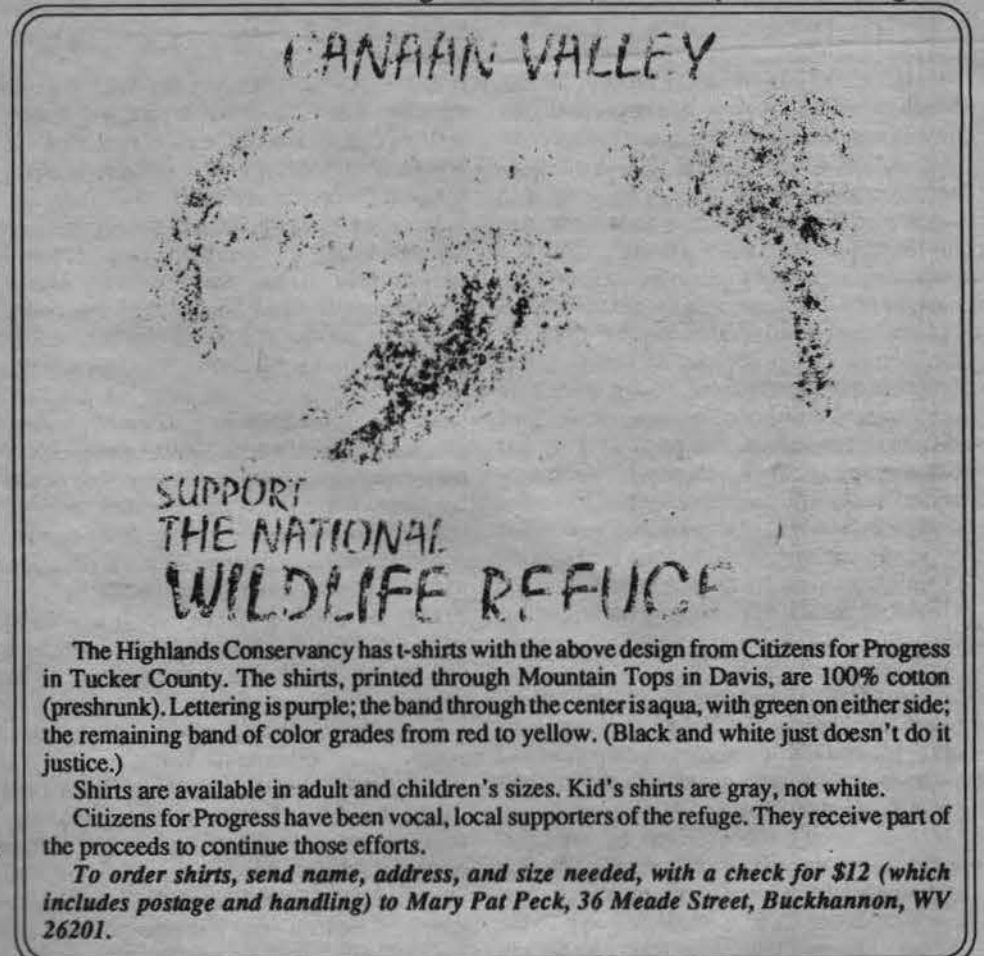
*** Laurel Fork Wilderness:** Expanded to encompass most of the drainage of the river from the Dry Fork south to US 33, and most of the drainage south of Lambert divided only by CO 40. The topography is relatively gentle, especially in the upper reaches of the watershed, with the Laurel Fork forming a wide riparian valley. Most of the area is forested in northern hardwoods and conifers, with extensive beaver meadows especially in the upper drainage. Most of the Laurel Fork drainage to the east on the upper slopes of Rich Mountain is now pastureland, which is obviously inconsistent with restoring the health of the Forest.

*** Spruce Mountain Wilderness:** Consisting of the entire drainage of Seneca Creek above White Run, and down the east face of Spruce Mountain north of FS 103 along the upper Fore Knobs and Timber Ridge and the upper valley of Brushy Run, and all of Allegheny Mountain from FS 1 north to near Horton. The topography is composed of the high broad ridge of Spruce Mountain, the deep narrow canyon of Seneca Creek and the rolling ridges of Allegheny Mountain. Most of the area is forested with northern hardwoods and scattered conifers, with extensive stands of spruce in the upper reaches of Seneca Creek and on and near the summit of Spruce Mountain. There are also large heath barrens and old meadows on top of Spruce Mountain. This area has been mostly left alone since it was originally logged and has been recovering fairly well, except for some continuing pasturage on the west face of Spruce Mountain.

*** North Fork Mountain Wilderness:** Encompassing all of the summit ridge of the mountain except for US 33. Extending down the east face to at or near FS 74, CO 2 and CO 8 and south to Panther Knob. Extending down the west face to the Potomac River from Hopeville gorge south to around Seneca Rocks, then above Germany Valley and continuing along the west face below Pike Knob south to CO 17 and Panther Knob. Consists of the wild, rugged summit of North Fork and the spectacular River Knobs from Seneca Rocks north. This is a unique, extremely diverse area harboring many rare and threatened species as well as some of the most awesome scenery in the Appalachian range. Its thin rocky soils make it entirely unsuitable for logging, though that fact has not stopped clearcutting on some of the eastern face.

*** Allegheny Mountain Wilderness:** Encompassing a large wild area east of the Greenbrier Valley, from US 250 in the north to WV 84 in the south, and from VA 600 in the east down to the foothills of the mountain in the west. This large but little-known part of the Forest is another vital link towards restoring the ecological continuity of the entire Monongahela. The rugged, mountainous terrain has extensive forests of oaks and pines, typical of the drier eastern part of the Forest.

*** Back Allegheny Wilderness and Cheat Mountain Wilderness:** Encompassing most of the drainage of the Shavers Fork south of US 250 to near the Snowshoe resort on Cheat Mountain and around Bald Knob on Back Allegheny. Some of the highest elevation land in the Forest,



this area consists of relatively modest ridges and stream valley forested in second and third growth spruce and northern hardwoods. Although virtually the entire area was badly abused in the past it is obviously vital to allow it to grow again in peace, especially because of its location as the farthest and highest source of the Monongahela River.

*** Gauley Mountain Wilderness:** Consists of all of the summit ridge of Gauley Mountain from near the Elk River south to WV 150, most of the east face of the mountain and down the west face to around 3,000 feet, and including all of the Tea Creek drainage and most of the Turkey Mountain ridge east of the Gauley River. This large wild area is a prominent feature of the southern highlands and although it has been extensively exploited in the past it badly needs to be allowed to grow again into healthy forest. There will never be a truly healthy Monongahela Forest until we protect the more exploited areas as well as the scenic ones and let them all grow together.

*** Cranberry Wilderness:** Expanded to include the entire area south of FS 86 and north of WV 39 from WV 150 west to near FS 101 and FS 81. The eastern half of this wild area is already national wilderness, but the western portion of this country of long, high rolling ridges is being seriously threatened by logging and mining. The Cranberry must be expanded to close to its full extent for it to become a viable core wilderness, especially because the Cranberry Wilderness itself contains some of the healthiest and most diverse forests in the east and must be able to expand and grow to evolve their maximum biodiversity.

Protecting these core wilderness areas is only the first step towards restoring the Monongahela Forest. There are many other areas that must be protected as wildlife corridors and buffer zones, and everywhere we need to adopt a biocentric perspective regarding any human land use which takes into account the needs of other beings, so that entire ecosystems,

including human communities, can be sustained in relative health into the future. Those who believe that the Forest should just be used as a commodity for human consumption will no doubt consider these proposals as unreasonable or even radical in their extent. But large healthy Forest wilderness is actually conservative in the truest sense of the word, for such areas not only protect precious wild habitat but also purify the very air we breathe and the water we drink. It is the continuing exploitation of the Forest that must be seen as radical and destructive, and not efforts to preserve it.

That brings us, finally, to another critical area that we need to work on, which is trying in any way possible to educate and enlighten the so-called general public about Forest preservation, and so help promote understanding of how crucial it now is that large Forest wilderness areas be protected from exploitation.

This is obviously a daunting task, and one that is not likely to produce any immediately tangible results, but it is just as vital as working with the Forest Service and politicians. Indeed, both efforts are parts of a whole, for no matter how necessary the political work of today is, it will ultimately be for naught unless many more people develop at least a modicum of ecological consciousness, and thus come to regard the Forest as their friend and benefactor.

This can probably best be done by trying to touch the deep-rooted emotional and spiritual attachment that even today most people still have for the Earth, however distorted it may be by our addiction to modern technology. It is very important that those who have been inspired by the beauty and harmony of the wild Forest try to pass that inspiration along in any way that they can, by stories, poems, music, painting, photography, etc.

One modest way for us to do this is by publishing such things in the Voice and other regional periodicals. We need to share some of the good things we have experienced, because by doing so we will also be sharing some of the friendship and love between ourselves and the wild Forest, and that will help to sustain and inspire us all.

Update

from page one

legislation. NOT TRUE! NOT TRUE! The bill, which passed both Houses, was not agreed to by either the sportsmen, or the environmental community. The new law sets a terrible policy in authorizing the Division of Forestry to regulate logging. This same agency is also responsible for promoting the Timber Industry. This is a complete reversal of the "single state agency" concept which was passed in the special session last year. Particularly disturbing, is the fact that the director of the Division of Forestry, Bill Gillespie, has repeatedly stated that there is no need to regulate the industry. Now, we've given that regulation to him. The very "soul" of this bill is wrong and West Virginia's environment and economy will suffer because of it. Rather than push for a veto of this bill, we've decided to get very creative in monitoring the Division of Forestry's performance — watch for some interesting details on this in the next few months!

ORV's

The Off Road Vehicles issue, was (to our mind) successfully handled by the passage of HCR 15. This resolution provided for an eclectic study group to investigate ORV trail use and the possible creation of an ORV trail system in the state. Intense lobby efforts by the ORV associations to operate on public lands was defeated by the passage of this resolution. Primary credit for HCR 15 must be given to the Sierra Club, the Farm Bureau and particularly Sierra Club lobbyist, Laura Spadaro.

Rails To Trails

SB #448 was born, died, was reborn, and finally passed during the session. This new law

is a gem and will provide our state with an excellent Rails To Trails hiking and biking system. This system can be the cornerstone of a benign nonpolluting tourist industry in West Virginia. Much credit for its inception and successful passage belongs to the various hiking and biking groups, the Sierra Club and particularly Laura Spadaro and Missy Woolverton. Without Missy's very timely and very gutsy intervention the bill would have died in the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Cancer Registry

SB #272 passed both Houses and provides for a cancer registry compiled by doctors and hospitals. The hope is that this new law will begin to give us a clearer picture of the number and types of cancer cases in West Virginia. The identification of geographical "hot spots" will be of great value in linking environmental health to personal health. Lobbyist Brian Hagenbuch and Senator Bob Holliday share in the credit for SB #272.

Clean Air Bill

HB #4643 was passed by both Houses and signed into law. The bill brings the state into basic compliance with the new Federal Clean Air Act. The Air Pollution Control Commission will soon triple its staff to regulate and implement the Federal Act. Extreme positions by both industry and the environmental community were discarded in a last minute reaching of a consensus on the bill. Basic policy arguments were "put on hold" in order to build the necessary framework to implement the Federal Act. It was unique and refreshing to witness both

sides feverishly working with the APCC to come up with a fair acceptable law minutes before its Senate passage. Brian Hagenbuch and Perry McDaniel provided the environmental input into the bill. An analogy is — a sinking boat — instead of arguing about plugging up the leaks or bailing out the water — both sided decided to do both.

Stuff That Didn't Get Passed

Successes and failures have been described above. Some issues progressed while others languished in legislative purgatory. The Toxics Reduction and Industrial Siting Bills were not passed, but public hearings and increased awareness must be counted as progress. These bills (or a form thereof) will one day become law in West Virginia. Evidence of the progress can be seen by Industry's sudden interest in sitting down and talking about the issues. Like John Purbaugh once said, "Sometimes you've got to hit the mule over the head with a two-by-four to get him to listen." The Environmental Policy Act was introduced for the first time and it too begins its inevitable evolution into state law.

The Biggest Success

Sometimes we succeed in getting our bills passed. Sometimes we succeed in elevating the issues and setting the stage for next year, and sometimes we succeed by killing dumb legislation. The biggest win was the battle over Dioxin — The bill that was never introduced! I wonder if many people really appreciate the victory — particularly Industry and elected officials. The national trend in recent years has been for poor southern and border states to weaken their dioxin standards to please the pulp and paper industry. State after state bought into the Industry's "Don't worry, be happy" message on

dioxin, and adopted weaker standards — but NOT in West Virginia!

A coalition of labor, Vietnam vets, sportsmen and environmentalists succeeded in making the Dioxin issue into potential political suicide.

The administration, faced with TV and newspaper ads condemning "Cancer Creek," never introduced the bill. The national trend was reversed. Many pages could be written crediting all the people and groups who worked on the Dioxin issue, but suffice it to say that the good guys won. One very telling fact is that WV-CAG and the AFL-CIO used the dioxin question on their candidate survey forms to evaluate legislative candidates. Over 90% of the respondents to the WV-CAG survey said they would oppose any weakening of the standard. The few who said they would weaken the standard were equally divided between extreme right-wing whackos and delegates who live near the proposed Apple Grove Pulp Mill. Judging from the success of the dioxin battle, and the overwhelming public opinion against weakening the standard, I think it's safe to say the issue equates to political suicide.

The End For Now

The environmental movement continued to grow and increase public awareness during the past session. Major policy was created, some good and some bad. But, we must keep in mind, that winning legislative battles is only the beginning. Citizens must monitor the regulatory process and force elected officials to be committed to the effective enforcement of the policy we help create.

— Norm Steenstra

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by Bruce Sundquist and Allen de Hart

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