

Bulletin

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NATIONAL AWARD FOR KILIAN

Clyde Leadership Honored

The historic removal of the Newport Number 11 dam on the Clyde River still thunders its victorious song across the country—well after the dirt and dust settled following removal of the dam in September, 1997.

Christopher Kilian, VNRC's Water Program Director and Staff Attorney, will be recognized for his work over a five year period to restore the Clyde River. Chris has been named by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) as this year's recipient of the Charlie Shaw Conservation Partnership Award, an award he will receive at the NWF Annual Meeting on March 19, 1998, in Washington, D.C.

The award was created in memory

of Charlie Shaw, a staff member of the NWF who devoted his life to



Sue Higby

Chris Kilian

conservation and environmental education. Charlie is best remembered for fostering strong partnerships between NWF and its affiliates and for mentoring new leaders. The award honors that spirit and the "power of passionate leadership."

According to Mark Van Putten, President & CEO of the NWF, "we look forward to recognizing him as an individual who exemplifies Charlie's values and commitments to cooperation and conservation."

On behalf of the staff, Board of Directors, and members of VNRC, congratulations to Chris!

VNRC MOVES TO PROTECT KILLINGTON CLASS A WATERSHED

Concerned that an upcoming ruling by the Vermont Water Resources Board could compromise protections for pristine, high-elevation watersheds throughout the state, VNRC has requested friend-of-the-court status in a proceeding related to the proposed 110-acre "interconnect" linking Killington and Pico ski areas in Rutland County.

"The Killington interconnect represents the most substantial ski area development ever proposed in a Class A watershed in Vermont," said VNRC Executive Director Elizabeth Courtney.

Class A is a designation for mountain watersheds above 2,500 feet, requiring staunch protections of their undisturbed environments. The state Agency of Natural Resources

granted Killington a water quality certificate for construction of the interconnect in November 1997.

"The fact that Killington's water quality certificate has now come before the Water Resources Board on appeal is an extremely compelling situation for us," Courtney said. "The Board's decision will give further definition to Vermont's Water Quality Standards. It's imperative that VNRC be at the table to state our case."

When the agency published a draft (or proposed) certificate last fall, VNRC filed comments opposing the design because of its projected impact on the Class A watershed between Pico and Ram's Head Mountain at Killington. After the certificate was issued in

November, VNRC decided not to appeal to the Water Resources Board.

But a group of nearby land-owners did appeal, which raised the stakes in the issue. The Water Resources Board interprets Vermont's water quality laws, the statutes by which the state complies with the federal Clean Water Act. Thus, Board rulings can establish legal precedents—in this case, perhaps lowering the standards for protecting some of Vermont's most sensitive natural areas.

On February 27, 1998, VNRC's 7-member Executive Committee voted unanimously to request amicus curiae (or friend-of-the-court) status when the Board hears the case on appeal. That would give VNRC the opportunity to file a legal analysis of the statutes pertaining to Class A streams and watersheds, and to submit ecological

continued on next page