

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 44, October 29, 1971

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Note: Due to the editor's vacation plans, this issue of the TCWP NEWSLETTER is published at a shorter than usual interval past the last one. There will be a longer-than-usual interval before the next one.

1. ANNUAL MEETING: OUTSTANDING FILMS, REPORTS, ELECTION

Time: Monday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Place: Cooperative Science Education Center, 156 Adams Road, Oak Ridge. (Note: The building is just south of, and is visible from, the Oak Ridge Turnpike between the intersection of Tenn. 62 and the Jefferson tennis courts.)

- Program:
- (1) Reports on year's effort and look into the future
 - (2) Election of 1972 officers, board and nominating committee (see write-up of candidates, item 9 in this Newsletter)
 - (3) Two outstanding films.
 - a. "The Tragedy of the Commons"-Color, 23 minutes
Dramatization of Garrett Hardin's thesis that where there is a sharing of benefits but not of responsibility, a resource is going to be degraded. In medieval England, "the commons" were commonly worked farm lands surrounding townships; today, "the commons" is the earth itself.
 - b. "Wasted Woods" - Sierra Club, color, 15 min
The film by no means asks lumbermen to spare all trees; instead it shows that they should all spare the soil so that it can produce trees on and on.
 - (4) Refreshments

We need a large turnout to make our elections truly democratic and we hope the program will make it well worth your while to come. Bring friends and prospective members!!

2. NEWS CAPSULES ON TENNESSEE RIVERS

A. Obed study progresses

Although the SE Regional Office of BOR has lost more staff and only $1\frac{1}{4}$ people are now involved in the Obed study, instead of the original 3, the Office expects to complete a rather advance first draft by the end of November.

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B. Big S. Fork legislation

Senators Baker (Tenn.) and Cooper (Ky.) are working on legislation to preserve the Big S. Fork and surrounding areas. Current indications are that they do not favor any one of the proposals put forth in the Interagency Report but something intermediate between a couple of them. A bill may be introduced in this session. We believe that the gorges of many of the tributaries, even the small ones, are as worthy of preservation as the main river itself -- they are intimate, secluded, and blessed with rockhouses, waterfalls, and an unbelievable wealth of plant life. Not only must we assure true preservation of the main rivers but of a large enough surrounding area to protect the tributary gorges. Land prices will only escalate in the future. We hope that you will contact Sen. Howard Baker (Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510) to express your opinion. Time is short!

C. Opposition to Duck River dams increases

Two organizations have joined the growing list of those who are actively opposing the Normandy and Columbia dams. They are the 700-member Tennessee Archeological Society and the Southeastern Indian Antiquities Survey, Inc. The impoundments would flood well over 100 important sites spanning 10,000 years of prehistory. TVA's final Environmental Impact Statement is still in the works. There are some indications that the state contributions, several of which are known to have been unfavorable to the dams, are now receiving a whitewash job as a result of the Governor's expressed support of the project.

D. Tellico-Dam suit

Judge Gerhard Gesell recently ruled that EDF can't sue TVA in Washington. If EDF decides not to appeal this decision, it will file suit in the TVA region.

3. STRIPMINE NEWS

A. National hearings

House hearings on federal stripmine legislation continue to be strung out in a fragmented manner: Sept. 21, 22, Oct. 21, 26, and as yet unannounced dates. Chmn. Aspinall made it clear at the beginning that his committee was to focus on "regulation" of stripmining, not a ban. The Administration bills have been endorsed by so many national and state coal operators associations that they have come to be known as the "industry bills".

Jim Branscome, Director of S.O.K., has written to the Subcommittee on behalf of the Appalachian Coalition and has charged that the people of Appalachia are being denied the opportunity to raise their voices of protest. The Coalition feels that the hearings are being conducted to favor stripmine proponents, and cites the following evidence: (a) No state groups (except S.O.K.) or citizens have been scheduled so far; (b) Rep. Hechler (whose bill would ban stripmining) was prevented from utilizing expert advisers, but TVA Chairman Aubrey Wagner (who testified that strip mining was vital to the nation and that the states should be responsible for laws) was permitted to have aides comment on questions; (c) Conservation witnesses are restricted to 10 minutes, but a representative of the American Mining Congress spent an hour on the stand; (d) Rep. Hechler was denied the privilege of inserting printed material in the record when others had been allowed to do so; (e) Rep. Hechler was interrogated at length by hostile subcommittee members, while the questioning of other witnesses was limited to 5 minutes; (f) the requirement of 50 written copies of testimony cannot easily be met by Appalachian citizens living in isolation (Chmn. Edmondson's reply to this: "Don't they have carbon paper or mimeographs out there?")

A number of Morgan County and Anderson County (New R. area) citizens have petitioned Rep. Evins to abolish stripmining.

Harry Caudill, author of "Night Comes to the Cumberlands", has submitted a moving testimony whose recommendations are quite similar to those of TCWP in: (a) outlawing of stripmining on slopes; (b) strict regulation of remaining mining, allowed only where total restoration of land is possible, (c) restoration of past damage. Of the supposedly stringent state laws of Kentucky, which he helped pass, he writes: "It is with sadness that I tell you Kentucky's 17-year struggle has been a failure and that the ruin of its land continues unabated."

B. Nashville Tennessean Series now in booklet form

The fine series of articles by Bill Greenburg (which we mentioned in NL #43) are combined with Jack Corn's outstanding photos and several cartoons and editorials in a 30-page booklet. Single copies can be ordered, free, from the Promotions Dept., Nashville Tennessean, 1100 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203. We hope to distribute copies to legislators later.

More recently (Oct. 10) Tennessean writer, Bob Steber, has taken TVA to task for the severe stripmine damage in our state and has said, "Hopefully a nationally sponsored bill will outlaw all stripmining."

C. What's happening on the state level?

Conservation Commissioner Jenkins has announced that his office has drafted a bill to tighten state strip mining regulations but that copies of this bill will not be available until officially released. (By contrast, note that the 1971 "citizens" bill" was widely circulated by us in draft form, and that the Dept. of Conservation was consulted earlier than anyone else.) Commissioner Jenkins is quoted on the following additional statements: "We do not want to interfere with the production of coal." "We think our bill is far stronger than Kentucky's on the issue that counts: reclamation." (We hope the bill's authors will realize that pre-mining preparation and mining procedure also "count", and that reclamation under certain conditions is impossible so that prohibitions must be included.) Jenkins is also quoted as saying he did not think there would be federal prohibition of steep mountain stripping. TCWP has requested a draft of the Department's bill.

D. Energy 2000, a workshop

Environment 2000 is sponsoring this workshop on the impact of alternative energy sources on the conservation of natural resources (Nov. 18). Emphasis will be on stripmining activities. Panelists will be widely representative of various interests. TCWP is represented. For details on time and place, see calendar.

4. NEWS CAPSULES ON TENNESSEE TRAILS AND NATURAL AREAS

A. TTA and Sierra Club request help with trail development

As you may recall, the Tennessee Trails Act of 1971 designated 7 Scenic Trails. TTA has made considerable progress on the Cumberland Trail, but much help is needed to complete it -- to say nothing of the other 6 trails. If there is enough interest among our members, TCWP could take on responsibility for a specific trail section. Anyone who feels like volunteering for such a TCWP effort, should contact Don Todd, P.O. Box 331, Wartburg, TN 37887; 615, 346-3113. The Sierra Club is sponsoring a portion of the John Muir Trail, probably from Pickett to Rugby. Our West Tennessee members may wish to contact Mr. Joe Gaines, Chickasaw State Park, Henderson, TN 38340 who is planning two long trails in that area.

B. Local residents oppose hike-bike trail to Smokies

Landowners along the right-of-way of the abandoned Smoky Mountain RR have petitioned the Dept. of Conservation not to develop a hike-bike trail, citing some of the usual fears based on misunderstanding of the situation (devaluation of property, noise, littering, vandalism, "undesirables" would be attracted by trail shelters, etc.).

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This is reminiscent of local oppositions that have plagued the scenic-rivers program. We believe the best remedy is for the Department of Conservation to (a) launch a public education effort, and (b) speed development of at least one component of the system to demonstrate in actual practice the desirability and innocuousness of the program.

C. Pocket Wildernesses dedicated and recognized

On October 23, Bowaters Southern Paper Corp. sponsored a dedication hike in its Honey Creek Wilderness in the Big South Fork region, an enchanting area of fragile beauty. TCWP wants to express special thanks to David Rhyne who did a superb job of laying out the single-file trail without disturbing any natural features. Last June, the U.S. Dept. of Interior awarded National Recreation Trail recognition to the trail in the Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness. A dedication ceremony and hike will take place Nov. 13.

D. Savage Gulf Preservation League to be formed

The Department of Conservation is committed to making an affirmative recommendation concerning the purchase of Savage Gulf to the upcoming session of the Legislature. All who are concerned with this issue must therefore be prepared to speak forcefully in behalf of true preservation of the largest possible area. The Savage Gulf Preservation League is being formed for this purpose. Its charter meeting will be held Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. CST, First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville. If you are interested but cannot attend, write Dr. Wallace Bigbee, 102 Ridgecrest Drive, McMinnville, TN 37110.

5. GOOD NEWS ON OAK RIDGE'S GREENBELT TRAIL

The Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB) at its Oct. 25 meeting decided to recommend to City Council that the City request National Recreation Trail designation for the 9-mile North Ridge Trail developed by TCWP. TCWP has invited Council, the Planning Commission, and EQAB for a hike on the Illinois Ave.-to-Key Springs section of the trail November 7. Call your Councilman to reinforce our invitation-- and come hike with him! Hikers will meet Sunday, Nov. 7, 2 p.m. at Hilltop (intersection of Illinois Avenue and Outer Drive). Car shuttles will be arranged.

6. URGENT NATIONAL PROBLEMS

A. Alaska may get another chance: Senate action imminent

On Oct. 20, the House defeated 217:177 the Udall-Saylor National Interest Amendment and rejected the Dingell wildlife refuge amendment. Both of these would have protected the national interest by providing for planning for Alaska's 350 million acres of public lands. There is still a chance to save Alaska from uncontrolled exploitation. The Senate will take up its version of the bill (S. 35) almost immediately. Communicate with Senators Baker and Brock by phone (202, 225-4944 and 202, 225-3344, respectively) or send a regular wire (Public Opinion Messages may be too slow) and ask them to support the NATIONAL INTEREST AMENDMENTS. These will strengthen (a) the proposed land planning commission, (b) provisions for study of potential national parks, wildlife refuges, etc., (c) the protection for existing national wildlife refuges. ACT NOW and get others to do likewise. In the earlier House fight, conservation interests were damagingly misrepresented. Therefore we must now make clear that the amendments (a) do not work against settlement of Native Claims or the interests of the Natives and (b) do not involve the pipeline issue. Our near-win in the House, in spite of these misrepresentations by the massive and powerful opposition indicates that citizen conservation action was outstanding. TCWP phone committees and TWAC were busy and we managed to win 3

Tennessee Congressmen to the side of conservation: Anderson, Duncan, and Jones. Please be sure to express your thanks to them. The remaining six (Baker, Blanton, Evins, Fulton, Kuykendall, Quillen) voted against the amendment.

B. The Redwoods face another crisis

If we thought that establishment of the Redwood National Park 3 years ago would protect our best remaining groves, we were wrong. Only about 1/3 of the 90,000 acres recommended by conservationists was included in the Park, and some of the best stands and most important drainages were omitted. Right now, major clear-cutting operations are in progress right at the Park boundaries. In one drainage, loaded lumber trucks were leaving the area at the rate of 25 per hour! Particularly dangerous is the fact that these clearcut areas are upstream from the Park, and that the extreme soil disturbance (earthcuts 20-30 feet deep and wide) is causing landslides and mud flows into the Park which are burying the roots of the "protected" redwoods. The Sierra Club urges you to write or wire Secy Rogers C. B. Morton (Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240) and ask him to take the requested easement adjacent to the Park which would defer cutting for 2 years. Further, he should consider extending the Park's boundaries to include the slopes above Redwood Creek.

7. REGIONAL ITEMS

A. Was the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock route ever authorized?

During the Second Annual Save Joyce Kilmer Weekend, Oct. 23-24, Carl Reiche, coordinator of the Save-Joyce-Kilmer League, presented some startling results of his recent extensive researches at the Library of Congress. Most important: the partially accomplished construction of the Kilmer-Slickrock section of the Tellico Plains-Robbinsville Highway appears never to have been authorized by Congress! In spite of this, \$3 $\frac{1}{2}$ million have already been spent and another \$4 million is now projected for this 15-mile stretch. (Congress has authorized only \$7 million for the entire 47-mile project.) There is every indication that Environmental Impact Report, when it is finally released, will be a whitewash and a go-ahead for the destructive Kilmer/Slickrock routing. If you are disturbed by these revelations, you should write about them to your Congressman, and to your local paper. Reiche also unveiled sketches, contributed by several architects, for the National Wilderness Visitor Center, which he has proposed for the present dead-end of the road at Rock Creek Knob, and which he envisions as an introduction to a living museum -- the Kilmer/Slickrock Wilderness.

B. Buffalo National River Hearing record stays open until Nov. 5

Arkansas' Buffalo River is familiar to many TCWP members as an interesting and often spectacular area. The chance to designate it as a National River is now better than it has ever been. The Senate has already passed S. 7 to this effect, and the House has been holding committee hearings during the past two days on similar bills, H.R. 8382 (Hammerschmidt) and H.R. 9119 (Alexander). Arkansas conservationists are advocating amendments which would make provision for (a) study of areas within the National River boundaries for wilderness designation, and (b) establishment of a citizens' advisory commission. If you hurry, you can endorse the bills and their amendments for the hearing record. Write or wire: Hon. Roy A. Taylor, Chmn., Subcomm. on National Parks and Recreation, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. Send a copy to your Congressman.

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8. CALENDAR

- Nov. 4 - Savage Gulf Preservation League, charter meeting, 7:30 p.m. CST,
McMinnville, First Presbyterian Church
- Nov. 6-7 - Obed-Emory float, TSRA. Pre-registration required.
(Wm. A. Griswold, Nashville, 254-9551, ext. 595; or 297-2387)
- Nov. 7 - Oak Ridge Greenbelt hike. Assemble 2 p.m., Hilltop.
- Nov. 11 - Tenn. Water Qual. Control Board hearings on lower Cumberland drainage.
9:30 a.m. CST, Lentz Health Center Auditorium, Nashville
- Nov. 13 - Laurel-Snow Trail designation ceremony and hike, 9:30 a.m. EST. (C.
Streetman, Calhoun 336-2211)
- Nov. 15 - Tennessee Tax Equalization Board hearings on assessment for coal
etc., Nashville (For details, call R. W. Peele, 483-8611, ext. 3-6993,
or 483-8974)
- Nov. 18 - Energy 2000, a workshop, 7:30 p.m., Shiloh Rm, University Center, U.T.,
Knoxville. (Annette Anderson, 546-8867; or Dorothy Stulberg 483-1950).
- Nov. 20-21-Little T float, TSRA (L. Price Wilkins 524-2597, or 687-0477).
- Nov. 2, 16, 30, Walt Disney Wildlife Film Series, Audubon-sponsored. Knoxville
Dec. 14, 28 - public library, 4 and 7:30 p.m. (Jan Basista 524-1972)

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Several copies of almost all past issues of TCWP Newsletters are available. If you can use them, request from the editor.

NOMINEES FOR ELECTION

The nominating committee, consisting of Jean Bangham (chairman) and Stan Auerbach, presents the following slate for 1971.

President: William L. Russell, Oak Ridge, geneticist, Biology Division, ORNL. One of the founders of TCWP, Director, 1969, 1970. President, 1971. Winner, 1969 HOLIDAY "Award for a Beautiful America". Board of Advisors, TSRA, 1968, 1969, 1970. Member*WS, SC, TSRA, ETWWC. Active in formulation and passage of Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. Believes in preserving as many as possible of America's remaining wilderness areas and free-flowing streams.

Vice President: Edward E. C. Clebsh, Knoxville, ecologist, assoc. professor, Botany Dept. and Graduate Program in Ecology, U.T. TCWP Director, 1967, 1969, 1970, 1971. Chmn. TCWP Natural Areas Comm. Chairman (5 yrs.), Conserv. Comm., Assn. Southeastern Biologists. Member: SMHC (Conserv. Comm.), WS, Ecol. Soc. of Am., Advisor to U.T. Earth Day activities. He is interested in saving natural areas as preserves for recreational purposes and for scientific study, and feels a particular urgency in view of the rapidly increasing population pressures.

Secretary: Helen Ward, Oak Ridge, AEC Div. of Technical Information. Member: NAS, former member SMHC. Interested in trails and hiking.

Treasurer: Charles Klabunde, Oak Ridge, physicist, Solid State Div., ORNL. TCWP Outings Chmn., 1970, 1971. Member SMHC, TTA. Interested in Smokies wilderness and trail systems.

Directors (vote for 5 only)

W. C. Countess, Oak Ridge, teacher, Oak Ridge High School. Developed and taught Spaceship Earth class. Member: WS, SC. One of 12 from U.S. chosen to participate in 1971 leadership training workshop in Washington, sponsored by the Wilderness Society. Interested in Big S. Fork, stripmining problems, and, especially, environmental education.

Robert E. Farmer, Jr., Norris, plant physiologist, TVA Division of Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife Development. Member: WS, Soc. Am. Forestry, Ecol. Soc. of Am., Scientists and Engineers for Appalachia. Active on TCWP strip mining comm., 1971. Long-term interest in land-use planning.

Nancy Rennie (Mrs. John C.), Knoxville, housewife. Has done graduate work in plant ecology and botany. Her main interest lies in conservation education.

Liane B. Russell, Oak Ridge, geneticist, Biology Div., ORNL. TCWP founder, Vice President, 1966, President, 1967-70, director, 1971. Has written TCWP Newsletter, 1966-present. Winner of 1969 HOLIDAY "Award for a Beautiful America". Invited speaker at SC's National Wilderness Conference, 1971. Member: SC, WS, NAS, TSRA, TTA, ETWWC, etc. Feels that certain areas must be preserved free of the intrusion of man's works, and believes that this can be done by acquainting citizens, administrators, and legislators with properly research aspects of wilderness issues.

*SC = Sierra Club, WS = Wilderness Soc., NAS = Natl. Audubon Soc., NWF = Natl. Wildlife Fed., TSRA = Tenn. Scenic Rivers Assn., TTA = Tenn. Trails Assn., SMHC = Smoky Mtns. Hiking Club, ETWWC = East Tenn. Whitewater Club

William F. Searle III, Knoxville, attorney. Has advised in drafting of TCWP stripmine legislation and helped with political contacts. Member: NAS; Assoc. for the Pres. of the Little T; Board Member, Greater Knoxville Audubon Society; past Vice President, Tenn. Ornithological Soc. Great interest in the Smokies, Little T, stripmine legislation.

William H. Skelton, Knoxville, attorney. Member: SC, WS, NAS, Tenn. Valley Canoe Club, TSRA. Interested in preservation of wilderness areas.

Donald E. Todd, Wartburg, science teacher, grades 7 & 8, Wartburg School. Chmn., TCWP Stripmine Comm. Panel chmn. of Natural Trails symposium. Instrumental in securing passage of Tenn. Trails System Act. With his sons developed trails in Morgan Forest and Emory watershed. Participated in planning for new Frozenhead State Park. Helped in bringing about control of stripmining on Obed. President, TTA. Director of weekly radio program, "Recreation Unlimited" WECO 9400, in which he develops his philosophy on natural areas. Is interested in conservation education and the development of a wilderness concept for parklands.

Nominating Committee: (vote for 3 only)

H. Stuart Bacon, Knoxville, psychologist, private practice and U.T. Member: SMHC. Interested in having areas of wilderness available for "recharging of one's batteries".

Frank Bruce, Oak Ridge, Assoc. Director for Administration, ORNL. Charter member of TCWP, member SMHC. Main interest is in preserving wilderness areas for purpose of hiking.

Minnie Duncan, Oak Ridge, retired librarian, Biology Div., ORNL. Member: NWF, WS, SC, NAS. Active in TCWP trail comm. and has organized TCWP library. Her interest includes national wild and scenic river systems, legislation to regulate stripmining, natural area legislation, national park designation for Big South Fork of the Cumberland, O.R. Greenbelt trails and their preservation, and national issues (such as Alaska North Slope and areas in which wildlife and scenic values are threatened).

Donald W. Jared, Oak Ridge, biologist, Biology Div., ORNL. Member: EACOR, NAS, TSRA, ETWWC. Involved with EACOR's tree planting project. Interested in preservation of rivers, stripmine legislation and development of hiking trails.

Ruth Slusher, Oak Ridge, computer programmer, Math Div., ORNL. Has helped organize TCWP outings. Member: TTA, ETWWC. Interested in preserving wild rivers and developing hiking trails.