

JUNE 1995

"E"-NOTES
 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
**OHIO VALLEY
 ENVIRONMENTAL
 COALITION**

1101 6th Ave. Rm. 225 Huntington WV. 25701
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NEW RIVER BRIDGE SITE OF PULP MILL DIRECT ACTION

During the Memorial Day weekend, OVEC staff and members attended the Heartwood Sixth Annual Conference at the Bluestone Conference Center, outside Hinton, West Virginia. More than 250 participants gathered from a 15 state region to discuss the current threats to the Central Appalachian hardwood forests.

Tradition for Heartwood Annual Conferences includes a direct action at the end

of the meeting--to raise public awareness and draw attention to irresponsible corporate behavior. In this instance, attendees targeted Parsons & Whittemore (the pulp mill developers), the proposed Corridor H superhighway, and threats to the Monongohela National Forest.

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KENOVA CITIZENS MEET WITH KY DAQ

On May 25, OVEC's Kenova Project Board members Pat Davis, Ann Kiser and Lawyer Ratliff, along with Rick Bady and Laura Forman, met with regulators of the KY Division for Air Quality (DAQ) in Ashland. The Kenova folks wanted to express their concerns about recent air quality problems caused by the Ashland Oil refinery.

On approximately May 2, downwind neighbors of the refinery from Kenova to Spring Valley began experiencing excessive respiratory problems and sore throats. According to those suffering, these problems lasted over two weeks.

Some OVEC members contacted the KY DAQ at this time.

Doug Gesso of KY DAQ said that he would look into Ashland's releases of sulfur dioxide from the period of May 1-May 15. Unfortunately, current EPA standards for SO2 are widely thought to be insufficient, thus allowing companies like the Ashland to emit heavy bursts that could adversely affect downwind residents, without technically violating the standard. (The American Lung ASSociation is suing the US EPA over the need for stronger SO2 standards.)

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WHEN FINISHED WITH THIS, DON'T THROW IT AWAY--PASS IT ON TO A FRIEND!

PULP MILL (continued from page 1)

During the three day conference, a plan for an educational outreach in the New River Gorge area materialized. An often heard phrase among experienced activists there was: "NO MEETINGS WITHOUT AN ACTION!" The group decided to stage concurrent events--hanging banners on the old Fayette Station bridge that spans the New River for all whitewater rafters to see, while another group of activists passed out fact sheets to tourists who stopped at the Canyon Rim Visitors Center (a popular attraction owned and managed by the National Park Service) on the Memorial day holiday--one of the busiest days of the year.

The night before the direct action, participants developed the fact sheet which described threats to WV forests, wrote and "faxed" a news release to the media, gathered materials to create signs and banners, and composed and practiced protest songs. It was truly a group effort! (Contact OVEC's office for copies of this fact sheet.)

When Park officials were notified about Heartwood's intentions, they estimated 5,000 people would be stopping there. A former rafting guide for the New River said that several hundred folks would be whitewater rafting that day. Since our goal was to raise public awareness about immediate threats to West Virginia's forests, our choice for a location was ideal.

By 3:00 p.m., OVEC staff and members, along with Heartwood activists, were in place for the action. For the next two hours, activists at the Visitors' Center held signs and banners ("Stop Apple Grove Pulp Mill", "Paper from paper not from Trees", etc.), distributed factsheets, sang songs and had a great time! Meanwhile, the tricky part of the action was being staged. Two banners ("Wild Not Wasted") were hung on the old bridge (marked "No Trespassing") and were left in place for two hours. Heartwood activists talked to whitewater rafters at the take-out point for the rafts and were even invited onto buses that shuttle folks back to the rafting firms' headquarters. Local law enforcement did not intervene for a two hour period (thanks!).

What an energizing, positive action! Only a few people refused the fact sheet--nearly 500 copies were distributed. For some participants, this was an empowering first experience with direct action, and for seasoned "veterans," this "kinder, gentler" approach which posed no threat of arrest, was refreshing. All 40+ participants left the New River Gorge area with a feeling of greater unity and mutual satisfaction knowing that they had educated many others about the perils faced by West Virginia's forests. Many thanks to Heartwood and all participants, especially Andy Mahler, who made this event possible!

JUNE 13TH CANDLELIGHT VIGIL COMBINES FORCES PULP MILL & CORRIDOR H ALTERNATIVES ACTIVISTS UNITE!

The next candlelight vigil to be held June 13th, 7:00 p.m. on Governor Caperton's lawn, will be a combined effort by activists opposing the Apple Grove pulp mill and Corridor H Alternatives, an environmental group that supports the improvement of existing West Virginia' highways instead of spending the money on one unneeded superhighway which would destroy massive amounts of National Forest land.

The two issues have much in common: Both will cost over \$1 billion. Despite evidence that both would drain the state of resources and create environmental devastation, powerful politicians, namely Governor Caperton and Senators Byrd and Rockefeller, are avid supporters of the boondoggles under the guise of economic development.

A lack of openness by state agencies has also made it difficult for citizens to gain access to pertinent information regarding either proposal. As a result of pointing out the irrationality of these corporate welfare schemes, EPA Regional Administrator Peter Kostmayer, was fired. Kostmayer has just promised to continue to help activists on these issues!

Both proposals are good examples of how the democratic process is NOT working for the people. And so, we unite to strengthen our voices.

Like the past three candlelight vigils, the evening will be a mixture of serious issues interspersed with light-heartedness. An opening

and closing prayer will be said for our elected officials and others. Activists will speak out about the issues, musicians will provide some entertainment, and others will be reading appropriate poems. At dark, everyone will light candles, symbolizing an abiding faith in the power of truth and right.

Wear a costume, bring a sign, or just show up. Most importantly, TELL OTHERS just how important it is to be there. We need to let our elected officials know that their support of these two issues will be a political liability. Bring your neighbors, your friends, your relatives, and your pets! Let's take a stand!

KENOVA (continued from page 1)

Another refinery concern expressed at the meeting was about the Hydrogen Fluoride (HF) Alkylation unit. In Ashland's latest agreed court order, it was stipulated that the refinery must have an HF mitigation system completed by 1996. According to KY DAQ regulators, this process is on schedule, but would not be adequate if Ashland would have a major release of HF. When HF, (which is more toxic than chlorine) is released into the atmosphere unchecked, it vaporizes into a toxic cloud that can cause severe throat and eye burns, lung injury, and possibly death.

Much to the Kentucky regulators' credit, they are looking into new HF mitigation processes that in the event of an HF leak, would force the HF to the ground, reducing the vaporization. KY DAQ is currently asking the refinery to install a 40-1 water to acid dilution system, which according to a report printed in the Los Angeles Times in 1989, would "reduce the toxic fumes by 90%-a comparatively safe level." We should accept NO LESS from Ashland!

Meanwhile, officials higher up in the KY DAQ continue to "negotiate" with Ashland over the latest set of violations which much be resolved before the company can receive its long awaited operating permit. The fact that the negotiating has dragged on months indicates that the company is not giving in on anything and

shows the inability of the DAQ to enforce the law in this case. It would be a major surprise if the operating permit actually includes many of the recommendations that the various agencies have been making. For more information, call Laura 304-522-0246.

TGI STARTS MOVING AGAIN

Stalled by the removal of former Tri-State Geographic Initiative (TGI) coordinator Brian Holtzclaw, the multi-agency effort to deal with Ashland Oil and other local problems is beginning to show signs of life. The new coordinator in KY is Leah MacSword, who formerly worked in KY's hazardous waste enforcement branch. According to MacSword, the TGI will soon reveal its proposal for increased air monitoring in the Kenova area. After approval by the Citizen's Review Committee (which includes OVEC representatives) the plan should be implemented before the end of summer. Monitors will detect a variety of pollutants that are not now measured and will include the ability to be "triggered" and take a sample during an excess emissions episode. It is hoped that by identifying the precise chemicals and their concentrations, the TGI will be in a position to call for specific solutions to the air problems that have plagued Kenova for a decade. For more information, call Rick Bady 614-886-5796.



OHIO ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION

MEDICINE BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

WHAT'S AT STAKE

The Endangered Species Act keeps us healthy by safeguarding many of the species we rely upon to fight life-threatening diseases.

Now more than ever, we must voice our concern for our health as well as our environment. Join people across the country who are sending empty prescription bottles to their elected officials. Each bottle needs to carry the message that we want the Endangered Species Act strengthened to safeguard plants and other species that protect our health and the health of our children.

THE FACTS

- ✓ Many of today's most important medicines, as well as the foundation for research into future cures, come from a full range of species from the forests to the oceans.
- ✓ Nearly one quarter of the prescriptions distributed in the United States are based on substances derived from nature.
- ✓ The chemical treasury of nature is literally disappearing before we have the opportunity to assess it.
- ✓ If we protect nature, nature will protect us.

HOW IT WORKS

- Step 1 Preprinted stickers can be ordered free of charge directly from us.
- Step 2 Fill out stickers in sets of four, address one to President Clinton, one to each of your two senators, and one to your representative, then affix stickers to empty medicine bottles.
- Step 3 Place labeled bottles in addressed envelopes and mail them to Washington. Bottles addressed to the President should be mailed to the *Ohio Endangered Species Coalition*. We will present them to him all at once.

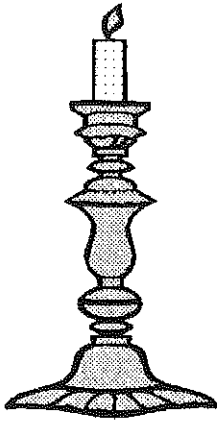
ADDRESSES

For President Clinton:
Endangered Species Coalition
P O Box 21314
Columbus OH 43221-0314

For your two Senators:
The Honorable (name of your Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

For your Representative:
The Honorable (name of your Rep.)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Akron Zoo
Appalachian Ohio Public Interest
Center Education Fund, Inc.
Aullwood Audubon Center & Farm
Brukner Nature Center
Capital Area Humane Society
Central Ohio Rainforest Action Group
Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
Citizens For Humane Action
Citizens Lobbying for Environmental
Action Now
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Cleveland Museum of Natural
History
Columbus Zoo
Delaware County Bird Club
Earth Day Coalition—Cleveland
Environmental Experiences, Inc.
Environmental Health Watch
Environmental Law Association—OSU
College of Law
Garden Club of Ohio
Glen Helen Association
Huron River Greenway Coalition
In Defense of Endangered Species
International Society for Endangered
Cats
Lake Erie Nature & Science Center
Museum of Biological Diversity—
The Ohio State University
Network For Ohio Animal Action
North Central Ohio Nature
Preservation League
Northern Ohio Association of
Herpetologists
Ohio Biological Survey
Ohio Citizen Action
Ohio Environmental Council
Ohio LAW Coalition
Ohio Native Plant Society—Central
Ohio Chapter
Ohio Public Interest Research Group
Ohio Rails to Trails Conservancy
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
Ohio Wildlife Center
Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators
Association
OSU Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Oxbow, Inc.
People/Animals Network
Protect Our Earth's Treasures
Richland County Raptor Center
Second Chance Wildlife Rescue
Association
Sierra Club—Ohio Chapter
Students Active for the
Environment—Thomas Worthington
High School
The Cat Welfare Association
The Darby Creek Association, Inc.
The Holden Arboretum
Toledo Zoological Gardens
Tri-State Wildlife Center



**CANDLELIGHT VIGIL
AT THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION**

(Next to the state capitol in Charleston)

HELP SHED LIGHT ON

THE PULP MILL

&

CORRIDOR H

Tuesday June 13th 7:00 PM

OVEC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

IS SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR
ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

Please send nominations to:

Lewis Baker, OVEC Board Chair, 1101 6th Ave. Room 225 Huntington WV 25701.

Cut and mail to: OVEC, PO Box 970 Proctorville OH 45669

New member or renewal (Dues: \$5 - \$25, pay what you can)

Donation enclosed

DONATIONS ARE
TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Keep me especially informed on this issue: _____

Name _____

Send info about OVEC to this person:

Address _____

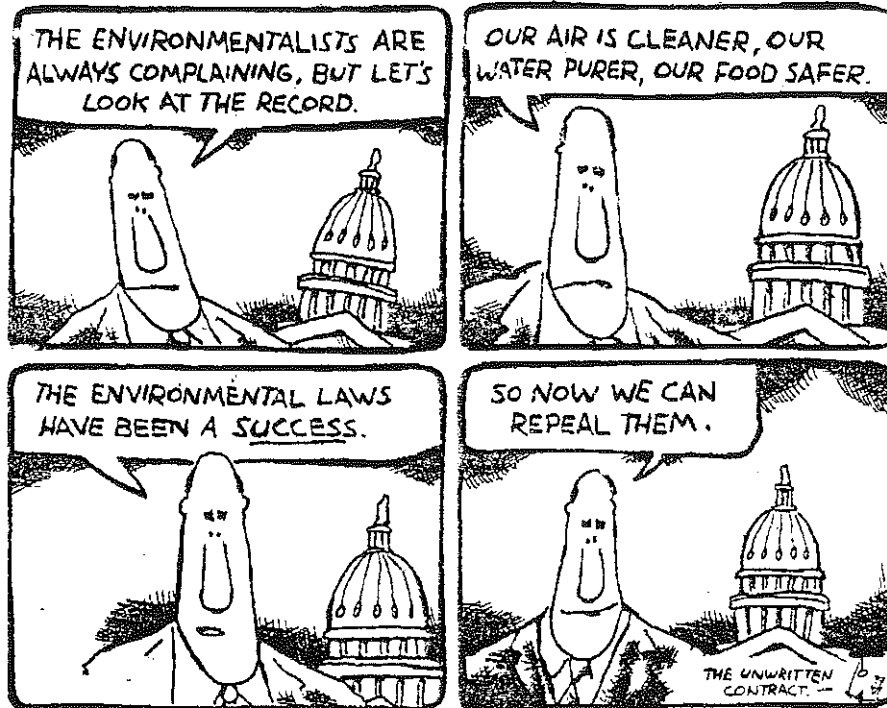
Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

For more info call the OVEC office (304) 522-0246
PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE IF WE'RE NOT IN
OR, WRITE TO OVEC AT: 1101 6TH AVE. RM 225, HUNTINGTON WV 25701

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