



# Commodore's Column by Lorraine

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Dear fellow NTRR members and paddlers:

**ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT!**

Mountaintop removal is a tough issue these days—hitting close to home for anyone living, or wanting to paddle, east of the Mississippi. Did you know that West Virginia was targeted this year by coal companies?

What is mountain top removal? The Mountain Justice website defines it as “strip mining on steroids”. One author says the process should be more accurately named mountain RANGE removal. Forests are clear cut, then explosives blast up to 800 feet off mountaintops.

Shovels dig up the soil and trucks haul it away or push it into adjacent valleys. A dragline then digs into the rock to expose the coal.

Utilizing advanced technology, and only a few workers, a small crew can tear apart a mountain in less than a year. While the solid waste becomes valley fills, liquid waste is stored in massive, dangerous coal slurry impoundments. Mountaintop removal /valley fill mining annihilates ecosystems, transforming biologically diverse temperate forests into biologically barren moonscapes. It is sad, sad, sad! If this is an issue that might interest you, there is a movie that has been produced and is receiving international attention. The movie is entitled “Mountain Top Removal”, directed by Mike O’Connell. Mike is a long time paddler.

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# JUNE MEETING !!!

Our next NTRR meeting is on Tuesday, June 16 at 7:00 pm, Lake Arlington.

Due to a lack of advertising, the "fashion show" has been postponed

*Bring a dish for the potluck dinner .*

Plan to attend and bring a friend!!!



Paddler Style Show — postponed



**"As concerned paddlers and citizens, it is up to us voice our opinions and save our environment."**

## Commodore's Column Continued

You can check out a trailer of "Mountain Top Removal" on You Tube, and there is also a link to view the award the movie has already received, presented by Al Gore.

Mountain Range Removal is the ultimate in theft of a people's heritage, the destruction of entire watersheds and the annihilation of precious biologically diverse areas, and it is occurring NOW. The perpetrators are turning beautiful forests and watersheds into the biological equivalent of a parking lot. This is a theft in areas where we like to paddle, perpetrated by coal companies who seem to be striving to outdo one another in their orgy of destructive greed.

Please take a stand against these practices. As concerned paddlers and citizens, it is up to us voice our opinions and save our environment. Watch the movie, do research, and decide for yourself. As people who love to travel to and recreate in natural environments, we invariably become stewards of such.

SYO (precious)R,  
Lorraine McPhee

