



The Highlands Voice

October 2000

Volume 33 Number 9

visit us online at www.wvhighlands.org

Letter from Randy Dye

Division of Forestry Head Responds to Conservancy Member Requests

(Dave Saville has beginning comments. He also kibitzes in reaction to some of Dye's statement. Dave's raves are in bold and italics)

Our West Virginia Members may remember getting a letter from us concerning the State Forest management plans being developed by the West Virginia Division of Forestry (WVDOP). Included with the letter was a postcard addressed to the Director of the WVDOP, Randy Dye. This was a convenient way for you to become involved in the planning process for our State Forests. We would like to thank all the folks who requested draft management plans, and urge you to carefully review them, as you receive them, and send in comments, however specific or general, or however brief. Below is the text of the letter sent by the WVDOP director in response to folks who sent in the postcards. For those of you who did not get it, we are passing it along here.

Mr. David Saville
PO Box 306
Charleston, WV 25321

Dear Mr. Saville:

I am writing in response to requests from the membership of your organization, the Highlands Conservancy, for completed State Forest Plans.

First of all I want to thank you for recognizing the fact that what you have sent us are indeed "Completed State Forest Plans." What we were really interested in, though, were draft forest plans as was clearly stated on our postcards. The difference is significant because people want the opportunity to comment during the formation of the Forest Management Plans

This request has overloaded our typical method of responding to inquiries from the public. All eight plans have been requested by 65 members with approximately 100 members asking for the more recent plans for Cal Price, Seneca and Camp Creek. This request would cost the Division of Forestry approximately \$4,200, which in turn must be charged to the Highlands Conservancy or its individual members.

The WVDOP has since capitulated and is now agreeing to send Highlands Conservancy members plans the same as it does for the rest of the population.

As a more cost-effective alternative, let me suggest that these plans be posted on the WVDOP's web site, which is under development, for your members to review. I hope you will agree this alternative is more efficient and cost-effective. I shall await your official response before proceeding.

It would certainly be helpful.

I would like to take this opportunity to compliment your organization's members on their

involvement in issues concerning the environment...

Me too.

...and to share some facts relating to West Virginia's forests that may be of interest to them. First of all I want to thank you for recognizing the fact that the WVDOP has developed a process for public comment on State Forests. This is a first. Not many state agencies or organizations implement a process for criticism.

Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Ohio all use public involvement in planning for their state forests.

See DYE on page 6

Wind Power

Part II - Visit to a Small Wind Farm By Frank Young

In Part I of "Wind Power" in the August-September Voice, Frank describes the meeting with the representatives of Atlantic Renewable Energy Company whose intent is to erect a number of large wind turbines (between 60 and 90) along the ridge of Backbone Mountain in Tucker County.

When I learned in late spring that an 8 turbine wind farm was operating in nearby Pennsylvania and was supplying wind generated electricity to the interstate electric power grid I was intrigued.

When I learned a week or so later that a larger wind power project was on the drawing board for Tucker County, West Virginia I decided to go see the Pennsylvania facility. In the meantime, the Tucker County proposal's developers, Atlantic Renewable Energy Co. (ARE) invited some of us within West Virginia environmental organizations to a meeting about their wind power project.

See WIND on page 10



Photo: Frank Young

From the Western Slope of the Mountains

By Frank Young

No MORE Room For Compromise

The title of this column is stolen – sort of. “No Room For Compromise” was the title of a column article written by West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Director Carroll Jett, and published in the Charleston Gazette in 1991.

Carroll wrote then, “It is obvious to any thinking person that the coal industry has too much political and economic clout to ever be effectively regulated by state government in West Virginia.”

Just a couple months ago Charleston attorney, Joe Lovett, said, in a legal notice, that the state’s surface mining regulatory program was “underfunded and overpoliticized.”

Carroll’s 1991 article continued, “The federal government has now served notice that it intends to take over enforcement of several aspects of our mine regulatory program, due to the consistent refusal by the state to enforce its own laws. In the midst of this controversy, our current governor (then Caperton) flies off to Pittsburgh to meet with a group of coal operators who are asked to kick in \$1,000 each for the privilege.”

That was nine years ago. Almost nothing has changed – not even the rhetoric – in the past decade. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) staffing, considered unacceptably low by the United States Office of Surface Mining (OSM) a decade ago, has decreased, not increased, over the ensuing years. And the insolvency of the bond pool for post 1977 forfeited surface mined sites has ballooned beyond WVDEP’s ability to calculate.

Now, nearly 10 years later, the United States Office of Surface Mining (OSM) is still serving notices of intent to take over the state’s surface mining regulatory program from WVDEP.

And if anything puts fear into the minds of the governor and the coal industry, it is the serious prospect that someone other than a state agency would actually be operating the surface mining program.

In July, 2000 the Conservancy filed a Notice of Intent (N.O.I.) to sue OSM, asking the court to order OSM to take over the surface mining permitting and enforcement program from WVDEP because of its failure to implement the program at even a minimally acceptable level. In informal response to that Notice, OSM only continues to ask the WVDEP for evaluations of its own delinquencies and gets virtually nothing in meaningful response.

WVHC Past President and mining committee activist John McFerrin, in a paraphrase, says that OSM’s response

See YOUNG on page 5

Roster of Officers, Board Members and Committee Chairs

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Frank Young 372-3945
Rt. 1, Box 108, Ripley, WV 25271 frankly@mtparty.org
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT: Judy Rodd 265-0018
Rt. 2, Box 78, Moatsville, WV 26405 roddj@hotmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT FOR STATE AFFAIRS: vacant
VICE PRESIDENT FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS: Peter Shoenfeld (301) 587-6197
713 Chesapeake Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910 peter@cais.net
SECRETARY: Hugh Rogers, Moon Run, Kerens, WV 26276 636-2662
rogers@wvhighlands.org
TREASURER: Jacqueline A. Hallinan 345-3718(H) 800-537-0996(W) 346-1201(W)
1120 Swan Rd., Charleston, WV 25314 hallinan@aol.com
PAST PRESIDENT: John McFerrin 252-8733
114 Beckley Ave., Beckley, WV 25801 mcferrin@inetone.net

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

(Terms expire October 2000)
Bob Gates, 1117 Virginia St. E, Charleston, WV 25301 342-2624 bgates@wvwise.org
Julian Martin 1525 Hampton Road Charleston WV 25314 342-8989
Martinjul@aol.com
Hugh Rogers, Moon Run, Kerens, WV 26276 636-2662 rogers@wvhighlands.org
Wendy Radcliff, 8 Hemlock Way, Charleston, WV 25302
346-3965 wradcliff@citynet.net
Bill McNeel, 1118 Second Ave., Marlinton, WV 24954 799-4369

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

(Terms expire October 2001)
Sayre Rodman, 32 Crystal Dr., Oakmont, PA 15139 (412) 828-8983
73210.540@compuserve.com
Carroll Jett, 397 Claylick Road, Sherman, WV 26164 273-5247 carrolljett@yahoo.com
Don Garvin, PO Box 666, Buckhannon, WV 26201 472-8716 dsgjr@aol.com
Carter Zerbe, 16 Arlington Ct., Charleston, WV 25301 343-3175 scz3667@aol.com
Bob Marshall, 886Z Divide Ridge, Kenna, WV 25248 345-5518
woodhavenwva@netscape.net

ORGANIZATIONAL DIRECTORS

NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: Virginia Region - Judy Fisher
PO Box 276, Berkeley Springs, WV 26411 258-4974
PITTSBURGH CLIMBERS: Jean Rodman, 32 Crystal Dr., Oakmont, PA 15139
(412) 828-8983 73210.540@compuserve.com
BROOKS BIRD CLUB: Mary Moore Rieffenberger
Rt. 4, Country Club Rd., Box 253, Elkins, WV 26241 636-4559
MOUNTAINEER CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED: Carl W. Miller, PO Box 4398,
Parkersburg, WV 26104 422-5312
WEST VIRGINIA RIVERS COALITION: Abby Chapple 947-7590
PO Box 370, Great Cacapon, WV 25422 abbc@aol.com
DOWNSTREAM ALLIANCE: Joan Sims 296-8860
1225 4-H Road, Morgantown, WV 26508
FRIENDS OF THE LITTLE KANAWHA: Cindy Rank 924-5802
HC 78, Box 227, Rock Cave, WV 26234

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MINING COMMITTEE: Cindy Rank, HC 78, Box 227, Rock Cave, WV 26234 924-5802
PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: Sayre Rodman
32 Crystal Dr., Oakmont, PA 15139 (412) 828-8983; Bob Marshall, 886Z Divide Ridge,
Kenna, WV 25248, woodhavenwva@netscape.net
PUBLICATIONS/OUTREACH COMMITTEE: co-chairs -- Tom Rodd 265-0018
Rt. 1, Box 178, Moatsville, WV, thomasrodd@hotmail.com & Linda Cooper, 296-0565
649 Halleck Rd., Morgantown, WV 26508 linda.cooper@wvwise.org
BLACKWATER CANYON COMMITTEE: co-chairs Linda Cooper 296-0565
RR 5, Box 228-A, Morgantown, WV 26505 linda.cooper@wvwise.org & Judy Rodd,
501 Elizabeth St., Rm. 3, Charleston, WV 25311, roddj@hotmail.com 345-7663 (off.)
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: John McFerrin, 114 Beckley Ave,
Beckley, WV 25801 252-8733 mcferrin@inetone.net
ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE: John McFerrin 252-8733
114 Beckley Ave., Beckley WV 25801 mcferrin@inetone.net
RIVERS COMMITTEE: Pam Moe-Merritt 478-4922
RR 1, Box 29-B, Kerens, WV 26276 pmoe@neumedia.net
HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE: Hugh Rogers 636-2662
Moon Run, Kerens, WV 26276 rogers@wvhighlands.org

MISCELLANEOUS OFFICES

SPEAKERS BUREAU: Julian Martin 342-8989 martinjul@aol.com
1525 Hampton Road, Charleston, WV 25314
WEB PAGE: Peter Shoenfeld (301)587-6197 peter@cais.net
713 Chesapeake Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Administrative Assistant: Dave Saville, Voice Editor: Bill Reed
PO Box 569 350 Bucks Branch
Morgantown, WV 26507 284-9548 Beckley, WV 25801 934-5828
email: daves@labyrinth.net bboyreed@cwv.net

The Highlands Voice is published monthly by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, PO Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321. Articles, letters to the editor, graphics, photos, poetry or other information for publication should be sent to the editor via the Internet or 3-1/2 floppy disk by approximately the 25th of each month. The Highlands Voice is always printed on recycled paper. Our printer uses 100% post consumer recycled paper when available. The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy web page: www.wvhighlands.org

Corridor H from Different Angles

By Hugh Rogers

A Regional Perspective: What DOESN'T Work

In Washington, where the vicissitudes of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) are just another daytime drama, the latest show was a yawn. Up in the hills, though, we gaped as ARC begged, "Stop me before I pave again!"

ARC wants to come clean. Its mission from the outset was economic development but it spent most of our money on highway construction. Four years ago, when Jesse White was appointed the federal co-chairman, he said he intended to change the emphasis. Most regional politicians opposed his effort -- they have never seen a four-lane they didn't like -- but ARC continued to call into question its 35-year-old highway program. If it succeeds, it could affect funding for Corridor H.

The latest report, "Evaluation of the ARC's Infrastructure and Public Works Program Projects," was released last summer at a Capitol Hill press conference by none other than Rep. Bud Shuster (R-PA), Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Shuster has helped Senator Byrd shovel plenty of highway money into West Virginia. Now, though, with his cooperation, a direct comparison can be made between ARC's non-highway spending and

its Appalachian Development Corridors.

Two independent consultants looked at non-highway projects funded by ARC from 1990 to 1997. The money helped to build industrial parks, water and sewer systems, runways, access roads, business incubators. A total investment of \$32.4 million generated 23,377 jobs. *As a rough calculation of the projects' effectiveness, each job cost \$1,386* [Italics & bold by editor].

A year and a half before, ARC had released a similar study of the corridors that had been built by 1995. *In current dollars, those highways had cost \$7.5 billion. They had generated 16,000 jobs -- thus, each job cost \$468,750. Non-highway spending was 338 times more effective than highway construction in carrying out the agency's mission* [Italics & bold by editor].

One politician whose state includes part of the Appalachian region has complained about ARC's spending. In early August, Senator George Voinovich (R-Ohio) conducted a "field hearing" in southeast Ohio. He said he wanted to find out "how, possibly, we could redirect the dollars." Voinovich heads a Senate subcommittee with jurisdiction over ARC. He could help the agency change.

The theory that highways promote economic development in mountainous rural areas has been disproved over and over again. (See "The Highlands Voice," June 1999.) Now that more than 80% of the Appalachian corridor system has been built, the projects that remain are the least effective, most destructive, and most expensive -- a precise description of Corridor H. No wonder ARC wants to get out of the highway business.

A Local View: Greenland Gap

For a local view of Corridor H, go to a West Virginia treasure and National Natural Landmark, Greenland Gap in northern Grant County. Its spectacular 800-foot cliffs above a rushing stream have sheltered wildlife and influenced history. Residents, landowners, and visitors to the Gap are distributing a petition to move the Corridor away from its west end. Some

See CORR H on page 11



Planned Corridor H Route in Conflict with Greenland Gap

WVDOH Refuses to Compromise -- Won't Change Planned Route

By Deborah Hudson Kunkel

What makes you decide to fight a battle with the West Virginia Division of Highways? You have to know in your heart that what they are doing is wrong, and that what you are fighting for will be the best for future generations of West Virginians.

The village of Greenland, Greenland Gap, Falls Gap and the Village of Falls are referred to locally as Greenland Gap. The Greenland Gap road curves 2.4 miles from Greenland to Falls. There is unique beauty along this narrow road -- you can find serenity here. I also have a satisfaction that the family have protected Greenland Gap since 1928 and Falls Gap since 1940. We've shared the taxes, and shared the creek and cliffs with responsible visitors.

Maryland Senator William McCulloch Brown owned the Gap from 1881, when, unable to have the Gap donated as a "Monument" for its scenic value, he placed the Gap in the hands of my husband's grandfather with the promise that it would be kept in its natural state. David Allan Burt (president of Ogelbay Institute 1930-37) passed that obligation on to the family. He fought off Route 93 going through the Gap. His daughter, Marti Burt Kunkel, donated 255 acres to the Nature Conservancy in 1974 to stop Corridor H from going through the Gap. To give away a land that you love is not unlike giving a child up for

adoption, if you cannot protect it you must find someone who seems to have the resources and abilities to protect it. You love it none the less.

The West Virginia Division of Highways has treated our objection to their four lane divided highway, entrance and exit ramps and retaining wall that are planned through the village of Greenland, at the western mouth of Greenland Gap, as though we have nothing to protect.

If they climbed the 823 foot cliffs, as many do, they would see the precariously perched blocks of stone, they would understand what damage this large of a highway project would do this close to the cliffs. I find it particularly odd that the state recognized the beauty and history of this area until it conflicted with Corridor H -- now it has no value. The recommendations that were made for roadside markers in 1935 include the Greenland Gap, The Battle of Greenland Gap and the McCulloch's Trace. In 1980 it was named a state registered Natural Landmark by the Department of Natural Resources. This is not just another pretty place in a state full of pretty places, this is unique. The DeLorme Road Atlas of West Virginia gives the designation of Unique Natural Feature to 21 sites in our state, Greenland Gap is there.

Does bird song, creek music and the sound of the wind playing in the leaves have value? At

night, whip-poor-wills and lightning bugs -- and the stars! It is so dark here at night you cannot see an arms length in front of you. Places like this are becoming more and more rare. The value I place on this is... priceless... irreplaceable.

We are not happy to compromise, but we are willing. We have asked them to come and see our proposed alternative route one-half mile away, they have not come. We are sure that our route will not impact any historic sites, they say that their current route does not. If they misplace a battle by a mile, ignore the 2 Union and 7 Confederate soldiers buried there, leave out of their reports a log home (now sided), call another home less than 50 years old when our local postmistress was born there in 1927 (and it was not new then); that is how they say their current route does not impact anything historic.

It takes more than one voice, they hear the one voice in Charleston but they won't listen. If you treasure the unspoiled places please, raise your voice with mine.

If you want to help save this precious resource, please contact me at:
Deborah Hudson Kunkel
HC 72, Box 7006
Scherr, W.Va. 26726
kunkelatgap@mountain.net ❖

HOLY EARTH!

By Michael Hasty

Grassroots Politics

No matter which candidates win the races for US president and West Virginia governor in next month's elections, environmentalists will still have a lot of work to do.

That is true even in the (at this point unlikely) event that the independent "green" candidates for those offices are elected. In fact, it may be even truer in that case, because those candidates would be dealing with legislative majorities hostile to their environmental priorities and eager to drive the interlopers out of office at the earliest opportunity. Any hope of legislative success would, even more than usual, depend on grassroots organizing.

"Grassroots" is a word that is often used to refer to mass organizing at the community level. It evokes the image of being grounded in the people, the "little guys" rising up from the earth.

"Grassroots" stands in contrast to "treetops" organizing, which means rounding up the support of community leaders. And it's the opposite of what is called "astroturf" organizing, which refers to the phony "citizens' groups" put together by public relations firms hired by corporations to make it look like the outlandish piece of legislation they're trying to get passed has genuine "grassroots" support.

Yet I'm beginning to wonder whether, in the world of American politics, there really is such a thing as "grassroots" any more.

The other day my partner brought home a lost puppy she had found wandering along the road on her way home. He was a nice little hound with a brand new nametag that said "Buddy" on it, and we figured that he'd come from the new subdivision near where she found him. There was only about an hour to go until dark, so Buddy and I got in the pickup and headed over to his neighborhood to see if anybody knew where he came from.

There were a couple of guys mowing their lawns, but they didn't know who he was. I stopped a car driving into the subdivision, but neither of the occupants recognized Buddy either. Finally a little girl standing alongside a cul-de-sac knew that he belonged to her

friend who lived in the mobile home across the street. As I pulled into the driveway, I saw the friend sitting forlornly on a swing in the backyard. When Buddy and I got out of the cab, she rushed over, obviously relieved to see him.

She took him into the house, and as I pulled out of the driveway, her dad was just getting home from work. He glared at me from his truck, so I stopped and explained what I was doing there, and his demeanor changed. He smiled and thanked me, and I headed home, satisfied with my good deed. But I was also a little saddened by the experience, for what it said about 21st century America.

For one thing, both the guys who were mowing their lawns lived just a couple of doors away from Buddy's house. Why do we know so little about our neighbors? Not a single soul I spoke to expressed a hint of curiosity about either me or the puppy -- except Dad, whose only interest was what the heck I was doing in his driveway. Even worse, as I questioned the little girl who finally recognized Buddy, I couldn't help but worry that her mother was looking out the window and frantically dialing the police about the strange man who was talking to her daughter. A legitimate concern, in this day and age, even in this rural county.

In a recently published book, "Bowling Alone," sociologist Robert Putnam documents the fragmentation and alienation of contemporary American society. The title refers to the decline in the number of bowling leagues in this country, which Putnam sees as a metaphor for the larger phenomenon of withdrawal from civic life. This phenomenon can be observed not only in the shrinking memberships of civic associations, like parent/teacher groups and social service and political clubs, but even in the fact that people are, for example, having fewer picnics and informal visits with friends.

There are a number of reasons this is occurring. Americans are working longer hours than they used to -- more hours annually than the workers of any other industrial nation. The average American two-earner family is putting in more than 160 hours more per year than

they did just ten years ago. Commuting time is longer, too. Putnam calculates that every ten minutes added to the daily commute equals one less civic activity for the commuter.

Of course a major factor contributing to the widespread disengagement from civic life is television, which manipulates the viewer's emotions in the service of commerce, and substitutes a simplistic and glamorous celebrity culture for the subtle complexities of actual relationships. Instead of the real world, you have MTV's "The Real World." Instead of friends, you have NBC's "Friends." We've become a society of people sitting around in big boxes, watching little boxes.

Or communicating through them. For many people, the Internet and email have become cyberneighborhoods, where kindred spirits can meet and share ideas. Electronic communication has become a valuable organizing tool for activists of all stripes -- including the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. It is especially valuable for international organizing on global issues, because it allows people to communicate without having to pass through the filter of the corporate media.

Yet in the sense that the most the electronic web can offer is "virtual" community, the impression that real "grassroots" organizing is taking place is on one level an illusion. We environmentalists, of all people, with our love of nature, should recognize the importance of place, of real, geographic, physical space. Because this is the sense that we as a society, living in a globalized economy, are losing. It is the void at the center of modern culture. The philosopher William Irwin Thompson titled a book on this subject, "The American Replacement of Nature."

We should never forget that whether we are thinking globally or not, we need to act locally. Sometimes that means we need to slog around and meet our neighbors -- the uncyber ones. Sometimes that means going out at night to some community meeting on a subject which may not be our primary concern, but is important to others. Often it

HASTY concl. on next page

YOUNG from page 2

to our N.O.I. is: "DEP has been a mess for at least ten years. In another ten we may have the problem figured out and be ready to start thinking about a possible solution. We'll get back to you."

Carroll's 1991 article continued, "The political influence of the coal industry is pervasive in both major political parties -- always has been. We don't have the privilege of voter initiative and referendum. In short, a federal takeover of the regulatory process is the only apparent source of protection we have from the coal mining industry, short of armed insurrection....."

But John McFerrin said recently that since the courts frown on the use of guns the only resort is to sue.

I agree, then, with Carroll Jett who concluded, in the 1991 article, "If we buy into some sort of compromise (cop-out, in other words) we will probably get a brief respite of six months or a year, during which the industry will make a half-hearted attempt to play by the rules. But it will soon return to its destructive orgy, running roughshod over the land and people. The pattern of "progress" is

predictable. Depleting the resources of one area, operators move on to the next hollow, where the process begins anew under a different corporate name -- leaving behind a legacy of broken hearts, environmental nightmares, and unpaid bills."

Last month the WVHC's Executive Committee authorized the Conservancy's attorney to file suit in federal court to require that surface mining permitting and enforcement in West Virginia become a federal government (OSM) responsibility.

OSM obviously doesn't want to actually have the responsibility of running the program. But federal law requires that when the state agency does not operate the surface mining regulatory program in compliance with federal laws, that OSM shall run the program itself.

OSM may or may not perform its' obligations to our full satisfaction. But certainly it could do no worse than WVDEP.

Considering that the local good ole' boy political network is easier to keep greased on a local (state) level than on a federal level, OSM could probably do noticeably better.

The more some things change the more they stay the same. There is no MORE room for compromise. ❖

We Can Save the Planet -- and Ourselves

By E. O. Wilson

(Published Wednesday, July 5, 2000, in the Miami Herald and forwarded by Betsy Hoffman)

The 20th Century was a time of spectacular scientific and technological advances, the freeing of the arts by an exuberant modernism and the spread of democracy and human rights. It also was a dark and savage age of world wars, genocide and totalitarian ideologies that came dangerously close to global domination.

While preoccupied with all this tumult, humanity also managed to decimate the natural environment and draw down the nonrenewable resources of the planet with reckless abandon. It accelerated the erasure of entire ecosystems and the extinction of thousands of million-year-old species. Earth's ability to support our growth is finite, but we usually have been too busy to notice.

Now, as the new century begins, we have begun to awaken from this delirium. Increasingly post-ideological in temper, we may be ready to settle down before we wreck the planet.

The bottom line is different from that generally assumed by our leading economists and

HASTY concl. from preceding page

means working with people with whom we have very little in common or some of whose values may even be opposite our own.

But I am convinced that our national loss of the sense of place offers a political opportunity to those who would reclaim it, and environmentalists have a unique message with which to stake that claim: we all live in nature. If we work hard enough, and smart enough, we can make the grassroots come alive. ❖

public philosophers. They have mostly ignored the numbers that count. With the global population at more than 6 billion and on its way to 8 billion by midcentury, per capita fresh water and arable land are descending to levels resource experts agree are risky.

The ecological footprint -- the average amount of productive land and sea appropriated by each person in bits and pieces from around the world for food, water, housing, energy, transportation, commerce and waste absorption -- roughly is 2.5 acres in developing nations but 25 acres in the United States. The footprint for the total human population is just 5.4 acres. For every person in the world to reach present U.S. levels of consumption, we would need at least four more planet Earths.

The 5 billion people living in developing countries may never wish to attain this level of profligacy. But in trying to achieve at least a decent standard of living, they have joined the developed world in exploiting the last of the natural environments and reducing to extinction a large part of the planet's biodiversity. At the same time, humanity has become a geophysical force, the first species in the history of the planet to attain that dubious distinction. We have driven atmospheric carbon dioxide. In short, we have entered the Age of the Environment, in which the immediate future is a kind of bottleneck.

Science and technology, combined with a lack of self-understanding and Paleolithic obstinacy, have brought us to where we are. Now science and technology, with the wisdom and foresight they serve, must see us through and out.

As a close observer for many years of science and the environment, I believe the change is possible. Empirical knowledge and technical ability are growing exponentially -- in the case of computer capacity superexponentially -- faster even than the crises of population and resources. With this overall advance will soon come an understanding of the biological basis of the mind and human behavior, and therefore a more solid, predictive social science. A sophisticated picture of the global environment and global resources is emerging. And the technology already is available for raising per capita food production while decreasing materials and energy consumption.

This information is coming online worldwide, allowing people everywhere to see the planet as the astronauts see it: small, and too fragile to bear much more careless tampering. A growing number of leaders in business, government and religion are thinking in this more farsighted way.

The goals of lifting a stabilized world population to a decent quality of life while saving and restoring the natural environment are as noble as any in history -- and attainable. They represent the bottom line of global sustainability, the true key to our future and the most principled guide for economic and political policy.

Edward O. Wilson teaches and is honorary curator in entomology at Harvard University. This essay is adapted from an article in the summer issue of "Foreign Policy" ❖ magazine.

DYE from page 1

The WVDOF welcomes constructive criticism that is based on facts so we can strive for continuous improvement.

Unfortunately, facts seem hard to come by these days. Recently your membership has received information, some of which was from other state agencies, regarding our State Forests that is misleading or even completely false. It is my intention to clear up those items with this letter.

I would like to make your membership aware that two State agencies actually manage State Forests. The DNR's [West Virginia Division of Natural Resources] Parks and Recreation section is responsible for developed recreation areas, while the WVDOF manages the larger forested areas. A process has been put in place by the WVDOF, which allows Parks to help us in developing plans for the State Forests. While this is not a perfect process, we are continually working with Parks to better our plans for the future.

A perfect example of how wrong information can be used occurred at the Kanawha State Forest.

What "wrong information" ?

I am very pleased this issue came to an end thanks to the insight of Governor Cecil H. Underwood. Our State Forests were established in West Virginia law to be demonstration areas of multiple-use forestry. These areas were designed to show how silvicultural management practices could be used as tools to encourage wildlife, plant species diversity and recreation, and to discourage the devastation caused by wildfire.

When we ask for stricter rules on timbering in the state, we hear, "we don't need them because we are self regulating," as if every timber job in the state is already "state of the art." However, Mary Ann Favan's research at the West Virginia University Division of Forestry shows 95% of timber jobs in the state practice highgrading ["highgrading" is the logging of only the commercially superior trees. Ed.], a non-sustainable form of timber harvesting. How do you evaluate the effectiveness of your "demonstration program?" Any program with a 5% success rate should be seriously re-evaluated or eliminated. It certainly isn't worth the costs of our State Forests being roaded, fragmented and timbered. Plus, there are many other, and often better ways to manage for wildlife, species diversity, and recreation, than by silvicultural methods. The law is clear, it states "The purposes are.....the management of state forests for conservation and preservation of wildlife, fish, forest species, natural areas, aesthetic and scenic values, and to provide developed and undeveloped outdoor recreational opportunities, and hunting and fishing for the citizens of the state and its visitors." Only in a separate passage are timber harvesting and demonstration mentioned.

And it worked! Thanks to scientific forestry methods, our State Forests contain some of the most beautiful and productive forest land in the country. Unfortunately, the management which had helped to create the beautiful Kanawha State Forest was stopped by those who lacked the knowledge to understand the dynamics of it in the late 1970's.

For some reason I give credit for the forests creation and existence to other concerns. I feel that it exists at all, despite, not because of, "forest management." It's taken Kanawha State Forests nearly a century to recover from the past abuses from commercial timbering. Furthermore, it will be a place of greater diversity, beauty, health, recreation, human enjoyment and value to the public if managed for uses other than timber production. The lack of knowledge and understanding is on the part of the WVDOF in not recognizing and carrying out the wishes and desires of the Forest's owners, the public, in creating and executing these plans. Public opinion polls in West Virginia all indicate a vast majority of people feel we should be doing more to protect our state's forests. In the absence of any political will to acquire additional lands, we need to re-double our efforts to further protect the few lands we have.

Since that time, the WVDOF has had little to do with the Forest. However, because we were "responsible" for it's management, we often received blame for problems there. As an example, easements for gas well roads are handled by the DNR's Public Lands Corporation and yet the WVDOF was criticized for these roads. As another example, the WVDOF was criticized by mountain bikers for requesting time to study the plant communities before Parks and Recreation layed out a proposed bike trail. This study would have allowed the WVDOF to determine if any unique, rare or endangered plants exist in the path of the proposed bike trail, a plan to avoid the destruction of unique plant communities that I am sure your organization would support.

Yes we would.

Now, I am pleased to say the DNR Parks and Recreation section carries full responsibility of caring for this forest area which is already essentially a "State Park.."

So are we.

It was extremely difficult to manage a property for multiple uses, when multiple uses were not allowed.

False. All of the dozens of multiple uses are still allowed except one.

I am pleased that your membership have requested plans so you can see for yourself the true plan and dispel a lot of false rumors and misconceptions.

Any land management plan should begin by first determining the wishes of its owners, not end with it. It is a far cry from "meaningful" public involvement for the WVDOF to send the land owners virtually completed plans and then ask "how do you like it?" Remember, DRAFT plans were requested.

Following are some of these false rumors or misconceptions and the factual truth:

Misconception #1

"Each of the State Forest plans thus far released take for granted that logging will proceed over virtually the entire acreage of the State Forest."

Truth:

Thirty percent (30%), or approximately 20,000 acres of the 70,000 acres on the eight remaining State Forests will be set aside from any harvest.

This is not enough.

These set-aside or reserved areas include improved recreation areas, improved wildlife habitat areas, identified ecologically sensitive areas, riparian buffers, recreation buffers, and remote areas. So far, the four new plans designate only 3,800 acres out of a possible 33,000 acres to be even considered for re-inventory and a multiple-use prescription written. A prescription will include recreational needs, wildlife habitat needs, threatened and endangered species and rare species existence and needs along with any potential harvesting demonstration needs.

Do you keep records of the positive benefits of these demonstration areas?

Misconception #2

"As far as wildlife and recreation are concerned, they show up in the plans as an afterthought, if at all."

Truth:

See Attachment 1 which is part of the Greenbrier Plan as example of uses other than timber.

Your analysis is not sufficient. Data and analysis is needed on recreational uses today and in the future.

Misconception #3

"Thousands of acres (of State Forest) have already been logged."

Truth:

During the Last 30 years, an average of 300 acres of State Forest have been logged each year...

$$30 \times 300 = 9,000$$

In other words, only 11.5% of the total acreage in 30 years.

DYE continued on next page

DYE from preceding page

Of course these figures are PURE FICTION. For one thing, they conveniently include the 7,600 acres of Coopers Rock State Forest managed by the WVU Division of Forestry, but don't take into account any of the timber harvested there, which is a considerable amount (more on that later).

Misconception #4

"One justification heard more and more often in public statements of State Forest managers is: 'We need the money! Commercial logging of the forest will generate some cash, which we can use for employee benefits, equipment, etc.'"

Truth:

The timber value on State Forests is estimated to be in excess of \$80,000,000.

Certainly its non-timber value is worth many times this amount.

And yet during the 1999 drought, which held the promise of being one of the worst fire seasons on record, Governor Underwood asked for and received from the legislature special appropriations totaling \$750,000 for firefighting, rather than tapping the value of State Forests.

The WVDOF should receive its funding through the appropriation process the same as any other state agency. Our State Forests should not be viewed or used as cash cows. This also doesn't address past WVDOF actions.

The WVDOF 2001 budget includes \$150,000, which is to be generated from timber sales. This money will be used for improvements on State Forests and other minor firefighting expenses.

State Forest timber sales should not be used to fund any government functions. The fact that the very agency that decides if and how much timber will be harvested, gets to keep the revenues from those harvests, is indication enough that the management and planning system is less than objective.

Misconception #5

"Over-mature is meaning less in biological and ecological terms. Trees dying is a natural, essential stage in the life cycle of a forest. These trees nurture animals by providing cavities and hollows and the next generation by returning organic matter to the soil."

Truth:

Over-mature does have meaning in the biological and ecological sense when one considers carbon sequestration. There is an optimum age for carbon sequestration by a forest; and once past a certain age, the efficiency of carbon sequestration declines dramatically. [New research indicates this is not as true as previously thought. Ed.] Data indicates growth of the 0-zone [sic], which results in global warming, is a major biological and ecological concern. On another

note, returning organic matter to the soil is important, but one must consider the fact that the bole of the tree is removed and all other parts are left to return nutrients to the soil. While the bole may appear to be the largest part of the tree, it only contains 4% of the total nutrients in the tree. Keep in mind that 96% of the carbon nitrates are returned to the soil and thus would not contribute to global warming.

There are numerous reasons to protect natural forests beyond their obvious usefulness as carbon sinks. The true value of old growth and natural forests may be beyond estimate, however, here are some of its values.

CONTROL FOR MANAGEMENT PRACTICES. Aldo Leopold was one of the earliest individuals to point out the value of such places. He said in 1941 "A science of land health needs, first of all, a base datum of normality, a picture of how healthy land maintains itself as an organism." Scientists need control areas as a benchmark in their research for a variety of land management practices.

HISTORIC DATA BASES. Forest and plant ecologists need old growth forests to study such topics as compositional dynamics, forest development, overstory-understory interactions and regeneration mechanisms.

GENETIC DIVERSITY. Old growth forests favor unique combinations of genes, gene pools, and ecotypes. Old-growth forests are valuable for the diversity of life they support. They provide a multitude of safe, secure sites for plants and animals that prefer, or even require, the characteristics of this type of habitat. The association of a wide variety of animals and old-growth forests is based on the high incidence of suitable habitat in the form of large dead trees, decaying logs, and wood-rotting fungi. As an example, many migratory songbirds require a mature, "interior" habitat for nesting. This protects nests from "edge" related predators such as Blue Jays, Crows, and Raccoons. Populations of these songbirds have plummeted in recent years. In 1994 the banding station in West Virginia recorded its 6th worst season in total numbers banded, and 2nd lowest number of species.

HERITAGE. Although not strictly scientific, interactions with old-growth forests dominated the first 200 years of North American history. Quoting Leopold again, "is it not a bit beside the point for us to be so solicitous about preserving America's institutions without giving so much thought to preserving the environment which produced them."

ETHICS. We are all members of a community of interdependent parts, a community composed of a wide variety of resources – of soil, water, plants and animals. A land ethic cannot prevent the use of these resources. It should, however, "affirm their right to continued existence, and at least in spots, their continued existence in a natural state" (Leopold, 1968).

GREENSPACE. As this portion of the country becomes more and more developed, and as city residents find it harder and harder to find natural areas for recreation, our State Forests will increase in recreational value. A recent survey conducted by the real estate industry found, when asking home buyers what they would be willing to pay extra for when purchasing a home, that proximity to greenspace was third out of a list of 29, just behind proximity to hiking and biking trails which was 2nd. People seek undisturbed greenspace for the scenic beauty and sense of rejuvenation it provides them. Timber harvests are ugly and dis-heartening, and not how the public wants their State Forest managed.

AESTHETICS. West Virginians, the same as people all over the country, feel natural forests with big old trees are more beautiful than "managed," timbered forests.

Management of old-growth forests requires a whole new way of thinking about resource management. No particular species is favored because of its commercial importance. Uneven aged forest is the desired condition; natural disturbance is expected and desired; trees and other forest life live, grow old, and die in the forest, contributing to the accumulation and recycling of logs, snags, soil litter, and organic matter. Such forests are neither "overmature," nor "decadent." Management of old growth truly differs from other forest management because there is more emphasis on the amount of dead material and the multitude of activities associated with it; the living members take care of themselves. In old-growth forests, the thread of life continues without the manipulations of man for his own ends.

**Misconception #6**

"We could reduce or end logging in the State Forests with little or no economic impact on the State."

Truth:

Ending harvests on State Forests would have a devastating impact...

Come on, now!

... on the 8,000,000 acres of forest land managed

DYE continued on page 15

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Wins Annual Friends of the Earth-International Award

By Wayne C. Spiggle, M.D.

They don't have a Clean Water Act in Nigeria, Chile or Costa Rica but their strip mining issues are the same as ours in Appalachia. Absentee land ownership, the sacrifice of ground water, the loss of streams, official disdain for social justice rights of the people living near by, the forfeiture of future productive land use, the profiteering and the corruption of government it spawns are all understood and experienced by our international friends. It was an amazing experience on September 11, to stand before one hundred delegates from 63 countries meeting at Coolfont in Berkeley County and describe my beloved mountains and my outrage over these shared issues.

The occasion was the annual meeting of Friends of the Earth-International. Cindy Rank asked me to go there and accept for the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy their most prestigious award for a community or organization demonstrating outstanding leadership on behalf of the environment. The honor was mine to represent the Highlands Conservancy because I live in near by Mineral County and Cindy has dubbed me an "honorary member of the Mining Committee." I was delighted with the assignment because as a grass roots member, I have long admired the responsible stewardship and the potent advocacy of the Highlands Conservancy. The roster of officers, board members and committee chairs listed each month in the Highlands Voice is truly a list of my heroes.

The news release put out by Friends of the Earth said:

"The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy has fought against powerful corporate and political interests on behalf of the environment."

AEP One of the Worst.

(Based on information from the Environmental News Service)

American Electric Power (AEP) sends out each month with their billing a small publication, "Consumer Circuit." In this they always include a note or a paragraph expressing how "green" they are in doing the work of good stewards of the Earth. For example, in their latest one they speak of a partnership with the Nature Conservancy and a Brazilian conservation organization for the restoration and protection of 20,000 acres of rain forest. For this, of course, they are to be commended.

However, they fail to mention that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated AEP as one of the worst of the

"The Conservancy stood up for coal field citizens and the environment when the state of West Virginia refused to."

"They have partnered with Friends of the Earth to fight the destructive practice in which mining companies blast the tops off mountains to reach coal underneath and then dump waste into nearby streams and valleys."

"Friends of the Earth has networked with the Highlands Conservancy and others in combating the US Environmental Protection Agency's and the US Army Corps of Engineers' proposed change to a critically important Clean Water Act rule issued for public comment in April, to allow

polluting power companies. In a report put out by the National Environmental Trust, of seven utilities being sued by EPA, AEP ranks second in total pollution output. According to Tom Natan of the Trust "...electric utilities are by far the largest air polluters in America, and unregulated power plants are the worst of the worst." Coal fired power plants like AEP release toxic gases which can cause acute respiratory problems and make asthma and emphysema worse. Acid gases and metals also contribute to the formation of fine particle pollution which cause an estimated 45,000 premature deaths a year. One of the deadliest pollutants put out by coal-fired power plants is mercury, but the mercury figures are not included in the above report.

West Virginia has the dubious distinction

wastes to be dumped into rivers, streams and wetlands across the United States" - effectively overturning Judge Haden's ruling on mountaintop mining. Friends of the Earth was particularly helpful to the brave band of Conservancy members who went to Washington last November to defeat a legislative rider by Senator Byrd which would have overturned Judge Haden's decision.

The award and the enthusiastic response to my acceptance remarks demonstrate the respect the international environmental community has for what the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is doing. Congratulations! ✦

of being the first of six states guilty of high levels of interstate pollution in the amount of emissions per electric utility power plant. Was not our governor leading the efforts of six states to hamstring EPA in forcing these plants to lower their pollution? What does this say about his commitment to the health and well being of all West Virginians?

Could it be that some of our destroyed mountains are being given back to us as toxins? Thanks a lot! ✦



On behalf of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, Dr. Spiggle receiving from Esten Perez of the Friends of the Earth (FOE) the FOE award. Photo: FOE

Forest Service Chief Dombeck Comes out for Wilderness

Receives Standing Ovation at Wilderness 2000 Conference

By Jim Sconyers

Put a couple hundred wilderness activists in the same room with Mike Dombeck, chief of the U. S. Forest Service, and close the door. Watch for fireworks! This is exactly what happened at the Wilderness 2000 conference in Denver in September. Does that sound like a surefire formula for rancor and conflict? Amazingly, the scene was more like a love-fest than a confrontation. And the fireworks were those of joyful celebration, not sparks to burn the house down.

Never thought I'd see the day when

hard-core environmental extremists (thank you, Cecil) fully dedicated to protecting and expanding the Wilderness Preservation System by millions of acres, would give a thunderous standing ovation to the leader of the most vilified agency of all, the Forest Service. But applaud they did, long and loud.

Why the warmth for Dombeck, whose predecessors were considered first cousins to the devil because of their perennial rejection of wildland values in America's National Forests?

Because Dombeck has stuck his neck out, and laid it on the line. He believes fervently in protecting our national forest wildlands. He is passionate about expanding our Wilderness system while we still have something left to protect. He has said it over and over, and he said it again in Denver in no uncertain terms.

Does this mean we can all relax and

"leave it to the experts?" Absolutely not – and Dombeck is the first to warn you against that. Why? Because one man is not a whole agency. Dombeck himself realizes the bigger problem: while he can evangelize for wilderness, and make policy, the rubber hits the road at the local level. As he himself emphasized, a new day for wilderness will only come as new beliefs and attitudes "trickle down" through management levels within the Forest Service bureaucracy, and we see real change on the ground, in the national forest in our own backyards.

That day has not come yet, and West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest is a good example. One day we will applaud the Mon's decision makers, when they too come to value the people's wildlands of which they are the custodians. ✦



Migration

At sunset drums began, chant of the Elders.
Ancient ceremony of the season.
Sky Rider, yellow and round as the eye of an owl,
Rose without a whisper over shifting branches;
Fire offered in its honor,
Dancers stilled the children,
Shadows changing shape more quickly than clouds.

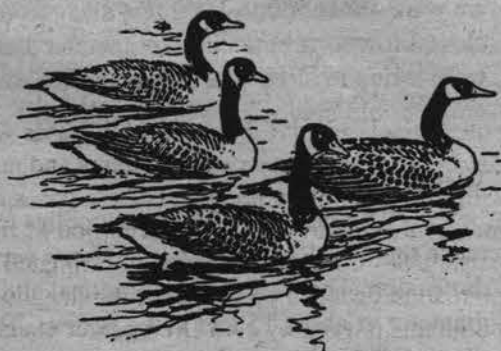
Smoke went south in pulses;
Mothers pulled blankets around young shoulders;
Babies slept under puffs of vapor rising to places unknown.

Late, the drums went mute
Then,
As children were gathered,
Sleepy comments fading,
The quickest ear caught the sound riding from the North Star:
The Geese!
Extinguishing stars and voices one by one;
The moon blinked with their passing,
The fire faltered.

Betsy Reeder



Scenic Highway



WIND from page 1

First Impressions:

For my wife, Becky, and me finding and getting to the 8 turbine wind farm in Garret, a small town in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, was not difficult. That wind power facility is a mile or less off U.S. Rt. 219, about 10 miles north of Interstate Rt. 68 from the Grantsville, Maryland exit.

Heading north on Rt. 219, coming around a bend just outside Garret, the Green Mountain Wind Farm looms almost intrusively to the motorist's immediate left. Upon seeing the large towers and turbines, I pulled to the roadside for a better look. To gawk, as it were.

My first thought about the 30 story high machines I was looking at was "awesome"!

My next thought was "Imposing"! The turning blades, 90 feet long, three on each turbine hub, were an impressive sight, indeed. They were so large as to look like giant, unstoppable fans.

But two of the eight turbines and blades were not turning. For whatever reason, they were "parked". When these three bladed monsters are parked, two blades are at 10:00 and 2:00 o'clock, respectively, and the third blade is at 6:00 o'clock-straight down. Now this is a personal observation; but to me those parked blades looked eerily like the face of a dead elephant, its ears up a little, but its limp trunk just hanging there. Very "sad" looking, these two "dead" wind turbines.

We were still almost a mile from the formerly surface mined mountain atop which these windmill towers were perched. We decided to try to get a closer look.

A Closer Look:

We drove on into town and out a street that appeared to be leading in the direction of the towers. The further we drove the larger loomed these "monsters". Soon we saw some signs that said "Green Mountain Wind Farm," with arrows pointing head. A smooth but narrow blacktop road lead up to several mountain homes and then, all of a sudden, there they were!

A smaller blacktop road to the left lead right up into the middle of mountaintop hay and pasture fields in which were located these eight really giant tower and blade assemblies. A large dwelling house sat among the wind towers. We were now less than a quarter mile from some of these wind turbines. Gates across service roads leading up to the towers were closed, with "No Trespassing" signs posted. The eight towers and turbines were arranged in a random pattern over an

area of 50 to 100 acres. Hay and pasture grass grew up to the concrete pads around the towers.

We spent more than two hours there. We took pictures. We tried to walk closer. We stood in the rain and tried to listen for sound from these wind power generators.

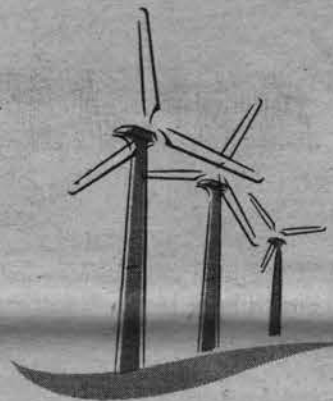
Auditory Impact:

We could see lettering on each large generator-transmission assembly housing atop the towers. It said "NORDEX".

The weather was windy, rainy and cold. This on July 15th. The elevation here was only about 2300 feet, though. Somehow, this mountain gap has a high wind velocity. It was a good place to find a brisk wind: Mt. Davis, a few miles to the west, is Pennsylvania's highest point.

No power lines leading from the tower sites were visible. We later learned that underground lines ran to a local power co-op substation about a half mile away.

As long as the light rain fell, we could not hear any turbine or blade noise. The rain masked their sounds. After the rain totally stopped we



could hear some turbine blade noise. It was a faint but noticeable "swosh - swosh - swosh" sound, with the "swooshes" at about one second intervals. Becky said it sounded like a washing machine on wash cycle from about two rooms away. Too, a background "buzzing" or slight "grinding" noise was barely audible- a sound somewhat like one can sometimes hear from a tube-type fluorescent light. I suspected that the "swoosh" noise was from the wind blowing across the turning blades and the "buzzing grind" was from the 6-ton transmission-generator unit atop each tower. The sound was not as intrusive as the visual appearance.

The sounds from these assemblies disappeared (were masked) when we talked, when the rain started again or when a car drove by. But we were about 500 to 1000 feet away from the closest tower-turbine unit. I suspected that if one were trying to sleep in a tent nearer the tower the noise would maybe have been bothersome.

Visual Impacts:

The tower and blade assemblies together reach the length of a football field in a vertical dimension. The towers are cylindrical and have a diameter of about 15 feet at the bottom. There are no outside ladders on the towers; they are perfectly round from bottom to top. Access to the

generator units on top is by ladders on the inside of the supporting towers.

Three of the eight towers had a flashing white strobe light on top. It was not quite dark when we left. I presume that after dark the white flashing lights were replaced by red flashing lights.

The looming, intrusive appearance of these machines was probably accentuated by the treeless, grassy fields which surrounded them. I tried to visualize how they would look surrounded by a forest. They would still be looming, I think.

I don't know of any forests in the eastern United States nearly approaching 100 yards in height.

Initially, my shock at the size of these machines was shaking. As I spent more time there I tried to decide if I could ever get over the intrusive feeling about them. I decided that I could, after enough time and exposure to them. But even now, almost two weeks later, Becky still says, "They looked like something that's not supposed to be there." She admits that she feels the same way about the several Ohio Valley power plant smokestacks we can see from a hilltop above Ripley.

We counted the blade speed in revolutions per minute (RPM). Some turned at about 13 RPM. The fastest was about 20 RPM. Blade speed slowed when the wind slowed. It speeded up when the wind speed increased. But no matter how hard the wind blew, blade speed did not exceed about 20 RPM.

Earlier in the day we had been told by a company representative that at winds speeds above about thirty miles per hour the blades gradually turn their narrow edges, instead of their broadsides, to the wind to maintain an even 20 RPM. We were also told that at wind speeds above about 56 miles per hour the blade and turbine brakes are applied and the unit totally stops and "parks" until the wind speed drops to below 56 miles per hour. This park operation is to prevent damage to the blades and transmission-generator units due to high winds and high RPMs.

Other Observations and Feelings:

A company representative had told us earlier in the day that "Aesthetics is a subjective judgment." I think this is probably true.

But my initial feelings about the imposing and intrusive nature of these mountain top machines still sticks in my psyche. I could probably get over that feeling.

I felt the same way when I first saw a 1960's era coal fired power generating plant cooling tower and smoke stack. I mostly got over that.

And I felt the same way when I first saw, from the valley floor of Cabin Creek, a drag line operating atop a surrounding mountain. I haven't gotten over that yet.

WIND concl. on next page

WIND from preceding page

We talked with a few people in the small town of Garret, under the mountain that supports the wind power plants. After only about 2 months of exposure to the machines, they seemed to already be taking them for granted. They said that they really aren't a topic of conversation around town anymore, except for when visitors, like us, ask about them.

As we left the town of Garret we stopped near our first "stop and gawk" point for another look and a couple more pictures. We could see plainly only five of the wind power machines from this point. Then we saw a sixth. It was an ominous looking spinning blade, looping up over the horizon at about one second intervals. It was eerie. We could not see the supporting tower - only about 20 or 30 feet of a giant blade, looping - looping - looping - looping up from the horizon. It was awesome, sort of scary, to be at a location where we could see only the turning blades but not the supporting tower, spinning, looping above the horizon. It reminded me of the first few scenes in Bob Gates' film "In Memory of Lands and People." The part where the top of the giant strip mining shovel, called "The Gem of Egypt", moves into and out of view and then back into view along Interstate 70 in Ohio. Of course, Gates' sound effects were not available at Garret, PA that July 15th. But the eerie feeling from seeing that giant looping blade swing - swing - swing over the horizon is still with me.

I'm still trying to sort out what I feel about the prospect of 60 to 90 of these giant wind power machines spread along 7 miles of Backbone Mountain.

On one hand, I feel a need to see "us" change from coal fired electrical production to something less polluting and less consuming of finite resources.

On the other hand, by going down the road of perhaps more benign but still somewhat problematic "wind farms" along scenic ridges, I wonder if we are maybe overlooking or otherwise bypassing even more benign and attractive power sources - or if we even need to change how we live to not need so much energy.

We can all think about this some more. Maybe wind power is a suitable "interim" power source to get us across the literal rivers of pollution until we develop technologies for the "perfect" power source; or the "perfect" lifestyle that doesn't require massive amounts of man-made power. ✦



Earth-friendly air travel?

CORR H from page 3

Conservancy members, especially Julian Martin, have joined the effort. The petition asks the Division of Highways (DOH) to do two things: first, shift the alignment a half mile west of its current line, and second, build no exits within a mile of the Gap.

The appeal isn't a roar of outrage over the entire corridor project; it's a cry of pain over a very specific wound. It seeks a small, specific remedy. And it has had some effect. State and local politicians have expressed sympathy and interest. In August, the DOH said it wouldn't change a thing, but in light of the project's long history the rejection should not be considered final. We've seen new alignments and sub-alignments and avoidance alternatives and shifted exits and engineering changes so frequent I've lost count. At every stage for thirty-five years, the DOH has said, "It's a done deal." It ain't done yet. The Greenland folks will keep pushing.

The DOH response came in the form of an op-ed piece in The Charleston Gazette by Joseph T. Deneault, State Highway Engineer. Its title, "Road won't run through Gap," was a classic red herring. Nobody said the road would run through the gap. Deneault wrote that the corridor would pass "approximately" a quarter mile from the mouth of the Gap. "I hope that will relieve the concerns," he wrote. He repeated that "we don't need to consider [changes], because the highway won't be inside Greenland Gap."

Debbie Kunkel, who has led the petition drive, wrote a reply to Deneault. Ms. Kunkel's husband's family, which has lived in and near the Gap for many generations, gave 255 acres to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) more than twenty-five years ago. She pointed out that the highway would come within 800 feet, not a quarter mile, of the TNC boundary. It would pass within 250 feet of the site of a Civil War battle. And it would pass through, or on top of, the village of Greenland, home to many of her neighbors. So she did not agree to give up the fight.

Deneault must have known she wouldn't. He cited a few other reasons why the DOH would prefer to go ahead on the present alignment. First, he complained, "it appeared we had resolved the complex issues surrounding the Corridor H highway project." Of course we never "resolved" the issue of Corridor H, we only settled a lawsuit. The plaintiffs (who did not include the folks at Greenland) continue to insist that Corridor H is a waste of money and an unnecessary, destructive intrusion into the heart of West Virginia. Those will continue to be important issues as long as the highway has not been completed. And it can't be finished unless the DOH gets a whole lot more money - three times as much as it has now.

The plaintiffs did not give up the right to sue over Greenland Gap if the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places found that it was eligible for protection. So far, the Keeper has declined to do that, but the information available at the time of the ruling was inaccurate as well as

inadequate. Debbie Kunkel is working to correct the record. There could be a different outcome. The plaintiffs treated the Gap as a special case because it deserved a better fate than the impacts of Corridor H.

Deneault said the petitioners' suggested alternative could have its own negative impacts. Kunkel replied, "Since the Division of Highways has not yet come to see the route we propose they don't know what it will or will not impact." On the specific impacts Deneault had mentioned, she said the proposed alternative would be 1600 feet away from the John Paul Hott home, used as a military hospital in the Civil War. It would cross the North Fork of Patterson Creek once, while the DOH alignment would not only cross it but would parallel it as close as fifty feet for about 1000 feet. Finally, the petitioners' route would avoid all wetlands, including a wetland near WV 93 that the DOH alignment would damage.

A supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) could cost \$2 to 3 million. Kunkel said that much or more would be saved by the petitioners' proposal. The DOH's planned retaining wall at Greenland Gap would not be built, nor would a mile-long access road between WV 93 and County Route 1, the Old Scherr Road.

Whenever the DOH is required to do a supplemental EIS, they say they can finish in a year. That's their estimate for the new EIS around Parsons. When they're still resisting a supplemental EIS, their estimate is twice as long. That's what Deneault predicted at Greenland Gap. But even a two-year delay to study a new alignment would not hold up construction. Last February, Deneault told the Grant County Press that work on Corridor H there was "still a few years away."

Under construction right now are a couple of sections where the traffic almost justifies a four-lane (a few miles north of Elkins) or where heavy truck traffic has to cope with a very old road (South Branch Mountain east of Moorefield). Given a bad project, at least the DOH is spending money where it could do the most good. But the traffic in northern Grant County is minimal. There's no "need" there. Since the DOH has to build section by section, it should consider what connections make the most sense. It doesn't make sense to stick a piece of four-lane across the mouth of Greenland Gap.

The DOH always says it's too late to change a thing. Unfortunately, they don't know much about the places they plan to destroy. Where I live, in Kerens, the interchange they drew on their map would have guaranteed wrecks all winter long. The local emergency services chief said, "We might as well move the station over to the foot of the hill where we can walk out and pick up the pieces." The DOH finally changed the location after all the studies were done. They can change their plan at Greenland Gap as well. As Debbie Kunkel wrote, "At this point the highway is still on paper. I don't believe it is too late to do the right thing."

You can help save Greenland Gap. Write to: Deborah H. Kunkel, HC 72, Box 7006, Scherr, WV 26726, e-mail <kunkelatgap@mountain.net> or call (304) 749-8420. ✦

Wetlands - A Precious and Perishable Resource

By Abby Chapple

West Virginia Wetlands

Emergent, shrub and forest wetlands, as well as freshwater ponds, comprise about 102,000 acres in West Virginia. The largest is the one in Canaan Valley, located in Tucker County, that contains about 9 percent of West Virginia's wetland acreage.

Best available estimates of wetland habitat trends in West Virginia between 1957 and 1980 suggest a loss of about 22 percent of emergent wetlands, or about 6000 acres of wetlands.

The following list of the major wetlands sites was compiled by the West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection and Department of Natural Resources.

- Altona Marsh
- Blennerhassett Island Swamp
- Boaz Marsh
- Canaan Valley
- Cranberry Glades
- Cranesville Swamp
- Greenbottom Wetland
- Meadow River Complex
- Muddlety Creek Complex
- Point Pleasant Swamp
- Pond Run Marsh
- Short Mountain Wetlands
- Winfield Swamp

Some people think of swamps, bogs, marshes, and other wetlands in negative terms -- as useless, foreboding, even dangerous places. Other people think of them as positive. To this mindset they are beautiful and they are nature's nurseries, super filters, wildlife habitat and natural preventers of floods.

In literature they can evoke either dread as in Edgar Allan Poe's "Ulalume" or positive flowing energy as in Sidney Lanier's "The Marshes of Glynn." In art they have inspired innumerable masterpieces such as Monet's "Waterlilies," and the haunting platinum print photograph "Gunner Working Up to Fowl."

It is obvious that we feel double minded about this phenomenon of nature and this conflict of opposing interpretations has been going on for years, much to the detriment of our landscapes and waterways.

The consequence of this ambivalence has meant that, in America, we have destroyed more than half of the roughly 215 million acres of wetland originally found in the lower 48 states. And the slaughter continues as each year roughly another 117,000 acres are destroyed, according to the Clean Water Network, an environmental group quoting government statistics.

The negative opinion of wetlands goes far back in this country's history. In 1764 the Virginia Assembly chartered the Dismal Swamp Company to drain 40,000 acres of the Great Dismal Swamp. Then real carnage began in the mid-1800's because of the Swamp Wetlands Acts that gave fifteen states sixty-five million acres of federal lands for "reclamation." The thought was that this "unusable" land could be drained and put to "better" use. This was in spite of the fact that wetlands constituted only 5% of the US landbase. Nevertheless, by the mid-1970s only 99 million acres remained of the wetlands that existed when the exploitation of this land by Europeans commenced.

Definition of Wetlands

What was overlooked in the past was that wetlands are a vital part of the ecology that stabilizes our biosphere. They provide habitats for waterfowl and fish, help control flooding, stabilize our shorelines, reduce storm damage, and purify our waterways by removing pollution and silt. So how do you define wetlands? Simply put, wetlands are those vital pieces of real estate where the water table is found at or near the surface of the land. Or put it another way, where land and water blend. There are many definitions, however.

The National Audubon Society Nature Series *Wetlands* (field guide) gives this more detailed US Fish and Wildlife Service definition, "Wetlands are areas where water is the primary factor controlling the environment and the associated plant and animal life...and where water may be up to six feet deep."

There are five major systems: Two salt or saline types -- marine and estuarine; and three fresh water types -- lacustrine, riverine, and palustrine. Lacustrine are associated with lakes, riverine with rivers and palustrine with marshes, swamps and bogs.

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) further identifies three types of wetlands and gives their percentage in the state: Forested - 41.5%, Scrub/Shrub - 23.8%, Emergent - 20.1%

Current Situation

This year it appears that the negative opinion about wetlands may be diminishing with a new appreciation of wetlands and a new ethic developing that advocates the protection and preservation of this precious resource.

First, an important event took place earlier this summer. On June 7, 2000, one specific National Wetlands Permit, (known as NWP 26), was replaced by a number of new permits by the Army Corps of Engineers. The NWP 26 was considered illegal under the Clean Water Act and is said to have been the largest cause of wetlands loss because it allowed the removal of wetlands without public notice or environmental review of alternatives. The fact that it has been replaced is very constructive. The new permits that replace NWP 26 are complicated and are not perfect but will, for instance, reduce the size of a wetland parcel that has to be permitted from 10 acres to one-half acre. As in the past these new permits must also receive 401 state certification.

Second, in August the Sierra Club applauded an announcement by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers has proposed a change that will limit a loophole -- known as the Tulloch loophole -- that has in the past allowed developers to carve out ditches that drain wetlands and redirect streams without having to obtain a

WETLANDS continued on next page

Is it possible to embarrass these guys?

Moscow, Idaho -- April 21, 2000

(From Friends of the Clearwater and Cove/Mallard Coalition, Moscow, ID)

Intrepid Moscow activists became a thorn in Idaho Senator Larry Craig's side today when he came to the University of Idaho to speak on natural resource issues for the Borah Symposium.

Several minutes after he took to the stage in the food court of the new Idaho Commons, strange things started happening. First, a large banner tumbled off the side of one of the many

balconies overlooking the court. The banner stated, "LARRY CRAIG = TIMBER PUPPET."

Then, even more shockingly, a life-size marionette, made of a stuffed shirt, fists clenching money, and a shocking triangular head made of three cardboard-mounted photos of Larry's likeness, came tumbling off the balcony! The marionette hung from long strings attached to a stick and the operators made the arms and head move at will by jerking the stick.

Each Larry Craig face on the puppet had been photo-engineered such that Larry's classic grin had been flipped into a nasty snarl, and each forehead was complete with a different timber corporation logo which donates to Larry's campaigns: Boise Cascade, Potlatch, and Bennett

Lumber.

Another huge banner tumbled off yet another balcony -- this one a classy vinyl job stating "Idaho's Roadless Backcountry: An American Legacy, a Gift for the Future."

Larry's eyes were seen to pop as he caught glimpse of his likeness on the puppet, but he tried his best to keep his cool throughout his speech in which he blasted the environmental extremists which were ruining the West and the undemocratic nature of the roadless protection initiative.

Shortly after the banner and marionette unfurlings, the same doctored Larry photos-- this

See CRAIG on page 19

WETLANDS from preceding page

This loophole has caused to be destroyed "more than 30,000 acres of wetlands," said Julie Sibbing, wetland specialist for the National Wildlife Federation. This clarification will not prevent all destruction, but supposedly will make local districts of the Army Corps of Engineers take a closer look at whether activities that claim exemption to the Clean Water Act really are exempt, noted Sibbing. [Comment on this proposal is ongoing until October 16, 2000, and is available at <www.epa.gov/water>.]

There has also been some remedial government action. For example, also in July, The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) settled a wetlands complaint in Circleville, WV. EPA announced that in August 1999, Raymond E. Phares had unlawfully dredged a portion of a Potomac River Tributary in Pendleton County. Mr. Phares, has now agreed to complete a \$21,000 project to restore the damaged steam bed.

More work to be done

However, there are still many threats to our wetlands. The DEP lists the following as major threats: drainage, deposition of fill material, construction/development, tiling for crop production, overgrazing, pollution, mining, alteration of hydrology, sedimentation and agriculture/silviculture.

For our wetlands, including the flood plains, must be identified, carefully monitored, and to be protected all permits must be reviewed by vigilant conservationists. If careful review is not given by local people there is no protection. In fact, this permit process is so important that the West Virginia Rivers Coalition has hired a specialist, Evan Hansen, to only do one thing -- monitor permits affecting West Virginia water. But one person is not enough. There need to be many more conscientious observers.

Education is the first line of defense. One example is the Wetlands Workshop that was held in August in the Eastern Panhandle. It was the brainchild of Sherry Evasic, whose group, the Blue Heron Environmental Network, joined with the Izaak Walton League of America to present a

"Volunteer Wetlands Conservation and Sustainability Workshop." Many more of these workshops are needed.

The second line of defense is caring people who will monitor what is happening to our waterfronts, flood plains, ponds and marshes in West Virginia.

Recently, I had reason to speak for wetlands at a hearing on a proposed Morgan County highway that will impact 12 wetlands. As is often the case, when questioned about the fate of the wetlands that would be affected, the response by the highway officials was defensive. In particular they cited mitigation -- or the building of another wetland to replace the one destroyed -- as an answer. The problem with mitigation is although it sounds like a satisfactory alternative it is not. If you will think of a wetland as an infant, mitigation is roughly equivalent to infanticide. It is killing one child and saying "Oh, well we can just have another. This one was inconvenient." A replacement is never the same as the original. And at the least, destruction of a wetland, if not infanticide, is eco-cide.

In addition those who propose mitigation are jumping over two other requirements under the Clean Water Act, Section 404 1B, that requires before anyone or any group goes to mitigation they must first exercise avoidance, and then minimization. Chapter 20 of the West Virginia Code declares "waters" are regulated, and Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and state water quality standards (Title 46, Series 1, Legislative Rules governing Water Quality Standards) cover permits. Nevertheless government officials admit that the state does not have the manpower to monitor all 401 certification, and that it generally simply OK's US Army Corps of Engineers' permit requests. This is a significant weakness.

Recently, for example, the Portland Press Herald newspaper in Oregon ran an article that pointed out that as dry land is disappearing developers are eyeing wetlands as locations on which to build. This is just the latest in threats to wetlands. Along with encroaching developments there will continue to be highways to get people to the developments. So, although attitudes have been improving, there are more serious threats.

There is much work to be done.

What you can do

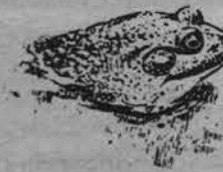
The last National Status of Wetlands summary, covering 1780's-1980's, points out that "Over a 200-year timespan, wetlands acreage has diminished to the point where environmental and even socio-economic benefits (i.e., ground water supply and water quality, shoreline erosion, floodwater storage and trapping of sediment, and climatic changes) are now seriously threatened."

This assessment not only shows the breadth of the importance of wetlands but provides us a challenge. We, collectively, need to answer the question, do we have the will to do something about this situation? If the answer is in the affirmative, there are steps that can be taken.

First, read an article entitled "Help Protect Wetlands in Your State" that is available on the Clean Water Network web site at <www.cwn.org> under Wetlands. There is also significant information at <www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands> and <www.nwi.fws.gov/>. The DEP and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources have produced a booklet "Wetlands, West Virginia" that is available by writing to their offices. Additional information is available from the National Audubon Society, the Sierra Club and Izaak Walton League.

Second, consider joining in the nation-wide effort to protect wetlands for the sake of our small-mouthed bass and other fish; our beautiful herons and wood frogs, the mallards, wood ducks, other waterfowl and the plants, many of which are endangered.

Third, appreciate the numerous wetlands that are a part of West Virginia whether they are the spectacular Cranberry Glades in the Monongahela National Forest or the cattail bog in your back yard. ❀



The exploiters of West Virginia's natural world are rich and powerful. They have no qualms about destroying our beautiful state in the name of greed. To save as much as we can of West Virginia, we need your help. Won't you become a member of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and do YOUR part to help us? Please take time right now to write your membership check and send it to us

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

Membership Benefits

- ★ The Highlands Voice each month
- ★ Special weekend programs held around the state -- days filled with field trips, hikes, workshops and just plain fun.
- ★ Representation through WVHC efforts to monitor legislative and agency activity
- ★ A chance to make new friends with values you share.
- ★ Knowing you are doing your part to protect West Virginia's natural heritage.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

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

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
Working since 1967 to protect our lands, our waters and the rich natural heritage of West Virginia.

Canaan Cone Collecting - Part II

Or, Cones, Cones, and More Cones
By Dave Saville

We met at Shot Cherry Cabin on Friday evening, August 18th. Mike Breiding was first to arrive, by now a seasoned cone collector. This weekend Betsy came along with him. I met Bob Churby at Cheat Lake, and we arrived at the Cabin just at dusk. Rain fell during the whole trip, sometimes heavy. Frank and Barb Slider and friend Ann Dillaman pulled up right behind us.



Mary Ann Honcharik gathers the data as Brett Gasper gathers the loot.
photo: Dave Saville

The New Mon Forest Hiking Guide

The New Improved Edition of the Conservancy's Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide, by Alan deHart and Bruce Sundquist.

All new photos, a number of new trails, an updated format, and more!

To order: Send \$12.95 plus \$3.00 for shipping to Conservancy Administrative

Assistant Dave Saville, at PO Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321. For multiple copies, call Dave at 304-594-2276 for a shipping price.

You can also pay with a credit card.

Please charge my Mastercard
 Visa.

Cardholders Name _____

card number _____

Expiration date _____

After a good breakfast, we headed down the mountain to Bartow and met Peter Shoenfeld, Bill Hitt, Bill Grauer and Matt Mongin. We drove up Cheat Mountain to the work site. This day we would be picking balsam fir cones from trees in the southernmost natural stand of balsam on the continent located at Cheat Bridge on the Upper Shavers Fork of Cheat River. When we arrived we were met by West Virginia Native Plants Society members Chris Gatens and Kevin Campbell. We got right to work getting the ladders off the truck and into the woods. Arming ourselves with gloves, sacks, clipboards with data sheets, and tags, what we found was lots of water. Although sunny at the time, it had rained for 2 days prior to our arrival. Compounding the problem, beavers had moved in and built new dams making Blister Run difficult to ford. There was good reason to call this place Blister Run Swamp today. We didn't waste any time in getting the ladders up into the closest trees. Although several trees had cones in them, they were not as numerous as what we had found in Canaan Valley. This meant we would need to get up into many trees in order to collect a significant amount of seed. Bob Churby and I went on a reconnaissance mission to locate accessible trees with cones. We use 40 foot extension ladders, but because of the height of these trees, and the fact that the cones are located in the very top of the tree, most had cones that were out of reach. Several of the workers took a break and set up a great lunch buffet in the shade of a CCC red pine plantation.

By 3:30 PM, we had depleted our energy so we began to pack up the equipment and get the trucks loaded up. Having climbed over 50 trees, we were successful in collecting over 3 bushels of cones. After stopping by the Cheat Mountain club for a quick visit with Jason and Carl, we arrived back at Shot Cherry Cabin about 5 PM, and had enough time to clean up before heading "out to dinner." The Mountain Institute's Spruce Mountain Campus is just 2 miles down the road, and Alton, Marcie and Ryan had invited us to join them during their Family Weekend for dinner. We arrived at the campus to find parents constructing bat boxes with their kids. Wonderful smells were coming from the kitchen where Natalie and Brent were busy preparing the meal. We cone pickers mingled with the families and helped put the finishing touches on the bat boxes. After dinner everyone gathered in the main classroom where I presented a talk about our balsam fir conservation project. We headed back to Shot Cherry Cabin and it wasn't long before "lights out."

On Sunday, a few of us met at the Pigs Ear, and joined Alton Byers from the Mountain Institute and Rod Bartgis of The Nature Conservancy and collected cones from a few trees at Blister Swamp on the Dalen Farm. We had a



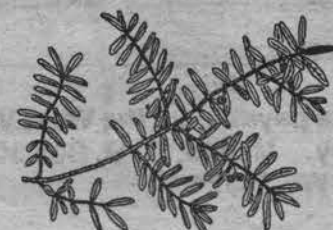
Jim Rockis, high in tree
Looks down to talk with you and me.
He should have had his cellular phone
Before he went to pickin' cones!

Photo: Dave Saville

great afternoon as Rodney led a tour of the swamp and it's many unique features. Some of us stayed at the house and enjoyed talking with Sugar and John. Our cone collecting endeavors are now complete.

Our goal was to collect cones from as many stands of balsam fir from around the state as possible, thus protecting any genetic diversity that exists within the sub-species. We were successful in getting seed from 11 separate stands within it's 50 mile range. We collected cones from every major stand of fir except the one on Big Stonecoal Run of Red Creek. We did enjoy a warm, welcome and appreciative relationship with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for gathering cones on the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Canaan Valley State Park folks were very cooperative in giving us access to the fir trees there. In addition, On August 18 we were allowed access to trees by Ryan Bidwell and several other private property owners. Mission accomplished! Greenbrier District Ranger, Ken Rago issued a limited permit to collect seed at Blister Run.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service is now undertaking the seed extraction, stratification, and germination procedure for some seed, and will seed bank the rest. ❀



DYE concl. from page 7

by 250,000 private landowners. State Forests are intended to serve as a demonstration or example of good sound forest management. Suspending demonstration harvests on State Forest would eliminate the example of good forestry that private landowners look to for guidance.

The USDA Forest Service has the world class Fernow Demonstration Forest at Parsons, and West Virginia University has its demonstration Forests and as mentioned earlier, these landowners you mention are not heeding your guidance, with 95% of timber harvesting still being done by high grading, these demonstration timber harvests are of dubious value. Additionally, I'd like to see the visitation statistics of those who actually come to see and learn from these demonstration harvests. More likely "demonstration" is just a thinly veiled guise to "get the cut out."

I hope your organization finds these few facts useful and will help the WVDOF eliminate some of the misconceptions the general public has regarding forestry.

I hope your organization finds these few facts useful and will help the WVHC eliminate some of the misconceptions the Forestry Community has regarding the general public's concern for its State Forests and how they should be managed.

We look forward to receiving your comments on the recently developed forest management plans so your ideas can be given serious consideration and incorporated into the plan.

Once again, after the plans are developed, it's a little late in seeking public input.

Sincerely Charles R. Dye
Director/State Forester
cc: general membership

**Carbon Stink**

(From Daily Grist of 9-22-00)

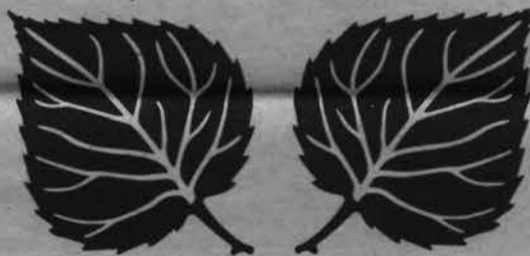
Old-growth forests are much better at removing carbon dioxide from the air than plantations of new forests, concludes a new study published today in the journal Science.

In negotiations over an international treaty on climate change, the U.S., along with Canada and Russia, is proposing to meet as much as half of its green-house gas reduction requirements by using carbon sinks like forest plantations to sequester CO2 from the air, instead of putting more limits on the burning of fossil fuels and thereby preventing CO2 from being released in the first place. But the study throws to the wind the assumption that old-growth forests are in a state of decay and release as much CO2 as they capture.

The study authors say that the treaty needs to establish protections for old-growth forests or else some countries could be tempted to cut down old-growth forests and then plant new trees on the deforested land, getting credit for reducing CO2 when they would actually be making the situation worse.

(source: New York Times, Andrew C. Revkin, Sept. 22, 2000)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/09/22/science/22FORE.html> ✦

**SUVs Taking a Bad Rap?**

(Based on information from Summer 2000 Connecticut PIRG)

We hear a lot about the role of SUVs in creating undue pollution on our highways. But large diesel trucks and buses are a major source of pollutants even though they only account for 2% of vehicles on the highways. Diesel vehicles account for 27% of the total vehicular smog-forming nitrogen oxide and 67% of all soot-forming sulfur dioxide pollution.

Among many other health threats, thirty studies have found a link between diesel pollution and lung cancer. So in response to these deadly threats do you suppose that the manufacturers of diesel equipment and vehicles worked with EPA to lessen the threat?

Led by Caterpillar Tractor seven companies rigged their engines so that they would comply with the EPA tests and then after the tests would disable the pollution control equipment – which meant putting out three times as much pollution. It is estimated that these seven manufacturers sold as many as 1.3 million rigged engines. For this illegal violation of the Clean Air Act they were required to exceed what the law requires in emissions control for future engines, and to pay a minuscule (in terms of the profits made) \$83.4 million.

SUV's are not really getting a bad rap – it's only that the guilt needs to be spread around more to include the heavy contributions of diesel engines to pollution. ✦



A few red spruce survive among the dead remains of the once lush stand of balsam fir at Blister Swamp. Photo: Bob Gates

Historic Conservation Funding Bill Passes Major Landmark in US Senate

(Excerpts taken from the news release by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies which was forwarded by Rupert Cutler.)

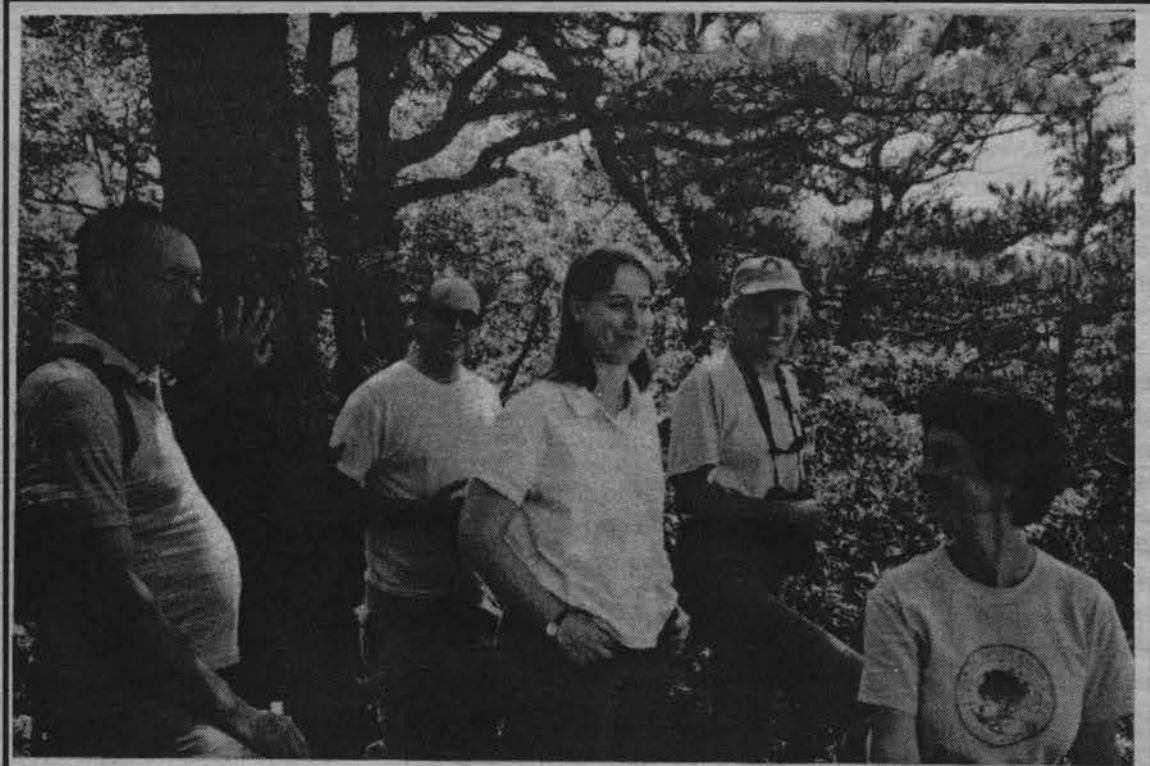
WASHINGTON, DC - The bipartisan Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA, H.R. 701) passed a major milestone on July 25, 2000 when the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted 13-7 to report this historic conservation legislation to the full Senate for consideration. This landmark legislation would provide the largest infusion of federal conservation funds in history, \$40 billion over the next 15 years, most of which will go to various state and local conservation programs.

CARA provides significant funding for America's natural treasures: its wildlife, parks, coasts, forests, and wetlands. The bill dedicates revenue from offshore oil and gas leases to a broad range of conservation activities, including wildlife, land and water restoration, historic preservation, outdoor recreation, and conservation education. The House of Representative passed similar legislation in May 2000 by a strong bipartisan vote of 315-102.

The Senate's bipartisan compromise version of CARA, crafted by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chair Frank Murkowski (R-AK) and Ranking Democrat, Jeff Bingaman (NM), represents a strong and balanced approach that will protect wildlife, coastal areas, recreation and historic sites at the national, state, and local levels. Over 52 Senators are now cosponsoring CARA or related legislation that would reinvest federal outer continental shelf oil and gas revenue into conservation indicating the growing support for CARA. In addition, all 50 governors have voiced support for these bills or their concepts and have worked to move this legislation through Congress.

Funding in the bill:

- \$805 million - State Coastal Impact Assistance and Stewardship (Title I)
- \$900 million - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) (state and federal formula) (Title II)
- \$350 million - State-Level Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Fund (Title III)
- \$75 million - Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Fund (Title IV)
- \$50 million - Urban and Community Forestry Fund
- \$150 million - Historic Preservation Fund (state and local grants) and Battlefield Protection Program (Title V)
- \$125 million - National Park Service and Indian Land Restoration Programs (Title VI)
- \$100 million - Conservation Easements to Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program and Forest Legacy Program (Title VII)



Mona-thon at North Fork Mountain. Left to right: Tom Dunham, Rafe Pomerance, Ruth Hefty, Calvert Arbrecht, Ruth Blackwell Rogers. Photo: Tom Rodd



Blackwater Campaign Update By Judy Rodd

Laura and Carrie kept the Blackwater office humming this August with music, stories and the sound of typing. Now Laura is back at Wesleyan and Carrie is running track. Any volunteers out there??

September has been a time for lobbying in Washington on Blackwater and CARA (Conservation and Reinvestment Act) which could provide funding to buy back the Blackwater Canyon and put it in public ownership. Please call your Senators if CARA hasn't passed by the time you get this Voice issue.

US Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121.
Blackwater office: 1-877-WVA-LAND. ✚

\$50 million - Rural Development Program and Rural Community Assistance Program
\$60 million - Youth Conservation Corps
\$325 million - Payment In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT)

For additional information on the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, visit <www.teaming.com>, <<http://energy.senate.gov>>, <www.house.gov/resources/ocs>. ✚

Photos by Judy Rodd



Lessons Learned on the Mon-Athon 2000 Trail

By Tom Rodd

Here's some lessons I have learned in coordinating the "Mon-Athon 2000" outings program for the WVHC this year:

1. I get perty darn tard after about six or seven miles of picking them up and putting them down -- but it's a good kind of tard. Nevertheless, lead me to those lightweight boots!

2. Outings are a great way to have fun -- and to build the kind of friendship that inspires and sustains us. A great part of an outing is getting to know some new people -- and catching up with old friends -- sort of like an old-fashioned cocktail party. *Enchante de faire votre connaissances, mesdames et messieurs!*

3. Organizing and coordinating an outings program takes consistent effort and attention. To make an outings program sustainable, we need to share the load, and to provide sufficient funds to make it work easily.

MON-ATHON 2000



4. On a hot day in July, basking like a fat old river otter -- in a deep green magical pool, floating down a West Virginia river -- is one fine, sensual, eggs-perience.

Next year (2001) I can't continue in coordinating an outings program for WVHC -- because I have other demanding personal stuff to do. But I (and others) think that it would be good to have a WVHC outings program continue in some form. I am therefore going to coordinate some planning this Fall among people who would like to be involved in talking about such a continuation. If you are interested in being part of this planning and/or in working on an outings program next year, contact me, Tom Rodd (the fat old river otter) ASAP -- thomasrodd@hotmail.com; 304-265-0018. And get out and enjoy your Mon Forest! ♣

From the East and South: Seneca Rocks is at the junction of US 33, WV 28, and WV 55.

To the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center: In Seneca Rocks, at the three-way stop, go south on WV 28 and US 33 a short distance. Turn at the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center sign.

Logistics:

The cost to use Shot Cherry Cabin is \$10 per night.

Meals: Saturday breakfast and supper, and Sunday breakfast and lunch, will be provided (vegetarian meals). We will "pass the hat" to cover costs of those meals. Other meals are BYO/brown bag. Please bring your own snacks, beverages, etc.

Contact Beth Little/FWC, HC 64 Box 281, Hillsboro, WV 24946 to register and for further information. ♣

Meeting and Workshop

October 20 - 22, 2000

Shot Cherry Cabin and Seneca Rocks (Near Spruce Knob)

The Forest Watch Coalition meets October 20 - 22 in two phases. Both are open to anyone interested in GIS or the future of the Monongahela National Forest.

Part 1 will be a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) workshop by Canaan Valley Institute (CVI). This half-day session familiarizes us with what GIS is, how it can be used as a planning tool for conservation, and how to get the necessary hardware and software to use GIS. The workshop also previews full GIS training that CVI will offer later.

Part 2 is a working session on planning for the upcoming revision of the Monongahela National Forest Plan. We will work on areas of concern in the Mon; examples of recovery of the mighty forest; what to keep and what to change in the existing Plan; and more. We will have the Indiana citizens' plan for the Hoosier National Forest to review.

The Forest Service will be starting to work on Plan revision in 2001, and this is or chance to prepare for meaningful involvement in the revision process.

Schedule:

Friday, October 20 - Meet at Shot Cherry Cabin. Arrive any time after 4:00 PM to meet, have supper (BYO/brown bag), network with others interested in the Mon, and read the Hoosier National Forest Plan as an example of a citizens' plan. Shot Cherry Cabin is a rustic but comfortable log cabin with bunk beds, full kitchen and bathroom facilities, in a beautiful mountain setting. Overnight at the cabin.

Saturday, October 21

7:30 AM Breakfast (provided). Then we travel to Seneca Rocks Discovery Center for the GIS workshop, with presenter Paul Kinder of the Canaan Valley Institute.

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM GIS Workshop in the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center (directions included). Presenter Paul Kinder is a GIS specialist for CVI.

Lunch: brown bag/BYO.

3:00 PM Return to Shot Cherry Cabin to begin first Mon Plan revision session. Focus on the existing Mon Forest Plan, and the Hoosier Forest Plan as an example of a citizens' plan.

6:00 PM Supper (provided).

7:00 - 9:00 PM Continue Mon Plan revision session. Review and feedback on Vision for the Mon Plan revision; develop a framework building on the Mon and Hoosier plans and/or other models. Overnight at the cabin.

Sunday, October 22 - Shot Cherry Cabin

8:00 Breakfast (provided).

9:00 AM - 1:30 PM Continue Mon Plan revision work, including science standards, protection criteria, restoration, and more. Wrap-up, summarize, identify and assign tasks, establish timelines. Depart after lunch (provided).

Arrive Friday night or Saturday morning at Shot Cherry Cabin, come directly to the GIS workshop at Seneca Rocks on Saturday, or join us Saturday afternoon at Shot Cherry.

Contact Beth Little at (304)653-4277, <blittle@citynet.net> for more info or with questions.

Directions to Shot Cherry Cabin:

Shot Cherry Cabin is near Spruce Knob Lake Campground just east of Forest Road (FR) 112 on the road to Woodlands Institute (new name is Mountain Institute in case signs have changed). If you go through Seneca Rocks, stay on Route 28 through Judy Gap and Cherry Grove. About 4 miles south of Cherry Grove, turn right on Sawmill Run Road (sign for Spruce Knob Lake and Woodlands Institute). (If you are coming from the south on Route 28, Sawmill Run Road is a left turn about 5 - 6 miles from the Pocahontas/Pendleton Co. line.) Go 3 miles to T, turn left on gravel road, continue 7 - 9 miles to driveway on left. If you come to intersection with FR 112, turn around and go back about 1/2 mi. to driveway on right. If you know the way through Whitmer on back roads, go around Spruce Knob Lake, turn right on FR 112, go about 1 mi., turn left (sign says to Woodlands Institute and Route 28), go 1/2 mi. to driveway on right.

Directions to Seneca Rocks Discovery Center:

From the West: Take US 33 east through Elkins and Harman to Seneca Rocks.

From the North: Take I-68 to US 219 South. Take US 219 South to Thomas, WV. In Thomas, take WV 32 south to Harman, WV. From Harman take US 33 south to Seneca Rocks.



Energy Sources and Trends

By Don Gasper

Alternatives to fossil fuels are today a small but a faster growing part of the global energy source. Information gathered by the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Worldwatch Institute indicate a resurgence of interest and funding on the part of some states to clean up their air. Think what our progress might be if we had leadership from Washington also.

Since the oil crisis of the mid-1970's, policy makers and industry officials have argued over how best to reduce America's dependence on fossil fuels. In 1978, Congress enacted the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act, requiring electric utilities to buy renewable energy whenever it is less expensive. Millions of dollars went into developing such power sources, which went from zero to two percent of total U.S. energy output by 1990.

Today, renewable energy constitutes three percent of US energy use -- thanks, in large part, to states wanting to deregulate the electric industry, promote competition, and improve the environment. After a decade-long lapse in interest and funding, efforts to find alternatives to fossil fuel energy have reignited from Massachusetts to California. But unlike years past, the major impetus is not from Capitol Hill, but rather from individual states. In fact, states' commitments to wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass power is up 40 percent from 1997 levels, with 22 states now offering customers a green-power choice. That's akin to taking 3.4 million cars off the road notes Worldwatch.

In fact, at \$381 million, Massachusetts is second only to California in the money it plans to invest in renewable energy projects. The list of states making large commitments keeps growing. Last week, for instance, Arizona became one of the first states to require its utility companies to produce a percentage of the electricity from solar power. These actions won't solve all our energy problems, but they'll help insure that the renewable energy industry keeps growing and that its costs of production keep dropping.

Some of the ways states are promoting green power include:

▲ Renewable electricity standards.

Twelve states have set standards for power companies regarding how much of their power sale must come from renewable sources.

▲ Renewable electricity funds. Thirteen states have established funds for the development of renewables. Combined, they will collect an estimated \$2 billion by 2012.

▲ Net metering. Thirty states have adopted policies to make it easier and more affordable for customers to generate their own power from renewable energy systems.

▲ Disclosure of fuels and emissions. Fifteen states require electricity providers to disclose on utility bills the environmental impacts of their products.

Only three states, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Jersey, have adopted all four policies. By contrast, 20 states don't have even one. Such uneven progress can be expected

without federal leadership. Over-all progress is slowed.

"The business community has traditionally been skeptical of renewables" reports Worldwatch, "But it's clear this industry is here to stay." Even companies built on fossil fuel are warming to renewable energy. This month, Texaco, the third largest US oil company, invested \$67.3 million in an alternative energy company developing technologies such as fuel cells. A day later, BP Amoco, the world's third largest oil company, agreed to invest as much as \$100 million in GreenMountain.com, a firm that sells solar and wind-generated electricity.

Recently, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson announced that all federal buildings in Colorado will be powered partly by wind -- the largest US contract ever for green power. Earlier, he awarded \$5 million in grants to develop geothermal energy in six Western states. Such announcements can not make up for the overall lack of federal leadership. Today only a small part of our energy comes from clean renewable sources, though we noted that the average annual growth rate in the last 10 years of wind energy is nearly 25%, and photovoltaic solar cells is 17.3%. Growth of other renewable sources: geothermal, 4.3%, natural gas and hydro just under 2% each; oil under 1%, nuclear 1/2%. Coal declined 1/2%.

ENERGY concl. on next page

"Preserve Planet Earth" at Apple Butter Festival in Berkeley Springs

Press Release. Contact person: Abby Chapple, phone 304/947-7590.

BERKELEY SPRINGS - Aldo Leopold, America's foremost conservationist who wrote about saving our environment in book after book, and taught a land ethic in class after class, summarized his philosophy in these few words: "Examine each question in terms of what is ethically and esthetically right, as well as, what is economically expedient. A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

Appreciating a wise land/water/air ethic as outlined by Leopold is the theme of Rotary's "Preserve Planet Earth" exhibition center, the newest addition to the Apple Butter Festival scheduled for Columbus Day weekend, October 7th & 8th, 2000. "Preserve Planet Earth" will be located on Independence Avenue in Berkeley Springs, between Hunters Hardware and the Ice House. A first-of-its-kind event, "Preserve Planet Earth" will bring together more than 20 conservation groups anchored by the Eastern Panhandle Soil Conservation outreach trailer, the keystone of the exhibit. Each organization will have information and educational materials available.

A major feature will be a raptor rehabilitation booth containing live eagles, hawks and owls that have been protected by Mr. Frank Galvin, who cares for birds that cannot be returned to the wild and educates

people to protect them. He will be bringing five favorites to the festival.

For the children there will be Chesapeake Bay Foundation's giant "Watershed Game" that teaches environmental principles. It is a 24 foot x 36 foot map of the major rivers in the watershed into which trash has been deposited. In this fun way children will learn the importance of cleaning up the waterways.

Of special -- maybe unexpected -- interest is that four religious groups are taking part. Each will teach a faith awareness of ecology and the environment. There will be New Hope Baptist Church, which is based on Independence Avenue; North American Coalition on Religion and Ecology, an ecumenical organization emphasizing a Global Partnership for the Future; Shomrei Adamah, (Guardians of the Earth) teaching the Jewish ecological ethic; and the ecumenical Religious Campaign for Forest Conservation which promotes the Christian and Jewish call for forest preservation.

A national organization represented will be the Sierra Club. Also Subaru of America's "Leave No Trace" trailer will stop over in Berkeley Springs on its travels across America to educate people to "Leave only footprints." They will be joined by Morgan County Solid Waste Authority which will emphasize recycling.

Several State Organizations are also taking

part. They include: West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection; West Virginia State Parks, including Cacapon State Park; and West Virginia Rivers Coalition. Two regional groups will be represented: The Cacapon Institute and the Canaan Valley Institute, that will display information about Native Plants.

Four Eastern Panhandle watershed organization are included, Friends of the Cacapon River, Sleepy Creek Watershed Association, Blue Heron Environmental Coalition, and Jefferson County Watershed Coalition.

Homeowners will find of interest two Land Trusts from the area -- Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle, and the Cacapon and Lost River Land Trust both of which will have booths to explain the protection that conservation easements give to landowners.

Other groups included will be the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy "Save Blackwater Canyon Campaign," the Corridor H Campaign, and Friends of the National Training and Conservation among other booths.

"Preserve Planet Earth" is a joint project of the Rotary Club of Berkeley Springs, Friends of the Cacapon River and the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association. ✦

Calendar

October 4 - Huntington, WV One of America's most unique folksingers and backcountry travelers, Walkin' Jim Stoltz, on tour from the mountains of Montana, will bring his inspiring multi-media show, "Forever Wild" to the Jean Carlo Stephenson Auditorium at City Hall in Huntington (corner of 8th St. and 5th Ave.) on Wednesday, October 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. The free event is sponsored by the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition.

October 6 thru 8 - Heartwood Reunion, Hoosier National Forest near Paoli IN. Begins 6:30 Fri eve, ends after lunch on Sun. Registration and camping, \$25. Meals \$25 (five meals). Last minute registration (at the door) \$10 more. For details or to register call (812) 337-8898 or e-mail <info@heartwood.org>

October 7 & 8 - Roaring Plains overnight backpack trip with Jack Slocomb. This trip will be a moderate level trip to some spectacular scenery, including a spot where you look DOWN on Seneca Rocks! Contact leader Jack Slocomb to arrange to borrow a pack, sleeping bag, or tent -- if you don't have one. Campfire under the stars! Leader: Jack Slocomb, 301-777-8810; e-mail: <JSLOCOMB@prodigy>

October 7 & 8 - Apple Butter Festival, at Berkeley Springs. See page 18 for details.

October 12 - West Virginia Conference on the Environment. U. of Charleston,

8 AM thru 6:30 PM. \$75 fee includes lunch and a reception. For additional information and to register, call 925-6123.

October 13th, 14th, & 15th, 2000 - WVHC Fall Review (Board of Directors meeting on Sunday the 15th). Slaty Fork in Pocahontas County. Full details were in last month's Voice. For information and to register, call Dave Saville at 284-9548.

October 20 thru 22 - Forest Watch Coalition meeting & workshop at Cherry Shot Cabin near Spruce Knob. See page 17 for details.

October 28th - Funeral for the Mountains. Join OVEC, Coal River Mountain Watch, the WVHC and other organizations at the Capitol in Charleston, WV, as we mourn and pay tribute to what has been lost to the horror that is mountaintop removal. See Stockman article on page 20. Call OVEC at 522-0246 for more details.

November 11 & 12 - 3rd Annual Summit for the Mountains. Come and be a part of this diverse group of committed people fighting to save our mountains, streams, Appalachian heritage, wildlife and mountain communities. Camp Virgil Tate, Sissonville, WV. More details soon to be forthcoming. Call OVEC at 522-0246 in two weeks. ✦

FUNERAL from page 20

Army Corps of Engineers actually calls this "no significant environmental impact." *[Vivian, it's massive denial taken to such an extent that it has to be characterized as a kind of mental illness. This is the diagnosis of a former mental health practitioner. Editorial kibitz.]* It's incredulous that King Coal and its minions in government create and allow this. It's flabbergasting that some of the news media condone this. It's audacious that King Coal and other fossil fuel giants have so much political power (campaign cash!) that they squash federal initiatives for research and development on energy conservation and efficiency and renewable energies. It's incredible that we who live in America can be so energy hungry that we rationalize and justify this annihilation, this civil war on our ecosystem.

From about 1,500 feet up in the air, the scale of mountaintop removal is still difficult to grasp. My mind can't wrap around the immensity of the sites. Big John and its cousin, 20-story tall draglines that can take about a gargantuan bite -- about 200 cubic yards -- out of a mountain with each bucketful, were dwarfed by the naked scars of blasted, scalped and mined land. Huge dump trucks, that send a mountain of dust into the air each

time they dump their 150-200 ton loads of former mountains into former valleys, looked like Tonka toy trucks. Slurry ponds, a convenient way for coal companies to avoid the formalities of valley fills, looked like lake-size abscesses of black pus. Sickening indeed.

There is site after site like this. No one seems to know how much mountaintop removal there is. We have probably lost at least 1,000 miles of streams and at least 300,000 acres of hardwood forest and the habitat it provided for

mammals, birds, wildflowers and trees. Southern WV towns like Blair, Kayford and a host of others are dying or dead because of mountaintop removal. Scores of water wells and homes have been lost to mountaintop removal. Jackson's mock MTR graveyard includes 1,000 mock tombstones, each representing a stream, mountain or community lost to King Coal's greed.

Please be sure to join us October 28 as we mourn our losses and stand up for our future. ✦

ENERGY concl. from preceding page

Last year the use of wind energy worldwide grew by 39%. The US is way behind Germany and Japan. Although growing, renewable energy sources account for less than 5% of our energy today. Globally last year coal declined by 3%.

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy notes "The Federal government is almost certainly not doing enough (with renewable energy), even when poll after poll shows that's what people want." ✦

CRAIG from page 12

time mounted on sticks--started popping up in the audience. Approximately a dozen of the likenesses -- some foreheads containing corporate logos, some containing slogans like "Extract" and "I hate trees"-- bobbed up and down during his speech including one in the front row.

He did get an unexpected round of applause when he announced, in a voice filled with scorn, that Clinton had designated more national monuments than any other president, for a combined size of the state of Delaware. Spontaneous, prolonged applause erupted following this statement.

A question and answer period followed the speech. The same crowd of troublemakers appeared to dominate the question period, asking Larry such questions as "Please explain the democratic process of the Salvage Rider;" "Why don't you support roadless protection when the majority of constituents support it;" "Do you support the effort to protect our remaining wild Lewis and Clark trail region through the Lewis and Clark National Monument;" and a pointed accusation that HE was the real extremist by consistently favoring extractive industries and he was misleading the public by portraying himself as a moderate resource-conserver.

The only police interest came when an officer asked a puppeteer, "Is the puppet heavy?" When the answer was no, he appeared satisfied and left. Following the speech, a suited Borah symposium official came up and thanked the protesters for making it such a lively debate!

Craig has received thousands of dollars in PAC contributions from the timber industry. He consistently receives 0% ratings from the League of Conservation Voters. His environmental record since taking office demonstrates his support for continued logging subsidies, increased road construction, decreased environmental regulation, and less protection for endangered species. ✦

Mourn for the Dead and Fight Like Hell for the Living

Join the October 28 Funeral for the Mountains

By Vivian Stockman

The loss of life to mountaintop removal is staggering and Judge Haden's ruling won't stop it. So much death so we can have plenty of cheap energy. So we can keep on using more, more, more. That's why members of the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, the Coal River Mountain Watch, the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and other environmental groups are holding a Funeral for the Mountains on October 28. We will join together to express our grief over this needless slaughter. We will send a unified message to legislators and regulators that this is enough death. We will renew our commitment to fight like hell to save what remains of southern West Virginia's mountains.

Please join us on October 28, and please bring all your friends in this day of protest theatre. At 11 a.m., we will begin the event with a funeral march. Here's what we envision: A drummer strikes a solemn beat to lead the Funeral. Two mountains (yes, under the direction of Carol Jackson, we already made "mountains" at the Funeral for the Mountains workshop) carry between them a dead, topless mountain. Coffins follow. The coffins are open, and rising out of them are depictions of plants, streams, mammals, the town of Blair, mountains, trees, fish and birds—all dead because of mountaintop removal. Funeral marchers (you and your friends!) are asked to wear black, or to sport one of the black armbands we will have available.

By 1 p.m., we will solemnly march to the funeral staging area on the west lawn of the State Capitol grounds. We will lay flowers in front of the mountaintop removal mock cemetery tombstones, designed by artist Carol Jackson. We'll gather in

front of the coffins and listen to short eulogies.

We will mourn the dead and renew our commitment to the living mountains.

At press time we had not yet secured our parade permit with the City of Charleston and all the Funeral details are not finalized. Please call OVEC at 522-0246 for more info on the Funeral and how you can help. You can also e-mail us at <ohvec@ezwv.com>. If you send us your e-mail address, we'll keep you up to date on the Funeral plans.

In an attempt to understand the scale of the death caused by mountaintop removal, I recently flew over several MTR sites, all within 30 air-miles of the Charleston airport. What I saw was sickening. Literally. (Maybe I'll deliver to the WV Coal Association my sic-sac [sic], so they'll know my literal opinion of the Association's promotion of this massacre of our mountains and our future. Hmmm, Send a Sic Sac to King Coal—this could be the stirrings of a new action campaign. But I digress.) OK, nobody else in any of the flyover groups threw up, but they were all sickened.

Hume Davenport, of Southwings, a non-profit group that specializes in flying people over human-caused environmental

disasters, spent two days flying folks out from the Executive Airport at Yeager. We weren't the regular bunch in the old exec digs: The three women cyclists of Earth Challenge cycling from Connecticut to Atlanta to promote alternative energies (<www.earthchallenge.org>); the heavily equipped photographers; the office workers curious about MTR; the members of the United Methodists (the National United Methodist Church has followed in the path of the state church, passing a resolution against mountaintop removal) and other regular folk, 20 in all, took flights.

From the ground it's difficult to grasp the incredible scale of mountaintop removal. (For visual aid see <www.jimiallen.com>. Click on "stories," then click on "coal mining struggle.") If you travel the turnpike, the deceptive "beauty strip" is pretty well preserved. Only here and there can you get a glimpse of what one national publication called "strip mining on steroids." If you go up Kayford Mountain, a green island in a desert of active MTR sites, you begin to understand the scale of mountaintop removal, though you really can't believe it.

I sure can't believe that the

Turn back to page 19 for FUNERAL

What's Inside

- Page 1 ... Dye Letter - Dave Saville//Frank Young - wind power, part 2
- Page 2 ... Young column "No MORE room for compromise"// roster
- Page 3 ... Rogers & Kunkel on Corr H
- Page 4 ... Hasty Column "Grassroots politics"
- Page 5 ... EO Wilson on saving the planet
- Page 8 ... FOE gives award to WVHC// AEP one of worst polluters
- Page 9 ... Dombeck for wilderness - Sconyers// Reeder poem
- Page 12 .. Chapple on wetlands
- Page 13 .. Enrolment form
- Page 14 .. Cone collection, Part 2// Guidebook order form
- Page 15 .. Old growth best at removing CO2// diesel pollution// Gates photo - dead balsam
- Page 16 .. CARA//BWC update
- Page 17 .. Monathon - TRodd// Forest Watch Coalition meet.
- Page 18 .. Gasper on energy sources// Apple Butter Festival
- Page 19 .. Calendar
- Page 20 .. Stockman - Funeral for the mountains