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## If Capito Has Her Way, You Don't Have a Say in Your Future

*Environmental extremist interloper from Texas threatens Julian Martin for exercising his right to speak in a public place*

By Vivian Stockman

You can't say she wasn't forewarned. A constituent called Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito's office to inquire who would be on the panel for her "West Virginia Energy and America's Future" forum. The July 16 event at Riverside High School near Belle was one of several nationwide that Vice President Dick Cheney helped organize to whip up support for the Bush Administration's More, More, More national energy policy.

***The panel consisted of pretty much anybody whose future wallet fatness is directly tied to promoting the status quo and blocking progress toward environmentally safer forms of energy, such as wind, solar and hydrogen fuel cells.***

The panel consisted of pretty much anybody whose future wallet fatness is directly tied to promoting the status quo and blocking progress toward environmentally safer forms of energy, such as wind, solar and hydrogen fuel cells. This was going to be a warm and fuzzy taxpayer-funded Coal cheerleading session, with a little Oil and Gas thrown in for good measure. Not surprisingly, no one whose future is in peril from mountaintop removal had a place on the panel.

The constituent suggested to Capito's staff that a coalfield resident and an environmentalist be included on the panel. The staffer said Capito had invited someone from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). DEP representing citizens? As if.

Apparently, the United Mine Workers also suggested to Capito that she get an environmentalist on the panel.

Who knows why Capito didn't heed the citizen's advice. Maybe Cheney issued a directive that these forums had better leave pesky citizens off the panel. Capito is so obviously being groomed for forward movement within the Republican Party, she would certainly obey. Or maybe she didn't want to offend her campaign contributors by allowing their opponents to appear on stage with them. According to the Center for Responsive Politics (<[www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org)>), during the 99-00 election cycle, Capito, out of all House members, received the fifth highest amount of campaign contributions from coal mining interests.

When Capito and her entourage drove their sports utility vehicle up to the high school, people who care about the future, commonly called environmentalists, greeted her. She was handed a citizens' press package, complete with photos of the devastation associated with mountaintop removal captioned, "We won't be America's energy sacrifice zone."

She had to scurry past artist Carol Jackson's assemblage of mock open coffins, each

containing representations of what we have lost to mountaintop removal -- communities, jobs, streams, forests, topsoil, plants, animals and mountains.

Capito made a beeline for the Riverside lobby, where she chatted merrily with friends like Bill Raney and Chris Hamilton, the WV Coal Association's chief excuse-makers for the coal industry's disregard for coalfield residents and brutalization of the landscape.

Though she didn't have anyone impacted by mountaintop removal on her panel, Capito did invite an outside extremist to tell us what West Virginia's future is going to be.

Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX) is chair of the House subcommittee on energy and air quality. "I think this is going to be the energy Congress," Barton said in his opening remarks. No wonder -- during the last election cycle, Barton was the number one House recipient of campaign donations from the electric utilities industry. Of all House members, he got the third most in campaign

donations from oil and gas interests.

After Barton spoke, Capito instructed the panelists, which included coal and utility executives, to move from the stage into the audience so that they could see a slide show on the state's economic forecast. The presenter, West Virginia University economist Dr. Tom Witt, would be up just as soon as he was introduced by Nick Carter, chair of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

DEP chief Mike Callaghan walked off the stage and sat right next to Chris Hamilton, Vice President of the West Virginia Coal Association. Remember, Callaghan is the guy who is supposed to represent the citizens.

Capito and Barton moved out into the audience, too.

Carter turned his introduction of Witt into



**Rep. Capito's Coal Love Fest Meets Reality**  
Standing in background, Regina Hendrix photo: Vivian Stockman

a slam against environmentalists -- "those people" who were opposed to wind power (huh?). "Those who fail to offer constructive and realistic ideas . . . should be left behind. Get real, get involved or get out of the way."

Thank you Mister Carter! If you hadn't been so illogical and insulting to coalfield residents

**CAPITO concl. on page 7**

## From the Western Slope of the Mountains

By Frank Young

### Is God Sending These Floods?

Someone once wrote, "The work of God is the work of nature; and only through nature is God revealed."

Coal and timber operators and their apologists are scrambling to blame God and nature for recent severe flooding in heavily timbered and surface mined areas of West Virginia.

Lawyers for industry routinely blame "Acts of God" for their client's debacles. It has become so routine that an "Act of God" is recognized by the courts as a normal, accepted defense for events directly related to failure of poorly designed water and waste impoundments that fail to contain their mucky, often deadly materials.

But what of God and recent flooding in southern West Virginia? I would argue that God, through natural events, is once again warning mankind that there are serious consequences to massive spoiling of God's creation. And nothing in recent West Virginia history is more massive and destructive than the sterile and barren gigantic mountaintop removal coal mining projects and associated valley fills that now tower over entire watersheds. These watersheds are drowning and suffocating in the water and sediment runoff from these giant disturbances of God's natural creation.

The Bible tells us of God's wrath visited upon the earth in the form of a giant flood, for alleged sins of mankind, in the time of Noah. Is it not reasonable that God visit upon the earth more giant floods as a natural result of mankind having destroyed God's natural barriers that would have diminished such floods?

When the trees and topsoil, God's natural sponge against the worst of floods, are stripped away and allowed to erode into and fill the streams that would carry natural rain runoff, then it is natural that God-sent rains will result in floods.

When man and machines move whole mountain tops into the valleys below, where is the rainwater God sends us to go except to sheet off into the inhabited valleys even further below, in giant waves that overwhelm the ability of sediment clogged streams and rivers to handle such a volume of runoff in such gigantic bursts?

Does God visit natural wrath upon us in response to mankind's sins against God's creation. YES!

But for those who seek a less theocratic explanation of flooding events as they relate to mining and timbering practices, one only need look in a junior high school science textbook. There one can read that, in nature, for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Go figure. ✚

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On July 16<sup>th</sup>, the Charleston Daily Mail published a letter by a Mr. Zachary Totten, who is employed by the AT Massey Coal Company as an "environmental engineer." He states in his letter that there was no strip mining before the disastrous floods occurred in 1932 and before. He fails to take into account that the hills of West Virginia had been ravaged by clear

cut logging, so that the forest canopy in most cases was gone and the ground was very torn up from the hauling of the logs out.

In rebuttal to this letter, Mr. Dave Saville demonstrated a far greater degree of knowledge of "local history" than Mr. Totten.

## Dave Saville's Rebuttal

He [Mr. Totten] states "All those people who want to blame surface mining for recent flooding should check their local history books before spouting off about something they are not qualified or educated enough to talk about."

So I did, even though I do consider myself both qualified and educated enough.

In 1911, AB Brooks (now in the West Virginia Forestry Hall of Fame) wrote, "Forests not only produce wood....they hold the water of rains and melting snow and give it out gradually to the springs and regulate the flow of creeks and rivers..."

In 1933, Charles Henry Ambler, in *A History of West Virginia* wrote; "The rapid development of the timber industry and the resulting clearcutting of the state's forests depended on a political climate which encouraged exploitation of the state's resources... Because of the emphasis on development, there was no great emphasis on conservation in West Virginia until repeated natural disasters revealed the disastrous effects of the timbering practices used by the state's timber companies."

In 1921 a handbook published by the Society of American Foresters, referring to the devastating flood of 1907, states; "By that time, it had become increasingly obvious to both professional foresters and many of the state's citizens that the flooding was a direct result of the cutting of the timber... The 1907 flood resulted in more than 100 million dollars worth of damage along the basin of the Monongahela River. Over eight million dollars in damages occurred in the city of Pittsburgh and its vicinity alone."

The Wheeling Daily News printed on Saturday March 16, 1907.

Again the Ohio River, by its conduct, forcibly reminds us of the folly of timber destruction. No other cause than devastation of the forests could have given the Ohio Valley such a deluge following the fall of comparatively slight volume of water. The barren hillsides are responsible for it. There is nothing to hold the water back.. The river has become little more than a sewer. It is a story, however, that is familiar to Wheeling citizens. There is not much use dwelling on it because the answer is inevitable what are you going to do about it? The timber is gone; it cannot be replanted and re-grown within the life of the present generation - but for the sake of posterity some action should be taken.

In 1908 the West Virginia Conservation Commission reported.

Public opinion has long held that the floods are increasing in number, not only in West Virginia, but in other regions where rapid deforestation has been going on, but only recently were figures compiled showing just what is taking place in the state. A compilation of results shows a very disquieting state of affairs in West Virginia. Floods in the Ohio at

Wheeling have increased 28 per cent in numbers in 26 years; Potomac floods at Harpers Ferry have increased 36 per cent in 18 years; The Monongahela floods at Greensboro, PA, show an increase of 73 per cent in 24 years.

The increase in total discharge of West Virginia rivers, in spite of diminishing rainfall....is due solely, so far as available data can be interpreted, to the deforestation of the mountains. There is no reason to doubt that a continuation of timber cutting will increase the fluctuation of the streams if, indeed, it does not permanently reduce the rainfall which is by no means improbable.

By keeping the mountains forested, a steady supply of water will be available; but if the woods are destroyed, the water will go down as destructive floods when rain has fallen, and it will quickly disappear when the rains cease.

A.B. Brooks in 1911 wrote further,

Generally speaking a woodland soil absorbs more water than naked ground. The decaying leaves, the roots and stems, and the more porous nature of the upper layers of the forest soil, take up the rain and melting snow, and hold it for a time, permitting it to filter away slowly and enter the streams gradually. Sudden rushes of water down steep slopes after a rain are thus hindered, and the streams rise more slowly, flow more regularly, and seldom reach excessively low stages. When the same has been laid bare and packed by its own weight and under the unobstructed beating of raindrops, [or mining machines] its surface hardens, its porosity is lessened, and it sheds water like a roof. The streams catch it quickly and floods follow. That is the difference between a forested and treeless region. The dangerous region is one with steep, bare slopes. The West Virginia mountains would, if denuded, be a constant menace to all the lower valleys. Floods surpassing everything known in this region heretofore would be sure to follow.

In 1905 Governor Albert B. White declared "The time has gone by when the man who deforests lands is a public benefactor."

In 1998 in an Associated Press article by Jennifer Bundy, Bill Maxey, then Director of the West Virginia Division of Forestry states, "I think mountaintop removal is analogous to a serious disease, like AIDS," and "Coal companies compact the soil. Then you are trying to plant a tree in concrete. It doesn't work. We need to stop mountaintop removal," Maxey says.

In January 2000, Maxey wrote in a Charleston Gazette editorial.

I resigned as a matter of principle, for I did not want to share in the blame nor guilt for the loss of West Virginia's heritage through the loss of our forested mountains [from mountaintop removal of coal]. In West Virginia, from 1977 to 1997, 300,000 acres were made into a moonscape by the decapitation of our mountains. The rate of decapitation has increased to 30,000 acres annually. It will take 150 to 200 years before trees would become re-established following such a drastic mining practice.

Research at the USDA Forest Service's Fernow Experimental Forest has demonstrated that in forested landscapes:

In the growing season, runoff was 23% of precipitation. This means that over 75% of the rain does not even reach the stream channels of forested landscapes. This is due mostly to evapotranspiration. Evapotranspiration includes rain intercepted and evaporated plus that which enters the soil and is withdrawn by vegetation roots and drawn up (transpired and out their leaves. Where the forest has been removed, as in a clearcut [or strip mine]. The storm flow is far greater than that from the control [undisturbed] runoff. It was nearly 9 times the discharge of the control. This shows the effect of forest canopy evapotranspiration in reducing flooding.

***Our politicians are so committed to continually repeating the mistakes of the past that they condemn us to the continual devastation and loss of life caused by such senseless destruction.***

***And today, as yesterday, we, the citizens and taxpayers bear the costs of cleaning up following the death and destruction of the selfishness and greed of the extractive industries protected by these corrupt politicians and regulators.***

Ronald Lewis wrote.

Two-thirds of West Virginia was still covered by ancient growth hardwood forest on the eve of the transition in 1880, but by the 1920s virtually the entire state had been deforested. So, perhaps there was no strip mining, or mountaintop removal mines to blame for the deforestation which undoubtedly caused the floods of 1916 and 1932, but the results are the same. Mountaintop removal coal mining not only removes the forest canopy and all the associated forest vegetation, but also the organic forest soils and porous sub soils. The highly compacted rubble that replaces these productive soils, as A.B. Brooks says, sheds water like a roof.

So here we are now, 100 years later, and we are still living within a political climate that encourages natural resource exploitation. We still have politicians and regulators that have not yet learned what was so obvious to everyone 100 years ago, and to average citizens today, which Mr. Totten says are not qualified or educated enough. Our politicians are so committed to continually repeating the mistakes of the past that they condemn us to the continual devastation and loss of life caused by such senseless destruction. And today, as yesterday, we, the citizens and taxpayers bear the costs of cleaning up following the death and destruction of the selfishness and greed of the extractive industries protected by these corrupt politicians and regulators. ❖

# Floods and Forests

## Forest Canopy Greatly Reduces Flooding

By Don Gasper

Deforestation for any reason in the heavily forested Mountain State will, in fact, change streamflow and have an impact on flooding in downstream areas.

We are fortunate to have US Forest Service (USFS) research carried out right here in our area. In the late '50's and early '60's, a study at the USFS Fernow Experimental Forest near Parsons in north-central West-Virginia was conducted to examine the influence of timber cutting on flooding. On an undisturbed control watershed through a nine-year study period, average monthly precipitation (rain and snow), total runoff, and the percentage of runoff as related to precipitation was determined and reported by Ken Reinhart and others at the experimental station in 1963 (see Table 1).

During the winter dormant season (November-April) runoff was 60% of the total precipitation. However, during the growing season (May-October), runoff carried by streams was on average only 23% of the total precipitation. This means during summer season over 75% of the rainfall does not even reach the stream channels of fully forested watersheds!

Evapotranspiration - rain and snow intercepted and evaporated plus that which enters the soil and is withdrawn by vegetation roots and transpired out their leaves - causes such differences in runoff. It is fairly obvious from the data that a typical, forested watershed greatly reduces runoff flow during the growing season. Furthermore, data from more than 40 years of records at Parsons, WV, indicate that the highest streamflows from a studied watershed occurred in the dormant season when there were no leaves and no evapotranspiration (see Table 2).

### Storm Events, Stream Flows and Leaves

Table 2 also shows that 14 of the 20 greatest rainfall events took place during the growing season. Yet Table 3 shows that of the top 20 stream flows only 7 occurred during the growing season. Note, the correlation is greater with the season than with the magnitude of the storm. In fact, the second and third largest storm events over these 40 years were recorded to be only the 19th largest flow and the other failed to even register in the top-20. These two storms took place in June and August.

It is clear that many (70%) of the greatest storms took place during the growing season when the forests soils are drier. Flooding was significantly reduced by the drying of forest soils. The water holding capacity of forest soils is so increased by tree root up-take of soil moisture, that the first two inches or more of rain does not run-off. Some soils sometimes can take up twice this much.

This point was made by the authors in their 1963 report, but the effectiveness of the forest canopy in reducing summer flows remains

greatly underappreciated. They end with this statement.

In the region where The Fernow is located, flood occurrence is greater in the dormant season than in the growing season. At the gaging station on the Cheat River near Parsons, WV, 4 miles from The Fernow experimental watersheds, there have been 135 occurrences of discharge above the base of about 10,000 c.f.s. since 1913. Of these, 102 occurred in the dormant season and only 33 in the growing season. (Page 41).

simply the amount of water that flows through a stream over the course of a storm. These hydrographs show streamflow for the control and the clearcut watershed in response to a summer storm. The flow units are in cubic feet per second per square mile in order to compare the two slightly different-sized watersheds. The author notes the flow from this summer storm was nine times greater from the clearcut watershed, and "Instantaneous peaks on the clearcut in the growing season were increased on the average by 21%."

Table 2

Twenty Largest Storm Events Recorded at Nursery Bottom in Descending Order

Rank	Amount (mm)	Duration (hours)	Dates	Type
1	154	42	11/2-6/85	Hurricane Juan Rain
2	121	49	8/15-17/75	Rain
3	119	87	6/20-24/72	Rain
4	114	14	10/15/54	Hurricane Hazel Rain
4	114	49	3/5-7/67	Rain, then snow
6	97	49	12/8-10/72	Rain
7	93	67	9/27-30/64	Rain
8	92	42	5/23-24/68	Rain
8	92	25	6/5-6/81	Rain
10	91	33	10/19-22/85	Rain
11	90	53	5/31-6/2/74	Rain
12	89	22	9/13/88	Rain
12	89	16	7/8-9/85	Rain
14	88	88	3/19-22/63	Rain ½, snow ½
15	86	19	9/29-30/73	Rain
16	84	63	9/9-11/60	Hurricane Donna Rain
16	84	68	4/2-7/87	Rain
18	83	38	7/2-4/78	Rain
18	83	26	2/9-10/57	Rain
20	81	58	10/7-9/76	Rain

### Peak Flows

Clearcutting is an extreme example of deforestation and canopy reduction. Canopy reduction for any reason (timbering, settlement, surface mining, etc.) in the heavily forested Mountain State will in fact increase flooding in downstream areas. These same investigators note that more recent studies show a canopy reduction of 30% results in noticeably higher peak flows.

Peak flows we know are the destructive out-of-bank flows that flood across the flood plain of the valley floor. While great floods are produced by great storms, the resultant flooding from even these are reduced by a forest soil storage capacity greater by the leaf canopy demand for soil moisture. Flows of lesser magnitude are controlled even more.

In Reinhart's study in 1963, a storm hydrograph was developed for the control watershed and for a nearby watershed that was clearcut (See Figure 1). A storm hydrograph is

Data obtained locally, and broadly applicable, by these superb investigators supports the conclusion that the forest canopy greatly reduces flooding in summer when most storm events occur. Table 1 can instruct us further in that the average annual rain and snowmelt totals are 58.45" and that measured run-off is 24.33", about 7" drops to deep seepage. The rest, 27" just over half, is evapotranspired by the leafed canopy of this fully forested watershed. A clear-cut removed would mean the stream channel immediately below would have to carry "over twice as much flow" (24" + 27" for 51") as it has in the last 80 years. For about 5 years this will be the situation until enough regrowth and canopy appears and the tree roots begin to be effective in again picking up soil moisture and drying the soil.

In this interval, 2 or 3 moderate storms can occur that would have the erosional effect of a much larger storm. "Over twice as much flow"

FLOODS cont. on next page

FLOODS from preceding page

will cause channel scour of the banks and bottom, and "head-cutting" wherein the tiny drainage channel extends itself upstream (both are measured in the Fernow Studies). Tiny open channels begin as underground drainage "pipes," and it is here these processes begin. Both head-cutting and scour produce sediment, and more sediment may be produced from the enlarging channel than from surface disturbance. These surface gullies, roads and other disturbance do produce noticeable erosion and sediment that all kinds of Best Management Practices (BMP's) have been developed for, but there are no BMP's for channel erosion other than canopy preservation.

Table 1

Mean Monthly Precipitation and Runoff of Control Watershed During 9-year Study Period			
Month	Precipitation (Inches)	Runoff	Runoff as % of Precip.
May	5.26	2.53	48
June	5.84	1.38	24
July	5.99	.99	17
August	5.82	1.41	24
September	2.59	.05	2
October	4.03	.50	12
May - October	29.53	6.86	23
November	3.35	.57	17
December	4.98	2.54	51
January	5.81	3.77	65
February	4.82	3.36	70
March	5.31	4.06	76
April	4.65	3.17	68
November - April	28.92	17.47	60
Year Totals	58.45	24.33	42

As the underground piping system of macropores is enlarging it is very likely to plug-up causing the flow to build and perhaps produce a surface flow for a distance, or enter and greatly enlarge other macropores or produce slips as flow paths reorganize. We see this in open channels how in small channels a small amount of added sediment will begin to undermine the channel's capacity to carry water.

The tiniest open channel already has sand and pebble bars and deposits of sediment that build up on riffles. In addition to channel enlargement due to the "over twice as much flow" that the channel must carry and its subsequent scour, bars and riffle deposits are actively causing further channel erosion and producing more sediment. Bars obviously deflect the flow into the bank, and that causes more bank erosion, perhaps even tree topple. When sediment builds up on a riffle it dams and effectively lowers the bank there, and out-of-bank flooding can occur. Once out of the channel, the flow can erode a new channel, producing an enormous amount of new sediment.

Both dams and bars are proportionally

magnifying processes carrying far downstream with greater and greater impacts. **These effects of clear-cuts, and any canopy reduction beyond 30% when peak flow increases are easily noticeable, are suffered far below - far off-site, generally on a downstream neighbor or community** [bold by editor].

Clearly deforestation can produce added summer flooding that results in soil loss, structural loss, loss of life and channel destruction. Forest stands and their canopies are most important in reducing summer flooding. It is necessary to preserve the canopy of every stand. To reduce the canopy by one-half would be imprudent, with soil loss and flooding below, and sediment created to degrade the channel below. This may leave the community with no alternative but stream channelization that reduces wonderfully interesting streams to featureless drainage ditches. To reduce a canopy by three-fourths would be "deforestation" and destructive of community values. Clearcutting would be only a very limited acceptable forest management practice - nearly a

crime against society and the environment. State permits would be required to manage this vital stewardship of these fragile processes in today's damaged watersheds.

There follows just two studies, one in the north, and one south, that are of such a nature that they demonstrate clearly the effect of canopy reduction on channel scour. The watersheds are undisturbed except the trees were cut and increased sediment load was measured in the stream just below.

At a New Hampshire site in 1965 only tree-felling took place. Trees were not removed. There was no other disturbance. They produce the following table of the increased sediment in their weir (dam). They note that much of the sediment was delivered after the increased flow had begun to remove sediment stored in the streambed after the first two years. "Headcutting" and "bank scour" had taken place. They do, of course, report increased flow occurred as well as this increased sediment.

FLOODS concl. on page 11

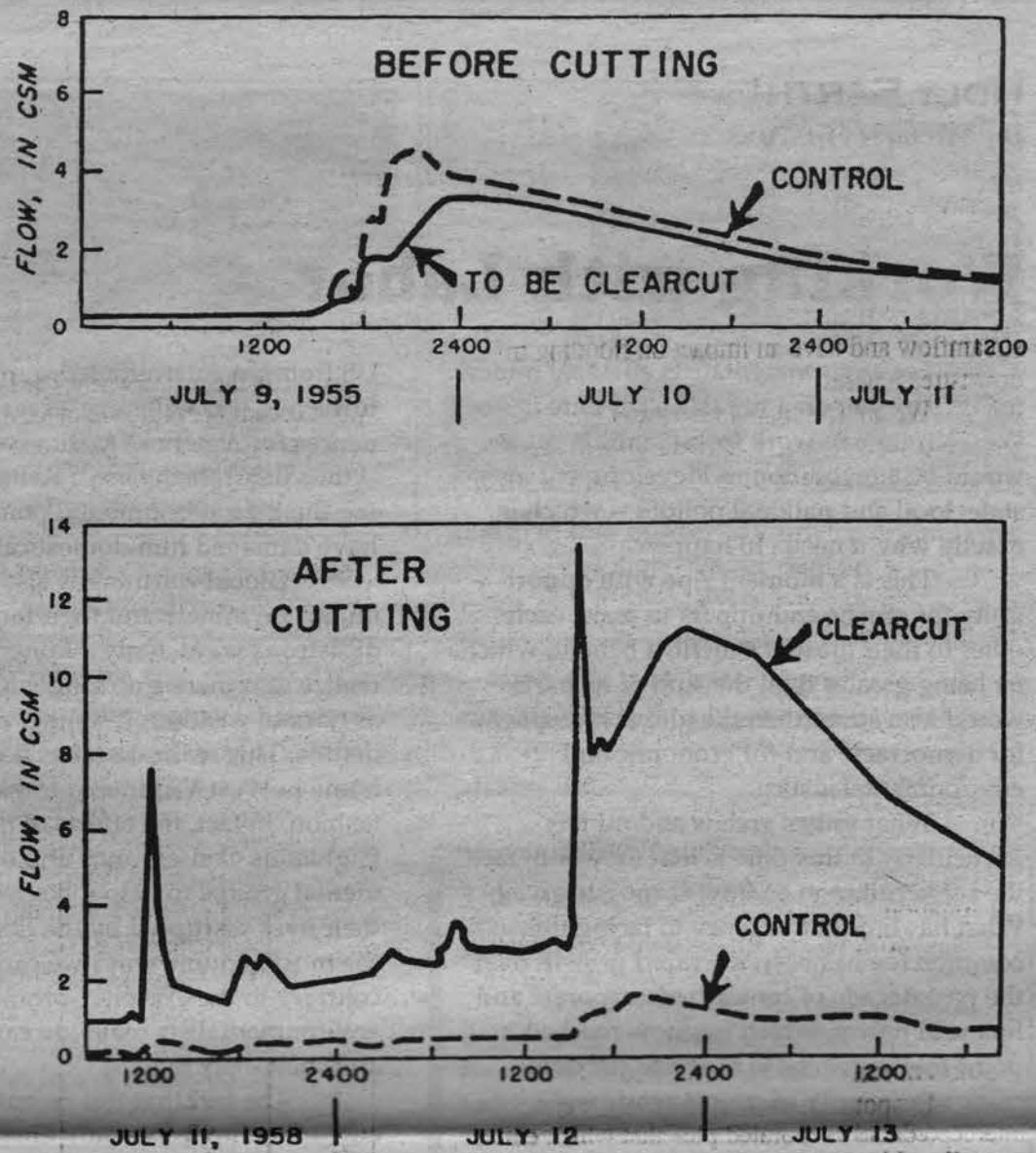


Figure 1 - Sample storm hydrographs of Clearcut and Control watersheds before and after treatment

From K. G. Reinhart, et al., 1963, Forest Hydrographs at USFS Research Station at Parsons, WV. "The storm flow is far greater than that from the control for the 3 day period July 11-13. It was nearly 9x the discharge of the control." The two side by side watershed flows are given in CSM (cubic feet per second) flow per square mile so they are exactly comparable.

**HOLY EARTH!***By Michael Hasty***Working with Labor**

For environmentalists and coal miners to join together on a regular basis here in West Virginia to work for a common cause would be a revolutionary development in state, local and national politics -- which is exactly why it needs to happen.

This is a moment ripe with opportunity for greens and miners to assist each other to their mutual benefit; a benefit, which, by being greater than the sum of its parts, would also strengthen the global movement for democracy, and for economic and environmental justice.

What unites greens and miners particularly at this time is that they both face the same common enemy: corporate greed. What has brought urgency to facing this common foe has been the rapid growth over the past decade of centralized corporate and financial power, which has now reached a point that threatens to override the democratic sovereignty of people worldwide.

When a corporatist like George W. Bush seems to be on better terms (even soulmates) with the butchers of Chechnya and Tianenmen Square than with our traditional European allies, it should engage the rapt attention of every thinking citizen.

No one should know better how modern fascism works than the people of West Virginia -- the original prototype for Third World economic colonialism. At its most fundamental level, fascism is the "binding together" (from the Latin word, *fascis*) of government and private interests. And from the moment this industrial colony was stolen from Virginia in 1863, state government has almost invariably served the interests of out-of-state property owners and corporations. This, of course, is to the detriment of the native population, who share with victims of fascism everywhere the common trait of adapting to their oppression with mutely cynical resignation, punctuated by only occasional uprisings.

Life, after all, must go on.

A number of other developments, political and scientific, have reached a stage that further unites the interests of coal miners and enviros.

Foremost is global warming, which has transformed the political equation over the past year. The coal industry did whatever it could to elect Bush president, and certainly helped him carry West Virginia; but Bush's stance on the Kyoto Treaty has isolated the

US from the international community. As it turns out, this will have adverse consequences for American businesses and workers -- thus neutralizing any rationale for supporting Bush's environmental policies, which have damaged him domestically.

Global warming is also having an impact on miners and their families in more disastrous ways. Only a minority don't yet realize that there's no longer any such thing as normal weather: it's either drought or deluge. This realization has been hammered home in West Virginia in tragically dramatic fashion. In fact, the efforts of people from the Highlands Conservancy and other environmental groups to help folks who have had their lives disrupted by the flooding is one of the most genuine ways we can express that, contrary to the exploiter-promoted myth, environmentalists really do care about people and their daily lives.

The fact that this recent unprecedented flooding physically illustrates some of the arguments that environmentalists have been making about the dangers of mountaintop removal -- this practice significantly contributing to the flood damage -- is already changing minds in communities across the state about giving the coal and timber industries everything they want, without restriction.

The United Mine Workers (UMW) actually has a history of opposing both strip mining and mountaintop removal, though usually for different reasons than environmentalists. The union was an early opponent of those practices primarily because, by being more technology intensive, they lessened the need for skilled union labor. The legendary John L. Lewis fought mechanization in the mines for the same reason.

But ultimately, it has been against labor interests for the UMW to abandon its opposition to strip mining and mountaintop removal. UMW membership today is only a fraction of what it was a few decades ago. And what principally maintains the Union's power today is its unholy alliance with the coal companies -- a co-dependency which also has the paradoxical effect of reducing the union's organizing and bargaining power. In other words, by opposing environmental regulations, the union is really at cross purposes with itself.

This is an argument we greens need to

make to miners. It's not that they don't already know it. But they are blinded by the threat of being employed by a dinosaur industry in long decline, an industry now under renewed global attack as the scientific evidence of the ecological damage it inflicts on our earth, water and atmosphere rapidly accumulates. Unfortunately, it's also one of the last private sector industries to employ union labor, in an economy that otherwise has seen a 9 percent decline in real average wages over the past thirty years, while union mine jobs steadily disappeared. They're in a fight for survival.

To our credit, environmentalists have openly acknowledged that miners will suffer the brunt of the cutbacks as a dangerous fossil fuel industry is necessarily decommissioned. With that in mind, and recognizing that coal will be used for the immediate future, we have also supported continued underground mining and creating other good-paying jobs by developing alternative energy industries, doing a better job cleaning up abandoned mine sites, and reclaiming the land in a more productive manner. We support fully protecting workers' rights, now and throughout the transition to a sustainable energy future.

We could do more to connect labor and environmental agendas. For example, we are on the same side on the trade agreements that have been the focus of the anti-globalization protests, where workers march with turtles against negotiations from which both are shut out. "Fast track" authority for the president to negotiate international trade agreements is also bad for both labor and the environment.

Although greens can be rightly accused of having occasionally downplayed the economic dimensions of environmental issues, labor, with its single-minded focus on capitalist economics and the business/labor dialectic, has often tuned out the connections between environmental and labor and other human rights issues, thereby weakening their analysis with blind spots.

For instance, despite the open alliance with greens on free trade agreements, the home page of the AFL-CIO website doesn't contain a single direct link to environmental issues. What is additionally odd about this is how often issues of development and industry growth are routinely characterized

**HASTY concl. on next page**

**CAPITO from page 1**

and environmentalists, we might have just sat there, quietly listening to that stacked panel extol the virtues of Bush's insane, gluttonous energy policy. Instead, activist Julian Martin, a man who has been getting real, getting involved and helping to lead the way for years, had to take exception to your comments. He stood up and asked, "Do we get to speak or do we just get to listen to these insults?"

Capito and Barton stood up from their seats right behind Martin. Barton began arguing with Martin, saying he would call the sheriff on Martin and "haul his butt out." Perhaps there are laws in Texas against speaking out in public.

Martin, the son and grandson of coal miners, wasn't too pleased that this Texan was trying to silence a West Virginian concerned about the future of the Mountain State. Martin insisted that the citizens be given the right to talk about their future. Capito, sensing a public relations nightmare, finally agreed to let Martin have a say at the end of the forum.

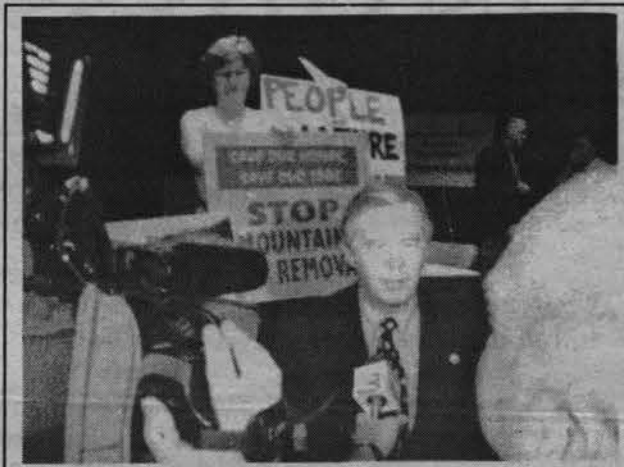
The forum on the future proceeded, with not one mention of energy efficiency, energy conservation, the true costs of coal that society pays, nor alternative energies. Whose future is that? Thank goodness Martin got to speak.

**HASTY from preceding page**

as "jobs versus environment." You'd think the nation's premiere labor organization would want to help its members better understand the controversy when they check in for information on the website. A big part of the problem, of course, is that leadership on environmental questions has been delegated to the union most directly affected: the UMW. And so far, UMW's official position doesn't get much more radical than "clean coal technology."

However, there are nuggets of awareness even in the UMW Journal where greens can find common ground with miners. "Despite tougher air standards," a recent issue admits, "emissions from coal-fired plants still include components that contribute to smog, acid rain and global warming." The concept of "clean coal" is in itself an admission that fossil fuel emissions endanger us all. By nurturing those points of connection, and appealing to miners' common sense and human concerns, we can help enlarge the perspective of labor on the effect of environmental problems on worker issues.

And by framing environmental issues in ways that directly address the concerns of the labor movement, we will further educate ourselves about the effect of economics on the environment. With hope and commitment, we can move beyond the polarization that has crippled our democratic institutions, and made both labor and greens less effective than we could be if we worked together. ❖



In this corner, Dubya champion Rep. "Goliath" Barton (R-TX)



... and in this corner WV enviro champion Julian "David" Martin  
Photos: Viv Stockman

***The forum on the future proceeded, with not one mention of energy efficiency, energy conservation, the true costs of coal that society pays, nor alternative energies.***

He mentioned mountain removal's worsening of the recent floods. He mentioned Barton's campaign contributions. Capito told Martin to stick to the subject. So Martin mentioned Capito's campaign contributions.

"I am not an out-of-state environmental extremist. It's much more environmentally extreme to take the tops of mountains off."

One thing we hope Capito learned from the forum: If you are going to discuss the future of energy in America, you had better make sure the dialogue includes the people whose mountain communities, whose very futures, are at risk from mountaintop removal coal mining.

*Vivian Stockman is the Outreach Coordinator for the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition. ❖*

**Coal's Legacy**

*Passage from a heading called "Background" From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access (<wais.access.gpo.gov>)*

Coal mining in the eastern United States has been an important industry for several centuries. The lack of adequate environmental controls, until recently, has produced hundreds of thousands of acres of abandoned mine land (AML). Prior to passage of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) in 1977, reclamation of coal mining sites was not a federal requirement, and drainage from AML has become a significant water quality problem in Appalachia.

Based on information supplied by the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) and the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System, EPA estimates there currently are over 1.1 million acres of abandoned coal mine lands in the United States. These have produced over 9,709 miles of streams polluted by acid mine drainage. In addition, there are over 18,000 miles of abandoned highwalls, 16,326 acres of dangerous piles and embankments, and 874 dangerous impoundments. Of the land

**The Source of Political Corruption**  
**During the 1999-2000 election cycle:**

**Texas Rep. Joe Barton: NUMBER ONE House recipient of campaign donations from the electric utilities industry, \$135,590. Barton was the third highest House recipient of donations from the oil and gas industry, \$102,100.**

**Rep. Capito got \$17,750 in campaign contributions directly from coal interests. That puts her at the fifth highest recipient of coal's largesse among ALL House members.**

Source: [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org)

**According to preliminary figures compiled by the People's Election Reform Coalition of West Virginia:**

**In his race for Governor, Bob Wise received over \$100,000 from Coal and related industries.**

**And he received over \$120,000 from Coal interests for his Inaugural.**

disturbed by coal mining between 1930 and 1971, only 30 percent has been reclaimed to acceptable levels. Several states have indicated that acid mine drainage from abandoned coal mine land is their most serious water pollution problem. Streams that are impacted by acid mine drainage characteristically have low pH levels (less than 6.0 standard units) and contain high concentrations of sulfate, acidity, dissolved iron and other metals.

[Federal Register: July 30, 2001 (Volume 66, Number 146)] [Proposed Rules][Page 39300-39303] ❖

# MOUNTAIN ODYSSEY 2001



## WEST VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY MOUNTAIN ODYSSEY 2001 SCHEDULE

**Almost Anytime.** Visit Kayford Mountain south of Charleston to see mountain top removal (MTR) up close and hear Larry Gibson's story about how he saved his mountain, now almost totally surrounded by MTR. Bring a lunch -- there is a picnic area on Larry's mountain. Just call Larry or Julian Martin. Leaders: Julian Martin, (304) 342-8989, <Martinjul@aol.com>; and Larry Gibson, (304) 586-3287 or (304) 642-1134 cellular.

**August 11(Sat)** Northern Canaan Valley day hike. Leader: Linda Cooper, (304) 296-0565, <cooper@hsc.wvu.edu>

**August 12 (Sun)** EarthWalk environmental education experience at Bear Rocks (Dolly Sods North). Leader: Jack Slocumb, Home (301) 777-8810, Work (301) 777-1084, <JSLOCOMB@prodigy.net>

**August 25 (Sat)** Otter Creek Wilderness (downstream half) and tour of the USFS Fernow Experimental Forest. The tour is by car to the trail head. The hike is an easy 7 miles to the mouth, but involves a moderate stream crossing. Meet at Sheetz in Parsons at 11 AM. Leader: Don Gasper, (304) 472-3704.

**September 1-3 (Sat-Sun/Mon)** North Fork Mountain backpack Sat-Sun with *Mon. Forest Hiking Guide* author Bruce Sundquist. Prior backpacking experience

required, carry your own water, 12 miles total. An optional third day will be spent exploring Dolly Sods North. Leader: Bruce Sundquist, (724) 327-8737, <bsundquist1@juno.com>

**September 7-9 (Fri-Sun)** Enjoy early fall hiking in the Shavers Fork area. We'll follow the West Fork trail and visit the High Falls of the Cheat. Car camping is available at the Laurel Fork campground. For more information contact Susan Bly at (304) 876-5177 day or (304) 258-3319 evening, <sbly@shepherd.edu>

**September 29 (Sat)** Bickle Knob, Bear Heaven Rocks, Stewart Park, Bowden Cave, Bowden Trout Hatchery. Meet at Hatchery at 11 AM. Bring a flashlight if you care to cave for 1 hour. Caving is pretty easy and very safe, and as it can be a little muddy, it will be the last activity of the day. This is mostly a tour with short walks. 6 hours. Leader: Don Gasper, (304) 472-3704.

**Oct. 5-8 (Fri-Mon)** Otter Creek wilderness backpack trip. Group limited to 6. Leader: Nathan Anderson, <stgmnobpf@yahoo.com>, or call Peter Shoenfeld at (301) 587-6197.

**Oct. 12-14 (Fri-Sun)** WVHC Fall Review. Outings will be planned. ❖

## Spunky Spelunkers By Dave Saville

The Sinks of Gandy is a popular cave explored by thousands of people over the past century. It is formed in the soluble Greenbrier Limestone which dissolved over millions of years and formed the cavern. The cave acts as a conduit to carry the waters of Gandy Creek 1.54 miles under Yokum Knob. The property on the upstream end of the cave is owned by the Teter Family, and that at the exit is owned by the Tinglers. Both these families are extremely generous in allowing virtually unlimited access to the cave, which is extremely popular with spelunkers.

This Mountain Odyssey outing on July 15<sup>th</sup> was led by geologist and veteran spelunker, Barnes Nugent. Among 33 adventure seekers were many Conservancy members and new faces. Hunter Lesser, long time member, archeologist, historian, Civil war expert was along.

Pat Cipoletti was there -- this was good as he is a family physician and former emergency room doctor. Larry Kaeser slipped and dislocated his elbow as soon as we got into the cave. Pat snapped it back in and Larry was able to continue.

We entered at the upstream end and followed the stream to the exit. When the end is reached there is a large deep pool of water. This is called the "wet exit." To the right there is another small passage called, you guessed it, the "dry exit."

Some of our more adventurous cavers opted for the swim, others used the dry one. The temperature inside the cave is between 55-60

degrees F. Everyone who makes the journey through this cave gets muddy and wet. Although the trip generally has boulders to scramble over and sand bars to walk on, sometimes you must crawl on slippery clay banks or wade through the underground stream. The water generally isn't over knee deep, but because of recent rains, on this day it was waist deep in places.

After exiting the cave the relatively warm air on the outside made taking a plunge into the waters of Gandy Creek to wash off the mud feel refreshing. The walk back to the cars through the wide open pastures and clear blue skies provided the group with spectacular views of Spruce Knob and some of the highest portions of the state. ❖

## Otter Creek Extravaganza June 29th - July 1st By Susan Bly

This backpacking experience reminded me of "The Ten Little Indians" or "And Then There were None" by Agatha Christie. The party started out with nine and dwindled down to two, via unforeseen circumstances, last minute occurrences and weather related incidents. Our core group consisted of Judy Smoot, Debby Edmonds, Lim Lee and Susan Bly. We met up with Jack Slocumb and Ed on Sunday morning who had searched for us the previous day. The last of our Little Indians.

After arranging our car shuttle between Elkins and Parson, we proceeded across Dry Fork's cable bridge and into the forest. Dry Fork contained some most interesting criss-cross

geological formations on the bedrock. We took our time hiking the first 1-2 miles to our Friday night campsite, just inside the wilderness.

Things went well until the midnight thunderstorm soaked Judy's exposed backpack.  $4 \text{ minus } 1 = 3$ . While eating breakfast, Debby reiterated her plans of leaving the group that she had made last evening because her son-in-law's backpack was too heavy.  $3 \text{ minus } 1 = 2$ . Wise decisions made by these ladies to return to their cars. After a bit of readjusting, Lim and I forged on with the original plan of hiking the Otter Creek trail stem to stern.

We spent our time enjoying the "typical" delights of Otter Creek: water roaring around Volkswagon sized boulders, water rushing headlong over cascades and falls, flute-like melodies from the throats of wood thrushes, rhododendrons coming into bloom, the last hurrah made by blooming mountain laurel, and jungle like enclosures of rhododendrons. I am very thankful that God allowed us to spend some time in a corner of paradise placed in Wild, Wonderful West Virginia. ❖





## Meditation Hike in the Southern Mon

By Ruth Blackwell Rogers

On Sunday, July 8th, ten hikers met in still quiet fog at the Forks of Cranberry Trailhead on the Highlands Scenic Highway. After introductions, we set out through the drenched low growth in a comfortable silence. We tried to be attentive to all sounds and sights, walking mindfully and gently. The 2-1/2 mile walk on Black Mountain to Elephant Rocks is fairly stony at first, still recovering from a 1937 fire that burned down through the soil. Spruce, birch, cherry and other hardwood trees are far from mature, but provide habitat for many birds and bears.

Elephant Rocks presented themselves mysteriously in the fog. Exploring the weathered and intriguing forms for a good lunch spot, we found a bowl-shaped formation where we sat in a circle so close together it might be better described as a teacup. Four hikers, natives of Korea, ate beautifully-prepared rice and seaweed dishes with chopsticks. Exotic pickles and fresh fruits were passed around. My peanut butter sandwich on homemade wheat bread seemed very ordinary!

After lunch we found a more expansive area for our period of sitting meditation. First, each of us quietly looked closely at our surroundings and found something to bring to a central place. As each person found a suitable spot for sitting, a prayer of thanksgiving in the Native American tradition was spoken. Then we meditated.

Sitting meditation experiences vary widely, and meditators come to expect thoughts to rise up and float across one's consciousness. Our youngest hiker, a 15-year-old girl from Bethesda, Maryland, wearing new boots, had been meditating on her painful blister! I used the Highlands Conservancy's first aid kit to clean and band-aid the blister, and Larry Kaeser, fashioned moleskin to prevent further injury. The spirit AND the flesh were attended to on this hike!

Following our meditation, we had tea. Chung Moon mixed Chinese and Vietnamese green tea in two tiny Chinese teapots. We drank three rounds as we spoke of ancient ceremonies and philosophies surrounding tea.

As we started back, the sun broke through the fog and our mood became more expansive. The smooth stimulation of green tea prompted conversation and we all got to know each other better. In addition to the Bethesda hikers, folks from Elkins, Huttonsville, Charleston, Lewis County, and southern Upshur County participated in this Mountain Odyssey event. ❖

### Has Gus Douglass Gone Green?

In Gus Douglass' personal publication, "The Market Bulletin," which extolls his virtues as the West Virginia Department of Agriculture Commissioner (paid for by the taxpayers, of course), he devotes a whole page in the July 2001 issue to the "Fifth Annual 'WV Envirothon.'" Forty-three high school student groups competed in Wildlife, Forestry, Aquatics, Soils, Non-point Source runoff [not termed "pollution" apparently] and Applied Integrated Science. Great you say. But get this – the prizes were given by Weyerhaeuser, American Electric Power and Allegheny Energy, notorious environmental degraders. Do you suppose the message that's given to our school children is truly an environmental one? ❖



Cave Explorers ready themselves to sink into the Sinks of Gandy  
Photo: Dave Saville

## Differing Opinions of Foot Trails for the "Plains"

Reactions to Bruce Sundquist's Proposal in the July Voice

### First a reprint of the descriptive parts of Bruce's proposal article.

...Relative to the uniqueness and scenery of the Plains, the foot trail system is clearly inadequate, though in recent years the Forest Service (USFS) has invested heavily in improving the area's four foot trails. There are exceptionally scenic places on the Plains that visitors can get to only via the area's Forest road (FR70) and its pipeline swath. Numerous other exceptional areas are, for all intents and purposes, totally inaccessible and largely unknown to all but the most dedicated explorers. In any other part of the MNF or the West Virginia Highlands, scenery of similar quality would have received the attention of at least one foot trail and would be highlighted on visitor maps ...

The most glaring inadequacy of the foot-trail system on the Plains is the lack of a "backbone" trail running along or near the eastern continental divide that runs north to south through the area. Were such a trail in place, opportunities would be created for other trails that could connect with the backbone trail to form a logical trail system covering the entire Plains to a degree worthy of the area's attributes. A backbone trail would run through much of the most outstanding scenery of the Plains -- right along the rims of the valleys of the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac, Roaring Creek and Long Run (ending on the overlooks on historic Haystack Knob). It would run through the Plains' two largest campsite areas. Despite its high elevation, the route has adequate water supplies close to the trail. Also, because of the severe climate along the eastern continental divide, vegetation tends to not be the dense type that makes trail construction and maintenance hard -- and that limits views. In fact, a backbone trail could be built largely by volunteers.

North Fork Mountain Trail has been named West Virginia's most outstanding foot trail by Outside Magazine. It would probably keep that title even if several adjoining states were thrown into the running. Views along the Plains' backbone trail would be as spectacular as those along North Fork Mountain Trail -- and would be far more varied despite being somewhat fewer in number. The local scenery, environment and opportunities for exploration would also be more varied and interesting along the backbone trail. Also there would be more campsite opportunities. Also the North Fork Mountain Trail has no water sources, and has problems with private ownership on parts of its route. Steep climbs along a backbone trail would be less severe and less numerous than those on North Fork Mountain Trail despite the ruggedness of the Plains in general. Traffic noises and mining noises that are present on parts of North Mountain Trail are absent from the "Plains." All in all, a backbone trail on the Plains would very likely take the "most outstanding" title away from North Fork Mountain Trail -- and probably be the most popular trail on the MNF by a wide margin. It also would have the potential for being extended a relatively short distance south, joining the trail systems of Dolly Sods and the "Plains" to that on the Spruce Knob NRA. Just purchase (or gain easements to) McIntosh Run, an extremely steep, wild, scenic, undeveloped (and undevelopable) stream valley that runs down to the major switch-back on a scenic section of US33 and into the Spruce Knob NRA.

Anyone interested in possible routes for a Plains backbone trail and all of its scenic and other attributes can obtain such a description from the author at <bsundquist1@juno.com> or 724-327-8737 or 210 College Park Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146-1532. ❖

**DIFFERING OPINIONS concl. on page 11**

## Letters

### Thanks for Trail Maintenance Project

Dear WV Highlands Conservancy Voice Editor:

I want to thank the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy for your support of the trail maintenance project in the Seneca Rocks and Seneca Creek area of the Monongahela National Forest. The project, which was in conjunction with AmeriCorps and the WV Trails Coalition, was ongoing from approximately May 24th to June 14th, 2001.

Thanks to all of those who collected trail condition reports and who volunteered their energy to help maintain our trails. A lot of hard work was accomplished in a short period of time. Our workforce raved about the accomplishments of this project.

Your group was an essential part of the success of this endeavor. I appreciate your enthusiasm and concern for our trail program. Thank you, also, for providing all of the meals for the AmeriCorp members. Without your financial support, we could not have supported this worthy resource.

I look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Liz Schuppert, Ranger, Potomac District,  
Petersburg  
July 23, 2001 ✦

### Too much hiker impact

Dear Mr. Reed,

As a member of the WVHC, I'm writing about an item that appeared in the most recent edition of The Highlands Voice (July 2001, volume 34, Number 7). On page 6, there's an item about a backpack trip to Roaring Plains and Flatrock Plains jointly sponsored by WVHC and the Sierra Club.

As I read the trip report, I see that the party consisted of 19 people and two dogs!

From frequent trips to Dolly Sods Wilderness, I know that the maximum party size there is 10 people. I do not know if similar regulations exist at Flatrock/Roaring plains. However, there are good reasons for the party-size regulations in Dolly Sods. Similar practices should be followed by responsible visitors to Flatrock/Roaring Plains regardless of the whether or not regulations are in place.

Simply put, large groups of hikers make too great an impact on the fragile wilderness. Where can 19 people possibly camp with enough open space to set up enough tents? How much noise do they make? How much human waste do they leave behind? How much trail wear is created when 19 people pass by? Are their pets disturbing other hikers or bothering wildlife? If you've ever been seeking solitude in the wilderness on a quiet, solo backpacking trip and been set upon by an enormous group, you'll know exactly what I am talking about. Or, if you've hoped to spend a quiet backcountry evening gazing at the stars and

listening to the sounds of wildlife but instead had to listen to the adjacent campsite's dog bark, you'll also know what I mean.

Furthermore, all published guidelines for responsible and minimal impact wilderness travel suggest small group sizes.

Granted, Flatrock and Roaring Plains, being compromised by a pipeline, isn't true wilderness. But, it is still a fragile, remote and beautiful area which should be accorded the same respect as the adjacent Wilderness of Dolly Sods.

WVHC and the Sierra Club should be ashamed of themselves for sponsoring a backpack trip with this many people. Certainly Bruce Sundquist should know better.

The fact that it was published in the Voice suggests, however, that nobody in charge has a clue about responsible group sizes. This is shameful for organizations that are in the business of wilderness preservation. Publication also conveys the impression that it's okay for a group of 19 people [and] two dogs to trudge off together into the wilderness. It's not okay. And WVHC should not be conveying to its readers the impression that it is.

One more thing. Those two dogs. I hope that they were leashed the entire time. Unleashed dogs (no matter how well mannered) have no place on trails. They pose a hazard to other hikers and often harass wildlife. Some dog owners will claim that Fido has a right to romp freely through the wilderness, but those pet owners should be reminded that dogs are domesticated animals, not wildlife. Therefore, dogs must be under the owner's complete control at all times -- for the safety of the dog as well as out of courtesy to wildlife and other hikers. A leash is the only way to adequately control dogs on public trails. (By the way, I happen to love dogs, just so you don't get the impression I'm some sort of chronic dog hater.)

I hope that, in the future, WVHC and Sierra Club will promote and encourage responsible, courteous backcountry travel. I see also in [the]Voice the schedule for Mountain Odyssey 2001. There are still a few events coming up. They would be a good time to start encouraging responsible practices: small group sizes, no dogs.

Sincerely,

Rob Henning  
Pittsburgh PA, July 31 ✦

### Stop Dominion Power's Greenbrier Pipeline Project

(letter to Judy Rodd, WVHC Sr. V-P)

Dear Ms. Rodd:

We spoke a few weeks ago by telephone concerning a plan by the Dominion Power Corporation to construct a high pressure gas pipeline across some of West Virginia's most remote and mountainous areas.

Dominion had given the seemingly benign name of "Greenbrier Pipeline Project" to its plan. However, the project is neither benign nor green --

except for the dollars that will enrich Dominion at the expense of the natural habitats of West Virginia.

The Greenbrier Pipeline Project will extend for 200 miles through three states (West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina), destroying millions of tons of plant biomass and huge numbers of animal and insect habitats in its path. Thereafter, Dominion will aggressively maintain its 200 miles of cleared pathway with tons of herbicides and a small army of vehicles continuously "maintaining" plant growth and inspecting its rightaway, which it will have, in the final analysis, stolen from the people of West Virginia.

We all had hoped that the days had long passed when a self anointed small privileged group in a corporate entity, whose only aim is economic gain, could set down and draw up a scheme like the Greenbrier Pipeline Project and destroy so much of the natural wild life heritage of the people of West Virginia. Even more disturbing is the fact that new energy technologies are rapidly developing that will make the pipeline obsolete in a few years. Dominion has no doubt calculated, that even though the Greenbrier Pipeline Project might have a short life expectancy; it will still make a profit for the Corporation.

The proposed plan of Dominion calls for the pipeline to exit West Virginia and pass into the State of Virginia and her Jefferson National Forest over a West Virginia high plateau area with an elevation of over 4000 feet above sea level. This tract of land has not been timbered for well over half a century (most of the trees have exceeded 80 feet in height), and contains enormous populations of insects, birds, snakes, lizards, and shelled snails. This plateau contains a vast underground limestone aquatic reservoir that extends to just a few feet below the surface, transporting millions of gallons of what may be some of the purest water on earth. Any disturbance of this fragile system will pollute many square miles of underground water and destroy scores of unique habitats.

Dominion's Greenbrier Pipeline Project is a very serious threat to some of West Virginia's, and our planet's, most irreplaceable remote mountainous areas, the very heart of her natural treasure. I sincerely hope that the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy will take a stand against the Project. I offer my assistance to any area of the Conservancy that may aid in achieving the ultimate abandonment of this poorly conceived corporate endeavor.

Very truly yours,

Jim Williams  
New York City, July 11 ✦

LETTERS concl. on next page



LETTERS from preceding page

Apology on poultry litter story

To the editor:

I wish to offer an apology to anyone who may have been offended by the tone or content of an article attributed to me in the July 2001 edition of the Voice. The story ran next to one titled "Big Chicken Joins with Big Coal" and described an effort in Preston County to reclaim minelands using poultry litter.

My remarks originated as an e-mail message in response to a news item on the project. My original e-mail was directed at one person and was an attempt to find out the rates and potential for impact of poultry litter application. Unfortunately, my off-the-cuff e-mail was later forwarded to a much larger group, and then showed up as the article in the Voice.

As I stated then, the normal agronomic rate of litter application is in the range of 10-25 tons per acre, but that there have been proposals in recent years for sewage sludge application to minelands at 500-800 tons per acre. This is the difference between a beneficial fertilizer application and an environmentally damaging overdose.

I have since learned that the rate applied was relatively low, 3 tons per acre, and corresponds to comparable rates of fertilizer application on such minelands.

Although, I still believe my questions are legitimate, I regret that this e-mail was published with such incomplete information and I regret the tone of the comments. I also regret the damage to the credibility of The Voice for a knee-jerk reaction that may have been unfounded. I hope that, in the future, publication of articles will await a better researched coverage of issues, and I will do my best to refrain from circulating pre-mature conclusions until my questions are answered.

Sincerely,

James Kotcon  
West Virginia University, August 3

*The editor of The Highlands Voice also regrets not having checked with Professor Kotcon before unwittingly publishing statements that happened to be "off the cuff."* ✦

DIFFERING OPINIONS from page 9

Peter Shoenfeld's View of the Proposal

This would be a wonderful project.

However, I like things pretty much the way they are. I'd hate to see the Plains go all the way from under-utilized to crowded. Perhaps a middle ground could be considered. This would be to document some cross-country or "informal trail" routes (including this one) in the next issue of the hiking guide. This would be a valuable service and would increase the accessibility of the area. However, it would continue to attract only the more adventurous.

If USFS got behind this to the extent of acquiring right-of-way for a through trail connecting into Spruce Knob NRA, as you suggest, then I'd be for it. ✦

No More Trails on the "Plains"

By David McMahon

I write to differ, in part, with Bruce Sundquist's article in the July 2001 Voice entitled "Foot Trail on the Plains."

I agree with Bruce about user fees, that "over time, recreational users must start paying their share of the costs of national forest management." In the foreseeable political climate it is the only way to raise the funds needed. A two dollar a day fee would raise lots of money. That daily fee would be a pittance compared to pleasure gained, compared to the cost of backpacking equipment, and compared to what users of public swimming pools, golf courses and picnic areas pay.

I disagree with Bruce about the need to create new trails in Dolly Sods North and Roaring Plains.

I like orienteering style hiking/backpacking. Get a topo map. Study it. Decide where a good camp site, natural point of interest, or scenic view might just be found. Plan a way to get there by a compass reading or two. Or figure out how to orienteer there just by reading the contours - that's how I get from the turn of Red Creek Plains Trail to the great campsite on the eastern shoulder of Roaring Plains. Go to an access point. Orient the map. Try to find the place without a trail. Maybe you'll find an unexpected interesting place.

Orienteering is difficult to do anywhere else in West Virginia. In the rest of West Virginia the vegetation is too dense to see through or even, in places, too dense to get a person through with their pack still attached. In Roaring Plains and Dolly Sods North, the vegetation is less dense so trails are not a must. And since there are more views, a trail is not necessary to be sure that the hiker gets to the few views available. The views in these two areas vary between interesting to great just about everywhere you can hike.

Bruce also makes the point that trails in other areas are overused. I agree. It would have to be proven to me, however, that the volume of trails to be added would make a difference and not themselves become over used. And I think the trails that are overused are in the popular areas. It is the best-known trails that are overused. Bruce's fine hiking guide has lots and lots of other trails that I'll bet are not overused. We need strategies to make those trails more popular.

Anybody can backpack these days who can read a trail sign, light a Coleman Stove, and put up a nylon tent complete with a waterproof floor already sewn in. The days when a backpacker had to know how to make a hot fire in order to get dinner cooked are gone. I accept much of that as necessary, but I miss the days when more advanced wilderness skills were needed to enjoy the wilderness.

If you must do something for hikers in the area, simply mark on the maps in the Hiking Guide the points of interest worth orienteering to. There are lots of trails for those who want to use them. Leave some places for those who would like a break from trails. Leave two places that can be enjoyed by someone with more wilderness savvy, or someone willing to learn and try more wilderness savvy -- places where a more pristine experience can still be found. ✦

FLOODS from page 5

Table 3

Watershed 4 Streamflow Peaks, in mm

Rank	Date	Peak flow
1	11/4/85	161 Juan
2	10/15/54	114 Hazel
3	6/6/81	109
4	2/10/57	98
5	5/24/58	83
6	3/5/63	74
7	3/6/67	72
8	12/22/70	70
9	5/28/56	67
10	8/11/84	63
10	4/30/66	63
12	1/22/59	61
13	3/21/62	59
14	3/19/63	58
15	7/9/85	54
15	1/29/70	54
17	4/28/58	53
18	11/28/85	51
19	3/5/64	49
19	8/16/75	49

HUBBARD BROOK, N.H., CLEARCUT & SEDIMENT (Kg/ha) (Kg/ha, or Kilogram/hectare, is about the same as pounds/acre)

Yr.	Control	Cut	Increase
1966	4	13	3.25 X
1967	31	67	2.16 X
1968	10	92	9.20 X
1969	13	195	15.00 X
1970	42	365	8.69 X
1971	5	97	19.40 X
1972	6	22	3.67 X
<b>Totals</b>	111	851	7.67 X

The C-1 watershed at the USFS Hydrological Lab in North Carolina reports "All trees in this catchment were cut, first in 1939, and again in 1962. The logs were not removed either time - there were no skid trails, no roads, and almost no soil disturbance. Yet annual sediment transport was still well above reference levels" over twenty years later. This very surely had to be due to channel enlargement as it had to "carry over twice as much flow" annually. ✦



## Senator Byrd's Address to the Senate Commemorating the Wilderness Act of 1964

### Congressional Record - Senate

September 8, 1999

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the Chair. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Wisconsin, Senator FEINGOLD, for bringing us together today to celebrate the passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Too often, the pressing events of the day prevent us from remembering so many important pieces of legislation. I am happy that we are able to take a moment to recognize a historic piece of legislation.

Let me begin with a look backward over the well-traveled road of history. It is only fitting that we turn our faces backward so that we might be better informed and prepared to deal with future events. On a whole range of important issues, the Senate has always been blessed with Senators who were able to rise above political parties, and consider first and foremost the national interest. There are many worthy examples throughout the Senate's history.

My friend and former colleague, Senator Mike Mansfield, and other distinguished Members of the Senate understood this point well. Political polarization, a simple zero-sum strategy by one party to achieve a short-lived victory while demonizing the other party, is not now, and has never been, a good thing for the Senate. I know that Americans have always loved a good debate. I believe that this is one of the lessons that we can take from the passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Members on both sides of the issue focused on the more substantive and stimulating policy challenges rather than allowing pure politics and imagery to enter into the fray.

The debate on the Wilderness Act of 1964 serves as a great example of the Senate's charge in taking a leadership role and working over the long term to Pass historic pieces of legislation. I believe the bill's chief sponsor, Senator Clinton Anderson from New Mexico, understood this point well when he said, upon consideration of the conference report, an August 20, 1964:

"What we have done we have done not only to meet the urgency of the moment, but for the future. In no area has this Congress more decisively served the future well-being of the Nation than in passing legislation to conserve natural resources and to provide the means by which our people could enjoy them. One of the brightest stars in the constellation of conservation measures is the -wilderness bill".

The path of the wilderness legislation through Congress has sometimes been as rugged as the forests and mountains embraced by the wilderness system

The Senate understood there was a need to protect America's unique places, and members worked to craft a proposal over a number of years that could achieve that end. Senator George McGovern, another key supporter of the Wilderness Act, observed:

"I think each of us has been enriched at one time or another through our experiences with natural undisturbed areas of the country, its comparatively uncluttered open spaces, its lakes and woods, have special appreciation for the purpose of the wilderness preservation system. As the population of our country grows and as our city areas become more contested, it is all the more imperative that we look to the preservation of great primitive outdoor areas, where people can go for recreational and inspirational experience."

The U.S. population has since grown by more than 70 percent since the Wilderness Act of 1964 was enacted. In addition to land preservation, the act has encouraged the discovery of America's history, promoted recreation, provided for its diverse wildlife and ecosystems, and satisfied people's urge for solace

and a return to wild places. The definition of wilderness according to the act is "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." Initially endowed with 9.1 million acres of public lands, the wilderness system today encompasses more than 104 million acres in forty-four States.

My home state of West Virginia remains wild and wonderful because of Congress' actions. Covered from end to end by the ancient Appalachian Mountains, West Virginia remains, to me, one of the most beautiful, one of the most unique of all places and I have seen lot of places throughout the world in my time. It is the most southern of the northern States and the most northern of the Southern states; the most eastern of the Western States and the most western of the eastern States; where the east says good morning to the west, and where Yankee Doodle and Dixie kiss each other good night. The luscious mountains gently roll across that land, providing an elegant sense of mystery to the landscape. The wilderness of my State has given West Virginians a freedom to explore. This freedom has been secured and protected so that future generations -- like my baby granddaughter, her children, and her children's children -- will be able to say Montani Semper Liberi, Mountaineers are always free!

Four wilderness areas have been designated in West Virginia since the 1964 act. Each area captures and preserves uniquely a beautiful aspect of a State that has, I believe, more than its fair share of native loveliness. God must have been in a spendthrift mood when he made West Virginia!

In the Otter Creek Wilderness Area, consisting of 20,000 acres so designated in 1975, you can follow the same twisting trails that early settlers to the area wove through the dense forest. Amid the stands of towering White Oaks, dark hickory, and ghostly poplar trees, you may discover stunted groves of apple trees, remnants of an early settler's orchard. Maybe Johnny Appleseed came that way.

Also designated in 1975, the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area preserves 10,000 acres of Canada that somehow migrated south and chose to settle in West Virginia. Heath thickets, bogs, and low-growing evergreens combine to establish a wide open feeling akin to more northerly climes such as those of Minnesota. Offering scenic vistas, Dolly Sods is a famed spot in which to enjoy hiking, camping, fishing, and nature watching.

The Cranberry Wilderness Area proves the regenerative power of nature. Its 35,864 acres were logged in the early part of this century, with the valuable timber shipped by steam locomotives to a mill in Richwood. It also suffered severe wildfires which raged over much of the area. In order to restore it to its natural condition, the Forest Service purchased the land in 1934 -- the year I graduated from high school. Now grown into a mature forest, the Cranberry Wilderness Area received its official designation in 1983.

Consisting of more than 12,000 acres, Laurel Fork Wilderness Area was once a profitable source of lumber at the beginning of the century. Laurel Fork has since been preserved and is a source of the Cheat River. Designated in 1983, Laurel Fork Wilderness has a wide blend of wildlife and foliage special to Appalachia. Among the Birch, Beech, and Maple trees which grow in the area, live the native species of West Virginia such as white-tail deer, wild turkey, bobcat, and even black bear.

I might note that perhaps one of the most majestic of wildlife species protected by these wilderness areas throughout the U.S. is the bald eagle. Symbolizing America's freedom and strength, the bald eagle, in fact, has been recently removed from the endangered species list, and will continue to soar for future generations of Americans.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 enabled West Virginians to preserve the natural beauty of their State for themselves and for the nation now and forever. I believe that Senator Anderson summarized it best when he said:

"Deep down Inside of most Americans is a love of the out-of-doors. It is an effort to protect and preserve, unspoiled, just a little bit of the vast wilderness which stretched ocean to ocean on this continent less than 300 years ago, so that this love of the great, unspoiled, out-of-doors which to a part of us can be gratified."

I would like to take a moment to recognize a number of former colleagues who took a leadership role in passing the Wilderness Act of 1964. Many of them were fairly close friends of mine. There was Senator Anderson, whose name I have spoken earlier, Thomas Kuchel, Hubert Humphrey, Henry Jackson, Frank Church, Frank Lausche, Paul Douglas, Harrison Williams, Jennings Randolph -- my former colleague from West Virginia -- Joseph Clark, William Proxmire, Maurine Neuberger, Lee Metcalf, George McGovern, David Nelson -- they took a leadership role in guiding this piece of legislation through the Senate. The Senate has considered many thousands of pieces of legislation on a myriad of topics over the last several years. I am proud to stand here today and say that this piece of legislation, the Wilderness Act of 1964, stands as a great example of what this body can accomplish when it sets its collective mind to it. These were the sponsors of the Wilderness Act in the 88th Congress.

In closing, I want to welcome my colleagues back from the prairies and the plains, the mountains and the hollows and the hills, the broad valleys. We have much work to do in these coming weeks and we can learn much from the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the dedication and commitment of those Senators who worked to fulfill their vision by enacting that great piece of legislation, their vision of a future continent which would be preserved for the men and women who would come after them.

BYRD concl. on next page



# Fly Fishers Cite Threats to Blackwater River

## State Appeals Judge Zakaib's Gutting of Blackwater Pollution Limits

By Judy Rodd

The Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF), headquartered in Livingston, Montana, has named the Blackwater River in Tucker County as one of America's four most endangered fisheries. "For the economic benefit of a select few, we are destroying many of America's most magnificent resources," said FFF Endangered Fisheries Coordinator Bob Molzahn (610-524-1911). "Protecting our environmental riches is, in economic terms alone, far more important than putting more money into the pockets of a few companies."

The FFF announcement described the Blackwater River as: "...one of the most superb trout fisheries found in the eastern United States." The FFF statement continued: "The 32-mile long river flows through Tucker County in West Virginia's scenic highlands, beginning in a high mountain wetland and ending in a steep wild canyon. The river flows through the Monongahela National Forest, the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Blackwater Falls State Park, plummeting 1,500 feet over its length and draining 142 square miles. The risks to the Blackwater River are numerous.

Sections of the Upper and Lower Blackwater and nine of its tributaries fail to meet state and federal water quality standards. Past and current mining activities have polluted portions of the river with acid mine drainage. The continued development of golf courses, condominiums and ski resorts in Canaan Valley threatens the river with depleted oxygen levels from sewage flows and increased water consumption. New condos planned for Blackwater Canyon will add to this pollution load as well, and major corporate landowners have recently stepped-up logging in the area. This

logging threatens the river with heightened sedimentation, increased likelihood of downstream flooding, and further threatens endangered species."

"Lovers of this fragile river system must continue to be watchdogs," said Molzahn. "At stake is their health, and that of their economy. Studies continue to prove that the most competitive economies are those with strong environmental standards. West Virginia ranks near the bottom in both."

In a related development, West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Michael Callaghan has appealed a ruling by Kanawha County Circuit Court Judge Paul Zakaib, that threw out strict pollution limits on the Upper Blackwater River. "The ruling of the circuit court will jeopardize the continued status of the Upper Blackwater River as a trout stream," said Callaghan. DEP Water Resources Chief Allyn Turner said that the DEP standards that Zakaib threw out in May of 2001 were designed to assure sufficient levels of dissolved oxygen for healthy aquatic life. Sewage discharges have been blamed for reducing oxygen levels in the river. The West Virginia Supreme Court will decide in the Fall whether to hear the DEP appeal.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy's Blackwater Canyon Campaign and the Friends of Blackwater strongly support the DEP pollution limits for the Blackwater River. The health of this fishery is closely tied to the long-term property values and economic well-being of the Northern West Virginia Highlands - as well as the health and well-being of the creatures that live in and use this magnificent river.

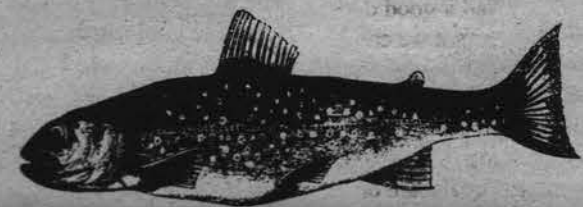
Thanks to the Federation of Fly Fishers and the WVDEP for taking a strong and proactive

### BYRD from preceding page

Far too often these days, we get caught up in the partisan wrangling of tax cuts, educational needs, national security demands, Social Security changes, health care reform, and much, much more -- all of which subjects are extremely important. The public has become concerned about what it is that we actually do in this Chamber. In reflecting upon the Wilderness Act of 1964, I find a great example of what this body can achieve when it puts its whole mind and its whole spirit into it. Again I thank my colleague for his kindness in inviting me to participate here this afternoon in recalling our footsteps down the long hall of memories.

In closing, I am reminded of the words of one of America's foremost conservationists, and outdoorsman, John Muir:

"Oh, these vast, calm, measureless mountain days, inciting at once to work and rest! Days in whose light everything seems equally divine, opening a thousand windows to show us God. Nevermore, however weary, should one faint by the way who gains the blessing of one mountain day: whatever his fate, long life, short life, stormy or calm, he is rich forever. . . I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was going in. One touch of nature ... maker, all the world kin." ♣



stance to protect this important resource and beloved part of the creation!

*Judy Rodd is Senior Vice-President of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and co-chair of the Blackwater Canyon Committee ♣*

**West Virginia's natural world is under increasing pressure from exploitation, especially under the new administration in Washington, DC. Powerful political and corporate interests, unfortunately, have no qualms about destroying our beautiful state under the guise of our nation's energy or economic need. To save as much as we can of West Virginia, and to promote a move towards renewable energy sources, 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 put it in the mail.**

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

## DEP Years Behind on Mine Runoff Rules

*Agency promises to look into flood-related violations written by field inspectors*

By Ken Ward, Jr.

*Excerpts from an article in the Sunday July 15, 2001 Charleston Gazette-Mail by Ken Ward, Jr.*

More than a decade ago, federal officials ordered West Virginia regulators to toughen rules meant to prevent runoff or flooding from strip mines. In 1990, US Office of Surface Mining (OSM) officials said the state needed more stringent design rules for certain types of mine ponds. OSM officials also said the state needed rules to require more detailed scrutiny of changes in pond design or construction. Under federal orders, the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was supposed to write the new rules by June 1, 1992.

Today, those stronger rules have still not been written, state and federal records show. As late as November, DEP officials lobbied OSM to try to avoid rewriting the rules.

Last week, Southern West Virginia residents blamed strip mine runoff for making worse the damage from the July 8 heavy rainstorms. DEP inspectors cited more than a dozen mine sites for flood-related violations. The citations did not involve large-scale coal mine waste impoundments. Instead, operators were cited because much smaller ponds and diversion ditches did not properly contain runoff.

Gov. Bob Wise and various top DEP officials, however, have questioned whether mining contributed to the flooding. Wise has asked for a study and wants to "keep an open mind" on the issue, spokesman Bill Case said.

It is impossible to say if the tougher rules proposed by OSM would have prevented all mining-related flood damage last week. But OSM officials believe the tougher rules would help make sure mine sites control more of their sediment and runoff.

On Friday, Michael O. Callaghan, Gov. Bob Wise's DEP secretary, declined to comment on OSM's demand for tougher state mine runoff rules. Callaghan said that he and his staff were too busy helping with flood cleanup efforts to discuss or debate the need for more stringent regulations. "I'll take a look at that," Callaghan said. "But it's not going to be soon. Right now, we're dealing with an emergency situation."

Under the 1977 federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, states are allowed to police their own mining industries. OSM is required to make sure that the states do a good job. Periodically, federal officials review state mining rules, and their enforcement. If state rules are too weak, or aren't properly enforced, OSM is required to make the states improve. If states don't comply, OSM is required to take over enforcement of mining rules in those states.

Under federal regulations, mining operations must design sediment ponds, drainage ditches and other water diversions to "provide protection against flooding and resultant damage to life and property." Among other things, federal regulations require that all ponds and other water-retention structures be able to safely withstand a 25-year, 24-hour storm.

In 1990 or before, West Virginia officials wrote different rules to govern different types of ponds. Under the state's rules, ponds that are built above ground would have to comply with the 25-year storm guidelines. But ponds that are dug into the ground would only have to be able to withstand 10-year, 24-hour storms.

In 1990, OSM officials told the state that its proposal didn't comply with federal rules. They told the state to rewrite the rules, so that dug-out ponds would have to meet the 25-year storm rules. OSM gave the state a deadline of June 1, 1992. The deadline came and went. West Virginia officials never rewrote the rule, and OSM never took any action to force the state's hand.

Ten years before, in 1990, OSM told the state that any changes in the design or construction of sediment control structures must be approved through permit modifications. Permit modifications receive additional regulatory scrutiny. Engineers, hydrologists and permit specialists review them. In its rules, the state proposed to have many types of design changes reviewed and approved only by field inspectors. OSM opposed the state's plans, and gave the DEP until June 1 to rewrite its rules. Again, that deadline came and went. The state did nothing, and OSM took no action.

In January, OSM officials published a Federal Register notice concerning a series of state rule changes that DEP wanted OSM to approve. In that announcement, OSM noted that DEP continued to oppose the two rules changes that OSM had ordered concerning sediment ponds and

ditches. OSM accepted public comments on the announcement through Feb. 2. Coal industry officials did not comment on the sediment pond issues.

Cindy Rank, mining chairwoman for the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, mentioned them in a letter commenting on the OSM announcement. Rank urged OSM not to exempt West Virginia from the 25-year, 24-hour storm design requirements for sediment ponds and ditches. "OSM may not remove this requirement since it has promulgated a federal regulation requiring these standards to prevent failure, flooding and erosion," Rank wrote. "OSM's standard has been subject to a public notice and comment process and is necessary to protect communities and the environment from rain storms. Any lesser standard is not as effective as federal law." Rank also urged OSM to force the state to rewrite its rules governing review of design changes. "Again, the state submissions improperly relies on guidance documents and is, in any event, less protective than the federal program," she wrote.

Last year, lawyers for the Conservancy filed a federal court lawsuit to try to force OSM to make DEP rewrite more than 30 state mining rules that OSM found to be too weak. The sediment control and runoff rules are among the regulations noted in the conservancy's lawsuit. The suit is pending before Chief U.S. District Judge Charles H. Haden II in Charleston. ❖

### True Cost of Coal Double the Market Cost

From the European Union in Brussels comes this. The cost of producing electricity from coal or oil would double if costs such as damage to the environment and health were taken into account, according to the results of a study published last week.

The cost of electricity production from gas would increase by 30 percent if these so-called "external costs" were factored in, the European Union-funded research study found.

The study's findings were reported by the EU's executive Commission.

It said such "external" costs amounted to between one and two percent of the EU's Gross Domestic Product, not including the cost of global warming.

The study found that nuclear power involved relatively low external costs due to its low influence on global warming and the low probability of accidents in EU power plants, according to the Commission.

Wind and hydro energy presented the lowest external costs, it said.

European Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin urged energy producers to come up with environmentally friendly options to help reduce the costs of damage to the environment and health.

The study said the cost of environmental and health damage could be taken into account either by taxing damaging fuels and technologies or by encouraging cleaner technologies, the approach the Commission said it had opted for.

The study was the result of work carried out over the last decade by researchers from all EU member states, the Commission said. ❖

### MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST HIKING GUIDE, 7<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

BY ALLEN DEHART & BRUCE SUNDQUIST  
WEST VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY,  
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## Calendar

**August 11 (Saturday)** - Stop Mountain Range Removal Strategy Meeting 10 AM to 4 PM. Asbury United Methodist Church, 501 Elizabeth St., Charleston, WV. Since the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals tossed out Judge Haden's ruling on valley fills, many people have wondered what is next in our push for an end to mountain range removal. All interested groups and individuals are urged to attend this joint strategy meeting. Where do we go next in terms of lawsuits, actions, public opinion and legislative action? It would be great if each of us could arrive with a list of ideas and concerns. If you can, please bring vittles to share for lunch. (But please don't let that stop you from coming if you haven't the time to prepare anything!) OVEC will provide drinks and desserts.

**August 11-** Dr. James Ebeling is holding a free lecture at The Freshwater Institute from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM entitled "Engineering Assessment of Alternative Wastewater Treatment Options for Individual Residences." This course is being presented by the National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities (NETCSC) based out of Morgantown, WV. If you would like to attend or need more information contact Matthew Mullenax at <m.mullenax@freshwaterinstitute.org>.

**August 18 (Saturday)** - The rescheduled summer WV Highlands Conservancy Board of Directors meeting has been cancelled.

**September 22** - Shaver's Fork Coalition benefit concert. Spelunker's Camp, East Dailey, WV, south of Elkins. See details on this page.

**October 12 thru 14** - Fall Review (Board meeting on the 14th).

"2001- An Outdoor Odyssey"- see outings schedule on page 8.

**October 13 and 14** - Eastern Forest Summit, 4-H Conference Center in Bethesda, Maryland. See detailed announcement on this page.

**April 17, 2002 (Wednesday)** - "Journeying toward Ecological Conversion: Practical Steps toward Earth-Friendly Facilities." A conference describing ways to make church and parish facilities more ecologically friendly will be sponsored by Catholic Committee of Appalachia at John XXIII Pastoral Center, Charleston, WV, on Wednesday, April 17, 2002. Cost of the Conference is \$25. It will be possible for participants to stay over on Tuesday and/or Wednesday evening by contacting John XXIII Center directly at (304) 342-0507. For more information, contact: Todd Garland at the Catholic Committee of Appalachia (304) 847-7215 or e-mail <appalachia@earthlink.net>; Patricia Peters, OP at (304) 335-6815 or <srpatop@hotmail.com>; Carol Warren, Justice and Life Office (304)343-3360 <jandloffice@earthlink.net>. Brochures describing the conference in greater detail will be available shortly. ✦

### Landslide Brought Them down (from Daily Grist of August 3)

Floods and landslides have rushed down the sides of mountains earlier this week on the Indonesian island of Nias, destroying villages and causing at least 60 deaths. Deforestation may have caused the floods. Indonesia's largest environmental group, Walhi, found in a study this year that flash floods have occurred exactly where deforestation was worst in the country. Walhi's Longgena Ginting said the floods were "really a sign of the environmental destruction of Indonesia," where he said seven out of 10 logs are illegally cut.

Similar links between deforestation and floods have been found in China, Thailand, the Philippines, and Malaysia.

straight to the source: New York Times, Seth Mydans, 02 Aug 2001  
<<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/08/02/international/02NDO.html>> ✦



### Eagle Report (submitted by Don Gasper from DNR publication)

It looks like 2001 will be a banner year for bald eagles in the Mountain State. Twelve nests are active, and as of this writing, chicks have been observed in most nests. In 2000 there were ten active nests, but two nests were abandoned early in the nesting season.

This year all ten pairs are doing well, and a new nest was built on Blennerhassett Island near Parkersburg (but abandoned in May). This is the first confirmed nesting in the Ohio River drainage of West Virginia. ✦

### Eastern Forest Summit

October 13th and 14th, 2001

4-H Conference Center in Bethesda, Maryland

Come join fellow eastern forest activists and advocates for a weekend of celebration, visioning and planning for the protection and restoration of the eastern forests. It is time for eastern forest advocates to rally together and bring the nation's attention to the forests out America's back door - the eastern forests. These are the forests where most Americans live, the source of everything from clean air and water to wildlife and recreation for two-thirds of the American people. It is time to tell our story and be heard.

The Summit will help us:

Learn about the ecoregions in the eastern forests.

Get a report on the threats to eastern forests and their current ecological status.

Shape a unique identity for eastern forests.

Explore public attitudes towards eastern forests and possible effective messages.

Evaluate opportunities for future collaboration between eastern forest groups.

If you want to participate, please contact:

Jad Daley, Coordinator, Appalachian Partnership for Eastern Forests. e-mail: [amccons@mindspring.com](mailto:amccons@mindspring.com) 609-818-1776 ✦

### Shaver's Fork River Coalition Benefit Concert

On Saturday, September 22, 2001, there will be a benefit concert for the Shaver's Fork River Coalition held at the Spelunker's Camp in East Dailey, West Virginia.

Headlining this First Annual Elkhenge Music Festival will be Juggling Suns, a New Jersey based jam band inspired by the late Jerry Garcia. Also performing will be Montaneros, a well known area Salsa dance band and Axis, a driving blues group featuring Richard Smith.

Food concessions will be offered by Smokin Joe's Smokehouse of Elkins, specializing in authentic Jerk Chicken. Vendors offering a variety of handmade crafts will also be on hand.

The BYOB event also encourages overnight camping, and will be held rain or shine. Gates will open at 2 PM for whiffle ball/volleyball etc, with music slated for 5 PM -12 midnight.

Dogs will not be permitted on the festival grounds. A \$5 cover charge will go directly to the River Coalition.

The Shaver's Fork River Coalition is a non profit organization dedicated to the preservation and monitoring of water quality in this Cheat River tributary.

The Spelunker's Camp is located 8 miles south of Elkins on US 219/250. Just after the Bruce's Store south of Beverly, look for signs and turn left on the Back Road. The concert site is 1 mile on the right.

For vending and general information, please call 637-3911 or e-mail: <gene-o@meer.net>. Hope to see you there!!

## Messages from the Front Flood Damage Like Battle Zone By Bob Marshall

July 17, 2001. Folks, just a quick update on the Highlands Conservancy (WVHC) / Coalition on Responsible Logging's (CORL) Flood relief effort. The first delivery of supplies to Coal River Mountain Watch (CRMW) in Whitesville, Boone County, was made by myself and a groups of our members on Sunday afternoon. A trailer load of cleaning supplies, shovels, bedding, and food was handed out to flood victims within minutes of its arrival at CRMW headquarters. All the recipients were extremely appreciative of the help, as were the CRMW staff, led by Judy Bonds.

Afterward, we were able to tour some of the nearby sites of flooding with the help of one of the local residents. The level of destruction, and amount of damage was overwhelming. Most folks lost everything they had, and few had any flood insurance. The force of the waters destroyed most bridges, undercut roadways, and washed houses off their foundations. It really reminded me of a war zone, with the National Guard everywhere, manning checkpoints at each intersection, and army bulldozers and trucks clearing and hauling away debris!

I came away with a feeling that although the devastation was massive, these determined folks will do whatever it takes to restore their communities. Obviously, much remains to be done. I encourage folks to continue sending donations to: WVHC, P.O. Box 306, Charleston, WV 25301, so that we may take more supplies and materials to the flood victims. Anyone wishing to help with the cleanup personally, may call Judy Bonds, CRMW, 854-2182. If you have donations of supplies, call me at home at 372-7501 after 8 PM. We are planning more deliveries this week, and next. The support from our members so far has been tremendous. Thanks for all your help, let's keep up the good work.

August 6, 2001. As our relief effort developed in the following weeks, thousands of dollars of donations have been given to WVHC, for CORL to distribute to the needy. We had a follow-up delivery by Dave Saville, with help from Frank Slider and Doug Miley, a paddler from Ohio, about a week from the first trip to Boone County. The supplies were immediately snatched up by folks who truly appreciated the help, and often were falling thru the cracks of the systems in place in the flood areas.

Most recently, we have elected to work through two local groups, Plateau Action Network (PAN) in Fayette County, and the Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS). Both groups received \$1,000 from the WVHC the first week of August, to be used in the long-term recovery process, such as to help rebuild homes and repair salvageable buildings. We felt that people who already had a presence in the flood area could better utilize and distribute the funds, and I feel that both PAN and SALS are kindred groups to WVHC, as we share many of the same views and goals.

**I cannot personally thank enough all those who responded to our call to action for the flood victims (who truly are victims of the greed of the extractive timber and coal industries in southern WV). We can all be proud to be a part of an organization that doesn't just talk, but backs it up with action. I have learned that our love of this state really shines when the chips are down. Let's not forget all the victims of this tragedy, but rather**

## Stone Letter to Capito

Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
2nd District, West Virginia  
1431 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
July 21, 2001

Dear Congresswoman Capito:

I attended the Energy Forum at Riverside High School in Belle, WV which you sponsored on 16 July. I was part of a group of concerned citizens who are alarmed by the Bush Administration's promotion of coal and nuclear power as the chief sources of national energy in the foreseeable future. We are particularly concerned about the proposals made by the panel at the forum which, we believe, will have adverse consequences in the state of West Virginia.

First, let me state that I realize that the mining of coal in West Virginia cannot, arbitrarily, be dismissed without alternative sources of energy being available. I also realize that these sources cannot be put online right away. It is, however, apparent to anyone with eyes to see and ears to hear that the destructive practice of mountaintop removal is abhorrent and must stop. It not only ravishes the beauty of the area, but destroys whole ecological systems which can never be reclaimed (reclamation is truly an oxymoronic term). Communities in the area of mountaintop removal have their whole quality of life diminished (recent flooding is one telling consequence of this practice).

We are concerned, too, with coal-fired plants which are not regulated under the Clean Air Act, and which continue to spew carcinogenic materials into the air and water of West Virginia.

I pointed out to Congressman Barton of Texas at your forum that while oil did benefit the average citizen of Texas to some extent, coal has never done that for the average citizen of West Virginia. The proof is the poverty of the coal mining areas of our state. You find in these areas, the poorest schools, the poorest healthcare and the poorest infrastructure. The only people that coal enriches are the coal companies, equipment suppliers, stock holders and politicians. Oil does not ravage the land as coal does (particularly MTR), although certainly oil spills in waterways and oceans have their own severe ecological consequences.

I am a member of a West Virginia Interfaith Global Climate Change Campaign, now a nationwide campaign. We are dedicated to a responsible stewardship of the earth, educating religious congregations and others about ways to conserve & preserve "God's Creation." We are made up of a widely diverse group of people, Christians, Jews, Hindus, Muslims, Unitarians, Ba'hai, Buddhists and others. We all look to our scriptures and own personal moral compasses for guidance in how to deal with the terrible things that have happened and continue to happen to our planet. We believe it is incumbent upon us to encourage environmental awareness and to educate ourselves and others about ways to prevent further degradation of the earth's components. We therefore view any practices, such as mountaintop removal, as a sacrilegious affront to all that we, as people of faith, believe in. (Since I know that you are Presbyterian, may I point out that we have many Presbyterians in our group, marvelously committed people).

Essentially, I hope that the Bush Administration will listen to those of us who are concerned about the environment. We do not want a "token acknowledgment." We want real effort and recognition. We want serious and immediate commitment to alternative energy sources which are less damaging to the planet, and we want a voice in all decisions with respect to the future of energy in our country.

It is time that we consider what we are bequeathing to future generations. If not kept in check NOW, the present policies of excess consumerism in alliance with laissez-faire attitudes by government and corporations, will assure the not-too-distant destruction of our earth for any viable quality of life.

Thank you.

Kathryn A. Stone

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**resolve to continue to extend a helping hand whenever and wherever we can. Let's also not relent in our efforts to change the system of abuse and environmental destruction in WV, for that is the only way we will ever truly help those living in harms way to recover their quality of life and peace of mind.**

*Bob Marshall serves on the Board of Directors of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. ✦*

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