



Green Legislative Update

Published Weekly During West Virginia's Legislative Session

Volume: 20 Number: 6

Date: February 19, 2010

Under the Dome

By Donald S. Garvin, Jr.
WVEC Legislative Coordinator

Week 6 – Those Nasty Little Bills

Every year the West Virginia Environmental Council optimistically adopts a set of proactive legislative priorities for the lobby team to work on during the Legislature's upcoming regular session.

Unfortunately, the lobby team does not work in a vacuum, and every year we are sometimes forced to put our agenda on hold and play defense because of nasty little bills that inevitably crop up.

This year has been particularly bad in that regard. Here are just a few examples.

Monday evening we got word that House Judiciary Committee was going to run HB 4277 at 9:00 AM the following morning. This should not have caught me by surprise – but, unfortunately, it did.

The bill removes protective language contained in Article 11 of the West Virginia Water Pollution Control Act, section §22-11-8, that requires that National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits be issued and signed by the Chief of the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Water and Waste Management.

Instead, HB 4277 authorizes the Secretary of the DEP to issue and sign NPDES water pollution control permits.

This change clearly violates the intent of language in the federal Clean Water Act that requires that NPDES permits be issued and signed by the head of the "expert agency" in charge of a state's water pollution control program. In West Virginia that "expert agency" is the Office of Water and Waste Management.

...continued on page 3

"Green Buildings Act" Gutted in House Committee

By John Christensen, WVEC Lobbyist

HB 4008, the Green Buildings Act that WVEC has been working on in one form or another for the last three years, was finally taken up and approved by the House Committee on Government Organization Thursday, but not before the committee adopted an amendment gutting the requirements in the bill.

The committee's own strike and insert amendment would have required that new state buildings be built to the LEED silver certification or equivalent "Green Globes Initiative" building rating standard.

However, Del. Sam Cann (D-Harrison) offered an amendment to the committee amendment that changed just one word – the word "shall" – to "should". Cann's amendment made the provisions of the bill voluntary instead of mandatory.

Cann's amendment was accepted by a show-of-hands vote of 12 to 9. The committee then passed the amended version of the bill, and sent it off to House Finance Committee for its consideration.

The vote to gut the bill was particularly disheartening because this was an "agreed upon" bill. WVEC had worked for the last two years with other stakeholders to come up with a bill that was acceptable to all. The WV Forestry Association was on board. The WV Manufacturer's Association was on board, as were the architects and the state Department of Administration.

And in order to get the other players on board WVEC had already agreed to compromises that we otherwise would never have made. In fact, the committee bill contained three paragraphs of exemptions that were necessary to make the compromise work.

Committee chairman Jim Morgan (D-Cabell) deserves a lot of credit for attempting to push this bill

...continued on page 4
page 1

Marcellus Shale Bill Introduced in House

Finally we have a bill that addresses Marcellus Shale water issues. The bill number is HB 4513, and it is important that you contact your legislators now asking them to support this bill.

The main sponsor of the bill is Delegate Tim Manchin. It was drafted with input from both the WV Environmental Council and representatives from the Oil & Gas industry.

It's a good start at regulating withdrawal of water for drilling and fracturing these Marcellus shale wells. The bill also contains regulations requiring identification of the contents of frac fluids – and sets up a system for tracking the disposal of those fluids.

Please contact members of the House Judiciary Committee - including Chairman Tim Miley, expressing your support for this bill.

House Judiciary Members:

Tim Miley, Chair (D-Harrison)	(304) 340-3252	tim.miley@wvhouse.gov
Mark Hunt, Vice-Chair (D-Kanawha)	(304) 340-3392	mhunt@markahunt.com
John Ellem, Minority Chair (R-Wood)	(304) 340-3394	ellem@wirefire.com
Patrick Lane, Min. Vice-Chair (R-Kan.)	(304) 340-3275	no e-mail
Larry Barker (D-Boone)	(304) 340-3149	no e-mail
Bonnie Brown (D-Kanawha)	(304) 340-3106	bonnie.brown@wvhouse.gov
Mike Caputo (D-Marshall)	(304) 340-3249	no e-mail
Michael Ferro (D-Marshall)	(304) 340-3111	mike.ferro@wvhouse.gov
Barbara Fleischauer (D-Monongalia)	(304) 340-3169	barbaraf@mail.wvnet.edu
John Frazier (D-Mercer)	(304) 340-3396	jfrazier@mail.wvnet.edu
Tal Hutchins (D-Ohio)	(304) 340-3270	thutch@mail.wvnet.edu
Linda Longstreth (D-Marion)	(304) 340-3124	no e-mail
Harold Michael (D-Hardy)	(304) 340-3340	no e-mail
Clif Moore (D-McDowell)	(304) 340-3189	cmoore@mail.wvnet.edu
Mike Ross (D-Randolph)	(304) 340-3145	mikeross@mail.wvnet.edu
Alex Shook (D-Monongalia)	(304) 340-3173	ashook@mail.wvnet.edu
Doug Skaff (D-Kanawha)	(304) 340-3362	doug.skaff@wvhouse.gov
Sally Susman (D-Raleigh)	(304) 340-3183	ssusman@mail.wvnet.edu
Danny Wells (D-Kanawha)	(304) 340-3287	no e-mail
Bill Wooton (D-Raleigh)	(304) 340-3164	rwooton@mail.wvnet.edu
Bill Hamilton (R-Upshur)	(304) 340-3167	bill.hamilton@wvhouse.gov
John Overington (R-Berkeley)	(304) 340-3148	john@overington.com
Robert Schadler (R-Mineral)	(304) 340-3191	rschadler@comcast.net
Patti Schoen (R-Putnam)	(304) 340-3141	pschoen@mail.wvnet.edu
Kelli Sobonya (R-Cabell)	(304) 340-3175	sobonya-4wvhouse@aol.com

Legislative Session 2010 Information Sources:

Legislative Reference & Information Center:

MB-27, Bld. 1 - State Capitol Complex, Charleston WV 25305

WV Legislative web-site: www.legis.state.wv.us

(For bill tracking, bulletin board (journals), legislators' e-mails.)

To Call Toll Free: 1-877-565-3447 or local Charleston area: (304) 347-4836

Listen Live: West Virginia Legislature page <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/> and click on "listen live."

WV Environmental Council Web-site: www.wvecouncil.org

WVEC Office: (304) 414-0143

Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition:

www.ohvec.org/ovec_news.html and www.ohvec.org/news_gen.html daily.

Every morning, OVEC checks scores of news sources and posts links.

WV Environmental Council 2010 Board of Directors:

Danny Chiotos, *President*
Jim Kotcon *Past President*
Kevin Smith, *Vice President*
Karen Grubb, *Secretary*
Frank Young, *Treasurer*

Denise Binion Greg Carroll
John Christensen Dave Cowell
Melissa Dennison
Don Gasper Josie Guzak
Linda Emrich Jesse Johnson
Beth Little Chelena McCoy
Mary Ellen O'Farrell
Rachel Poling Denise Poole
Bill Price Cindy Rank
Morgan Talbott Patience Wait
Chuck Wyrostok Gary Zuckett

Organizational Representatives:

WV Highlands Conservancy
WV Rivers Coalition
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
WV Citizen Action Group
WV Sierra Club
Coal River Mountain Watch
Plateau Action Network
Mountain State Education &
Research Foundation
Mon Valley Clean Air Coalition
Upper Monongahela River Assn.
Sustainable Living for WV
North Central WV Democracy for America
People Concerned About MIC
Citizens of the Blue Ridge Act
UE Local 170
WV Youth Action League

Don Garvin
Legislative Coordinator
dsgjr@aol.com

Don Alexander
Web Site /E-Mail Listserve Coordinator
paradox@spectrumz.com

www.wvecouncil.org

Legislative Update is published by the West Virginia Environmental Council (WVEC) - a statewide organization dedicated to facilitating communication and cooperation among citizens in promoting environmental protection in West Virginia. *Legislative Update*, is published weekly during the Legislative Session.

Legislative Update welcomes letters, articles, and art work from readers and reserves the right to edit or reject submissions. Please send materials to:

Denise Poole, editor
deniseap@earthlink.net
2206 Washington Street East
Charleston, WV 25311
(304) 414-0143

Under the Dome *continued from page 1*

This requirement in the Clean Water Act was intended to remove politics from the process of issuing NPDES permits, and instead keep decisions about those permits in the hands of the scientists and permit writers charged with protecting waters of the state. The Secretary of the DEP is a political appointee and not an expert in water quality protection.

In the past we have been able to thwart progress on this bill. Not this year. We lost the vote 11 to 6. The bill is on third reading today in the House. I expect it will pass the House and then sail through the Senate.

Check one off for the bad guys.

Then there is SB 181, sponsored by Senator Don Caruth (R-Mercer) that would limit the ability of counties and municipalities to enact ordinances when extraction of natural resources is in play. This is the same bill the senator introduced last session. There is also a companion bill in the House, HB 4505.

WVEC lobbyists did a blitz on this bill with legislators and the press. And it appears now that the bill will not be taken up by the originating committee in either chamber.

Check one off for the good guys.

Now consider SB 518 that would create the "Governor's Commission to Seize Future of Energy for America."

The purpose of the bill states, "The creation of the commission allows West Virginia to work with the President and his administration to develop a strategy for developing such technologies which maximizes the federal and state dollars and incentives devoted to the research, development and commercialization of the technologies necessary to make the transition to economically and environmentally viable energy."

But the provisions of the bill don't look to the future at all. The bill starts from the premise that coal and natural gas are "a vital resource for the United States." And almost all of the members of the commission would come from those industries. In the introduced version of the bill, renewable energy isn't even given a seat at the table.

Senate Energy, Industry and Mining Committee passed SB 518 this week with a committee substitute that improves the bill only superficially. Next stop is Senate Finance.

There are many, many other nasty little bills this year. It's difficult and time consuming just keeping track of them all. But we are doing our best.

Winter is starting to feel increasingly long this year, so I hope you are not running out of birdseed.

Don't forget to fill your feeders.

Green Legislative Update

Mayflies Are Coming To Take Our Guns!

By Leslee McCarty, WVEC Lobbyist

Forgive me if I confuse the West Virginia Coal Association with the National Rifle Association, but it must be the heightened sense of urgency (or is it fear mongering?) that they both bring to any situation.

Monday's meeting of the House Committee on Coal Mining Permits brought the Coal Association's lobbyists in to request that the Legislature pass a resolution "clarifying" the State's Clean Water statutes so that the EPA will get the message that it is OK with them to permit 20 mines that are being reviewed.

Jason Bostic, Vice President of the Coal Association, complained that the only thing the EPA was concerned about on these permits was that a type of mayfly was being disturbed. (And it's not even on the endangered species list!)

Unfortunately, no citizens from the coalfields were invited to be there to talk about what happens when a mine is permitted: valley fills, sludge ponds, truck traffic, blasting damage, water pollution, big impoundments, permit violations, etc. Nope, the committee just heard about that pesky mayfly.

They also heard about how many jobs would be lost, "About 1,300 employees could be subject to some kind of action if these permits are not issued," Bill Raney, chief lobbyist for the Coal Association, said.

Of course what the industry tells stockholders is different. If you want to invest, the message is "Come on in, we will deep mine that coal if we need to."

The West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection got high marks from the coal industry. Apparently they, along with the Army Corps of Engineers, understand the Clean Water Act.

Not so the EPA. Jason Bostic called EPA's actions an "intent to rob the state of its sovereignty."

"You have the federal Environmental Protection Agency trying to take, I think, the role of the Department of Environmental Protection and this Legislature, in interpreting your water quality standards," Bostic said.

Luckily, committee Chair Roy Givens (D-Brooke) was not ready to recommend a resolution, saying he would like to hear from the EPA and Corps of Engineers.

We will stay on top of this Committee's agenda. You know, eternal vigilance and all that. Darn socialist mayflies, anyway. Darn socialist clean water lovers.

Nuclear Power Plant in West Virginia's Future?

SB 85 Repeals Ban on Nuclear Power Plants

By Denise Poole, WVEC Program Coordinator

SB 85, repealing the article banning construction of nuclear power plants in West Virginia has surfaced for the second year in a row, compliments of Senator Brooks McCabe (D-Kanawha) the only sponsor of the bill - with a little help from his friends, AEP and Dominion Gas.

The bill was taken up and passed out of Senate Energy, Industry and Mining (EIM) Wednesday, and now goes to Senate Judiciary.

Chairman Mike Green (D-Raleigh) allowed time for comments, and I was the only one speaking against repealing the ban. Dave Langford, Manager of External Affairs for AEP, Bob Orndorff, with Dominion Gas and Senator McCabe all spoke in "double-speak" language to justify lifting the ban.

"We have no intention to build, however long term planning must be looked at." stated Langford.

Senator McCabe repeatedly asked them to trust SB 85 was only a matter of "clearing this ban off the books."

"It is a 20 year process to build ... the new generation of technology and research may perhaps have a future for nuclear. We at least ought to say we have no artificial walls or boundaries around the state."

"The nuclear ban doesn't send the right message to other states or companies wanting to build transmission lines such as TRail and PATH." McCabe continued.

Dominion Gas representative Bob Orndorff stated, "Utilities should be allowed to use any energy mix necessary for the future of the country."

Senator Deem (R-Wood) addressed the committee and proponents of lifting the ban saying, "lots of people are violently opposed to nuclear power, including my wife."

Senator Evan Jenkins (D-Cabell) asked, "Why, if, as I have been told, 'don't worry about it - we aren't going to build, we just want to get it off the books' are you so in need of lifting the ban if there are no plans underway to build a plant?"

This direct question was again evaded, as was the suggestion it be placed with the Governor's Commission on Shaping the Future of Energy for the U.S. in SB 518, ironically next on the agenda.

Despite sound questioning especially by Sen. Jenkins, and opposition to the bill by Sen. Deem, it passed easily out of the committee on a voice vote, with only Deem asking his "no" vote be on record.

Please contact Sen. Judiciary Chairman Senator Jeffrey Kessler (D-Marshall) and ask that he not take up SB 85. Contact Sen. Judiciary members and ask them to vote against SB 85 should it come before them.

Green Legislative Update

Senate Judiciary Committee:

Sen. Jeffrey Kessler, Chair (D-Marshall)
(304) 357-7880 jeff.kessler@wvsenate.gov
Sen. Michael Oliverio, Vice-Chair (D-Monongalia)
(304) 357-7919 michael.oliverio@wvsenate.gov
Sen. Richard Browning (D-Wyoming)
(304) 357-7807 richard.browning@wvsenate.gov
Sen. Truman Chafin (D-Mingo)
(304) 357-7808 truman.chafin@wvsenate.gov
Sen. Dan Foster (D-Kanawha)
(304) 357-7866 daniel.foster@camc.org
Sen. Evan Jenkins (D-Cabell)
(304) 357-7956 evan.jenkins@wvsenate.gov
Sen. William Laird (D-Fayette)
(304) 357-7849 william.laird@wvsenate.gov
Sen. Joseph Minard (D-Harrison)
(304) 357-7904 no e-mail address
Sen. Corey Palumbo (D-Kanawha)
(304) 357-7854 corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov
Sen. Herb Snyder (D-Jefferson)
(304) 357-7957 herb.snyder@wvsenate.gov
Sen. Ron Stollings (D-Boone)
(304) 357-7939 ron.stollings@verizon.net
Sen. Bob Williams (D-Taylor)
(304) 357-7995 bob.williams@wvsenate.gov
Sen. Jack Yost (D-Brooke)
(304) 357-7984 jack.yost@wvsenate.gov
Sen. Clark Barnes (R-Randolph)
(304) 357-7973 no e-mail address
Sen. Don Caruth (R-Mercer)
(304) 357-7901 don.caruth@wvsenate.gov
Sen. Frank Deem (R-Wood)
(304) 357-7970 frank.deem@wvsenate.gov
Sen. Mike Hall (R-Putnam)
(304) 357-7843 delegate200@hotmail.com

“Green Buildings Act” ... cont. from pg.1

forward. He met with the stakeholders to make sure everyone agreed to the committee amendment before putting it on the meeting agenda, and he stood by the committee bill to the bitter end.

But chairing the meeting was like herding cats when the bill came up for discussion and amendment. It should have taken the committee about 15 minutes to pass this bill – instead, the debate lasted more than an hour.

There was one positive element to the debate - Sarah Halstead Boland joined us in supporting the bill. Sarah is working with the US Green Buildings Council and did a fantastic (and professional) job of responding to questions from committee members.

The bottom line is that “green” buildings save taxpayer dollars, support local economies, and help reduce energy consumption. By adopting this Act, West Virginia state government would be leading by example by operating our buildings more efficiently, using less water and electricity to operate, by using safer materials, natural daylight, improved air quality which in turn would improve worker performance and reduce absenteeism.

Let's hope the Finance Committee passes this bill to the floor in its original “mandatory” condition.



The West Virginia Environmental Council's

E-Day! at the Capitol

"A Sustainable Future for West Virginia"
Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Lower Rotunda ~ 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

- Announcements: 10 am
- Press Conference: 12 Noon (immediately following floor session)
 - Buffalo Creek & Current Day Coal Disasters Recognized:
(Sludge Safety Project) - 2:00 pm
- Grassroots Citizen Lobbying & Displays all day

- ◆ WV Environmental Council
- ◆ WVEC Grassroots Citizen Lobby
- ◆ WV Highlands Conservancy
- ◆ WV Citizen Action Group
- ◆ Clean Elections Coalition
- ◆ Sludge Safety Project
- ◆ WV Chapter, Sierra Club
- ◆ WV Rivers Coalition
- ◆ Coal River Mountain Watch
- ◆ Kanawha Valley Connections
- ◆ WV Citizens Against PATH
- ◆ WV Association for Cave Studies
- ◆ The Glass Amulet (jewelry)
- ◆ Mountaineer Chapter ~ Trout Unlimited
- ◆ Friends of Blackwater Canyon
- ◆ Sustainable Living for West Virginia
- ◆ Mountain View Solar / Building
- ◆ Mountain Party of WV
- ◆ PIMBY (Power In My Back Yard)
- ◆ Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC)
- ◆ Cemetery Protection
- ◆ Friends of the Mountains
- ◆ Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
- ◆ People Concerned About MIC
- ◆ North Central WV Democracy for America
- ◆ Greenbriar River Watershed Association

E-Day Benefit Dinner & Award Ceremony: 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Women's Club of Charleston 1600 Virginia Street East

Soup, Salad & Desert Buffet - Cost: \$15 donation

WVEC 2010 Awards Presented - 7:00 pm:

Mother Jones: *Winnie Fox*

Chuck Chambers Public Service: *Delegate Barbara Fleischauer*

Linda Schnautz Courage: *Vernon Haltom & Sarah Haltom*

Laura Forman Grassroots: *Bill Howley*

Green Entrepreneur: *Matt Sherald, "Power In My Back Yard"*

Youth Activism: *Zoe Beaver*

E-Day After Party! ~ The Empty Glass - 410 Elizabeth Street, Charleston

Music by Sean Richardson & other ~ 9:00 pm - 11:00

Cost: \$5 donation to e-council greatly appreciated!

Bills We Are Tracking

Bill Number	Title	Committee
Senate Bills		
SB 4	Friends of Coal license plate (same as SB 206) (<i>Stupid Bill</i>)	Passed Trans, to Finance
SB 69	Creating Energy Efficient Building Act (residential and commercial)	Transportation
SB 85	Repealing nuclear power plant ban (<i>Perennial Terrible Bill</i>)	Passed EIM, to Judiciary
SB 156	Public health assessment of DEP rules (WVEC Bill)	H&HR
SB 181	Limiting land development ordinances (<i>Perennial Bad Bill</i>)	Econ Dev Subcommittee
SB 183	Limiting diesel vehicles' idling	Transportation
SB 184	Creating WV Energy Efficient Buildings Program (loan funds)	Transportation
SB 233	Supreme Court Public Campaign Financing Pilot Program	Judiciary
SB 235	Creative Communities Development Pilot Program	Passed Econ Dev, to Finance
SB 236	Creating Aquaculture Development Act	Passed Senate, to House Ag
SB 350	Recategorizing recycled energy as renewable energy resource (<i>Terrible Bill</i>)	Passed Senate, to House EIL
SB 355	Extending expired terms of Oil and Gas Inspectors' Examining Board members	EIM
SB 357	Extending Hazardous Waste Management Fee	Finance
SB 474	Creating Green Buildings Act (WVEC Bill)	Passed Trans, to Finance
SB 489	Determining status of recycling goals (Good Bill)	Passed Judiciary, to Finance
SB 496	Allowing DEP Advisory Council certain rule-making authority (<i>Terrible Bill</i>)	EIM
SB 502	Requiring DEP complete coalmine permits by certain date (<i>Terrible Bill</i>)	EIM
SB 505	Updating Logging Sediment Control Act (<i>Bad Bill</i>)	Passed Nat Resources, to Finance
SB 508	Transferring certain powers from DNR to Division of Forestry (<i>Bad Bill</i>)	Nat Resources
SB 509	Requiring DEP monitor certain litigation (<i>Terrible Bill</i>)	Nat Resources
SB 518	Governor's Commission to Seize Future of Energy for America (<i>Coal is King Bill</i>)	Passed EIM, to Finance
SB 529	Surface Owners' Rights Recognition Act (SORO Bill)	EIM
SB 590	Developing state coal educational campaign (<i>Terrible Bill</i>)	EIM
SB 614	PSC Siting Reforms Bill (WVEC Bill)	Judiciary
SB 621	Permanent NPDES Variance for Weirton Steel (<i>Terrible Bill</i>)	Gov Org
House Bills		
HB 2499	Require DEP remediate waste tire piles consisting of more than twenty-five tires	Passed Jud, to Finance
HB 2948	Green Buildings Act (2009 Stakeholder Bill) (See HB 4008)	Gov Org
HB 3279	Prohibiting permits for slurry injection and sludge impoundments (Great Bill)	EIL
HB 4001	Regulating Marcellus Shale Gas Well Drilling (Great Bill)	Gov Org
HB 4008	Green Buildings Act (WVEC Bill) (<i>Terrible Amendment</i>)	Passed Gov Org, to Finance
HB 4012	West Virginia Energy Efficiency Act (WVEC Bill)	Gov Org
HB 4130	Supreme Court Public Campaign Financing Pilot Program	Judiciary
HB 4162	Providing tax credit for certifications by US Green Building Council (Great Bill)	Passed EIL, to Finance
HB 4187	Continuing hazardous waste management fee until 2015	On 2nd Reading
HB 4193	Relating to the groundwater protection fund	Passed Nat Res, to Judiciary
HB 4246	Tax credit for electric plug-in vehicles (Great Bill)	Passed Roads and Trans, to Finance
HB 4249	Requiring DOH to use recycled materials	Roads and Trans
HB 4250	Energy Efficient Building Act (residential and commercial) (Great Bill)	EIL
HB 4262	West Virginia Renewable Energy Act (Great Bill)	EIL
HB 4274	Residential Renewable Energy Systems Tax Credit (Great Bill)	EIL
HB 4276	Energy Efficient Building Act (residential and commercial) (Great Bill)	EIL
HB 4277	Authorizing DEP Secretary to sign NPDES permits (<i>Terrible Bill</i>)	On 3rd Reading
HB 4315	Changes to solar energy tax credit	EIL
HB 4391	Expanding Net-Metering for Renewable Energy (Great Bill)	Judiciary
HB 4403	PSC Siting Reforms Bill (WVEC Bill)	EIL
HB 4408	Surface Owners' Rights Recognition Act (SORO Bill)	Judiciary
HB 4457	Relating to the access to and protection of cemeteries	On 1st Reading
HB 4492	Renewable Portfolio Standards Sustainable Energy Act (WVEC Bill)	EIL
HB 4494	Allowing DEP Advisory Council certain rule-making authority (<i>Terrible Bill</i>)	EIL
HB 4505	Limiting land development ordinances (<i>Bad Bill</i>)	POL Sub Divisions
HB 4513	Marcellus Shale water protections bill (Great Bill)	Judiciary
HB 4547	Coal-to-Liquid Act of 2010 (<i>Perennial Terrible Bill</i>)	EIL
HB 4580	2010 Bottle Bill (Great WV CAG Bill)	Judiciary

(NOTE: All agency rules bills have been introduced sporadically in both houses. WVEC is tracking those separately).



Calendar of Events



February 24: E-Day at the Capitol. 9 am till 3 pm. Lower Rotunda. This is our Environmental Lobbying Day - a perfect opportunity to "go ye out and lobby" for everyone. Booth displays, announcements, press conference, Buffalo Creek Disaster commemorated (2 - 3pm) and more are planned.
For more information, or for table/booth reservations: contact Kevin Smith, a_clean_wv@yahoo.com

February 24: E-Day Benefit Dinner & Awards Ceremony. Woman's Club of Charleston. 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Join us as we celebrate our achievements and honor recipients of our WVEC awards. Homemade Soup & Salad buffet. Admission is a donation of \$15 to WVEC. Cash bar .

February 24: E-Day After Party! Live music at the Empty Glass. 410 Elizabeth Street, Charleston. Admission donation of \$5. per person (or whatever you can afford).

February 26: Anniversary of Buffalo Creek Disaster. A program commemorating this 1972 disaster during E-Day! at the Capitol, February 24th from 2 - 3pm. Lower Rotunda.

March 7-9: "Highland Problems & Downstream Connections: An Environmental Summit for the Mid-Atlantic Highlands" - Hosted by The Environmental Research Center at WVU and Canaan Valley Institute. No registration fee, but space is limited. Registration required.
To register and more information: Betty Michael, 800-922-3601, ext. 252 or betty.michael@canaanvi.org

March 13: Session concludes.

March 13: Winter Bird Walk. Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. 8 am. Led by Casey Rucker.
For more information: (304) 866-3858.

March 27: Vandalia Garden Festival. Cultural Center, Charleston.
For more information: contact Ann Nye, nyeann@ma.rr.com

April 16: WV Citizen Action Group Spring Fundraiser. Charleston Women's Club.
Save this date - details to be announced.

April 16 & 17: WV Sustainable Fair. Davis & Elkins College - Elkins, WV. Speakers, Workshops, Demonstrations, Booths on Energy, WV Agriculture & Organic Foods, Community Gardening & much more. "A Sustainable Feast" Benefit Dinner Friday evening. Live Music throughout the event, culminating with a Saturday evening concert from 7 PM - 10 PM. Musicians include Mike Morningstar, The Ginsingers and The Wild Rumpus. *Stay tuned for more details.*
For more information: Denise Poole, deniseap@earthlink.net

April 24: Earthday Celebration. The Appalachian Folklife Center, Pipestem WV. 12 noon - till ? Music, panel discussion, crafts, children's theater. Camping and dorm rooms available.
For more information: www.folklifecenter.org or (304) 466-0626

May 1: WV Herb Association Spring Conference. Beckley.
Stay tuned for more details.

May 22: Kanawha Valley Sustainability Fair. Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 301 Piedmont Rd., Charleston. 10am - 4pm.

May 29-31: Cranberry Backcountry Backpack. 26 mile moderate circuit. Daily mileage: 8/12/6.
Pre-registration required. Mike Juskelis, (410) 439-4964 or mjuskelis@cablespeed.com

June 5: World Environment Day. Pittsburg, PA. (United Nations Environment Program's World Environment Day).

July 10-11: Lavender Day - at LaPaix Herb Farm. Alum Bridge - Lewis County. Limited to 100 participants only. Includes workshops, guided walks, booths, gourmet lunch by Chef Dale Hawkins. Attendance by reservation only.
For more information: www.lapaixherbfarmproducts.com

July 10-12: Cranberry Wilderness Backpack. Hike in 5 miles, camp at Big Beechy Falls. Hiking continues day 2 and 3. 18 miles total.
Pre-registration required. Contact Mike Juskelis at (410) 439-4964 or mjuskelis@cablespeed.com

Support the West Virginia Environmental Council

2206 Washington Street East, Charleston WV 2531 1

Phone: (304) 414-0143 www.wvecouncil.org

_____ Renewed Membership
 _____ Change of Address

_____ New Membership
 _____ Donation

Membership Levels

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail _____

- _____ \$ 10 Student / Senior
- _____ \$ 25 Regular
- _____ \$ 50 Seedling
- _____ \$ 100 Sustaining
- _____ \$ 250 Enviro Steward
- _____ \$ 500 Canopy
- _____ \$ 1,000 Old Growth
- _____ \$ Other



The West Virginia Environmental Council's

E-Day! at the Capitol

This Wednesday - February 24th
See inside for details ...

Think Renewable!