

# VNRC's Environmental Report

May/June 1982

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Vol. 3 No. 3

## The Politics of Acid Rain

Lyndia Downie

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 emissions, and most of New England's acid rain originates in the smokestacks of Midwestern industries and utilities.

### TECHNOLOGICAL FIXES

One way to reduce sulfur emissions 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. Naturally, 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 suspended in liquid. Pyrite, which contains much of the sulfur found in coal, sinks to the bottom and the coal is skimmed off the top. Washing is relatively cheap because it removes 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-

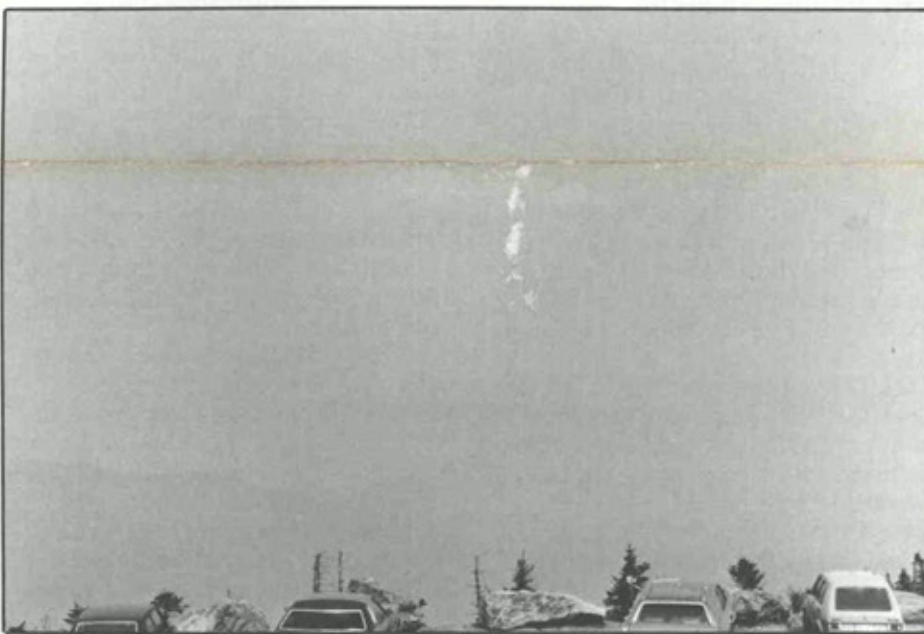
ical process which can remove 75 - 90% of the sulfur dioxide produced by high sulfur coal combustion. Scrubbers filled with limestone neutralize the sulfur dioxide gas in the emissions stack before it reaches the atmosphere.

Scrubbers are expensive to install and maintain (\$100 - \$200 per kilowatt of installed generating capacity), and can add as much as one-third to the cost of constructing and operating 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 adipic acid (a crystalline powder derived from petroleum) to the limestone in the scrubbers. This reduces the amount of limestone required and removes up to 99% 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.

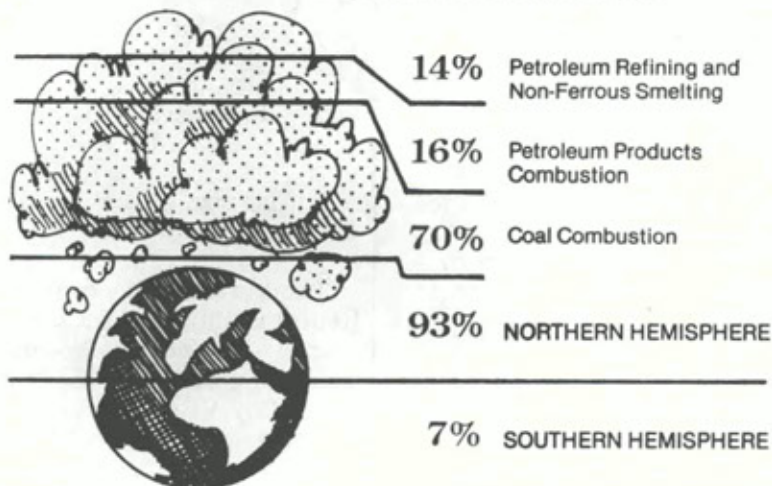
Reducing sulfur emissions at the source may be expensive, but it is far less costly than restoring ecosystems which have been damaged by acid rain. In Sudbury, Ontario, emissions from the International Nickel Company smelter (the largest source of sulfur dioxide in the world) killed all of the fish in 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



If you still don't believe Vermont has an air quality problem, take a look at these photos. What often passes for "haze" is no more than water vapor condensing on particles of sulfate and other air pollutants. These two photos were taken with the same camera, film type, focal length and F-stop from the same point atop Mount Mansfield on days when cloud cover, ceiling height and relative humidity were virtually the same. The only significant difference was the concentration of sulfate in the air: 5.0 micrograms per cubic meter in the photo above and 30.0 micrograms per cubic meter in the photo below.

Photos courtesy of the Vermont Air and Solid Waste Division. Drawings on pages 1 and 8 courtesy of the Environmental Protection Agency.

### GLOBAL HUMAN-CAUSED SO<sub>x</sub> EMISSIONS



which had been leached by the acidified water. Experiments with liming in Europe have had similar results. It is at best a limited and expensive solution.

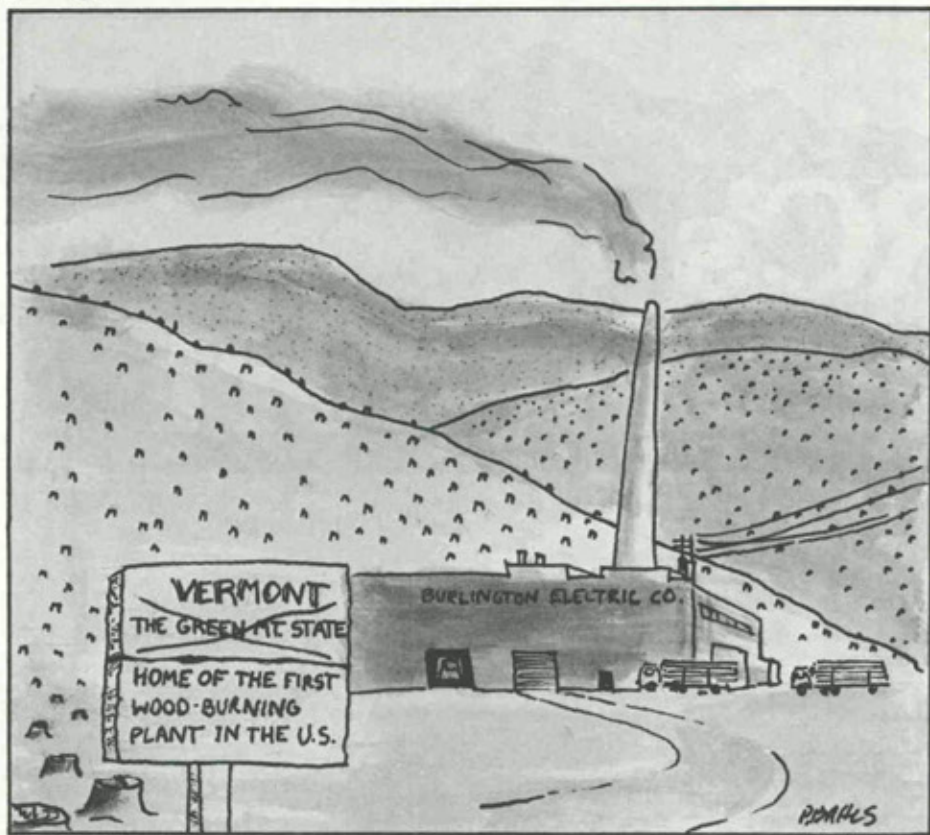
At an acid rain conference in Ontario in 1980, it was suggested that zoologists might breed an acid-resistant fish. Doctor Harold Harvey, zoologist at the University of Toronto, aptly replied, "It makes no sense to breed an acid-resistant fish. Would we breed a gas-resistant canary for coal-miners?"

One of the most practical methods of reducing sulfur dioxide emis-

sions is to burn less coal. It is ironic, as F.H. Bormann, Professor of Forest Ecology at Yale, notes, that New Englanders, who have a good conservation record, are breathing air with a high sulfur content which is not of their own making. Midwestern states reap the economic benefits of cheap electricity generated by high sulfur coal, but New England pays the price in dirty air, acidified lakes and contaminated water supplies. This imbalance will continue as long as there are no systematic controls on long-range transportation of air pollution.

(Continued on page 8)





Cartoon by Peter Bahls of Burlington, Vermont

## On the Hill

The Status of Significant Environmental Bills at the Close of the 1982 Vermont General Assembly

H.197 is part of a general revision of Vermont's planning and zoning enabling legislation. It clarifies procedures for adopting town plans and zoning ordinances and sets a statute of limitations for legal challenges based on procedural defects. It also clarifies the relationship between local and regional plans in proceedings before District Environmental Commissions and the Public Service Board, and allows the Commissions to consider the regional plan in its entirety when a proposed development would have a regional impact. The bill passed and was signed by the Governor.

H.220 requires the Public Service Board to encourage implementation of energy efficiency and load management measures which will be cost-effective on a life cycle basis for utilities and their customers. It was passed by both houses.

H.402 reallocates responsibilities among the Water Resources Department, the Secretary of Environmental Conservation and the Water Resources Board. The bill passed by the House included a provision which would have stripped the State of its jurisdiction over fragile shoreline areas and limited it to lakes and ponds at low-water mark. The Senate amended the bill to retain the State's present jurisdiction to the mean water-level mark, and, after a brief tug-of-war, the House concurred.

H.460, the Dam Safety Bill, includes a provision which makes minimum streamflow one of the criteria the Water Resources Board and the Public Service Board can use in determining whether or not to grant a "certificate of public good" for construction of a new dam or significant alteration of an existing one. But the statute only applies to dams with surface im-

poundments of more than 500,000 cubic feet, and more than half of the dams seeking State permits this year are smaller than that. Passed both houses.

H.513, a bill to close the so-called "10-acre loophole" in Act 250, passed the House by a surprising 95 - 46 margin, but the bill ran out of steam in the Senate and was mired in the Senate Agriculture Committee at the end of the session.

H.602 regulates oil and natural gas drilling and brings it under Act 250's jurisdiction. The bill passed both houses.

H.708 establishes a State energy policy emphasizing conservation and use of renewable resources, in-state production facilities, and avoidance of undue adverse effects on the environment in connection with production or use of energy. The Act also requires the Public Service Department to conduct an ongoing State energy study with the assistance of a five-member advisory committee. This bill became law without much fanfare, but it could have a very significant impact on Vermont's energy future because it requires that all State policies and regulations conform to the State energy policy. The bill passed both houses.

S.83 authorizes the Environmental Secretary, upon the recommendation of an Endangered Species Committee, to compile a list of threatened and endangered species. It was a photo finish, but the House and Senate compromised on a committee including the three Commissioners of Agriculture, Fish and Game, and Forests, Parks and Recreation, and six additional members to be appointed by the Governor, including two flora experts, two fauna experts and two individuals actively engaged in agriculture. MM

## 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 . . . . .

# Calendar

May 22 - September 11

The White Creek Field School and the Pringle Herbarium will hold a Traveling School of Botany in Vermont taught by Jerry Jenkins of White Creek and Peter Zika of Burlington. The school will meet for nine sessions of two days each, will combine exploration and classwork and will offer a college-level course in field botany, plant identification and plant communities. Tuition and materials: \$150. 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 WBZ-TV 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, Vermont. The all-day affair will include a bird walk, a bicycle trip to the Plainfield, NH, Wildflower Area, a fishing derby, music, a canoe trip, light refreshments and information tables. Contact Bob Linck of the Connecticut River Watershed Council at (603)643-5672, or Annie Davis, National Coordinator, at (802)295-3316 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 VNRC's Don 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 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 Institute of Natural Science will sponsor a Water Ecology Workshop including ecological studies of wetlands and open water habitats and a canoe field trip. Michael Caduto and Jenefer Brettell lead the workshop. Call VINS, 457-2779.

Monday - Friday, June 28 - July 2

An environmental education workshop for teachers sponsored by Shelburne Farms Resources will highlight teaching methods and activities which use school grounds and community resources. Graduate and recertification credits available. Call Shelburne Farms Resources, 985-3222.

July, all month

VINS sponsors one-week sessions for children all during the month of July, where children participate in outdoor environmental and sensory awareness activities. 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 agricultural 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 8th Annual Conference and Celebration 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, Box 335, Antrim, NH 03440, (603)588-2791, 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 at Johnson State College's Didden Auditorium sponsored by the Vermont Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program. For information about the conference, write or call The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Montpelier, VT 05602, 828-3375.

Saturday, August 28

The 2nd annual Vermont Heritage Festival at the historic Bent Hill settlement in Warren will begin at noon sharp with an auction, craft demonstrations, musical entertainment and a gourmet lunch. Last year, VNRC raised over \$6000 at this fund-raising party and celebration of Vermont's natural and built environments.

### VERMONT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Editor  
Marion MacDonald

Executive Director  
Seward Weber

Chairman of the Board  
Carl Reidel

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Please address all correspondence regarding this publication to VER Editor, VNRC, 7 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 223-2328.



# Farmink

"Farmink" is a more-or-less regular column covering the latest developments in the fertile field of farmland preservation by Don Hooper, a goat farmer who moonlights as VNRC's Assistant Director.



## CULL COWS, NOT FARMERS

The grope 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 - 3% bigger than last year's record milk harvest.

Meanwhile, government Commodity Credit Corporation warehouses are bursting at the seams. The entire 1982 dairy price support allocation has already been expended 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 ranks a lowly fifth in beverage 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, it 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 own 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 rest of 1982. After that, it will allow Agriculture Secretary John Block "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 padding, 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 coop, farm organization and agricultural bureaucrat are embroiled in the discussion. We'll keep you posted as the industry tries to sort out a response to the Administration's ultimatum.

For the "Misery Loves Company" column, dairymen can find some solace in the fact that grain farmers, with a subsidy program 3 - 4 times 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 cull 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 Townshend, 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

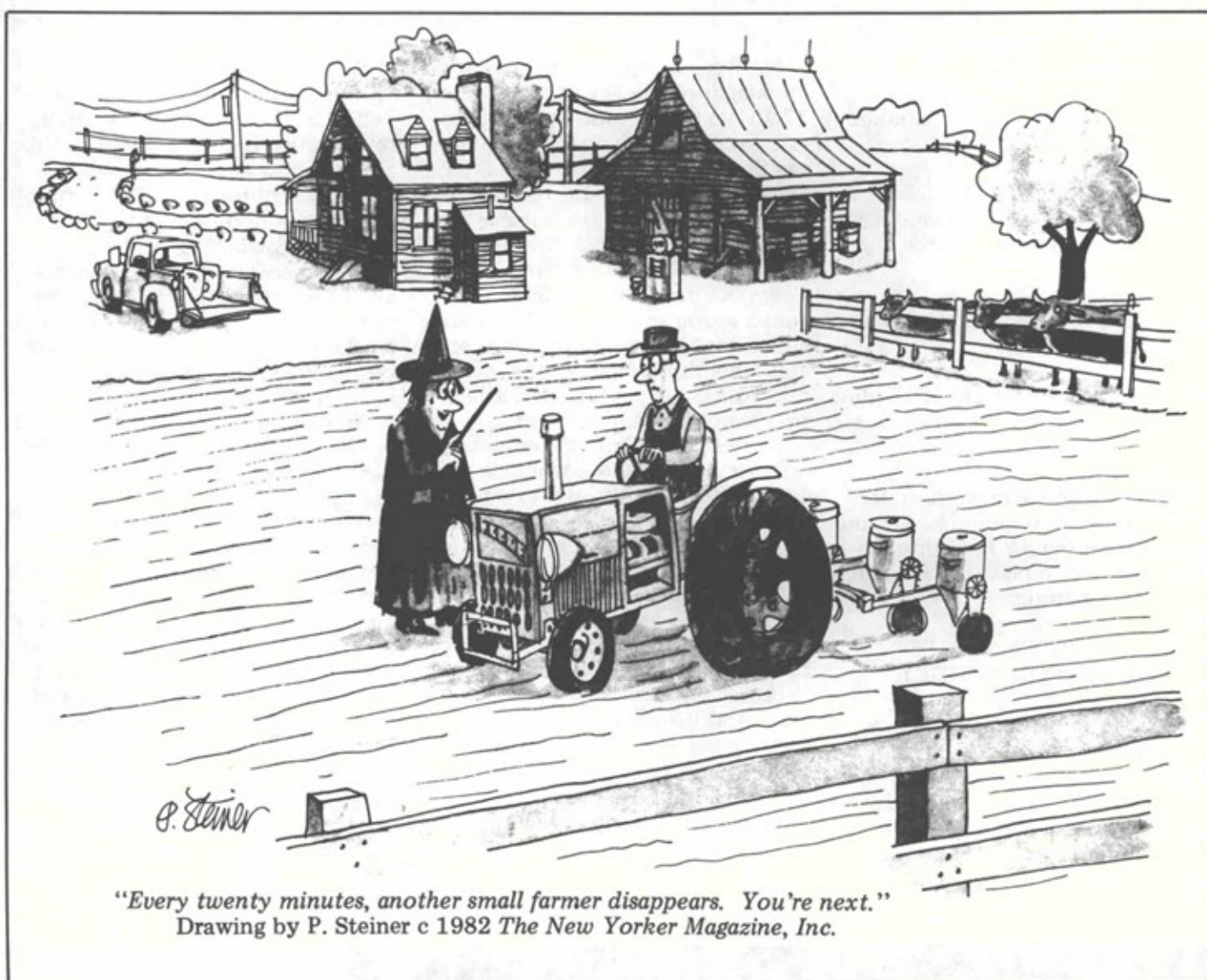
The Regional Conference series also provided support for specific "land protection techniques," including land trusts, growth management policies, purchase or transfer of development rights, agricultural districting, and differential tax assessment of farmland. In general, farmers (37% of the conference 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 in mid-June. To get a copy, write:

The Extension Service  
Morrill 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 \$2.00 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. Steiner 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 Sternberg, 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 1978, 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 \$90 million to be expended over three fiscal years (FY79 to FY81) to purchase land or easements along the Trail.

However, because of budgetary constraints, only 47% of the authorization has actually been appropriated for the AT; the Park Service 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 unprotected in 1978:

- A permanent route and protective corridor have been designed for 815 miles
- Surveys have been contracted on 745 miles
- 713 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 77% 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 sell lands 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 recommenced 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 Senators Leahy and Stafford and Representative Jeffords and thank them for their strong support of the AT system. Important addresses:

Hon. James A. McClure, Chairman, Senate Committee of Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior

PROGRESS OF TRAIL PROTECTION IN VERMONT*	
Total mileage of AT in State . . . .	127.1
Total mileage protected by Forest Service and State prior to 1978 . . . . .	67.8
Miles needing protection as of 1978 . . . . .	59.3
Protection of Trail by Park Service and Forest Service since 1978 . . . . .	14.3
Miles of Trail needing protection at present . . . . .	45.0
*100% of the final Trail Corridor has been designed; 75% of the surveying work has been completed.	

Dirkson Senate Office Building Room 1208 Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Sydney R. Yates, Chairman, House Committee of Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior Rayburn House Office Building Room B-308 Washington, DC 20515

Senators Stafford and Leahy and Representative Jeffords -- see page 8

## 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 3 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 lands 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 do whatever it can to expeditiously finish the job."*

*"I am most familiar with the acquisition process in Vermont and I would like to share some of the history of that 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 land acquisition 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.

## The Lovinses at the Legislature

On Wednesday, March 31st, at the height of the Legislative session, VNRC and the House Energy Committee co-sponsored an address at the State House by noted energy consultants Amory and Hunter Lovins. Amory Lovins is a nuclear physicist and self-admitted "former high technologist" who authored, *Soft Energy Paths*, a kind of Bible for conservation and renewable resource advocates. Hunter Lovins adds several other dimensions to the team in her roles as lawyer, political scientist, sociologist and forester.

More than 130 people crowded into the hearing room where the Lovinses eloquently supported their thesis that the so-called "soft" path to energy security is inevitable, cheap and practical.

They likened the current energy situation to a leaky bathtub: "We are in the position of somebody who can't keep the bathtub full of water because the water keeps running out. And people are still trying to sell us a bigger water heater when what we need most is a plug."

"There have been some very clever plugs invented lately," Amory Lovins added, citing as an example a factor

of 20 improvement in the energy efficiency of refrigerators.

"In fact," he said, "since 1979, this country has got about 100 times as much new energy from energy savings as from all expansions of energy supply put together."

Weather stripping, insulation, heat exchangers, window shutters and other conservation measures can deliver energy at 3/10 - 4/10¢ per kilowatt-hour, but the running cost alone for a new nuclear plant is 1 - 2¢ kw/hr. "So if you just built Seabrook and it were absolutely free, it would be cheaper for the region to write it off than to operate it."

The Lovinses argued forcefully for the potential of small-scale renewable sources to meet our long-term energy demands. Mr. Lovins claims that the U.S. is already getting about twice as much delivered energy from wood as from nuclear power, "which had a head-start of 30 years and 40 billion dollars in direct federal subsidies."

Lovins concluded that this "quiet energy revolution" holds much promise for a state like Vermont, which is "poor in fuels but very

rich in renewable energy and in mineable inefficiencies for most abundant energy resources."

Hunter Lovins hails from Vermont. Both Hunter and Amory have returned to the Northeast this spring to teach at Dartmouth as Luce Professors of Environmental Science.

## NEW RECYCLING GROUP TACKLES TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT MARKETS, EDUCATION

We all agree that recycling preserves natural resources and protects our air and water from contaminations, yet very few of us -- even in this environmentally-aware state -- practice recycling in our own homes. Why don't more people recycle? And why is it so hard to find markets for recycled materials?

The newly-formed Association of Vermont Recyclers is working to promote public awareness of the need for recycling and waste reduction and to improve markets for recycled materials. If you'd like to join AVR and receive its newsletter, call or write Connie Leach, Association of Vermont Recyclers, P.O. Box 965, Rutland, VT 05701.



# Report From:

## The Center for Northern Studies

Gail Osherenko

Students at the Center for Northern Studies in Wolcott, Vermont, are preparing for careers 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, some 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 markets 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. Molybdenum mining in Misty Fjords National Monument in Southeast Alaska will require removal of whole mountaintops, and construction of access roads may pollute salmon-spawning streams.

Development in the North is already having a profound effect on native and non-native communities in the far North. The Sami (Lapps), who formerly raised reindeer for their own consumption, are now marketing reindeer meat internationally. Offshore oil development in the Beaufort Sea threatens the endangered bowhead whale. The bowhead is a principal food source for native peoples, 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 cultures, ecology, political economy and law.

Students ordinarily come to the Center 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 1971 as a non-profit corporation. In its early years, the Center was primarily a research institute. It was one of two major centers (including the University of Alaska) responsible for evaluating large portions of Alaska 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 aquatic responses to winter conditions at Eligo 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 Noatak National Park, portions of Katmai and Kobuk National Monuments and several other areas under the Alaska Lands Act of 1980.

Under the joint direction of founder Steven Young (a paleo-ecologist and bio-geographer) and his brother Oran Young (a political economist), the Center's educational program has 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 Wenzel, a cultural anthropologist who has worked extensively in 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 Anchorage 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 Canada. Every species of tree native to boreal forests of Canada and Alaska occurs naturally in the vicinity of the Center for Northern Studies.

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, snowshoe hare, and breeding populations of a number of birds not normally seen south of Canada. Retreating glaciers 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 adjacent to Bear Swamp, which was listed in the State Inventory of Vermont Natural Areas as one of the four 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 probed the swamp to determine the contours of the original lake.

In order to explore the ecology and sociology characteristic of truly Arctic areas, students begin the fall term at the Center 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 wholly 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 harvest on Little Diomed 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 northwestern 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 05680  
(802) 888-4331

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

"Report From," a regular feature of the *Vermont Environmental Report*, gives VNRC 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 VNRC, (802) 223-2328.



# Watt Happened at The Dinner....

Don Hooper

Self-congratulation is always fun, but never very persuasive. So rather than produce our own, admittedly biased, play-by-play of the festivities at the April 17 Watt Luck Supper, we'll let 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 20 edition of *The Valley Voice* of Middlebury, Vermont:

Castleton 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 \$5-a-plate event, sponsored by the Vermont Natural Resources Council,\* jammed the college's cafeteria.

To the evident delight of all, laughter stood elbow 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 Committee, the Sierra Club, the Vermont Audubon Council, the National Wildlife Federation, and the hosting VNRC easily accounted 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 name by which the event "would long be remembered," to Dartmouth University Professor Walter Stockmeyer. To a boisterous ovation, Stockmeyer's submission, "Watt Go Ohm," won for the retired chemist a frozen Butterball turkey.

"I want you all to know there's no symbolism 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 lands leasing, the elimination of various wildlife planning requirements, a widely perceived failure to address the issue of acid rain, and attempts to open up vast sections of wilderness lands to commercial interests -- repeatedly drew the event to serious, if even-tempered, comment.

University of Vermont scientist Carl Reidel said in a brief speech that too much attention paid to Watt would draw focus away from what Reidel considered the broad threat to the nation's environment posed by the whole of President Reagan's administration.

"Just another stunt-man"

"We do not deny the need for economic growth," Reidel said. "But it must be clear to all of us that environmental protection is in the economic best interests of Vermont."

"It's not just James Watt," he added. "It's not just [Environ-



Carl Reidel, above, faults Interior Secretary James Watt's policies at the "Watt Go Ohm" Dinner in Castleton.

At right, Secretary Watt responds to a question from the audience at a Republican fund-raiser in Killington.

Photos courtesy of *The Valley Voice* of Middlebury, Vermont.



mental Protection Agency head] Anne Gorsuch. 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's arrival here.

Watt, whom Lloyd labeled "the living, breathing symbol of the fast-buck philosophy in America," 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, we know what this Trojan horse contains."

Musical performances accented the event. Fay and Dud Leavitt of Lincoln sang an original song, "Mr. Watt's Funeral Ball," and in a sing-along led by balladeer 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:

Nearly 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 *Times-Argus/Rutland Sunday Herald* article on the political fund-raiser where Watt spoke, Tom Slayton 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, Slayton reported that there were about 200 in attendance at the Watt political reception and that officials admitted having sold only 55 tickets to the fund-raising dinner which followed.

## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

**The Hard Core:** Chan and Fran Archer and Dave Capen 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? We Worry!" "Watt Luck Supper," "Watt's My Beef, Watt's Yours," and "Get Watt's Posterior Out of the Interior." Frank Teagle of Woodstock deserves special mention for coming up with a 19-course menu of chemical concoctions and raped resources appropriate to the occasion.

Tom Hodgeson, 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 Grange songs at VNRC's 1981 Annual Meeting with another fine performance before an appreciative crowd.

Emcee Dick Hathaway, master of the hilarious non sequitur, ambiguous allusion and oracular epithet kept the audience chortling with his inspired introductions, interruptions and invocations. Wrote Marcel Marsupial of the *Dallas Daily Driller*: "On a scale of one to four, Hathaway rates a six."

Fay and Dud Leavitt and John Nutting, as mentioned above, made splendid music.

Humorist Danny Gore closed the evening, bringing his unique down-to-earth candor, common sense and wit a fur piece from his Avery's Gore stomping grounds. "We have no quarrel with Mr. Watt's right to speak," drolled Gore, pausing perfectly to set the record straight, "... but to listen . . ." Danny was drowned in laughter and applause.

## WATT OTHERS SAID

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

*Your proposal for The Dinner is most disappointing. I appreciate your concern, but I do not approve of your tactics.*

*The approach that you propose is like the ostrich hiding 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 three farms. Today they are sliced up, tomorrow James Watt will come, speak, and go without so much as one gallon of tar 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 Aiken Lecture Series encourages questions, discussion and rebuttal. The Series' theme, "Landscapes and Landowners: Private Needs and Public Interests," was examined from a variety of vantage points for a full day in public forum. Audubon President Russell Peterson's Concluding Address, "The Foxes in the Henhouse," was excellent.

VNRC is proud to have co-sponsored the "Watt Go Ohm" Dinner. It was a great success, 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 Committee, the National Wildlife Federation, the Vermont Sierra Club and the Vermont Audubon Council.



# The 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 95th birthday. Several hundred well-wishers looked on while Seward Weber, the Council's Executive Director, 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 environment 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 services to the environment and the State of Vermont."*

Lucy Bugbee is a founding member 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 Administration proposal to "streamline" and weaken Federal regulations concerning the Resource Planning Act of 1974 and the National Forest Management Act of 1976.

Seward Weber, the Council's Executive Director, said in his letter that:

*"The overall effect of these proposed changes would be to ignore ecological realities in favor of a marketplace mentality which promotes high timber yields and downplays wildlife values, wilderness values, integrated pest management and the*

*protection of biologically unproductive 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 receiving so many objections that the Administration is becoming cautious about putting the new regulations into effect. VNRC salutes and thanks all Vermonters who have conveyed their reservations about this matter to Washington.

## 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 E. Holmes; Craig Leggett; Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Easton, Jr; Eugene Wermer; Sally Green; Benjamin W. Drew; Paul Lyon; Robert Slade; Arnold and Irene Kirchheimer; George H. Crossman; Mrs. R.K. Stevens; David R. Brautigam; Five-Twenty-Five Foundation; Mrs. Ruth Hunsberger; Harry Culvert; Barbara MacDonald; John G. Reed; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Sturges; Esther Peterson; Henry Fenner; Norman MacBeth; R. Edward and Faye Ely; Barbara Bowdery; Mary S. Shakespeare; Mark Skakel; Kathleen Elliott; Philip Cecchini; Margaret Careccio; Ellsworth Benson; Gunnar I. Baldwin; Cece Cunningham; Harrison L. Bennett; Denise Van Hemert; Hal Miller, Jr; Philip Cook; Anne Sarcka; T. Paul Kane; ADP Development Fund; June L. Nygren; John S. Barbour; C. Peter Strong; Deane and Anne Stevens; Neal Mostov; Seth Bongartz; Ruth-Ellen Blauer; Stanley C. Swaim; Mary Pat Farrell; Richard Wiswall; Mr. and Mrs. Allan N. Mackey; New England Telephone; Fred Dunnington; David A. Gayer; Richard B. Green; Patricia Nye; John G. Gans; Bruce and Judith Chalmer; Mr. and Mrs. David Yandell; Winifred Clark; Patricia and Laurence Caso; Priscilla Kimberly; RIPPLE.



## SEWARD WEBER AWARDED RICHARD KING MELLON FELLOWSHIP

The School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University has announced the award of a Richard King Mellon Fellowship to Seward Weber, Executive Director of the Vermont Natural Resources 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 Fellows selected from approximately 60 applicants from environmental

non-profit organizations around the country. He will study environmental law, ecology, forestry and organizational 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 absence, and Marion MacDonald, part-time Editor of the Council's publications, will work full-time and assume many of Hooper's duties.

## 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 Fellowship at Yale.

Committee Chairmen reported on a wide range of projects, including a forest policy statement, an orientation kit for Board members, and VNRC bumper stickers (see the next VER for details), to name a few. The Energy Committee is investigating ways for VNRC to participate in developing a State Energy Plan.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 9 at the Windham Foundation 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 Dufresne-Henry and Goldberg-Zoino & Associates. VNRC published the 16-page handbook last year under a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, but the first printing of 1000 copies 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 50¢ 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 membership 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 out 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 -- \$6.00 ( ) 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)



## ACID PRECIPITATION AND THE CLEAN AIR ACT

Acid rain is one of the key issues in the Congressional debate over reauthorization of the Clean Air Act. The present law was enacted in several stages between 1955 and 1965, and amended in 1970. The 1970 amendments:

- Authorized the EPA to set national ambient air quality standards for major air pollutants
- Required states to develop state implementation plans (SIPs) in order to meet EPA air quality standards
- Created the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program (PSD) which mandates that areas with clean air be allowed to stay that way

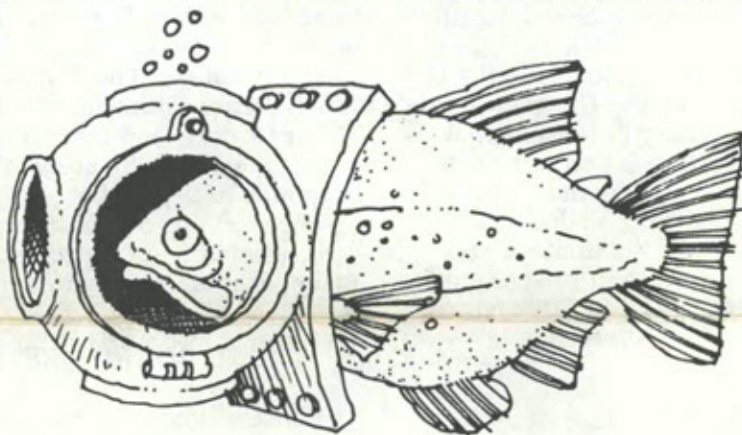
The Clean Air Act came up for reauthorization in 1981. No compromise has been reached at the present time in either the House Subcommittee on Energy or in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

In the House committee, HR5252, a bill introduced by Thomas Luken (D-Ohio) and supported by President Reagan, has won the support of a majority of the members of the committee, including its chairman, John Dingell (D-Mich.). HR5252, also known as the Luken-Reagan "Dirty Air Bill," would relax the PSD program, delay deadlines for meeting EPA clean air qual-

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 Luken 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 Luken'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 Syms (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 devas-

tating effects of sulfate-laden air pollution from several Midwestern states." Rich Poirot, 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 Dowd 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 Adirondackers 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-*

*lar value, either in recreational or commercial terms?"*

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 oppose the Luken-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 Lyndia Downie, an intern with the Vermont Natural Resources Council and a senior at the University of Vermont.*



Environmental  
Report

Vermont Natural  
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