The Questions
We're Not Allowed to Ask

With the Vermont primaries coming up in September, we thought one of the best ways we could be of service to our members and to the general public would be to question candidates for public office on a variety of environmental issues and publish their responses in the Vermont Environmental Report.

But before we sent out the questionnaires, we wrote to the Internal Revenue Service to make sure that this activity would not be interpreted as "participating or interfering in a political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office," which is illegal for tax-exempt organizations. We told the IRS that we planned to send the questionnaires to all candidates for Governor, U.S. Senator and U.S. Congressman for the state of Vermont, that the responses would be printed verbatim with no evaluative statements or editorial comments of any kind, and that our newsletter would state that the Vermont Natural Resources Council does not endorse any candidate or point of view. We felt that the questions, like the issues, are so complex that there are few "right" or "wrong" answers; in fact, VNRC has no official position on most of them.

Nevertheless, two weeks before our publication date, the IRS notified us that if we conducted our candidates' survey, we "could be construed to be engaging in prohibited political activity which could jeopardize your tax exempt status." There was no explanation - only a copy of an IRS ruling that said that it is permissible for a tax-exempt organization to survey candidates for public office and publish the results so long as "neither the questionnaire nor the voter's guide, in content or in structure, evidence [sic] a bias or preference with respect to the views of any candidate or group of candidates."

Obviously, we think our questionnaire satisfies these requirements, but because we depend on the contributions of our members (and tax deductibility is an important incentive), we cannot risk the loss of our tax-exempt status. The survey covers critical environmental issues that ought to be addressed by Vermont candidates for public office; however, and we print the questions here in the hope that you will ask them yourselves when you have the opportunity to do so.

The questionnaire used an agree/disagree format, and we planned to give candidates the option of writing a short comment (25 words or less) at the end of each section.

QUESTIONS FOR STATE CANDIDATES

1. Meeting Vermont's long-term electrical demand.

- Vermont utilities may need to build one or more additional nuclear power plants.
- Vermont utilities should build at least one more coal-fired power plant.
- NEPOOL should proceed with planned construction of an extra high voltage power line through northeastern Vermont in order to purchase surplus power from Hydro Quebec.
- Vermont can meet new demand for electrical energy through a combination of energy efficiency and load management and increased reliance on small-scale wind, wood, solar and hydropower systems.

Vermont utilities should exhaust load management and energy efficiency options before investing in any new generation or transmission facilities.

2. Energy conservation and efficiency of use.

- Vermont should expand the Home Energy Audit (HEAT) program.
- The State of Vermont should provide low-interest loans for energy-saving home improvements.
- The Public Service Board should retain seasonal electric rates to discourage the use of electric resistance heating.
- The Vermont Legislature should increase funding for the Vermont Industrial Energy Conservation Advisory Program and the Commercial Energy Conservation Advisory Program.
- The Vermont Legislature should continue to allocate funds for public transportation to make up for scheduled cutsbacks in Federal funding.

3. Act 250

- The Vermont Legislature should close the so-called Act 250 "10-acre loophole.
- The Agency of Environmental Conservation should strengthen its role in Act 250 proceedings by routinely conducting site visits and participating in District Commission hearings.
- The Vermont Legislature should aid enforcement of Act 250 by allowing the courts to assess civil penalties for violations.
- The Vermont Legislature should adopt a State Land Use Plan.

(Continued on page eight)

Vermont Environmental Report
July/August 1982
A Bimonthly Newsletter Published by the Vermont Natural Resources Council

Site of the proposed "Pyramid Mall" in Williston (Photo by James Nassau)

PYRAMID LOSES ANOTHER ROUND

The company that wants to build an 82-store shopping mall in Williston lost another of its nine lives in June when the Vermont Supreme Court rejected its appeal of a lower court decision concerning the legal interpretation of Act 250. The Pyramid Corporation had appealed to the higher court after the Chittenden County Superior Court said that it would consider economic impact on the city of Burlington and other issues in a trial stemming from a district environmental commission decision barring construction of the mall in Williston.

The District Four Environmental Commission denied Pyramid an Act 250 permit in October, 1978, based on the mall's probable effects on Burlington's tax base, traffic congestion beyond Williston, non-compliance with the Williston town plan, and tendency to promote scattered development. The firm appealed to the Environmental Board and had the case removed to Chittenden County Superior Court. Pyramid asked the court to rule on the relevance of these issues in Act 250 proceedings before initiating a trial on the merits.

In 1980, the court ruled that the first two issues were relevant and said that it would require additional evidence and a new trial on the latter two. Pyramid appealed to the Vermont Supreme Court, but the higher court said that it could not rule on the interpretation of Act 250 "in a vacuum" without a complete factual record of the case.

At press time, the Pyramid Corporation had not said whether it would proceed with a trial in Chittenden County Superior Court. The Vermont Natural Resources Council is assisting a Williston citizens group opposed to construction of the mall.

QUEBEC WOULD SELL MORE POWER TO NEW ENGLAND

NEPOOL and Hydro Quebec have reached a preliminary agreement on the sale of 690 megawatts of Quebec hydropower to New England utilities by 1896, but at the tenth annual conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers in June, Yves Duhamel, Quebec's Prime Minister of Energy Resources, said Quebec wants to accelerate that proposal and send 3000 megawatts of power to the region by 1992. Duhamel said that demand for power from the massive La Grande hydroelectric facility is less than anticipated, and he is anxious to draft a new agreement with New England states in the next 18 months.

The Vermont Public Service Board completed public hearings last month on a proposal to build a 450kv transmission line through northern Vermont and New Hampshire. The line is extended south of Comerford Station in Monroe, New Hampshire, it could transport 2000 megawatts of Canadian hydroelectricity to load centers in southern New England. The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission has already approved a 300kv line, but it questions the need to build a line large enough to carry 2000 megawatts.

VERMONT HERITAGE FESTIVAL CENTERFOLD - PAGES 4 AND 5
THE OTTACHEQUEE, "B" OR "C"?

VNRC is one of the citizens' groups known as "RIPPLE" (Regional Impact Pure Water Protective League) has appealed to the Vermont Water Resources Board decision to reclassify a portion of the Strub Brook in Stowe to accommodate sewage treatment from a proposed 600-unit condominium development on Mt. Mansfield. The Water Resources Board maintains that treated effluent from the "Inn at the Mountain" can be "no appreciable effect on the water quality of Stowe Brook or the West Branch." VNRC believes that the Strub Brook reclassification represents a break with the Board's longstanding policy of refusing to downgrade pristine high elevation streams, and has written a letter to the Board urging it to reconsider its decision. Meanwhile, the Stowe developers, including the Mt. Mansfield Corporation, Topnotch, and the Trapp Family Lodge, have organized a separate effort that is in the process of undertaking a feasibility study of building a sewer line and substantially increasing the capacity of the Stowe municipal sewage treatment plant at their own expense.

A NEW RIPPLE IN THE RANCH BROOK CONTROVERSY

The Vermont Forest District Service workshop on a series of one-day forest management workshops at various locations in the state during summer and fall. Topics covered will vary from region to region, but the following topics will be included in all sessions: management for timber, fuelwood, sugarbush, and wildlife habitats, marking, marketing, and harvesting timber and fuelwood; timber taxation; and tree identification. For further information and registration forms, write to the Extension Natural Resources Office, 601 Main Street, Burlington, Vermont 05401 or call 802-255-358.

TWO NEW VNRC PUBLICATIONS

VNRC has four copies of two excellent new National Wildlife Federation publications, "Shredding the Environmental Safety Net: The Full Story Behind the EPA's Budget Cuts" analyzes the EPA's workload and the effects of recent and proposed budget cuts. "Acid Rain: What It Is - How You Can Help!" is a short, readable summary of the current research on the effects of acid precipitation with advice for readers on how to help put a stop to it. For copies write to VNRC, 7 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602.

VERMONT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Editor
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Seward Weber
Chairman of the Board
Carl Reider

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 VNRC. Please address all correspondence to this publication to VER Editor, VNRC, 7 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 225-3526.
The "How's" and "Why's" of Water Conservation

Gunnar Baldwin

It's hard to get excited about the need to save water in New England. The region abounds in lakes, streams and rivers, and the cost of water is low. After all, can you buy 1000 gallons of any other beverage for about $1.00? Can we, then, be expected to get very excited about the need to reduce the amount of wastewater entering our septic systems and sewers? A common cause of septic system failure is simple overloading. When too much water enters the septic tank, suspended solids may flow into the leachfield instead of settling into the bottom of the tank. The suspended wastes build up an impermeable mat in the drainage field, forcing wastewater effluent to the surface or contaminating a nearby well or stream.

A septic tank on the verge of failure can usually be saved by simply reducing the flow of water. A homeowner who relieves the pressure on his or her septic system by practicing water conservation can often avoid the tremendous expense with a modest investment. A town that reduces the amount of wastewater entering its sewers through voluntary conservation or the use of water-saving plumbing fixtures not only protects its drinking water supply, but postpones or eliminates the need for new sewage treatment capacity. The savings in sewerage and wastewater treatment costs are even more3 exciting than the environmental advantages. There are few other acts of conservation that have three-way cost reduction benefits: first, water not consumed does not need to be pumped, filtered or paid for; second, water not consumed does not need to be heated, either in the hot water heater or by being raised to room temperature in the toilet tank or water pipes (a significant source of heat loss which is often overlooked); and, finally, water not consumed does not become wastewater or sewage requiring expensive treatment.

DISINCENTIVES AND HIDDEN COSTS

With all these incentives, why aren't we doing more to conserve water? One of the reasons is that water consumption is determined not only by the person whose hand is on the faucet or toilet-flushing lever, but by the engineer who designs these fixtures. Plumbing codes and wastewater treatment system regulations have reinforced the status quo, by making the minimum requirements that tend to discourage the use of water-conserving devices.

For example, Vermont Health Regulations require that septic system absorption fields be designed to accommodate a flow of 75 gallons per day per bedroom. These specifications assume the use of standard toilets and showerheads and discourage the use of devices that could save water in fields conserving fixtures and a smaller, less costly sewage treatment system. The Vermont Health Department and the Agency of Environmental Conservation's Protection Division are currently considering a maximum 10% reduction in leachfield area requirements where water-consuming conserving fixtures are in use.

Also, the cost of water and sewage treatment— and, consequently, the economic benefits of conservation— are often hidden. Until recently, the Federal Government has paid 75% or more of the construction costs of most municipal sewage collection and treatment systems, with the remaining capital costs paid for through local tax. Water and sewage rates usually reflect only operating and maintenance costs.

"VOLUNTARY" AND "INVOLUNTARY" CONSERVATION

To most people, water conservation means changing only one's habits: turning the water off while brushing one's teeth, turning off the shower instead of stepping aside while soaping up, and washing the car with a bucket instead of a hose. We have become familiar with many such methods during dry seasons or when the pipes freeze. These voluntary acts can reduce water use by 25-30%.

Installing water-saving fixtures can reduce water consumption even further, and this "involuntary" conservation does not require a change of habit.

Since 70% of conventional water use occurs in the bathroom (30% through the shower and 40% through the toilet), it is natural to try to conserve the water used by toilets, showers and sinks, as well as washing clothes. Conventional toilets and showerheads still predominate in the hardware stores and plumbing supply shops, but new water-conserving fixtures are becoming more available.

Most major plumbing manufacturers in this country now make "water saver" toilets which use 3 gallons of water per flush compared to 5-7 gallons for a standard toilet. The toilets are smaller than the conventional five-gallon flush toilet, but they generally have the same design. Some shallow-trap toilets use between one and three gallons per flush, but new toilets are now available that reduce water consumption to as few as two quarts. A 1965 study conducted in house back in toilet water flow translates into a 38% reduction in household wastewater production. This cost should be compared with financing additional water supply and sewage treatment capacity. Where municipalities are contemplating new construction in either of these areas, the water-saving tax credit should be a very attractive proposition.

The "energy crisis" has made some significant changes in our habits and has produced some promising, new and more appropriate technology. It is not difficult to foresee a "water crisis" that will cause even more significant changes. Although some die-hard auto enthusiasts might disagree, most of us would rather give up our cars than do without water.

A "water crisis" is not inevitable, however. We can reap substantial environmental and economic benefits through "voluntary" and "involuntary" water conservation measures. But we must greatly increase our efforts to educate the homeowner, the planner and the manufacturer who cause the water to flow.

Gunnar Baldwin is the President of Thornton gore Enterprises, a New Hampshire company that markets flow reduction products and actively supports water conservation through public education.

About Those Quakes...

Where were you on the morning of January 9th and the evening of January 18th, 1982? An article in the June issue of Audubon answers some of the questions we all had in the aftermath of the January earthquakes. Jay J. Puller, who operates the MIT seismological network, says that yes, January '82 was a period of unusual seismic activity. "However," he says, "in terms of the long historical record of seismicity in New England, the recent quakes were not surprising. Moderate-to-large earthquakes have struck New England in the past and will most likely continue to do so in the future."

Hundreds of small faults criss-cross the Northeast, and no area is immune to seismic activity. The Lake Champlain Valley is Vermont's most active region, and our only "significant" (5.0 magnitude) earthquake was recorded near Middlebury, Vermont, on April 10, 1962. The January 9th and 19th earthquakes were centered in western New Brunswick and central New Hampshire. They registered 5.7 and 5.4, respectively.
VERMONT HERITAGE FESTIVAL
Saturday, Aug. 28 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Waitsfield, on the common of historic Bent Hill Settlement

NOON: AUCTION of contributed art, crafts, merchandise and services
Displays and demonstrations of early American crafts and tools
Music, entertainment, lunch and beverages befitting a FESTIVAL!
Richard Hathaway will auctioneer at the second annual Vermont Heritage Festival at Bent Hill Settlement in Waitsfield, Vermont, on August 28th.

Over 600 people turned out last August for a VNRC benefit in Waitsfield to picnic, listen to music, pick up a bagging at Dick Hathaway's "country auction," peruse early American crafts displays and demonstrations, and stroll among the lovingly-restored homes at Bent Hill Settlement.

Gregory and Carolyne Schipa of Weather Hill Restoration have graciously offered to host another "Vermont Heritage Festival" this year, and we're hoping for an even bigger turnout.

We are still making plans for the festival at press time, but we can tell you that some of the highlights will include: hot air balloon and horse-drawn carriage rides, Irish music with Bob DeMarko, folk songs by Aline Kimzie and Peggy Vasko's puppet shows. The Black Forest Cafe and Mary and Vicki Schips will be back again this year, so you know the food will be fantastic! And we're looking forward to a tambour show sponsored by the Vermont Lamb Marketing Association.

Dick Hathaway, who has a talent for tickling your funny bone while he unties your purse strings, will auction off an impressive assortment of donated merchandise and services, including a Jonestein chain saw, a Stoves ski pass, two woodstoves, a wheelbarrow and much, much more.

So put an "x" on your wall, a smile on your face, a feather in your cap -- and a wallet in your pocket -- and join us at the Vermont Heritage Festival at Bent Hill Settlement in Waitsfield (follow the signs off route 100) from 11:00 - 5:00 on Saturday, August 28th.

Richard Hathaway Auctioneers

For Fun and Non-profit

Norma Jane Skjold
"I always wanted to be a sports announcer. After I heard Dick Hathaway, I realized the theater and the stage -- words and drama. It's a way of being creative and egomaniacal at the same time."

And that is, more or less, how he's come to be the area's premier special events auctioneer. He does it, he says, for the good time and to help raise funds for organizations whose aspirations exceed their finances.

He also does it, he says, because he's an accumulator, and if he doesn't auction off his collections now and then, he fears a fate like the one which befell the Colliver brothers in 1942.

"You never heard of the Colliver brothers?" he asks. "Well, they were dead for three weeks before anybody found them, and then there was 140 tons of stuff to haul away."

They were, in other words, savers.

"It's a way of accumulating the past," he explains. "I have an enormous preservational instinct. It's the whole Vermont thing: use it, use it up. Auctions are a splendid way of recycling possessions."

Hathaway collects books, antiques, and prints from Thomas Nast and Winslow Homer, and does lectures on the roots of the collecting impulse.

He is also a professor of alternative education at Vermont College now, after being a core faculty member of the Adult Degree Program at Colby College (now at Vermont College) for 17 years.

His first auction was for the Vermont Democratic Party in 1967 and "just this last month" he's done auctions for Two-Penny Circus Vermont American Services Committee, Woodbury Associates, American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont and New Hampshire, the Hitchcock Environmental Center in Bennington, Massachusetts, the TLC Childcare Center, Washington County Arts Resource Association, and of course, for Goodard College programs.

Since he works without a fee for non-profit organizations which seem particularly worthy to him, he requires that the experience be entertaining. And entertaining it is, with himself at the microphone.

It's also rewarding, he says, when he peruses the donations from merchants for auction.

"Businesses are enormously responsive, extraordinarily generous," he testifies.

In his spare time, Hathaway serves as a movie reviewer and commentator for radio station WNCS, and produces scores of scholarly articles and reviews for everything from Enzyklopedie Britannica to Christian Cen- tury to the Journal for American Historical Print Collectors Society.


carl reidel

In the early years of the environmental movement, there was a couple of homely proverbs that concerned people liked to cite to capture the spirit of an environmental-ecological perspective.

One test is that "everything is hitched to everything else." John Muir once said that "you cannot eat a flower without disturbing a star." He was acknowledging our fundamental linkage to the natural world that shapes our lives. In a broader sense, this environmental proverb warns us to consider the entire system -- biological, economic, social, cultural and political.

The second, made popular by Barry Commoner, is that there is "no such thing as a free lunch." This is but a practical consequence of the first proverb. Whatever environmental problem at hand, we must insist that all costs are considered.

So the additional proverb, coined by Rene Dubos, is that we must learn to "think globally and act locally." This reflects the earlier proverbs by recognizing that local situations must consider global forces.

In a chapter of the book I recently edited, New England Prospects, Tom Turley of Williams College suggests a fascinating way for those of us in New England to "think globally" in terms of our environmental choices. He says that a fundamental way to think about our environmental condition is to consider what he calls our geographic and technological distance from our fundamental life needs. The "needs" he cites are food, water, housing, clothing, materials, energy, systems of transportation and waste disposal.

Drawing on a number of studies, he estimates that distances in miles that we must reach for each of these needs, comparing 1850 to 1975:

Need at Albany 1850 1975
Food 0-5 1300
Water 0-5 50
Housing 20 100
Clothing 20 1000
Materials 30 1000
Energy 30 500
Transportation 10 500
Sewers/waste 0 200

He adds to this "geographic distance" from our basic needs, the notion of "technological distance."

Here he does not offer numbers, but rather a question: "If the technology-based systems fail -- for whatever reason -- can the individual provide the life-support needed personally, or is it available within the community?"

Can the system be fixed if it fails? For Vermonters, that is a very real question. How long can we manage if energy or food supplies are cut off in mid-winter? Jorling's point is extremely important. We in New England are vulnerable. We are hostage to resources, complex and centralized systems.

Jorling's thesis is a key to getting all our environmental problems "hitched together." Energy, agriculture, acid rain, water and land use issues become parts of a larger puzzle. When Vermont imports oil from the Mideast and electricity from Quebec, broccoli from California and lettuce from Mexico, lumber from Canada and geothermal and machinery from Michigan, we also import acid rain, under-utilized forests, abandoned industries, under-employed workers, and high interest rates.

When a region rich in natural resources is forced to buy its food and timber, we are shipping coal to Newcastle and pollution to India.

Let's look briefly at one serious problem: agriculture. You know the statistics. The region of the nation lacks food production, storage and processing capability as well. We spend over 50% of our foodstuffs, pay higher food prices, and see our farms and farm-land diminish.

The national agricultural system is over-extended and disintegrating. In response, the Federal Government is considering substantial changes in price-support structures and in the food stamp program. USDA is under immense pressure to save Midwestern and California agriculture from economic ruin, without the least interest in the future of New England. Support marginal farms, not our own, protecting New England's dairy-based farm economy and livelihood.

Put simply, the Federal Government would like to de-couple New England from the national agricultural system and lengthen our geographic distance even more. An imminent disaster for Vermont? Perhaps. But also a rare opportunity for this region, over-extended, so close to seize control of our own destiny.

Government - Vermont's government - must realize that New England - must become the catalytic force to create a new situation to replace the social, economic and functional system that must include development of new markets, new social organizations and private, based on re-defined market regions. It must include major intervention in financial markets to give farmers and agricultural processors access to capital and credit. It must include revitalization of educational and research efforts in our state universities to provide the economic information and technical innovation and trained personnel appropriate to our regional needs and national resource base. In sum, we must devise a comprehensive agricultural policy with a hard-hitting, well-financed, strategic plan which harnesses the resources of government, private enterprise and the educational establishment.

I am fully aware that this has been said, in part at least, by the current State administration and some who would like to replace it. But while they argue over who said it first, the facts remain that very little is being done!

I cannot fill in the details of what a comprehensive agricultural strategy will require. I am not an agricultural expert or economist, but I can demand that our political leaders mobilize the resources necessary to tackle the job.
Meet the Candidates

VNRC members who attend the 30th Annual Meeting at Middlebury College on September 11th will elect six new directors for the Council. This year the Nominating Committee has proposed a single slate of candidates for four at-large positions on the Board, and five candidates will compete for two directorships reserved for representatives of VNRC member organizations.

At-large

Maurice D. "Red" Arnold (incumbent)
Whiting

"Red" is a land management consultant and a writer on resource issues. He retired in 1978 after 30 years with the Federal Interior Department and the National Institute of Health. As a planner and executive trained in economics and public administration, he helped change national policies on highway construction, water, clean air, and land planning. He is a director of the New England Natural Resources Center, the Vermont chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and Elderly Services, Inc. He is also a supervisor of the Otter Creek Conservation District and a member of the Vermont House of Representatives.

Robert E. Gillette
Montpelier

Robert Gillette is the chairman of the Otter Creek Audubon Society, and he serves on the boards of several other Vermont organizations. An MIT graduate in mechanical engineering, Gillette has been involved in management, electronics, granite and financial businesses. In 1976-77, he was chairman of the Governor's Cost Control Council. He is currently a member of the Vermont Educational and Health Buildings Financing Agency and he has also been active in hospital and school associations.

Gillette says he has "a strong belief in protection of the environment" while recognizing that "natural resources must be used with prudence for the good of the economy." "A viable balance needs to be maintained between strictly environmental concerns and those of the extrative, agricultural and resort industries," he says.

Kate Nystrom Meyer
Montpelier

Kate Nystrom Meyer graduated from the University of Vermont with a degree in geography and political science in 1970. She was Project Director of the Washington County Dental Health Program from 1975-1977 and Executive Director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Vermont in 1977-1979. For the past three years, she has worked as a Congressional Staff Assistant for Representative Peter DeFazio of Oregon. She is responsible for assisting state agencies, communities and organizations in developing federal programs.

Meyer has been appointed to the Vermont Board of Medical Practice and the Advisory Commission to the Vermont Office on Aging. She is also a member of the Association of American Geographers and she serves on the Executive Council of the Lake Champlain Committee.

Carl Reidel (incumbent)
North Ferndale

Carl Reidel is the Director of the Environmental Program, and Sanders Professor of Environmental Organizations at the University of Vermont. He is chairman of the Board of Directors of the Environmental Resources Council, a director and past president of the American Forestry Association, and a former board member of the National Parks and Conservation Associations and the Lake Champlain Committee and the Conservation Society of Southern Vermont.

Organizational

Abott T. Penn
Middlebury
Vermont Camping Association

Abott Penn is Associate Director of the Vermont Audubon Society, Lake Danmore, Montpelier, and the Audubon Society and chairman of the Board of Directors. He is a member of the American Forestry Association, the American Society of Naturalists, and the Society of the Deaf.

Land use management and planning is an essential key to choosing the alternative path described by Jordon. Of all areas of resource management, the states and local governments of this nation have the primary power to control land use. It is in the interest of state and local control to develop a clear plan for the purpose to which we will lose that right if we fail to exercise it.

I have no doubts that if we would act on issues of regional agricultural development and land use planning, most of our other environmental problems could be solved. We would certainly be more likely to see a growing need to think globally and act locally.

And a decade hence we could look back at this space where the eagle nests in the woods diverged, and be able to say we took the one less travelled by and it made all the difference.

Excerpted from an address to the 1982 Annual Meeting of the Windham Regional Planning and Development Commission. Carl Reidel is the Chairman of the Board of the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Bill Uptegrove
Green Mountain Club

Bill Uptegrove is a retired city planner who lives on an old farm in Jamaica and represents his town on the Windham Regional Planning Commission. He belongs to a number of national conservation organizations and the following Vermont/New England groups: Green Mountain Club (Brattleboro, Vt); VNRC, Conservation Society of Southern Vermont, Connecticut River Watershed Association, Windham County, and the Vermont Wilderness Association and Stop Uranium Mining. Bill enjoys backpacking and canoe-camping and believes in "protecting Vermont's most beautiful wild and natural areas."
The Council

VNRC, NATURE CONSERVANCY COMBINE ANNUAL MEETINGS

This year the Vermont Chapter of the Nature Conservancy has planned its annual meeting for the same day as VNRC's annual meeting. Because many VNRC members are also Conservancy members, we've combined forces and planned an all-day double-header for Saturday, September 11 at Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont.

Unfortunately, there's still some built-in competition: you'll be able to select only one of eight fine field trips to attend, and you'll have to choose which business meeting to attend if you're a member of both groups. In exchange, you get to hear keynote speaker John Roberts, link up with old and new friends from across Vermont, and have one overall Saturday (rather than being guilted about not getting your wood shingles).

This year's selection of field trips is one of the best ever, including guided tours of Fort Independence at Orwell and the Dead Creek Waterfowl Area, visits to a self-sufficient solar house in Cornwall and a meathouse in a Middlebury dairy farm, a walking tour of Middlebury's historic Village Area, and a tour of the state's natural resources led by VNRC Board Chairman Carl Reidel and Land Use Committee Chairman Larry Forcier.

VNRC RE-THINKS FOREST MANAGEMENT ROLE

- Vermont's annual forest growth could be increased from 4.2 million cords per year to 5-7 million cords per year.
- Vermont is currently consuming only 23% of its total annual forest growth, but it is harvesting 84% of its annual growth of sawlog material.
- The demand for wood for fuel, construction materials, and paper will continue to escalate and annual consumption could exceed annual growth in 20 years if demand alone determines how much wood is harvested.

All of these conclusions from last year's report, "The Future of Vermont's Forests" are relevant to the need for improved management of Vermont's many small woodlots and greater public awareness of the economic, environmental, and aesthetic values of Vermont's forest resource.

The Vermont Natural Resources Council has always had a special interest in the state's forest lands and is exploring ways to become more involved in promoting forest management.

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS APPEAL NAP'L FOREST LEASING

Six environmental organizations have appealed the U.S. Forest Service decision that permits leasing the majority of the Green Mountain National Forest for petroleum exploration.

Speaking for the group, Lowell Krasner of the Vermont Wilderness Association said, "This leasing decision fails to provide adequate protection for all the traditional uses and activities on the Forest. The consequences of the widespread granting of leases received only cursory consideration, and the implications for wildlife, water quality, wilderness, recreation, and scenery need to be given a thorough airing. This is why we are demanding an Environmental Impact Statement."

The terms of the Forest Service decision, released June 20, permit leases on all parts of GMNF, except the Lye Brook and Bristol Cliffs Wilderness Areas. A decision on leases in the Wilderness Areas was deferred for separate review.

We are pleased to support the appeal and hope that it will result in the environmental consequences of granting leases being carefully considered, and that the Forest Service will not approve activity in these areas.

Please let us know if you change your address so that you can be sure of receiving all six timely issues of The Vermont Environmental Report and other VNRC good-ies. If you move without telling us, it costs us $25 to get your new address from the post office and another $37 to mail your new address to you. Occasionally, we have to drop people from our mailing list even though they are members in good standing simply because they have moved without notifying us, and they've lost one year's worth of membership discounts (the post office knows where you are, but they won't tell us!). So do yourselves and us a favor and fill out this form if you've changed your address recently, or plan to do so in the near future.

Name

New Address

MEMORIAL GIFTS

VNRC accepts with gratitude a memorial gift in the name of Frances Forest from Mrs. and Mr. Chester Smith of East Hardwick.

WE'RE STILL LOOKING FOR AN EXTRA SET OF WHEELS

VNRC needs an extra car for our busy staff and full complement of hard-working (but generally car-less) interns. If your old car can't bring you the trade-in you want, please consider donating it to the Council.

You will receive that valuable book value from your income tax and do VNRC a big favor at the same time. Call Seward Weber at 223-3295 if you're interested.

NEW MEMBERS/NEW MEMBERS/NEW MEMBERS/NEW MEMBERS/NEW MEMBERS

We're pleased to welcome to VNRC the following new members who join us in the conviction of "The Future of Vermont's Forests" is a job worth doing. Join Amey Mallory and Karen and Bob Burnett-Kurts; Anne Dewitt; Alice DeLong; Robert and Barbara McKay; Kathy and Terry Hoffer; Barbara Walling; Linda and Peter Romano; Mrs. Gerhard Pfeiffer; R.A. Montgomery and S. Gilligan; Kenneth and Dorothy Austin; Roger H. Sterneberg; Glen B. Romans; Dufresne & Henry, Inc.; Andrea Momm; Mrs. Wesley Calderwood; Virginia Lane; Hugh R. Davis; John O. Gerrish; Capt. and Mrs. F.D. Hamblin; Dr. Robert Zabel; William Calabi; Frank and Brinda Sands and Family; Elizabeth Hollishead; David Boyer; Gregory Tiff; Carole Novick; Carol Kennedy; Polly Foreier; Martha Solow; Pierre Gremaud; Mary Bentley; Bill Murphy; Cynthia Chesna; Carol Jean Tandy; Mrs. M.A. Hawkins; George and Gail Helmer; Mrs. David M. Keiser; Mr. and Mrs. Seward B. Brewster.

WEAR YOUR HEART ON YOUR BUMPER!

State-of-the-art VNRC bumper stickers. Guaranteed not to melt in the rain. Made to use! Avoid costly body work, use them as a sticker to stuffers like your kitchen shelves, roll them up and stuff them with spinach and ricotta, Two conservation-minded colors: royal blue and Kelly green. Discount for quantity purchases: 50 to 199 pieces, 3 for $1.25. 200 or more, 2 for $1.25. Check how many you'd like of each and send your order to VNRC, 7 Main Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602, or call us at 223-2328.
Questions (Continued from page one)

4. Agriculture

Executive Order No. 62, which requires that State agencies minimize the impact on farmland of projects involving State funding or planning, should be given the force of law with the potential for court review of agency compliance.

The Vermont Legislature should create an Agricultural Development Authority to loan money at favorable interest rates to help new farmers get started and to expand existing agricultural enterprises.

The 10-20% of Vermont's land having primary agricultural soils should be "off limits" to new development.

The State should encourage towns to create agricultural districts and to adopt agricultural zoning ordinances through technical assistance and through the allocation of new Cure, Farm, and Soil Conservation Program funds.

The State of Vermont should invest as much money in the promotion of agriculture as it does in the promotion of tourism.

5. Forestry

Landowners and the marketplace should determine how and when wood products are harvested and the State should limit regulation to the protection of water quality and the prevention of forest fires.

The Vermont Legislature should continue to fund the Current Use Tax Program to provide incentives to landowners to manage their woodlands.

Vermont should expand the County Forester program to provide more management assistance to forestland owners.

The State of Vermont should encourage the location of more wood-using industries in the state by providing low-interest or government-guaranteed loans through the Vermont Industrial Development Authority.

QUESTIONS FOR NATIONAL CANDIDATES

1. The Environmental Protection Agency

I support a large appropriation for the EPA commensurate with its increased responsibilities for controlling air pollution, water pollution and solid and toxic waste disposal.

I support the Reagan-Gorchuck proposed 11% reduction in Federal funding for the EPA for FY83.

2. Energy

I support President Reagan's proposal to level-fund public transportation programs for FY83 and to restrict the use of those funds to capital improvements.

I oppose the Department of Energy's plan to drop minimum efficiency standards for major household appliances.

I support President Reagan's efforts to revamp the nuclear power industry by streamlining reactor licensing and regulation and launching a publicly-funded pro-nuclear advertising campaign.

I support President Reagan's reductions in Federal funding for energy conservation and solar research.

3. Air

The Clean Air Act should be strengthened and should include stricter controls on sulfur and nitrogen oxide emissions east of the Mississippi.

The Clean Air Act should be analyzed from a cost-benefit perspective and we should eliminate or modify its provisions when the costs of compliance exceed the economic benefits.

I support H.R.4252, which would amend the Clean Air Act to delay deadlines for compliance with health standards, relax auto emission standards and eliminate the "best available technology" requirement for new stationary pollution sources.

4. Agriculture

I agree with President Reagan's plan to give the Agriculture Secretary the power to lower price supports for agricultural commodities and to let the marketplace determine supply, demand and price.

I support price supports being maintained at about 70% of parity with periodic adjustments for inflation.

A regional quota system for milk production should be introduced to discourage over-production and to help preserve New England's small and medium-sized family farms.

The Federal Government should restrict the importation of cattle in order to encourage the cheese and food-processing industries to use more Vermont dairy products.

The Word From Washington

UNEXPECTED EASY VICTORY FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Environmentalists were prepared for a lengthy battle over reauthorization of the national Endangered Species Act, which expires in September, but both the House and the Senate have passed similar bills calling for a three-year extension of the Act. Both bills would amend the Act, but neither would weaken important protective measures. The most significant amendment would speed up procedures for listing endangered or threatened species.

The two bills will be sent to a conference committee, where the minor differences between them will be reconciled before a final version is returned to both houses.

LEAHY LEADS FIGHT FOR INCREASED EPA FUNDING

Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy is leading the fight for increased funding for the Environmental Protection Agency. Leahy and Senator Patrick Moynihan recently sponsored an amendment to the FY83 budget that would increase the ceiling for overall funding by $300 million, but the amendment lost on a 69-38 roll-call vote. The increases were targeted for hazardous and toxic waste programs, Superfund and state grants.

VNRC, STAFFORD PROTEST LEAD-IN-GAS INCREASE

VNRC wrote to Senator Stafford in June to protest a new policy that would increase the allowable amount of lead in gasoline. The EPA has advised oil companies that the amount of lead that may be legally added to a gallon of gasoline may be rounded off to the nearest tenth of a gram. This effectively raises the limit from .500 to .549 grams an increase of almost 10%. The National Audubon Society estimates that the change would add 11-15 thousand tons of lead to the atmosphere each year.

Stafford sent us a copy of a letter he had signed along with 11 other Senators urging EPA Administrator Anne Gorsuch to reconsider the lead-in-gas phase-down. The letter said, in part:

Congress has spoken clearly over the years on the need to reduce the levels of lead in the environment. Changing the existing regulatory program to allow an increase in lead-in-gas emissions would be inconsistent with Congressional intent and would conflict with the solid body of independent medical evidence warning us of the subtle but serious effects of lead on the health of a significant portion of America's children.

SENATORS SUPPORT TRAIL PROTECTION PROGRAM

25 out of 28 Senators from Appalachian Trail states including Vermont Senators Patrick Leahy and Robert Stafford have signed a letter calling for a "reasonable level of funding" for the Appalachian Trail Protection Program. The letter to the Senate subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations, said that the right-of-way acquisition process is nearly completed and that "significant investments could be severely jeopardized by delays in funding." The letter also emphasized that AT maintenance and stewardship has traditionally been the responsibility of volunteer groups, so that there would be no appreciable increase in Federal maintenance requirements after the project is completed.

ENERGY SECRETARY SAYS ACID RAIN IS GOOD FOR CROPS

According to the May 18th issue of the Sierra Club National News Report, Energy Secretary James B. Edwards said after addressing the American Power Conference that he did not want to stop acid rain because "99.9% of all rain is of an acid nature." Edwards added that in some cases, acid rain is "good for crops because the fields are alkaline, and a little acid rain helps to neutralize the soil." Funny, I could swear I saw my neighbors putting lime on their fields during the winter.