TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 34, September 22, 1970

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REMEMBER: STAR IN MARGIN MEANS "DO SOMETHING"

1. POLITICAL CANDIDATES TO BE QUESTIONED ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AT BIG PUBLIC FORUM, OCTOBER 6

In a continuing effort to acquaint our members and the public with the environmental views of our political candidates, we are sponsoring a forum on "The Preservation and Development of a Quality Environment for Tennessee". The meeting is being co-sponsored by the Knoxville Chapter of the National Audubon Society. Candidates will be questioned by a panel knowledgeable in environmental issues. It is probable that we shall get television coverage. Following the question period, there will be a social hour at a location to be announced.

We are almost assured of participation by the gubernatorial candidates, and have had firm acceptances by several of the Congressional hopefuls as well as by a number of candidates for the State legislature. We ask you to bring as many friends as you can. Only by being politically aware and, in turn, educating our elected representatives on the issues can we hope to achieve practical results.

TIME: Tuesday October 6, 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: Univ. of Tennessee, Student Center Auditorium, Knoxville (and, afterwards, at a location to be announced, for the social hour).

Please see item 12 for other meetings and outings.

2. OBED: THE STRIPMINING IS NOT OVER

As reported on June 22, TVA cancelled contract when the operator working on the north bank of the Obed, near its mouth, failed to limit his operation to old mine cuts. We understand reclamation of this whole area is underway. TVA will presumably not contract for any more mining in the Obed watershed.

However, on July 31 we learned that an area roughly opposite the mouth of Jones Branch (south side of the Obed) was now being stripped. We asked the state to look into it. This mining is not under a TVA contract , although the buyer of coal sold on the spot marked can be anyone, including TVA (we have not yet determined identity of the buyer). The state is hampered in its actions by having only 2 inspectors for 110 mine operations in East Tennessee. (Obviously the law must be changed to give the Division more funds.) Mr. Chase Delony, Division Director, writes "any application for strip mining in areas affecting the Obed will be considered on its own merit with a very critical appraisal of all factors before any decision is made."

P.S. Did you know that in spite of our coal shortage here, the U.S. is making large shipments of coal (mined in Tennessee !) to Japan? Delay in return of freight cars further contributes to the shortage.

3. BIG SOUTH FORK: EVINS SUPPORTS EXPANSION OF NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL

Our repeated attempts to talk to Senator Baker on this issue continue to be unsuccessful, although we have several times offered to meet him any place in Tennessee. We did finally arrange a meeting with Congressman Evins on Sept. 3, when Hal Smith led a group of 5 people representing 4 organizations (TCWP, TSRA, SMHC, Sierra Club) to Smithville. The Congressman expressed himself in favor of a national park and offered to help with appropriations when the time came. He made concrete suggestions for obtaining support. You may wish to express your appreciation to him on this issue.

In August we wrote to our Senators and Congressmen, protesting that the Corps of Engineers report had not yet been filed. It is now said to be imminent. In the meantime, as we had feared, the delay has slowed consideration of the alternatives. Sen. Baker writes "It is highly improbable that the Congress will give detailed attention to the various alternative proposals until next year.."

The Cumberland Chapter of the Sierra Club (with Paul Harbour as our liaison) has suggested boundaries for a Kentucky addition to the National Park proposal. Jointly, we have suggested a National Recreation Area north of this Park, to include Devils Jumps, Blue Heron mine and most of the BSF arm of Lake Cumberland.

Oil is being found in the Pine Creek drainage. However, we understand from geologists that such pockets are generally small and there is no particular likelihood that the field would extend to the Big S. Fork region generally.

For more on the Big South Fork, see items 6A, 12B, and 12F.

4. DUCK RIVER: TVA MUST NOW PREPARE STATEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

The House, under the leadership of Joe Evins, this year approved $4.6 million for the Normandy and Columbia dams on the Duck River; and, about 3 weeks ago, the Senate concurred in spite of protests by TCWP, TSRA and others (last year a Senate committee had originally refused the appropriation in response to heavy mail against the dams).

Early in August, TCWP Rivers Chairman Russell learned from the Office of Environmental Quality that TVA had failed to comply with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (P.L. 91-l90), in spite of the fact that a land acquisitions office had already been set up and TVA' s General Manager was quoted as saying "We've" started a project." TCWP protested this failure to comply. Recently, TVA has stated that it is preparing a "102-Statement" under P.L. 91-190. (See also item 5B).

As we gather more and more evidence, it is becoming increasingly clear that the already marginal benefit-cost ratio (1.2/1.0) would drop greatly under an unbiased evaluation of some of the benefits claimed, and in view of the recently announced escalation in cost ($73.5 to $78.5 million). In addition to these economic reasons against the project, the big objection is the destruction, particularly by the Normandy dam, of the scenic values of a river included in the original version of the Tenn. Scenic Rivers Act.

5. NATIONAL ISSUES

A. There may be time to stop the SST in the Senate

As we go to press, there is a probability that the SST vote will come up in the Senate this week. If it has not occurred by the time you receive this, there is still an opportunity for you to contact Senator Baker by phone or by wire (a Public Opinion Message telegram costs less than $1). No need to contact Sen. Gore, for he is already committed on the side of conservationists. In NEWSLETTER No. 32 we gave some of the reasons why the coalition against the SST opposes the $290,000,000 appropriation for having the prototype built by Boeing.

Among the severe environmental damages foreseen are stratospheric smog) leading to climatic changes and probable increases in radiation; low-altitude pollution; airport noise exceeding 100 decibels in an 8-square mile area surrounding each runway; and sonic booms in a 50-mile wide swathe along the entire flight path. House approval of the SST appropriation was by an extremely narrow margin. There is definite hope in the Senate (Sen. Proxmire will offer an amendment to delete the appropriation), but only if presently uncommitted Senators can be swayed. Be sure to act, if there is time.

B. You can help in funding the Council on Environmental Quality

The long awaited National Environmental Policy Act, signed at the beginning of this year, in Sect. 102 directs every federal agency to file a detailed statement of the environmental impact of proposed activities and to study alternatives (see also item 4 of this :NEWSLETTER). These statements are critically evaluated by the Council on Environmental Quality under Russell Train. However, this great new potential for putting an end to pork barrel projects may evaporate for lack of funds, Authorization for the Council and Office on Environmental Quality was for $1.5 million; but, while the Senate approved this amount, cuts in the House brought the final appropriation to $1 million. This was contained in the "Independent Agencies and Housing Bill", which was vetoed by the President for unrelated reasons. There is thus the opportunity to start from scratch on the CEQ appropriation when the bill is re-written for re-submission. This job will fall to the Subcommittee on Independent Offices and Dept. HUD, of which Tennessee's Congressman Evins is chairman. We urge all of our members, particularly those residing in the 4th District, to write to Mr. Evins asking that at least $1.5 million be appropriated to CEQ, as originally authorized.

C . Land and Water Conservation fund "fully funded"

Land and Water money, partially withheld last year, has been fully funded for Fiscal Year 1971. The sum of $357,400,000 is available for federal, state, and local park and recreation programs, with a large share going to urban projects. Budgeted for land acquisition under federal programs is $97, $33, and $8 million, respectively, for Park Service, Forest Service) and Sports Fisheries and Wildlife. About 37% of the NPS acquisition money will go for two National Seashores -- Point Reyes and Cape Cod ~ Assistance to States will be $185 million.

D. Recent TCWP actions on miscellaneous national issues

In recent action TCWP has taken the following stands on various national issues: (1) asked the President to approve Secretary Hickel's request for a moratorium on the Cross-Florida Barge Canal; (2) wrote to the Sec 'y of Agriculture endorsing the North Cascades Conservation Council's recommendation on wilderness in North Cascades Forest Service lands; (3) endorsed creation of the Big Thicket National Park in Texas; (4) endorsed the Forest Service plan for wilderness designation in the Mission Mts., Montana. Any individual member interested in action on these issues should contact the editor.

6. TCWP IN THE PRESS AT NATIONAL MEETINGS

A. The June issue of American Heritage carries a short article on the Big South Fork battle and TCWP's part in it ("A River to Run Free", p. 112). This grew out of associate conservation editor Liz Layne's visit last October. The December number of the magazine carried a list of 24 threatened scenic areas throughout the nation ("Where the Battle is Joined", p. 119): two of the listings -- the Big South Fork and the Smokies -- represent issues in which we are deeply involved.

B. Sevier County News Record of July 23, 1970 carried a full-page advertisement for TCWP absolutely free of charge. The ad, which included a reproduction of our membership brochure and a summary of TCWP's achievements and activities, grew out of a conversation members Kin Zimmerman and Fred Smith had with the publisher, Mr. Postlewaite. We have given Mr. P. an honorary membership as a small token of our gratitude. Do you know a newspaper publisher who would help us in a similar way?

C. The Chattanooga Times, in an editorial of August 5, cites some of the results of our political questionnaire, calling US "that excellent organization, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning".

D. The National Symposium on Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Waterways, held Sept. 9-12 at St. Paul, Minn., featured speakers from many state and federal agencies, but only two representing citizens' groups. One of these .was TCWP's Rivers Chairman, W. L. Russell, who spoke on "First Comprehensive State Act -- Tennessee".

7. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

About 140 of the member questionnaires sent out with NEWSLETTER 32 have now been returned. Over 50% expressed a willingness to serve on an "issues" committee, and a large number have offered to do " service" jobs. We are putting the information on cards and hope that it will soon help us to get a much fuller and more efficient involvement of the membership in our many tasks. IF YOU HAVE Not YET RETURNED THE QUESTIONNAIRE, PLEASE DO SO VERY SOON (if you have lost it, ask for another).

Our membership file is now being "computerized" which will give US a print-out of address labels for each mailing and the ability to sort for various attributes. We are most grateful to Marian Oates and Fred Sweeton for the programming and keypunching.

Many of our dues-delinquent members have been phoned, and we are gratified that, in most cases, the cause for non-payment was oversight. Please be sure to correct this right away -- it is getting late in the year!

8 . SAVE THE JOYCE KILMER MEMORIAL FOREST

Most of you are probably familiar with this 3,800-acre primitive area of fine trees just across the border in N.C. It is now imminently threatened by a portion of the Tellico Plains - Robbinsville highway, proposed by the Bureau of Public Roads and the Forest Service. The potential damage is compounded by the fact that Joyce Kilmer is adjacent to the Slick Rock Creek area, together with which it could logically be protected under the Wilderness Act (see NL #31, item 9B, NL #32, items 7a and 7c). An alternate route south of Big Santeetlah Creek exists and was, in fact, the originally surveyed one.

The Save Joyce Kilmer League is sponsoring a Survey and Protest Hike on the Oct. 24-25 weekend, as well as advocating other actions. For information, write to Carl A. Reiche, 932 Obispo Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida 33134.

9. OAK RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD NEEDS OUR SUPPORT

A resolution creating this board will probably pass City Council within two weeks. TCWP members Roy Curtiss, Bob Lefler, Robin Wallace, Audrey Schlafke, Martie Adler, and Dave Reichle have worked hard for this resolution, which requests Council to seek nominees from several named organizations, including TCWP . Representatives of most of these groups recently agreed on a slate to be proposed for nominations. Among them are TCWP members Lefler, Countess, Schlafke, and Marge Ketelle, as well as Marvin Yarosh, Gerald Ulrikson, Harvey Bank, Gene Rise, Cindy Holcomb, and Bob Schenley. If you know any of these people, call your councilman soon to give your support to their nomination. The Environmental Quality Advisory Board will be a working board, and we have great hopes for it.

10. OVERTON PARK: APPEALS COURT HEARS CASE

Citizens to Preserve Overton Park appealed the earlier court denial of an injunction to halt construction of I-40 through the Park. The appeal was heard June 15 by a U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. The case may become a legal precedent as the first federal test of the Preservation of Park Lands Act. Our Memphis friends are fighting a battle for all of us, and we again appeal for financial help with their expensive court proceedings. (Contact Mrs. Anona Stoner, Sec' y, CPOP, 192 Williford Street, Memphis, TN 38112).

11. HARVEY BROOME BOOK PUBLISHED

Harvey Broome, true friend, advisor, and ideal of the founders of TCWP needs no introduction to our members. Our educational film series was established in his name and memory. We are happy to learn that Greenbrier Press has published Harvey Broome: Earth Man, in which his widow, Anne, has assembled many of his writings. Can be ordered from the Greenbrier Press (5115 Mountain Crest Drive, Knoxville, TN 37918); $4, postpaid.

12. MEETINGS AND OUTINGS

October is a mighty busy month, so mark your calendar right away.

A. Political Forum, Tuesday, October 6 (see item 1)

B. Big South Fork Float, October 17-18

We are co-sponsoring this float and canoe camping which is being organized by Bill Mitchum of TSRA. Fall colors should be really fine.'

Meet Saturday 10 a.m. Eastern Time at Leatherwood Ford, about 13 miles west of Oneida, Tenn. (turn west from U.S. 27 at Third St., Oneida, then bear left every time there is an obvious decision to be made, especially at the Terry and Terry Grocery). Take-out will be Sunday by 6 p.m., either at Yamacraw (30 mile trip) or Blue Heron (25 miles), depending on water level. Cars will be reliably shuttled and guarded by Mr. Butler's Explorer Troup at $5 per car (proceeds go to the Explorer-post treasury). Canoes will have to be portaged and/or emptied at Angel Falls, so pack accordingly. Be sure to have submersion-proof bags for valuables, sleeping bags, etc. Life jackets are mandatory, as are 8-10 foot painters at each end of canoe. This river has many long, quiet stretches (much paddling required) as well as Class-II and some Class-III rapids (depending on flow).

For further information, call Bill Mitchum, Nashville 269-9759, or Lee Russell 482-2153.

C. Fall-color hike, new Frozenhead State Park, Saturday, October 24

We are co-sponsoring this hike with TTA. Leader: Don Todd. Extra feature: Chimney Rock, to which the Todds are clearing a new trail. Details in next NEWSLETTER.

D. Annual Meeting, Thursday, October 29

In addition to the annual business, such as elections, we shall feature a film and reports on the year's activities. Refreshments. The next NEWSLETTER will carry biographies of candidates and details of the meeting, but be sure to mark your calendar now. It is important that we have a representative turnout.

E. Stripmine tour, Saturday, October 31

Since we hope to make improvement in the stripmine law an issue in the next Legislature,
we want to give our members and friends an opportunity for close-up views of stripmines. Mr. Fred Wyatt, the East Tennessee Inspector for the Division of Strip Mining and Reclamation, will be one of our guides. Assemble 8:30 a.m., Oliver Springs, at a drive-in located on highway 62, very near the L & N trestle. For the morning, we drive to the top of the Windrock-Buffalo Mountain complex for close-up views of current and recent stripping, plus distant views of mining in the New River and Tennessee valleys. For the afternoon, we go to the Ollis Creek area (Royal Blue exit from I-75, north of Lake City) in the watershed of the LaFollette water supply. Mining there is on TVA land under special reclamation requirements being used experimentally. Among the provisions being applied is one controlling bench width in relation to angle of slope -- a consideration that we feel should be part of the state law. Wear sturdy shoes; bring a lunch. If you can join US for the afternoon only, call 482-3302 to make arrangements.

F. Future outings

Details will shortly be announced for an outing to the recently discovered big arches near Pickett (probably mid-November); and possibly for participation in a new "Pocket Wilderness" dedication near Dayton.

G. Summary Calendar

Oct. 1 Harry Caudill speaks on "Appalachia - Switzerland or Albania". Oak Ridge Community Playhouse, 8 p.m. (Sponsored by Scientists and Engineers for Appalachia).
Oct. 6 Political Forum: candidates answer questions on environment (see item 1).
Oct. 15-17 Tennessee Forest Festival, Livingston
(Herman Baggenstoss has asked us to announce this. For info, write P. O. Box 306, Sewanee,TN 37375)
Oct. 17-18 Big South Fork float (item l2B)
Oct. 24 Frozenhead State Park fall color hike (item 12C)
Oct. 24-25 Save Joyce Kilmer Weekend (item 8)
Oct. 29 TCWP annual meeting (item 12D)
Oct. 31 Stripmine tour (item 12E)
Nov. 7 (tentative) Trail seminar follow-up, Montgomery Bell State Park
(write Donald E. Todd, Box 331, Wartburg, TN 37887)
Nov. 14-15 (tentative) Big arches near Pickett (see next NEWSLETTER)
Oct., most weekends: Outings by the Smoky Mtns. Hiking Club (Box 1454, Knoxville, TN 37901)
and the Tennessee Eastman Recreation Club (Kingsport, TN)

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REMEMBER: A STAR IN THE MARGIN MEANS "DO SOMETHING"