

It will be early next year before a Virginia wilderness bill is introduced in this 98th Congress. The Congress adjourned November 19 without such a bill being filed. The wilderness campaign of the Coalition for Virginia Wilderness has been steadily building, increasing public support in the form of letters, telephone calls and personal contacts to the two key Congressmen, Jim Olin of the 6th Congressional District and Rick Boucher of the 9th District. And increasingly the media has carried stories about wilderness and the Wilderness Act. Notably in Augusta County the City Councils of the two incorporated cities, Waynesboro and Staunton, passed strong pro-wilderness resolutions and the principal newspaper at Staunton, the News-Leader, endorsed wilderness designation for Ramseys Draft and St. Marys River in an inspiring, hard-hitting editorial.

Also, the 14,000 member Virginia Wildlife Federation, which had strayed from the conservation fold for the past 3 or 4 years, has returned and, among other positive environmental actions, has adopted a solid resolution in support of the Coalition for Virginia's wilderness proposals by a vote of its numerous member organizations spread thruout Virginia.

Despite this progress, there has been a retreating of public officials, mainly County Supervisors, in some counties in which wilderness proposals lie from an earlier position of acceptance of Wilderness Act protection for areas in their localities. While neither Congressman Boucher nor Olin is allowing such officials to dictate their own positions, each feels a need to recover this lost ground before actually introducing a bill. This problem is particularly showing up in Bath County where Rough Mountain lies; in Giles County where is Mountain Lake; in Grayson County where Lewis Fork and Little Wilson Creek are located; and in Bland County where is Kimberling Creek.

This backsliding is a new challenge in the wilderness fight to Virginians living in the above counties or who have friends living there who can be influenced to act. Ernie Dickerman was in Washington November 9 and 10 on Capitol Hill promoting our Virginia wilderness proposals. This problem was discussed at length directly with Reps. Rick Boucher and Jim Olin. County Supervisors are apparently more susceptible to the arguments of hunters and fishermen.

These Supervisors need to hear from hunters and fishermen that they want wilderness designation--

- Because it assures the continuation of existing natural conditions favorable to wild fish, flesh and fowl uninterrupted by the works of man;
- Because it leads to larger wildlife populations;
- Because it assures the peace, quiet and isolation needed by such species as bear and turkey for breeding and raising their young;
- Because it offers the skillful hunter or angler an opportunity to use his or her knowledge and understanding of the ways of wildlife for increased pleasure and reward;
- Because it assures that his or her favorite streams and woods will

be there unchanged next year, the year after, far into the future;

Because--here readers can add an additional reason or two of their own.

If you are a hunter or fisherman in any of the counties in which wilderness proposals lie (please see list elsewhere in this newsletter), please take the time to telephone or to speak in person to your County Supervisor, asking him to actively support wilderness designation. He needs this personal approach. If you live somewhere else in Virginia and have a friend or kin living in Grayson, Giles, Bland or Bath Counties who is a fisherman or hunter, please write or telephone him or her to tell each County Supervisor how he or she feels about wilderness. This is the action needed now so that Congressmen Jim Olin and Rick Boucher will introduce a Virginia wilderness bill when Congress meets again after January 23, 1984!

Letters from hunters and fishermen to Reps. Rick Boucher and Jim Olin (address: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515) will also be valuable; they can be shown by the Congressmen to reluctant Supervisors who need to be persuaded to support wilderness.

SENATORS WARNER AND TRIBLE ARE ASKING ABOUT VIRGINIA WILDERNESS

When on Capitol Hill in Washington on November 9 and 10, Ernie Dickerman talked with the legislative aides of Senators John Warner and Paul Trible--Susan Magill and Libby Whitley, respectively--about the awakening interest of these two Senators in the Virginia wilderness campaign. Both have been receiving some mail on the subject, most of it in favor of wilderness. They have apparently decided it is in their interest to become involved.

This means the time has arrived for Virginians everywhere to write these two gentlemen and urge them to support the full list of wilderness proposals of the Coalition for Virginia Wilderness (the list appears elsewhere in this newsletter). Right now they are inclined to think wilderness protection is desirable. We all need to convince them with a flow of letters that their inclination is right and their active support of the citizens wilderness proposals is to their advantage!

During the Congressional recess from November 19 until January 23, both Senators will be attending public meetings about the state. When you see such a meeting is scheduled near you, take the time to go and tell the Senator in person how you feel about wilderness. While each is interested in hearing from Virginians everywhere on wilderness and we have a slight edge, let's build on it with a letter, telephone call or personal contact.

The mail address of Senator John Warner and of Senator Paul Trible is the same as for all U.S. Senators: United States Senate, Washington DC 20510. Senator Warner's Washington telephone is (202) 224-2023. Senator Trible's is (202) 224-4024.

WHY SUPPORT WILDERNESS ?

Many people wonder why wilderness designation is necessary under the Wilderness Act where the proposed areas are already within the boundaries of Virginia's national forests. The disturbing fact is that, as ordinary national forest land, they may have their natural character completely changed with full legality by the works of man, i.e., by "development", as by logging, roading, damming, construction of buildings, etc. But, protected under the Wilderness Act, the natural character of an area may not be interfered with nor altered in any way. Instead, it must be protected to insure uninterrupted continuance without man-made change.

Among many benefits of wilderness are: preservation of a bit of our unique national heritage; water and soil conservation; air purification; provision of essential habitat leading to preservation of genetic diversity; excellent hunting and fishing; opportunities for education and uninterrupted scientific study of the processes of nature; preservation of uncommon natural beauty wherein one can find solitude, peace and inspiration; and assurance that such areas will continue to exist, for ourselves today and as investments for the future. The need for such areas is growing and the number of suitable acres is shrinking--both as a result of ever-increasing population pressures.

Wilderness designated areas are aptly described as gifts--gifts to us from the past and legacies to future generations. They are so much more than mere parcels of land. Within a wilderness area exists the true essence of nature. Each person who enters such an area undergoes a unique experience according to his own interests. Do we dare let the last of the truly wild areas in Virginia slip away? Do we have the right to deprive future generations of this natural and national treasure?

(Note: The above is from a longer article on wilderness written by Carol Smith of Charlottesville, Virginia in July 1983.)

REVISED LIST OF THE COALITION'S VIRGINIA WILDERNESS PROPOSALS

The 1983-84 campaign was started with 14 Virginia wilderness proposals. However, three have had to be dropped because of political reasons, as reported in the September Newsletter, reducing the number to 11. On the Jefferson National Forest Devils Fork in Scott County and Roaring Branch in Wise County and on the George Washington Forest Southern Massanutten in Rockingham and Page Counties have been dropped.

GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST

Acres	Name of Area	County	Member of Congress
9,100	<i>Shavers Fork</i> Rough Mountain	Bath	Olin
5,730	Rich Hole	Rockbridge, Alleghany	Olin
10,695	St. Marys River	Augusta	Olin
6,700	Ramseys Draft	Augusta	Olin

JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST

✓ 2,530	<u>Thunder Ridge</u>	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
✓ 11,000	Mountain Lake	Giles, Craig, West Va.	Boucher
✓ 5,720	Kimberling Creek	Bland	Boucher

70,187 TOTAL ACRES ON THE 11 AREAS

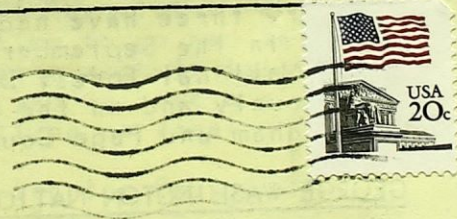
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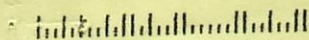
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The date above your name on your newsletter address label indicates the month & year of your last contribution. If there appears to be an error, please contact the Treasurer.

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06 82 *Please Renew*
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SPECIAL PROGRESS REPORT

On Thursday January 19, at the request of Congressmen Rick Boucher and Jim Olin, Ed Clark and Ernie Dickerman traveled to Washington and met with these Representatives' aides and the Supervisors of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests to discuss wilderness proposals and their boundaries which might be put in a Virginia wilderness bill. The meeting was very satisfactory. It is probable that the eleven proposals of the Coalition for Virginia Wilderness will be in the bill and that a bill will be introduced early this year. We hope to be able to give you more particular information soon.

Genuine progress is being made. To keep it rolling, please write--and urge friends and strangers to do likewise--to Virginia's two United States Senators John Warner and Paul Trible (address: United States Senate, Washington DC 20510). Ask each to support the Virginia wilderness proposals. They are on the fence and need to be pushed in the right direction, to favor wilderness. If you are familiar with or have had a specially fine experience in one of the areas, tell the Senators about it and give your letters a personal touch.

We're rolling! Let's keep rolling!!

THANK YOU !


Ed Clark


Ernie Dickerman

Jim & Bess Murray
Rt 8 Box 149
Charlottesville VA 22901



Virginia Wilderness Comm.
Rt 1 Box 156
Swoope VA 24479



VA. WILDERNESS BILL

INTRODUCED MARCH 14

IN HOUSE OF REPS.

HURRAH! On Wednesday March 14, 1984 the Virginia wilderness bill was dropped in the hopper of the House of Representatives by Congressmen Rick Boucher and Jim Olin. It provides for 10 areas to be designated as wilderness under the full protection of the Wilderness Act and for 4 other areas to be given special protection essentially as wilderness for approximately ten years. Virginians have accomplished a great step down the road to enactment by this 98th Congress of a first-class Virginia wilderness bill!!!

The 10 full-fledged areas in the bill, H.R. 5121, are: Mountain Lake, Beartown, Lewis Fork, Little Wilson Creek, Little Dry Run, Kimberling Creek, and Peters Mountain, all 7 on the Jefferson National Forest in Rep. Rick Boucher's 9th District; and St. Marys River and Ramseys Draft on the George Washington Forest and Thunder Ridge on the Jefferson Forest, all 3 in Rep. Olin's 6th District.

The 4 areas given special protection are: Rich Hole and Rough Mountain on the George Washington in Rep. Olin's district and Barbours Creek and Shawvers Run (both in Craig County) on the Jefferson in Rep. Boucher's district. These 4 areas by specific provision in the bill will continue to be protected under RARE 2 and to be managed essentially as wilderness under the Forest Management Plans of the two national forests now being drafted to cover the next ten years. This is the compromise worked out in a series of long distance telephone calls between the two Congressmen and Virginia wilderness leaders on March 13 which made it possible to overcome the long stalemate caused by Westvaco Corporation's worries about changes some day, in some way, of the Clean Air Act by Congress. Presumably this Congress, or at least the next one, will make such changes in the Clean Air Act as it may decide, after which it should be possible to pursue full wilderness designation for these four areas. Meanwhile they will remain unchanged in their wilderness characteristics.

To get a copy of H.R. 5121, which will give you the full details, simply telephone or write Rep. Jim Olin (202--225-5431) or Rep. Rick Boucher (202--225-3861), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515. We are deeply grateful to both these Virginia Congressman; to Rick Boucher for the skilfull work he and his staff did in overcoming initial resistance in political circles to certain wilderness proposals in his district, and to Rep. Jim Olin for finally developing a compromise about Westvaco Corporation and the Clean Air Act which enabled the extended deadlock to be broken. Let us thank each of them for filing their bill, H.R. 5121.

This introduction of the Virginia wilderness bill is due to the long-continued efforts of many Virginians all over the Commonwealth who kept the issue an active one until circumstances combined favorably, whereupon an intensive effort by all of us has accomplished this first and most important step, the introduction of our wilderness bill in the Congress. Many, many thanks to each one of you who has given time and effort and money to make this splendid progress.

The House Interior Committee, which has jurisdiction over all wilderness bills, will probably schedule a hearing on H.R. 5121 within the next few weeks or so. Please give thought to either coming to Washington to testify and lobby for the bill or to writing a letter of support for the committee hearing record. We will need to convince the Interior Committee and a majority of the 435 Members of the House of Representatives! As soon as the hearing date is announced a special notice will be sent to everyone on the V.W.C. mailing list.

VIRGINIA CONGRESSMEN NEEDED TO SPONSOR H.R. 5121

Because the Virginia wilderness bill was being revised almost up to the last hour before filing, it was not possible to circulate a draft text beforehand to the other members of the Virginia delegation in the House of Representatives. In consequence, as introduced the bill bore the names of only the two originators, Reps. Boucher and Olin. But other Virginia Congressmen are needed as sponsors, to impress the Interior Committee and to show other House Members that the bill has strong bi-partisan support within the Virginia delegation.

Accordingly, please continue the efforts already underway to persuade your Virginia Congressman to co-sponsor H.R. 5121, the Virginia Wilderness bill. A standard House procedure provides for co-sponsoring even after a bill has been introduced. The easiest way for you is to telephone your Congressman's Washington office or one of his nearby District offices and give your message to the aide who answers. The News Editor of your local newspaper, radio or TV station can probably give you the location and telephone number of the Congressman's nearest District office. Or you can write him a letter, addressed U. S. House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515.

This is one more way to assure that our bill will indeed be passed by the House.

IT'S WORTH MONEY TO WIN WILDERNESS!

After half a dozen years of constant struggle, the Coalition for Virginia Wilderness has brought about the filing of a Virginia wilderness bill actively supported by its introducers (Reps. Rick Boucher and Jim Olin). With the Congressional process thus formally started, Virginians now have a bill on which we can all concentrate our efforts.

Up to now this long-running campaign has been financed mainly by the annual contributions as dues by members of the Virginia Wilderness Committee. With the intensive and broadened campaign necessary to get a bill passed by both Houses of Congress, expenses will be much greater, like: printing a new folder based on the bill; increasing numbers of long distance calls to Washington and to wilderness activists thruout Virginia; more frequent newsletters to keep everyone, including the media, currently informed; more postage for more letters to more people; more travel by officers of V.W.C. (the most of this has been given free in the past); et cetera.

Your contribution of \$10 or more or whatever wilderness preservation is worth to you is vital to winning. Your check payable to Virginia Wilderness Committee or V.W.C. and mailed to Treasurer Carol Smith, 1612 Trailridge Rd.,

Charlottesville VA 22903 will be greatly appreciated -- and will be used effectively to get Congress to pass H.R. 5121, the Virginia Wilderness bill!

SENATOR WARNER GREETED BY ENTHUSIASTIC WILDERNESS AUDIENCE

On Saturday March 17 Senator John Warner of Virginia made a special trip to Staunton on his own initiative to make his own reading of the strength of wilderness sentiment in the Shenandoah Valley region. He found wilderness sentiment strong, widespread, active and articulate.

The meeting, devoted solely to wilderness, was opened shortly after 9:30 AM by Senator Warner, with all the seats in the local courtroom filled and people standing up around the walls. Well over a hundred persons were present, with 90% or better favoring wilderness designation and folks from as far away as Charlottesville, Roanoke and Amherst County on hand. The Senator invited the members of the audience to stand up and express their views pro and con.

After negative comments by 2 or 3 Augusta County Supervisors, by an official of the Central Shenandoah Planning Commission and later by 4 or 5 individuals, person after person rose to express in his or her own way vigorous support for wilderness designation on Virginia's national forests-- some 25 or more pro-wilderness speakers. When Senator Warner ended the meeting after two hours (to keep another appointment), people were still waving their hands indicating a desire to speak.

We believe that Senator John Warner learned convincingly that voters in this part of the state want him and the rest of the Congress to extend the protection of the Wilderness Act to the outstanding natural areas on Virginia's national forests.

R E F L E C T I O N S

by Carol Smith of Charlottesville

It's been about a year now since I caught Ernie Dickerman's contagious enthusiasm for designation of wilderness areas in Virginia. Now that we have reached the first milestone, the introduction of a bill in the House of Representatives, it seems like a good time to reflect.

Until my walk into the St. Marys River area with Congressman Olin, I had never been to what might be described as a wild place. After apparently ignoring their existence for so many years, I had to justify to myself why all of a sudden I was devoting so much time trying to convince others of the urgency of preserving such areas. For all those years, I knew wilderness areas existed and felt confident they would continue to exist, and that was enough. I didn't need to visit them. With the advent of James Watt under the leadership of Ronald Reagan, however, I felt that knowledge threatened, and it mattered. But why? Why does preservation of the remaining wilderness matter so much to me? My reason was not to be found in the long list of benefits we use to "sell" wilderness. The driving force behind my involvement is the simple right of these few wild areas and the life they contain to exist, not forever as they are, but as nature alone dictates. To me it is a moral issue--a matter of respect.

During the past year I have come to grips with the reality that voicing this reasoning to most people might actually hurt the wilderness

cause. In general, people are practical. Fortunately, the benefits of wilderness to people are many and, taken together, form a powerful argument in favor of preservation.

I would like to recommend to you a book by Paul Brooks entitled Speaking for Nature. In it he surveys the naturalists who, through their collective writings, have inspired the environmentalist movement. In Chapter XII, "The Wilderness Ideal", he says:

"Today, unfortunately, we have two extreme and needlessly hostile groups: those who speak scornfully of the 'wilderness cult' and consider wilderness values a witless return to primitivism, and those who talk about 'escaping to the wilderness' as if all man-made landscapes were false and ugly. The world is full of examples of how man has improved his environment, esthetically as well as practically. The fact that we no longer consider wilderness ugly and hostile to man does not mean that we must therefore consider civilization ugly and hostile to nature."

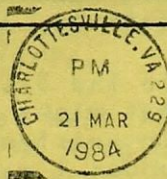
Inherent in Americanism is a vast landscape patchworking the works of man and the works of nature. Those of us who are actively seeking preservation of a few areas of Virginia's national forests as wilderness, for whatever reasons, must carefully choose the words that will build a bridge between these two hostile groups and make it happen.

THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

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March 29, 1984

INTERIOR COMM. HEARING ON VA. WILDERNESS BILL SET FOR APRIL 6

The Subcommittee on Public Lands of the House Committee on the Interior has promptly scheduled its public hearing at Washington, D.C. on the Virginia Wilderness bill, H.R. 5121. The date is Friday April 6, 1984, beginning at 10:00 AM--in the Interior Committee's hearing chamber, Room 1324, Longworth House Office Building on Capitol Hill. This will be the only hearing conducted by the House of Representatives on H.R. 2151.

Anyone who wants to is welcome to come to Washington on April 6 to testify in person. Half a dozen Virginia wilderness supporters have already volunteered. If you have a strong urge to testify orally, please telephone Ed Clark (703--943-3445) or Ernie Dickerman (703--885-8330). However, this will probably be a sufficient number of live witnesses, given the prevailing circumstances. Later when a hearing is scheduled on the Senate side by the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources, where we will be facing a less friendly committee, it will be wise to have a larger number of individuals testifying in person.

At any Congressional hearing it is always important to build a strong record of support for your bill. This is most conveniently and effectively done by everyone who wants the bill passed by Congress writing his or her own letter to the Committee. A heavy volume of letters in support goes a long way toward convincing the Committee, the state delegation (in this case Virginia's 10 Congressmen), and indeed the entire House of Representatives that it will pay off politically to support and vote for the bill. A heavy volume of letters to the House committee will also help convince Virginia's Senators John Warner and Paul Trible that it is to their political advantage to back the bill actively.

How do you write and to whom?

- a. Your letter should be addressed to: Rep. John Seiberling, Chairman-- Subcommittee on Public Lands -- House Interior Committee --Washington D.C. 20515.
- b. Your letter should specifically refer to H.R. 5121, the Virginia Wilderness bill.
- c. Say whatever you like and make the letter as long or as short as you like, provided you make it clear that you support H.R. 5121.
- d. Extremely important, in fact necessary, either at the beginning or end of your letter, ask that it "be made part of the committee hearing record."

Perhaps Friday April 6 sounds awfully soon to get your letter written and mailed. You do have more time. Consistent with usual practice, the committee record will be held open for receipt of letters for an additional ten days, till Monday April 16. Letters postmarked April 16 will be accepted.

We've got our Virginia wilderness bill introduced. It is actively supported by the introducers, Rep. Rick Boucher and Jim Olin. Now letters from all of us are needed to convince the Interior Committee to "report it out" to the full House of Representatives for a vote. Please write--the action needed now to win in the House of Representatives!

WILDERNESS PETITION FOR H.R. 5121

You can't help seeing the enclosed petition for H.R. 5121!

Other petitions have been circulated earlier in general support of Wilderness Act protection for areas on Virginia's two national forests. They have been effective in getting the Virginia Wilderness bill introduced in this Congress.

The enclosed petition is drawn specifically to show the strength of Virginians' support for the Virginia Wilderness bill, H.R. 5121, filed on March 14, 1984 by Reps. Rick Boucher and Jim Olin. It will influence both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Your help is needed to get as many signatures as you can in support of H.R. 5121, especially of folks you know who have signed previous general petitions, between now and May 10. Besides contacting friends and neighbors, to get it filled take the petition to meetings you attend and give those present the pleasure of signing it! You are welcome to duplicate the blank petition.

Please mail the petition with signatures to Jim Loesel, Rt. 5, Box 247, Lexington VA 24450, who will see that they are all delivered to Virginia's Congressional delegation at Washington. Thank you!!

MOUNTAIN LAKE WILDERNESS PROPOSAL ACREAGE

H.R. 5121 as filed covers only the Virginia portion of the Mountain Lake proposal, 8,253 acres. The other approximately 3,000 acres lies in West Virginia, in Rep. Harley Staggers, Jr.'s district; he has not yet made his decision. We are working with him and with West Virginians to get favorable action by Congressman Staggers.

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11 MAY 1984

VIRGINIA BILLPASSES HOUSE MAY 8376 TO 20 VOTE

HURRAH! HURRAH! Our Virginia wilderness bill H.R. 5121 was passed by the House of Representatives Tuesday afternoon May 8, 1984 on a roll call vote by 376 to 20!!

Congressmen Rick Boucher and Jim Olin as introducers of the bill, Rep. John Seiberling as Chairman of the Public Lands Subcommittee, and Rep. Don Young as ranking minority member of the Subcommittee, each spoke strongly in favor of the bill. Rep. Olin stressed the groundlessness of Westvaco Corporation's fear that national forest wilderness would be raised from Class 2 to Class 1 for Clean Air Act purposes. While the bill was initially on the "consent calendar" and only a voice vote required, the Congressman from Charleston, S.C. (where Westvaco has an important operation) demanded a roll call vote--presumably hoping to generate a lot of negative votes, which could have some adverse influence later in the Senate. Instead, our position was strengthened by the lopsided 376 to 20 vote for passage. Six members of the Virginia delegation voted for the bill; voting against were Virginia Congressmen Parris, Robinson, Billey and Dan Daniel. H.R. 5121 now moves to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources--where it may be given a new Senate number.

The following areas are in H.R. 5121 as passed by the House May 8: Jefferson N. F.: Beartown-6,375 acres; Kimberling Creek-5,580 acres; Lewis Fork-5,730 acres; Little Dry Run-3,400 acres; Little Wilson Creek-3,855 acres; Mountain Lake-8,253 acres (Virginia portion only); Peters Mountain-3,326 acres; Thunder Ridge-2,450 acres; James River Face Wilderness addition-160 acres. George Washington N. F.: Ramseys Draft-6,725 acres and St. Marys-10,090 acres. Additionally four Wilderness Study Areas, to be managed essentially as wilderness "until Congress determines otherwise", are established: on the Jefferson N. F., Barbours Creek-5,875 acres and Shavers Run-4,300 acres; on the George Washington N. F., Rough Mountain-9,300 acres and Rich Hole-5,600 acres. Totals: 55,944 acres as wilderness and 25,075 acres as Wilderness Study Areas; grand total 81,019 acres. The new "release language" as agreed upon just last week by the relevant House and Senate committees is contained in the bill as passed by the House.

NOW WE CAN CONCENTRATE our tender care on the Senate, in particular on Virginia's Senators John Warner and Paul Trible. Both are still watching and waiting, undecided. These two gentlemen control what happens--whether enactment or nothing--to the Virginia wilderness bill in the Senate. As suggested before, please give each of them your guidance by telephone (202--224-3121) or by letter (United States Senate, Washington DC 20510) To those who have recently phoned or written Senators Trible and Warner, thank you again.

CELEBRATE OUR VICTORY in the House of Representatives at the V.W.C. annual meeting Saturday June 9 beginning at 10:00 AM! Location: Ramseys Draft, In northwest Augusta County, 14 or 15 miles west of Churchville via US 250. Please see the May Newsletter for details.

THANK YOU AGAIN to those who have responded already to the Special Appeal Fund. To those who have not yet, your gift is needed to carry on the same sort of successful campaign in the Senate that brought victory in the House. This means more travel to Washington, more long distance phone calling, more mailings to Virginians and the media to keep everyone informed as the campaign moves ahead. If not already made, please add your gift so that what needs to be done to win in the Senate can indeed be done!

"PETITION FOR H.R. 5121" deadline is extended to June 1. The Senate now is clearly our target and Senators John Warner and Paul Trible will be impressed by many signatures of Virginians from all over the state

(Inside Information: If you're wondering why these Special Alerts are appearing with two blank inside pages, it is a matter of printing technology and simultaneously producing the Special Alert as quickly as possible. Printing cost for the two pages is the same; the extra cost is about five dollars for the second sheet of paper.)

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF 1984 V.W.C. ANNUAL MEETING, SATURDAY JUNE 9

With the stimulation of a rolling Virginia wilderness bill, we are looking forward to an enthusiastic annual meeting of the Virginia Wilderness Committee on Saturday June 9. The place is RAMSEYS DRAFT--one of our prime wilderness proposals--in a grassy clearing shaded by towering hemlocks just before the gate across the old Ranseys Draft road (about one mile in from highway US 250).

This outdoor meeting will begin at 10:00 AM. The business session will last until noon, with such matters being attended to as election of officers for the coming year, brisk reports as to the Virginia wilderness situation in Washington, and a treasurer's report as to how we are doing financially. Seating will either be on the ground or please provide your own lawn chairs.

Noon is lunch time. Please bring your own delicacies to satisfy an outdoor appetite and to build strength for a stroll or a hike, as you choose, into some part of the Ramseys Draft wilderness afterwards.

Following lunch, both long and short, easy and medium walks, led by persons familiar with the area, will be offered. If you have not visited Ramseys Draft before, this is the opportunity to give yourself that pleasure. If you have been to Ramseys Draft before, you know why you want to come again. If you like to fish, bring a rod and line attached to some trout's favorite fly.

Add to your pleasure by making this occasion a family affair. The kids can have a fine day and so will you! The national forest is open to over-nite camping beyond the locked gate and the first creek crossing.

Invitations to this V.W.C. annual meeting are being sent to Congressmen Jim Olin and Rick Boucher and to Virginia's Senators John Warner and Paul Trible. Which of them will be able to accept the invitation, we do not know at this time.

DIRECTIONS to Ramseys Draft, in the northwest corner of Augusta County: Proceed WEST from Staunton on US 250 thru Churchville. Continue west on US 250; about 14 or 15 miles beyond Churchville and the intersection of US 250 with VA 42 a modest Forest Service sign reading "Recreation Area" indicates the Ramseys Draft area $\frac{1}{2}$ mile ahead--in a rather sharp curve. Turn in to your right (north) and drive about 1 mile to the locked gate. Park along the edge of the road, near the grassy clearing where the meeting will be held.

ALL FRIENDS OF WILDERNESS ARE WELCOME!

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS BILL PROGRESSES IN HOUSE

As many of you know already, the Virginia wilderness bill H.R. 5121 was reported out, i.e., approved, by the full House Interior Committee on April 25--after having been introduced March 14, 1984 and the committee hearing held at Washington April 6. It next goes to the House Rules Committee, who schedules when it will come to the floor of the House for a vote. This House vote is expected to occur in the first half of May.

The progress to date has not been made without overcoming obstacles --obstacles surmounted thanks to the efforts of so many Virginians who have taken time and effort to do what was needed when needed. The obstacles have mainly been contributed by Westvaco Corporation which has persistently sought to induce Congressmen Jim Olin and Rick Boucher and the House Interior Committee to drop from the bill all wilderness proposals within fifty miles of its pulp & paper plant at Covington, Virginia. If this demand of Westvaco's had been acceded to 5 of the 10 wilderness proposals and all four of the Wilderness Study Areas would have been knocked out of the bill: St. Marys River, Mountain Lake, Ramseys Draft, Thunder Ridge and Peters Mountain plus the WSA's Rich Hole, Rough Mountain, Barbour's Creek and Shawvers Run.

Westvaco Corporation continues to insist that these areas might some day, some way by action of Congress become Class 1 for Clean Air Act purposes instead of remaining Class 2 (the generally prevailing standard in Virginia and the nation; that such higher classification would cost more money for air pollution controls, would cause Westvaco not to expand its Covington plant and would thereby prevent new jobs from being created. Westvaco apparently cannot understand that NOBODY wants to raise national forest wilderness from Class 2 to Class 1. Least of all do wilderness advocates (including the big national environmental organizations), because the present language of the Clean Air Act about wilderness and its Class 2 rating already gives endless, unnecessary trouble due to misunderstandings. We can expect this same opposition by Westvaco Corporation in the Senate.

If you have not written to your Virginia Congressman recently about his supporting the Virginia wilderness bill H.R. 5121, please do so now upon receipt of this newsletter. The vote and support of each one of them is needed, (a) to induce other Members of the House of Representatives to vote for the bill, and (b) to influence the Senate (especially Senators John Warner and Paul Trible) by showing the approval of the Virginia delegation in the House.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE SENATE

No one wants to be counting their chickens before they hatch, yet it is necessary to be planning ahead in order to win. Both Virginia Senators John Warner and Paul Trible are still on the fence, so continue to need letters from Virginia voters urging them to support the Virginia wilderness bill H. R. 5121. Many thanks to each of you who have already written them recently.

To you who have not done so due to unavoidable circumstances, please rise above those circumstances and tell Senators John Warner and Paul Trible what you want them to do, by telephone (202--224-3121) or by

letter (United States Senate, Washington DC 20510).

Without the strong, positive support of Virginia's two Senators, nothing will happen in the Senate. With their enthusiastic support, we can and will win!

SPECIAL APPEAL FUND IS GROWING

Many, many thanks to the numerous individuals who have responded to the special appeal for funds in the March V.W.C. Newsletter. These contributions are a tremendous help and are arriving at a time of special need.

As you may be noticing, to keep folks informed of the action rapidly occurring in the House of Representatives this is the third newsletter or special alert issued within six weeks. Increasing numbers of long distance telephone calls between officers of the Virginia Wilderness Committee and Members of Congress at Washington and to wilderness advocates in Virginia is raising costs above normal. Participating in the April 6 Interior Committee hearing on H.R. 5121 at Washington incurred extra expense (tho for the most part the eight persons who testified in person paid their own costs). With the intensive campaign expected to shift to the Senate soon, these extra expenses will continue.

We are on our way to winning. For better or for worse, money is the lubricant to keep our campaign rolling! Your gift for the cause of Virginia wilderness will be deeply appreciated--and thriftily used.

IT'S EASY, IT'S EFFECTIVE

In this Virginia wilderness campaign, petitions are being effective, are being influential. With the V.W.C. Special Alert of March 29, 1984 a blank "Petition for H.R. 5121" was enclosed, with the request that signatures be gotten from Virginians anywhere and everywhere; the signed petitions to be mailed to Jim Loesel, Rt. 5, Box 247, Lexington VA 24450. As they accumulate, Jim is periodically mailing photocopies of them to Reps. Jim Olin and Rick Boucher and Senators John Warner and Paul Trible. Between 700 and 800 signatures have been sent in, which is a good start; and for which our thanks to each one who has circulated petitions.

Enclosed with this newsletter is another blank copy of the same petition, available if you need another or have mislaid the first one. Many more signatures are needed, please, to strongly impress the Congress and particularly to generate wilderness activity in the Senate.

A BIT OF PHILOSOPHY BEHIND WILDERNESS

Philosophically, statutory wilderness is a means of introducing an element of stability into our lives. Heaven knows that in this day and age of continual and frequent change, many of us want something we can count on to be the same tomorrow as it is today. When we have had an enjoyable or satisfying experience, we want to know that we can go back

and enjoy that same experience again.

We want to know that something in our past continues and can be had again; that there are some things in our lives to which we can anchor and to which in times of need we can turn for hope and inspiration; that there are some places which mankind may not wilfully change, ignoring our own desires. Wilderness--defined as a natural area protected from man-made change by law--can provide this assurance, this longing for a sense of stability in our lives.

Wilderness also serves a philosophical need felt by many people that society show its respect for those forces greater than man, whether called nature, god or anything else, by refraining from man's often arrogant conduct and using certain places only in ways in harmony with pure nature. This may seem like an extreme thought, yet in essence it is one of the oldest concepts of the relation of a human to his or her god.

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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The date above your name on your newsletter address label indicates the time of your last contribution. If there appears to be an error, please contact the V.W.C., Box 156, Swoope VA 24479

Virginia Wilderness Committee
Rt. 1, Box 156
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VIRGINIA BILL

INTRODUCED IN

SENATE JUNE 27

AT LAST! On Wednesday June 27, 1984 the Virginia wilderness bill was filed in the United States Senate by Senators John Warner and Paul Trible, with the number S.2805. The two Virginia Senators announced the introduction (actually made in the afternoon) at a joint press conference that morning at which both commended the bill as fully beneficial to Virginia, expressed their complete support for it, and forecast favorable action by the Senate. Cheers!

S. 2805 is essentially the same as the House-passed (May 8, 1984) Virginia wilderness bill H.R. 5121. The same following areas would be designated as wilderness:

Jefferson National Forest

Beartown 6,375 acres
Kimberling Creek 5,580 acres
Lewis Fork 5,730 acres
Little Dry Run 3,400 acres
Mountain Lake 8,253 acres
(Virginia portion only)

Little Wilson Creek 3,855 acres
Peters Mountain 3,326 acres
Thunder Ridge 2,450 acres
James River Face Wilderness
Addition 160 acres

George Washington National Forest

Ramseys Draft 6,725 acres

St. Marys 10,090 acres

Additionally the same four Wilderness Study Areas are proposed, to be managed essentially as wilderness "until Congress determines otherwise": on the Jefferson N.F., Barbours Creek-5,875 acres and Shawvers Run-4,300 acres; on the George Washington N.F., Rough Mountain-9,300 acres and Rich Hole-5,600 acres. Totals: 55,944 acres as wilderness and 25,075 acres as Wilderness Study Areas; grand total 81,019 acres.

The Senate bill does contain a provision, not in the House-passed bill, requiring that the Forest Service and other appropriate federal agencies, in cooperation with the Commonwealth of Virginia, conduct a study to determine any effects of the Clean Air Act and the newly designated wilderness on industry and like interests, the study to be completed within two years after enactment of this bill. Since all the areas and practically all the rest of Virginia are Class 2 now for Clean Air Act purposes and will continue to be Class 2, it is difficult to perceive how there can be any change in effects. This report will not alter the Wilderness Act status of the designated areas. There is also a provision declaring that use of land adjacent to or near the designated wildernesses is not restrained in

any way; inasmuch as the Wilderness Act applies only to designated wilderness, this has no effect--just for somebody's political comfort.

Because Congress recessed June 29 to attend the two national conventions in July, the committee hearing at Washington on the bill will probably be delayed until the last full week in July. The bill has been referred to the Senate Agriculture Committee (the usual practice in the Senate with eastern national forest wilderness bills), with the hearing probably to be conducted by Senator Roger Jepsen as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Soil and Water Conservation. A V.W.C. newsletter in mid-July will give details about the Senate hearing. Please plan to write to the Committee briefly expressing your support for the Virginia wilderness bill and, importantly, requesting that your letter be made part of the hearing record. Westvaco Corp. continues its relentless efforts to kill the Virginia wilderness bill. Wherefor, we need to continue our vigorous campaign of support to which so many Virginians everywhere have given their personal time and effort.

We're in the homestretch! Let's keep rolling!!

PLANNING AHEAD AND ENJOYING RAMSEYS DRAFT AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

A spirited, enthusiastic annual meeting of the Virginia Wilderness Committee was held in Ramseys Draft on Saturday June 9. Twenty-seven members were present, plus an assortment of children, toddlers and infants. With the Virginia wilderness bill passed by the House of Representatives (May 8, 1984) and the opportunity before us to win a like victory in the Senate, everyone was fired up and eager for action.

Highlights of the meeting were two talks, one by President Ed Clark of Waynesboro and the other by Jim Loesel of Lexington. Ed outlined the immediate situation in the Senate where we are working closely with Senators Paul Tribble and John Warner. (See above first article for the latest Senate action.) He reported on the success of the statewide telephone campaign to Governor Charles Robb, in which so many Virginians everywhere phoned the Governor that for nearly a week his office staff was practically tied up answering the phones; the Governor replied to Senator Warner's inquiry with a letter endorsing wilderness preservation in Virginia. Then Ed gave a highly entertaining account of the April 6, 1984 public hearing on H.R. 5121 before the House Interior Committee at Washington, chaired by Rep. John Seiberling of the Subcommittee on Public Lands. Informed by his long years of experience in dealing with wilderness proposals before the Congress, Chairman Seiberling was not to be fooled by vague or irrelevant objections made by opposition witnesses, including Westvaco Corp., and he outspokenly rebutted them then & there.

Jim Loesel gave a humorous speech mainly devoted to announcing at least two dozen fictitious awards to various individuals, politicians and media persons for constructive or destructive activities in the Virginia wilderness campaign. The audience laughed repeatedly as Jim read off his imaginative and clever citations, each so appropriate to the particular person recognized.

After lunch most folks walked up Ramseys Draft, shaded by the groves of towering hemlocks on this bright sunshiny day, for whatever distance they pleased, some going to the shelter near the crest of Shenandoah Mountain. With the stream low, rock-hopping the numerous crossings was easily done.

The Treasurer's report noted that V.W.C had spent \$2,830.59 on the Virginia wilderness campaign between June 1, 1983 and June 1, 1984. Most of this expense was for long distance telephoning, printing & mailing the newsletters as needed (4 of them between late March, April and early May to keep everyone informed while the House bill was moving so rapidly), postage for many letters, and reproducing wilderness materials for public distribution. The Special Appeal Fund has been contributed to by 59 donors for a total \$1,125.00-- for which the warm thanks of the Committee to each person who has already contributed.

However, with only \$632.00 in the bank as of June 1 and an intensive campaign necessary to move the Virginia wilderness bill thru the Senate, more money will be needed to meet the expenses--needed especially from the organizations who are members of the Coalition for Virginia Wilderness and have not yet contributed. Look at this contribution for what in fact it is, an investment for the permanent protection of Virginia's outstanding wild areas--for use by us today and by future generations tomorrow! Additional gifts will be gratefully received and carefully spent.

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COMMITTEE HEARING ON SENATE BILL SET FOR JULY 25

ROUND TWO coming up in the Senate on July 25! Round One in the Senate was the introduction of the Virginia wilderness bill S. 2805 by Senators John Warner and Paul Trible, as reported in some detail in the June 29 V.W.C. Newsletter. Round Three will be when the bill reaches the Senate floor to be voted on. Right now Round Two is the target of the Virginia wilderness campaign.

On Wednesday July 25, beginning at ~~9:30~~^{10:00} AM, the Subcommittee on Soil & Water Conservation, chaired by Senator Roger Jepsen, of the Senate Agriculture Committee, will hold the public hearing on our Virginia wilderness bill S. 2805, at Washington. At the same hearing the committee will successively also hear testimony on wilderness bills for Georgia and Mississippi. Because of time constraints, the committee is asking that all oral testimony be limited to organizations, both opponents and proponents, and not too many of them. We are planning accordingly. But this limitation does not apply to written statements or letters mailed to the committee.

Continuing the fight that Virginians have been waging with increasing strength and numbers for wilderness designation in Virginia by this Congress, let's build a powerful record for S. 2805 with this Senate committee-- which committee can report the bill favorably or can kill it dead, just as it pleases. All the individual and organization letters that can be generated are needed.

A brief letter expressing full support for this very satisfactory Virginia wilderness bill S. 2805 and giving one or two reasons why you want it passed will do the job. And be sure to request that your letter be made a part of the official hearing record--this is most important! Most of you have written several letters before to Members of the House or Senate; provided we persuade the committee to do right, this should be the last time. Please address your letter to: Senator Roger Jepsen, Chairman, Subcommittee on Soil & Water Conservation, Senate Committee on Agriculture, United States Senate, Washington DC 20510.

Victory is ours to seize if we WILL!!

BELOW APPEAR A FEW SAMPLES of the many clever citations of recognition for outstanding work of individuals in the Virginia wilderness campaign to date as offered by Jim Loesel at the V.W.C. annual meeting June 9 in Ramseys Draft. As always, other persons have contributed extraordinarily by their actions to the splendid progress of the campaign and equally deserve public recognition; to each of them, our heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation.

Adeline Lyle of Raphine, as the platinum blonde grandmother of two grandsons, whose testimony at Senator Warner's Staunton wilderness meeting charmed the Senator (and got her photographed beautifully with him).