Lydia Donnie

The debate over acid rain, like other environmental issues, has left
the realm of science and entered the
realm of politics. There is ample
evidence that acid rain is causing
serious damage to our health, our
environment and our economy, yet
little is being done to stop it.

Acid precipitation results when
sulfur and nitrogen oxides undergo
chemical changes in the atmosphere
and fall to the earth as rain, snow
or fog. Coal-burning plants are the
largest sources of sulfur oxide emis-
sions, and most of New England’s
acid rain originates in the smoke-
stacks of Midwestern industries and
utilities.

TECHNOLOGICAL FIXES

One way to reduce sulfur emis-
sions is to burn low sulfur coal (less
than 1% sulfur versus 1-6% for
high sulfur coal). Low sulfur coal
is mined in Western states, while
high sulfur coal is found mainly in
Appalachia and the Midwest. Natu-
rally, Midwestern industries prefer
to burn cheap, locally-available high
sulfur coal.

Stricter emissions controls would
reduce the economic incentive to
burn high sulfur coal. They would
not necessarily break the back of
the Midwestern coal-mining industry,
however, because even high sulfur
coal can be burned 90% sulfur-free
with proper safeguards.

Coal-washing can remove up to
25% of the sulfur in coal. In this
process, the coal is crushed and sus-
pended in liquid. Pyrite, which con-
tains much of the sulfur found in
coa l, sinks to the bottom and the
coal is skimmed off the top. Wash-
ing is relatively cheap because it re-
moves other impurities — such as
rocks and ash-producing minerals —
and allows for lower transportation
costs, more efficient combustion
and longer plant life.

Flue gas desulfurization is a chem-
ical process which can remove 75-
90% of the sulfur dioxide produced
by high sulfur coal combustion.

Scrubbers filled with limestone neu-
tralize the sulfur dioxide gas in the
emissions stack before it reaches the
atmosphere.

Scrubbers are expensive to install
and maintain ($100 - $200 per kilo-
watt of installed generating capacity),
and can add as much as one-third to
the cost of constructing and operat-
ing a new power plant. But even
with the added cost of scrubbing,
it is still cheaper to produce electricity
by burning coal than by burning oil.

Another problem with flue gas
desulfurization is disposing of the
waste product — a wet limestone
solution called “slurry.” It is usually
landfilled, but this can lead to
ground water contamination.

The Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA) is working on new
technology which will increase
scrubber efficiency. One method
consists of adding sulfide acid (a crys-
talline powder derived from petro-
leum) to the limestone in the scrub-
ers. This reduces the amount of
limestone required and removes up
to 90% of the sulfur. The EPA is also
experimenting with oxidizing the
slurry to remove some of the
water. The dried slurry — calcium
sulfate or gypsum — can then be
used to manufacture wallboard.

Reducing sulfur emissions at the
source may be expensive, but it is
far less costly than restoring ecosys-
tems which have been damaged by
acid rain. In Sudbury, Ontario, emis-
sions from the International Nickel
Company smelter (the largest source
of sulfur dioxide in the world) killed
all of the fish in nearby freshwater
lakes. In 1976, Ontario’s Ministry of
the Environment sprayed the lakes
with lime and restocked them, but
all the fish died within months
of toxic metal poisoning. While the
lime corrected the pH balance, it
could not remove the toxic metals
which had been leached by the acid-
ified water. Experiments with liming
in Europe have had similar results.
It is at best a limited and expensive
solution.

At an acid rain conference in On-
tario in 1980, it was suggested that
zoologists might breed an acid-resis-
tant fish. Doctor Harold Harvey,
zoologist at the University of Toron-
to, aptly replied, “It makes no sense
to breed an acid-resistant fish.
Would we breed a gas-resistant ca-
nary for coal-miners?”

One of the most practical meth-
ods of reducing sulfur dioxide emis-
sions is to burn less coal. It is ironic,
as F.H. Bormann, Professor of For-
est Ecology at Yale, notes that New
Englanders, who have a good con-
servation record, are breathing air
with a high sulfur content which is
not of their own making. Midwestern
states reap the economic bene-
fits of cheap electricity generated by
high sulfur coal, but New England
pays the price in dirty air, acidified
lakes and contaminated water sup-
plies. This imbalance will continue
as long as there are no systematic con-
trains on long-range transportation
of air pollution.

(Continued on page 8)
Monday - Friday, June 28 - July 2
An environmental education workshop for teachers sponsored by Shelburne Farms Resources will highlight the role of conservation education and activities which use school grounds and community resources. Graduate and recertification credits are available. Call Shelburne Farms Resources, 985-3222.

July, all month
VINS sponsors one-week sessions for children during the month of July, where children participate in outdoor environmental and sensory experiences. Call 457-2779 for more information.

Monday - Sunday, July 12 - 18
Options in Agriculture is a one-week workshop for individuals considering a career in agriculture offered by Shelburne Farms Resources. The workshop will present a variety of agri/cultural career possibilities and will emphasize ecological and economic viability. For information, call 985-3222.

Friday, July 30 - Sunday, August 1
The Natural Organic Farmers Association will sponsor its 6th Annual Conference. The theme of the conference is “The Role of Rural Life at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, New Hampshire. The theme of this year’s conference is “Sustainable Agriculture in the Northeast,” and Robert Rodale is the keynote speaker. Register early if you plan to attend. Call or write NOFA Conference, 207 South Main St., Nashua, NH 03060. (603) 585-3818, M - F, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 7, 8:30 - 4:00 p.m.
The Impact of Timber Management Practices on Nongame Birds in Vermont will be discussed by several prominent resource managers at a conference sponsored by the Vermont College Center’s Diben Auditorium. For information about the conference, write or call The Department of Forestry, Parks, and Recreation, Montpelier, VT 05602, 828-3375.

Saturday, August 8
The 2nd annual Vermont Heritage Festival at the historic Bent Hill settlement in Warren will begin at 10 a.m. with an auction, craft demonstrations, musical entertainment and a gourmet lunch. Last year, VNSC raised over $6000 at this fun-finding party and celebration of Vermont’s natural and built environments.

VERMONT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
Editor Marion Macdonald
Executive Director Swen Weber
Chairman of the Board Carl Redell

The Vermont Environmental Report is published six times a year by the Vermont Natural Resources Council. The opinions expressed by VER contributors are not necessarily those of VNRSC. Please address all correspondence to VER Editor, VNRSC, 7 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 223-3235.

May 22 - September 11
The White Creek Ecological Field School and the Pringle Herbarium will hold a Traveling School of Botany in Vermont taught by John Jenkins of White Creek and Peter Zika of Burlington. The school will meet for nine sessions of two days each, which will combine exploration and classroom technique and will offer a college-level course in field botany, plant identification and plant communities. Tuition and materials: $100. Sign up for individual sessions or the full course by writing or calling Peter Zika, Pringle Herbarium, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05401, (802) 656-3221.

Thursday, June 10
Interior Secretary James Watt will appear on a question and answer program on WGBH in Boston. WBZ would like a studio audience of 200 people from all over New England; so if you live near Boston, or will be in the area on the 10th, please consider attending.

Saturday, June 12
June is American Rivers Month, and a river celebration is scheduled for June 12 at Summer Falls on the Connecticut River in Hartland and Vermont. The major event will include a bird walk, a bicycle trip to the Plainfield, NH, Widewater Area, a fishing derby, music, a canoe trip, light refreshments and information table. Contact Bob Link of the Connecticut River Watershed Council at (603) 443-5672, or the Deria, National Coordinator, at (802) 226-3816 or (617) 223-1890, for more information.

Saturday & Sunday, June 12 - 13
Shelburne Farms Resources is hosting an agricultural education conference in Shelburne, Vermont, on June 12 - 13. The conference will bring together agricultural educators from throughout New England to discuss the problems and potential of using a farm as a learning site. For further information, write Shelburne Farms Resources, Shelburne, VT 05482, or call (802) 985-3222.

Thursday, June 17, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
A Vermont ETV program on farmland preservation will feature VNRSC’s Dan Hooper, Vermont Agriculture Commissioner George Dunsmore, and Robert Sinclair, Dean of UVM’s Agriculture College, as panelists. Viewers will be able to ask questions directly of the three panelists by phoning in during the broadcast.

Sunday, June 20
Bald Eagle Day. Governor Richard Snelling has proclaimed 1982 as the “Year of the Eagle,” and June 20th as “Bald Eagle Day.” In a May 19th proclamation, Snelling urged “all government agencies, schools, businesses and organizations to take appropriate action to commemorate this special occasion and to add their support to the effort to protect the bald eagle for the next 200 years.”

Wednesday - Friday, June 23 - 25
The Vermont Library of Natural Science will sponsor a Water Ecology Workshop including ecological studies of lakes and open water habitats and a canoe field trip. Michael Caduto and Jennifer Bestolli lead the workshop. Call VINS, 457-2779.

Notice anything different?
This edition of the Vermont Environmental Report is a full two inches taller than previous VERs. Don’t ask us how we did it, but we figured out a way to make the VER 12% bigger without using any additional paper. So you get more environmental news, and we get more room to move around in. Now, if we could just figure out a way to accommodate new development without using any more farmland . . . .
CULL COWS, NOT FARMERS

The greedy for solutions to the national milk surplus continues. But even as the prospect of a steep drop in milk prices looms, production continues to climb. USDA has revised its 1982 projections upwards: this year’s surplus is now expected to be 1.5 - 2% bigger than last year’s record milk harvest.

Meanwhile, government commodity support for hogs and corn is being cut at the seams. The entire 1982 dairy price support allocation has been used up, and the industry is in a tailspin over which remedy to swallow.

On the farm, production costs are rising relentlessly. Off the farm, consumers are buying less milk than last year. Milk sales are down 3% in filling advertising, behind such nutritious alternatives as soft drinks, beer, wine and coffee.

With even tougher times ahead, why are farmers making more milk? On the national level, the answer makes no sense. More production simply adds to the surplus, pressuring prices further downward.

But on an individual level, each producer’s first commitment is to his or her family’s survival. As prices drop, each farmer must make up for the decreasing profit margin by producing more milk. And so the cycle continues.

On May 5, the Reagan Administration announced that it would freeze the dairy price support level at $13.10 per hundredweight for the 1982/83 crop year. After that, it will allow Agriculture Secretary John Block to allow “total discretion” in setting the price. Dairy groups are vigorously opposed to this plan, anticipating that if the growing surplus persists, Block will simply cut the price until many farmers go broke, thereby decreasing the supply of milk.

The main problem with this “solution” is that Vermont farmers will suffer disproportionately for a national surplus which they did not create. Vermont produces a piddling 1.5% of the total U.S. milk supply. If there is a precipitous price drop (some say it will fall as low as $10 per cwt.), we could lose 30 - 40% of our dairy farms, according to Vermont Agriculture Commissioner George Dunsmore. A significant number of our small and medium-sized family farm operations (30 - 60 cows) simply do not have the paddling, the cash flow or the credit to ride out a storm of this magnitude.

The main alternative to the “let the price decide who survives” solution is some kind of quota system to hold down production. But there is little agreement on the mechanics and specifics of a fair quota system. Farmers everywhere, and virtually every producer group, milk co-op, farm organization and agricultural bureaucrat are embroiled in the discussion. As you keep posted as the industry tries to sort out a response to the Administration’s ultimatum.

For the “Miserly Loves Company” column, dairymen can find some solace in the fact that grain farmers, with a subsidy program it costs as costly, are in an even worse situation. And, if any good can be found in the Falklands conflict, it may be that the reduced availability of Argentinian beef will help raise the dreadfully low prices in the U.S. beef industry. Perhaps then we’ll begin to curb more cows and fewer farmers.

**EXTENSION SERVICE CONFERENCE RESULTS**

A total of 365 people representing 100 towns participated in a series of conferences on the need and methods for protecting farmland in Vermont. The Extension Service sponsored the conference series at five regional locations in February and March.

According to a summary report produced by Bob Townsend, Community and Rural Development Specialist for the Extension Service, four dominant issues were identified by participants at virtually every location:

- the need to improve net farm income to allow farmers to be more competitive in the market for land
- the impact of development and appraisal practices which sometimes account for high property taxation of farm land
- the need to identify which agricultural land should be protected from conversion, and
- conflicting governmental policies regarding the protection of farmland

The last issue was also related to the inability of communities to address all land-use needs (agriculture, industry, housing, etc.) in town plans and other land-use controls. Other issues included:

- the importance of maintaining farm family succession
- the need for public awareness of farming and farm problems
- funding for a farmland protection program (who should pay the cost, and who benefits from such programs?), and
- the distorted market for land in some regions.

Landowners’ private property rights and equity in the land were also identified as a main issue at three of the five conferences. There it was emphasized that land protection programs should recognize landowner rights and provide compensation for any reduction in the values of privately-held land. At the Randolph session, participants also discussed the landowners’ responsibility to properly manage the land, and the need for landowners to recognize their stewardship role.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

During the afternoon discussion groups, participants were asked to zero in on the five priority issues identified in their region. A few solutions or recommended actions emerged in common at several locations. Among them:

1. Completing the soil survey of Vermont to provide the data on which to base decisions for protecting agricultural land
2. Closing the 10-acre loophole in Act 250 to correct adverse regulatory effects and perceived distortions in the market for land
3. Strengthening local planning to provide a comprehensive focus for farmland protection. This method should be complemented by a sound agricultural land policy at the State level
4. Education of citizens, town officials and youth to increase public awareness of agricultural land issues and Vermont’s ability to plan for and maintain productive agricultural land for the future.

The Regional Conference series also provided support for specific “land protection techniques,” including land trusts, growth management policies, purchase or transfer of development rights, agricultural districting, and differential tax assessment of farmland. In general, farmers (37% of the conference participants) appeared satisfied with the types of programs Vermont has adopted to date (such as local planning and zoning and tax relief programs), but felt that such programs should be strengthened and placed in a framework of a definite State policy for the protection of Vermont’s agricultural land base.

A complete discussion of these and many additional conference recommendations is included in a full summary report available mid-June. To get a copy, write:

The Extension Service, Mount Hall, UVM, Burlington, VT 05405

**OTHER READING**

Stephanie Kaplan, a 1982 graduate of Vermont Law School and a former VNRC law clerk, has produced an excellent analysis of the strengths and limitations of Act 250 in protecting farmland in Vermont. Kaplan’s 30-page article, “The Effect of Act 250 on Prime Farmland in Vermont,” will appear in the next Vermont Law Review. To get a reprint, send $2.50 for postage and handling to Stephanie Kaplan, P.O. Box 322, South Royalton, VT 05068.

“Every twenty minutes, another small farmer disappears. You’re next.”

Drawing by P. Steinbr c 1982 The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.
Reagan Budget Could Undo Trail Protection Program

The latest word from Washington is that a timely letter to members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees would be a better investment in your future hiking enjoyment than a new pair of boots. Roger Berg, a representative of the Appalachian Trail Conference, sent us this update on funding for the Appalachian Trail protection program:

BACKGROUND

In 1968, Congress enacted the National Trail Systems Act, which designated the Appalachian Trail (AT) as one of the first National Scenic Trails. The Act gave the Federal Government responsibility for the AT, but authorized only $5 million for right-of-way acquisition.

By 1976, it was clear that further action was needed to prevent the continued deterioration of the Trail. Congress amended the Act to provide greater protection for the AT with a wider corridor and an authorization of $80 million to be expended over three fiscal years (FY77 to FY81) to purchase land or easements along the Trail.

However, because of budgetary constraints, only 47% of the authorization has actually been appropriated. In 1978, the Park Service, Forest Service, and Vermont, through the AT and Forest Service have received a total of only $42 million for Trail protection.

ACQUISITION PROGRESS

In spite of the funding limitations, the Park Service, Forest Service, and several states have made significant progress in protecting the Appalachian Trail. Of the 830 miles of trail unacquired in 1978:

- A permanent route and protective corridor have been designated for 815 miles.
- Surveys have been contracted on 745 miles.
- 113 miles of these lands have entered the final stages of land acquisition, including title search and appraisal.
- More than 342 miles have been acquired.
- Overall, approximately 1617 miles, or 22% of the Trail, is now permanently protected.

The Park Service now estimates that a total of $70 million — $20 million less than the FY79 authorization — would complete the Federal protection program.

EFFECTS OF REAGAN'S PROPOSED FY83 BUDGET

The Reagan Administration has recommended, essentially, zero-funding for the AT Project and other Park Service and Forest Service land acquisition programs in FY83. If Congress approves this proposal:

- The AT Protection Project will stop, after an expenditure of $40 million and the purchase of 25,000 acres.
- Many landowners who have agreed to provide funds for protection of the AT will not receive just compensation in a timely manner.
- Changing ownership patterns and development pressure will probably alter the completed corridor designs significantly. Several important natural areas are particularly vulnerable.
- If the Project is stopped, then later, the costs to taxpayers will greatly increase.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Write to the chairmen of the Senate and House subcommittees in charge of appropriations for the Interior Department and urge them to support adequate funding for the Appalachian Trail protection program.

Call or write Senator Leahy and Staff in Washington, and Representative Jefords and thank them for their strong support of the AT system. Important addresses:

Hon. J. Glenn F. Hoagland, Chairman, Senate Committee of Appropriations, Subcommittees on Interior and Related Agencies, Rayburn House Office Building, Room 308, Washington, DC 20515

Representative James Jeffords on the Appalachian Trail Protection Program

"Mr. Chairman, the Appalachian Trail is certainly one of our unique national treasures. Its 2100 miles from Maine to Georgia link more than 60 public land areas in 14 states . . . The Appalachian Trail Conference estimates that the Trail accommodates 8 to 4 million visitors each year."

"In 1978, Congress responded to the need for additional protection of the Appalachian Trail corridor by authorizing funds for the purchase of land or interests in lands along the Trail . . . "

"Most of the work on a permanent route and a protection corridor has been completed and 713 of the 830 miles of trail in need of protection have entered the final stages of land acquisition. Of this total, 342 miles have been acquired and I am here today to urge this subcommittee to so whatever it can to expedite this vital job."

"I am most familiar with the acquisition process in Vermont and I would like to share some of my history of this process because I think it illustrates the need for quick action on the entire project. Four years ago when the acquisition process entered its most recent phase, there was a great deal of opposition on the part of many Vermont landowners . . ."

"To the credit of all those involved in the project, notably the Appalachian Trail Conference, the Park Service, the State of Vermont's Environmental Conservation Agency, the Ottauquechee Land Trust and hiking groups . . . many of the problems and objections have been worked out . . ."

"Those closest to the process on both sides feel that the accommodation that has been reached in Vermont is nothing short of miraculous. This consensus will be threatened if adequate funds are not provided to allow the project to proceed as quickly as possible . . ."

"Mr. Chairman, the monies spent on protecting the Appalachian trail throughout its length will be nearly meaningless unless we finish what we have started . . ."

"Excerpted from testimony before the Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, May 13, 1982."
Report From: The Center for Northern Studies

Gail Osherenko

Students at the Center for Northern Studies in Wolcott, Vermont, are preparing for courses in an area which has become a focal point of enormous conflicts over resource use—the Circumpolar North. The arctic and subarctic zones of the northern hemisphere contain the largest remaining wilderness areas on the earth's surface, sources of the world's most productive fisheries, and vast reserves of oil, coal and other minerals. Coal will probably be mined in Cook Inlet (near Anchorage) and shipped to Toronto in Japan. In the next two decades, oil tankers will traverse the Northwest Passage (the traditional route through the Canadian Arctic). Already, Greenlandic fishermen have voiced their opposition to Canadian proposals to ship liquid natural gas (LNG) through Baffin Bay close to the coast of Greenland. Wolcott, where stannite mining in Misty Fjords National Monument in Southeast Alaska will require removal of whole mountain tops, and construction of access roads may pollute salmon-salmon-fishing areas.

Development in the North is already having a profound effect on native communities. The Inupiat (Inuits), who formerly raised reindeer for their own consumption, are now marketing reindeer meat internationally. Offshore oil development in the Beaufort Sea threatens the en-dangered bowhead whale. The bowhead is a principal food source for native people, and extinction or depletion would radically alter Inupiat (Eskimo) culture. Indigenous peoples across the Circumpolar North are asserting aboriginal rights, not only to land, but also to Ice-covered areas offshore where they have hunted and camped for centuries.

THE CENTER'S UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The Center for Northern Studies offers the only northern studies program in the United States available to undergraduates. The Center's year-long educational program is transdisciplinary, including courses in boreal and tundra plants and animals, resource management, native peoples and cultural ecology, political economy, and law.

Students choose their own courses during their junior year of college. Credit for Center courses has in the past been approved through the student's home college, but the Center has applied for Certification from the Vermont Higher Education Council and expects to be able to grant college course credit by next fall. Students need not be currently enrolled in a university or college program, and college graduates are welcome to apply.

The Center for Northern Studies was founded in 1976 by a group of Vermont residents. In its early years, the Center was primarily a research institution operating out of two centers (including the University of Alaska) responsible for evaluating large portions of Alaska's wilderness for inclusion in National Park, Forest, and Wildlife Refuge Systems.

Center for Northern Studies students explore Alpine tundra in New Hampshire with Center co-founder Steven Young, above. At right, students measure the effects of winter conditions at Elgin Pond in Craftsbury, Vermont. Photos courtesy of the Center for Northern Studies.

The Center's work in Alaska helped pave the way for the future management and preservation of the National Park, portions of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, and several other areas under the Alaska Lands Act of 1980.

Under the joint direction of founder-cum-president Steven Young (a paleo-ecologist and bio-geographer) and his brother, Oran Young (a political ecologist), the Center's educational programs have grown to a full year of closely interconnected courses in the natural and social sciences. Steven Young teaches Quaternary studies and courses on terrestrial ecosystems of the North, and Oran Young teaches resource management and Northern policy. Peter Marchand directs an intensive course in winter ecology each January, and George Wentzel, a cultural anthropologist who has traveled the length and breadth of the Canadian arctic, specializes in the ecology and social organization of indigenous cultures and peoples of the North.

AN OUTDOOR LABORATORY

Although Wolcott, Vermont, is far south of the Arctic Circle, temperatures in both summer and winter are nearly identical to temperatures in the Bering Sea and Leningrad. Our cool summers promote the growth of boreal forest vegetation, so that portions of our forest are nearly indistinguishable from those of interior Alaska and northern Can-

The deep and long-lasting snow pack characteristic of the Wolcott area is also comparable to that of much more northern areas. It is at least partially responsible for the affinities of mammal and bird fauna, including such boreal species as moose, whooping crane, and breeding populations of a number of birds not normally seen south of Canada. Retreating glaicers of the last Ice Age left their imprint everywhere. The combination of these physical and biological features give students an outdoor laboratory for the study of subarctic ecosystems without the logistical difficulties and costs of travel in the far North.

The Center is located on Bear Swamp, which was listed in the State Inventory of Vermont Natural Areas as one of the last best examples of boreal forest and muskeg in Vermont. The Center is also within a few miles of Wolcott Pond, one of Vermont's few remaining undeveloped ponds.

Last fall, students began a long-term project to trace the history of the swamp. They hope to discover why two bodies of water, which were both glacial lakes 12,000 years ago, have developed so differently. Bear Swamp became a boreal coniferous forest and muskeg, while Wolcott Pond remained a small lake. Center students took core samples for pollen analysis (which could reveal climatic changes) and plotted the swamp's development in the context of the original lake.

In order to explore the ecology and sociological characteristics of truly Arctic areas, students begin the fall semester with a field trip to Newfoundland or Atlantic Canada. There, they can observe tundra vegetation and geological formations typical of the most northern regions and stay in communities which are wholely dependent on renewable resource industries such as fishing and sealing. The trip also provides an opportunity to develop an esprit de corps among people who will be living and working together for the next several months.

THE GATEWAY TO THE ARCTIC

A brief review of the activities of past Center students reveals that Wolcott has become a gateway to the arctic. After college, one Center student became the first white woman to monitor the walrus harem on Little Diomede Island in the Bering Sea for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She is now employed by the U.S. Senate Committee which is considering reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act. Another past Center student will receive his Master's degree from Scott Polar Institute in England after winning a scholarship to study the effects of oil development in communities in the Circumpolar North. Two women who were Center students in the 1970s are using their northern studies education in very different ways: one is filming a documentary of native life in Alaska this summer and the other is an agricultural consultant in a native community in northwest Alaska.

As the need for competent, sensitive and well-trained professionals in the North grows, the Center for Northern Studies expects to help provide those professionals, be they scientists, nature writers, administrators, fish processors, film-makers or educators.

If you are interested in obtaining more information on the Center, applying for admission, using its library or trekking in Bear Swamp, please write or call:

Information Officer Center for Northern Studies Wolcott, Vermont 05880 (802) 888-4331

Gail Osherenko is a natural resources lawyer. She teaches a class called "Laws of the North" at the Center for Northern Studies.

"Report From," a regular feature of the Vermont Environmental Report, gives VNRN member organizations a chance to describe their programs and publicize activities of interest to the conservation community. If you want to submit a "Report," call Marion MacDonald at VNRN, (802) 223-3295.
Don Hooper

Self-congratulation is always fun, but never very persuasive. So rather than promising to do no more diabolically bad, play-by-play of the festivities at the April 17 Watt Luck Supper, when you read between the lines of some of the accounts which appeared in the Vermont press.

The following article by Kent Shaw appeared on the front page of the April 18, 2000 edition of The Valley Voice of Middlebury, Vermont:

Castaicton State College was the host Saturday night for some 600 Vermonters who came from hometowns as distant as Brattleboro and St. Johnsbury for dinner, and for an evening of song, story and speech intended to register stinging disapproval of the policies and presence in the state of U.S. Interior Secretary James Watt.

Widely billed as the "anti-Watt Dinner," and taking place at the same time as a Republican party fund-raiser at which the controversial Secretary spoke in Killington, the 6-plate event, sponsored by the Vermont Natural Resources Council, slammed the college's cafeteria.

To the evident delight of all, laughter echoed from ear to elbow with the group's united and sobering concern for the cause of protecting the environment. And politics, which moved this event's opposite up on the mountain, was scarcely mentioned.

A show of hands early in the evening revealed that members of the Lake Champlain Club, the Sierra Club, the Vermont Audubon Council, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Vernon VNA easy to fill for three-quarters of the crowd.

At the outset, master of ceremonies Richard Hathaway of Plainfield said he was honored to present the night's biggest prize, given for creating the nation's first national monument, the Green Mountain National Park.

"I want you all to know: there's no nobility in this," Hathaway added.

Secretary Watt's environmental policies — which encompass the greatly expanded leasing of offshore oil fields, proposals for increased strip mining and coal leasing, the elimination of various wildlife planning requirements, a wide variety of which by which the event "would long be remembered," to Dartmouth University Professor Walter Reuther: "It's a society of a variety of Stocker's submission, "Watt Go Oh," won for the retired chemist a frozen Butterball turkey.

"I don't see what there's no nobility in this," Hathaway added.

Secretary Watt's environmental policies — which encompass the greatly expanded leasing of offshore oil fields, proposals for increased strip mining and coal leasing, the elimination of various wildlife planning requirements, a wide variety of which by which the event "would long be remembered," to Dartmouth University Professor Walter Reuther: "It's a society of a variety of Stocker's submission, "Watt Go Oh," won for the retired chemist a frozen Butterball turkey.

产业园 Protection Agency head] Anne Gorsch. Ronald Reagan is the real James Watt. Mr. Watt is just another stunt-man in just another cowboy movie.

We are here tonight to serve notice on the politicians of any color, or anyone who would aspire to public office, that Vermont is not for sale to anyone," Reidel said. "Get involved! Let this evening be remembered as a truly new beginning."

Former State Rep. Sam Lloyd, who read aloud a long list of Vermont political leaders whom he cited as deserving recognition for striving to make state environmental law more stringent, called on the audience to consider the "gift" of Watt to Vermont.

Watt, whom Lloyd labeled "the living, breathing symbol of the fast buck philosophy in American government," was to be welcomed by virtue of his "extremism," Lloyd said, "I think of the presence of Mr. Watt here as a very good thing." "This ought to put us back on the track of environmental sanity.

Don't be ungrateful for this Trojan horse," Lloyd declared. "Because unlike that unfortunate city long ago, see what this horse is that Watt's Funeral Ball," and in a sing-along led by bellringer John Nutting, the gathering broke into four-part harmony for Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land."

Candace Page of the Burlington Free Press also captured the flavor:

Nearby 500 Vermont environmentalists packed into a steamy college dining hall Saturday in an enthusiastic protest against the environmental policies of the Reagan administration. Although the message was serious, the mood through most of the Saturday evening was light-hearted as Watt was made the butt of humorous songs and puns on his name. The gathering looked like a cross between a family reunion and a pep rally as elderly women in neatly tailored suits and long-haired mothers with small babies joined to sing "This Land Is Your Land," a kind of anthem of the environmental movement.

In a Time-Arugs/Burlington Herald article on the political fund-raiser where Watt spoke, Tom Slattery wrote: "The Watt dinner itself was so sparsely attended, party officials barred reporters from entering the banquet hall, an unprecedented event in Vermont political dinners."

In contrast to the environmental dinner which was sold out a week before the event, Slattery reported that there were about 200 in attendance at the Watt political reception and that officials admitted having sold only 85 tickets to the fund-raising dinner which followed.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

The Hard Core: Chan and Fran Archer and Dave Capon won maple syrup prizes for being members of all five environmental groups sponsoring The Dinner.

Watt's In a Name? There were more than 50 suggestions for names for the dinner (including: "Watt's Up!" "Watt?, We're Worried!" "Watt Luck, Supper, Watt's My Beef, Watt's Yours," and "Get Watt's Poster Out of the Interior.") Frank Tagle of Woodstock deserves special mention for coming up with a 18-course menu of chemical concoctions andumped resources appropriate to the occasion.

Tom Hodgson, Franklin Heyburn and storyteller Tim Jennings of the lively three-piece Sweet Corn Broadcasters provided excellent entertainment with some old time good time foot-stompin' music.

Dave Griffiths, accompanying himself on guitar, followed his wonderful selection of Orange songs at VNRC's 1981 Annual Meeting with another fine performance before an appreciative crowd.

Enrico Dick Hathaway, master of the hilarious non sequitur, ambiguous allusion and oracular epiphany in America, went along with his inspired introductions, interruptions and invocations. Wrote Marcia Manupaul of the Dallas Daily Driller: "On a scale of one to four, Hathaway rates six."

Fay and Jud Lewitt and John Notting, as mentioned above, made splendid music.

Humorist Danny Gore closed the evening by bringing his unique down-to-earth candor, common sense and wit a fur piece from his Avery's Gore: "I have no quarrel with Mr. Watt's right to speak," Gore said, "I am being consistently and unnecessarily and improperly and uninvited to read the Declaration of Independence."

"... but to listen. . . ." Danny was drowned in laughter and applause.

WATT OTHERS SAID

To be fair to those who sat this out one, here are excerpts from two letters received before the event:

Your proposal for The Dinner is most disappointing; it is an opportunity for all of us to express our concern, but I do not approve of your tactics. This is a protest that you propose is like the ostrich holding his head in the sand. Your absence from Mr. Watt's speech at Killington will not affect national environmental policy one iota . . . .

And another:

I'm an ardent conservationist, but it is my personal opinion that such action as you describe herein (in the dinner invitation) belongs in the dirty tricks department.

We didn't come close to satisfying the complaint below, either:

The reason I gave ($10) last year was to help stop I-93 from slicing up the Bartlett notch. All I know now is that this project slipped up, tomorrow James Watt will come, and go without so much as one screw or one pound of feathers on him. Please save your postage.

We should also note that many who attended The Dinner trudged to Burlington the next night to hear Secretary Watt proclaim himself the nation's "chief environmentalist" and recite his accomplishments. Fortunately, the format of the Allen Lecture Series encourages questions, discussion and rebuttal. The Series' theme, "Landscapes and Landowners: Private Needs and Public Interest," included a variety of vantage points for a full day in public forum. Audubon President John Finley, including Address, "The Foxes in the Henhouse, was excellent.

VNRC is proud to have co-sponsored the "Watt Go Oh" Dinner. It was not an easy task and we want to thank everyone who participated for making it so.

The Dinner was actually co-sponsored by five environmental groups: VNRC, The Lake Champlain Commission, the National Wildlife Federation, the Vermont Sierra Club, and the Vermont Audubon Council.
HATS OFF TO LUCY BUGBEE

VNRC doffed its hat to Lucy Bugbee at a reception in Fairlee, Vermont, on May 22nd in honor of
her 90th birthday. Several hundred well-wishers looked on while Seward Weber, the Council's Executive Direc-
tor, read a "Citation in Appreciation of Lucy Bugbee," and presented her with a framed, hand-lettered
version of the same. The Citation read, in part:

"Not only has she undertaken to protect important environmental features, like the wildflowers of
Vermont, on her own and at her own expense, but she has repeatedly joined with others in their good
works and efforts. The Vermont Natural Resources Council is es-
pecially grateful for her unstinting support when we were just getting
started."

"For your concern for the envi-
ronment expressed through many
useful projects and the concern you
have instilled in others, you have
made Vermont a better place to be,
and it is for this lifetime of service
that VNRC is pleased and proud
to recognize your outstanding ser-
vices to the environment and the
State of Vermont."

Lucy Bugbee is a founding mem-
er of the Council, and she attended the Council's Annual Meeting at Burke Mountain last year. "Lucy's
Bog" was named in her honor.

VNRC PROTESTS ATTEMPT TO WEaken FEDERAL RESOURCE
PLANNING AND FOREST MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

In an April letter to the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, VNRC strongly objected to a Reagan Ad-
ministration proposal to "streamline" and weaken Federal regula-
tions concerning the Resource Plan-
Seward Weber, the Council's Exec-
utive Director, said in his letter that:

"The overall effect of these pro-
posed changes would be to ignore
ecological realities in favor of a mar-
ketplace mentality which promotes high timber yields and downsplays
wildlife values, wilderness values, integrated pest management and the
protection of biologically unprodu-
cative areas. In the long run, ... this
will spell trouble both ecologically
and economically."

We recently received word from a friend in Washington that the Vermont Congressional delegation is
working hard to head off these proposed changes and that the U.S. Forest Service and Congress are re-
ceiving so many objections that the Administration is becoming cautious about putting the new regula-
tions into effect. VNRC salutes and thanks all Vermonters who have conveyed their reservations about this matter to Washington.

SEWARD WEBER AWARDED RICHARD KING MELLON FELLOWSHIP

The School of Forestry and En-
vironmental Studies at Yale Uni-
versity has announced the award of a
Richard King Mellon Fellowship to Seward Weber, Executive Direc-
tor of the Vermont Natural Re-
sources Council. The Fellowship,
which carries a stipend, will allow
Weber to study and teach at Yale
during the 1982-83 academic year
beginning in September.
Weber will be one of three Fel-
lows selected from approximately 60 applicants from environmental
non-profit organizations around the
country. He will study environ-
mental law, ecology, forestry and organization management.
Weber will take a nine-month leave-of-absence without pay from his position at the Council. Don
Hooper, Assistant Director, will serve as Acting Director in his ab-
sence, and Marion MacDonald, part-
time Editor of the Council's pub-
lications, will work full-time and
assume many of Hooper's duties.

NEW MEMBERS IN MARCH AND APRIL

VNRC extends a hearty welcome to the new members who joined us in March and April:
Linda Matteson; Marion R. Holmes; Craig Leggett; Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Easton, Jr.; Eugene Werner; Sally Green; Benjamin W. Drew; Paul Lyon; Robert Slade; Arnold and Irene Kirchheimer; George H. Crossman; Mrs. R.K. Stevens; David B. Brautigam; Five-Twenty-Five Foun-
dation; Mrs. H. H. Humberger; Harry Culvert; Barbara MacDonald; John G. Reed; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Sturges; Raster Peterson; Harry Fenner; Nor-
mun MacBeth; R. Edward and Fay Ely; Barbara Bowdery; Mary S. Shakes-
ppear; Mark Skalak; Kathleen Elliott; Philip Cechini; Margaret Carecchio; Ellisworth Benson; Gunnar I. Baldwin; Cees Cunningham; Harrison L. Ben-
nett; Denise Van Hemert; Hal Miller, Jr.; Philip Cook; Anne Sarcia; T. Paul Kane; AED Development Fund; June L. Nyman; Ramona Barr; C. Peter Strong; Deane and Anne Stevens; Neil Mostor; Seth Bongard; Ruth- Ellen Blauer; Stanley C. Swan; Mary Pat Farrell; Richard Wisswall; Mr. and Mrs.
Allan N. Macley; New England Telephone; Fred Dunnington; David A.
Gayer; Richard B. Green; Patricia Nye; John G. Gans; Bruce and Judith
Chalmers; Mr. and Mrs. David Yandell; Winfred Clark; Patricia and Lau-
rence Cose; Priscilla Kimberly; RUPFL.

SPRING BOARD MEETING

VNRC's Board of Directors met at the Brown Derby in Montpelier on April 26. The Directors spent much of the meeting discussing the mechanics of Seward Weber's leave-of-absence to accept a Mellon Fel-
lowship at Yale.

Committee Chairmen reported on a wide range of projects, including a forest policy statement, an or-
ientation kit for Board members, and VNRC bumper stickers (see the next VER for details), to name a
few. The Energy Committee is in-
vestigating ways for VNRC to par-
ticipate in developing a State Ener-
gy Plan.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 9 at the Windham Foun-
dation in Grafton, Vermont.

SECOND PRINTING FOR "WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?"

What's Going On Down There?
Vermont's Ground Water, has gone back to press thanks to a generous gift from Defense-Henry and Gold-
berg-Zoino & Associates. VNRC published the 16-page handbook last year under a grant from the En-
vironmental Protection Agency, but the first printing of 1000 cop-
ies ran out months ago.
If you didn't get a copy the first
time around, you should place your order now. Just send your name and address and $5 for postage and handling to:
VNRC
7 Main Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Father's Day Gift Idea*

I never know what to get for my father. He's not the man who has everything; he's the man who never
wears anything out (and never throws anything away). He still has ties I gave him 15 years ago. Must be
his Scottish heritage.

Anyway, this year I took a cue from Sylvia Stewart, our Membership Secretary, and gave him a mem-
bership in the Vermont Natural Resources Council. I figure it's the perfect gift: you can't wear it out, it doesn't
take up much room, it's not fattening, and one size fits all.

If I can't make an environmentalist of him, I'll at least keep him mildly amused! Here's to you, Dad...

Name

Street or RFD

Town or City

State

Zip

( ) Please bill me

( ) Enclosed is $ for a membership in the following category: ( ) Individual - $15.00 ( ) Family - $20.00 ( ) Student - $5.00 ( ) Fixed or Limited Income - $5.00 ( ) Business - $75.00 ( ) Sustaining - $50.00 ( ) Supporting - $100.00

*Also recommended for birthdays, anniversaries, house-warmings, bridal showers and Bennington Battle Day.
The Politics of Acid Rain

(Continued from page 1)

ity standards, relax auto emissions standards, and call for only minimal reductions in sulfur oxide emissions. Henry Waxman (D-CA) introduced HR5555 as an alternative to the Laxen bill. Waxman's "Clean Air Bill" would maintain current emissions standards for cars, maintain current deadlines for compliance with EPA air quality standards, preserve the PSD system and enact a program to reduce acid rain. However, the committee has consistently backed HR5252.

The situation in the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works is more promising. Senator Robert Stafford of Vermont chairs the committee. He opposes HR5252 and has gone on record in support of a 40% cut in sulfur emissions from states east of the Mississippi. Stafford thinks Laxen's bill "goes much too far." The committee has repeatedly voted down attempts by members to weaken the Act by making PSDs optional for states and by not requiring controls for pollutants in amounts less than 100 tons per year, as proposed by Senator Symms (R-ID).

In both the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works and the House Subcommittee on Energy, the debate over the Clean Air Act may well continue until after the upcoming Congressional elections.

STATE VERSUS STATE

The Clean Air Act debate pits state against state as Midwesterners fight for reduced emission standards and Northeasterners fight for stronger controls on coal-powered utilities. The Vermont Agency of Environmental Conservation has offered testimony in support of petitions from New York, Pennsylvania, and Maine in an attempt to force the EPA to offer "relief from the devast-

ting effects of sulfate-laden air pollution from several Midwestern states." Rich Poirier, an air quality planner with the Vermont Agency, says that if the EPA does not respond to the petitions, the case will probably go to court.

The acid rain problem crosses international boundaries as well as state boundaries. The Canadian government maintains that Canada receives five times as much sulfur from the south as it exports. John Roberts, Canada's Minister for the Environment, says, "If we wait much longer we will have lost our entire lake system in Eastern Canada." He says he is "very frustrated" with the Reagan Administration's apparent belief that what is needed is more research rather than action.

President Reagan thinks research on acid rain should continue, and it is one EPA program which will not suffer any budget cuts this year. Joseph Dow of the American Electric Power Company (which funds the UVM study) says that "We should have enough information in four or five years to make a rational decision." But continued research may well be a form of inaction. As John Roberts says, "The problem is not unsolvable, but if we wait three or four years, it will be.

In a letter to the Coalition of Adirondecks to Neutralize Acid Rain Inflow, Budget Director David Stockman writes:

"I kept reading these stories that there are 170 dead lakes in New York that will no longer carry any fish or aquatic wildlife, and it occurred to me to ask the question... how much are the fish worth in these 170 lakes that account for 4% of the total lake area of New York? Does it make sense to spend billions of dollars controlling emissions from sources in Ohio and elsewhere if you're talking about a very marginal volume of dol-

New York State Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink replies:

"New York State did not set aside the Adirondack preserve and protect it... only to have David Stockman tell us that it is not cost-beneficial to the people of Ohio to pay for the clean-up of their own pollution."

Vermonters are justifiably proud of their tradition of independence and self-reliance, but only a strong national Clean Air Act can protect our state's many conservation achievements. Vermonters are urged to write to Senators Stafford and Leahy and Representative Jeffords and to encourage them to support the Laxen-Reagan "Dirty Air Bill."

Letters should be addressed to:

Senator Robert Stafford
Room 5219
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patrick Leahy
Room 427
Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative James Jeffords
Room 1524
Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

This is the second article in a two-
part series on acid rain by Lynda Downie, an intern with the Vermont Natural Resources Council and a senior at the University of Vermont.

Environmental Report

Vermont Natural Resources Council
7 Main Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

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May/June 1982