



Highlanders for Responsible Development
P.O. Box 685 Monterey, VA 24465 www.protecthighland.org

Newsletter

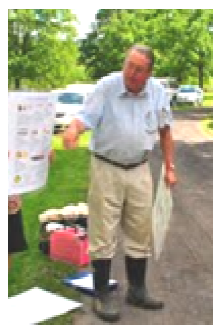
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First Stream Monitoring Workshop Held

HRD's Water Resources Committee conducted an introductory stream monitoring workshop on June 29 with the help of Jay Gilliam, former coordinator of the Izaak Walton League's Save Our Stream program in Virginia. The session focused on the collection and identification of aquatic insects, crayfish, snails, and other creatures collectively known as streambed macroinvertebrates. Stream quality on the Jackson River, where the workshop was held, was assessed as good based on the number and diversity of macroinvertebrates present. Follow-up practice sessions will be conducted in order to provide trained monitors for long-term monitoring and a county-wide stream survey in 2014.



HRD Board members Lew Freeman and Sarah Collins collect streambed samples.



Jay Gilliam describes stream quality analysis techniques.



Workshop participants identify and count macroinvertebrates gathered from the Jackson River.

The committee is presently working to assemble all the available water quality and biological data for Highland streams. Data sources include regulatory and natural resource agencies, universities and conservation organizations. The assembled data, together with general information on surface water management and assessments, will be made available to the public on the HRD website. By providing access to information, the committee hopes to support the environmental stewardship interests of landowners and residents.

Dominion CEO Casts Doubt On Wind Energy Reliability

Thomas Farrell, CEO of Dominion Resources has said that wind and other sources of renewable energy have decided limitations on the contributions they can make to the nation's energy needs. Farrell was interviewed for the June 10 issue of *Natural Gas Daily* (published on the Web by Interfax Information Group) as part of an article on the future of energy policy:

Farrell said, given the current economics of renewables, “you would never do it” without federal subsidies and state mandates. He said advocates for renewable power are not helping their cause by asserting renewables can supply all of the energy. and are being hindered “only by the troglodytes in the utility industry”.

Farrell called that “a fantasy world”, noting that, on the 11 hottest days in Washington last year, Dominion – which supplies electricity to the Virginia suburbs – was able to average just 1 MW from its nearby 182 MW wind farm.

Significant advances in electricity storage will enable greater use of renewables, he said, but technologies such as wind need huge amounts of land.

The facility Farrell refers to is Dominion Resource's NedPower wind energy facility, which includes 132 turbines along 12 miles of the Allegheny Front in eastern West Virginia. It is the largest wind power project in the central Appalachian mountains.

The pronounced seasonal variation in production at NedPower and other nearby ridgeline wind projects is gaining attention as evidence accumulates to show that minimum wind availability in the geographic region coincides with maximum electricity demand in the larger grid region. The Virginia Wind Website (www.VaWind.org), maintained by HRD Board member Rick Webb, provides more information and analysis.

HRD Annual Meeting Planned For September 29

The Annual Meeting of Highlanders for Responsible Development will be held on Sunday, September 29, 2013, 2 pm, at the Pavilion of The Highland Center in Monterey. Reports on HRD Board activities and other subjects related to the organization’s mission will be presented, followed by discussion and refreshments. The public is invited. A separate communication on the meeting will be sent out in early September.

New Members Elected To HRD Board

Sarah Collins and Chris Swecker have been elected to the Board of Directors of Highlanders for Responsible Development. Sarah is Community Projects Coordinator at The Highland Center and is a former Fellow of the Allegheny Mountain School. She has a B.S. in Architecture from the University of Virginia and a Masters in Landscape Architecture from the University of Georgia.

Chris is Owner and Producer of Dodging Bullets, a media production company that serves clients in the Shenandoah Valley and surrounding area. He is a graduate of James Madison University and a native of Highland County.

Allegheny Mountain School Profiled By Staunton News-Leader

Highland County’s Allegheny Mountain School was recently the subject of a major article in the *Staunton News-Leader*. The article and an accompanying video can be accessed at: <http://www.newsleader.com/article/20130803/news01/308030030/restoration-agriculture>.

Highlanders for Responsible Development is a citizens group that promotes stewardship of Highland County, Virginia’s unspoiled landscape, natural resources and exceptional quality of life. We support policies and activities that are based upon informed community discourse, democratic decision making, prudent land use and sustainable economic development. The newsletter is issued quarterly (February, May, August and November) to provide information on issues of relevance to the citizens of Highland County. Our website – www.protecthighland.org – archives past newsletter issues and referenced documents. For questions or to make comments, write HRD@protecthighland.org.

The next HRD Newsletter will be November 2013