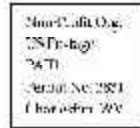


West Virginia Highlands Conference
 Tree Office Box 300
 Charleston, WV 25321



Address service requested



The Highlands Voice

visit us online at www.wvhighlands.org

September 2003 Volume 36 Number 9

Surveys Provide Data on National Forest Management

PUBLIC WANTS MORE WATER PROTECTION, LESS TIMBERING ON NATIONAL FORESTS

By Don Gasper

As part of the process of revising its Management Plans for the Jefferson National Forest and the George Washington National Forest, the U.S. Forest Service conducted a professional polling to determine what citizens wanted their management to address now and in the future. In the Forest Service's view, the conventional public participation at public hearings "typically represent only a portion of the public's interests and seldom represent the so-called "silent majority" who do not or cannot attend these meetings." Polling of the general public is intended to correct this imbalance.

The Forest Service polled a minimum of 400 residents within the "national forest market area." This market area was defined as all counties within seventy five miles of any portion of the forest. Residents were randomly selected and interviewed. The Monongahela National Forest was not included in the survey. Because parts of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests are in West Virginia and because the survey included all counties within seventy five miles of either forest, the survey did include the eastern half of West Virginia.

The Forest Service used randomly selected phone numbers to conduct 20 minute interviews with 1,403 people concerning the Jefferson National Forest and 584 concerning the George Wash-

ington. The polling included questions concerning uses of the forests as well as demographic information such as ethnicity, age, and employment status. Respondents were asked questions to determine two things. First, they were asked about the importance of thirteen broad themes of National Forest management. These are what the survey refers to as the "Values in National Forest management."



Second, respondents were asked their opinion on the importance of twenty six more specific national forest management objectives. These objectives were referred to as National Forest Management objectives...

According to the survey results, the broad themes, the "values of National Forest Management, which were most often identified as extremely important were:

- Maintain for future generations. (most)
- Protect sources of clean water
- Protect wildlife and habitats,
- Leave them natural in appearance

(Continued on p. 4)

What's Inside

Guest commentary	2	Meeting reminder	8	Coal guys off the hook	15
Officers and committee chairs	2	Labor of love at Canaan	9	Speakers bureau	15
Victory in court	3	Trip report	9	Stuff you ought to send away for	15
Mine regulator fired	5	Meeting schedule	9	Longwall mining haiku	16
FOIA appeal succeeds	5	Hiking in Dolly Sods	10	Deadline for comments on strip mining EIS	16
That sinking feeling	5	Wilderness campaign update	11		
Fall review plans	6	Hiking and swimming	12		
How to join	7	Book news	13		
Garden party photos	7	A must have guide	14		
Outings schedule	8	Hiking and tubing on the Cranberry	14		

REARRANGING THE DECK CHAIRS

Guest commentary by John McFerrin

For inspiration it is always useful to look at the purposes of laws. While they aren't specific enough to be enforced, they are there, reminding us of what we were trying to do. In the Constitution we were trying to "establish justice" and "ensure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." In the Clean Water Act our goal was no discharge of pollution into the waters of the United States. Not a little bit, not so little that it might not hurt anybody. Zero.

The job of establishing justice might not be finished yet and we are a long way from zero discharge of pollution into the waters of the United States. We can still read those the purposes of those laws and remind ourselves of what we were trying to do.

Right now we need the inspiration of the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act. Consider the declared Congressional intent:

To declare a national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation; and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality.

The stated policies that were to be achieved by NEPA were:

- Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
- Assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and esthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
- Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;
- Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage, and maintain, wherever possible, an environment which supports diversity and variety of individual choice;

(Continued on p. 16)

Where's Frank?

Normally this spot is reserved for a message from our president. Has he been deposed? Has he had to go into exile? Does he have one of those infamous bad colds that did in so many leaders in the old Soviet Union?

Rest assured that here has been no coup. Frank called just before the deadline to say that he had temporarily run out of anything to say. Sometimes the Muse comes; sometimes it doesn't.

Frank (and his Muse) will be back next month.

Roster of Officers, Board Members and Committee Chairs

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Frank Young, Rt. 1, Box 108, Ripley, WV 25271, (304)372-3945, fyoung@wvhighlands.org.

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT: Judy Rodd, Environmental Services and Education Center 501 Elizabeth St., Charleston, WV 25311, (304)345-7663, roddj@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT FOR STATE AFFAIRS: Carroll Jett, 397 Claylick Road, Sherman, WV 26164, (304) 273-5247, carrolljett@yahoo.com.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS: Peter Shoenfeld, 713 Chesapeake Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301)587-6197, peter@mountain.net.

SECRETARY: Hugh Rogers, Moon Run, Kerens, WV 26276, (304)636-2662, rogers@wvhighlands.org.

TREASURER: Bob Marshall, 886-Z Divide Ridge Road, Kenna WV 25248 (304)372-7501, woodhavenwva@netscape.net

PAST PRESIDENT: John McFerrin, 114 Beckley Ave., Beckley, WV 25801, (304)252-8733, johnmcferrin@aol.com

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE (Terms expire October 2003)

Sayre Rodman, 32 Crystal Dr., Oakmont, PA 15139, (412)828-8983, 73210.540@compuserve.com.

Don Garvin, PO Box 666, Buckhannon, WV 26201, (304)472-8716, DSGJr@aol.com.

Carter Zerbe, 16 Arlington Ct., Charleston, WV 25301, (304)343-3175, scz3667@aol.com.

Bob Marshall, 886-Z Divide Ridge Road, Kenna WV 25248 (304)372-7501, woodhavenwva@netscape.net.

Jonathan Jessup, 8225 Adenlee Ave. #40 Fairfax VA 22031 703-204-1372 jonathanjessup@hotmail.com

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE (Terms expire October 2004)

Bob Gates, 1117 Virginia St.E., Charleston, WV 25301, (304)342-2624, photonzx@ntelos.net.

Don Gasper, 4 Ritchie St., Buckhannon, WV 26201, (304)472-3704

Julian Martin, 1525 Hampton Rd., Charleston, WV 25314, (304) 342-8989, imaginemew@aol.com

Bill McNeel, 1118 Second Ave., Marlinton, WV 24954, (304)799-4369

Helen McGinnis, P.O. Box 300, Harman, WV 26270 (304) 227-4166, helenmcginnis@meer.net

George E. Beetham Jr., 2819 Mt. Carmel Ave., #3, Glenside, Pa., 19038; Phone 267-252-3748, geobeet@hotmail.com .

ORGANIZATIONAL DIRECTORS

NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY—Virginia Region: Judy Fisher, PO Box 276, Berkeley Springs, WV 26411, (304)258-4974.

PITTSBURGH CLIMBERS: Jean Rodman, 32 Crystal Dr., Oakmont, PA 15139, (412)828-8983, jeanrodman@verizon.net

BROOKS BIRD CLUB: Cindy Ellis, RR1, Box 163, Red House, WV 25168.

MOUNTAINEER CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED: Frank Slider, Rt 1 Box 163-A2, Middlebourne, WV 26149, Phone: 304-758-2500 sliderf@ovis.net

WEST VIRGINIA RIVERS COALITION: Pam Moe, Rt. 1, Box 29B, Kerens, WV 26276, (304) 478-4922, pam_moe@hotmail.com

DOWNSTREAM ALLIANCE: Craig Mains, 137 Hoffman Ave., Morgantown WV 26505, cmains@wvu.edu

FRIENDS OF THE LITTLE KANAWHA: Cindy Rank, HC 78, Box 227, Rock Cave, WV 26234, (304)924-5802.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MINING COMMITTEE: Cindy Rank, HC 78, Box 227, Rock Cave, WV 26234, (304)924-5802.

PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: Sayre Rodman, 32 Crystal Dr., Oakmont, PA 15139, (412)828-8983, jeanrodman@verizon.net, Bob Marshall, 201 Virginia St.W., Charleston, WV 25302, (304)345-5518, woodhavenwva@netscape.net.

OUTREACH/COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Julian Martin, 1525 Hampton Rd., Charleston, WV 25314, (304) 342-8989, imaginemew@aol.com

BLACKWATER CANYON COMMITTEE: co-chairs Linda Cooper, J1 1220 Van Voorhis Road Morgantown, WV 26505 (304)296-0565 lcooper@hsc.wvu.edu, and Judy Rodd, Environmental Services and Education Center 501 Elizabeth St., Charleston, WV 25311, (304)345-7663, roddj@hotmail.com

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Frank Young, Rt. 1, Box 108, Ripley, WV 25271, (304)372-3945, fyoung@wvhighlands.org.

WIND ENERGY COMMITTEE:

Peter Shoenfeld, 713 Chesapeake Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301)587-6197, peter@mountain.net.

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE: John McFerrin, 114 Beckley Ave., Beckley, WV 25801, (304)252-8733, johnmcferrin@aol.com

RIVERS COMMITTEE: Vacant

HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE: Hugh Rogers, Moon Run, Kerens, WV 26276, (304)636-2662, rogers@wvhighlands.org.

OUTINGS COMMITTEE: 8225 Adenlee Ave. #40 Fairfax VA 22031 703-204-1372 jonathanjessup@hotmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS OFFICES

SPEAKERS BUREAU: Julian Martin, 1525 Hampton Road, Charleston, WV 25314, (304) 342-8989, imaginemew@aol.com

WEB PAGE: Peter Shoenfeld, 713 Chesapeake Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301)587-6197, peter@mountain.net.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Dave Saville, PO Box 569, Morgantown, WV 26507, (304)284-9548, daves@labyrinth.net.

HIGHLANDS VOICE EDITOR: John McFerrin, 114 Beckley Ave., Beckley, WV 25801, (304)252-8733, johnmcferrin@aol.com

JUDGE TOSSES OUT STATE ANTI-DEGRADATION PLAN

In a major water quality ruling, a federal judge said Friday that the Bush administration was wrong to approve a state stream protection policy that was full of loopholes.

U.S. District Judge Joseph R. Goodwin threw out the rule, sending it back to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Environmental Protection to be rewritten.

In a more than 70-page ruling, Goodwin concluded that the EPA "acted arbitrarily and capriciously" when it signed off on the state's stream "anti-degradation" procedures in November 2001.

Under the federal Clean Water Act, anti-degradation procedures are intended to protect the current quality of rivers and streams. New development and the additional pollution it brings are allowed, but only if a cost-benefit analysis shows that jobs or other results are worth it.

"West Virginia's regulations simply fail to require the minimum protections required by the EPA's regulation," the judge wrote in an opinion released August 29, 2003.

"EPA's approval of West Virginia's procedures was based on an unreasonable attempt to effectively amend the plain meaning of those provisions so as to bring them into line with federal requirements," he added.

Goodwin overturned the EPA's approval of seven of 13 provisions of the state policy that were challenged in court by the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, and other groups.

"The court has rejected many of the loopholes that EPA and the state of West Virginia tried to create," said Jim Hecker, environmental enforcement director for Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, a Washington firm that represented the environmental groups. "It will now be harder for them to be allowed to let West Virginia's waters deteriorate."

For example, Goodwin rejected EPA approval of state language that said high-quality streams "generally" are given anti-degradation protection. Environmental groups argued, and the judge agreed, that all high-quality streams are entitled to this protection.

Goodwin also said the EPA was wrong to approve language that would have given the

DEP Secretary broad authority to exempt certain activities from the anti-degradation policy.

The judge threw out language that exempted large portions of the Kanawha and Monongahela rivers from anti-degradation protections. He also tossed an exception for pollution covered by certain "general permits" issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

However, Goodwin said that EPA was within its authority to approve West Virginia language that exempted existing pollution sources from anti-degradation cost-benefit studies unless they propose to increase their discharges. The judge also declined to reject a waiver for non-point source pollution, such



as logging, farming and other types of runoff.

In some cases, Goodwin acknowledged that judges must give the EPA deference in interpreting its own regulations, such as those that spell out anti-degradation requirements.

But the judge said that he would not "permit the EPA to effectively amend those regulations to mean something other than what the text of the regulation in question fairly supports."

Goodwin's decision is believed to be the first time that a federal court has thrown out EPA approval of a state anti-degradation policy, lawyers in the case said.

"This really is a groundbreaking case," said Joe Lovett of the Appalachian Center for the Economy and the Environment, which also represented the environmental groups. "There is no precedent for this anywhere."

Anti-degradation is a little noticed, but important part of the federal Clean Water Act. Under the law, anti-degradation policies are supposed to provide streams with an added layer of protection above state water-quality standards.

Water quality standards place limits on the concentration of pollutants allowed in streams. Below those standards, streams aren't safe for fishing, swimming, or boating, let alone for use as drinking water.

Anti-degradation says that current water quality may not be lowered. Streams that are clean must be kept that way. Streams that are dirty can't be made any dirtier.

Even if additional pollution would not violate water quality standards, anti-degradation says that "degrading" streams below their current quality isn't generally allowed.

Water quality can be degraded, in some instances, but only if a cost-benefit analysis shows that the jobs or other benefits outweigh the environmental cost.

Federal law required states to have anti-degradation policies and plans to implement those policies. The EPA is required to make sure states that have these rules are stringent enough.

West Virginia only recently approved its anti-degradation policy, and passed a plan during the 2001 legislative session to implement it.

Under pressure from various industry groups, the Wise administration — under then-DEP Secretary Michael Callaghan — agreed to add numerous loopholes to an implementation policy that had already been watered-down during a stakeholder review process.

Callaghan agreed to those loopholes less than a week after Gov. Bob Wise warned industry lobbyists not to try to further weaken the legislation.

Since then, Wise has cited the policy as an example of how his administration has "taken on some tough environmental issues in this state."

In November 2001, the Bush administration EPA approved the state plan, including numerous provisions that were previously rejected by the Clinton EPA.

This is a shortened version of an article that originally appeared in the Charleston Gazette.

The *Highlands Voice* is published monthly by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, P.O. Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321. Articles, letters to the editor, graphics, photos, poetry, or other information for publication should be sent to the editor via the internet or by the U.S. Mail by last Friday of each month. You may submit material for publication either to the address listed above or to the address listed for Highlands Voice Editor on the previous page. Submissions by internet or on a floppy disk are preferred.

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

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy web page is www.wvhighlands.org

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is a non-profit corporation which has been recognized as a tax exempt organization by the Internal Revenue Service. Its bylaws describe its purpose:

The purposes of the Conservancy shall be to promote, encourage, and work for the conservation- including both preservation and wise use- and appreciation of the natural resources of West Virginia and the Nation, and especially of the Highlands Region of West Virginia, for the cultural, social, educational, physical, health, spiritual and economic benefit of present and future generations of West Virginians and Americans.

(Continued from p. 1)

- Protect trees to emphasize healthy forests.

The broad themes ranked as extremely important least often were

- Provide outdoor recreation
- Provide abundant timber supply
- Help local tourism
- Grazing
- Providing raw materials and products for local industries (least)

So far as management objectives were concerned, those surveyed most often ranked as extremely important these five objectives:

- Protect areas that are the sources of water, such as streams, lakes and watershed areas (most important)
- Protect areas that are important wildlife habitats
- Protect old growth forests and allow natural processes to continue into the future
- Manage the forests to provide habitat for wildlife and birds for people to see and photograph
- Allow different groups such as Native Americans to continue cultural uses of the forests

The five objectives which were least often identified as extremely important management objectives were:

- Allow harvesting and mining to support communities
- New paved roads for cars
- Allow commercial leasing of oil and gas rights
- Expand access for motorized off-highway vehicles
- Allow recreational gold prospecting and dredging (least)

In addition to ranking values and management objectives, survey respondents were asked to indicate whether they agree or disagree with five statements.

- Critical homes for plant and animal species should be protected
- More controls on tourism and second home development
- Endangered Species Act has not gone far enough
- More important to protect streams for trout than for other species
- More timber production, mining, and other commercial uses

Of these five statements, a majority of respondents near the Jefferson and George Washington national forests agreed or strongly agreed with the first three. Only twenty seven percent agreed and ten percent strongly agreed with more timber production, mining, and other commercial uses.

In addition to these results of the survey as a whole, the report of the survey also presented breakdowns of the data by such things as ethnicity, age, employment status, and how long the person surveyed had lived in the area.

Study Author’s Conclusions

In addition to presenting the raw material the authors of the study also offered some interpretation of the data. In describing their conclusions about the values in National Forest management revealed by the study, the authors said:



Of the top values in Table 4 [describing values in National Forest Management], two stand out. These are the values that to over 80 percent of persons in the forest and subregion market areas are extremely important. Between 83 and 89 percent of residents in the market areas (Jefferson was slightly higher) and in the Southern Appalachians generally place national forests high on the list for the protection they offer sources of clean water. These percentages are actually slightly higher than the same national forest value viewed by people nationally. Between 83 and 86 percent place national forests high on their list for the opportunity they offer to pass along natural forests in good condition to future generations. These percentages too are higher than the national percentages for this same value.

Highlight—The values most often emphasized in the management of national forests, i.e., outdoor recreation and timber,

are in the second or lower half of the list of values.

The values lowest on the list by percentages indicating them to be important include managing national forests as: “sources of raw materials and products to support local industries and manufacturing” (38%), “sources of grazing range for livestock” (45%), and “helping local tourism businesses (57%). These priorities on values are highly consistent with priorities voted on by residents throughout the SA [Southern Appalachian] region and residents throughout the country.

Those values most often emphasized in the management of national forests, i.e., outdoor recreation and timber are in the second or lower half of the list of values evaluated by survey respondents. Clean water, future generations, wildlife, and forest health are the highest priorities by the tax paying, stock-holding, public.

Of the National Forest Management objectives, the authors said:

Highlight—The people who reside in the areas near the Virginia national forests clearly put ecosystems and naturalness above utilitarian objectives in the management of these national forests. Clearly, residents of the Virginia national forest market areas put ecosystems and naturalness above utilitarian objectives in the management of these national forests. This hierarchy of priorities is highly consistent with the Natural Resources Agenda developed for the Forest Service over the past few years.

All National Forests are required to periodically revise their management plans. Currently, the Jefferson National Forest and the George Washington National Forest are farther along in the revising process than is the Monongahela National Forest. It has not yet commissioned such a study. Because of the proximity of the Monongahela National Forest to the Jefferson and George Washington forests, the study areas would overlap. The overlap makes the data from this study probative of the attitudes in areas surrounding the Monongahela. It would tell what those who live close to the Monongahela want.

To read the entire study, go to: <http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/trends/sanfrpt.html> .

Division of Mining and Reclamation Chief abruptly fired

CRUM CANNED

Department of Environmental Protection director Stephanie Timmermeyer has abruptly fired Matthew Crum, Director of the Division of Mining and Reclamation of the Department of Environmental Protection. She cited no reason other than a difference in "management styles." At the same time, Ms. Timmermeyer announced that she intended to become more directly involved in the management of the Division of Mining and Reclamation.

Under Mr. Crum's leadership the Department of Mining and Reclamation had stepped up its enforcement efforts against various Massey Energy subsidiaries for repeated blackwater discharges. Regulations give the Division of Mining and Reclamation the authority to require that repeat violators to show cause why their permits should not be revoked. If the company fails to do so, the Department of Environmental Protection can revoke or suspend permits when it finds that companies have committed a "pattern of violations." Under Mr. Crum's direction, the Division pursued several such actions. These resulted in short permit suspensions for the companies involved.

Mr. Crum also supported the technical staff's recommended denial of the application by Mettiki Coal to operate a longwall min-

ing operation under a trout stream.

In legislative matters, Mr. Crum supported the regulations which implemented the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on flooding. That task force was formed in the aftermath of the floods of 2001. It was charged examining the role of mining and timbering in those floods and with making recommendations on how mining or timbering could be more effectively regulated so as to reduce any contribution they may be making to the flooding.

The task force did come up with recommendations which the Department of Environmental Protection proposed as regulations. Although the Governor never made any public statement supporting the regulations of his task force, Mr. Crum successfully guided the mining regulations through the legislature to enactment. He also vigorously defended regulatory changes that had been made in compliance with an earlier settlement agreement. This settlement agreement was reached between the plaintiff West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and several citizens and the agency defendants as part of the litigation over mountaintop removal mining.

Longtime Department of Environmental Protection employee Joe Parker was named as interim director of the Division.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT APPEAL GRANTED

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy's appeal of the denial of its Freedom of Information Act request to the United States Forest Service has been granted.

As reported in earlier issues of the *Voice*, the Conservancy had heard rumors of possible windfarm development on the Monongahela National Forest. To verify these rumors, the Conservancy made a Freedom of Information Act Request to the

Forest Service for records of inquiries, applications, etc. The Forest Service replied that, while there were records, they were exempt from disclosure as Confidential Business Information, one of the exceptions to the FOIA.

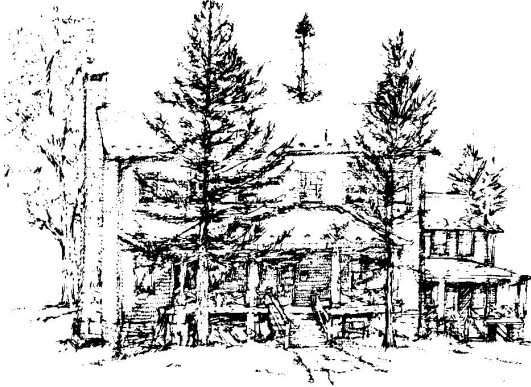
The Conservancy appealed this decision to the next level within the Forest Service, the appeal was granted, and we got the records. The "records" consist of two slips of paper with names and phone num-

bers. One of the records is dated September, 2002; the other is undated. One of the names is a known wind power developer. No one on the Wind Power Committee recognized the other name.

This leaves us about where we were before. We had rumors of windmills on the Monongahela. Now we have confirmation that somebody was at least interested enough in the possibility to call the Forest Service.



Barnes Nugent leads a gang of spelunkers as they get ready to take the plunge into the Sinks of Gandy on the popular Mountain Odyssey outing.



The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
presents its

38th annual

Fall Review

at

**Cheat Mountain
Club**

October 23-30, 2003

For over 100 years known as a great place for hunting, fishing and wilderness adventure, the Cheat Mountain Club is a special retreat from the outside world- a gracious, quiet, comfortable lodge that fosters contemplation, good talk, and recreational enjoyment in a place of spectacular natural beauty.

This year, as part of the important work we are doing to protect the Monongahela National Forest, we have decided to dedicate an entire week to our 38th annual Fall Review. In the heart of it all, on Cheat Mountain, on the shores of the Shavers Fork of the Cheat River, we'll have workshops, art, lectures, outings, service projects, dignitaries, music, and a whole lot of fun.

Featuring

Thursday - Saturday Wilderness workshops, outings, meetings and special guest speakers. Learn about our current efforts to have more areas given official Wilderness designation on the Monongahela National Forest. Meet Wilderness activists from all over West Virginia, and long-time activists from all over the nation. Special guests include Doug Scott, Ed Zahniser, Forest Supervisor Clyde Thompson, Wilderness Society Vice President Jerry Greenberg. Music by Jim Truman, Joan & Keith Pitzer and others.

Sunday - Tuesday Monongahela National Forest Planning workshops, meetings and outings. The Management Plan for the Monongahela National Forest is being revised. This is the first time since 1985 that we will be able to change the direction of the management of the Forest. Come and learn how the process works and how *you* can become involved and make a difference.

Saturday & Sunday, Spotlight on Roaring Plains, Meet at the Plains on Saturday Morning for an all day outing, then come on down to the Cheat Mountain Club to join in the festivities Saturday Evening. Special naturalist-led outings in the Cheat Mountain area on Sunday followed by a Roaring Plains slide show by Jonathan Jessup in the evening. Bring your pictures, slides and stories about your adventures at Roaring Plains and share your knowledge of its history. We will also be discussing the ski resort and developments being planned for Mt. Porte Crayon.

Sunday Highlands Conservancy membership meeting beginning at 9am. This is when members get to elect the Board of Directors. The Board meeting begins immediately following the membership meeting.

Lodging

The Cheat Mountain Club sleeps 23 people. There are several guest rooms and a bunk room on the third floor. Cost is \$40/person/night or \$250 for the whole week. Camping is available on location at \$5/person/night. Hermitage Motel in Bartow (10 miles) has nice rooms for around \$50

Meals

The Cheat Mountain Club is famous for its hearty meals. We'll be serving 3 meals /day. Dinners, \$15, Lunches and Breakfasts, \$8 each. Meals must be reserved in advance.

Contact Dave Saville for more information and reservations. Highlands Conservancy members will be mailed a brochure with complete details and registration form in September. dave@wvhighlands.org or 304-284-9548

Join Now and get a free gift!!



West
Virginia
Highlands
Conservancy
www.wvhighlands.org

We are now offering a wonderful incentive for new membership applications we receive. We have had beautiful National Geographic books donated to us and are offering them as premiums to new members. Join now, using the form below, to get your free gift.

The Emerald Realm, Earth's Precious Rain Forests. Together, earth's tropical rain forests make up a globe girdling emerald realm that occupies just 5 percent of the world's land area-yet nurtures half its plant animal species. From this cornucopia pours an array of foods and herbs, medicines and chemicals, and a variety of construction materials. The magnificence, the fragility, the mystery of "the most diverse, the most complex, and the least understood ecosystem on earth" are yours to experience in this 200 page National Geographic book. A \$20.00 value free to new members. **Premium available to new members only.**

Yes! Sign me up.

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Phone _____ E-Mail _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Membership Categories (circle one)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Individual</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Family</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Org.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Senior</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$15</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Student</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$15</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Introductory/ Other</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$15</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regular</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$25</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$35</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Associate</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$50</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$75</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sustaining</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$100</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$150</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Patron</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$250</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$500</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mountaineer</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$500</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$750</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$1,000</td> </tr> </table>		<u>Individual</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Org.</u>	Senior	\$15			Student	\$15			Introductory/ Other	\$15			Regular	\$25	\$35	\$50	Associate	\$50	\$75	\$100	Sustaining	\$100	\$150	\$200	Patron	\$250	\$500	\$500	Mountaineer	\$500	\$750	\$1,000
	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Org.</u>																																		
Senior	\$15																																				
Student	\$15																																				
Introductory/ Other	\$15																																				
Regular	\$25	\$35	\$50																																		
Associate	\$50	\$75	\$100																																		
Sustaining	\$100	\$150	\$200																																		
Patron	\$250	\$500	\$500																																		
Mountaineer	\$500	\$750	\$1,000																																		

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

TONS OF FUN AT THE GARDEN PARTY!




Mary Wimmer chats with Elizabeth Zimmermann on the patio during the Garden Party.

"Hiker in Training" Chase Sutton was amongst those enjoying the afternoon at Walnut Farm



The Garden Party at Walnut Farm was a great success. Much needed funds were raised through the auctions and by generous contributions made by members. The event was a fundraiser for our Wilderness Campaign. Thanks to everyone who attended or contributed.

West Virginia Mountain Odyssey



Outings, Education and Beyond

West Virginia Mountain Odyssey Outings Schedule

August 30- Sep 2, Sat.-Tues. Backpacking, base-camping and hiking on Red Creek/ Roaring/ Flatrock Plains—one of the highest, most rugged, and most scenic parts of the West Va. Highlands and Monongahela National Forest. We will camp on, and explore, the rims of Allegheny Front and Long Run that offer some of the best views (and scenery) in the area - much of it rarely seen. Hopefully we will have time to visit Haystack Knob, Thunderstruck Rock, Mt. Porte Crayon and much of the north Rim of Long Run. Prior backpacking experience required. 16 miles of backpacking. Limit: 10. Contact Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737 or bsundquist1@juno.com

September 11th-14th: Tea Creek/Cranberry Wilderness Car Camping Trip. Four day car camping trip to the southern Mon Forest. Hikes to include a 10 mile circuit hike utilizing trails in and around the Tea Creek Water Shed and a 11 mile shuttle hike along the middle fork of the Williams River in the Cranberry Wilderness. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com

September 20, Sat. Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge tree planting. We will be celebrating Public Lands Day by planting over 200 balsam fir trees. This is the latest in our many years effort to protect this unique West Virignian tree. Bring some gloves and a shovel. We'll meet at the Refuge Visitors Center at 9AM and work until we get all the trees planted. Contact Dave Saville dave@wvhighlands.org (304) 284-9548

September at 20-22, Sat.-Mon. , Seneca Shadows / Dolly Sods Camping. Car camping at USFS modern Seneca Shadows campground near Seneca Rock. Hike 10.3 miles in the Dolly Sods wilderness. Site reservations recommended. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

October 3rd-6th: Seneca Shadows Car Camping trip. Four day car camping trip. The feature hike is a 5 mile circuit of the Roaring Plains Canyon Rim trail lead by Jonathan Jessup on Oct. 4th. (See <http://www.jonathanjessup.com/rp-set1.html> for pictures) October 5th will feature an 11 mile circuit hike in the Seneca Creek Watershed with several stream crossings. Reservations for the camping sites recommended. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

October 4th, Sat. - Roaring Plains - Canyons Rim Trail Day Hike. Explore and witness spectacular, remote, rocky and rarely visited high elevation country. Many excellent views. Be prepared for cool temps and weather extremes. Only one 400ft climb. ~5 miles See photos at <http://www.jonathanjessup.com/rp-set1.html> Hosted by Jonathan Jessup. (703)204-1372 jonathanjessup@hotmail.com

October 11-13, Sat-Mon. Fall foliage on North Fork Mountain. Exceptional overlooks for a 26 mile backpack. Reservations required. Bad weather dates are October 17-19. Please email Alan M. Aliskovitz at amxa@hotmail.com or call him @724-283-5436

October 23-30, Thurs.-Thurs. Fall Review at Cheat Mountain Club. There will be a full week long slate of outings, workshops, music and fun. Contact Dave Saville (304) 284-9548, dave@wvhighlands.org

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@aol.com and Larry Gibson, (304) 586-3287 or (304) 549-3287 cellular.

REMINDER: The Fall Review includes the General Membership Meeting. It will be on Sunday, October 26th, at 9:30 a.m. This meeting will include the election of Board members as well as other business to come before the membership. This is your opportunity to vote, make motions, discuss, pontificate, whatever. Your attendance and participation is requested.

FENCE GANG TAKES A BREATHER

Fence crew working on a deer enclosure fence on the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge. With the help of funding from the Environmental Challenge Fund, the Highlands Conservancy is continuing its efforts to protect balsam fir. We will construct 2 or possibly 3 exclosures in the Valley this summer. These Mountain Odyssey volunteer outings have been very productive and successful. Look for more opportunities to volunteer in the outings schedule.

Photo by Chip Chase



PADDING ALONG DOWN BY PADDY RUN

By Michael V. Juskelis

It was 10:15 as we turned onto unsigned Forest Road 93. We drove deep into Vance's Cove and parked my vehicle at the gate where Paddy Run combines with another stream and turns eastward to find it's way through a gap in a mountain with the same name. We all crammed into Fulya's vehicle with Tom volunteering to sit in the cargo compartment and drove to the intersection of the Tuscarora trail and VA/WV 55.

At 10:50 we were on our way, pushing ourselves through a series of short but steep climbs on this little used segment of the Big Blue. The total elevation gain for the first leg of our trip was only 400-500 feet but the fact that we were doing it under very humid weather conditions made it seem like more. Adding a few saddles along the ridge, which caused us to lose and regain some of the elevation several times, produced an invigorating workout. The tread varied from rocky, overgrown trail to grassy jeep road. In some places the tire ruts were filled with a soft carpet of pine needles bringing a pleasant relief from the otherwise rocky path. Occasional views into Vance's cove to our left and some partial views to our right were obscured by the dense haze but one could sense the magnificence of our surroundings. We were surrounded by white moths and all kinds of summer flowers, the predominant species being purple New York Iron Weed and Asters.

We reached Gerhart shelter in quick order. The troublesome swarms of gnats and small flies shortened our break and we soon found ourselves quickly crab-walking down the un-named steep white blazed connector trail to Patty Run. We took some time to explore some old forest roads not shown on any recent maps in hopes of finding a secret passage to the top of Patty Mountain but all of our excursions ended in dead ends. Still they were a pleasant change and produced a sense of adventure in the crew. We proceeded north along Paddy Run back to my car, crossing it a total of three times. The crossings were nearly non-events due to low water. When we reached the car we dropped our packs and some of us, water bottles in hand, crossed the un-named tributary and quickly hiked along the stretch of Paddy Run

that cuts through a gap in the mountain. The trail was a wide gravel road through a totally different ecosystem. Instead of a silty, meandering stream flowing through a hardwood forest we found ourselves walking through a canopy of Hemlocks and Rhododendron as the Run swept through slides and rapids formed by slick, once molten, dark rock. Suddenly Tom, who had the lead, threw up his arm in a halting gesture. The group froze in our tracks as we gazed at the site - hundreds of yellow and black Swallow-tailed butterflies stood on the trail in front of us. I slowly raised my digital camera in a feeble attempt to capture this vision just as the entire mass took flight in a kaleidoscope of yellow, blue and black. We chuckled to ourselves as we watched this butterfly convention disperse before our eyes. Realizing that we weren't going to top this advent on this day we did an about face and returned to our vehicles. As we prepared to leave the humidity turned to liquid. A cooling drizzle began to fall. As we drove back to Strasburg to hook up with the other car Tom and I promised each other we would come back and find a route to the top of Paddy Mountain from Vance's Cove.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

So that we can all plan in advance, we have already established the schedule of Highlands Conservancy Board Meetings for 2004:

January 24	Winter Board Meeting
April 23-25	Spring Review (Board Meeting on April 25)
July 24	Summer Board Meeting
October 22-24	Fall Review (Board Meeting and Membership Meeting on October 24)

It has been the policy of the Board policy to welcome all members to the Board meetings. Non-Board members may talk, listen, palaver, ramble, rant, sermonize, pontificate, etc. Board members may do all of that plus make motions and vote.

HIKING THROUGH DOLLY SODS

By Michael V. Juskelis Photos by the Author

So this was to be a quick foray into the White Sulfur District of the Monongahela, a visit to the primitive campground at Blue Bend with hiking along the South Boundary and Anthony Creek trails, an area not often visited by hikers. A confirming call to the Ranger station caused an abrupt change in our plans. Blue Bend is a first come/ first serve campground with no reservations accepted. Unknown to me, I had picked the central weekend of the WV State Fair being held in that county as the dates for our trip. It would not do us well to arrive there on Friday afternoon to find all sites filled as well as sites in Blue Meadow and Lake Sherwood. The ranger informed me that most motels in the area would probably also be booked to capacity. A few quick communications with the participants and a telephone call to Reserve USA found us comfortably booked at Seneca Shadows and our focus averted to Dolly Sods.

The next morning we dropped Don's car off at the parking area close to Red Creek Campground. We drove down FR72 as fast as that bumpy road would let us to the trailhead for the Rohrbaugh Plains Trail - not so busy on this end! There was one truck leaving as we pulled in and the rest of the lot was empty. As we donned our packs we discussed the possibility of rain and noted the stiff breeze that was blowing over the North Sods where we left Don's car. We stuffed some extra clothing into our backpacks and started on our way. It was 9:45.

As we walked along the Rohrbaugh Plains Trail we maintained a good pace, trying to make it to that "Un-named Vista" before we took our first break. Most people think that the essence of Dolly Sods is best found in the highland heath bogs, mountain plains and rock fields of the western and northern parts of the wilderness, and they are probably right, but it still amazes me how many ecosystems a person can walk through in one hour or 2.5 miles while in this place. We found ourselves transported through dense mature Spruce forests with impenetrable understories of Rhododendron - some still blooming in August, open fern meadows, thickets of second growth hardwood, rocky ridges as well as the heath barrens and plains mentioned above. You know, it's very easy to gain a sense of euphoria doing this stuff. We arrived at that special place close to 11. It had warmed up a bit and the threat of rain diminished but the summer haze lingered in the valley below us. Still we could see Red Creek, almost to Laneville and the junctions of Little and Big Stonecoal Runs. Across from us was the Lion's Head on Breathed Mountain. "We'll be over there in a couple of weeks" I thought to myself. After refreshing ourselves and soaking in the

sights we hastily checked out the great campsites mere yards from this perch and proceeded north to the next trail intersection. Another departure - maybe one thing that worried me about the Sods was the supposed lack of signs. I like wilderness areas and don't think blazes and plaques belong there but I think small, unobtrusive signs at key intersections - like the ones we encountered this day - serve to protect the wilderness and provide a measure of safety to the travelers, especially those who are not carrying overnight gear with them. I was pleased to find every intersection signed.

We maintained our pace as we turned onto Fisher Spring Run Trail and then Red Creek Trail. As we descended to the creek we spotted two backpackers on the other side preparing to come across. They were pretty much doing our route in reverse. They pointed out the best ford and the trail resumption. We thanked them but stayed on the east bank a bit, traveling 0.2 miles upstream to a short but powerful waterfall for lunch. There is nothing quite as refreshing as putting your legs into 60 something degree mountain water on a beautiful sunny day. (I forgot to mention that 15 minutes after we left the vista the sun came out and burnt off most of the haze. My father always told me "Son, timing is everything." With my apparent lack of timing it's hard to believe I'm a drummer.) After 30 minutes of this tranquility I checked the time: "after 2:00 - we better get moving." We got dressed and backtracked to the ford. Joy and I wore sandals. Don wore the naggiest looking blue and pink canoeing shoes I've ever seen. A real fashion statement! I thought I had gotten a good shot with my digital but it wasn't there with the download. Oh well! The crossing was non-eventful as most are this time of year. We were back in our boots and doing the only significant elevation change of the trip, up Red Creek Trail and beyond the intersection with Rocky Point Trail (signed). The climb was steep but it was over in a few minutes. We walked along a wide and flat trail, watching Red Creek come up to

(Continued on the next page)



(Continued from previous page)

us as we passed the intersection of Breathed Mountain Trail (signed).

Ahhh - so this is the Forks? What a place - even though several families were camping there. Right at the rapids at the junction of North and Left Fork of Red Creek we were pretty much alone. Once again the boots came off. Joy and Don snacked and rested as I explored down river a bit and found an area that promised some nice slides and waterfalls. When we decided it was time to move on we plunged into a spruce thicket and found ourselves looking for the trail. A helpful camper put us on the right track - we were only a few feet from the cairn at our original crossing. Can you say "embarrassed"! We followed the Left Fork for a bit and then sharply turned up the hill and through the woods to the first of several meadows that the Sods is famous for. From there we hiked up to the intersection with Blackbird Knob Trail (signed) and did the typical Dolly Sods shuffle through that



patented DS Pea Soup that can suck your boots off. It was shortly after this, as we had to ford Red Creek for the final time, that we met our only disconcerting event of the day.

We finished our hike around 5:30. It took us a while to knock the DS mud off and change our shoes. Then it was back down

to FR19 to recover my trusty Dakota. In no time we were back at camp and showered. Did anyone ever tell you how good Hot Roast Beef and Gravy at the 4-U motel is after a 10 mile hike in Dolly Sods? Trust me - it's to die for!

WILDERNESS CAMPAIGN KEEPS MOVING

By Matt Keller

August was a busy month for the West Virginia Wilderness Coalition. Early on, we had a two day meeting near Spruce Knob. We planned further ahead on general strategy, and discussed the multitude of issues that revolve around the campaign. Michael Carroll, communications director for The Wilderness Society's Wilderness Support Center made the trip out from Durango, CO to help us plan our media strategy that we will use to spread the good word about wilderness across the state and region. His expertise and good nature were greatly appreciated and were crucial in getting our media plans off the ground. We came out of the meeting with an updated campaign plan that will help to guide our actions through the coming months.

As we finish up our field inventories and analyze the data we have collected, our focus will shift towards developing media to promote the areas we feel will have the best chance and are most deserving of wilderness designation. We have been working hard at getting endorsements for our campaign from state businesses and organizations. I will be out and about giving presentations and having table displays at various events. If you know of an organization that would like to hear more about the wilderness campaign at a meeting, please contact me.

During the last week of August, we had the opportunity to take staff members from various offices of congressional delegation members on tours of potential wilderness areas. It was a great opportunity to show off the natural beauty and wild character these places have to the folks that we hope will be working closely with us to protect them. The tours went well and it seemed the staffers really appreciated the opportunity to get out and see the wild in West Virginia!

Right now is a crucial time for the campaign for grassroots organizing. We'd love to hear from more people, especially those living in counties around the Mon that would like to get involved in

spreading the word about wilderness to friends, family, neighbors and local businesses. Only by organizing the voices of those who would see more wilderness protected in the state will we be successful in doing so. If you would like to be involved in this aspect of the drive to designate new wilderness areas on the Mon, please contact Matt Keller, matk@tws.org, (304)864-5530.



Wilderness Coordinator Matt Keller and his wife Julie enjoy a rare opportunity to paddle the Dry Fork in August. The rainy, wet summer has given us some great summer boating this year.

HIKING (AND SWIMMING) ON RED CREEK

By Susan Bly Photos by the author

Jeff LeBlanc, Terry Major, Karin Birch, Anneil Miller, Gary Steele, Murat Tandirci and I fulfilled an odyssey of adventure in Red Creek. On Friday morning, all excluding Murat (who joined us on Saturday) took off upstream on the Red Creek Trail the 3.5 miles to the first crossing of Red Creek. We

Our goal lay upstream, ascending all the way to the Forks of Red Creek and the intersection of the Red Creek trail. Just past the Fisher Spring outlet, we came upon a wonderful 12-15 foot tall waterfall and swimming hole. We all broke out our swimming gear in the mid 70's air temps and plunged (or cringed) our way into the 60 degree water. Shiver me timbers! But once you got used to it, it really didn't seem that bad.

We spotted a bit of wildlife sunning itself amongst the rocks on a small island. I nearly stepped on it at first before its lazily coiled form struck my memory with the sense that this was no ordinary stick. We studied the serpent from a distance and made several conclusions:

not a pit viper as its eyes were not slit and it didn't have a pointed head, although its markings looked like a dark copperhead. We found out later that it was a water snake, great for killing those "wonderful" tent mates, mice.

The stream banks along the way showed that tremendous landslides had taken place a year or two ago, taking out 100-foot tall sections at one swipe. These slides had tumbled boulders and rocks both great and small into the stream, making for difficult footing at times.

But there were still scenic parts of the creek. One of these are the flat stretches of bedrock here and there. One 50-foot stretch was nearly completely smooth, making a perfect waterslide. The water runs so smoothly over the rocks that, it seems like you are

walking on liquid air.

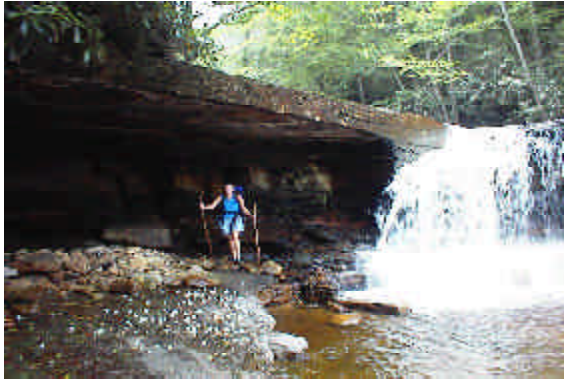
We turned a corner of the stream and there before us stood an Olympic National Park sea stack. This was composed of a large 15 foot tall boulder with a 10 - 15 year old spruce tree growing up out of its top. We decided to eat lunch here on a large flat rock and contemplate nature. We took a 30- 40 minute break and then turned our childlike curiosities for wondering what lies around the next bend, back upstream.

We took time to look at the black coal veins and the tree-like fern fossils in the flat stream rocks, a tale of how truly tropical this place used to be. We came upon another beautiful waterfall, about the same height as the previous one. We decided not to take a dip here, but rather saved ourselves for the second to last waterfall near the Forks of Red Creek. Upon reaching it we changed again into swimming gear and took the final plunge.

The clouds started to close in for sure about ½ hour later so we dressed, headed upstream and entered the canopy of trees for protection from the forthcoming thunderstorm. Before it hit, we checked out two stupendous works of art: the first was a set of living room rock furniture complete with fireplace and recliners; the second, a carved totem pole. Terry said that this replaced a previous totem someone cut down several years ago.

As the lighting crashed, the rain poured down as we slogged through rain puddles down the true Red Creek trail, back to our campsite. We cooked dinner under our group tarp and were thankful for dry clothes and the fact that the rain let up about 1.5 hours later.

The next day we hiked up the steep grade of the Fisher Spring Run trail. The afternoon was spent looking out from Bell Knob tower and eating at the Ponderosa in Moorefield.



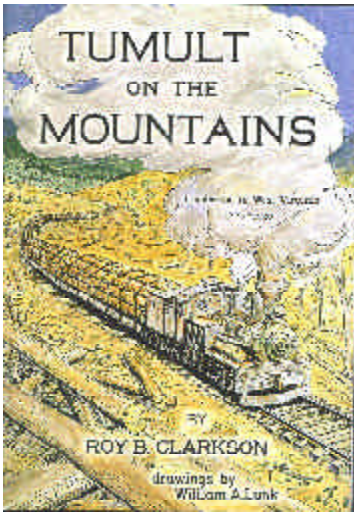
then proceeded to look for a base campsite. We finally settled on a grassy plateau on the left bank and set up camp at 12:30.

After setup and lunch, we stream whacked downstream "to see what we could see." I had been down this way on a previous backpacking trip in 2000 and had seen a beautiful waterfall about ½ mile down from the crossing. The streambed itself has changed a lot since then. There are quite a few more rocks and the bed itself has widened considerably in spots. There must have been a flood or two in the intervening years.

As we passed one of the tributaries we scrambled upstream to take more photos of this waterfall. We snapped a few photos of the falls and proceeded further downstream and found a peace symbol and 3-digit number made of small stones. We assume a Boy Scout troop had passed this way before. Then some drizzle and slight rain started so we decided to go back to our campsite and make some supper. That evening we found a couple of large boulders beside the stream and talked in the darkness, watching our neighbors across the creek bob about with lights and create a flaming bonfire.

On Saturday we were joined by Murat, and secondly by "Homer" - a bear hound with an antenna on his collar. He had certainly wandered far from the plateau and his owner's truck along the Forest Service road. Homer didn't stay with us for long when we started our day hike of 2.5 miles in Red Creek. Too heavy going for four paws I suppose.





Tumult on The Mountains by Roy Clarkson
 McClain Printing Company – Parsons, West Virginia 1964

West Virginia, like other eastern states, was bountifully supplied by nature with a tremendous wealth of timber. The early white settlers in this area found an almost unbroken forest consisting of enormous trees towering above the land. They utilized certain species for making rustic log cabins and rail fences. Remaining trees, in rich river bottoms, were girdled or felled and burned to clear the land. As the number of settlers increased the need for sawn timbers arose and the lumber industry was slowly, laboriously initiated.

"*Tumult on the Mountains – Lumbering in West Virginia, 1770-1920*" portrays the lumber industry from its inconspicuous beginnings through a century and a half of progress. As long as the virgin timber supply lasted, the industry grew, slowly at first, then with ever increasing impetus to a crashing climax in 1909. By this time much of the original timber was destroyed and the industry rapidly declined.

The author spent many years collecting data and pictures concerning the timber industry in West Virginia. Much of the information was obtained from letters and personal interviews with remaining "old-timers" who fondly recalled the old days and shared their experiences with him.

Scores of persons generously loaned cherished photographs to him for copying. A collection of over 1,000 old photographs was amassed. From this collection 257 full-page pictures are used in the book to depict every phase of the lumber industry. The preservation of these photographs along with the comments of the vanishing "old-timers" is a most valuable contribution to the history of West Virginia.

The main emphasis of "*Tumult on the Mountains*" – is on the day to day work and life of the men engaged in the felling, skidding, loading, hauling and sawing timber. The construction and operation of various kinds of mills are discussed and illustrated. The different jobs in the woods, the tools used, the construction of camps, life in the camps, the infrequent but vigorous visits of the loggers to town are all described. The logging railroad is extensively described both in text and with pictures.

Other features of the book include: a map showing band saw towns, many of which have disappeared; a comprehensive, illustrated glossary of logging terms used in West Virginia; lists of logging engines used in the state; and a comprehensive bibliography.

Line drawings by William A. Lunk, Exhibit Museum, University of Michigan add sparkle and clarity throughout the text.

"*Tumult on the Mountains*" – is a unique book. It fills a great need by providing an understanding and appreciation of an important era of history as well as preserving invaluable photographs and information.

About the Author

Roy B. Clarkson was born October 25, 1926 in Cass, Pocahontas County, one of the most important lumber towns in the state. He was the youngest of eleven children of Walter George and Mertie Viola Clarkson. He grew up with the sound of whining saws, the whistle of Shay engines and the smell of newly sawn spruce and hardwood lumber as constant companions. He attended the local school, walked the boardwalks of the little town, whacked sticks against the white picket fences, and stared with awe at the swift log carriers as it swept back and forth in the sawmill.

He attended Green Bank High School and while a senior, at the age of seventeen, he started working Saturdays on the Mower Lumber Co. mill. Full-time work at the mill was initiated the day after graduation from high school.

At eighteen years, he entered the United States Army and served two years in the Philippine Islands and in Korea.

Upon returning from the Army, he again worked on the lumber mill until he entered Davis and Elkins College. A Bachelor of Science degree was earned there in 1951 with a major in Mathematics and minors in Biology and Chemistry.

After graduation from college he taught school one year at Green Bank High School. In 1952, he married June Hardwick of Morgantown and moved to that city. They now have three children George Roy, Karen Sue, and Kimeran Ann. He taught in Suncrest Junior High School until 1956 when he was appointed to the faculty of West Virginia University. He received a Masters of Arts Degree at West Virginia University in 1954 and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Botany in 1960. He is treasurer of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Club, a member of the Botanical Society of America, the Society of Sigma Xi, and other professional organizations.

His research interests are primarily in the fields of Plant Taxonomy and Plant Geography. He has published several papers in professional journals in these fields. In addition, papers on the history of lumbering have been published.

His Doctoral dissertation, "The Vascular Flora of the Monongahela National Forest, West Virginia," provided valuable background for writing a book of this nature.

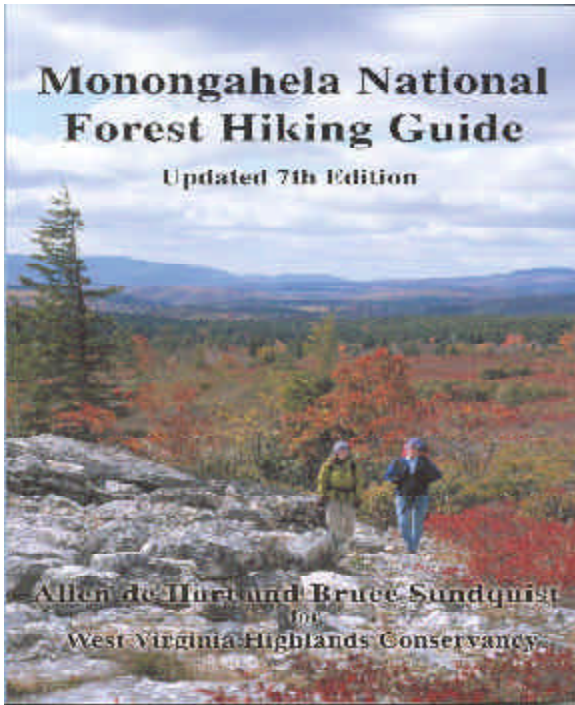
Roy lives in Westover and now enjoys spending time with his grandchildren.

(This book summary is from the dust jacket of *Tumult in the Mountains*.)

Sound Good? Want one of your own?

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy has a limited number of these books, signed by the Author, Roy Clarkson, below his hand written message; "Keep West Virginia Wild, Wonderful." Roy is a long-time member of the Highlands Conservancy. Proceeds will benefit the campaign to designate more Wilderness on the Monongahela National Forest. This book is a must-read for anyone with even a casual interest in the forests of West Virginia. Thanks to Roy for this generous contribution to our efforts.

We are selling these signed editions of *Tumult on the Mountains* for \$45. Price includes shipping.



Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide

by Allen deHart & Bruce Sundquist

Published by the
West Virginia

Highlands Conservancy

The new 7th edition covers:

more than 200 trails for over 700 miles
trail scenery, difficulty, condition, distance, elevation,
access points, streams and skiing potential.

detailed topographic maps

over 50 photographs

5 wilderness Areas totaling 77,965 acres

700 miles of streams stocked with bass and trout

send \$14.95 plus \$3.00 shipping to:

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

PO Box 306 Charleston, WV 25321

Or, visit our website at

www.wvhighlands.org

HIKING AND TUBING AT THE CRANBERRY

By Beth Little

On the way to our rendezvous at the Cranberry Campground, we all drove through downpours, although we came from different directions. But the rain stopped just about the time we were to meet, and held off until we were snug in our tents that night. It quit before morning, and didn't

return the next day. That's about the best luck with rain I have ever had in the Cranberry, where it seems to rain whether it is forecast or not. It makes for damp camping, but it grows a wonderful forest.

We hiked up the Cranberry River and then up the Lick Branch Trail to an altitude of about 3400 feet and set up camp by the headwaters of Lick Branch, which had plenty of water due to all the rain we've had. Then we hiked on up Lick Branch Trail to the North South Trail and east on it through some lovely hemlock groves, before returning to our camp.

Next day we returned to the Cranberry River to stop at a great swimming hole and found the water had risen since the day before. We chatted with a fisherman who had a long list of the fish he and his buddy had been dining on during the week they were there. We passed a happy group of youngsters carrying a rubber raft a mile or more from the trailhead. They said this would be their 4th trip. We don't know how far they walked before putting the raft in the water, but they came down the river and reached the campground just about the time we did.

The Cranberry Back Country is a wonderful place to go. On the Cranberry

River there is a lot happening and you meet friendly people. If you leave the river and hike up the trails, it is serene and beautiful. We saw no other people while we were up Lick Branch; just lots of trees.



John Casto and Ann Devine-King on Lick Branch Trail

Photo by Beth Little



Rafting and tubing on the Cranberry River

Photo by Beth Little

COAL COMPANIES GET FREE RIDE

By Ken Ward *This story originally appeared in The Charleston Gazette*

The Bush administration plans to offer greatly reduced penalties for coal operators who buried streams without proper Clean Water Act permits. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency investigators, in a preliminary probe, have found "high levels of noncompliance" with fill permit requirements. In response, EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will offer lesser fines to companies that voluntarily report these violations.

"Eligible operators will be offered a one-time opportunity to voluntarily participate in this program, report on their violations, perform any necessary mitigation, and pay reduced penalties that are well below those EPA would normally seek," says a one-page Aug. 13 paper describing the program. Robert Klepp, a lawyer with the EPA Office of Regulatory Enforcement in Washington, D.C., briefed coal industry officials on the plan during a meeting in Charleston.

Klepp spoke as part of a series of workshops that federal officials are holding across the coalfields to instruct mining companies and consultants about mountaintop removal permit requirements. The workshops are open to the public. But they are not widely publicized, and Tuesday's was attended almost exclusively by industry representatives.

Under the program, Klepp said, coal companies would not have to shut down current operations to resolve their fill permit violations.

"One goal of all of this is not to disturb ongoing operations," Klepp said. "We are not going to be interested in running out seeking injunctions or cease-and-desist orders or anything like that." Klepp said officials are not sure yet how many violations might be occurring, or how many companies would be eligible for the reduced fines.

Under the program, the agencies would publish a notice this fall to outline the precise program rules. Operators would then have 20 days to notify EPA of their intent to participate.

BROCHURES

The Sierra Club, Citizens Coal Council, Coal River Mountain Watch, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, West Virginia Rivers Coalition, Appalachian Focus (Kentucky), Big Sandy Environmental Coalition (Kentucky), Kentuckians For The Commonwealth and the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy have put together a new brochure entitled "Mountaintop Removal Destroys Our Homeplace STOP THE DEVASTATION!" For a copy send a self-addressed stamped envelope to WVHC, Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321-0306

Quantities are available for teachers, civic and religious groups and anyone who can get them distributed.

Then, companies would have 30 days to submit a report to disclose their violations. EPA will propose and finalize penalties by spring 2004.

In the paper describing the program, EPA said, "Most operators will be eligible to participate, with the exception of those with violations that cause serious harm or imminent and substantial endangerment to human health or the environment." EPA said that self-reporting "will greatly reduce penalties" for companies that do so.



Under normal enforcement rules, permit violations such as these could carry administrative or civil penalties of up to \$25,000 per day of violation. In more serious cases, criminal fines of up to \$50,000 per day of violation could be levied.

Normally, EPA sets fines at a level meant to recover whatever financial benefit a company has received by not complying with permit requirements. In the mining fill cases, Klepp told coal operators at the meeting, "We're going to give some pretty lenient — not lenient, I'll get myself in trouble up here — some pretty fair assessments of what that benefit is."

In mountaintop removal, coal operators use explosives to blast off hilltops and uncover valuable low-sulfur coal seams. Leftover rock and dirt is dumped into nearby valleys, burying streams. Earlier this year, federal agencies issued a draft report that found that more than 700

miles of Appalachian streams have already been buried by valley fills.

Historically, the corps has authorized these fills through "dredge-and-fill" permits under Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act. In separate rulings in October 1999 and May 2002, U.S. District Judge Charles H. Haden II found that mining fills were composed of "waste" that he concluded was not eligible for Section 404 permits.

Haden, in his May 2002 ruling, blocked the Huntington district office of the corps from issuing new fill permits unless the fills were proposed as part of a postmining development plan. In January 2003, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned Haden's decision and cleared the way for the corps to approve more fills.

But in the meantime, EPA officials have found, some coal operators continued to bury streams under expired fill permits. Other companies did not seek renewal of their fill permits when they expired in February 2003, EPA has found. Klepp said the court rulings and appeals caused "a lot of regulatory confusion" at the corps' Huntington District, which covers Southern West Virginia and Eastern Kentucky.

In May, EPA and the Corps sought to resolve some of violations with a public notice to the mining industry. At the time, the agencies said they were "becoming increasingly aware of circumstances in Kentucky, West Virginia and Ohio involving coal mining operations that may be discharging dredged or fill material in waters of the United States without CWA authorization or a permit application to the Corps of Engineers."

"If this information is correct, we need to work quickly to address this situation and ensure compliance with the requirements of CWA Section 404 while avoiding disruptions to legitimate mining activities," EPA and the Corps said in their notice.

Speakers Available!!!!

Does your school, church or civic group need a speaker or program presentation on a variety of environmental issues? Contact Julian Martin 1525 Hampton Road, Charleston WV 25314 or imaginemew@aol.com or 304-342-8989.

BUMPER STICKERS

To get a free I [heart] Mountains bumper sticker(s), send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to WVHC, Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321-0306

T SHIRTS

White, heavy cotton T-Shirts with the I [heart] MOUNTAINS slogan on the front. The lettering is blue and the heart is red. Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL \$6 plus \$2 postage etc. \$8 total by mail. Send sizes wanted and check made out to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy to:

WVHC
Box 306
Charleston, WV 25321-0306

(Continued from p. 2)

- abAchieve a balance between population and resource use which will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and
- abEnhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, government was required to consider the environmental effects of its actions. The Act itself didn't actually require that government avoid adverse environmental effects. It made the cheery assumption that the government would only damage the environment out of ignorance. It assumed that once we had studied the problem and found out that doing something would have adverse environmental effects we would, of course, not do it.

Since then the National Environmental Policy Act has been transformed into a tool that the government must manipulate before it can go ahead with what it wanted to do in the first place. It is no longer a tool for honest inquiry, a way of counting the costs before we decide if we are going to do something. It has turned into a charade, a mockery of the honest inquiry leading to sound environmental choices the Act was intended to promote.

For an example, look no farther than the draft Environmental Impact Statement on mountaintop removal strip mining and valley fills.

The study part is straightforward enough. It told us mostly what we already knew: whacking off the tops of the mountains and dumping them into the valleys is environmentally devastating. Hundreds of miles of streams have been destroyed. Thousands of acres of forest have been destroyed. If we keep doing it, hundreds more miles of stream will be destroyed and thousands more acres of forest will be destroyed.

The disappointing part is the alternatives the draft suggests:

1. Keep doing what we're doing. This translates roughly into keep chugging ahead until we hit the iceberg and then it's every man for himself.
2. The Corps of Engineers would decide the size and location of valley fills. This translates roughly into letting the Corps of Engineers rearrange the deck chairs until we hit the iceberg. Then it's every man for himself.
3. One permit application would go to the Corps of Engineers and the agency that regulates surface mining (the Department of Environmental Protection in West Virginia) who would have a joint role in deciding the

sizes and locations of valley fills. This is the draft's "preferred alternative." It translates roughly into letting the Corps of Engineers and the state regulatory agency busy themselves rearranging the deck chairs until we hit the iceberg when it is once again every man for himself.

4. The state regulatory agency would have the lead role in permitting valley fills. It gets to rearrange the deck chairs until we hit the iceberg, etc.

That's it. There is no alternative that suggests that we stop knocking the tops off mountains. There is not even an alternative that we do it differently. It suggests streamlining the permitting process so that permits may be issued more expeditiously. It suggests we "clarify" out of existence any rules which might restrict the practice.

Is this what has become of the National Environmental Policy Act? Have we really strayed so far from a noble goal of studying the environmental consequences of our actions so that we may avoid them? Have we really reached the point that we can study the environmental consequences of something, find out that they are horrible, and then decide to keep doing it? Are we really at a point where the sight of an iceberg ahead results in nothing more than a suggestion that different people get to amuse themselves by rearranging the deck chairs until we hit it?

STILL TIME TO COMMENT

The comment period on the draft Environmental Impact Statement on mountaintop removal/ valley fill coal mining has been extended 130 days, from August 29 to January 6, 2004. You are free to comment that you like or don't like the alternatives presented, talk about the draft Statement, tell your own experiences with mountaintop removal, or anything else.

The Draft is 5,000 pages long although you can get a general idea of what is in it from the Executive Summary which is less than twenty pages. You can find the Draft and the Executive Summary at www.epa.gov/region3/mtntop/eis.htm. If you choose to tackle the entire 5,000 pages, you should first go to <http://www.groundsforchange.com> for necessary supplies.

The EPA will also accept comments via e-mail at mountaintop.r3@epa.gov.

You can also send written comments to:

Mr. John Forren, US EPA (3ES30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

LONGWALLED STOCKPOND (with apologies to Basho)

Land, undermined, sunk;
water sources disappeared--

poor bullfrog: kerplunk!

Haiku by Patty Marsh
Rural Marshall County