

West Virginia Environmental Council

G. R. E. E. N.

Grass Roots Environmental Effort Newsletter

Volume 13 Number 1

June 2002

WVEC Fall Convention Planned

Bluestone Conference Center September 6th - 8th, 2002

Our 14th annual Fall Convention is scheduled for September 6, 7, & 8th at the Bluestone Conference center. Please make your plans now to attend!

The Bluestone Conference center is located in the Appalachian mountains in Hinton, West Virginia overlooking Bluestone Lake and boasts 480 acres of lawns and woods.

The Fall Convention is traditionally WVEC's largest gathering, and very important to our organization. During the weekend we devote quality time to discussing important issues and choosing our future direction - particularly for the upcoming year. We take a fresh look at the current political climate, and set our legislative agenda. New representatives to the board of directors are chosen. This year a Coal Sludge Impoundment Forum is being scheduled for Saturday, with invited speakers yet to be confirmed.

But its not **all** work - outings and music are planned for Saturday, and the traditional evening camp fire will keep most folks up late bonding around the circle. Please bring your musical instruments (including your voice and dancing feet) along to add to the magic!!

And what would our convention be without our **annual Silent Auction benefit?** Don't forget to pack numerous items for your donation to the mix! Help make this fun, interesting and profitable! As always - no item is too tiny, enormous, ancient, new, weird or green.....

Remember, this is a wonderful time to get reacquainted with old friends and a great place to meet new ones! Please pre-register by August 20th. See page 8 of this newsletter for more details and Registration Form.

See you in September!

Another World Is Possible

*by Mary Wildfire, WVEC board President
(mwildfire@hotmail.com)*

As you may know, I went to Porto Alegre, Brazil at the end of January to participate in the World Social Forum-whose slogan is "another world is possible." Porto Alegre is one of several Brazilian cities where the Workers Party is in power; it's famous for "participatory democracy," which means among other things that the citizens vote on which projects will be funded with municipal monies.

"Participatory democracy" would seem to be a redundant phrase - without general participation in decision-making, what we have is really not democracy at all. I never attended the workshops discussing their experiences with this philosophy, or many others in which I was keenly interested, because most were conducted in Portuguese. The big seminars had translation, but I became frustrated with the translation devices and ended up attending only English language workshops. There were hundreds of these to choose from. I mostly went to media-related workshops, and led one (it went well).

Perhaps the best part of the WSF for me was the part not much dependent on language - the cultural events in the afternoons: music, dance (including capoira, which is a sort of martial arts-dance), puppet shows, skits, and a public market.

Because of the language problem, I didn't get as much out of the WSF as I'd expected; nonetheless, I felt my two weeks in Brazil were educational, and I appreciate the contribution from WVEC that helped me make the trip.

Southern Brazil is the most "European" part; it was like being here without the compulsive consumption.

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WVEC Interim Lobbyist Hired

Conni Lewis has been retained by WVEC to represent us during the Interim Legislative sessions! Conni is a veteran lobbyist for progressive causes, currently lobbying for the Coalition On Responsible Logging (CORL) on timber issues. She has been with CORL for the past two years. Conni has also worked with WVEC during the regular legislative sessions, coordinating with us on various issues.

The E-Council is fortunate to have Conni lobbying during these sessions on our behalf this summer. She will be coordinating with other WVEC veteran lobbyists on particular issues as they occur, and follow the rule-making procedure that is so vital during the interim sessions.

Other WVEC folks available during the summer to attend interim meetings are Chuck Wyrstok, Fred Sampson and John Taylor. And as always, individual groups will be in attendance for those issues of importance to their organizations.

If you are interested in knowing the details about what is happening with our issues during the summer, please visit our website: www.wvecouncil.org. Chris Hogbin will be sending out action alerts regularly. We will also keep you informed through this newsletter - the next issue due out mid-August.

Legislative Session 2003

We are also interested in hearing from people who may want to join the WVEC lobby team during the regular legislative session of 2003, please submit a resume' to: mwildfire@hotmail.com or send to: WVEC, 1324 Virginia St East, Charleston, WV 25301.

WVEC Bio Profile: "Doctor Don"

by Don Alexander

When first asked to write a bio, I thought it would be a simple task, but now that I'm sitting behind a keyboard I'm not quite sure where to start. Which life should I write about? Sometimes it seems like there have been several. As they used to say on "Dagnet" (when police officers were still polite, at least on TV), "Just the facts, sir."

I was a teenager in the 60's, into ham radio and the space program. I got to attend my first anti-war demonstrations while a student at Ohio State University (69-73). I also began traveling and taking extended backpacking and bicycling trips in western states. I eventually graduated with a degree in physics and practical experience in electronics and computers. After spending a summer bicycling around Europe I took a job as an electronics engineer at the OSU Van de Graaff lab.

When the first (crude) micro-computers became available in the middle 70's I left the laboratory job to work for a start-up company, designing small-scale energy management systems and custom control electronics. One of the best custom widgets I ever designed was the controller that makes easy-open biscuit cans possible (it also allows cans to be made with less paper - you wouldn't believe how much paper goes into biscuit cans every year).

In 1985 my boss asked me to work on a bid for a project to build a "rotary bomb launcher" for the air force. He seemed genuinely surprised when I resigned. After an abortive attempt to move to Idaho (the cost of land was amazingly high, or perhaps my hair too long), I landed on 66 acres near Spencer WV, where I built a house and started an electronic

repair business (computer, TV, VCR, stereo, etc.).

The house and land are gone now, sold in 1995, the money put into a sailboat which was quickly (and expertly) conned away by the person who convinced me that I would love sailing. In fact, I did love sailing and living on a small boat, and may yet get back to it.

I came back to WV to regroup because I'd learned to love the hills and people here. It wasn't long before I got involved with the local effort to fight the pulp mill. Naturally, I also plugged into the internet. I discovered that I don't seem to have aptitude for attending meetings or interacting with bureaucrats and legislators (hats off to the lobby team!), so I started trying to contribute by providing computer tech support to environmentalists.

Last fall I volunteered to update and maintain the WVEC web site. More recently I re-designed the OVEC website as well as the

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G.R.E.E.N. is the quarterly newsletter of the West Virginia Environmental Council (WVEC), a statewide organization dedicated to facilitating communication and cooperation among citizens in promoting environmental protection in West Virginia. Subscriptions are \$25 a year. Subscribers will also receive the *Legislative Update*, published weekly during the Legislative Session.

G.R.E.E.N. welcomes letters, articles, and art work from readers and reserves the right to edit or reject submissions. Submit materials (preferably e-mail or on disk) to:

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www.wvecouncil.org

VICTORY FOR HEMP

by Chuck Wyrostok (chuckwyro@hotmail.com)

When Governor Bob Wise signed the "Industrial Hemp Act" recently, setting in motion a plan for the state's farmers to cultivate the marijuana-like plant for use in clothing, bath products, rope, car parts and hundreds of other items, growing hemp in West Virginia came full circle.

When the Japanese had cut off the U.S. hemp supply from the Philippines in WWII, hemp cultivation was encouraged here and all over the country. Of course, after the war, when DuPont again wanted to control the clothing market with synthetics rather than that pesky, sustainable, renewable hemp fiber, they "convinced" the government to start eradication programs. How can you make money off something that grows like a weed?!?

Now, Ag Commissioner Gus Douglas, who used to oversee state workers slashing and burning wild hemp in the hills of the Potomac Valley, is the man in charge of growing hemp in West Virginia. Ironic, you say? I think it's some form of job security!

"I sit here and whatever the laws demand, we in the Department of Agriculture will attempt to move in that direction," Douglas said after hemp was made law....again. (Nothing like a pro-active government agency, I always say).

Maybe Gus needs some growers, sustainability advocates and entrepreneurs to light a fire under his "sit and attempt" inertia mode. U.S. Rep. Nick Joe Rahall, (D-WV) is up to speed. "Illegal drugs have no place in American society," he said. "But industrial hemp is not a drug. Thirty nations, including Canada and Japan, harvest industrial hemp that we import into our country. Our farmers could become part of this global industry."

Tell it to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Nick Joe. They are stuck in some kind of legal limbo, even though they've given Hawaii a permit to grow test crops. Asked whether it was legal to grow industrial hemp, DEA's Bill Steffick said he couldn't answer that question. "You have some questions there that I basically can't answer because this is just an area that there's going to have to be some more discussion on this." (Direct quote, I swear...another graduate from the G.W. Bush School of Linguistics).

Eric Steenstra (no relation) of 'Vote Hemp', a national hemp advocacy organization in D.C., said it was phenomenal that West Virginia could pass a hemp bill into law from scratch in just one year. He said that never has happened anywhere before. I replied that we do a lot of things from scratch around here. During the legislative session, Eric was instrumental in supplying vital

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G.R.E.E.N. News

Sustainable Fair 2002

by Denise Poole, co-director - Sust. Fair
(deniseap@earthlink.net)

The Third annual Sustainable Fair will occur on Saturday, August 3rd at LaPaix Herb Farm. If you've never been to a Sustainable Fair, or seen LaPaix Herb Farm, this is your opportunity (and I'm sure you owe it to yourself) to do both at the same time!

We have designed a beautiful day for attendees to experience the joy and simplicity of sustainable living as well as the gorgeous setting and energy at LaPaix. I hope to tempt you into attending this year's Fair by telling you first a little about LaPaix (French for "Peace", by the way).

The herb farm is located in Lewis County a few miles outside of Weston, WV. Surrounded by lush mountains, the 80-plus acres are cradled at the end of a hollow. Owner/operator (and Fair co-director) Myra Bonhage-Hale bought the property in 1981. Since then, Myra has tended the grounds, and lives as sustainably as anyone I know. Her love and knowledge of medicinal and culinary herbs, plants and creatures are everywhere. She has a wonderful business operated from there, with workshops offered seasonally.

Over the years additions include a feng-shui garden, a labyrinth, development of paths in the woods, organic vegetable gardens, and so much more - there is even an outdoor bathtub! The house on the property dates back to the pre civil war era, and was part of the underground railroad. Sustainable Fair attendees will be able to experience and have access to all of the above through demonstrations, walks and workshops.

New this summer? None other than a sustainable shelter habitable from Spring through Fall intended to be used by apprentices and guests of LaPaix (currently in the beginning stages). Fair goers will get to see and learn about the techniques and materials being used for the structure.

Other highlights include demonstrations of: essential oil distillery & lavender growing; making herbal tinctures; solar energy; environmentally friendly furniture; bonsai & art; soap making; whole food; dowsing for water; feng shui garden; medicinal & culinary herbs; mushroom walk in the woods; fuel cell. Music throughout the day, a musical performance in the evening and a benefit auction will round out our activities. Other demonstrations yet to be confirmed.

Final touches are still in the works, so please visit our web-site: sustainabledevelopmentforwv.com to learn more about the event and directions to the farm as August grows near. You will also be able to check out the past Sustainable Fairs and link into Myra's LaPaix site to wet your appetite even more. Still have questions? Or no on-line access? Call me at the WVEC office: (304) 346-5905 or Myra at: (304) 269-7681. The cost is \$10 per person, or \$15 per family at the gate.

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Valley fills, sludge spills, flood chills and judge thrills

by Vivian Stockman, OVEC

Since about the beginning of May, folks attempting to lower their Prozac doses probably have had a rough time, as the headlines have been enough to throw anyone into a depressive-manic (sic) state. (For the stories behind the headlines, see the current and archived news sections of the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition's website, www.ohvec.org.)

Late Thursday May 2, another round of deadly floods hit southern West Virginia, leaving nine dead, hundreds homeless, schools battered, and roads and bridges pummeled—so far, an estimated \$70 million in damages. Again, many residents say they believe the floods were worsened because the coal and timber industries denude huge swaths of forests. These folks don't need to wait on the latest study to know that a devegetated, mountain-scalped, valley-filled landscape doesn't absorb rain runoff the way a lush temperate forest does. By mid-June, the WV Department of Environmental Protection was under fire for holding back information in a study of last July's floods, *where the final damage bill was over \$190 million.* (Weren't the national forests here established in the mid-1900s after people connected the dots between heavy flooding and heavy deforestation?)

Early Friday May 3, the heavy rains sent 5,000 gallons a minute of sludge (including water, coal fines and the chemicals used in treating coal for market) spewing out of a coal waste impoundment near Gary, McDowell County W. Va., into the Tug River (the third major sludge spill in as many years for the battered river). All told, the WV Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) estimates **"tens of millions"** of gallons escaped. *DEP warned downstream residents that the entire dam could collapse with "catastrophic" results.*

Since 1999 the DEP issued at least 26 environmental violations for this impoundment, but the companies operating the impoundment took no remedial action. DEP could have, and obviously should have, shut down the impoundment after just two violations in one year. On June 11, a line leading to an Arch Coal impoundment, at their "showcase" Hobet 21 mountaintop removal site, leaked 25,000 gallons of slurry into a tributary of the Little Coal River.

Late Friday May 3, Bush, Inc., the EPA and The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decide, hey, we need some more excitement in southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky. Let's gut the Clean Water Act - that way we'll legalize all those illegal valley fills we've permitted the coal companies to build for decades.



On June 6, in the hallway of a US Senate office building, Kevin Richardson of the Backstreet Boys and Joan Mulhern of Earthjustice discuss the upcoming mountaintop removal press conference. They both had just testified at a Congressional Hearing on the Bush administration's change to the Clean Water Act's definition of "fill."

Testifying on the harmful effects of valley fills, Kevin said "People shouldn't have to die when it rains." Joan called Bush's rule change "one of the most destructive changes to Clean Water Act regulations in decades."

Photo by Vivian Stockman

Nationwide, newspaper editorials railed against Bush's incredulous act and its potential impact on West Virginia and the entire country. In the midst of all this, we also learn from a Freedom of Information Act request by Charleston Gazette reporter Ken Ward that Bush, Inc. is attempting to hijack the long overdue environmental impact statement on mountaintop removal. See: <http://wvgazette.com/static/series/mining/eis.html>.

After hitting a bottle of fiery liquid or pretty pills, some people wondered if there's a pill that can revive the American system of government. Is there a pill that can restore consciousness to our so-called leaders?

Wednesday May 8, something much better than a pill appeared: Judge Charles H. Haden II, the sexiest man alive. The judge, a sage student of the law, reiterated once again that valley fills are illegal, and, ahem, Mr. Bush, only Congress can rewrite the laws of the land. To send Haden thanks on behalf of West Virginia's mountains, streams and all our futures, write to:

Chief U.S. District Judge Charles H. Haden II
Southern District of West Virginia
300 Virginia Street
Charleston, WV 25301

Judge_Haden@wvsd.uscourts.gov

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Robert Kennedy Jr. opens our June 6 DC press conference on mountaintop removal and valley fills. Kennedy repeatedly emphasizes that many aspects of mountaintop removal are illegal. Photo by Vivian Stockman

A day earlier, Rep. Christopher Shays (R-CT) and Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and other, bipartisan members of Congress pledged to introduce legislation that blocks Bush's change to the Clean Water Act and bolsters the true intent of that Act. Shays and Pallone are apparently appalled at what is happening here and want to do all they can to stop the insanity. On June 6, when we were in DC at a Congressional Hearing on Bush's move to gut the Clean Water Act, Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) announced that he too would introduce a bill solidifying the true intent of the Clean Water Act.

Since his first day on the job, May 1, OVEC's new organizer Dave Cooper, has been in full throttle, organizing TWO trips to Washington, DC. Please be sure to see the OVEC website's (www.ohvec.org) People in Action pages for photos, news coverage, Congressional Hearing testimonies and more on these trips.

Our second trip, on June 6, received massive news coverage, as we were joined by Robert Kennedy Jr., who noted repeatedly that many aspects of mountaintop removal are illegal, and by Kentucky native Kevin Richardson of the wildly popular Backstreet Boys. These two famed individuals have pledged to help us stop mountaintop removal.

Also, be sure to check out the Action Alerts on our web pages (or send an e-mail to vivian@ohvec.org) if you would like to receive Action Alerts via e-mail). We'll keep you updated on actions needed to help end the massacre of the mountains and mountain culture of West Virginia and Kentucky.

Meeting With Capito Goes Splendidly

by Mary Wildfire (mwildfire@hotmail.com)

On June 3rd, seven people from the West Virginia Fair Trade Coalition met with Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito to shore up her support for defeating Fast Track. She voted against it the first time around, but as a Republican, is under greater pressure to vote for it. Fast Track makes it easier to pass "free trade" pacts like NAFTA and the WTO rules which have been disastrous to labor rights, democratic choices, and the environment. It has passed both Houses of Congress, but there's a good chance of defeating it in the House when the compromise version gets back there.

Our group included myself and WVEC Vice President Mary Ellen O Farrell (who also represented health care workers, and showed up in her "scrubs" right after work) as well as WVEC board member Carol Warren, who also is the head of the Justice and Life Ministry of the Catholic Church in this part of the state; Rick Wilson for American Friends Service Committee; Bob Wilson who is active in several Roane county organizations; Calhoun County Commissioner Bob Wilson; and Larry Metheny who is the Legislative Coordinator for the Steelworkers in West Virginia.

The mood was very friendly. Both Capito and her aide were attentive, and everyone spoke well. The best quote of the day though, was Capito's. Three times she said, "I can't imagine any scenario in which I would vote for Fast Track." She pointed out that this is not quite an absolute promise - but it's close, and she gave us permission to quote her. She also promised to watch the copy I gave her of the hard-hitting Bill Moyers documentary on NAFTA's infamous Chapter Eleven, *Trading Democracy*.

So Fast Track may have passed both Houses of Congress, but it did so without the help of a single WV representative—and here some people think West Virginia is a backward state!

If you want to know how you can get a copy of the Bill Moyers video, *Trading Democracy*, or if you are one of those who already borrowed a copy and are ready to pass it on - please contact me at mwildfire@hotmail.com or 655-7486. If you can watch this video through to the end and not become outraged, then the doctors can have your organs—you're clearly dead!!

Asthma: August Retreat creates awareness, education

by *Angela Vance, American Lung Association of West Virginia*
(angela@alawv.org)

In 1999, the Centers for Disease Control and prevention (CDC) began developing a National Asthma Control Program to reduce the number of deaths, hospitalizations, emergency department visits, school or workdays missed, and limitations on activity due to asthma. In a report released on July 10, 2001 by the Trust for America's Health (TFAH), West Virginia was identified as one of the twelve high pollution states failing to track asthma.

The TFAH report analyzed the levels of three pollutants public health officials believe are linked to asthma: particulate matter, ozone and suspected respiratory toxicants. Poor air quality can also trigger asthma attacks. According to the American Lung Association six counties in West Virginia received a grade of F for the number of High ozone days in the unhealthy ranges. Two of the counties, Cabell and Kanawha, are the most populated counties in the state.

The prevalence of asthma has been increasing since the early 1980's for all ages, sexes and racial groups. It is one of the most common chronic diseases in the United States and the leading serious chronic disease in children. Asthma is the number one cause of school absences attributed to chronic illnesses, leading to an average of 4.6 school days missed annually for each child with asthma. To date, asthma in West Virginia has not been formally addressed in an organized, statewide and strategic fashion.

In 2001, the CDC charged West Virginia with the task of addressing asthma from a public health perspective, to develop, implement and evaluate a statewide strategic asthma plan.

In January of 2002 the West Virginia Multi-Disciplinary Task Force on Asthma Disease State Management held it's first meeting. The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health, Tobacco Prevention Program (WV-TPP), has partnered with the American Lung Association of West Virginia and CAMC Research Institute to develop this statewide task force.

On August 22-23, 2002 a retreat will be held at Snowshoe Mountain Resort free of charge for 60 participants. It is the hope of the task force that asthma educators will collaborate to enhance asthma awareness, to educate, promote and improve the health of our state.

For more information please contact Angela Vance at: 1-800-LUNG-USA/ 304- 342-6600 or angela@alawv.org

Stewards of the Potomac Highlands on the move - and joining WVEC!!

Recently, the Stewards of the Potomac Highlands joined the E-Council. We certainly welcome this wonderful coalition of folks from the Potomac Highlands! Chris Hogbin, WVEC e-mail action alert coordinator will be posting information on issues and events from this region. Meanwhile, anyone wishing to learn more about the organization can visit their website: potomacstewards.com

Steward activist Bonni McKeown writes:

"Stewards of the Potomac Highlands, in addition to taking on occasional battles with the Corridor H highway, is growing into a broader organization which will help us support each other as we protect the area we love.

We are reaching out to activists in the eastern eight counties of West Virginia, and in Maryland's Allegheny highlands and Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. By getting to know one another and what each of us is already doing, we will grow smarter and stronger. With friends in our own county and surrounding areas, we will have the personal support needed to help our neighbors to understanding and action.

One of our tools for introducing ourselves is.... Picnics! We plan to participate in potluck picnics this summer and fall, hosted by folks in our group or other groups around our region.

Another tool is an email network. You can take action on clean rivers and groundwater, unneeded highways, sprawl development, mountaintop removal mining, landfills, farm and forest conservation, neighborhood schools, and other key issues in the West Virginia legislature and in Congress."

Kirsten Weiblen, a sustainable farmer in Yellow Springs, living in eastern Hampshire County, will be the Stewards e-mail coordinator.

Another World Is Possible

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There were a lot of cars on the streets despite an excellent and well-used bus system, but 90 % of these were subcompacts. I never saw an SUV.

If anyone reading this decides to go to the third World Social Forum-to be held again in Porto Alegre, though they're going to move to India for 2004 - I'd like to give you my Portuguese dictionary and the phone number of the homey, convenient and cheap pension where I stayed. If anyone wants more detail on my trip, e-mail me at: mwildfire@hotmail.com.

Allow Me to Introduce Myself

by Dave Cooper, OVEC (dave@ohvec.org)

As of May 1, I am the new organizer for OVEC in Huntington. I am absolutely thrilled to work for one of the most dynamic environmental groups in the region - a group whose work I have followed and admired from a hundred miles away while living in Lexington, KY.

I know that Laura Forman was beloved and respected by everyone, and I can never fill those shoes. But my first few weeks on the job have been eventful, thanks to Bush's re-write of the Clean Water Act, flooding in Southern West Virginia, another slurry spill into the Big Sandy, etc.

A brief biography: I graduated from Vanderbilt University in Nashville TN in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. After 20 years of working in the automotive, defense, printing and packaging industries, and 20 years of watching downsizing, layoffs and jobs going overseas, I took a year off work to re-evaluate my choice of professions.

With a little time to reflect, it became clear that my real heart was in the environmental movement. I had been active with the Sierra Club in Lexington, and had also helped rejuvenate the Lexington chapter of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC), along the way joining many other groups like Heartwood, NRDC, and OVEC. When the Martin County sludge spill hit in October, 2000, I visited the scene several times and became very interested in coal issues. A visit to Larry Gibson's Kayford Mountain homeplace a few months later was one of the most moving and powerful experiences of my life. I was hooked!

So here I am! Please feel free to call me at the OVEC office (304) 522-0246, or email me at dave@ohvec.org. I look forward to working with all of you stopping the most destructive environmental practice of our times: mountaintop removal.

Victory For Hemp

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information to the WVEC lobby team for distribution to Senate and House members. Thank you, Eric.

Hemp makes great paper. Make paper from hemp, not from trees. Get paper companies off their tree addiction. Please...call or write the DEA and Gus Douglas. Tell them it's time for farmers, processors, wholesalers and retailers here to get into the hemp market.

**Money doesn't grow on trees.....
it grows in hemp fields.**

Log-On For the Latest WV-Citizen Action Group

Please log on to www.wvcag.org to see the changes we've made. Once you're there, you can:

Read the first newsletter of the Kanawha Valley Greenspace Coalition! Want to get involved in community clean-up projects and tree plantings? This is the place to start. Click on our Parks and Greenspaces section (left-hand margin of home page).

Sign an on-line petition that urges your governor and legislators to support a bottle bill in West Virginia! One of our top priorities at WV-CAG and WVEC is to pass a West Virginia container law. And we hope you'll go to your e-address book and ask your friends to also sign on. We need you! (This section is currently "under construction" so if you don't find it on your first visit, please come back).

Click on Overweight Coal Trucks to read the two latest WV-CAG reports on citations issued to overweight coal trucks. With data from WV Department of Transportation records, we've been able to show, in black and white, the preferential treatment the coal industry has been receiving (surprise, surprise!).

WVEC Bio Profile: "Doctor Don"

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Mountain Party website and have been facilitating the posting of newsletters to the WV-CAG website. I'm hoping to pick up a few more small website clients so I can be a bit more selective in what repair work I take in (much of what is now sold for consumer electronics has become disposable, a sorry trend).

When Don readily agreed to work on the WVEC website, I knew we were on solid ground. "Doctor Don", as he's known in these parts, wins high praise from folks with crippled computers and electronic gear. Jeez, I mean the guy does house calls!

We marvel at the child-like glee he exudes as he does his computer techno magic. We're glad he drew the line after perfecting the easy-open biscuit can and then declined to work on the "rotary bomb launcher". And, we're glad he landed in West Virginia.

Chuck Wyrostok

WVEC Annual Convention September 6-8, 2002

Bluestone Conference Center - Hinton, WV

Directions: I-64 east. Take Sandstone Hinton exit #139. Proceed 10 miles on Rt. 20 into Hinton. Continue until you reach traffic light. Turn right and cross the bridge. Turn left after crossing the bridge. Proceed 2 miles. Look for the state Police building and signs for Rt. 3. Turn left onto Rt. 3 (will take you across another bridge). Bear to your right after crossing bridge. Proceed 3 blocks - look for BCC sign on left & historical marker on right. Turn right on this road (Cedar Ave.).

BCC is 10 miles away. Follow signs.

Tentative Agenda:

Friday: Check in/arrival 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Settle in to cabins/set up tents
Snacks available
Silent Auctions begins

Saturday: Breakfast
Dot Session
Regional Meetings
Lunch
Free time
Coal Sludge Impoundment Forum
Dinner
Silent Auction Ends
Evening Music & Dancing
Camp Fire

Sunday: Breakfast
WVEC Board Meeting (11:00)
Check out time: 1:00

Lodging Rates:	per Adult (12-over)	per Youth(7-11)	per Child (6-under)
Cabin beds (per night) <i>(must bring own linens)</i>	\$21	\$10.50	Free
Tents (per night)	\$ 5	\$ 2.50	Free
Breakfast	\$ 3	\$ 1.50	Free
Lunch	\$ 5	\$ 2.50	Free
Dinner	\$ 7	\$ 3.50	Free

WVEC Registration fee: \$10 adults \$ 5 students Children 12 and under: Free

Name: _____ Number of adults: _____ Youth: _____ Children : _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Cabin _____ Number of beds _____ Tenting _____ How many nights? _____
 Meals: Total Number of breakfasts: _____ Lunches: _____ Dinners: _____
 Registration Fee(s): _____

Total Due WVEC: _____
 G.R.E.E.N. News

Please pre-register by August 20, 2002

Calendar of Events

June 19: West Virginia Rivers Coalition benefit reception for the Potomac Headwaters. The Old Ebbitt Grill in Washington, DC from 7-9 p.m. For more information: (304) 637-7201.

June 20-22: Coal Summit Conference - on the impacts, politics, and costs of coal mining in the Appalachian region. To receive registration materials, e-mail your name, address, and organization to: ohvec@ezwv.com or outreach@apvoices.org. Reg. fee is \$20 (students, coalfield residents, & folks with modest incomes the fee is optional).

June 22: Solstice Simultaneous Summit Celebration! Several day hikes of varying difficulty on prominent peaks in the highlands. For more information: Ruth Blackwell Rogers, (304) 636-2662 or ruthbr@wvhighlands.org.

June 22-23: WV Highlands Mountain Odyssey backpack trip on Allegheny Front south from Bear Rocks to Blackbird Knob. For more info: Jonathan Jessup, leader, at (703) 204-1372 or by e-mail, jonathanjessup@hotmail.com.

July 5-7: WV Highlands Mountain Odyssey Canyons Rim Trail hike, Roaring Plains. Experienced hikers only. For more info: Jonathan Jessup, (703) 204-1372 or jonathanjessup@hotmail.com

July 11-14: Bicycle trip on the Greenbrier River Trail. 75 mile trail, and camping out at Watoga State Park. For more information: Susan Bly, (304) 258-3319.

July 13: WV Highlands Conservancy - Canoe Trip on the Buckhannon River Pool. For more information: Don Gasper, (304) 472-3704.

July 18: WVU Organic Research Farm Field Day. 3:30 - 7:00 pm. For more information: Jim Kotcon: jkotcon@wvu.edu.

August 3: Sustainable Fair 2002. La Paix Herb Farm, Alum Bridge, WV. Begins at 9 a.m. and concludes at 10 p.m. Demonstrations, booths, walks, music, art, organic food, auction, more. Cost: \$10 per person or \$15 per family (pay at the gate). For more information & directions: www.sustainabledevelopmentforwv.com or call (304) 522-8409 or (304) 269-7681.

August 31- September 2: North Fork Mountain backpack. Prior backpacking experience required. For more information: Bruce Sundquist, leader, at (724) 327-8737 or bsundquist1@juno.com

September 6-8: 14th Annual WVEC Fall Convention. Bluestone Conference Center, Hinton WV. Registration \$10 adults, \$ 5 students. To pre-register send registration form (on page 8 of this newsletter) to the E-Council office. For more information: Mary Ellen O'Farrell or Denise Poole at WVEC office, (304) 346-5905 or deniseap@earthlink.net.

Support the West Virginia Environmental Council

1324 Virginia Street East, Charleston WV 25301

Phone: 304-346-5905 www.wvecouncil.org

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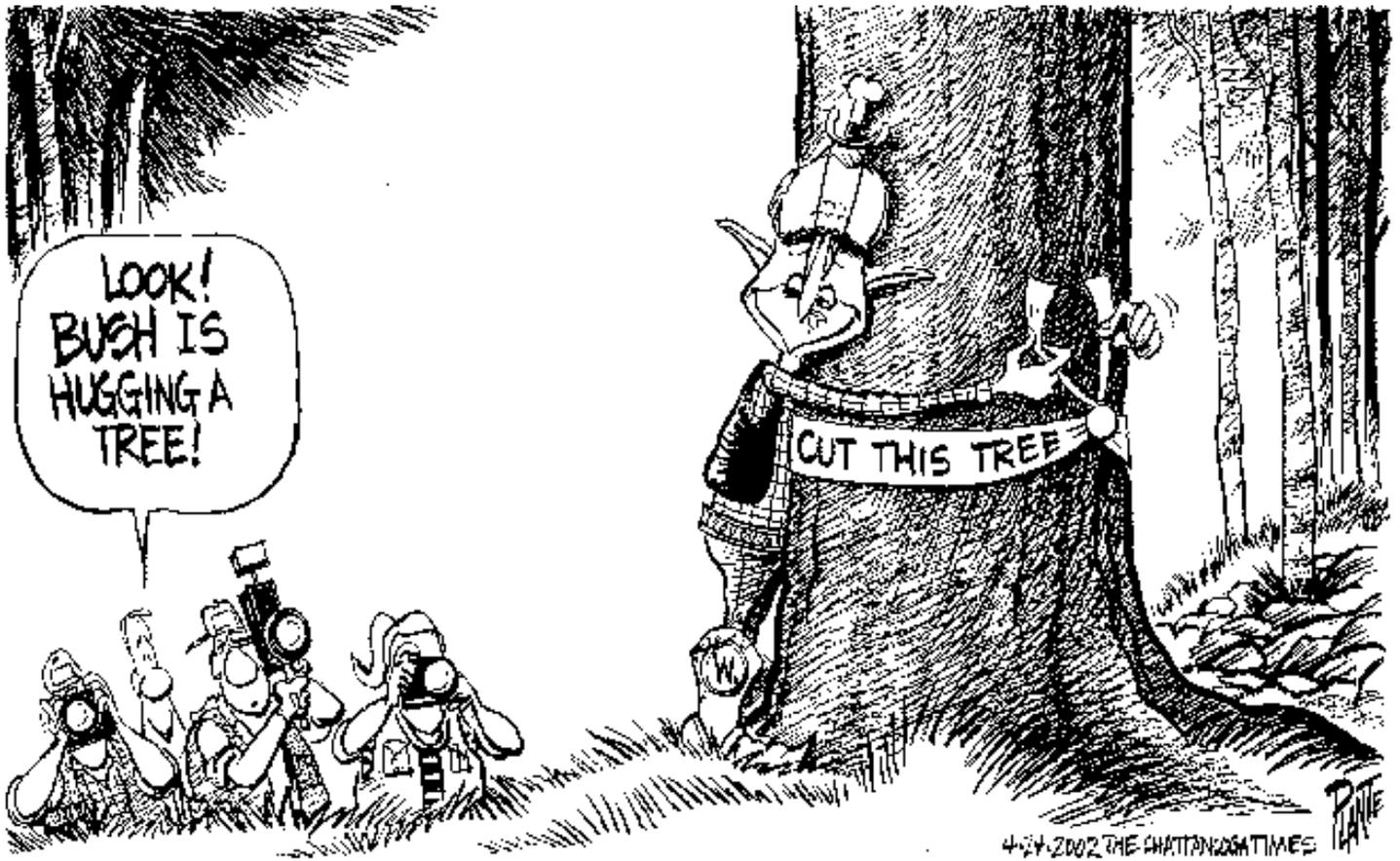
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*The West Virginia Environmental Council
1324 Virginia St. E.
Charleston WV 25301*