



The Highlands Voice

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!!!! CANAAN VALLEY!!!!

FIRST PROPERTY ACQUIRED APRIL 11, 1994

A lawsuit blocking the purchase of land for the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge was dismissed Thursday, August 4, 1994 in U.S. District Court in Clarksburg. ... The first property was purchased Thursday, August 11th.... WVHC is delighted to reprint, with the gracious permission of Parsons Advocate Editor Meriwyn McQuain Smith, her front page coverage of the momentous event as it appeared in the Tucker County newspaper August 17, 1994. - Cindy

from **The Parsons Advocate**
Wednesday August 17, 1994

Tucker County to be home of 500th National Wildlife Refuge
After 33 years of planning, West Virginia's first refuge entirely within state borders has seen its first land purchase. And, that land is in Tucker County.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service purchased nearly 86 acres of critical wildlife habitat Aug. 11, recording that deed in Tucker County Courthouse on Thursday afternoon, establishing Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge as the 500th national wildlife refuge.

The fact that this refuge is designated as the 500th in the nation will be significant in the types of facilities and programs offered.

Karen Bonner, president of Tucker County Planning Commission and an active member of the Canaan Valley Task Force, said last week, "I'm very pleased that it's finally come to fruition."

The land purchase represents the first expenditure for land from the \$2 million expressly identified for Canaan Valley acquisitions from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, acquired through the efforts of West Virginia's US Senator Robert C. Byrd.

Mrs. Bonner, a resident of Canaan Valley, said officials have been studying the possibility of a wildlife refuge since 1961 when a biological survey was conducted by Fish and Wildlife personnel. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was begun in 1977 and finalized May 30, 1979. At any time after that, the purchase of property could have begun.

Fish and Wildlife last week described the new Canaan Valley NWR land as gently sloping, primarily pastureland with 26 acres of wooded swamp including a section of the Balsam Swamp. The property which was purchased is the former Raymond Harr Farm, comprised of 85.78 acres along the north side of Freeland Road near the town of Davis.

"Canaan Valley is a beautiful area, supporting an unusual and rare diversity of plants and animals," said regional Director Ronald E. Lamberson of the Service in the Northeast. The valley is 14 miles long, five miles wide and has an average elevation of 3,200 feet above sea level.

The high altitude and cool moist climate create a unique ecosystem, including the largest wetland area in West Virginia and in the central and southern Appalachian Mountains.

The boundaries of the Canaan Valley NWR encompass approxi-



Thanks to Chris Clower for this fine photo of Canaan

mately 24,000 acres; however land will be purchased for inclusion in the new refuge only from willing sellers as money becomes available to the Service for that purpose. F&W Service has worked with hundreds of private landowners, conservation organizations, and other federal, state and municipal agencies during the years in order to establish the refuge.

Mrs. Bonner said the Canaan Valley Task Force included private citizens, county, state, and federal officials who worked along with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) when the refuge came back into the limelight in the spring of 1990.

The planning commission acted along with and on behalf of Tucker County Commissioners, and numerous open houses and public meetings were held during the most recent four years.

"We didn't know much about refuges, and were leery of taking more land off of tax books," Mrs. Bonner said, but added that after extensive research into their options, members of the task force agreed that the wildlife refuge was right for Tucker County.

"It's still important that we have local input," Mrs. Bonner added. Some wildlife refuge areas

The Burreed of Bearwallow Run

or *What I did on my summer vacation by bill ragette'*

Bearwallow runs into Laurel Fork of the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River. Its upper watershed consists of an open, gently sloping valley with a northern hardwood/spruce forest cover and many open fields along the run itself. If you didn't study your map you might think you were still in the highlands of West Virginia, but its actually just over the border in East Virginia. This is one of the areas in

Laurel Fork that Thornwood Gas Inc. would like to develop for its wells, if it can get permission from the Monongahela National Forest Service to build a gas transmission line.

Several other 'Runs' parallel Bearwallow, each similar yet distinct. They all start off fairly flat and then gradually become steeper as they approach and finally enter Laurel Fork itself. Some are more open with thriving beaver populations (Buck Run). (see page 4)

have citizens' advisory boards and some do not, but local officials believe it's imperative that citizens and elected officials have input into management procedures. "It's vital that we stay involved," she said. Canaan Valley NWR will become only the second refuge in West Virginia and the first located entirely within the state. Two years ago, Ohio River Islands NWR, encompassing 38 islands in a 362-mile stretch of the Ohio River, was dedicated as the first refuge in the state. The Ohio River refuge extends from Pennsylvania to Kentucky. ♦

- FALL REVIEW and - ANNUAL MEETING -
October 14-16, 1994

WOHC Celebrates CANAAN!!!

Friday night: gathering & social Saturday: - day trips in the Valley - dinner, program & party Sunday: Annual Meeting & elections ...everyone welcome... Fall Board Meeting * at WHITEGRASS *

(- just across from the first official Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge property)

- see back page for more detail -

Inside

Canaan - page 6
Fall review - page 8
Kumbrabow - page 5
Letters - page 3
Otter Creek - page 7
Past VOICES - page 8
Warrior Run - page 3
Wild WV - Page 4 & 5

---from the heart of the mountains---

by Cindy Rank

CANAAN: THE FANTASTIC 500TH!!

Rarely do groups like the Highlands Conservancy have as much reason to be proud as we do after August 11th when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recorded in the Tucker County Courthouse the first deed to the first piece of property purchased as part of the CANAAN VALLEY WILDLIFE REFUGE!!

Granted, there have been several governmental agencies, dozens of organizations and hundreds of individuals who have worked untold numbers of hours over the past three decades to make the Refuge a reality, but for WVHC, names like Linda Cooper, Dave Elkinton and Jenni Vincent will remain emblazoned in our minds as some of the diehard individuals who had a dream and believed in that dream so much that they rebounded time and time again after any number of defeats and setbacks.

Linda's chuckled remark at the Summer Board meeting about attending the 44th(!) public hearing on the Refuge and her mellow comment left on our answering machine August 12th that she felt "really good, really rich" that day, are two of many reminders to me of that all abiding spirit that sometimes just won't let a person quit, a spirit that brings to life dreams like the Cranberry, Otter Creek, and Dolly Sods Wilderness areas, the New River National Recreation Area, etc., etc.

Of course, not all the battles have ended so well - e.g. hundreds of acres of prime farmland in Lewis county are now under water after decades of opposition to the Stonewall Jackson Dam.

And certainly there are many more struggles left to resolve: Corridor H, the Alabama Pulp and Paper Mill, numerous other projects that threaten our public and private forestlands, Wild and Scenic Designation for more of our state rivers, Acid Mine Drainage (-always there has been the mining) to name just a few.

Nor is all perfect in Canaan Valley where development and ORV abuse has already scarred some of the resource. Nor is the completion of the Canaan Valley Refuge a done deal, a shoe-in, or in-the-bag. No, even this is far from being over.

But, for now WVHC members, old and new, should feel proud of the role they have played in bringing about our nation's 500th Wildlife Refuge.

...And we should be grateful to all the other people, to all the other local state and national organizations, to the state and federal agencies, and to the elected officials who have had a hand in inching this project ahead year after year...

...And we should be especially grateful to those residents of Tucker County who have always supported the refuge, and to the local authorities whose increased support these past couple of years, has made it all possible...

...And we should be grateful to Mon Power for banning off road vehicles, (and, of course, hopeful, that the company will come to recognize the full value of the Refuge to W.V. and allow its massive properties in the north to be included in the management and protection of that Refuge).

As current President of WVHC, I extend an official thanks to all. As for me, I'm proud and humbled to be but a small part of the persistent groundswell that has kept the dream alive for all of these years.

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The Highlands Voice is always printed on Recycled Paper. Our printer uses 100% post consumer recycled paper when available.

Letters, Announcements

On Canaan

Dear Bill;

I am enclosing a brief article I clipped from the August 12, Charleston newspaper. It is rather nonchalantly announces the purchase of the first parcel of land for the establishment of the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

I can't help but wonder how many thousands of hours have been spent by Conservancy members to achieve this magnificent victory. How many thousands of hours have been spent by Linda Cooper alone?

This is probably the biggest triumph for environmental preservation and protection in the history of West Virginia! To be sure, other spectacular and unique natural areas have been preserved - Cranberry, Otter Creek & Laurel Fork Wilderness Areas, for example. But in these other cases, the threat was not nearly so imminent, and the political powers that be were not nearly so hell-bent on permitting their destruction.

I remember reporting to Elkins in January 1971. I was a young Trooper, fresh out of the State Police

Academy - and Elkins was my first duty station. Richard Nixon was president, and Arch Moore was Governor. And the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy was already an active organization, advocating for the protection of our unique natural heritage.

Monongahela Power Company had acquired several thousand acres in the Canaan valley area and proposed to build a "pumped storage" facility to provide power during the hours of peak consumption. The local politicians thought this was just a splendid idea. Progress, don't you know?

The public perception was that the Conservancy members and others who opposed this project were fighting a hopeless battle. The feds wanted it, the state wanted it, the locals (politicos) wanted it, and the Power Company already owned the land. The skids were greased. It was a done deal.

Although I was not a Conservancy member back then, I remember hoping they could pull it off. Now, more than twenty years later, it

appears that a major portion of this area will be set aside for future generations of critters and folks to enjoy.

Since the WVHC fall review will be at Canaan this year, I believe it would be "altogether fitting and proper" that we propose a toast to the heroes of twenty years ago who took a stand to preserve this natural treasure. Splendid indeed.

Carroll Jett

Fish Advisory Remains in Effect

The Division of Natural Resources, the Bureau of Public Health and the DEP have renewed fish consumption advisories for the Kanawha and Shenandoah Rivers.

The advisory for the Kanawha River has been in effect since 1986 and is based on results of fish samples taken during October 1993.

Sampling by DNR and DEP biologists revealed the edible portions of channel catfish collected contained traces of dioxin that ranged from .56 parts per trillion (ppt) at Wheeler Island, located 1.5 miles upstream from Montgomery, to 63.3 ppt in the backwaters of Armour Creek, 1 mile downstream of the Nitro-St. Albans bridge. Samples of sport fish, such as bass, did not show high levels.

FDA recommends limiting consumption of fish containing more than 25 ppt of dioxin and not eating fish that show more than 50 ppt contamination.

Dioxins and PCBs tend to persist in river sediments. They also accumulate in fatty tissues of animals and are suspected carcinogens.

Safety Tips

- Keep only smaller fish
- Eat only skinless and boneless fillets
- Remove dark meat from sides and fat from the belly and top of the fish
- Bake, broil or grill fish on an open rack so fat drains away from the meat
- Discard fats that cool out of the fish.

the emission offsets, it would have had to buy offsets from some industry or other polluter that had either reduced its emissions, or was emitting less than the law allows.

Ann Murtlow, vice president of the AES project in Cumberland, said the state's decision to issue the air permits was legally correct.

Congress intended for the offset requirements to apply to old power plants, not new, clean-running ones, she said. In fact, Congress exempted plants in the process of

Farm bought for Canaan refuge

The US Fish and Wildlife Service said Thursday it paid \$180,000 for an 86-acre farm as its first purchase for the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

The Service acquired \$2 million from Congress to buy land that will serve as part of the refuge.

The Harr Farm is primarily pasture land but also has a 26-acre swamp, the Service said.

The Wildlife Service has targeted a 14-mile, 24,000 acre section of Canaan Valley for refuge purchases. But agency officials said they will buy land only when county residents are willing to sell.

There are 500 wildlife refuges in the United States. West Virginia has one other national refuge, encompassing 38 islands in the Ohio River from Pennsylvania to Kentucky.

Warrior Run

You may remember the VOICE carrying two articles about the Warrior Run plant in the past, one written by Conservancy member Glen Besa. Glen tried to stop them this time but... From Charleston Gazette (AP) August 17, 1994

Maryland environmental officials have dismissed arguments by a lawyer and an environmentalist who opposed the issuance of key air permits for a \$400 million cogeneration plant in Allegheny County.

Glen Besa, a member of the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club, and Donald Goldbloom, a lawyer from Grantsville, separately filed challenges to stop the state from issuing a permit the Arlington, VA-based AES Corp. needed to build a steam and electricity plant outside Cumberland.

Both Besa and Goldbloom contended AES should not be exempt

from certain provisions of the federal Clean Air Act. Besa objected as an individual, but his challenge was supported by the Sierra Club.

Besa said he thought the Maryland Department of the Environment was giving AES a "free ride" on key requirements in the Clean Air Act.

Specifically, Besa said he thought AES should not be exempted from so-called emission offsets, including those restricting pollutants that cause acid rain. He expressed concern about the AES plant's impact on Shenandoah National Park in Virginia and the Dolly Sods and Otter Creek Wilderness areas in the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia.

Under the Clean Air Act, a company must find a way to offset the pollutants it emits. The act sets up a system where companies buy and sell their rights to pollute.

If AES was not exempted from

The C.A. Highlands Conservancy???

Dear Friends,

I hope you will pardon a Virginian for what might seem as a rash suggestion. My suggestion is that the WVHC be extended to embrace the entire Central Appalachian of Virginia and Maryland. It could be called the "Central Appalachians Highlands Conservancy" or just "Highlands Conservancy." My reasons are as follows:

1. There is nothing like WVHC in either Virginia or Maryland, nothing like the organizational structure of WVHC with the potential to accomplish great things in protection and restoration of these mountains.

2. Destructive megaprojects, such as Corridor H and the APCO Powerline proposals cross state lines and need unified opposition.

3. Such extension could will capture the imagination of the public, granting foundations and the media and strike fear in the hearts of the despoilers.

4. There is the possibility that such an expansion could catalyze a large membership increase.

5. Such an extension would still result in an area of manageable dimension perhaps less than twice the present WVHC area of interest.

The WVHC has an illustrious history of accomplishment and this needs to be extended to all of what is essentially the same bioregion of folded and gradually less folded mountains westward. The present Board of Directors seems to be ready for resolute action on a number of issues. They have shown this in a host of issues from strip mining to forest protection. The threats and actual degradation of these grand and biologically diverse mountains increase daily. We need a strong organization with a short reaction time and a vision of what the Region should be like in the future. I believe an expanded Conservancy could meet that need. Please give it some thought.

Sincerely,
Bob Mueller
Virginians for Wilderness
Route 1, Box 250
Staunton, Virginia 24401

-WVHC Organizational Notes-

- Jason Huber is the new Board Rep for Mountain Stream Monitors.
- Judy Rodd of Moatsville, WV has been appointed Chair of the Publication Committee. Judy hopes to rejuvenate and expand our efforts to distribute Hiking Guides, the VOICE and other useful WVHC info to local book stores, libraries, etc. - If you have any suggestions, or would like to help her, contact our Morgantown office at 264 High Street, 26505 - (304 296-8963).
- W.V. Downstream Alliance has applied for a position on the Board as an Organizational Director. Their application will be voted on at the October Board meeting.



Story overheard at the summer board meeting: Some 16 years ago aspiring young businessman Joe Marshall (sitting closest to left hand pillar in above photo of WVHC summer board meeting at Kumbrow State Forest) was the programs chair of his local Lions Club in Elkins W.V. In his enthusiasm for the position he invited Linda Cooper to present a program about Canaan Valley to one of their meetings. Linda, of course, came loaded for bear with slides and a full blown pitch about protecting the Valley from the clutches of Mon Power's pump storage plant..... Much to Joe's chagrin, by the next meeting, the Lions Club had a new programs chair and the program was a presentation by Mon Power! ♦

being constructed as long as they had signed agreements by November of 1990 to sell the power generated at the plant.

The cogeneration plant will mean a slight increase in air

pollution, but the increase is essentially insignificant and in compliance with safety standards, Murtlow said.

Construction of the plant could begin as early as the spring of 1995.

Keeping 'The Wild' in Wonderful West Virginia

by Steve Hollenhorst and Paul Salstrom

I have extracted two (actually 2.1) sections from Paul Salstrom's and WVU professor Hollenhorst's paper in the summer issue of the West Virginia Public Affairs Reporter. Steve testified on behalf of the plaintiffs in the Kumbrabow Trial. See Paul Salstrom's review of the whole article and address for copies of the paper elsewhere in this issue. I have also included one paragraph (and my biting criticism) of Bill Maxey's (WV DOF Chief) response to Steve's article, which was also printed in the summer issue. - bill r

The story of West Virginia has been told and retold, usually in the positive context of the "march of civilization." Early settlers confronted a vast wilderness and set about taming it. State government has long been a partner in the process, promulgating industrial development and economic expansion through supportive legislation and policy. West Virginians have paid a price for this economic success in the form of environmental degradation. The first victim was the vast West Virginia wilderness. Today, wild nature is viewed as a scarce commodity steeped in historic, cultural, and symbolic value. In response, the state legislature has in recent decades attempted to adopt policies to preserve portions of what

has in recent decades attempted to adopt policies to preserve portions of what little remains. Yet there is inevitably a lag time between public sentiment and government action. While change has been slow, the growing popular appreciation of wild nature has forced West Virginia's policy makers to face conservation philosopher Aldo Leopold's question, "whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free."

This analysis is organized around three themes. The first is an examination of the changes that have occurred in the way West Virginians perceive forested wildlands and their relationship to it. Secondly, the evolution and development of state public land management will be examined. Particular focus will be placed on comparing current public attitudes toward wildlands and natural areas with state land policy and management. Thirdly, a policy action agenda is proposed for bridging the disparities between public sentiment and lagging public land policy and management direction.

The purpose of this analysis is not to reprove the general practices of West Virginia's public land management agencies. As was pointed out by one anonymous reviewer, these agencies are held in high esteem around the world. The resource management paradigm underlying their activities has become a model for other countries. Rather, the focus here is on the emergence in the last several decades of wild nature as a vital social value, and

gence in the last several decades of wild nature as a vital social value, and the response of these agencies to this growing public sentiment.

Changing Public Sentiment

West Virginia's abundant natural resources—timber, coal, oil, natural gas—helped fuel the massive 20th century industrial growth that occurred in the United States. Expansion of a resource-based economy, aided and encouraged at every turn by the policies of state government, had three crucial effects on West Virginia. First, while it helped make the United States the world's wealthiest nation, the state itself has invariably ranked near the bottom in personal income, employment, education, and health. Boosters have from the beginning promised that extraction and export of raw materials would make West Virginia a wealthy state, but it remains, as described by John Alexander Williams, "one of the poorer states, a hewer of wood and supplier of energy to its richer neighbors."...

Public Involvement and the Division of Forestry

Currently in West Virginia, state land managing agencies are not required by law to include public input in the resource-allocation process. Thus, decisions have generally been left to administrators. However, pressures are increasing for the creation of opportunities for public involvement in these decisions. Several recent proposals have been scuttled because of public opposition, including the old Division of For-

been scuttled because of public opposition, including the old Division of Forestry's timber harvesting plans for Kanawha State Forest (which ultimately resulted in a legislative ban on all cutting there), a proposal to construct a tramway over the Cheat River at Coopers Rock, and the attempt earlier this year to privatized facilities in several state parks by leasing them to concessionaires.

The current controversy over a proposal to cut timber in Kumbrabow State Forest is another case in point. The plan calls for a relatively small "selection" cut where only some of the trees would be removed (as opposed to a clear-cut, where all the trees are harvested). From an ecological and aesthetic and ecological perspective, this method is among the most benign of timbering practices.

Trouble began with the decision process that the Division of Forestry followed at Kumbrabow. The agency sought to continue its traditional paternal relationship with the public. The public was excluded from the decision process, but the agency did go out of its way to inform the public of its decision, and to present a solid rationale for the timber cutting. Professionals in the Division of Forestry genuinely believed they were acting with integrity, honesty and dedication. To their surprise, negative public response ensued, culminating in a lawsuit against the Division.

Where did the Kumbrabow plan go awry? Forestry officials believe the

Where did the Kumbrabow plan go awry? Forestry officials believe the main issue was whether or not timber ought to be harvested on state forests. But, actually, the main issue was the process that the Division used to make the decision. The Division's traditional "trust us, we know best" approach proved distasteful to many people who use the forest. As far as they could see, no attempt was made to develop alternative plans or to assess the environmental and social impacts of those alternatives. They saw no attempt to consider amenity values that flowed from the forest's remote, rugged character. Thus, a decision process that was once construed as good management was now interpreted as a flippant disregard for citizen opinion.

What will the outcome at Kumbrabow be? Past disputes in West Virginia and around the country suggest that, if not given meaningful opportunity for input, interested citizens will "force" their input through litigation and legislation. This was the case at Kanawha State Forest, where citizens angry over Forestry's cutting practices were able to push through a law prohibiting cutting on that forest. For now, at Kumbrabow, the logging contract has been postponed, pending the outcome of a lawsuit filed by opponents.

Other section titles from Steve's article

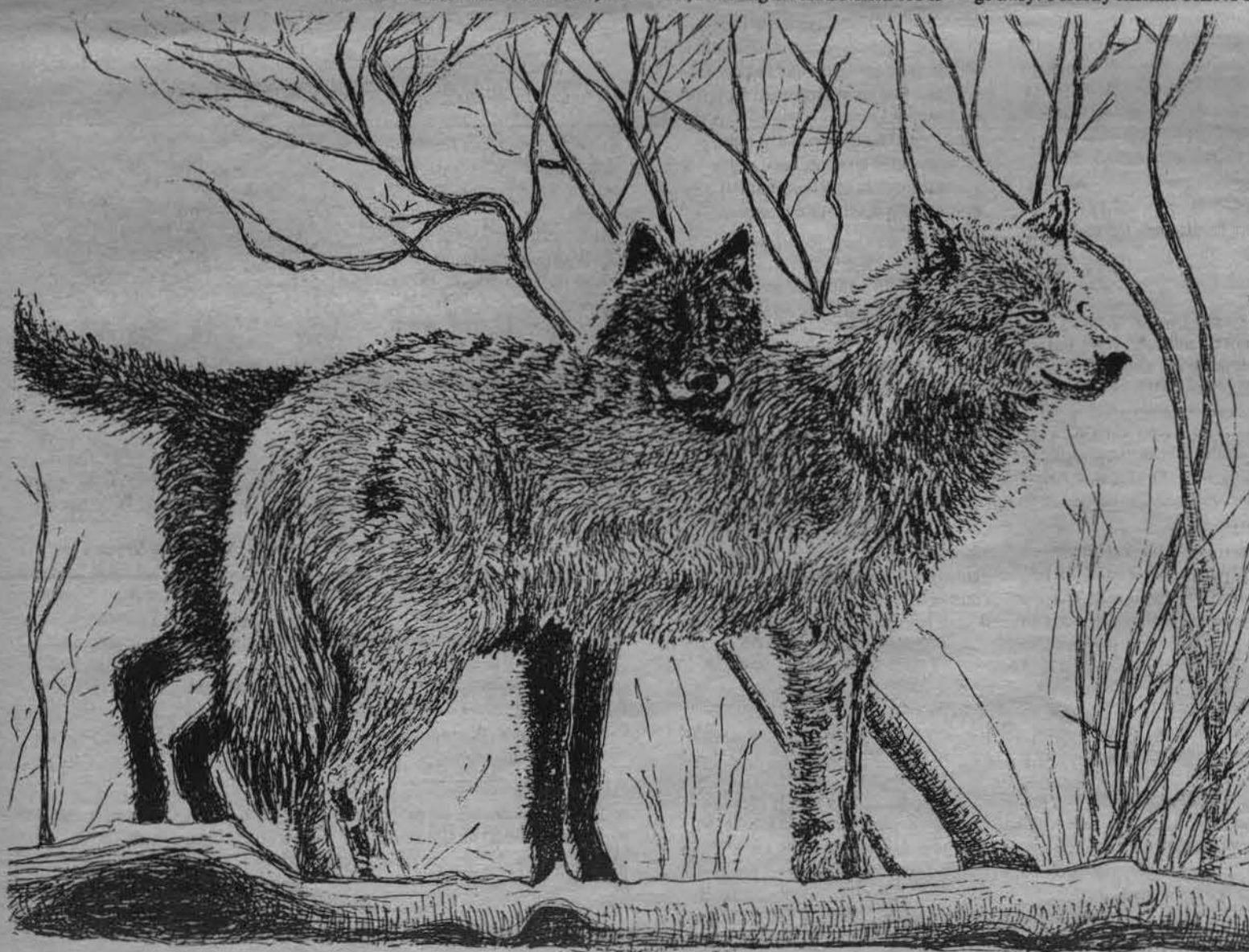
- The Evolution of Public Land Management
- Protection Versus Development in the State's Park System
- Public Involvement and the Division of Forestry
- West Virginia's Wildlife Program
- A Policy Agenda for the West Virginia Public Land System



Bearwallow

(from page 1) Others are all forested, often with the Red Pine planted by the CCC in the 30's (Locust Spring Run).

Although Laurel Fork begins on private land used mainly for pasture, by the time it runs through the George Washington National Forest it is quite wild and relatively clean. I spent a few days there after Tropical Storm Darrell dropped its several inches of rain. Laurel Fork is not an especially easy river to ford in dry periods, after the storm passed through it was a raging flood. The first day after the storm, it was quite muddy. By the next day, the water had cleared and the river was still rising slightly! There was no way to cross the river and follow the trail, so we were forced to hike cross country in order to explore the valley. Locust Spring Run was spectacularly beautiful with all the storm water racing down its many falls and chutes.



- And Political Realities

by Paul Salstrom

Create a West Virginia "conservation passport." Establish a sales tax on binoculars, outdoor clothes, boots, and other paraphernalia likely to be bought by non-consumptive state-park users. Those were two of the proposals that Steve Hollenhorst decided to emphasize when the West Virginia Public Affairs Reporter asked him to expound his views at length in its summer 1994 issue. (Copies are free, by the way, from the Institute for Public Affairs, Box 6317, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506-6317. Phone 304-293-5432.)

Hollenhorst's goal is to help non-consumptive users of our state parks and forests achieve more influence with the state's resource agencies. He asked me to help him write the Reporter article, especially on the history of West Virginia's wildland-related policies. So we tackled the writing together, but the policy proposals came from him.

Pondering "political realities" in West Virginia, Hollenhorst decided to propose that the Legislature overhaul funding mechanisms as a way to change the priorities of state land managers. The goal is to steer the priorities of West Virginia's land managers away from resource consumption and toward preservation. Major in-coming revenue from non-consumptive users of the state parks (so Hollenhorst reasoned) was the likeliest thing to motivate the land managers to raise "protection" to the top of their priorities—higher than timber sales, lodge construction, or more golf courses. "Woefully underfunded," he says in the Reporter article, "is it any surprise that state land managers give

particular attention to activities that generate income for their own agencies?"

A tourism logic can also be built on protectionism. If West Virginia's parks and forests—and Mon National Forest too, of course—do start putting more emphasis on wildness, then East Coast wilderness lovers would come to West Virginia in greater numbers. They would have to buy the state's "conservation passport" to enter its state parks, and also they would buy goods and services from the private economic sector.

Admittedly wilderness can't tolerate multitudes, but Kumbrow and other out-of-the way treasures can tolerate a lot more visitors than they now receive. On a recent Saturday (July 16th) in fine weather, at mid-day, Carol Jackson and I hiked through five miles of Kumbrow's gigantic hemlocks and hardwoods without encountering another soul.

Speaking of Kumbrow, in the Reporter article Steve Hollenhorst reflects on his recent experience as an expert witness in the Kumbrow timber-cutting Court case. He thinks that many of West Virginia's land managers would accept an expanded public involvement in official decision-making quite gracefully. What catapulted the Kumbrow case into Court wasn't just the state Division of Forestry's cutting decision itself but also the "black box" procedure that excluded the public from the Division's decision-making process. First the cutting decision was made and then the Division tried to sell that decision to the public. Hollenhorst is on a crusade to get meaningful public input from the start. If officials are truly public servants, then the public has the right—through the state

Legislature—to require that officials provide the public with a spectrum of choices (and with impact statements for each choice). Public servants can be mandated to provide the public with more than a sales pitch for the choice that they themselves personally favor.

Bill Maxey, head of the state's Division of Forestry, wrote a response to our proposals in the same issue of the Public Affairs Reporter. There Bill Maxey equates "wise use" with conservation. At first one might blanch at that. But doesn't the word "wise" really belong with a word like conservation? Does the word "wise" have to be conceded to a slogan sponsored by profit-takers? Surely the tables can be turned and that venerable word "wise" can help to defeat schemes that risk long-term values for the sake of short-term profits.

What Steve Hollenhorst and I try to do in our article is ask West Virginians—and especially West Virginia's state legislators—to step back from the details of current controversies and to separate the question of "wildness" from the jumble that public-land issues have turned into. We try to drive home the point that wildness is something which more and more people crave, that wildness is not a synonym for recreation, and that if we don't explicitly put "wildness" into the West Virginia Code then we may see it erode away from our state parks and forests. A "wild" designation should be explicitly legislated for the bulk of the state's park and forest acreage. Then non-consumptive users would know where to go to find it, and we preservationists wouldn't have to start from square-one every time someone suggests, in a specific case, that some other value should have priority. ❖

Another common feature of the Runs in Laurel Fork is that they are quite isolated and wild. It is hard to even find the beginning of the Bearwallow Trail. I had to make a second pass to identify it. There is really not much of a place to park, not even a wide place in the road. The trail shows little signs of use, mostly hunters in the fall I'd guess by the infrequent remains of campfires. Just the kind of wild place I love to explore.

I packed some water, lunch, a hand lens and a copy of the Flora of West Virginia in a day pack and headed down through the northern hardwoods. I soon scattered a large roosting flock of wild turkeys. As I passed the spring I identified several new species for me. The trail parallels the creek, but not very closely, so I slipped off the trail to inspect it. After passing through a small spruce planting I came upon the remains of a beaver pond. In the

mile of stream I walked I found a half dozen broken and overgrown beaver dams but no active sites!

This spot still had some water trapped in it, and was filled with great variety of wetland plants. On the edge grew the yellow-green sedge (*Carex lurida*) and *Carex gynandra*. Many of these sedges are hard to identify, but these two stand out. The wettest area was dominated by a strange plant. I spent a while looking through the sedge section of The Flora, but to no avail. Each plant has but one flowering stem. And what an array of flowers. I was calling it the snowball plant, while I was thumbing through The Flora trying to find it. The bottom green flowerball was an inch in diameter, composed of hundreds of flowers sticking out their frosty white stigmas. There were a dozen flowerballs above it, each one a bit smaller. The last five or six were brownish looking, having

already bloomed and died, I thought. But after identifying it I read in the Flora that the bottom flowerballs consisted of all female flowers and the top all male. -Burreed-. An excellent place to rest and eat some lunch.

I spent the afternoon wandering the creek, and across the meadows that are slowly reverting to woods. In one small area a lone colony of a couple hundred butter and eggs plants grew with almost as many bumble bees feeding off of them. I didn't make much progress that day, trying to identify all those new plants, but what a fine day it was. Too bad it was the last day of my trip and I had to hike back up to the car and head back to the farm. If you get any further down the Run let me know what you find. ❖

Thanks to Liz Plazo for Wolves on page 4

Ragette's Response to Maxey's Response to Hollenhorst's paper

I'll apologize here for only including a small section of Bill Maxey's response (my comments in italics). I strongly advise anyone interested in these issues to read this important paper (available for free - see Paul Salstrom's article above). But I think this small section is indicative of the mindset of the Division of Forestry - that they as experts know best how to manage woodlands for maximum long term production of timber, a point I have always agreed with.

Without timber harvests - (1) fire damaged trees persist (decay and insect infestation from this damage continue to destroy them), *(fire damaged trees are a part of nature, fungi need them, insects need them, as they become hollow, animals use them for shelter or homes)*

(2) trees are lost through competition; *(this is known as natural selection, the basis of evolution for eons. The trees are not lost, but actually are more valuable to wildlife and soil health while they are decaying on the forest floor)*

(3) growth slows, *(true individual trees do not increase in diameter as*

fast as they grow older, but so what, unless your aim is to maximize timber production?)

(4) trees become overmature and regeneration is shaded out resulting in a virtual desert for most wildlife.

(This is just not true, as anyone who has visited an old growth forest can testify, although deer and turkey populations will be less. Most of our forests originated in clearcuts at the turn of the century. As the forest matures the canopy will get thick and block light, but as it ages further, trees will die and fall and create gaps that allow light to reach the floor.)

Professional foresters know that healthy, productive forests can provide a much broader range of amenities. At the same time, timber stand improvement, cutting, while temporarily not pretty, promotes greater biological diversity, enhances habitat, reduces insect and disease populations, *(how can you reduce insects and increase diversity???)* selects the proper spacing, *(proper spacing??)* and affords the necessary light to the forest floor to assure reforestation. *(I wonder how nature managed reforestation before we had timber cuts??)* ❖

Kumbrow and the Governor's Committee

As of midnight August 30, we haven't had any ruling from the Judge on the Kumbrow/Clay Run Timber Sale. But I finally did hear back from Will Carter, the Governor's environmental aide. The Governor tossed the ball back to Bill Maxey to form the committee to come up with a plan or method for insuring that WV State Forests are used for the benefit of all West Virginians.

Bill called me the other day and said he was sending out the invitations to the prospective members of the committee. I just got mine today. Bill Maxey told me the names of the other committee

members, and for the most part they are strictly old guard, with yours truly the only environmentalist on board. Should be interesting but don't get your hopes up. - bill r. ❖



Carex Gynandra from Flora of West Virginia

Some plants of Bearwallow Run by the spring -

Glyceria melicaria - Sweet Grass

Thelepteris novaboracensis

Polygonum ?

Lycopus uniflorus

Glechoma

Dwarf St John'swort

Viola ?

2 species of *Carex*

forest lycophodiums -

L. obscurum - ground pine

L. lucidulum - shining clubmoss in

spruce woods

L. clavatum - common clubmoss

Ferns -

Dryopteris spinulosa - Spinulose

Shield Fern

D. marginalis - Marginal shield Fern

Thelepteris novaboracensis - New

York Fern

Pteridium Aquilinum - Bracken

Osmunda claytonia - Interrupted Fern

Polystichum acrostichoides -

Christmas Fern

by the old (drained) beaver pond -

Carex lurida - yellow green sedge

Sparganium eurycarpum - large

burreed

Polygonum sagittatum - arrowleaf

tearthumb

Marginal shield fern

Chelone glabra Elator

Epilobium sp?

Jewel weed

Scirpus - bulrush - 2 species

Carex gynandra

Canaan Valley - an Introductory Guide



Woodcock by Ann Payne from *Canaan Valley*

Formation of Canaan Valley

Also from Norma Jean Venable's booklet, this is one of four sections in the chapter on Geology.

Canaan Valley today is, in reality, the opposite of what it was 250 million years ago. When the continental plates collided, the rocks caught in the "vice" between the plates were deformed. The sedimentary rocks here were folded upward to form the Blackwater Anticline. At the crest of the anticline, the rocks were stretched rather than compressed, and cracks developed. Running water and weathering eroded these rocks, and soon a valley was formed. More and more rock was exposed as weathering continued and thus the Greenbrier limestone (Mississippian Age) became exposed. Limestone in moist, temperate climates will be dissolved slowly by acid water, carbon dioxide in the air will combine with rain to form a weak acid called carbonic acid. (The fizz of pop is an example of carbon dioxide being released from water.)

The Greenbrier limestone began to dissolve, leaving behind a residue of minerals that do not undergo a complete solution in this neutral environment. This insoluble residue is rich in clay minerals, and the small amounts of iron present cause all residue to be coated with the red-orange stain of iron oxide. This insoluble residue, combined with clay minerals from the rock

above the Greenbrier limestone and the Mauch Chunk siltstone and claystone washed to the floor of the valley, has formed a blanket of poorly drained sediment. This veneer of sediment on the floor of the valley thus traps water, and wetlands are formed.

The wetlands on the floor of Canaan Valley are very extensive, and in places a thick, organic-rich layer of peat has slowly accumulated over thousands of years. Where there is a slope, water drains off, providing for what are now open meadows.

The higher topography of the valley and the rise in the center of the valley reflect the more resistant rock, sandstone. The rock forming Cabin and Canaan Mountains in the Pottsville sandstone. The rock forming the rise in the center of the valley is the Pocono sandstone. These rocks are very resistant to weathering in a humid, temperate environment.

The Mauch Chunk formation is capped by the Pottsville and thus is protected. It is a rich red-colored rock (there is a good deal of iron oxide stain) of fine grain size. It is more resistant than the Greenbrier limestone and less resistant than (though protected by) the Pottsville sandstone. This rock can be found on the upper slopes of the valley walls.

The Greenbrier limestone has been quarried at the south end of the valley. The Pottsville sandstone, at lower elevation, forms the steep

Canaan Valley - Written by Norma Jean Venable and Illustrated by Ann Payne for the WV University Extension Service. I've reprinted small parts of two chapters - *Plants and Vegetation*, and *Geology*. Other chapters include *Introduction*, *History and Culture*, *Wildlife*, *Canaan Valley Trails*, *Outdoor Recreation*, and *Checklist for Plants, Mammals and Birds*.

This 32 page booklet is an excellent introduction to Canaan Valley and is available for \$6 from Norma Jean Venable Natural Resources Program WV University Extension Service 1074 Agricultural Sciences Building Morgantown, WV 26506-6108 From the Chapter *Plants and Vegetation*

This chapter contains lots of info on the various plant communities growing in the Valley. Besides this selection on the Wetland communities, Norma Jean Venable covers *Boreal and Mixed Conifer Forests*, *Quaking Aspen Groves*, *Northern Hardwoods*, *Fields and Hawthorn Groves*, *Aquatic Plant Community*, *Shrub Thickets*, *Plant Succession and Wildflowers*.

Wetland Communities

There are several kinds of wetland plant communities in Canaan Valley including bogs, wet meadows, alder swamps, and stream or aquatic plant community.

Bogs, also called glades and muskegs, are places where the water level is above the soil surface. Bogs

cover many acres in Canaan valley. However, the areas that are relatively open bogs today probably did not exist in pre-settlement times. The number of stumps, logs, and branches found in today's bogs suggests that the wet areas existed prior to logging but were swamp forests with peat soils.

Bogs develop in part because the heavy clay soils prevent drainage. Drainage is further impeded by the deposition of inorganic sediment along streams, causing pools of water to form. These factors promote the development of extensive wet areas.

Water in bogs can be quite acid, which prevents breakdown and decay of plant material. This results in a thick accumulation of a material called peat, which is formed of partially decomposed plant materials. In some places, peat can be several feet deep. The peat soils occurring extensively in Canaan Valley are 2 or more feet deep and usually very acid.

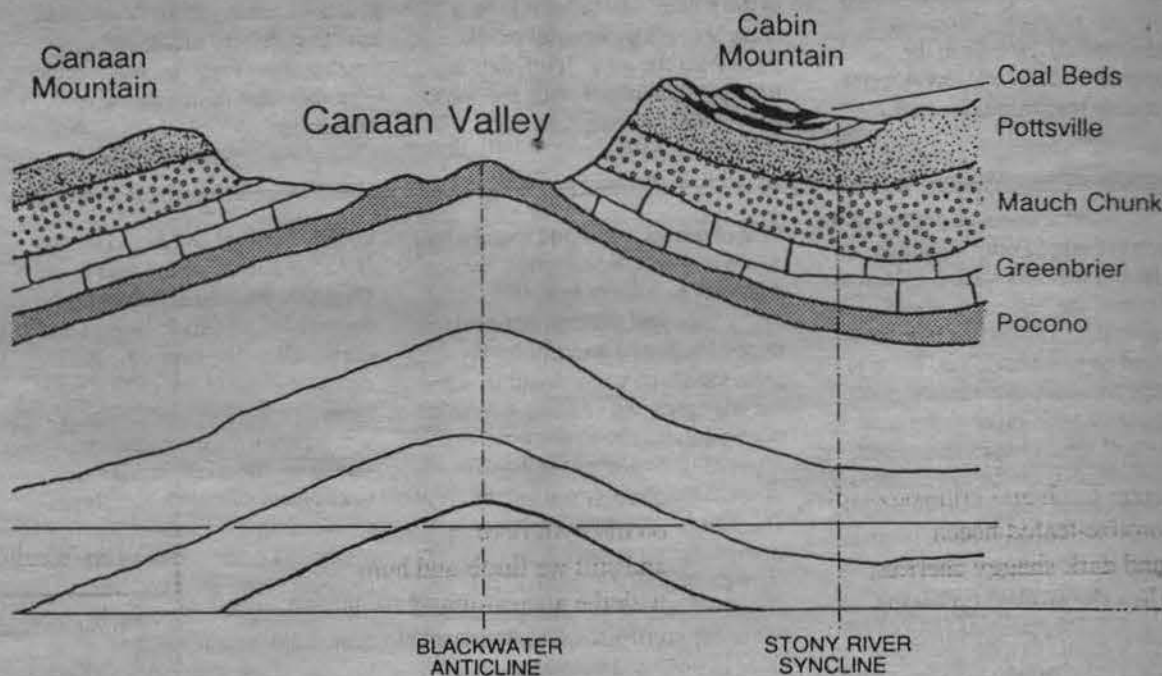
Peat bogs are characterized by hummocks of hair-cap moss in wetter areas. Sphagnum moss holds large amounts of water. The moss can be picked up and water wrung out of it like a sponge. Unforested areas with a cover of sphagnum moss are considered "true bogs," while those with a cover of hair-cap moss are considered to have more nutrients and are therefore called fens.

Two groups of plants often found growing in bogs are heaths and sedges. Heaths are plants that thrive in acid conditions and include

cranberry, velvetleaf blueberry, and teaberry. (These three plants have edible fruits.) Sedges are grass-like plants and include cottongrass, which in the late summer and fall can cover bogs with masses of cottony-white fruiting heads. Glyceria, a grass, and cinnamon fern, a common wetland fern, also occur.

Some bogs, especially in the northern part of Canaan Valley, are covered with the shrubby growth of black chokeberry and velvetleaf blueberry. Wild raisin, smooth arrowwood and wild holly also grow. Herbs include vervain, gentian, creeping snowberry, the rare wood horsetail, star-violet, and pink lady's slipper. Bogs can be viewed from the nature center and from Abe's Run Trail, across the road from the boardwalk.

Bogs are very fragile habitats. A single footstep can crush delicate plants. Footprints can last a long time, disfiguring and marring entire wet areas. Care should be taken when exploring these fragile areas. Wet meadows are open areas where the water level is at or slightly below the soil surface. In some instances, these areas have been caused by beaver activities. Cattails, sedges, rushes, grasses, and other marsh vegetation grow in these meadows. During warm weather, these meadows may dry out and cracks may develop in the soil. When rain falls after these dry spells, the meadows act as sponges to help absorb water. ❖



From - *The Vegetation of Canaan Valley*, Ronald Fortney via *Canaan Valley* - Norma Jan Venable

valley walls and the falls of the Blackwater river. It is relatively easy to distinguish the different rock formations by their color. The Pottsville sandstone is gray-white with some quartz pebbles, the Mauch

Chunk is reddish and fine grained, and the Greenbrier limestone is gray and very fine grained.

In some places in the valley the limestone rocks are exposed. Since limestone rock can be

dissolved by the acid in rain water, the resulting weathered rocks appear ridged and fluted, and are often picturesque with their cover of verdant ferns and clubmosses. ❖

above otter creek

The following poem is a reprint of Bob Stough's epic and includes the 40 lines I inexplicably left out the first time I printed it last year - bill r

first day of the season,
the trailhead stuffed full
of big shiny pickups,
'Love it or Leave it',
says a chromium bumper,
NRA stickers glaring
from the rear-view mirror.
up on Turkey Run trail,
no need for blazes today,
pop-bottles and sausage cans,
beef-jerky and cigarette packs
light the way.
i rested by an old spruce,
its thick mossy roots sunk deep
in a thousand years of earth;
as with elephantine stealth,
in full-dress camo,
cradling his walkie-talkie,
a fat happy young man
stalks the wild turkey.

packed up my junk
and hiked all the way down
into the deep, wild canyon,
rock-hopped across the creek,
now low and autumn-clear,
wavelight rippling the sunken leaves,
and headed back up again,
winding around on an old railroad grade
to the far ridge-top,
no roads for miles around,
gathered water at a small spring
among dense rhododendrons,
then had a hard pull
across the high plateau
to a soft nest
under a windswept hemlock
just off the jagged rocks
on the edge of the gorge.

eating plain simple food,
drinking pure sweet water,
i watch the sun set
through the old forest
over on Black Bear Mountain,
golden sun-rays slanting
between tall spruce and hemlock,
huge birch and crimson maples,
bronze-leafed beech
and dark shaggy cherries,
then the sunlight glowing
on a cloud of acrid haze
from the charcoal briquet factory
in the farther valley,
the employer of hundreds,
pillar of the community
that incinerates trees,
'Prime Appalachian hardwoods',
for the sake of barbecued chicken,
for MONEY IN THE BANK,

hallowed be its name,
where everybody knows
a balanced self-supporting
waste-recycling ecological economy
is 'no way to run a railroad'.
read our TV Guide, friends,
the play's the thing.

down by the creek
the mad dogs run,
they slaver and howl,
drive him up a tree,
the drunken men come hooting along
with savage, eager faces,
gunfire
cracks through the wilderness,
and a young raccoon
thumps to the ground,
blown to pieces
for the sport of the gods.

i light my pipe,
fill my lungs with sweet poison,
i curse in the firelight
for what they've done,
for what you and I have done
to our mother Gaia,
seed of innumerable wonders,
just so that most of us
can have much more than we need,
though still less than we want,
even though most all hearts,
however leathery and rough
can be filled to the brim
with peace and friendship,
and need only the barest spark
to shine with love and care
for stray dogs and little children...

but who loves the Earth
as they love their own flesh,
as they love their mate
on a night of snow?
yet if it is not so
rock-bone, tree-muscle, birdwing-minds
will be nothing
but shit in our sewers,
blood on our feet.
we cast our eyes to video heroes,
fill our larders
with rationcinative justifications,
cacoons ourselves in steel and glass
on the 99th floor,
and still we throb and hum
with the ancient music of the sun,
vultures and mushrooms
no less than people,
the songs of all
woven in timeless harmony,
as a living blue planet,
child of a calm yellow star,
spiraling with a galaxy
through the dark
and endless space.

written long ago,
handed down by sages and fools,
fine old words come to mind:
'never in this world
does hatred cease by hatred;
hatred ceases by love, and this
according to a law
that has existed forever.'
i let my fire burn down,
and walk out
on the rough quartzstone rock
of this old, wise mountain.
the coon-hunters have roared away,
back into town.
deep night.
just a whisper from the creek,
i play my sad flute with the river of
stars.



Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide Now Out

Edition 6 of Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide is now available. This edition is bigger and better than ever, with 368 pages, 96 pages of maps, 49 photographs, 177 trails totalling 812 miles, and a new full color cover. West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is the publisher. Authors are Allen de Hart and Bruce Sundquist (same as edition 5). Allen has hiked all the trails of the Monongahela N.F. over the past few years. Bruce was the editor for the first four editions. The hiking community and the U.S. Forest Service provided trail reports and photographs. Edition 6, like edition 5, also provides information for ski-touring and backpacking.

The growing throngs of visitors and the public at large regard the Monongahela National Forest as a 'Special Place'. And indeed it is. The hiking, backpacking, and ski-touring opportunities it provides are among the best in the eastern U.S. The more outstanding areas are becoming known far and wide - Otter Creek Wilderness, Dolly Sods Wilderness, Flatrock Plains, Roaring Plains, Blackwater Canyon, Spruce Knob, North Fork Mountain, Shaver's Mountain, Laurel Fork Wilderness, Cranberry Back Country, Cranberry Wilderness, among others.

Profits from the sale of these guides support a wide variety of worthy environmental projects in the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. To order your copy of Edition 6 of Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide, send \$12.85 (this includes \$2.90 first class shipping) to
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
PO Box 306
Charleston, WV 25321

West Virginia residents must add \$.60 sales tax. (total of \$13.45)

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Fall Review Weekend & Annual Meeting - October 14-16, 1994

CANAAN VALLEY

By Cindy Rank

Set aside some time to relax in Canaan Valley and celebrate the creation of West Virginia's second - and our nation's 500th - National Wildlife Refuge.

Over the years many readers of the VOICE have devoted personal time and effort to protecting the unique Canaan Valley. Others have watched and read with interest as the many chapters of the saga of Canaan have unfolded. Now it's time to take a breath, share a story and smile a smile with some of the people who have made it possible. ...COME TO CANAAN FOR THIS YEARS FALL REVIEW.

Most of our meetings will take place at the Whitegrass Cross Country Touring Center located on Freeland Road off Rte

32 in Canaan - directly across the road from the very first acreage purchased for the Refuge on August 11. COME TO WHITEGRASS FOR A LOOK-SEE.

-Saturday outings will highlight some of the unique areas of the Valley. Of course, there's plenty to do on your own as well - from bike riding to touring the latest real estate.- Saturday evening we'll gather at Canaan Valley fire hall for a fine meal and a program that will feature some special guests with some special words about Canaan.

- Sunday the ANNUAL MEETING will take place at 9 am. at Whitegrass, ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED AND URGED TO ATTEND, The main

order of business is the election of officers and five Directors at Large, each to serve two year terms ending in 1996. The regular Fall Board meeting will follow.

-WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW -PLEASE REVIEW THE GENERAL INFORMATION BELOW AND LET US KNOW IF, WHEN AND HOW MANY OF YOUR FAMILY MIGHT BE JOINING US or CALL THE MORGANTOWN OFFICE AND LEAVE A MESSAGE: 304-296-8963. Thank you, thank you, thank you in advance.

LODGING

1) We've reserved several nearby condominiums that will house from 4-8 people, (Most have 2 person bedrooms, a sleeping loft and a foldout double bed couch,) Filled they'll cost under \$20 per person per night, We can set you up with the condo mates of your choice if you all let us know to book you at the same place... 2) A little less luxurious, the Laneville Cabin will also be available on down the road apiece toward Dolly Sods. (Will sleep 15 - \$10/person per night) 3) Camping for the brave warm souls could be arranged by calling Canaan State Park, 4) The Village Inn Motel across from the fire hall is available for \$47/2/night plus \$6 each additional person over 6. Call 304-866-4166, 5) Several Bed & Break-

fasts in Davis, WV 10 miles to the north. (Call for phone #'s) **MEALS**

Whitegrass: light meal Friday evening, coffee & pastry early Saturday, brunch late Saturday morning, late night party snacks after fire hall program. For the dichards - Sunday breakfast and Sunday lunch.

The Fire Hall: Saturday supper
WE HOPE TO SEND MORE INFORMATION (with additional detail and more accurate pricing) TO YOU BY MID-SEPTEMBER, BUT PLEASE DON'T WAIT TILL THEN, CALL NOW AND GIVE US AN IDEA OF WHO AND HOW MANY TO PLAN FOR, AGAIN, CALL 304 296-8963.....or 304 924-5802. ♦

*** VOICES FROM THE PAST FROM PAST VOICES ***

Collected by Cindy Rank

SEPTEMBER 1974

* Rivers Chair Bob Burrell writing re: New York based investor J. Peter Grace's control of Mower Lumber Company and hence thousands of acres in Shavers Fork watershed... "Except for agriculture, appalachia's industries are mainly exploitative ones, timber and coal, the removal of which has been historically both environmetally destructive and socially degrading. ...The natural wealth is removed at the expense of the local economy and the capitol gained leaves the area through a steady process of exsanguination. ...It is very difficult if not impossible to sort out the many intricate inter-relationships among all of the different companies involved in the rape of West Virginia's prime river." (Shavers Fork)

* CANAAN VALLEY: A Pictorial Survey ...Ron Hardway wrote: "The purpose of this pictorial essay which follows a brief summary of the Davis Power Project is to show the general public what is at stake in Canaan. The photographs are in answer to the Davis merchant who once said to me, "There's nothin' in the valley but a lot of damned mud and some woodcocks anyway!"

SEPTEMBER 1975
* THE MACDOWELL COUNTY AUTUMN OLIVE FESTIVAL ... "The biggest self-congratulatory fete of them all was held this past August in southern W.V. This one is an annual tour of strip mines, past and present, whose purpose is to

demonstrate to everyone in the DNR and the strip mining industry that they're all a pretty decent bunch of fellows who are trying like hell to do a socially acceptable job in a business that has no redeeming social value. To avoid probable embarrassment the general public, while not prohibited from attending, is not encouraged to attend. Nevertheless representatives of the press do tag along to observe and record the bacchanalian toasts. Occasionally a private citizen manages to sneak in and drop a thorn or two among the pond of lilies."

SEPTEMBER 1981

* DNR WANTS CORRIDOR H STOPPED...Not building the four-lane, trans-montane roadway is the "most preferable" alternative of the WV Department of Natural Resources... However, if a highway is to be built over the objections of the DNR, then "the purpose ...can be accomplished with least damage to natural resources..upgrading existing U.S. ... and state routes ... between Elkins, WV and Winchester, Va..." according to DNR Director Dave Callaghan.

* SPEEDY DEVELOPMENT THREATENS VALLEY..."Given the Reagan administration's aversion to federal land acquisition and the direct role Secretary of Interior Watt played in the licensing of the Davis Power Project proposed for Canaan Valley, questions have arisen as to whether protection of the Valley as a National Wildlife Refuge can now be expected. ...It's not so much the

power dam - although that's not totally out of the picture - but instead it is the increased pace of other development in the Valley which bodes ill for its overall character."

* THE CONTINUING BATTLE OVER STRIP MINING..."West Virginia does not believe in mandatory enforcement."

SEPTEMBER 1982

* BOGGED DOWN ... As officials pass the burden of analysis around, environmentalists fear time running out for Cranberry Bill

* MUDSHOE...Turbid waters in Shavers Fork linked to Snowshoe

* DAM SHAME...Within 45 days Noah, Corp of Aiken, S.C. will submit draft license applications to the Federal Regulatory Commission (FERC) for hydroelectric facilities at Summersville and Sutton dams ... contending that the proposed facilities would not adversely affect either lake or river downstream.

* GAS IN THE GROUND, MUD IN THE STREAMS...One tenth of America's Natural Gas reserves in WV - ninety percent of state under lease for oil and gas now.

SEPTEMBER 1984 - Retrospective Edition

* STONEWALL JACKSON DAM ... Plans for the Stonewall Jackson Dam proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers go back to the 1920's. This year the dam will begin to rise.

* VOICE Editor Ron Hardway reflecting on the 1974 Eastern

Wilderness Act which established Dolly Sods and Otter Creek as wilderness areas but left unresolved the question of Cranberry: "For the moment (and I do mean no longer than) let us sit down and take a deep breath, perhaps a sigh of relief, and reflect on what has gone before."

* On December 20, 1982, at 2 a.m. the Cranberry Wilderness Act became the last bill to pass the 97th Congress. ...After twelve long years the Conservancy could finally rejoice. Along with Cranberry, 12,100 acres of the Laurel Fork had entered the National Wilerness System.

* THOROUGHFARES THROUGH THE HIGHLANDS - Corridor H ... Despite the efforts of Conservancy members acting under the leadership of Presidents Bob Burrell and Dave Elkinton, the DOH and Governor Arch Moore decided to "start in the middle" and construct 6.4 miles of Corridor H between Elkins and Bowden.... Conservancy members and other state conservationists foretold environmental disaster and history proves them correct. The construction disturbed one of two springs serving the Federal Fish Hatchery at Bowden and resulted at one point in a fish kill of over 150,000 four-inch trout who choked to death on silt. Though flow of the affected south spring was permanently curtailed somewhat, the hatchery is more dependent on the second spring...recharge area lies in the path of further development...(of the Southern Route).

SEPTEMBER 1987

* CANAAN - ALL THE WAY TO THE SUPREME COURT - WVHC, along with for national conservation groups, has filed a brief in the United States Supreme Court in opposition to a petition by Monongahela Power...seeking to appeal a ruling ... which upheld the denial of a wetlands permit needed for the Davis Power Project in Canaan Valley. ...the first time that the group has been involved in a case before the nation's highest court.

SEPTEMBER 1991

* IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE URGES CANAAN VALLEY PURCHASE AS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE - "Although we are late-comers to the effort to protect Canaan Valley, we are committed to the cause... because the singular natural values of the valley are being lost to developments such as power facilities, vacation homes, condominiums, off-road vehicles, bars and restaurants."

SEPTEMBER 1992

* CANAAN VALEEEY TASK FORCE LAUDED - The Canaan Valley Task Force has been selected to receive a Certificate of Environmental Achievement from Renew America, a national environmental organization based in Washington, D.C. ...It was convened in July 1990 to protect the unique ecosystem and natural resources of Canaan Valley while considering local community needs.