

ated a willingness to participate in the workshop. When and if plans for the workshop are developed, the V.W.C. membership will be informed.

At the suggestion of Vice President Ernie Dickerman, members were asked to share their thoughts on V.W.C.'s continued membership in the Conservation Council of Virginia. Organizational dues have increased from \$50 to \$100 annually in the last year. The question was raised whether the membership feels that we are getting our money's worth. The overwhelming response was that V.W.C. should remain active in CCVa regardless of the dues increase. Most voiced the opinion that wilderness is but one aspect of the broad challenge of environmental protection and that thru CCVa we can support other aspects of the battle.

In other business conducted at the meeting, Treasurer Nancy Sheffield reported V.W.C. assets to be approximately \$1,400. This money will be used to produce materials and to pay for mailings in support of a Virginia wilderness bill, as soon as one is introduced. Despite the urgings of those members present, the V.W.C. officers declined for the present to submit any expenses for telephone or travel to the treasurer for reimbursement.

As a final item of business, the election of officers for the coming year was held. The nominating committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Jim Murray from Charlottesville, recommended that the current officers serve an additional term. There were no other nominations and all officers were re-elected.

WHO OPPOSES WILDERNESS DESIGNATION IF IT'S SO DESIRABLE?

Most opposition which one finds to wilderness is due to misunderstanding: (a) to misunderstanding due to lack of information as to the provisions of the Wilderness Act, and (b) to false preconceptions by individuals as to what the term "wilderness" means. In building public support for any wilderness proposal, the wilderness advocate spends the major part of his or her time clearing up the misunderstandings and the false preconceptions.

*** The most common misunderstanding has to do with hunting and fishing. As a matter of fact, hunting and fishing continue to be legal on any national forest area designated as wilderness under the Wilderness Act, subject to state fish and game laws as usual. Unfortunately, too many persons, without bothering to look up the law, tell themselves that hunting and fishing will be unlawful and proceed to oppose wilderness designation of a local area. That is wrong; wilderness designation has no effect on the legality of hunting and fishing in a statutory wilderness under the Wilderness Act.

*** Because a designated wilderness may not contain public roads and the operation of motor vehicles is generally prohibited, some persons leap to the false conclusion that fire may not be fought and so oppose wilderness. To the contrary, the Wilderness Act specifically provides that the U.S. Forest Service (or other government agency administering any particular wilderness) "may control fire, insects and disease"; in other words, may do anything it considers necessary to put out wild fire, including using bulldozers and airplanes.

*** Again, because of the absence of roads and prohibition against motor vehicles, some people assume that proper help may not be given persons lost or injured in wilderness and so they decide to oppose wilderness. To the contrary, the Wilderness Act particularly provides that any assistance needed may be rendered to persons lost or in trouble, including operation of motor vehicles and landing of aircraft.

*** Other people, because commercial logging is prohibited in wilderness, claim that wilderness is "single use" rather than "multiple use" and, without looking into the matter further, oppose wilderness. As a matter of fact, wilderness is recognized as one of the multiple uses in the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act. Further, of the principle multiple uses enumerated in that Act, wilderness very effectively serves the conservation of water and soil; provides undisturbed natural habitat for many species of wildlife; recreation is a prime use; and grazing (also called "forage") is permitted under the Wilderness Act. While the harvesting of timber is definitely prohibited, it is the living forest--not the clear cut or the heavily cut over land--which holds back the water and controls erosion;

THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

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10 80 *Please Renew*
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WILDERNESS PROTECTION IN VIRGINIA DELAYED

It appears downright improbable that any Virginia wilderness bill will be introduced in this 97th Congress by Rep. William Wampler or anybody else. Congressman Wampler, after backing & filling on the matter practically since this Congress began in January 1981, seems to have decided that filing such a bill and working for its passage would be of no political benefit to him come election day, November 2, 1982.

We regret to issue this report. Perhaps we didn't build sufficient public support visible to Mr. Wampler. Yet it certainly is true that many, many voters in the 9th Congressional District and elsewhere informed him--and more than once--that they wanted the protection of the Wilderness Act for their favorite areas on the Jefferson National Forest in southwest Virginia.

Rick Boucher of Abingdon, a State Senator and with a strong record in the General Assembly as a vigorous defender of Virginia's environment, is the Democratic candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives from the 9th Congressional District. He has stated his readiness to support citizens wilderness proposals for the Jefferson National Forest. Rick Boucher is running against incumbent William Wampler, the Republican candidate, whose record is in sharp contrast. Make your choice!

PREPARE TO GIVE YOUR ADVICE & COUNSEL TO THE FOREST SERVICE

The U.S. Forest Service is busy working on its management plans for the George Washington and the Jefferson National Forests. Once decided upon, these plans will be in effect to the year 2000 and beyond. But before they are decided upon by the Forest Service, there will be a number of opportunities for each of us as Virginians and owners of these forests to advise the Forest Service--to express our opinions as individuals and as representatives of citizen organizations as to what the policies and plans for various activities on the forests should be.

To enlarge citizen participation in this planning process and to make citizen input more pertinent and effective, on SATURDAY OCTOBER 2, 1982 at Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia, there will be held the VIRGINIA CITIZENS CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL FOREST PLANNING & MANAGEMENT. Virginians from all over the state are invited to attend--particularly those who live in the western portion of the Commonwealth from the eastern foothills of the Blue Ridge all the way to westernmost Lee County. Besides being informative about the planning process and such matters as roads, wildlife management, coldwater fisheries, logging, oil & gas leasing, wilderness, trails and recreation, a prime goal of the conference will be to develop a series of "Alternative" management proposals for inclusion in the Forest Service' draft Environmental Impact Statements as and when officially issued. With proper "Alternatives" offered, it becomes possible for citizen responses to the draft EIS to concentrate on those proposals and thus to show strong public support for them.

Enclosed is the printed announcement of this Virginia Citizens Conference on National Forest Planning & Management, Saturday October 2, 1982 at Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia which gives the details, including highway directions. The \$5.00 registration fee covers lunch (all you can eat at the college cafeteria), coffee during the morning session, and publications dealing with national forest planning. Staff from both forests will be present, to speak and to be spoken with.

Plan to come! Inform yourself further about the Forest Service' thinking and prepare yourself to comment more effectively when their preliminary plans are offered to the public for comment. Meet old friends, meet new ones, and share your views on the management of Virginia's national forests--all 1,600,000 acres of them!!

HOW TO GIVE YOUR PREFERRED POLITICAL CANDIDATES A BOOST

This year candidates with a concern for the environment and a disposition to support needed environmental legislation are running for Congressional seats in Virginia. Environmentalists in increasing numbers are beginning to work actively in support of them.

Most of us who are willing to work for such candidates would be glad to know more about effective political campaigning which we could apply. That is exactly what the meeting on Saturday September 11, 1982 being held at Arlington, Virginia by "Americans for the Environment" is intended to do. The enclosed folder gives full information--including directions to the meeting site. (Note: I-95 inside the Capital Beltway is also identified as I-395 nowadays.)

"Americans for the Environment" has close ties with the League of Conservation Voters, tho an entirely separate organization. The Saturday September 11 meeting is sponsored by such groups as the Conservation Council of Virginia, Old Dominion Chapter of Sierra Club, Piedmont Environmental Council, Trout Unlimited, and Virginia Wilderness Committee. We hope to see you there!

"THANK YOU" TO SENATOR JOHN WARNER

Responding to constituents' requests, Senator John W. Warner of Virginia became a sponsor of Senator Henry Jackson's bill to close all statutory wilderness to oil and gas leasing and various other minerals. The Virginia Wilderness Committee has expressed its thanks to Senator Warner for his readiness to act to protect the integrity of America's treasured wilderness and the Wilderness Act.

Senator Jackson's bill, S. 2801, will probably be voted on by the Senate soon after Congress returns from recess in early September. A comparable House bill, H.R. 6542, has already passed the House by the overwhelming vote of 340 to 58.

WHO OPPOSES WILDERNESS DESIGNATION IF IT'S SO DESIRABLE?

(continued from previous issue)

. . . . While the harvesting of timber is definitely prohibited, it is the living forest--not the clearcut or the heavily cut over land --which holds back the water and controls erosion; which purifies the air; which provides essential habitat necessary for food, shelter and breeding of specific species of animals and birds; and which is beauty and inspiration for mankind. Wilderness is multiple use.

*** Wilderness designation is opposed by some individuals who object that they will not be allowed to operate their private motor vehicles, whether jeep, motorcycle, motorboat or landing of airplanes. On the other hand, many, many people welcome the fact that in wilderness the noise, the speed, the smell of motor vehicles will be absent; that the peace and serenity, the quiet beauty of nature surrounding them will not be disturbed by the machines of man. Wildlife too benefits from these no-motor-vehicle havens.

*** Some people worry that their private land, if surrounded by statutory wilderness, will be condemned and so oppose wilderness designation. To the contrary, the Wilderness Act states that private land surrounded by wilderness may be acquired by the government only from a willing seller. The owner may use his land as he pleases and, further, under the constitution of the United States continues to enjoy the same access as before.

*** Counties used to object to wilderness designation because of the loss of potential revenue from possible logging. However, with the change of the federal law in 1976, counties now receive annually a payment in lieu of taxes (or 25% of actual logging sales, whichever is greater) for every acre of national forest land in their county, whether wilderness or not, so this objection is no longer made.

*** Some people look at the Wilderness Act as "federal interference"; but the truth is exactly the opposite. Neither the Forest Service nor any other government agency can put an area in the National Wilderness System and give it the protection of the Wilderness Act. Only the Congress can do that, by passing a law. / Congress will pass a law designating an area of federally owned land as wilderness only if the local Congressman within whose Congressional District the area lies is willing. And the local Congressman will be willing only if enough of his constituents ask him to support wilderness designation of the area. Finally, since you and I as individuals can continue to enjoy all the things we did before wilderness designation (excepting no motor vehicle operation), the restraints are on the Forest Service or other agency who must then manage the area according to the Wilderness Act and keep unchanged its natural qualities and characteristics. Under the Wilderness Act, it is the government agency who is told by the people what it may do and not do.

Inside Read All About The Coming
VIRGINIA CITIZENS CONFERENCE
ON NATIONAL FOREST PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Saturday October 2, 1982
At Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia

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A BRIGHT NEW DAY DAWNS FOR VIRGINIA WILDERNESS

Sure, we're optimistic. There is no reason for undertaking anything if you are not optimistic. The fact is that as of January 3, 1983 the two Congressional Districts in which are located most of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests are now represented by Congressmen, namely Jim Olin (6th) and Rick Boucher (9th), who are personally sympathetic to wilderness preservation and are prepared to cooperate with Virginia wilderness advocates and their organizations.

The positive attitude toward wilderness of these two new Representatives is in 180° contrast with the anti-wilderness attitude of their predecessors, Msrs. Butler and Wampler, who now are merely ordinary citizens back home. As of January 3, 1983, instead of first having to overcome the opposition of two key Virginia Congressmen, we start with their support.

Now the main job of all of us in Virginia who want qualified areas on the two national forests given the protection of the Wilderness Act is to arouse enough, widespread public support that Representatives Boucher and Olin will see it as worth their while to work to move a Virginia wilderness bill thru the new 98th Congress. Now the two key Congressmen are our friends--not part of the opposition. Progress!!

WILDERNESS SUPPORTERS MEET WITH REPS. OLIN AND BOUCHER

On December 15, 1982 eight persons representing five organizations in the Coalition for Virginia Wilderness met at Staunton with newly elected Congressman James R. Olin (and his wife Phyllis and his Harrisonburg office aide Ellen K. Layman) to discuss the introduction of a Virginia wilderness bill in the new 98th Congress. It was a very satisfactory meeting. To some of us who had worked for the election of Jim Olin to Congress had previously spoken with him briefly about Virginia wilderness, this was the first opportunity to discuss the subject in depth. Rep. Olin was keenly interested in learning more about the Wilderness Act, the various wilderness proposals lying in his 6th Congressional District, and the political situation re wilderness. He asked many relevant questions. We stressed our recognition that it is up to Virginians generally to demonstrate strong support for a Virginia wilderness bill.

Rep. Olin definitely has a positive attitude toward wilderness and the Wilderness Act. Being brand new in the Congress, he wants to inform himself further on the subject and about local political feelings before committing himself to filing any bill--a legitimate approach on his part as a new Representative of the 6th District.

On December 20 six persons representing six organizations in the Coalition for Virginia Wilderness met at Abingdon with newly elected Congressman Fredrick C. Boucher to discuss with him the introduction of a Virginia wilderness bill in the 98th Congress. Rep. Boucher is already knowledgeable about the Wilderness Act and indeed mentioned during his

election campaign his interest in Wilderness Act protection for suitable areas.

The discussion centered on the political aspects of introducing and moving a Virginia wilderness bill thru the Congress. Rick Boucher, as a long-time State Senator in the Virginia General Assembly, is well aware of the need of effective political support by the citizens to win passage of any bill. Those present indicated the sorts of action the Coalition for Virginia Wilderness was prepared to take to build the needed public support. Rep. Boucher on his part stated his readiness to do certain things designed to encourage political leaders in the 9th District to view wilderness designation in a favorable light. Wilderness proposals located in the 9th District were reviewed.

Rep. Boucher is willing to file a Virginia wilderness bill, subject to first laying a reasonable political foundation. He would prefer a single Virginia bill covering areas on both national forests. It is our impression that such a single bill would also be preferred by Rep. Jim Olin. Certainly from the citizen viewpoint that is the most desirable and practical method.

Based on the favorable attitude of both Congressmen Boucher and Olin, Virginia wilderness supporters have a real chance to get a wilderness bill introduced and passed in the 98th Congress--and to have the cooperation of the two key Virginia Congressmen in doing so. All it will take is enthusiasm, a bit of energy, and willingness to speak to local political leaders and other Virginians asking for their support. Let's start now!

COALITION FOR VIRGINIA WILDERNESS? VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE?

Just by way of clarification. The Virginia Wilderness Committee is a single organization whose prime purpose is to extend the protection of the Wilderness Act to more areas in Virginia. With 1,600,000 acres of national forest in the western portion of the state and three large federal wildlife refuges in tidewater Virginia, there are many choice areas that need Wilderness Act protection to assure that they permanently stay wild, beautiful and free of development. (Much of Shenandoah National Park is already in the National Wilderness System.)

The Coalition for Virginia Wilderness is an alliance of citizen organizations concerned about the environment, including wilderness. The objective is to have a combined effort among numerous groups willing to work in some degree for wilderness protection under the Wilderness Act. There are no dues, no officers, and each member organization is free to operate in its own way to extend the protection of the Wilderness Act to suitable tracts wherever they may be in Virginia.

The combined action of this Coalition of separate, independent organizations is especially important when a Virginia wilderness bill has been filed in Congress. It takes maximum pressure from everyone interested to get a bill passed by Congress. The Virginia Wilderness Committee seeks to coordinate the Coalition's efforts by providing informative materials, by giving notice when particular action of some kind is needed, by developing wilderness proposals, and otherwise encouraging the individual members of Coalition organizations to take an active part.

The groups listed below belonged to the Coalition for Virginia Wilderness during the previous 96th and 97th Congresses. Each will be invited to continue its membership during the new 98th Congress. If an organization, small or large, to which you belong would like to be part of this Coalition--working in its own way to help win passage of a Virginia wilderness bill, while combining its action with that of other groups-- please write or telephone Ernie Dickerman, Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope VA 24479, telephone (703) 885-8330 and together we'll arrange it.

Members of the Coalition for Virginia Wilderness during the 96th and 97th Congresses: Citizens Environmental Council (Roanoke Valley), Citizens for Southwest Virginia, Coalition of American Electric Consumers, Conservation Council of Virginia, Float Fishermen of Virginia, Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society, Old Dominion Chapter of the Sierra Club, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Rappahannock League for Environmental Protection, Rockbridge Area Conservation Council, Trout Unlimited's Virginia Council, Virginia B.A.S.S. State Federation, and Virginia Wilderness Committee.

1983-84 PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PROPOSALS FOR 98th CONGRESS

Thirteen areas on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests were pushed by Virginians for wilderness designation during the previous Congress. They are listed below. Do we want to advocate the same areas in the new 98th Congress or should a change or two or three be made?

To assure that the wilderness candidate areas which Virginians want and are willing to work for are in the list to be proposed to the Virginia Congressional delegation, at the beginning of each new Congress individuals and organizations known to be interested in wilderness protection are asked to communicate their choices to the Virginia Wilderness Committee. Then on the basis of the choices suggested, a final list of candidate areas is decided upon. Just one word of warning: Suggestions are wanted and welcomed, but if you make a suggestion(s) please be prepared to do some work to win wilderness designation for it (them)!

Some fine day when the political problems entangling Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague Island (Chincoteague Refuge and Assateague National Seashore) have been resolved so that other matters, like wilderness, can be considered on their merits, then wilderness designation to protect major portions of each will be actively promoted. The Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is in a somewhat similar situation.

Herewith a preliminary list of Virginia wilderness candidates for the 98th Congress. It is the same list as recommended to the previous Congress.

GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST

Acres	Name of Area	County	Member of Congress
11,800	Southern Massanutten	Rockingham, Page	Olin & Robinson
9,100	Rough Mountain	Bath	Olin
5,730	Rich Hole	Rockbridge, Alleghany	Olin
10,695	St. Marys River	Augusta	Olin
<u>6,700</u>	Ramseys Draft	Augusta	Olin

44,025

JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST

Acres	Name of Area	County	Member of Congress
2,530	Thunder Ridge	Rockbridge, Bedford Botetourt	Olin
6,375	Beartown	Tazewell	Boucher
2,998	Little Dry Run	Mt. Rogers NRA	Boucher
5,771	Lewis Fork	Mt. Rogers NRA	Boucher
3,568	Little Wilson Creek	Mt. Rogers NRA	Boucher
2,500	Roaring Branch	Wise	Boucher
5,887	Devils Fork	Scott	Boucher
<u>11,000</u>	Mountain Lake	Giles, Craig, West Va.	Boucher
40,629			

Your comments on this preliminary list will be very much appreciated. Just write or telephone Ernie Dickerman, Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope VA 24479, telephone (703) 885-8330. Thank you.

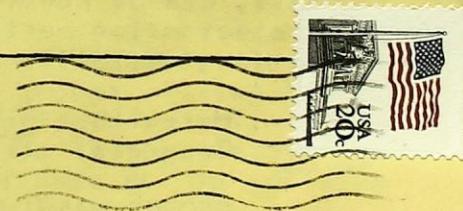
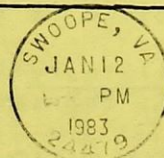
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AUGUSTA COUNTY WILDERNESS ADVOCATS MEET AND PLAN ACTION

On the evening of March 1, 27 persons living in Augusta County met together and planned what they would do to get the protection of the Wilderness Act for Ramseys Draft and St. Marys River wilderness proposals, both part of the George Washington National Forest. These two proposals, one located in the Alleghany Mountains on the western side of Augusta County and the other in the Blue Ridge on the eastern side of the county, are prime areas in the list of Virginia wilderness candidates.

Despite the amount of expressed public support for wilderness designation for Ramseys Draft and St. Marys River, the seven members of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors are continuing in their unanimous opposition to wilderness designation and so expressed themselves to Congressman Jim Olin in January 1983. Oddly the Supervisors apparently are saying they want these two areas to stay like they are; but don't apply the Wilderness Act to make sure they will stay like they are. The logic is a bit hard to follow!

At the March 1 meeting of Augusta County citizens it was agreed that the key to winning is to get enough Augusta County residents telling Rep. Jim Olin they want Ramseys Draft and St. Marys River designated as wilderness under the Wilderness Act. Unlike his Congressional predecessor who used the County Supervisors' official opposition as an alibi for doing nothing, Rep. Olin, given his sympathy toward wilderness protection, is expected to listen to the people--not just to half a dozen officials--and be guided accordingly!

Many readers will recognize the above situation as the same as that in their own county--which it is. And the solution is the same. Like Rep. Olin of the 6th Congressional District (where most of the George Washington Forest lies), Rep. Rick Boucher of the 9th District (where most of the Jefferson Forest lies) is likewise sympathetic to wilderness protection and will be substantially guided by the people's wishes as expressed to him. WHEREFOR, TO WIN, tell Rep. James R. Olin and Rep. Frederick C. Boucher, address U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515, what YOU want. Each of them wants to hear from you about wilderness. And this is true even if you live in other Congressional Districts than the 6th and 9th.

WILDERNESS WALK IN RICH HOLE, SUNDAY MARCH 27, WITH REP. OLIN

Rep. Jim Olin wants to become personally familiar with some of the wilderness proposals in his 6th Congressional District. Accordingly he has accepted an invitation to visit Rich Hole Sunday afternoon March 27. His wife Phyllis will accompany him. The walk has been organized by Jim Loesel and Chuck Boggs of Lexington and is sponsored by the Rockbridge Area Conservation Council.

Everyone who would like to take this walk into Rich Hole is welcome. The meeting time and place in Lexington is 1:15 PM at the Rockbridge County

Courthouse. Or you can meet the group about 1:45 PM where the walk will begin, i.e., on highway US 60 about 20 miles west of Lexington, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of the Rockbridge-Alleghany county line--just beyond the crest of the long uphill grade from Lexington, where a Forest Service trail starts.

TO REFRESH THE MEMORY

Below is repeated the preliminary list of Virginia wilderness candidates for the 98th Congress, as previously reported in the January VWC Newsletter.

One addition has been made to the preliminary list, namely, Kimberling Creek, 5,720 acres, in Bland County on the Jefferson National Forest, in Rep. Boucher's 9th Congressional District.

As previously announced, your comments on this preliminary list will be appreciated. Please send them to Ernie Dickerman, Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope VA 24479 or telephone (703) 885-8330.

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3,568	Little Wilson Creek	Mt. Rogers NRA	Boucher
2,500	Roaring Branch	Wise	Boucher
5,887	Devils Fork	Scott	Boucher
11,000	Mountain Lake	Giles, Craig, West Va	Boucher
<u>5,720</u>	Kimberling Creek	Bland	Boucher

46,349

90,374 Total Acres on 14 Areas

REP. BOUCHER SPEAKS TO NORTHERN VIRGINIANS ON WILDERNESS

Rep. Rick Boucher, at a meeting sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington Group of the Sierra Club held Monday March 14 at Arlington, discussed Virginia wilderness opportunities with an audience of eighty persons. He indicated his willingness to support the dozen wilderness proposals currently being promoted, but warned of the necessity for inter-

ested Virginians to build widespread public support. Passing a wilderness bill is politics and there is opposition to wilderness--mostly because of misunderstanding of what the Wilderness Act would do, he said, so strong grassroots expression of wilderness support is absolutely necessary. Following his talk, Rep. Boucher responded freely to numerous questions and comments from the audience. Besides wilderness, the Congressman also touched on the Reagan administration's environmental record and on such Virginia issues as proposed uranium mining and a coal slurry pipeline.

" . . . AS GOOD STEWARDS TO SECURE THEM
IN THEIR WILD, UNSPOILED CHARACTER."

Note: The following excerpts are from a "Letter to the Editor" written by Mark and Ruth Snyder (husband & wife) of Waynesboro, Virginia which was printed in both the Staunton and Waynesboro daily newspapers after the meeting of March 1 of Augusta County wilderness supporters. It offers ideas and philosophy about wilderness preservation which any of us can use to advantage in promoting wilderness protection in Virginia.

"Interests of those present at the meeting ranged widely, thru hunting, fishing, hiking, wilderness survival, scouting, wildflower and bird study, tourism, and just plain good citizen involvement for preservation of the unique heritage we possess in this section of the state.

"Areas proposed for wilderness status thruout Virginia amount to only 5.4 percent of the national forests in the Commonwealth (11.6 million acres total) and barely 0.3 percent of Virginia's total land area. These wilderness areas would not be "locked up", but rather would be open to hunting, fishing, camping, nature study and other activities. The main restriction on the individual would be against the use of mechanical devices such as motor vehicles. Besides walking, anyone could travel by horseback, raft or canoe.

"Ideas were discussed and plans made to inform the public and assure Congressman Jim Olin that many residents of our area will support him in the introduction of a bill to give wilderness status to the St. Marys River and Ramseys Draft areas.

"We must remember that these two areas are in the George Washington National Forest and are, therefore, the property of everyone in our nation. They are visited by people from many places, and are cherished by many more who may never see them but want them preserved for future generations. It is our responsibility as good stewards to secure them in their wild, unspoiled character."

COALITION FOR VIRGINIA WILDERNESS WANTS TO GROW

One of the effective ways to influence the political decision makers re wilderness is to be able to point to the number of Virginia citizen organizations which have pledged themselves to be a part of the wilderness movement in Virginia. Additional members directly broadens the base of wilderness activity in the Commonwealth.

Groups of any size, small or large, are invited to join the Coalition

for Virginia Wilderness. As noted before, there are no dues and no obligations except the willingness of each member organization, in its own way, to build support for the current Virginia wilderness proposals advocated by the Coalition. Do you belong to a club of any sort which might be willing to work for wilderness protection on that basis? We'd like to hear from you. Just write or telephone Ernie Dickerman, Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope VA 24479, telephone (703) 885-8330.

The following organizations have renewed their membership for 1983-84: Rappahannock League for Environmental Protection - Float Fishermen of Virginia - Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society - Potomac Appalachian Trail Club - Old Dominion Chapter of Sierra Club - Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited - Virginia Wilderness Committee. Others are expected to renew as their boards of directors take up the matter at their quarterly board meetings.

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 Secretary Paul Bratton, Jr., Box 111A, Deerfield VA 24432
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Virginia Wilderness Committee
 Rt. 1, Box 156
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FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

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 James J. Murray
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WINNING WILDERNESS WITH A WILDERNESS WORKSHOP

"Make It Happen--Preserve Virginia's Wilderness" was the theme of the Shenandoah Valley Wilderness Conference, held Saturday June 18th at the Blue Ridge Community College north of Staunton. The conference was planned by members of the Virginia Wilderness Committee and sponsored jointly by the Shenandoah Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Staunton-Augusta Chapter of Izaak Walton League, the Rockingham Bird Club, the Augusta Bird Club, the Blue Ridge Community College, and V.W.C. Marian Hackney of Lyndhurst, as the spirited, cheerful Chairman, guided the program successfully thru the day.

The morning portion of the day's program dealt with the Wilderness Act, what it takes to get an area designated as wilderness by Congress, the particular benefits of wilderness to such groups as fishermen, hunters, naturalists and recreationists, and who opposes wilderness. Each brief talk was followed by comment and questions from the floor.

In the afternoon, workshop sessions in small groups considered the action needed to sell wilderness protection. Topics covered included getting publicity for wilderness, effective political action, building wilderness support locally, and political communication that penetrates the politician's mind.

Sixty-one persons attended the conference. Its success was marked by the lively participation of nearly everyone in offering their ideas from the floor and in the small group work sessions. Reporters from two Shenandoah Valley newspapers and the local TV station covered the event and provided full stories in their media.

Additional wilderness conferences need to be held in the Old Dominion to win wilderness protection for the 14 proposals of the Coalition for Virginia Wilderness--particularly in southwest Virginia, northern Virginia, Charlottesville and Richmond. The Virginia Wilderness Committee is prepared to help any individual group who is willing to plan and hold one. If you feel the urge, please telephone Ernie Dickerman (703--885-8330) or Ed Clark (703--943-3445). We'll help!

REP. JIM OLIN ENJOYS WILDERNESS WALKS AND HOLDS TOWN MEETINGS

As he early stated he intended to do, Congressman Jim Olin of the 6th Congressional District (generally speaking, the Valley of Virginia from Roanoke to Harrisonburg, plus Amherst County) has been personally visiting the wilderness proposals in his district advocated by the Coalition for Virginia Wilderness. Back on March 27 he walked into Rich Hole (Rockbridge and Alleghany Counties), despite a cold, windy, rainy day. On May 22 in the St. Marys River area he followed the river up to the principal falls (wading the river three times on the way), made his way up a rock cliff via a defile to its top, scrambled thru the brush for a couple of hundred yards along the base of another cliff, eased thru the

woods for a piece until reaching an old woods road, then returned via the old logging road to the starting point (wading the river once again). Meanwhile he had enjoyed the wild, rugged beauty of St. Marys and covered eight miles on foot. On these two wilderness walks the Congressman was accompanied by his wife Phyllis and numerous local Virginians.

On July 6 Congressman Olin, together with some 56 persons, sampled the Thunder Ridge proposal as it lies along the crest of the Blue Ridge in Rockbridge, Bedford and Botetourt Counties. At an overlook along the Appalachian Trail (which runs lengthwise thru this wilderness proposal) he enjoyed the panoramic view of the Shenandoah Valley below, listened to remarks about the features of Thunder Ridge, and suggested that such natural attractions as two waterfalls reported as nearby but outside the proposed wilderness boundary be carefully considered for addition to the proposal if feasible. He was assured such possible additions will be fully considered. He also visited the former U.S. Air Force facility on Apple Orchard Mountain, long abandoned except for a radar station; here representatives of the Natural Bridge and the Lynchburg Appalachian Trail Clubs particularly asked that he use his influence to get the Air Force to remove the many remaining building foundations and other unused works of man and restore the area to a natural condition. He indicated his readiness to look into the matter.

Besides wilderness walks, Rep. Olin continues his town meetings about the district. These town meetings, open for comment by constituents on any subject related to the federal government and the Congress, are one of the most effective ways of showing him the strength of wilderness support in his district. Wilderness proponents were a bit slow in taking advantage of these meetings. However, at a May 21 meeting at Stuarts Draft in Augusta County some thirty persons spoke up for wilderness and on July 6 at Glasgow in Rockbridge County half a dozen citizens told Jim Olin they want the protection of the Wilderness Act for Rich Hole, Thunder Ridge and the rest of the Virginia wilderness proposals.

Rep. Olin periodically mails announcements of his next series of town meetings. If you are not already on his mailing list and receiving these notices, drop him a line and ask him to add your name--also asking him to introduce a Virginia wilderness bill soon! Then, when you know the date and location of his next town meeting near you, persuade a few neighbors to attend with ^{you} and each one speak up for wilderness in a sentence or two. This is easy, simple, fun--and effective!

WILDERNESS SUPPORT IS GROWING IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

It is encouraging to report that in the 9th Congressional District (southwest Virginia) with a Congressman sympathetic to wilderness and the Wilderness Act, meaning Rep. Rick Boucher, folks previously silent are now speaking out for wilderness. With 8 of the 14 proposals recommended by the Coalition for Virginia Wilderness being located in the 9th District on the Jefferson National Forest, that is exactly what is needed. Rep. Boucher is receiving letters and other positive evidence of public support for wilderness. Just as he has encouraged all of us by his public statements and actions positively favoring extending the protection of the Wilderness Act in southwest Virginia, in turn more 9th District residents need to encourage Rick Boucher by asking him to introduce a

Virginia wilderness bill this fall (after the August recess of Congress).

Given such organizations interested in wilderness and active in southwest Virginia as the Virginia Council on Outdoor Adventure Education, the New River Group of Sierra Club, the Highlands Chapter of Trout Unlimited and others, it is time to plan to hold a wilderness conference at some central location in the 9th District this fall. President Ed Clark of V.W.C. will be contacting some of you down that way soon to see how you feel and what can be done. Planning needs to start early!

TRY A MINI WILDERNESS CONFERENCE IN YOUR OWN HOME!

On the evening of Thursday July 7 Doug and Marian Hackney held a mini wilderness conference at the home of a neighbor, Gil and Gail Mann, near Waynesboro. It was attended by a dozen persons, most of whom were unable to attend the day-long June 18 Shenandoah Valley Wilderness Conference because of schedule conflicts. The program consisted of brief talks, followed by discussion, of such topics as the Wilderness Act, the various benefits of wilderness (as uninterrupted scientific study, undisturbed beauty of nature, wildlife haven, self-reliant recreation, opportunity for solitude, absence of the noise and speed of machines, assurance that a favorite area will be the same when you go back again, etc.), opposition to wilderness, and what you can do to help get a Virginia wilderness bill introduced and passed by this Congress. There was also a slide show of Virginia wilderness scenes.

Such a mini wilderness conference is a simple, practical way to develop a nucleus of interested friends and neighbors in your community who will support wilderness protection. The program itself would probably run more or less two hours, followed by refreshments and conversation.

Anyone who thinks he or she might like to put on such a mini wilderness meeting, please telephone Ernie Dickerman (703) 885-8330 or Ed Clark ((703) 943-3445. Materials and help are available for the asking.

WILDERNESS BOOTHS SCHEDULED AT TWO COUNTY FAIRS

Plans are underway to have a wilderness booth at the Augusta County Fair July 25--30, sponsored by the Virginia Wilderness Committee, and at the Albemarle County Fair August 30--September 3, sponsored by the Piedmont Group of the Sierra Club. When you are at either of these fairs, stop by the booth and see what is going on! How about such a booth at your county fair? It's a great way to get more people familiar with the idea of wilderness protection and the Wilderness Act.

1983-84 PRELIMINARY LIST OF VIRGINIA WILDERNESS PROPOSALS RECOMMENDED BY THE COALITION FOR VIRGINIA WILDERNESS

GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST

Acres	Name of Area	County	Member of Congress
11,800	Southern Massanutten	Rockingham, Page	Olin & Robinson
9,100	Rough Mountain	Bath	Olin
5,730	Rich Hole	Rockbridge, Alleghany	Olin



10,695 St. Marys River
6,700 Ramseys Draft

Augusta
Augusta

Olin
Olin

JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST

2,530	Thunder Ridge	Rockbridge, Bedford Botetourt	Olin
6,375	Beartown	Tazewell	Boucher
2,998	Little Dry Run	Mt. Rogers NRA	Boucher
5,771	Lewis Fork	Mt. Rogers NRA	Boucher
3,568	Little Wilson Creek	Mt. Rogers NRA	Boucher
2,500	Roaring Branch	Wise	Boucher
5,887	Devils Fork	Scott	Boucher
11,000	Mountain Lake	Giles, Craig, West Va.	Boucher
5,720	Kimberling Creek	Bland	Boucher
90,374	TOTAL ACRES ON THE 14 AREAS		

THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

President Ed Clark, Rt. 1, Box 35, Waynesboro VA 22980 (703) 943-3445 ←
Vice-Pres Ernie Dickerman, Rt 1 Box 156, Swoope VA 24479 (703) 885-8330
Secretary Paul Bratton, Jr., Box 111A, Deerfield VA 24432
Treasurer Carol Smith, 1612 Trailridge, Charlottesville 22903 (804) 971-8864

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FIRST CLASSFIRST CLASS

MAY BE A VIRGINIA WILDERNESS BILL SOON!

Both Congressmen Rick Boucher and Jim Olin seem to be moving toward the moment of decision about the introduction of a Virginia wilderness bill. Whether a decision will come before the end of this month of September or later is not predictable--nothing about Congressional legislation being predictable.

A few things are becoming clear. In the 9th Congressional District, on the Jefferson National Forest, the two citizen proposals of Roaring Branch (Wise County) and Devils Fork (Scott County) are out. Wise and Scott Counties are two of Virginia's half dozen coal-rich counties where coal is king. With substantial coal deposits believed to lie under both these areas, there is strong local sentiment against any new legal restraint to some day mining this coal. Moreover, particularly in the case of Devils Fork, much of this coal is privately owned under extensive mineral rights retained by the owners when the surface was bought by the U.S. Forest Service; federal purchase of these rights could raise expensive acquisition problems.

In the 6th District, the citizen proposal of Southern Massanutten (Rockingham and Page Counties) is out. While about 2/3 of this proposal is in Rockingham County and therefor in the 6th District (Rep. Olin), about 1/3 is in Page County and therefor in the 7th District (Rep. Robinson). When Rep. Olin was planning his wilderness walk in Southern Massanutten (taken August 30), he invited Rep. Kenneth Robinson to accompany him. According to our sources, the invitation was flatly declined and Mr. Robinson indicated he intended to have nothing to do with the proposal. Despite prolonged efforts on the west side of the Blue Ridge we have not succeeded in building notable support in Rockingham and Page Counties; and despite intensive efforts by wilderness activists like Carol Smith, Bess Murray and Francis Fife in Albemarle County (part of the 7th District), Congressman Robinson has not progressed much in his thinking on wilderness. Rep. Jim Olin does not want to push a wilderness proposal lying partly in another Congressman's district as long as that Congressman remains opposed.

As is often true when important decisions are about to be made, new problems appear. Our impression is that while Rep. Olin is inclined to include Rich Hole, Rough Mountain and Thunder Ridge in a wilderness bill, he is having political qualms about Ramseys Draft and St. Marys River (both in Augusta County). There is no question about the high grade physical characteristics of both areas; and regular citizen support is favorable. The problem is with the Augusta County Board of Supervisors, which has been adamantly opposed always, and that the two Supervisors in whose magisterial districts the proposals are located are Democrats like Rep. Olin. This is not an insurmountable situation! Wilderness supporters in Augusta County are working intensively to encourage residents having important political influence to express their support to the Congressman. And just this month, the Staunton daily newspaper came out with a strong editorial endorsing Wilderness Act protection for St. Marys River and Ramseys Draft.

Another new development is the formal endorsement by the Craig County Board of Supervisors of wilderness designation for that part of the Mountain Lake proposal lying in Craig County and also of the Barbour's Creek RARE 2 area. This endorsement of Mountain Lake strengthens Rep. Boucher's favorable attitude. The Barbour's Creek RARE 2 area, totaling 16,312 acres, lies mostly in Craig County and a minor part in Alleghany County, and is therefore divided between the 9th and 6th Congressional Districts. Being within 8 or 10 miles of Westvaco's big pulp & paper mill at Covington, it could affect the finely balanced agreement we have worked out with Westvaco on Virginia wilderness. The Barbour's Creek area is being carefully examined by all concerned.

Feel encouraged! All of this is positive evidence that the Virginia wilderness campaign is moving to a moment of decision. Hard pushing now by every believer in the inspiration and the environmental benefits of wilderness will win the day!

YOU TOO CAN BECOME A GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT!

by Jim Loesel of Lexington

Yes, You! And this is what You can do.

A. Begin by writing a letter or a postcard to your Congressman or Senators in support of wilderness. Since these Representatives of the People seldom read constituents' letters themselves, don't worry about handwriting, style, eloquence or even orthography. You will probably receive a form letter in reply, but don't be too annoyed for this reply gives the essential news that your communication has been received and added to the "pro" wilderness tally. Or if you are unhappy with the form response, write the Member of Congress again and ask the specific questions you have in mind.

B. Once you have written, how about circulating a modest petition? A sample of such a wilderness petition is offered below; modify it to suit your own ideas. Show it to people you know--most will sign because you ask them. Prospective signers often will want to know where the proposed wilderness areas are, so tell them briefly--using the information in the new folder enclosed with this newsletter.

They may ask what threat exists for these proposed areas since they are already part of a national forest? The answer is the U.S. Forest Service can change its mind and degrade the exceptional natural characteristics of any of them by building roads, damming streams, logging off the timber or constructing other works of man. By giving them the protection of the Wilderness Act (thru an Act of Congress), the Forest Service must manage them so as to preserve their natural character unchanged by man, permanently. When your friend has signed, move on to another one.

One thrifty warning: Don't use up time and energy trying to convince someone who is plainly opposed. You can get the signatures of 3 or 4 other people meanwhile!

C. Some folks will be excited by the petition. Ask them to write a letter of their own. Give them a copy of the letter you wrote, so they won't have to think up something themselves from scratch; but suggest

they change it a little to suit themselves. Tell each one you will call back in a week to verify they have written--and in fact telephone in a week and, if they have written, thank them.

SUDDENLY YOU ARE A POLITICAL FORCE. To become a bigger political force, you get 5 more people to write and 20 more to sign a petition. But you need to start with the first letter and the first signature. How about starting now? Draw up the petition, put your name on it, and offer it to your spouse for signing. Then write a letter or postcard to a Member of Congress, unless you have a copy of a recent one on hand. Tomorrow take your petition and a few copies of your letter with you and get rolling. You will be a grassroots movement!

A Sample Virginia Wilderness Petition

To: The Honorable _____ - OR - To: The Honorable _____
 US House of Representatives United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510 Washington DC 20515

We the undersigned petition you to introduce a Virginia wilderness bill to preserve outstanding natural areas on Virginia's national forests for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, particularly including (here name any of the proposed wilderness areas you are particularly concerned about).

Name _____ Address _____ Telephone _____

(Note: Jim handed a petition with more than 1000 signatures to Congressman Jim Olin on September 3, and his list of letter writers is over 120 persons. He was last seen with a petition in hand heading for the St. Marys River neighborhood.)

WILDERNESS ACTION NEWS

At public meetings held by Rep. Rick Boucher in the 9th Congressional District, there has been increasing expression of support for wilderness by local people attending. And it appears certain that this fall a wilderness workshop will be held in southwest Virginia, probably in the vicinity of Wytheville or Marion; the Virginia Council on Outdoor Adventure Education, under the chairmanship of Dave Cockrell of Blacksburg, is initiating the action.

The summer county fair season has been taken full advantage of by folks in Albemarle County, Augusta County and Rockbridge County to build public support for wilderness by having wilderness booths at each fair. Maps of wilderness proposals were displayed, wilderness literature was distributed, continuous slide shows operated, and people who stopped were invited to sign wilderness petitions. In Albemarle County, under the leadership of Carol Smith, some 400 signatures were gotten, then photocopies were sent to both Congressmen Kenneth Robinson (7th District) and Jim Olin (6th District). In Augusta County a committee of Thom Jennings, Tom Ashby, Ruth and Mark Snyder, and Marian and Doug Hackney planned the fair booth and managed its operation; the almost 700 signatures signed on the petition were presented to Rep. Olin on his Southern Massanutten wilderness walk August 30. In Rockbridge County, Jim Loesel led the way,

with just over a thousand signatures being collected and later given to Rep. Olin during his Rough Mountain wilderness walk September 3.

If some individual's or group's recent important action has been left out, please write Ernie Dickerman about it and it will be reported in the next V.W.C. Newsletter.

UPDATED VIRGINIA WILDERNESS FOLDER AVAILABLE

Accompanying this V.W.C. Newsletter is a revised edition of the Virginia wilderness campaign folder. It is updated to list the 14 wilderness proposals being recommended to this 98th Congress and to show the names of the new U.S. Representatives for the 6th and 9th Districts, Rep. Jim Olin and Rep. Rick Boucher, respectively.

Additional copies are available free to individuals upon request to Ed Clark or Ernie Dickerman.

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