

Vermont Environmental Report

Field Trips Elections Panel Discussion WILL MARK VNRC ANNUAL MEETING

Preparations are being made for the 1978 VNRC Annual Meeting, set for Saturday, September 9, at the Basin Harbor Club in Vergennes. The all-day event will begin with a morning program of field trips and excursions in the southern Lake Champlain area. At noon, the focus will shift to the Basin Harbor Club, for lunch, for the annual business meeting, and for an afternoon panel discussion.

Field Trips

(1) **Forest Management Workshop:** There will be a forest management workshop for woodlot owners and other interested persons at the Shelburne site of Vermont's "Outstanding Tree Farm of 1978." The workshop will be led by foresters William Hall and Marshall Webb, and there will be a demonstration of a portable sawmill. *Starting time is 9:00 a.m. at the Shelburne site west of Route 7.*

(2) **Guided Tour of the International Paper Company (IPC) Plant:** There will be a guided tour of the IPC plant in Ticonderoga as well as a demonstration of the paper-making process and a discussion of pollution-control equipment. *Starting time is 9:30 a.m. at the IPC plant four miles north of Ticonderoga Village in New York State.*

(3) **Guided Tour of Button Bay State Park:** This tour will be led by a state park naturalist and will include a visit to the Park's nature center and a chance to see the fossil reef on Button Island. *Starting time is 10:00 a.m. at Button Bay State Park, seven miles west of Vergennes.*

(4) **Canoe Trip down Dead Creek:** State parks naturalist Charles Johnson will lead a canoe trip down Dead Creek, one of Vermont's best waterfowl areas. *Starting time is 9:00 a.m. from the "fish access point" on the west side of Dead Creek, three miles south of the village of Pantton.*

(5) **Boat Trip on Lake Champlain:** There will be a two-hour boat trip on the UVM research vessel, the "Melosira." Accompanying the party will be fisheries biologist, George LaBar, ornithologist, David Capen, and water quality specialist, Alan Cassell. *Starting time is 9:00 a.m. from the dock at the Basin Harbor Club. There is a \$7.50 per person boat fee.*

Afternoon Program

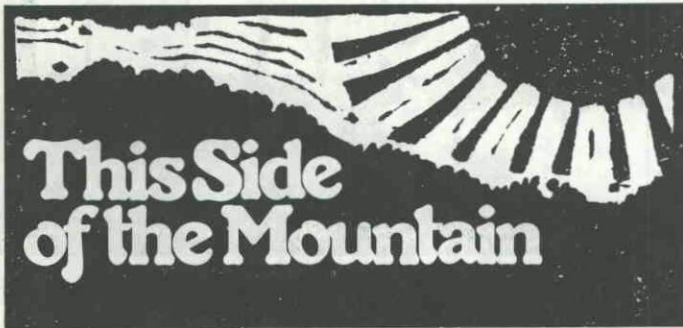
After lunch at the Basin Harbor Club, members will hear a brief report on VNRC's present work. Then there will be an election to fill eight vacancies on the Board of Directors. Of the eight vacancies, six are for "at large" members and two are for "member organization" representatives on the VNRC Board.

Each candidate has provided a short biographical outline. This year, for the first time, candidates for election to the Board have written personal statements describing their principal environmental concerns. *(Please see page 3 of this issue.)*

The concluding event of the 1978 Annual Meeting will be a panel discussion on the subject of "Energy & the Future of Vermont's Economy, Environment and Way of Life." The panel will feature three speakers: Brendan J. Whittaker, former Director of the State Energy Office and now Environmental Secretary; Roger Miller, President of Windsor Minerals, a talc mining company; and Dr. Colin F'igh, a geographer with the Dartmouth College Systems Dynamics Group. The Group is conducting research to determine the opportunities of employing wood for energy in New England.

In discussing the subject of the panel, Seward Weber, Executive Director of VNRC, commented, "How can we escape the impacts of the kinds of choices we are going to have to make over the next few years? Whether it's Dickey-Lincoln, or Seabrook, or wood energy, or small-scale hydropower, the effects on our economy, our environment -- indeed on our way of life -- will be enormous." Weber declared, "We need to anticipate these impacts now with the same care that we take in planning energy projects. If we don't," he warned, "we will be repeatedly surprised by the side effects, including the unexpected social costs." □

(For more information on the Annual Meeting and the morning program of field trips, please turn to page 7 and fill out the registration form. If bad weather forces the cancellation of any trips, there will be a back-up program at the Basin Harbor Club.)



In mid-October, 1977, Nat Frothingham of the VNRC staff, inaugurated a series of biweekly environmental columns that appeared in weekly newspapers throughout Vermont.

This series, called "This Side of the Mountain," ended earlier this month. The purpose of the columns was to examine local environmental issues of statewide meaning and significance. In his final column, Frothingham touched upon broader themes. He interviewed two men who have had wide experience in coping with environmental problems.

In what follows, Dr. Carl Reidel and Dr. Martin Johnson discuss environmental issues under five headings.

Dr. Reidel until last June was Director of the UVM Environmental Program. He is now on leave from that post as Visiting Professor at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Martin Johnson was for five years Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Environmental Conservation.

(1) Wood for Energy

Dr. Carl Reidel commented on a proposal to build a 50-megawatt, wood-fired, electrical generating plant in Burlington. Reidel said, "My guess is that we can't sustain more than two or three of these plants in Vermont."

Reidel went on to warn about the possible negative impacts resulting from the use of heavy whole tree harvesting equipment in Vermont forests. "It really does mean coming in and clearcutting," Reidel said. "The State of Vermont has no 'Forest Practices' legislation. There aren't enough foresters in the field."

While some foresters are claiming that whole tree harvesting will clean out the junk wood in Vermont's forests, Reidel is inclined to be cautious. He says about some foresters, "They are saying, 'Let's bring the wolf into the house to clean up the scraps that are lying on the floor.' Once the wolves have eaten the scraps on the floor," Reidel declares, "they will be up on the table."

Reidel is concerned that the wide-scale use of whole tree harvesting to supply wood for energy could preclude other forest uses. He says, "We could be manufacturing wood products in Vermont and exporting these goods to buy outside energy." In conclusion he makes this comment on the wholesale use of wood for energy. "Maybe that's the right choice, but we haven't looked at the alternatives."

(2) Vermont Agriculture

Martin Johnson sees the need to save Vermont agriculture in the context of worldwide population growth and worldwide hunger.

Of his own hometown of Marshfield, Vermont, he says, "Over the past 100 years Marshfield grew from 998 to 1006 people." In the world it is different. "The population of the world is growing 2.5 people per second. A new Marshfield every six minutes, a new Vermont every two days and three hours."

World population is doubling every 30 years. "That doesn't seem to shake people," Johnson says with astonishment.

Johnson sees Vermont as a uniquely favored state, even though people are inclined to think of resources as goods or possessions. "But real resources," Johnson reminds us, "are water, soil, and air. Vermont has more of these basic resources than any other place I can think of," he says. "Arable land per person, or forests per person? We come out better than the world average."

But the question still remains, "How are we really going to save Vermont agriculture?"

(3) The Pressures of Large-Scale Development

Carl Reidel thinks that we do an incomplete job of estimating the impacts, all the impacts, of large-scale developments like the proposed Pyramid Mall in Williston.

"Let's get everything in," he says. "We have to insist that when decisions about Pyramid Mall are made that we clearly understand what the trade-offs are." At the present time, Reidel believes, all that we are evaluating is whether we can absorb the impacts of a Pyramid Mall.

But this misses a critical question. Do we want such a mall? Do we want to dedicate our clean water and air, our open space, to this use? Or are there better uses? Or will there be better uses in the future after we have used up our limited supplies of clean air and water?

Reidel is troubled by the power of the marketplace. "We are not controlling consumption, or building into markets the true cost of consumption." And Reidel says with surprise, "We really believe the market will make the best allocation of resources."

But what does the market know about the true cost of things? What can the market say about long-term consequences? Agricultural land is agricultural land. It sells at a certain price. It is converted to another use. But does the sale price reflect its worth in feeding people year after year? These are questions that the marketplace cannot answer.

(4) The Need for Leadership

Reidel faults both the State of Vermont and the University of Vermont for their failure to inform, to define resource choices, and their inability to tell us about the consequences of our choices.

"At UVM," Reidel declares, "most of our studies are separated on a commodity basis. We look at the world as if it were made up of products." The dairy scientist is pushing for higher milk production, the maple researcher is pushing for better maple syrup, the forester wants higher yields.

But what happens if one use of a resource is in competition with another for limited supplies of air, or water, or energy? What if we decide to employ wood for energy? What will we be giving up? What if we pollute the air to its legal limits? What is the consequence of that kind of choice?

"We have separated the fields of knowledge," Reidel says. "But the world is intermingled, a handful of dirt, a cup of water, -- these things defy special interest research." And since most of what we study is production Reidel feels that we're not doing a good job of studying what is happening.

(5) Public Understanding & Public Response

Martin Johnson is absorbed with the question of how to deepen public understanding of the larger environmental issues and how to encourage people to respond intelligently.

"I worry about how you get it across to people that everything counts, our every little contribution of dust to the atmosphere," he says.

"You start out with the basic properties," says Johnson, "gravity, solar energy, earth, water, soil, clean air -- from these we get products, pollution, human beings, minerals." And looking at the world situation, Johnson says, "Every one of those is in trouble in one form or another."

Johnson feels that if change is going to come, many of the people are going to have to feel that what they do or say counts. "The solutions are going to have to come from our own heads, our own brains. We can't wait another generation. No foreign force is going to come in and help us. If Vermont with all her advantages, in resources, in a system of government that reacts to what people want, can't solve her problems," Johnson feels, "then no other place can."

Five years ago, Martin Johnson was part of a small group that met at the National Academy in Washington, D.C. Two of the twelve people present at that meeting thought it was already too late.

Which leads to the crucial question. "How does altruism work," Johnson asks, "how do you trigger it?" □

VNRC Board Elections

The VNRC Bylaws state: "The affairs of the Council shall be managed by a Board of Directors, composed of 22 members, of which 21 shall be elected, and one member shall be the Executive Director." The Bylaws continue, "Fifteen directors shall be elected AT LARGE from all classes of membership, and six shall be elected from nominations by ORGANIZATION MEMBERS."

This year, there are a total of eight vacancies on the VNRC Board of Directors. Six of these vacancies are for AT LARGE positions on the VNRC Board. Of these six vacancies, five are for a three-year term, and one is for a one-year term. There are two vacancies for representatives of MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS on the VNRC Board. Both of these vacancies are for three-year terms.

This year, as well as asking candidates to provide short biographies, the Council has asked candidates to write a short personal statement that identifies their chief environmental concerns. In addition, candidates were asked to comment on the opinion that has been voiced recently in some environmental circles that "Vermont is losing or has lost its leadership in the environmental sphere."

At Large Candidates: 6 Vacancies

STANTON ALLABEN (Londonderry) -- Incumbent VNRC Board member, sits on VNRC Public Lands Committee

Stanton Allaben is President of Viking Corporation and Manager of the Viking Ski Touring Centre. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Business from the University of New Hampshire. He is a board member of: the Conservation Society of Southern Vermont, the National Ski Touring Operators Association, and the Eastern Professional Ski Touring Instructors. He was past chairperson of the Southern Vermont Sierra Club and is working with the U.S. Forest Service to develop a public cross-country ski trail system in the Green Mountain National Forest

(Statement) If Vermont has lost its leadership role in this country in the environmental sphere, as some have claimed, it is because Vermonters have lost sight of the issues, not because they no longer care.

We created Act 250 because there was a clear and present danger of over-development in the southern part of the state. We created returnable bottle legislation because the litter along our highways adversely affected our tourist-based economy. Our environmental protection achievements have been in reaction to specific problems. We have been treating symptoms as if the symptoms were the issues.

Our greatest task now is to take positive steps in the field of education and legislation in an effort to avoid future environmental degradation. We must educate the public regarding the value of our wetlands, so that we can obtain strong legislation to protect this valuable natural resource. We must begin now to protect our forests, rather than wait until some profiteer rapes half the countryside.

ARMAND J. BELIVEAU (St. George) -- Incumbent VNRC Board member

Armand J. Beliveau has worked for the IBM Corporation for 28 years. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from UVM in Electrical Engineering. He has served on the school board, planning commission, and the board of selectmen for the Town of St. George. On the state and county levels he has served on the Regional Planning Commission, the Scenery Preservation Council, the Crime Commission, and the Civil Rights Commission. Mr. Beliveau designed and developed the St. George Transferable Development Rights System which received state and national recognition.

(Statement) Among my objectives is allowing/promoting housing and jobs for Vermonters in areas least costly in energy and least damaging to the environment.

JASPER EVARTS (Landgrove) -- Sits on the VNRC Finance Committee

Jasper Everts is Financial Advisor for the Trust Department of the Boston law firm of Palmer & Dodge and is a partner/co-owner of the Viking Ski Touring Center. Mr. Everts is a Harvard graduate and was a general partner of Baker, Weeks & Co., Inc., New York City, for twelve years. He is an advisory board member of Catamount National Bank, Vice President and Executive Committee Board Member of the Mountain Valley Health Center, member of the Planning and Zoning Board and Lister for the Town of Landgrove.

(Statement) The biggest problem facing the world is the lack of what might be called the "court of compromise." The tender balancing of priorities between the snail darter and normal human expansion and the inherent demands of both is a difficult proposition. The weighing of these priorities may need a court educated in more than just the law. Several recent decisions, such as the snail darter case, which are in favor of "environmentalists," I feel, in time will be looked upon as Pyrrhic victories, potentially damaging to environmental awareness in the future.

It is very important that Vermont remain in the forefront of environmental leadership. It is obviously important that we do not rest on past laurels. VNRC can and should play a major role in the economic, industrial and social expansion of Vermont. It should be an active educator in its field of expertise and a leading member of the delicate balancing of priorities in the "court of compromise."

MONTGOMERY FISCHER (Montpelier)

Montgomery Fischer is currently Assistant Study Manager for the Lake Champlain Basin Study, a research project sponsored by the New England River Basins Commission. He took a Bachelor's Degree from Franklin and Marshall College with a double major in Geology and Government. He completed his graduate work in Soil and Water Science at the University of New Hampshire. He has been involved with natural resource management problem-solving for six years

and has worked with the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission and Public Decisions Research in Hanover. He co-authored the **Vermont Guide Plan for Water and Related Land Resources (1974)** and the **Lake Champlain Planning Guide (1976)**.

(Statement) To determine if Vermont is losing its leadership role in environmental matters, I would first define "environmental matters." Vermont is growing, and due to that growth, it is changing. If "environmental matters" is to be taken as preservation of a traditional or historical way of life, then, yes, we are losing. If, on the other hand, we use a definition that I prefer which relates to the determination of when and where new land development should occur without major disruption of natural systems, then we have made progress over the last decade, but there is still room for improvement both in the administration of existing programs and in the development of new programs.

Some of the natural resource programs that I would like to see given more attention are: continued investigation of the best methods of reducing excessive Lake Champlain water levels while maintaining the integrity of the Lake's wetlands; continued pursuit of strong wetlands protection legislation; and continued exploration of methods to ensure protection of Vermont's prime agricultural lands.

ANNE JUST (Warren)

Anne Just is a Representative to the General Assembly, serving on the House Agriculture Committee and the Joint Energy Committee. She attended the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C. She is Auditor for the Town of Warren and a member of the Warren Planning Commission, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, and the Scenery Preservation Council.

(Statement) The most pressing environmental concern at the moment is the threat that development poses to Vermont's farmland. This threat increases daily. Furthermore, the current mood of government appears to be critical of restrictions or regulations that might limit development. Last year, for example, there was tremendous pressure on legislators to repeal the land gains tax, a tax which effectively slows down land speculation. That pressure may be much greater next year. Many people feel they have held their land long enough; now they want to make money. The solutions are not easy to come by. There are many conflicting interests and many people in agriculture do not appreciate government intervention. But as long as there are farmers willing to farm there must be a way to assure them land and a decent living.

JOHN von BEHREN (Wolcott) -- Incumbent VNRC Board member, eligible to fill a vacated, unexpired one-year term

John von Behren is Executive Director of the Association to Boost Lamoille Enterprises (ABLE). He is past Assistant Director of the Lamoille County Development Council and has worked for the regional planning and development commission in Lamoille County.

(Statement) My work in Lamoille County for a non-profit local development corporation has convinced me that there is a great need to stimulate employment opportunities for the people in this region. It is imperative, however, that Vermont's economic development take place in an environmentally sound manner, or else we will only trade one social ill for another.

Other areas of concern are: the possibility of large-scale timber cutting as a result of the wood energy industry; the need to revamp Vermont's property tax structure; and the need to monitor the Agency of Environmental Conservation.

WESLEY WARD (Marlboro) -- Incumbent VNRC Board member, sits on VNRC Public Lands Committee

Wesley Ward is founder and consultant of a land use planning firm which is under contract with the Planning Division of the Agency of Environmental Conservation to prepare a long-range plan for public land acquisition, development of recreational facilities, and protection of resources. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Marlboro College and recently completed the Regional Housing and Land Use Elements sections of the Windham Regional Plan.

(Statement) Unfortunately, too many of us have become too fascinated with new environmental management tools, like Act 250, and in the process neglected the issues which were the reasons for the legislation in the first place.

Without sentimentality or complacency, we must recognize that several environmental and human problems facing us are deeply rooted and strongly persistent. Among these are: the loss of prime agricultural land to development and the failure to realize its importance to the state's future; the loss of the unique character of Vermont's landscape -- particularly important are the diverse combinations of hill-country farms, villages, and forests; the failure to grasp the need for long-term equitable growth management which would channel public and private investment according to clear, environmentally responsible, priorities; and the continued lack of adequate stable, and rewarding employment opportunities for Vermont citizens, including the young who are being forced to leave the state. We must have the courage to risk some criticism and conflict as we deal with difficult issues and point out problems and choices that deserve fair discussion.

JOHN WIGGIN (Woodstock)

John Wiggin is a forester with the Woodstock Resort Corporation and directs the Woodstock Ski Touring Center during the winter. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology & Sociology from Colgate University and a Master's Degree in Forest Science from Yale. He is a member of the Society of American Foresters, New England Wildflower Society, Eastern Professional Ski Touring Instructors, and a board member of the Ottauquechee Regional Land Trust.

(Statement) I do not feel that Vermont is, as some may say, losing its leadership in the environmental sphere.

In any case, I hope that these critics don't take too great a stock of the race itself, as opposed to being concerned over the mission.

I hope Vermonters attempt to define goals which are fundamental to legislation they hope to enact. While I personally hope that social change and growth leave us with a rural character without sacrificing economic opportunity, I also feel that we must ask ourselves what we want in the future. Once our goals are identified, then legislation can be created that is responsive to them. I also hope that VNRC helps educate the public to the real costs and benefits of growth. A more enlightened public could better judge when choices must be made among issues dealing with the public interest, environmental quality, and private self-interest.

Member Organization Candidates: 2 Vacancies

MARCIA BARBER (Old Bennington) -- Nominated by the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont

Marcia Barber is currently co-chairperson of the Conservation Committee of the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont. Ms. Barber graduated from Wellesley College with a Bachelor's Degree and did graduate study in Business and Education. She was First Vice President and President of the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont and a member of a number of its committees. She was a member of the Governor's Advisory Subcommittee for the Commission on Environmental Controls, and the past New England Regional Chairperson of Roadsides for the National Council of State Garden Clubs.

(Statement) The identification and protection of watersheds from which community water supplies are drawn is a matter of deeper concern to Vermont than simply the preservation of wilderness areas. Many Vermont towns have inadequate and outdated water supply systems. The small, privately-owned water companies are being told they must meet water quality standards immediately. However, they have neither the financial nor the labor resources to meet this demand and have nowhere to turn for aid. This situation, coupled with the invasion of wood (fuel) marketers, make it imperative that we examine the whole water supply situation -- from the protection of watersheds to financial aid. Then we should enact legislation to alleviate the severe water problems facing Vermont towns.

I am also concerned about the upgrading of our State supervision of the Yankee Nuclear plant at Vernon, and would like to see wider adoption of ordinances forbidding transportation or burying of spent nuclear rods within town or city limits. And finally, unless we are careful, billboards will be back on Vermont roads.

DAVID FIRESTONE (Barnard) -- Incumbent VNRC Board member

David Firestone teaches environmental law, state and local government, and land use planning at the Vermont Law School. He took a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Wayne State University. He received his J.S. Degree from Harvard Law School. He is a member of the Massachusetts Bar. Prior to coming to Vermont Law School, he served as an attorney in the Office of the Regional Counsel of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Boston. He is a member of the Faculty Committee of the Vermont Law School Environmental Law Center and a Lecturer on Environmental Law at the New York University School of Continuing Education.

(Statement) The key environmental issue facing Vermont continues to be the question of where the state stands on a spectrum of opinion which, at one end, fosters as much development and industrial growth as possible, and, on the other, strongly emphasizes a land-related economy based on agriculture, forestry, and types of recreation that do not result in new housing developments. My bias tends to shy away from industrial growth and to favor a land-related economy. However, it is extremely important not to lose sight of the fact that people need to work, and that Vermont's ultimate goal should not be to provide a beautiful, peaceful hiding place for those who can afford it. By providing appropriate incentives to agriculture, forestry, and recreation, and by extending our agriculture and forest potential through greater processing within the state of the raw materials from those activities, Vermont can provide



the needed employment opportunities while retaining its rural and relatively trouble-free character.

NORMAN HUDSON (Montpelier) -- Nominated by the Green Mountain Chapter, Society of American Foresters

Norman Hudson is Chief of Environmental Services for the State's Department of Forests and Parks. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Forestry from the University of Massachusetts and is a registered land surveyor in Vermont. He was chairperson for the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Commissioner of Parks for the City of Montpelier. He is a member of the Vermont-New Hampshire Christmas Tree Association and on the Executive Committee of the New England Section of the Society of American Foresters.

(Statement) I have spent the last 22 years as a forester with Vermont's Department of Forests and Parks. This experience has afforded me the opportunity to become intimately acquainted with the forest resources of Vermont.

A look into the future could be frightening unless some of the following concerns are addressed: a substantial increase in environmental education programs; a more vigorous program for energy alternatives and conservation; an increase in the capability to manage our forest resources more intensively; and a need to return the management of the white-tail deer to biologists and landowners.

VERN HOWE (Wilmington) -- Nominated by Southern Vermont College

Vern Howe teaches Environmental Studies at Southern Vermont College. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Science and a Master's Degree in Forestry and Natural Resource Planning from the University of Massachusetts. Ms. Howe is on the Wilmington Recreation Commission, the Wilmington Planning Commission, a member of the Board of Directors of the Conservation Society of Southern Vermont, and a member of the District II Environmental Commission.

(Statement) Vermont has been a leader in environmental legislation. I want the State to continue its leadership role.

Act 250 has been extremely helpful in controlling development. Developers have actually found the district environmental commissions helpful in planning phases of development. However, flood plains continue to be developed and, in some cases, the sites are the best agricultural areas. Vermont has little prime agricultural land to spare. Use of this land should be controlled so that future agricultural use is not precluded. Food costs and transportation costs will continue to rise. We should give thought to the future.

Cluster housing appears to be repugnant to most Vermonters. Perhaps we should be giving attention to the benefits of clustered housing and associated open spaces as a way of keeping our agricultural land free from development and as a way of conserving energy and other materials.

There are ways that VNRC can add to public information.

CHARLES JOHNSON (Stowe) -- Incumbent VNRC Board member, sits on Annual Meeting Committee and the Media Project Advisory Committee -- Nominated by Central Vermont Audubon

Charles Johnson is a state parks naturalist with the Agency of Environmental Conservation. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Botany from Wabash College and a Master's Degree in Zoology from the University of Illinois. He was an assistant wildlife technician in Urbana, Illinois and a park ranger at Brighton Park, Island Pond, Vermont. He is a member of: the Central Vermont Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, and the (State of Vermont) Endangered Species Committee. From 1975 to 1978 he has been a board member for the National Audubon Society.

(Statement) My greatest concern is for the maintenance of diversity in our natural heritage as expressed in wild and undeveloped areas, unique natural areas, managed forests

and refuges, small communities, farms, and the multitudinous wildlife and ways of life associated with them. Mankind and his enterprises are growing toward monoculture, supplanting his natural companions with his burgeoning numbers and frantic search for material gratification.

Projects that threaten the diversity are many, and take many forms: the loss of wildlife habitat and forest land to sprawling, mindless development; the dissolution of farms into squares of steel and concrete; the sacrifice of wetlands and free-running rivers to human growth and energy needs. We are all losing -- the birdwatcher, the hunter, the canoeist, the logger, the fisherman, the botanist, the hiker, the snowmobiler, the farmer... the people.

Many Vermonters are working hard to protect, maintain, and manage what they believe to be the most critical components of that diversity. Singly, they may have a special interest, but together they have a common goal. If only they can sense that invisible bond and strengthen it into an unbreakable will. I know there is that potential. □

Registration

1978 VNRC Annual Meeting

Please indicate the number of people in your party:

Amount Enclosed

REGISTRATION FEE: There is a \$2.00 fee for everyone attending the Annual Meeting.

LUNCH: I/we will be attending the buffet at the Basin Harbor Club. The cost is \$6.00 per person. There is no charge for those who bring their own lunch.

- FIELD TRIPS:**
- (1) Forestry Workshop
 - (2) Tour of IPC Paper Mill
 - (3) Guided Tour of Button Bay State Park
 - (4) **Canoe Trip Down Dead Creek:** If you want to rent a canoe, there will be a \$7.50 fee per canoe.
 - (5) **Boat Trip on Lake Champlain:** There is a \$7.50 per person boat fee.

I did not receive the Annual Meeting invitation, please send me field trip details.

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Total Amount:

NAME _____ **PHONE** _____

ADDRESS _____

Please make checks or money orders payable to: VNRC. Mail to: Vermont Natural Resources Council, 26 State St., Montpelier, Vermont, 05602.

Letters

The following letter was received by Seward Weber, Executive Director of the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Dear Seward,

I am writing to you concerning the May, 1978 issue of the Vermont Environmental Report.

I would be interested in an objective view of the job that has been done by the Vermont State Energy Office. As a member of VNRC, I would be interested in what you as the Executive Director or your Board feel about the State Energy Office. I don't think I want to base my judgement on the remarks by the lobbyist for VPIRG, or for that matter, on what Brendan Whittaker says.

We can get more than our share of editorializing from the newspapers.

"The conclusion" of the May newsletter has a number of rather strange remarks and conclusions. Are these a reflection of your policy or the guidelines set by the Board of VNRC? Sincerely,

Milton V. Lyndes
Executive Vice President
Barre Granite Association

This letter was referred to the VNRC Board of Directors. The Board stated that articles in the VER are not meant to express official VNRC Board policy, unless this is clearly

indicated. The Board went on to say that the Editor of the VER serves under the general supervision of the Executive Director and a VNRC Board Committee, and at the pleasure of the Council.

Publications

Two publications about sewage treatment have just been published by the Vermont Agency of Environmental Conservation.

Are There Alternatives to Sewers for Vermont Towns? is the transcript from the proceedings of the Conference on sewer alternatives held last November 2-3 in Fairlee, Vermont.

This conference was sponsored by the Vermont Agency of Environmental Conservation, the Vermont 208 Water Quality Planning Program, the UVM Water Resources Research Center, and the UVM Extension Service.

Septic Systems - How They Work & How to Keep Them Working in Vermont is an 18 page booklet explaining in simple terms what a septic system is, how it works, why it fails, and how to take care of it to prevent failure. It also tells who to call and what to do if repairs are needed.

Both publications are available, at no cost, from either the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC), 26 State St., Montpelier, Vermont 05602 or the Planning Division of the Agency of Environmental Conservation, Heritage II Building, Montpelier, Vermont 05602.

VNRC

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THIS ISSUE August 1978

No. 78

Contents

Special Issue: This month's VER is devoted to VNRC's 1978 Annual Meeting at the Basin Harbor Club and the VNRC Board of Directors nominations.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

VERMONT NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL, 26 STATE STREET, MONTPELIER, VERMONT