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# The Highlands Voice

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## Corridor H: Hard Candy, Soft Center?

By Hugh Rogers

For three weeks, the Parsons Advocate prepared the public for an "informational public meeting on Corridor H" on September 26 at the Davis town hall. Although the notice gave no details, there was a lot to talk about: surveys for endangered species, a report from the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, elimination of most alignment options west of Parsons, and possible changes near Greenland Gap.

However, the meeting was more informal than informational. Davis Town Council and the Tucker County Commission had been asking for updates for months. The West Virginia Department of Transportation (DOT) had scheduled a field review nearby on the 26th. The county commission was occupied but the council was not, so the highway engineers drew straws and the loser dropped in after work.

Jason Foster, a young project manager, said the Federal Highway Administration had approved the corridor section that would begin just east of Davis, pass the Mt. Storm power plant, and terminate on top of the Allegheny Front near Bismarck. Right of way purchase or condemnation could begin next year, but there were no funds for final design or construction before 2004. That was what he knew. The meeting began at 5:59 and ended around 6:07.

Council members and the dozen or so in the audience had not expected more. One man recalled that Corridor H had been "on the books" since 1965 but it took thirty years to open the section from Buckhannon to Elkins. At that rate, the part in Tucker County wouldn't be finished before 2020 or 2030. Foster said he couldn't disagree, it all depended on funding. The audience shook their heads. They were people who tended to be cynical about government, taxes, and everyone else's motives, but they had a sentimental belief in the promise of "our road." They were like hard candy with soft centers.

Typically, the "environmentalists," people who'd be happy not to see the road for twenty or a hundred years, showed up a few minutes late. They walked across the street to Sirianni's Pizzas to exchange some hard news.

(1) Squirrel Avoidance Alternatives:

The Corridor H Citizens Advisory Group for the Blackwater area studies -- a group established by the court-approved settlement agreement -- had met

earlier in September to hear results of a recent survey for the endangered West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel. The news was they had found some. In fact, they had found more of the squirrels in the path of Corridor H than in any other area in the state. DOT's consultant quickly generated a map with bold brown and purple lines circling to the west of Tucker County High School and descending Backbone Mountain below US 219. The lines were labeled "SAA 1" and "SAA 2," the Squirrel Avoidance Alternatives. According to the consultant, studying the new sub-alignments and negotiating with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on impacts to the endangered species will further delay the draft environmental impact statement by six to nine months.

(2) Blackwater Industrial Complex:

In August, the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places reaffirmed that the BIC was eligible for the register on all four criteria: (a) significance to the economic and social development of the state and nation; (b) association with an important historical figure, i.e., Henry G. Davis; (c) embodiment of distinctive architecture and construction of a definable period; and (d) presence of important, intact archaeological remains. The Keeper agreed with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) that mining reclamation in the Coketon area had not destroyed the district's integrity. Thus, the Blackwater River corridor from Thomas to Hendricks retained its status as "4(f)"

**CORR H continued on page 10**

## New Fuel for an Eminently Sane Crusade

*Small Ohio Valley Environment Group Deserves its Honors*

By Dave Peyton

(This article appeared in the Charleston Daily Mail on September 24, and is reprinted here with permission)

I had to chuckle when I read the news release announcing that the Ford Foundation had awarded \$130,000 to three members of the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition. "(Dianne) Bady, (Janet) Fout and (Laura) Forman are now well known to the political and industrial leaders of the Ohio River Valley," according to the foundation.

In the vast library of mankind's understatements, this one surely must rank right up there with St. Matthew's biblical underestimation when describing Jesus in the wilderness: "After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry."

When the Ford Foundation announced last week that the three, representing OVEC, had been awarded \$100,000 to advance their work and an additional \$30,000 to "strengthen their skills and for other supporting activities over the next two years," it probably sent some of the business people in this region in search of the Pepto-Bismol bottle.

The award not only gives OVEC more resources to raise issues some would rather not see raised, but it legitimizes the environmental group in the eyes of a major foundation and perhaps the world.

**OVEC concluded on page 5**

### In Memoriam

To those innocents that were tragically killed by the events of September 11, 2001

"The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it... Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate...adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

## From the Western Slope of the Mountains

By Frank Young

### Peace, Dignity and Justice for all People of the World

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy extends its deepest sympathy to the victims, their families, and all others touched by the recent terrorist attacks. In the face of this tragedy, we stand united in purpose with our national leaders and all other Americans. This purpose includes support and consolation for those who have suffered, strengthening our security, and, when possible, disabling the means of future attack.

Our advocacy for solutions to the environmental problems of our state and nation will continue. However, in the face of this crisis we stand united with all other Americans of good will, including our traditional adversaries, in our determination to see our nation and its people protected from further attack.

We abhor the death and destruction of the month past. Good people of the world want peace. Peace comes only with dignity and justice.

We pray for the gift of wisdom for the leaders of this state, this nation, and the world, that we might move toward a more just and peaceful existence with people everywhere. ❀

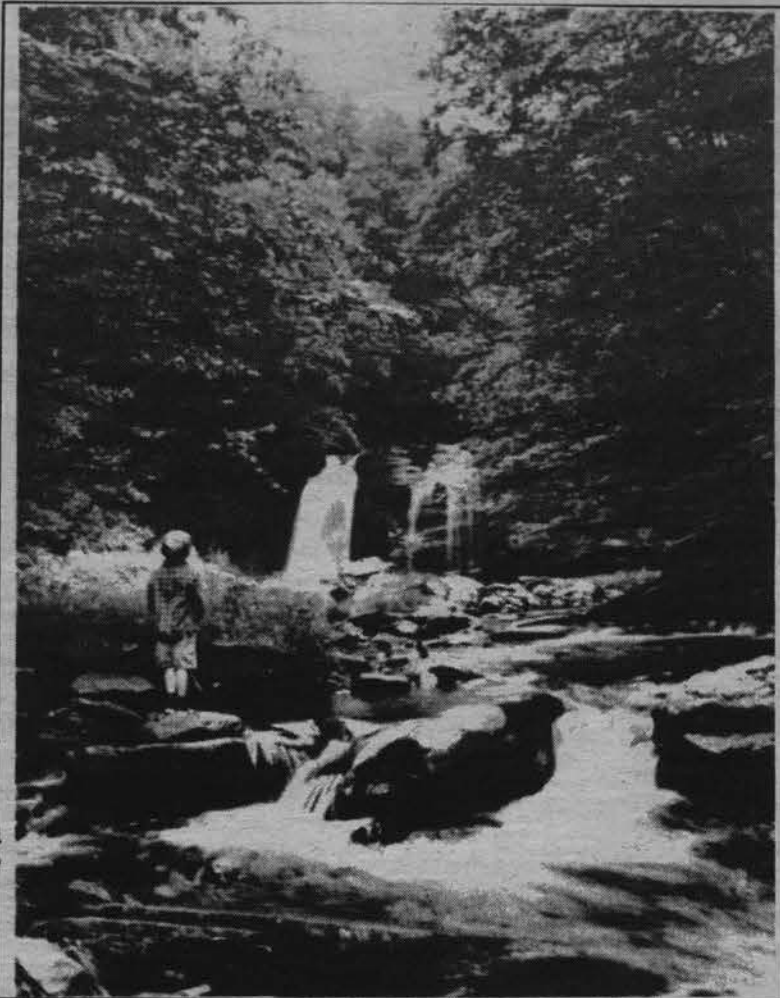


Photo credit: Gerald Ratliff

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## Kentuckians Fed Up, Say No More Illegal Valley Fills

### Federal Lawsuit Challenges Validity of Corps' Permit to Martin County Coal

(From press release of Tuesday, August 21, 2001.  
Contact Person: Jerry-Hardt, Kentuckians For The  
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41465 phone - 606-349-4860)

Citing a need to defend their communities and uphold the law, a Kentucky citizens organization today filed suit asking that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers be stopped from issuing permits allowing Kentucky's streams to be buried with waste.

Filed in U.S. District Court in Charleston, the suit alleges that the Corps does not have any authority to issue permits allowing the disposal of coal overburden in the waters of the United States. The Corps routinely issues such permits to coal companies that bury streams with mine waste in what is known as "valley fills."

"Our overall concern is the failure to enforce even the most rudimentary parts of the Clean Water Act," said David Rouse of Kentuckians For The Commonwealth (KFTC), the plaintiff.

"This case is being filed on the heels of the recent announcement by the Corps and the Bush Administration that they will do nothing to rein in mountaintop removal mining and valley fills through limits on nationwide permits under the Clean Water Act," said co-counsel Jim Hecker, with Trial Lawyers for Public Justice in Washington, D.C. "In the meantime, the Corps is continuing to violate existing law. This issue is not going away. Coalfield residents in Appalachia will continue to seek to enforce the law and prevent the destruction of their land, streams, and quality of life."

Recently, the Corps granted Martin County Coal Company - the company responsible for the release of 250 million gallons of coal sludge last October - a "nationwide" permit, allowing the company to bury 33,000 feet of stream with waste from a 2,934-acre mining operation in Martin County. Under a nationwide permit the Corps assumes that the environmental impact will be minimal.

"It's ludicrous to say that destroying six miles of stream is not a significant environmental impact, as the Corps has done for Martin County Coal," said KFTC member Patty Wallace of Louisa. "We can't just sit back and allow our mountains to be flattened and turned to rubble, and our streams buried with mine waste."

The company's operation involves 27 different valley fills that encompass more than 300 acres. More than six miles of streams would be eliminated.

"The Corps needs to be held accountable," said co-counsel Joe Lovett of the Appalachian Center for the Economy and the Environment in Lewisburg, West Virginia. "This is an out-and-out violation of the Clean Water Act. The people of Appalachia will continue to fight assure that federal regulators comply with the law when regulating strip mining."

"Allowing this mine, which would destroy over six miles of Appalachian streams and nearly five square miles of the most diverse and productive temperate forests in the world, is one more example of the Corps' illegal past practice of authorizing the wholesale destruction of these region's irreplaceable resources without any scrutiny," Lovett continued. "The Corps has overseen the elimination of hundreds of square miles of Appalachian forests and hundreds of miles of the region's streams."

The lawsuit further alleges that even if the Corps does have the authority to allow the discharge of coal waste into waterways, Martin County Coal's

operation represents a significant environmental impact and an "individual" permit rather than general permit should have been required.

An individual permit involves greater scrutiny. The applicant has to prove that the project is in the public interest and that there are no other ways to design the project that would lessen the impact on public waterways.

"These tests force the Corps to consider hydrological, archeological, cultural, economic and environmental factors," explained Rouse.

In January, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency agreed that the mining operation "would have more than minimal adverse environmental impacts," and objected to the general permit issued by the Corps. However, EPA has not exercised its power to veto the permit. And the Bush administration has indicated its desire to let valley fills continue unchecked.

A third contention of the lawsuit is that the Corps' failure to conduct an environmental impact study on the cumulative impact of valley fills before issuing a nationwide permit was a violation of the National Environmental Policy Act. Recent studies have found that those cumulative impacts are enormous:

- o 5,858 valley fills have been permitted from 1985 through 1999 (with 4,421 of those in Kentucky);
- o more than 500 miles of streams in Appalachian have been filled with mining waste, and
- o if the entire existing and proposed valley fill inventory is built, more than 75,000 acres of watershed will be buried.

The lawsuit was filed in West Virginia because it is the Huntington district office of the Corps of Engineers that has jurisdiction in the Big Sandy River basin, where the Martin County Coal permit was issued. The Trial Lawyers for Public Justice (TLPJ) and West Virginia attorney Joe Lovett with the Appalachian Center for the Economy and the Environment will serve as co-counsel with KFTC's Joe Childers in the case. Both have been involved in similar litigation against the Corps and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.

#### Summary of Complaint

Summary of KFTC lawsuit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Huntington district):

On Tuesday, August 21, 2001, Kentuckians For the Commonwealth filed a lawsuit in federal court in Charleston, West Virginia alleging that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Huntington district office) violated several environmental laws when it issued a permit to allow Martin County Coal to bury 6.3 miles of streams with mining waste.

The lawsuit alleges that:

1) The Corps' practice of issuing "Section 404" permits to allow mining companies to dispose of coal mining waste in streams violates the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act forbids discharge of any materials into U.S. waters unless those materials are "dredged or filled" materials. The Corps defines filled materials as materials placed in a body of water for the purpose of creating dry land. Waste is specifically listed as excluded from the definition of "fill." The clear purpose of Martin County Coal's and other mining companies' disposal of coal mining overburden into the rivers of Kentucky is to dispose of the waste. This is a violation of the Clean Water Act.

2) Even if the Corps does have authorization

to allow waste into the rivers of Kentucky, it would have to require Martin County Coal to apply for an individual permit rather than the general nationwide permit issued to Martin County Coal. Under the law, the Corps must require an individual permit for any operation that will have more than a minimal environmental impact. Contrary to the opinions of the U.S. EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources, the Corps found that the creation of 27 valley fills resulting in the elimination 33,000 linear feet of streams is a "minimal impact." KFTC believes that the practice of allowing miles of streams to be buried under mining waste at least deserves careful scrutiny.

3) The Corps violated NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) by issuing a general nationwide 21 permit to Martin County Coal. NEPA requires that all major federal actions that significantly affect the quality of the human environment be supported by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS must detail any adverse environmental impact of the proposed project, alternatives to the project and describe the loss or commitment of resources involved. The Corps has never prepared an EIS concerning the environmental impact of surface coal mining operations and associated valley fills in Kentucky and West Virginia. The Corps has conducted basic studies for an environmental assessment in 1996 but has not included new information from the Fish & Wildlife Service, which decries the impact of valley fills.

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#### On Line Resource Available for Facts on the Degradation of Forests, Soils, Grazing Lands, Irrigated Lands and Fisheries

Bruce Sundquist reports that he has a huge web site of 3 MB (about 800 pages of text) that contains reviews of the global literature on the degradation of forests, soils, grazing lands, irrigated lands and fisheries (five separate reviews). Actually it is not so much a set of literature reviews as it is an organized compilation of key facts, figures, and summaries of arguments and analyses.

The five Tables of Contents are quite complete, making it possible for you to find what you need in fairly short order. If you have the files on your own computer you can also do key word searches.

For instance, in the Forest degradation review are some data comparing the capacity of forest soils to absorb rainfall relative to other land types. (The differences are huge.) There is also a section that compiles a fair number of the serious flooding problems (globally--in recent years) that have been attributed to deforestation in the headlands.

The URL is

<http://www.alltel.net/~bsundquist/>

**HOLY EARTH!**

By Michael Hasty

**Blood and Oil**

Last month, our world was shaken to its core, when commercial airliners hijacked by suicidal "holy warriors" slammed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, extinguishing the lives of thousands of human beings, their deaths witnessed live by stunned millions.

The tragedy was unprecedented in many ways; and the emotional shock still reverberates across America, affecting or altering nearly every aspect of civic life and culture. In the wake of the most deadly act of violence within our borders since the Civil War, Americans are faced with the question of why our nation is so hated that determined young men have willingly sacrificed themselves to inflict indiscriminate death and destruction here.

The immediate reaction of most Americans to rally 'round the flag is understandable, given the epic scale of this act of terrorism, the large numbers of people affected, and the depth of the wound to the national psyche. The targets were highly visible symbols of American commerce and might.

But as this undeclared "war on terrorism" goes forward, there should also be a continuing national dialogue exploring why terrorism is being aimed at American citizens and property. What is the connection to American foreign policy, and to American economic and military strategy?

This is a dialogue to which environmentalists can make a valuable contribution.

With evidence pointing to Islamic fundamentalists as the terrorists of September 11, and the US government fingering the now-familiar Saudi Arabian villain Osama bin Laden as the "mastermind" behind the scenes, we know that, however twisted the motivation of the perpetrators, their action was in their minds retaliation for American policy in the Middle East.

For almost a century, that policy has had as its central aim the protection of a vital strategic resource which also happens to be one of the leading causes of environmental pollution and of global climate change -- oil. As we seek solutions to the political problems that have given rise to terrorism in our "homeland," we cannot overlook industrial society's appetite for fossil fuel energy as a factor in this geopolitical equation.

The degree to which American foreign policy objectives were deliberately targeted by this attack is remarkable. A 1955 book, "A History of United States Foreign Policy," puts a benign Cold War spin on America's "three objectives" in the Middle East:

"1) to compose the disputes within the area, notably the dispute between Israel and its neighbors...;  
2) to raise standards of living through assistance in developing the region's unused natural resources;  
3) to strengthen the area's military potential and to secure bases from which the United States and its NATO allies could operate."

A recent article in the New Yorker refers to a "declaration" issued three years ago by bin Laden's World Islamic Front for Jihad Against the Jews and the Crusaders. The "text fulminated against the United States for its 'occupation' of the holy land of Arabia, its 'aggression' against Iraq, and its support of 'the petty state of the Jews.'" Considering that the troubled US relationship with Iraq is directly related to "developing the region's unused natural resources," there is an exact one-to-one correspondence between bin Laden's stated aims and America's historic policy.

The sharp focus the September 11 attack has brought onto American Middle East policy should raise important questions in the public mind -- particularly in light of the changes in international politics in the post-Cold War period, and of the advancement in scientific knowledge regarding the apocalyptic consequences of fossil fuel use. It is entirely legitimate for citizens to ask at this time whether oil should remain as the centerpiece of American strategy.

However, there is reason to doubt that this question will get a fair hearing. War fever has put a damper on dissent, with journalists already being fired or publicly excoriated for straying too far from the patriotic line. There is also the longer-term systemic problem of television networks having direct financial links to major oil companies: ABC with Texaco/Chevron, NBC with British Petroleum/Shell, and CNN with ExxonMobil. Is it any wonder that an oil-friendly administration was getting kid-glove treatment from the media, even before the cause of national "unity" made criticism of the commander-

in-chief a punishable offense?

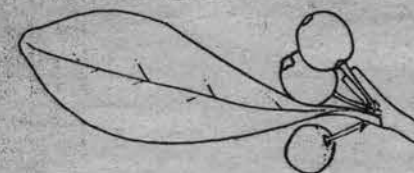
It is precisely because dissident views are being discouraged at this uncertain time that the environmental agenda becomes such an important contribution, and takes on added dimension. The plain fact is, environmentalists were criticizing the Bush/Cheney energy policy long before September, and the critiques we were making then are even more valid today.

Certainly, the advocates of that policy are using the attacks as an excuse to override earlier objections to various policy components -- notably, to push for oil drilling in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. (At this writing, Senate Republicans are trying to attach the Bush energy plan, including the ANWR provision, to the emergency military spending bill.)

Before September, environmentalists were also drawing connections between the use of petroleum as a major energy source and the hidden costs that kept the price of that energy artificially low. These include government subsidies to the oil, highway and transportation industries; the direct costs of cleaning up after environmental pollution; the cost of health care to treat the widespread sickness that results from pollution; damages to life and property from extreme weather events related to global climate change; and the list goes on.

But certain parts of that long list now take on additional meaning, especially when you factor in the estimated \$40 billion and thousands of innocent lives that were lost in what the president rightly termed this "attack on our way of life." The cheap gas that fuels this "way of life" also comes from widespread poverty and suffering among the populations of the Middle East, and from human rights abuses by the autocrats and oligarchs who control these countries under US protection, and from massive American military budgets and Machiavellian realpolitik, and from what is now, in more ways than one, an uncertain planetary future.

Now, more than ever, we have both the right and the responsibility to ask: are we trading blood for oil? ♦



## Hand Made Evergreen Wreaths

*Help Support the Public Lands Committee of the Highlands Conservancy and make a friend very happy!*



*These wreaths are hand woven from a mixture of fresh cut, long-lasting Highlands grown fir boughs. They are crafted by experienced Highlands Conservancy volunteers, using the freshest greens, and all natural decorations.*

*24 inches in diameter the wreaths are adorned with winterberry holly berries, silver reindeer moss, pine cones and a red velvet bow.*

**\$30 each plus \$5.00 shipping. Order by December 1st**

*Delivery will be during the first week of December.*

*Gift cards are included, so be sure to let us know how you would like them signed.*

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or call 284-9548 daves@labs.net*

### Ashes

Like any slow burn  
It starts low  
First  
Sputtering in fields of pumpkins  
Vines like fuses on cartoon bombs.

It spreads on monarch wings,  
Lighting candles of goldenrod  
Climbs up creeper  
Up spicebush and poison ivy  
Igniting dogwood; then sumac.

Flame-throwing tupelos torch sassafras, tulip, and cherry.

Oaks look on  
Unmoved, untouched

Wind from Wisconsin and maples yield  
Hickories too succumb.  
Now beech go metallic  
Welding alloys unknown to other leaves  
While sycamores char brown a leaf at a time with  
Studios deliberation.

At last the oaks  
Lofty and cautious and cool  
Acquiesce: It's time.  
Most go gently brown like tired, giant broccoli cooked too late  
To save its color.

Meanwhile, the Sun  
Slinks south, folding its flames like a fluid cloak  
About a blushing face.  
And it the instigator, careless  
As motorists tossing matches as they speed away  
Leaving ashes  
Spinning in the wind.

Betsy Reeder

### OVEC from page 1

Among OVEC's crusades, the most highly visible one is "pursuing its longstanding battle against mountaintop removal, which continues to threaten the state's environmental future," according to the Ford Foundation news release.

"They have proved a formidable force in fighting for sustainable and environmentally sound economic development in the region," the foundation news release continues.

How has OVEC done it? Through "community activism and strategic use of the media," the Ford Foundation news release says.

I've been on the receiving end of that "strategic use of the media" for the 10 years that OVEC has been around. It's their job to try to use the media, just as it's the job of the public relations folks in the business community to strategically use the media to get the business perspective to the people.

It's my job to sort through all the reams of material from both sides and try to find the truth.

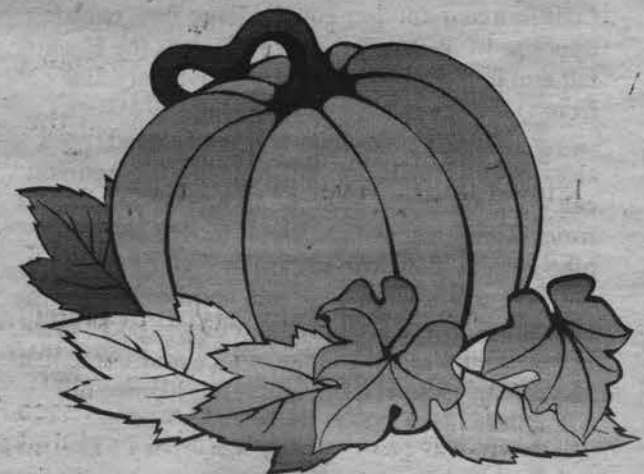
The truth about OVEC, as I see it, is this: The group is made up of dedicated people who aren't out to drive us all from West Virginia by eliminating jobs.

When the group opposed what they saw as dangerous pollution from the Ashland Oil Refinery in Catlettsburg, KY, when they fought against the construction of a paper mill and a toxic waste incinerator, they saw these industries as long-term environmental threats to the region and not worth the future ecological heartache for the jobs they would create.

And when it comes to coal mining, OVEC believes that removing mountains simply isn't the way to get the coal. OVEC is attempting to strike a balance between the right to mine coal and this generation's ability to destroy the environment in the process.

In my estimation, it's an eminently sane crusade.

I suppose there'll be a lot of grumbling in



some quarters about the prize. But now that the group has received plaudits for its work from an internationally known foundation, don't expect OVEC to rest on its laurels. It's simply not that kind of group. ♣

# MOUNTAIN ODYSSEY 2001



Outings, Education and Beyond

## 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, <imaginemew@aof.com> and Larry Gibson, (304) 586-3287 or (304) 549-3287 cellular.

**Oct. 27 (Sat) Otter Creek wilderness day hike.** Shavers Mountain, Mylius and Otter Creek Trails. Leader: Larry Kaeser, (304) 304 452-9753.

**Nov. 3 (Sat.) A long day hike** in the Laurel Fork of the George Washington National Forest in a part of Virginia tucked into the Monongahela National Forest of West Virginia. Leaders: Hugh & Ruth Rogers, 304-636-2662, <ruthbr@wvhighlands.org>

**Nov. 11 (Sat.) Canaan Mountain day hike.** Possible trails include Pointy Knob, Lindy Run, and Mountain Side. Leader: Trudy Phillips, 804 384-4870, <johntrudy@adelphia.net> ♣

## Hike Reports

### Otter Creek hike Saturday, August 25, 2001 by Don Gasper

We hiked into the lower part of the Otter Creek Wilderness. There were only five who joined me: Pam Peters, Idress and Armin Gooden, Ian Jaeger, and Diana Burke Ross. We all were able to tour most of the USFS Fernow Experimental Forest in Diana's big SUV. We parked at the Big Spring trail-head on the ridge-top, and hiked down into Otter Creek about a half-mile. We estimated the "Big Spring" flow to be only 1 quart/second on this beautiful day when all streams were low. It managed to keep a trickle in the lower 1/4 mile of the bed in most places. This was a Greenbrier Limestone seep source. (Turkey Run, 3/4 mile above, has little also, but all the beautiful tributaries above are too acid and infertile and have had no fish since the first logging.) We walked half way to Turkey Run but the trail got a little bad, so we returned and waded across the stream to the east side (as all hikers do). The trail was easy, and the stream was pretty. We saw a strong spring flow entering from Coal Run and another equally large flow entering opposite it. We waded over to look at the 8' water fall and found its source to be a cave only 200' from Otter Creek.

Otter Creek water was tea colored, not clear as in normal May and June levels when you can see clear to the bottom. In fact we only saw 3 trout when I expected to see 300. We only had to hike 2 miles along the stream by coming in as we did. We might go in upstream another 2 miles the next time. There are more and bigger pools there. However, it was a nice hike, a nice afternoon, just great people showed up; and it felt like we did five miles. ♣



### Three-day Labor Day weekend backpack by Bruce Sundquist

The backpack trip on the southern half of North Fork Mountain and Dolly Sods North enjoyed near-perfect weather. Seventeen people went on water-free North Fork Mountain, and 11 people opted to spend a third day on Dolly Sods North. Hang gliders were active at their platform on North Fork Mountain near the old cattle road.

On Sunday morning we were treated to clear blue skies as we looked down on cloud banks in the valley of North Fork of the South Branch and in all the valleys to the east --an enchanting scene if ever there was one. Only one problem with boots developed on the very steep descent on the pipeline swath down to Seneca Rocks "Discovery Center." The scenery on Dolly Sods North provided an unforgettable experience. ♣

### Shavers Fork Hike, Sept. 8 by Susan Bly

Terry Major, Dave Paxton, Jeff LeBlanc and Susan Bly gathered to hike to the fabled High Falls of Shavers Fork on the Cheat River. After starting near Gladly, we passed through the railroad tunnel without much fanfare, except for wet feet and boots. We were thankful for the cool spots of shade here and there on the railroad grade as it was a warm day. The sunny weather only piqued our interest in the watering hole ahead.

After lunch under the arms of a spruce, we headed up the High Falls trail, grateful for a change in terrain, even though the going was a tad more strenuous than the flat North Fork trail. We enjoyed the views due to clear cuts and we really like how the spruce and hemlocks are regaining their territory on top of the mountain. As we descended past slices of glacial boulders, we spotted the railroad tracks and as the Cheat Mountain Salamander excursion train passed by.

Upon reaching the falls we admired the railings, steps and viewing platform constructed by the Operators of the West Virginia Central

Railroad. The area was well maintained and relatively trash free. After gazing over the ledge and watching some students of the diving art do belly flops into the pool below, we scrambled down ourselves to test the waters. They were delightfully cool and refreshing as we lowered ourselves into the basin sculpted out by millenia of rushing torrents. After our dip we drip-dried in the sun, evaporating and soaking in the sun's rays for awhile before wrenching ourselves from this pleasant scene.

Another few miles of walking on railroad ties lay ahead of us. At Greenbrier Junction we admired the railroad bridge crossing Shavers Fork, even daring one another to cross the bridge. (No problem.) Another bit of interesting history was that of a coil that resembled the apparatus of a moonshiner's trade. It's fun to imagine what that coil might have been used for.

We were all glad to end our 11.5 mile hike back where we had started near Gladly. Biking the North Fork trail might be an excellent option next year. ♣

### Canaan Valley Exploration, Sept. 30 by Peter Shoenfeld

Hikers Peter, Marilyn, Mary, and Diane hiked north from the Old Timberline development through the narrow valley between Cabin Mountain and Pocono Ridge, reaching after three miles the broad expanse of McDonald Glade. The trip started at the Sand Run Lake dam and continued down Sand Run. Old maps such as the Blackwater Falls Quad and the sketch map showed a trail there-- labeled "Railroad Grade" or "Jeep Trail." However, for the first two miles it is almost entirely either non-existent or underwater, and there was some rough going.

After the first mile, Sand Run turned west, leaving us on the low wetland divide between Sand Run and Glade Run. This is a region of impressive beaver engineering. There is a chain of six or more ponds, most of which are active and of

**HIKES concluded on next page**



Hikers left to right: Dave Paxton, Terry Major, Jeff LeBlanc, and Susan Bly with the High Falls of the Cheat in the background



Peter Shoenfeld by beaver dam in Canaan region

**HIKES concluded**

recent construction. There are also some beaver built transport ditches that look almost machine made-- deep, wet and straight. We met one of the beavers.

After another mile, the water started flowing north-- this is Glade Run. The trail emerged east of the stream. We finally emerged at the junction with the extension of the A-Frame Road, coming down from Cabin Mountain, and went perhaps a quarter mile further to a point where the trail went straight down the middle of a good sized lake. We then went up on the slope to the west (Pocono Ridge), had our second lunch and took pictures of McDonald Glade. The vista here is gorgeous. We were situated on a broad open slope, and sitting on ruins of an old building foundation. The view includes miles of glade,

Brown Mountain to the northwest, Snowy Point to the northeast, and also the low ridge that comes down between Glade Run and the Little Blackwater River. The trees are hardwood, mostly quaking aspen and cherry. However, there are many ATV trails here and we met several ATV riders.

We walked back along the Pocono Ridge Road. This is a well-maintained gravel road, now used just for logging and ATV's. This whole ridge has been recently logged, and the job is still in progress at the end near Timberline. It is fairly clean and has left the ridge top still attractive.

All of this land belongs to Allegheny Energy. It will likely soon be transferred to either the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or to home developers. You know how we want that to turn out. ✦

**The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy extends condolences to the family and friends of Joe Goda. Joe died in his sleep of an apparent heart attack at a basecamp in Dolly Sods North following a two-day backpack trip on North Fork Mountain over the Labor Day weekend.**

**We are grateful to Bruce Sundquist (the outing leader), Pixie Potts (a participant and a nurse), Tucker County emergency medical personnel, the West Virginia State Police, the U.S. Forest Service, and the West Virginia DNR for their skilled and respectful handling of the situation. Joe was an experienced hiker and packpaker, 67 years old, with personal and familial history of heart problems. Joe was obviously aware of the risks, and made a choice to live life to the fullest – a choice that both he and we would agree was Joe's and Joe's alone to make.**



**MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST HIKING GUIDE, 7<sup>TH</sup> EDITION**  
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## Mismanagement of the West Virginia State Lands

By Dave Saville

Regarding the mineral sales at Cabwaylingo State Park, I would like to applaud Governor Wise for taking a small step towards opening up the process to communities and individuals. Now, if he would step in and afford the same communities and individuals the opportunity to decide how and when timber is cut from these State Forests, and how the money is spent, he would be making a serious difference.

Currently, the State Division of Forestry (DOF) is drafting what they call management plans for the State Forests. In reality, they are nothing more than timber harvesting plans. They pretend to take citizens wishes into account when they write these plans, but the "citizen involvement" portion of the planning is a meaningless process and is merely window dressing. By the time the citizens get a chance to comment on these plans, they are already virtually completed.

So the division of Forestry is free to use the State Forests as cash cows to fund their agency. When they want to give their employees raises, just rape a state forest. When they want some new equipment, just rape a State Forest. There is no way possible that responsible timbering of our State Forests can occur when the proceeds are kept and used at will by the very agency making the decisions. The pocketbook is driving decision making, not sound forest management principles.

Management of our precious few State Forests and their resources should be done in an open process in a manner acceptable to, and desirable by, the citizens of the State, not at the will of an agency for its own funding.

What does the law say about how the Forests should be managed? It states "The purposes are....the management of state forests for conservation and preservation of wildlife, fish, forest species, natural areas, aesthetic and scenic values and to provide developed and undeveloped outdoor recreational opportunities, and hunting and fishing for the citizens of this state and its visitors."

In another passage, the legislature added that the state forests are important for research, and mentioned timber production and demonstration of forestry management. The law sums it up by finding that the state forests "should be managed on a multiple-use basis." As currently practiced, the planning process ignores all the multiple uses but one. In the minds of the DOF planners, managing our State Forests is all about cutting the trees.

It took a brave act of the Legislature to reign in this out of control agency in regards to timbering in Kanawha State Forest. Perhaps the legislature needs to revisit the process for the rest of our nine State Forests.

The DOF has just released the "draft" plan for Kumbrow State Forest. This State Forest was created when Herman Guy Kump, the governor of West Virginia from 1932-1936 and two of his cabinet members, Mr. Brady and Mr. Bowers decided to donate approximately 1,500 acres of land each to form a state park. They took portions from each of their names and combined them to name Kumbrow state forest. These men strongly believed in preserving the natural beauty of West Virginia, which is the reason that they donated the land in the first place.

I urge everyone to write to the Division of Forestry folks at 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East Charleston, WV 25305 and request a copy of the draft plan, or call them at 304-558-2788. Our State Forests are too few and too small to be turned into tree farms to fund the DOF.

It is important for West Virginia citizens to see for themselves the obviously biased and flawed

nature of these "plans." Concerned citizens should also attend the public hearing at the Tygart Valley High School this Thursday October 20, at 7 PM and comment on this draft plan. Objective management is impossible when the agency making the decisions gets to keep the proceeds from these decisions. We must hold the DOF responsible to manage our State Forests as the law requires, for all West Virginians. ✦



### West Virginia Allegedly in Violation of Original Agreement on Kumbrow State Forest Property Was Donated with the Stipulation That it Not Be Logged.

(Excerpted from a statement by Leah Roberts)

My name is Leah Roberts. I am the great granddaughter of Herman Guy Kump, who was the KUM in Kumbrow. My great grandfather was the governor of West Virginia from 1932-1936. During that time, he and two of his cabinet members, Mr. Brady and Mr. Bowers decided to donate approximately 1,500 acres of land apiece to form a state park. They each took portions of their names and combined them to name Kumbrow state forest. During this time period Yellowstone was being made into a national park. They took the cue for conservation men such as Theodore Roosevelt, and other who were truly ahead of their time.

My great grandfather and his cabinet members strongly believed in preserving the natural beauty of West Virginia, one of the reasons that they donated the land in the first place. In speaking to some family regarding the timbering of Kumbrow I have been told that the three men stipulated that the land not be exploited in any fashion other than for recreation, otherwise ownership of the land should revert back to the heirs of Kump, Brady and Bowers. This exploitation was specified as timbering, mining or anything other than natural disturbance.

I am not sure if the deed is still on file in the Randolph County courthouse in Elkins but that could be a tactic we could use to stop the rape of this beautiful state park. The West Virginia Division of forestry may have conveniently forgotten about the reason these men donated the land to begin with. I think it is time to remind them.

Leah Roberts is a medical student at West Virginia University College of Medicine. ✦

### Public Lands Committee Report

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy's Public Lands Management Committee that has the responsibility of developing its positions on forest issues met on September 9. Its Co-Chair, Bob Marshall, had summoned some of the group, as presently constituted, to these infrequent meetings to carry on its tradition and some of its business.

We are developing proposals and up-dates for the board meeting at the Fall Review. We will help develop a list of places of special interest or beauty to assure their protection and appropriate access. There is an opportunity to comment on the West Virginia Division of Forestry's plans for their state forests: the Greenbrier, Kumbrow, and Coopers Rock. The WVHC has traditionally done so.

The Monongahela also has watershed descriptions on upper Williams River and Glady Fork. We are considering these and other aspects of their Plan. We have concerns about flooding and watershed acidification. We need to work on opportunities for more wilderness.

There should be brief reports, like this in the Voice nearly monthly as comments and positions begin to be clearer. We want to keep readers informed and give all a chance to comment. Understanding and support at least within the WVHC is needed. Comments can be sent to Bob Marshall whose address is always found on page 2.



**Deforestation in Mountains Causes Floods in Thailand** — August 14, 2001 (Reuters) Flash floods that swept through three remote Thai villages killing dozens of people on the weekend have caused 39 million baht (\$869,000) in damage, government officials said.

The official death toll from the floods in Petchabun province was 74. There were 97 people still listed as missing. Officials said 160 houses were destroyed and 194 damaged. But rescue teams were hopeful of finding more survivors, they said.

"The area hit is very large and it's very difficult to get to some of the victims because of the mud and trees — the flash flood swept everything away," said Wathira Chotirosanee, an official at the Interior Ministry's Civil Defence Secretariat.

"But many people managed to grab on to bamboo trees and coconut trees, and they could save themselves," Wathira told Reuters.

Wathira said the army was building shelters for the homeless and local charities were sending supplies of food, drink and clothing. No international appeal for help was necessary, he said.

Authorities have blamed the ferocity of the flood on deforestation in the mountainous region.

Tropical storm Usagi, which swept over Thailand over the weekend before fizzling out, has caused flooding in 22 of Thailand's 76 provinces. ✦



## Balsam Fir: Does it have a Future in West Virginia?

By Dave Saville

Balsam fir is a northern species of tree that reaches its southern continental limit here in West Virginia. Isolated pockets of this fir have remained at high elevations as remnants of the last ice age. The future of these trees is threatened by the lack of stand regeneration due to the over browsing by the seriously overpopulated herds of white tailed deer in West Virginia, and an exotic insect pest that is killing mature trees. The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy has been working for several years to find ways to prevent the extirpation of balsam fir from the state.

The balsam wooly adelgid is a sucking insect from central Europe. It was accidentally imported into this country at the turn of the century. It has decimated the natural stands of Fraser fir found in the southern Appalachians and is now wrecking havoc on the few remaining stands of balsam fir found in West Virginia. Their presence in a stand of fir is devastating. Their infestation kills mature trees 20-30 years of age and older. Younger, more vigorous trees seem to fend off their deadly attack.

In the southern Appalachians, the mature trees in the stands of Fraser fir have all been eliminated. Because there is not a serious overpopulation of deer in the high elevations where the Fraser fir grows, a vigorous understory of younger trees has come up in their place. Fir trees reach sexual maturity at 10-12 years of age, when they begin to produce abundant, periodic cone crops. These cone crops only occur about once every 5 years. Therefore, a tree might be expected to produce only 2-3 crops of cones in its lifetime, before succumbing to the effects of the adelgid.

The few stands of balsam fir found in West Virginia are in serious decline. Some have had virtually all the mature trees eliminated. The future of these stands is threatened because, unlike the Fraser in the southern Appalachians, there is no stand regeneration. Despite abundant seed crops, there are no young trees replacing the older trees killed by the adelgid. With deer populations in West Virginia being as much as 100 times greater than their historical numbers, any balsam fir seedlings don't stand a chance of surviving against the ravenous appetites of these herbivores. In the face of a wildlife management agency unwilling to manage the deer herd in a responsible way, without some intervention, we will watch this species completely disappear from our state in a few short years. Of course, it isn't only the balsam fir that is adversely affected by deer overpopulation. Dozens of species of plants are threatened and even the overall forest ecology is being seriously altered from their over-browsing.

Last summer Highlands Conservancy volunteers made a serious effort to preserve this unique species by collecting and seed banking seeds from several stands of balsam fir found scattered around the West Virginia Highlands. Since then, we have re-directed our attention to other ways of protecting this unique Mountain State native. In June of this year, a gathering was held at the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge to discuss the plight of these trees. Biologist Ken Sturm, and other US Fish and Wildlife Service staff, assembled over 30 individuals with diverse backgrounds to discuss the issue. Entomologists, ecologists, biologists, botanists, foresters, and other experts came from several West Virginia agencies, as well as researchers from West Virginia University, Ohio, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Short term and long term conservation strategies were discussed. With the help of so much expertise, there is real hope that there is indeed a future for balsam fir in West Virginia.

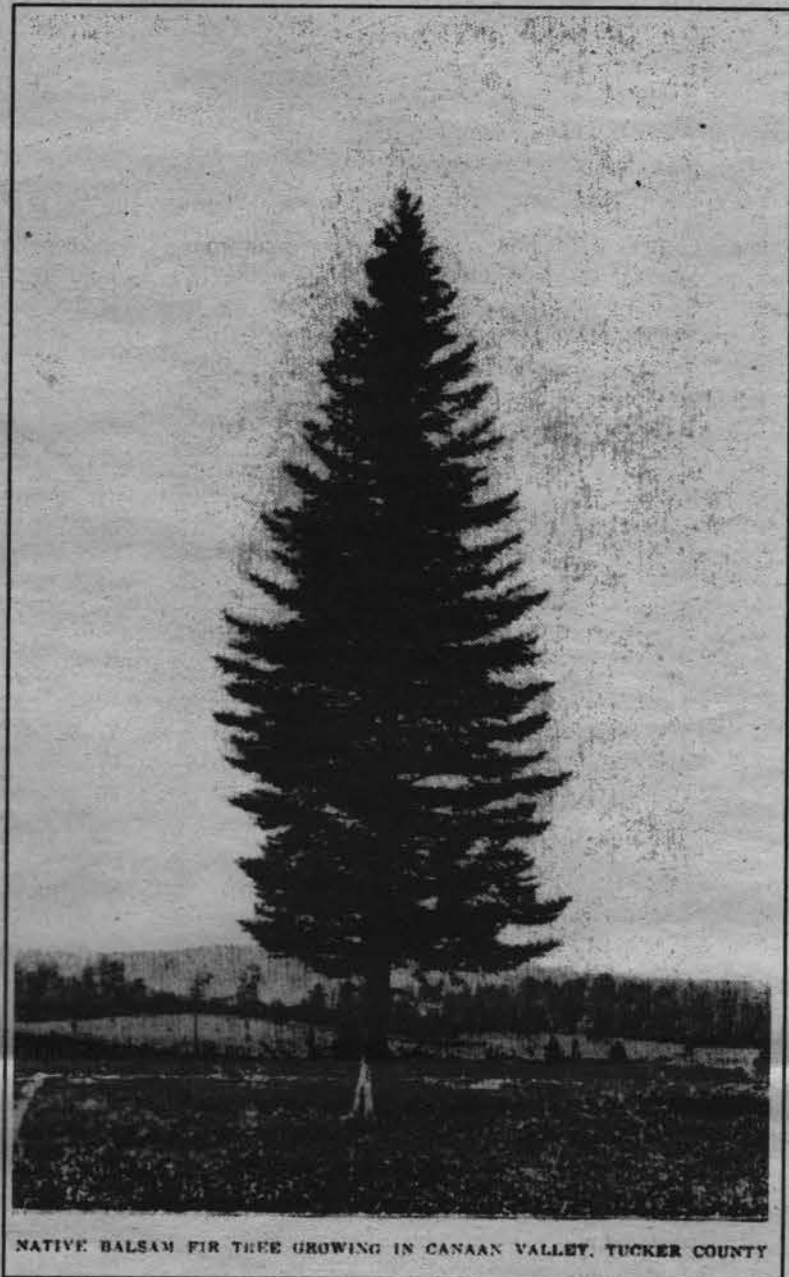
Long-term strategies focused on finding solutions to the adelgid problem. Natural resistance, predators, and treatments are being researched by several institutions. In addition, concerned citizens must put increased pressure on the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources to reduce the deer populations. This agency has historically been reluctant to do this because they do not feel a responsibility to the citizens of West Virginia, but only to deer hunters that purchase hunting licenses, thus supplying them with a pay check. This unwillingness to manage the deer population responsibly has led us to a short-term strategy of erecting deer exclosure fences around stands of balsam fir to allow for natural regeneration.

Since there was an abundant cone crop in the summer of 2000, there is now a significant amount of seed germinating in the soil of these stands. In another 3-4 years, when we might expect another seed crop, there may not be any mature trees left to produce cones. There is therefore a sense of urgency to protect the seedlings germinating in these stands now. We hope to assemble some resources and volunteers to erect several deer exclosure fences in stands in several locations.

### How you can help!

On Saturday October 20th, we will erect the first deer exclosure on the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge. We are looking for volunteers. We will meet at the parking lot on Freeland Road at 9AM.

Wear boots, bring gloves, post hole digging tools, hammers, etc. Come prepared for extreme weather, but hope for the best. We'll be working all day, and in the event we don't finish the job on Saturday, we will return on Sunday. We'll supply snacks and lunch for all our volunteers. Come on out to visit the Nations's 500th National Wildlife refuge, and the culmination of over 25 years of Highlands Conservancy's efforts to protect this most unique and ecologically valuable of all landscapes in West Virginia. For more information contact Dave Saville at <daves@labs.net> or 304-284-9548. ✦



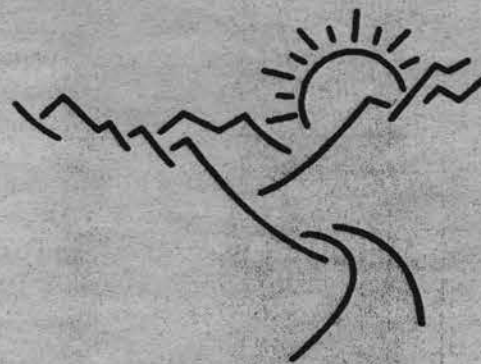
NATIVE BALSAM FIR TREE GROWING IN CANAAN VALLEY, TUCKER COUNTY

*The Woods seem different now*

*It was a patch of unakite  
that faded into blue  
Then an amber remembrance  
that did not need a chain  
It was a crystal quartz  
that melted with the sun*

*I thought I heard the  
trees crying  
It must have been the wind*

DiAnna Smith



## Press Release, October 4, 2001:

CONTACT: Bonni McKeown,  
304-874-3887, after 3 p.m.

An eastern West Virginia environmental group plans to sue the West Virginia Division of Highways (DOH), saying the ponds being built to catch Corridor H construction runoff are inadequate to keep mud from polluting trout streams in Hardy County's Lost River watershed.

Stewards of the Potomac Highlands Inc., based in Wardensville in eastern Hardy County, sent a letter Thursday to DOH demanding that the bidding process for Corridor H contracts between Baker and Wardensville be halted. Stewards is asking DOH to redesign sediment control ponds to abide by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) standards as required by their permit. DOH's specifications for the Baker-Wardensville contracts awarded this week show the sediment ponds designed to half the size required by DEP.

A letter from the Stewards group's attorney, Thomas Michael of Clarksburg, states, "DEP inspectors, and at times DOH's own Environmental Monitor, have repeatedly issued reports during 2000 and 2001 citing the small size of sediment ponds on sections of Corridor H already under construction between Baker and Moorefield and Elkins and Kerens. At least one report cites muddy water overtopping a sediment pond and flowing into nearby streams.

"Therefore, my clients demand that you immediately halt the bidding process for all projects in the Baker to Wardensville section of Corridor H. The bid specifications must be corrected to require sediment control structures of the proper size," Michael's letter said.

Bonni McKeown of eastern Hampshire County, president of Stewards and a longtime opponent of Corridor H, said, "State highway

officials promised to build Corridor H and still protect the environment. But in this case, they have failed to tell contractors to build big enough ponds to avoid pollution."

DEP's general discharge permit issued to DOH calls for sediment ponds of 3600 cubic feet per acre of watershed disturbed. The highway division's design plans for the Baker-Wardensville section of Corridor H show sediment ponds of just over 1800 cubic feet.

"The Lost River area, in addition to its scenic beauty, has a very delicate ecology," McKeown added.

"The river gets its name from sinking into an underground channel several miles west of Wardensville. There are many caves which have never been mapped. And the Lost River is a trout watershed fished by local people and visitors. Trout are very susceptible to suffocating from mud in the streams. Heavy construction would do untold damage in this area. The very least that the highway people can do to show respect for Lost River is to design sediment ponds correctly."

Corridor H is a controversial 100-mile proposed highway from Elkins, WV to the Virginia line near Wardensville. A settlement last year by environmental groups including Corridor H Alternatives resulted in the division of Corridor H into sections. Of its 10 sections, two are now under construction: Elkins to Kerens and Moorefield to Baker. Construction costs of the Elkins-Kerens section totaled about \$19.2 million per mile. Corridor H was originally planned to connect to I-81, but Virginia has no plans to build its 14-mile section, leading opponents to call it a "road to nowhere."

*For background science on the role of sediment control ponds, and the effect of sediment on river ecology, you may contact Neil Gillies at Cacapon Institute, High View, WV, phone 304-856-1385.* ❖

### CORR H from page 1

property that may not be impacted by federally-funded projects such as Corridor H.

DOT and its consultant had put on a full-court press against the Keeper, the SHPO, and the Forest Service, hoping to find a hole in the historic district through which to run a highway. Monongahela National Forest was the owner of most of the property. Its staff archaeologist, Ruth Brinker, had retired after doing much of the research that justified the Keeper's recognition of the complex. Her successor, John Calabrese, resisted pressure to retreat and found support among his superiors on the Mon.

(3) Battlefield Avoidance Alternatives: West of Parsons, where DOT is looking for a new route to avoid the Corricks Ford Battlefield and Shavers Fork River, the number of "alignments carried forward" has been reduced from six or seven to two, according to a separate submission to the SHPO. The two, labeled "C" and "DF" on the scorecards, cut across the National Forest's Laurel Run area, a prime wildlife habitat. At the Community Advisory Group meeting in Davis, DOT's consultant said the draft Environmental Impact Statement on this section was nearly complete.

(4) Greenland Gap: After a visit to Greenland Gap, Secretary of Transportation Fred VanKirk announced that DOT would make some design changes to minimize the corridor's impact. They included elimination of an exit at the mouth of the Gap, moderate sound walls, quieter pavement, and more attention to landscaping. Now DOT may go further. Consultants on preliminary engineering will be asked to look for a way to "push the alignment away from the Gap," according to Dave Clevenger of DOT's roadway design office.

On September 29, The Nature Conservancy, which owns a preserve at the heart of the Gap, recognized Debbie Kunkel for her tireless efforts to protect it.

**CORR H concluded on next page**

*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.*

Category	Individual	Family	Organizational	Membership Benefits
Senior/Student	\$12	-	-	★ The Highlands Voice each month ★ Special weekend programs held around the state -- days filled with field trips, hikes, workshops and just plain fun. ★ Representation through WVHC efforts to monitor legislative and agency activity ★ A chance to make new friends with values you share. ★ Knowing you are doing your part to protect West Virginia's natural heritage.
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Make checks payable to: the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. Mail to: P. O. Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321

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

## Blackwater or BUST?

By Carrie Nyden

After driving three and half hours in a billboard for mountains (Judy Rodd's bumperstickered car), we arrived at Blackwater Canyon. I've been there before but only to see the falls.

First, we got to lodge and met "The Butterfly Guy." His name is Tom Allen. From there, we went to a marshy-like site under power lines to look for the two-spotted skipper. I was still drugged up on Dramamine so I wasn't too enthusiastic, especially after seeing a snake slither into the area we were going to be walking. It turned out to be very interesting though. I've never walked through grass that is almost as tall as me. Khanh, Allan, Judy, and I searched for the butterflies together while Tom went his way. We caught all types of skippers - Dunn, European, Delaware, and Two-spotted. I never knew there were so many types of Skippers and by one mark you could tell if it was male or female. Tom caught the female he was looking for, while we caught a few males and other skippers. He's going to keep them over winter at the Department of Natural Resources office as part of the Friends of Blackwater Butterfly protection project.

Next, we went to see the falls. Now that is breathtaking! I could just sit there for hours and listen to the water pounding down on the rocks below. You can also see the natural brown color of the water and know why it's called Blackwater Canyon.

After that, we went to Lindy Point. We had to walk on this trail that seemed to go on forever to get to the jagged rocks. But as you walk out of the bushes,... BAM ...the whole canyon is right in front of you. It's gorgeous. In Judy's words, the mountains seemed to be embracing like arms on a human. As far as the eye could see, it was beautiful trees and rushing water beneath. Judy explained to us

### CORR H concluded

(5) No Continental One: Also in September, Secretary VanKirk announced that West Virginia would not go along with a proposal to make US 219 a four-lane international trade corridor from Canada to Miami. Part of "Continental One" would have overlapped Corridor H. The reasons for rejecting C-1 are the same as the reasons not to build C-H. Neither could pass a cost-benefit test. The existing highway from Davis to Bismarck, where a 16.5-mile section of C-H was just given the green light, had an average daily traffic (ADT) of 1600 vehicles ten years ago and projected daily traffic of 2600 ten years from now. Guidelines of the national association of state transportation officials require ADT to exceed 10,000 before a four-lane should be considered. But C-H had one supporter who was worth more than 10,000 cars. You could call him the Candy Man. ✦

what the loggers wanted to do and where it was taking place.

After seeing Blackwater, I'm not sure why anybody would want to log it. In my mind, it seems so idiotic and selfish. Taking away beauty and habitats all for money. This trip has made me more passionate and eager to save it.

I'm sure everyone has seen pictures, but it's nothing like the real thing; being there is so spectacular. I wish I could stay there longer next time. There are so many things to do there; Bike, hike, kayak, canoe, run, and fish. I hope everyone that reads this can see why we should work together and save Blackwater. This means, get the word out and become active in saving it. Don't let this crown jewel become tarnished. ✦

## A Summer at the Friends of Blackwater Canyon Office

by Khanh Thai

I recall coming into a small office on Elizabeth Street not knowing what I should expect from this organization that was titled Friends of Blackwater Canyon. It was the last day of my junior year at Wesleyan and I had not even had time to settle in at home. I dropped by to see what this potential job had to offer....and what I might offer it.

I soon found that in a short three months, I could help expand the support for saving the Canyon, and also promote growth within myself. The days in the office were spent organizing events across the state and finding volunteers to get to those events and promote our cause. That meant a good deal of calling, letter writing, and delegating. The first two skills I was familiar with, but managing people wasn't something I knew how to do.

Another assignment was given to me; create and distribute collection jars that would be used to gather donations for Friends of Blackwater Canyon. The creativity began to roll and I ran with it. Once the design for the jar was drawn out, the next step was to make it. Of course I could never have done it on my own, so again with the gracious help of volunteers, we pieced together an eye-catching piece of art! As new volunteers strolled into our office, I had to direct the making of over 30 displays.

Odds and ends fell into my lap as the summer continued. I found myself going to events to speak to people about the "Crown Jewel" we are trying to save and also learning more about the issue. Mall displays have been created and taken to malls throughout West Virginia. We also achieved more organization in the office, increased the membership in our database, and my personal favorite organizational accomplishment...creating a rolodex of important contacts!



L to R: Carrie, Khanh, Tom Allen (DNR), Judy Judy is holding the *Carex stricta* which the host plant for the 2 spotted skipper: the caterpillars eat it, live on it, and wrap up in the leaves to overwinter. Photo: Allen (intern)

Through it all I laughed with my young co-worker, stressed over projects, fought with our old laser printer (we named him Berton), and smiled at the beautiful work we achieved. Saving Blackwater Canyon is a wonderful fight and I am proud to have been a part of it. Now, returning for my final year at Wesleyan, I will continue to support Blackwater til the battle is won. I hope all of you continue that support as well because it is needed so very much. Go see the Canyon, become motivated, and next time you see the collection jars that I spent my summer working on, know that you can make a difference too! ✦

Judy Rodd's comments: Khanh (20) and Carrie(15) served as Interns in the summer office of the Save the Blackwater Canyon Campaign for me. Both Khanh and Carrie live in Charleston. They worked really hard organizing a network of volunteers from around the state to help Friends of Blackwater save the Canyon. These volunteers took Blackwater petitions to bike races, fairs, festivals musical events and malls. Carrie and Khahn also contacted green businesses and got donation jars and petitions placed in 20 businesses.

They also played loud rock music and ate candy and fed the stray cats in the alley behind the church where we have our office. They also laughed a lot. I miss them!! ✦

## An Open Invitation to All Readers of the Highlands Voice

As a member of the Steering Committee that is planning the West Virginia Conference On the Environment, I wish to personally invite your readers to attend and participate in the important dialogue that we are planning.

The Conference takes place October 18 & 19 at The University of Charleston, and details, registration etc. may be found by visiting the website <[www.dep.state.wv.us](http://www.dep.state.wv.us)> or e-mail to <[wvcoe2001@aol.com](mailto:wvcoe2001@aol.com)>

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is the keynote speaker. And an award for Environmental excellence is planned for a West Virginia Business venture. You will be pleased at our choice I am sure.

It is vitally important, to this writer and to all of the committee, paid and unpaid volunteers, that the full spectrum of representation be present: Environmentalists, Government, Industry, Institutions, Labor, People of Faith.... anyone who cares about the environmental and economic future of this Beautiful State. **We need all stakeholders at the table of debate, discussion and solution finding.** Come and be apart of the dialogue. We want to hear **constructive** ideas, criticism, experiences, proposals and **solutions**. The more voices that attend and are heard, the more voice will reach across the Kanawha River to the Capitol.

It's more important than ever that we achieve energy independence. West Virginia has potential not just in traditional coal, but in wind energy and maybe even in solar. Other approaches are on the table and welcome. The attendant issues for Land, Air and Water will be discussed.

There are scholarships available for those who cannot afford the fees. Simply apply and every consideration will be given.

Please join us....and make a difference.

Sustainably yours,

Allan Tweddle <[allantweddle@bigplanet.com](mailto:allantweddle@bigplanet.com)> ✚



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## Calendar

**October 13 thru 14** - Annual WVHC Board Meeting. [Note: the formal Fall Review has been canceled].

**October 13** - The "Stop mountaintop removal/ Stop the flooding!" rally at the Governor's mansion has been **canceled**.

**October 13 and 14** - Eastern Forest Summit, 4-H Conference Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Details in August issue of The Highlands Voice. For further information contact Jad Daley at (609 818-1776, e-mail <[amccons@mindspring.com](mailto:amccons@mindspring.com)>.

**October 18 thru 19** - "A Match Made in 'Almost Heaven': Marrying West Virginia's Economic and Environmental Future" Robert F Kennedy, Jr., keynote speaker. University of Charleston. Scholarships widely available. Call 342-6972 for details. See invitation letter on page 12.

**October 18 thru 19** -- Commission on Religion in Appalachia (CORA), Annual Assembly. Black Mountain, North Carolina. Contact Janet at the OVEC office (304) 522-0246.

**October 19 (Friday)** - The Fall WV Partners in Flight Working Group Meeting will be held at 9:30 am at Stonewall Jackson Lake State Park in the Multipurpose Building. If you plan on attending please reply to Rob Tallman, the new Nongame Wildlife Biologist and Partners in Flight Coordinator, by e-mail (<[rtallman@dnr.state.wv.us](mailto:rtallman@dnr.state.wv.us)>) or phone (637-0245) so that seating and lunch arrangements can be made. The agenda will be sent out as soon as it is finalized. The format for this meeting will be somewhat different from those in the past. We will spend more time in working group breakout sessions in order to review topics from the last meeting and to identify goals for the future.

**October 20** - Public meeting at Tygart Valley High School at 7 PM to comment on the draft management plan of the Division of Forestry for the Kumbrabow State Forest.

"2001- An Outdoor Odyssey"- see outings schedule on page 6.

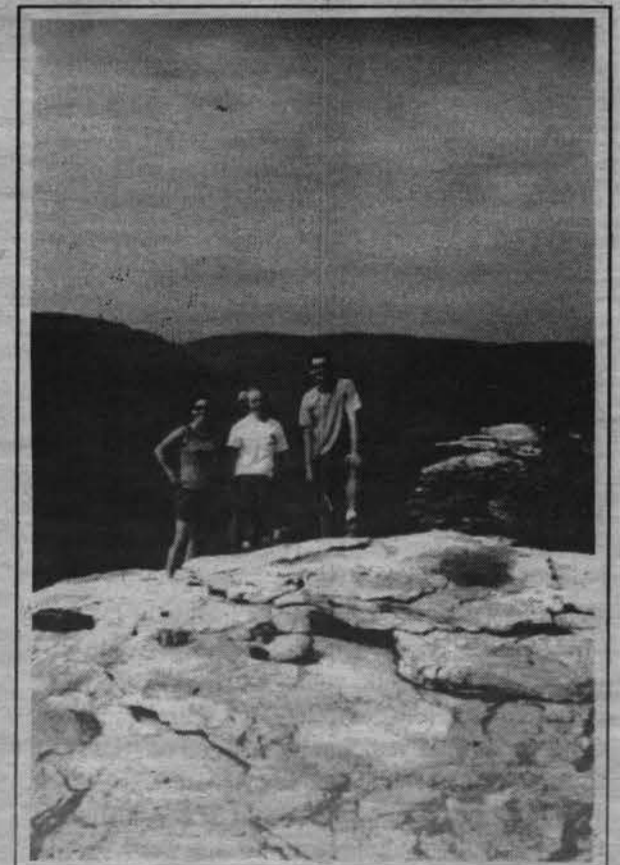
**January 5th, 2002** - WVHC Board of Directors meeting

**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. For more information, contact: Todd Garland at the Catholic Committee of Appalachia (304) 847-7215 or e-mail <[appalachia@earthlink.net](mailto:appalachia@earthlink.net)>.

**May 10 thru 12, 2002** - Spring Review (Board meeting on the 12th)

**July 13th, 2002** - Summer Board of Directors meeting

**October 11 thru 13, 2002** - Fall Review (Board meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>) ✚



L to R: the three summer interns at Lindy Point-Kanh, Carrie & Allen Photo: Judy Rodd