

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 22, May 5, 1969

HEADLINES

- Plans are maturing for conservationists' visit to Secretary Hickel in opposition to the Transmountain Road.
- Big South Fork committee submits recommendations to three-agency Task Force; helps with official field trips. A bill that would create a commission to work for Devils Jumps dam has been introduced in the Tennessee Legislature.
- The Conasauga has been added to the State Scenic Rivers Act as a Class-I river. A bill to add the Hatchie is in committee. TCWP is attempting to publicize facts in the Buffalo area.
- A natural areas resolution has been passed and signed, calling for a Department of Conservation study and report. A natural areas preservation bill has been introduced.
- TCWP has received approval from City Council to develop simple hiking trails in Oak Ridge greenbelts. One trail has been marked and cleared.
- The TCWP Clear Fork outing of May 25 will cater to floaters as well as hikers and swimmers. A large number of other outings and special events are listed for May and early June. Reports are given of recent outings, meeting, and exhibit.

SMOKIES: DELEGATION TO SEE SECRETARY HICKEL

As reported in Newsletter No. 21, TCWP on March 20 requested the Secretary of the Interior to grant an audience to proponents of wilderness that excludes another transmountain road. Mr. Hickel agreed to such a meeting and has since stated several times (in conversation and in press reports) that no decision would be made until after he had met with conservationists. We are attempting to set up a meeting in the near future. TCWP has been very busy coordinating efforts with many other organizations and individuals in several states, and it looks as though our representation will be quite broadly based. All interested TCWP members were invited in Newsletter No. 21 to join the charter bus trip to Washington; in addition all those in Knox County and Oak Ridge have been contacted by phone. If there is any chance you might wish to participate and have not already been contacted, write TCWP, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830, or phone 525-9888 (Jeanne Carver, Knoxville) or 482-2153 (L.B. Russell, Oak Ridge).

BIG SOUTH FORK OF THE CUMBERLAND

(a) Our South Fork Committee recently submitted to the three-agency Field Task Force that is studying alternatives to Devils Jumps dam a detailed summary of the TCWP recommendations based on the Committee's extensive studies. Briefly, the Committee concludes that, within a certain area (outlined in detail) (i) the wilderness character of the undisturbed river gorges should be maintained through special legislative designation; and (ii) a larger surrounding area should be protected by designation as a National Park or National Recreation Area. Full text available on request. The list of materials that has been supplied by TCWP forms an impressive appendix to this summary and includes such items as maps of special features and of areas to be preserved, several ecological studies, numerous photographs, archeological and historical data, float tables and river descriptions, power cost calculations for Devils Jumps and alternate power sources, newspaper reports, etc. The Field Task Force met in Nashville on April 30 to assemble material for the first draft of its report.

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(b) Members of the South Fork Committee helped to arrange field trips for various members of the BOR and National Park Service visiting the Clear Fork and Big South Fork region April 24-29. On April 29, TCWP was also host for the Honorable James Shropshire, Commissioner of Natural Resources, State of Kentucky, and for the Kentucky Wild Rivers Commission, who are studying the Big South Fork.

(c) A bill introduced April 22 by Representatives Freels and Hack Ayres and Senator Shadden (HB 856-SB719) would create an eight-county commission to work for Devils Jumps dam and empowered to spend \$250,000 for this purpose. TCWP is strongly opposing this bill by letters to committee members and the Governor. Our reasons are: (i) a federal study of alternatives is already underway, with the state officially represented; (ii) the dam would be located in Kentucky, and that state's official Wild Rivers Commission is even now studying the river; (iii) tens of thousands of Tennesseans have expressed themselves for scenic river or similar development of the system, and against any dams on it; (iv) Devils Jumps cannot be economically justified, TVA would not buy its expensive power, and its authorization has been 5 times refused by the Congress; (v) a National Park surrounding the wild rivers -- one of the alternatives now being considered -- would bring more lasting economic benefit to the region than would merely another reservoir.

STATE SCENIC RIVERS

To offset partially the deletion of most of the Buffalo from the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act (although not from the national Wild and Scenic Rivers Act -- see our last newsletter) we are happy to report a river added to the state system. This is the Conasauga, east of Chattanooga, the entire Tennessee portion of which, upstream from US 411, was added in a bill, sponsored by Senator C. L. Cannon and Repr. Wm. C. Watson, which passed both Houses almost unanimously. The Conasauga is a particularly significant addition, since it is all Class-I ("natural river area"), and the Scenic Rivers Act as passed last year had retained only $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles of Class-I rivers (the Roaring River system).

A bill to add the Hatchie, a cypress-swamp river in West Tennessee, was introduced earlier in this session, but got stalled in committee when the Buffalo troubles occurred.

In the Buffalo region, TCWP is clearing up misunderstandings about the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act by means of articles and letters in area newspapers and through personal contacts.

An article by Justice William O. Douglas about the Little Tennessee River, that appeared recently in Truth (brought up to date from a story originally commissioned by the National Geographic) led to a new surge of editorials and articles about TVA's Tellico Dam, which would impound the last free-flowing stretch of the Little T. It also led Knoxville legislators to introduce a bill in the Tennessee General Assembly to add the Little T to the State Scenic Rivers Act.

OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST IN THE TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE

1. House Joint Resolution No. 88, sponsored by Ashe, Krieg, Albright, Davis, Howell, R. D. White, Copeland, and Jensen, and signed by the Governor on May 1, directs the Department of Conservation to study the need for recognition, classification, and preservation of natural areas and community areas having

certain outstanding values, and to recommend adequate legislation to accomplish these needs. Included in the study will be an inventory, beyond that of the State Plan for Outdoor Recreation, of the scenic areas of Tennessee deemed worthy of preservation. The Department is to report to the Legislature by January 1, 1970.

2. House Bill No. 936, the natural areas bill mentioned in our last newsletter, was introduced April 23 by Ashe, with 12 co-sponsors. All TCWP members and others on our mailing list will shortly receive a copy of this proposed legislation. We hope you will study this bill, which will be brought up for the second half of the 86th General Assembly, next year.
3. A bill (HB928, sponsored by Repr. Majors) to establish a Division of Archeology and the position of State Archeologist within the Department of Conservation and to appropriate \$75,000 annually for this purpose has just passed the Senate. The bill also creates an archeological council made up of representatives from three universities, the Archeological Society, and the Historical Commission. A number of persons attending the last TCWP meeting signed a petition supporting this bill.

OAK RIDGE GREENBELT TRAILS

Official approval has recently been obtained for a TCWP project that was conceived some time ago, namely the development of simple hiking trails in the Oak Ridge greenbelts. One trail, starting at the top of Delaware Avenue and going entirely through attractive woods to a viewpoint, was built by W. L. and L. B. Russell as a demonstration of the desirability of the project and of the type of trail advocated -- a simple, narrow, marked footpath. On April 21, TCWP received formal approval by the City Council to use city-owned greenbelts for developing hiking trails. A greenbelts trail committee has been formed, consisting of Lily Rose Claiborne, W. L. Russell, S. J. Rimshaw, and LaRona Burrus. Newspaper publicity has already resulted in much favorable comment and offers of help.

HARVEY BROOME MEMORIAL FILM SERIES

John Judy has consented to chair the film series committee consisting of Anne Broome, Pete Cohan, Bill Countess, and Mary Ann Gibbons. The committee hopes to have the series in operation for the school year beginning this fall.

OUTINGS

1. TCWP Clear Fork outing May 25

We wish to acquaint our members and friends with the beauty of the impressive Clear Fork canyon which is threatened not only by the Devils Jumps dam proposal but also by some of the "compromises" that have been mentioned, e.g. Helenwood dam. This outing will cater to two groups: those who wish to float the Clear Fork and those who wish to hike, swim, and sightsee in the Clear Fork - Whiteoak Creek - Rugby area. TSRA will join us on both portions.

- (a) Clear Fork float (leaders: G. E. Cosgrove and W. T. Berg).
Brewster Bridge to Burnt Mill Bridge, 10.3 miles. (Rugby and Honeycreek quadrangles.) Be ready to float (gear in the water) at 11 a.m. EDT. Brewster Bridge is the Tenn. 52 crossing of the Clear Fork (12 miles W of US 27 at

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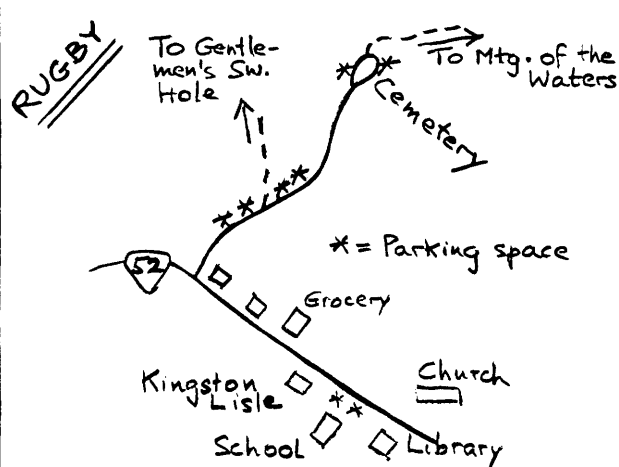
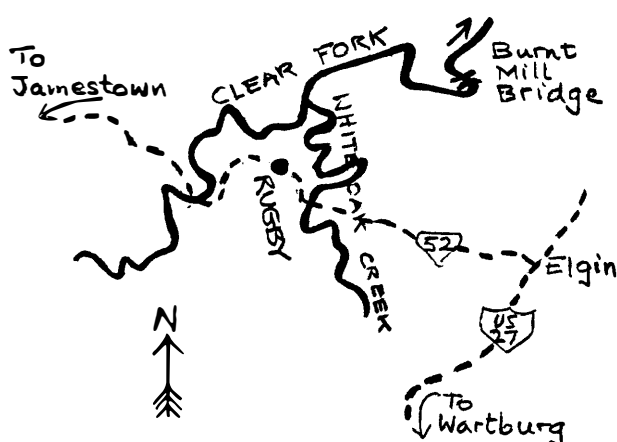
Elgin, or 16 miles ^{of} E_AUS 127 at Jamestown). Shuttles will be prearranged, so you need not find your way to Burnt Mill Bridge. Canoes, kayaks, folbots, or rubber rafts are suitable. (Because raft travel is relatively slow, raft users may wish to consider put-in or take-out at the trail to Whiteoak Creek junction -- see (b), below -- instead of the full 10.3 mile trip.) Only a little canoeing skill is required, since most of the stretch has no rapids above class-I and an average gradient of 13 ft/mile. Most of the drop is in the 2 miles above the scenic Whiteoak Creek junction, which has some class II rapids -- peppy but not dangerous. Our trip leaders make the following comments: Coast Guard approved life jackets must be worn by each participant; small children should not be taken along as passengers; cameras, wallets, keys, etc. should be in submersion-proof bags tied to the craft; expect to get your footwear wet, stepping out of boats; have dry clothes along in car to change into after trip, if necessary; it is advisable, though not essential, to have some extra flotation (inner tubes, air mattresses, etc.) fastened firmly within the boats to reduce volume of water that might be shipped. For further information call G. E. Cosgrove 483-1085 (res.), 483-8611 ext. 3-5657 (work); or W. T. Berg 483-6079 (res.), 483-8611 ext. 3-6050 (work).

(b) Hike-swim-sightsee (leader: R. S. Lefler)

(i) There will be a 5-6 mile guided hike with much chance for swimming and leisurely exploring. On our return we shall tour the Rugby colony restoration. The hike will start at 9:30 EDT at the Rugby cemetery just N of Tenn 52 on a short sideroad (see map). Our trail will go along a ridge, descending to the Meeting of the Waters (Whiteoak Creek junction with Clear Fork), then upstream along Clear Fork to the Gentlemen's Swimming Hole, and back up to the starting point. At the Meeting of the Waters there is a large pool surrounded by cliffs and overhangs. We plan to swim and picnic there and explore the gorge of the Whiteoak Creek, a beautiful area of rock ledges, overhangs, waterfalls (after a rain), and rich vegetation.

(ii) Short walk (20-30 minutes) for those not wishing to join hike: a trail guided by signs descends from the Rugby Cemetery road (see map) about 500 feet to the Gentlemen's Swimming Hole in the Clear Fork. Swimming is excellent there (sandy beach, gradual drop-off, warm water) and you may picnic and explore.

(iii) Rugby tour (mid p.m. for those going on hike; any time for those taking short walk). Hosts: Brian Stagg and Oscar Martin, Executive Secretary and President, respectively, of Rugby Restoration Assn. Tours will start at Kingston Lisle (where outdoor picnic tables are available) and will include the church and the library.



2. Future TCWP Outings. Mark on calendar, details later.

June 28-29 Roan Mountain. Joint with Smoky Mts. Hiking Club. Leaders:
Dick and Evelyn Lorenz

July 4 Pleasure Cruise on Big South Fork on day preceding the Angel Falls
Canoe Race (see below)

3. Other outings and events.

May 17 Tenn. Trails Assn., trail clearing hike on Brady Mountain. Information:
Carl Leathers, 925 Downey Dr., Nashville, Tenn. 37205.

May 17-18 Red River Gorge, Ky., hike. Sierra Club - Cumberland Chapter (SC-CC)
Information: Carl Clark, Lexington, 606-254-9531.

May 30-June 1 School of River Canoeing, Hiwassee River. For beginners and
experienced canoeists. Register by May 23. Sponsored by Tenn. Valley
Canoe Club, Chattanooga. Information: Don Bodley, 877-6256; or Lavone
Lambert, 821-8073.

May 30-June 1 Smoky Mts. Hiking Club (SMHC) hikes. Information: Ray Payne,
Knoxville 588-0866.

May 31-June 1 Big S. Fork of Cumberland float, Leatherwood Ford to Yamacraw,
SC-CC. Information: Paul Harbour, Lexington, Ky., 606-277-9537.

June 7-8 North Fork of the Cumberland float, SC-CC. Information: Carroll
Tichenor, Nicholasville, Ky., 606-885-3130.

June 14 SMHC hikes. Information: Ray Payne, Knoxville 588-0866.

June 14-15 Conasauga River float and camping trip, TSRA.

June 21-29 Powell River canoe camping trip, TSRA.
Information for TSRA events: Dottie Adams, 818 Nella Drive, Goodlettsville,
Tenn. 37072, 615-865-5018; or Don Bodley, 3003 Ozark Circle, Chattanooga,
Tenn. 37415, 615-877-6256.

July 5 Annual Angel Falls Canoe Race, sponsored by Oneida Kiwanis, Univ. of
Tenn. Extension Service, TSRA, East Tenn. Whitewater Club. Brochures and
entry blanks available from Grimes Slaughter 483-5859 or Lee Russell.

REPORT ON RECENT OUTINGS, MEETING, EXHIBIT

About 50 persons participated in the Brady Mountain hike on March 22 and enjoyed lovely views into Grassy Cove on a magnificent spring day. The weather was not so kind for the Caney Fork outing of April 19. However, the drizzle and the mud on the eroded lumber roads on which we hiked could not detract from the stunning spectacle of Virgin Falls. It is very much to be hoped that this can come under some kind of legislative natural areas protection, especially in view of the fact that the valley is even now in the process of being heavily logged (we even saw huge, fresh stumps at the bottom of a spectacular, 100-foot deep, sheer limestone

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sink!). Wildflowers were magnificent. They were also excellent on the Morgan State Forest wildflower walk on April 27 which was, unfortunately, rather poorly attended. It seems that many people failed to read the Newsletter notice. We wish to express our gratitude to all trip leaders: Bob Brown, Grimes Slaughter, and Donald Todd.

Over 40 people attended Lu Winsor's fine talk on BOR and saw two movies -- Trails, and Wild Rivers. The Sierra Club Grand Canyon exhibit had a preview (part of exhibit) at the Oak Ridge Playhouse during two days of ORCBA performances (courtesy, Hal Smith). It then moved to the Oak Ridge High School auditorium lobby for about 10 days and has just been moved again to Linden School, where it will hang until May 10. Elizabeth Peelle and all who helped her deserve our best thanks.

DUES

If you have paid recently, your green membership card will be enclosed. If you have not received a card, your dues are payable (see billing enclosed with Newsletter No. 20).

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