

# Mountain Promise

Vol. 4, No.3

The Newsletter of the Brushy Fork Institute

Winter, 1993-94

## Networks make it happen in the region!

Among the highlights of the year past, Brushy Fork can celebrate the accomplishments of Associates who worked together on regional projects. In addition to the networking conferences in each state, Virginia's fundraising and Kentucky's leadership training workshops were major undertakings and both culminated in highly successful events. As the Tennessee Network moves along on its directory and the West Virginia Network both builds on last year's youth project and regroups, 1994 looks like another good year for networks.

### VA Network gives nonprofits a boost

The Virginia Associates' interest in putting together a fundraising workshop for non-profit organizations grew out of a session at their networking conference last spring. A fundraising presentation made by Anthony Flaccavento was so popular that the Associates decided to focus on fundraising for their regional project. They booked Vicki Quatmann, a noted fundraiser and trainer, for a fall date and started planning a two-day workshop and seminar.

"We felt this training would be something that would really benefit the nonprofit groups in our area," says committee member Peggy Rusek.

In addition to the fundraising training with Vicki Quatmann, the Associates invited Mike Wenger of the Appalachian Regional Commission to present the keynote address. The committee put together a pre-conference seminar on the role of government in supporting nonprofits and lined up presenters from regional planning districts and local and state government. Virginia Associate Nancy Robinson agreed to speak from her experience as a community organization member who has worked with a variety of government agencies.

Hungry Mother State Park in Marion, Virginia, was the site of the event which took place in late



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### KY Network pilots leadership program

In Kentucky, network members wanted more people to benefit from leadership training as they themselves have. The Associates decided to create a model one-day training

that could be passed on from county to county. The network chose Owsley County for their pilot program and the active Brushy Fork team in that county, CanDo, Inc., agreed to host the event.

Associates from six Kentucky counties and one Berea College student team worked together to design the curriculum, plan the workshop, recruit participants, produce the materials—and facilitate the workshop! Summing up their intentions, network members said in a statement distributed at the workshop:

*It is our belief that good, effective leadership must come from the people that live and work in this area. All of us have attended meetings where nothing was accomplished... and we were discouraged from attending future meetings. Today you will hear words such as "vision," "toolbox," "time line," "action plan" and "networking." You will understand a systematic approach to conducting a meeting in order to accomplish your goals... We are dedicated to the idea that by working together, developing good, effective leaders, we will be able to solve our own problems.*

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Photo: KY facilitators Denise Hoffman, Jeanette Shouse, Susan Neff, Peter Hille, Jeanette Rogers, John Cleveland & Betty Jo McKinney

## VA Network . . . continued

November. More than seventy people attended the weekend events and everyone took back something useful. A session led by William Irvin of the Virginia Center for Rural Development evoked howls of laughter as participants created skits demonstrating the many transformations projects undergo as community groups seek state funding.

During Vicki Quatmann's practical, thoughtful presentation attendees considered how to apply Vicki's techniques in their own organizations. At the close of the workshop Glen Skinner explained the Network's mini-grant program for helping nonprofits prepare their board members for fundraising.

A small group of Virginia Associates worked diligently to organize the event and make everyone feel welcomed; kudos to Phyllis Deel, Ida Holyfield, Paul Kuczko, Linda Matthews, Betty Purkey, Nancy Robinson, Peggy Rusek, Glen Skinner, Jack Van Zant and Lou Whitley.

## TN Network closes in on directory

Projects are cooking in Tennessee. Network members are busy compiling the information they've collected from fellow Tennesseans into a directory of Brushy Fork Associates. The committee hopes the directory, which will list areas of interest and expertise for each person, will encourage Associates to call upon each other as resources. Network members intend to have the directory ready in time for their second conference which is scheduled for March 18-19. Planning the conference is another of the Network's current efforts.

Network members are already utilizing one another's experience and knowledge. At a recent network meeting five from Campbell County announced their intentions to follow Overton County's example by pursuing the Governor's A+ Award for their school system. Shirley Asbury and other Campbell Countians cornered Overton's Gene Snowden and plied him with questions. With fifteen schools, the Campbell group has a big job ahead of them. Good luck, Campbell County!

## KY Network . . . continued

Twenty-five people, including two youth, participated in the workshop held at the Owsley County High School in Booneville in early October. Associates took turns leading a variety of sessions, some similar to ones in Brushy Fork's leadership workshops and others created expressly for this model by the Associates' network. Workshop participants were quite pleased with the training and very complimentary in their evaluations. If all did not go exactly as the planners had intended, the workshop participants never knew otherwise.

Network members were also happy with the event, having worked very hard up the last minute to make sure everything was ready. Congratulations are in order for Kentucky Associates: J. Scott Barnett, Don Cassidy, John Cleveland, Denise Hoffman, Betty Jo McKinney, Susan Neff, Norman Parsons, Jeanette Rogers, Jeanette Shouse and Amy Tolliver.

## Youth project a hit; WV renews

Following the West Virginia Networking Conference at Pence Springs last March, Russell Reed took the ball and ran with one of the group's ideas. Calling the project, "Get Children Off the Streets and Into the Woods," Russ has been doing just that, organizing six events in as many months. Through bike rides, hikes, cookouts and an overnight camping trip, more than fifty children experienced the pleasures of the great outdoors.

According to Russ, children need to spend more time out in the woods. "I've always enjoyed the outdoors and I'd like to pass some of that along. Kids today have all these things like video games that keep them inside."

With offers to help from several adults, Russ will organize more trips again this year.

In other West Virginia Network news, twelve Associates attending a conflict resolution workshop in Flatwoods last November met over lunch with Peter Hille to talk about reviving the network. The twelve shared ideas and have since begun making plans for a spring conference.

## About Brushy Fork people

Two more Brushy Fork Associates have become Commonwealth Fellows! **Jeanette Shouse** and **Cluster Howard**, both of Breathitt County, Kentucky, were selected for the third group of Fellows. Jeanette, Cluster and the other Commonwealth Fellows are concentrating on education reform.

Congratulations to **Carroll Smith** who was elected Judge-Executive of Letcher County, Kentucky. Carroll's leadership skills will be put to good use in county government.

*Looking Back: Wise County in the Early Years* is a pictorial history compiled by over thirty students. Virginia Associate **Paul Kuczko**, the director of the Lonesome Pine Office on Youth, says the students worked for more than two years collecting photographs, making enlargements and laying out the book. The work includes photographs by the renowned Picture Man Mullins.

**Jack Feller** of Wyoming County, West Virginia, has completed a book, *Memories and Photos of "Mullins," West Virginia*. The book is a first volume of a set and covers the years 1894-1925. Jack is presently working on a second volume.

Berea College President **John B. Stephenson** is retiring at the end of July, 1994, to return to Appalachian scholarship and other writing. Brushy Fork Institute is among President Stephenson's many contributions to the College and the region during his tenure at Berea. Continuing in his service to the mountains, President Stephenson recently became chair of a task force created by Kentucky Governor Brereton Jones to study the partnership between the Commonwealth and the Appalachian Regional Commission. The task force will be looking for ways such partnerships can better serve Appalachia.

**Helen Lewis** stepped down as chair of Brushy Fork's Advisory Board, but she didn't step away—she became interim director of the Berea College Appalachian Center. **Loyal Jones** retired this past summer, and Helen has agreed to serve for two years until a permanent director is named by President Stephenson's successor. As an affiliate program of the Appalachian Center, Brushy Fork Institute is enjoying Helen's leadership and close proximity.

Taking Helen Lewis' place as chair of the Advisory Board is **Richard Couto**, a current board member and the director of the Jepson School of Leadership Studies at the University of Richmond in Virginia. "I'm so pleased the board is in such capable hands," says Brushy Fork's director Carol Lamm.

## What's new at Brushy Fork?

Brushy Fork turned five in 1993. Seventy-five Associates, staff members and friends of the Institute gathered on September 25 to commemorate the anniversary, in true Brushy Fork style. The event began with a collective timeline marking events of the past five years. Small group discussions and reports on current leadership issues followed, and during dinner Carol Lamm recognized attendees who were present at Brushy Fork's very first leadership workshop. After a panel presentation representing the different facets of the Institute's work, Bob



Menefee was given the first Brushy Fork Service Award for his many contributions to the organization. A fast-paced game of Not-So-Trivial Pursuits, with teams of Associates competing to recall facts about Brushy Fork groups and projects, closed the evening. Winners left with a facilitator's kit: a bold, blue marker and a handy roll of masking tape.

The Institute's Leadership Development Program is featured in the Fall 1993 issue of the Appalachian Regional Commission's magazine, *Appalachia*. Entitled, "Growing Grassroots Leadership," the seven-page article is rich with references to team projects and quotations from Brushy Fork Associates. Two counties, Pickett, Tennessee, and Wolfe, Kentucky, are highlighted in separate inserts. Readers can contact the Brushy Fork office to request a copy of the magazine.

In Brushy Fork's continuing support of the Kentucky Education Reform Act, the Institute has teamed up with the Kentucky Association of School Councils to offer training to school-based decision making councils. The workshops, which are approved for professional development credit by the

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### Way to go, teams!

#### CanDo, Inc., featured in Sunday paper

The team from Owsley County, Kentucky, was the subject of a very favorable story, with pictures, in the Lexington Herald-Leader on December 19.

#### Overton County gets the threeppeat

For a third year the Overton County, Tennessee, school system received the Governor's A+ Award for Community Commitment to Excellence in Education.

# New twists in current session of Leadership Program

Bigger teams, fewer states and notable timing. The 1993-1994 session of the Leadership Development Program differed from preceding cycles from the very beginning.

Early in the planning process for this session, the staff decided to increase the size of county teams from ten to fifteen people. Over the years a few of the smallest teams have struggled mightily, while one unusually large team of seventeen members worked very well. With the thought that larger groups might better ensure a critical mass, workshop planners decided to try the new size.

The county selection for this round departed from Brushy Fork's norm of one team from each of four states. Instead, this session hosts two Kentucky counties and one team from West Virginia, in addition to a team of Berea College students. For this cycle the Institute sought support from the participating states. In West Virginia funds from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation enabled Brushy Fork to select Lincoln County. In Kentucky, the governor's office approved use of state funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission to sponsor two counties; Brushy Fork chose Magoffin and Menifee.

Unprecedented in Brushy Fork's five years, the initial workshop began two days after Election Day. A number of participants came to the workshop just hours after succeeding in their bids to serve in county offices.

The projects designed by these teams are described in the next column. The session's midpoint is approaching quickly, and midterm workshops begin this month.

## 1993-94 Team projects

The **Magoffin County**, Kentucky, team set out to educate voters. Magoffin Countians Organized for Voter Education (M.O.V.E.) designed a multifaceted project including classroom programs, voter registration drives, and the establishment of a League of Women Voters chapter.

Voting was also on the minds of the **Berea College** students. Noting that many students have no means of getting to the polls, the students wanted to establish polling booths on campus. The team will also seek ways of educating students on election issues.

The **Menifee County**, Kentucky team saw a need for a county data reference tool. The Menifee Information Group (M.I.G.) will compile and publish information about churches, businesses, recreation, state agencies, schools, services, clubs and sites of interest.

The **Lincoln County**, West Virginia, team, T.O.U.R. (Tour Opportunity Unification Recreation Resources), wants to promote their county's resources and instill community pride by preparing an informational brochure about Lincoln County. The team has consulted with Danny McMillion of the Wyoming County team that created a tour map brochure.

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## What's new . . . continued from page 3

Kentucky Department of Education, are available to school councils throughout the state. Brushy Fork also produced two directories of professional development resources, one for The Partnership for Kentucky School Reform and one for the Kentucky Department of Education's Region 6 Service Center.

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