

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 19, Dec. 17, 1968

OUTCOME OF ELECTIONS

The following were elected at the annual meeting, October 30, 1968:

President: Liane B. Russell*	Directors:
Vice President: Ernest M. Dickerman*	E. E. C. Clebsch
	R. S. Lefler*
Secretary: Ruth K. Young	W. L. Russell
Treasurer: Fred H. Sweeton	H. G. Smith*
	K. S. Warren

The above nine constitute the 1969 Board of Directors; (*) marks those who also served on the 1968 Board.

Nominating Committee: W. C. Countess, R. J. Davis, J. H. Gibbons

Short background sketches on members of the Board and Nominating Committee may be found in Newsletter No. 18. Program, outing, publicity, education and other committees will be announced in future Newsletters. If you feel you can serve on a committee, please call 482-2153 or write TCWP, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

The end of the year seems an appropriate time to review what we have done and what we hope to do. Only 2½ years have elapsed since TCWP was started by two small groups of people -- one that emerged from the Smoky Mountains Wilderness hearings, the other intent on saving the Obed River. Since then, we have grown in number (to several hundred), in distribution (we are statewide), but, most of all, in prestige -- both in the state and in the nation, in government circles and among citizen conservationists.

Some of the specific issues that kept us very busy this past year were reviewed at the annual meeting by Leroy Fox, Bill Russell, Hal Smith, Rod Davis, Ken Warren, and Bill Countess. They will be briefly summarized here.

1. Smokies.

Secretary Udall has not changed his decision (announced a year ago) against a new transmountain road. Permanent protection will, however, not be achieved until adequate areas of the Park are included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This, in turn, awaits settlement of the 1943 Swain County agreement by means other than a transmountain or north-shore road. Conservationists have advocated a south-shore road that could become part of a Circle-the-Smokies drive. TCWP in 1968 continued its educational and informational efforts to this end. As part of these efforts, we widely distributed the pamphlet

(over)

"Wilderness and Roads in the Great Smoky Mountains," which points out the driving opportunities (some of them little known) that already exist in and around the Park. TCWP, jointly with the Smoky Mts. Hiking Club and Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Gibbons, financed the printing of an extra 10,000 of these pamphlets and made a special effort to acquaint our representatives in the Congress with their message.

2. Rivers, general.

Both on the state and national level, 1968 has been a year of tremendous success. TCWP, jointly with the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association, and with the able help of Repr. William Pope, Jr., wrote a State Scenic Rivers bill and spearheaded a drive for its passage. The act, which was signed into law by Governor Ellington on April 4, designates 9 rivers or river segments and provides detailed procedures for their protection and administration. Tennessee thus became the first state in the Union with a comprehensive scenic rivers act and, as a result, we have achieved national acclaim.

On the federal scene, we strongly supported inclusion of three Tennessee rivers in a national scenic rivers system, testified to this effect at Congressional hearings in Washington, and obtained endorsements of other citizens groups and of several members of Tennessee's Congressional delegation. As a result, two of the three rivers -- the Obed, with Clear Creek and Daddys Creek, and the Buffalo -- were included in the study category of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act when it became law in October. The third river, the Big South Fork of the Cumberland with its Clear Fork stem, was removed in a last-minute amendment introduced by a Kentucky Congressman. See, however, the special section below.

Our current efforts are directed toward helping state and national agencies implement the new legislation. Implementation on the state level includes delineation of the scenic river areas and funding for acquisition of easements, etc. Attempts will also be made to add more rivers to the system. Rivers in the national bill must still pass the hurdle of a study before final inclusion.

3. The Big South Fork of the Cumberland with Clear Fork.

This year, more than ever, this river system was threatened by the proposed Corps of Engineers dam at Devil's Jumps. A number of TCWP members gave expert testimony against this project at open hearings in May, and we invited other organizations to join us. Two members also participated in a debate with the Corps of Engineers which was part of this year's Fontana Conservation Roundup program. TCWP sent information packets to members of the Public Works Committee, and the dam project failed to be authorized in the House. A compromise Rivers and Harbors bill ordered a three-agency study of alternative uses to be completed by the end of 1969, and a Field Task Force is already at work on this study. TCWP has been cooperating closely with members of this Task Force and with the state by providing expert data and by furnishing

guides for field trips. We advocate preservation of the Big South Fork with its entire Clear Fork stem through national-scenic-river designation; and, in addition, protection of surrounding land areas and tributaries through designation as national park or national recreation area.

Good news! A recent letter from the Governor's Executive Assistant, William L. Barry, states, in part: "Governor Ellington directed me to acknowledge with appreciation your letter of November 9 concerning the scenic-rivers program authorized by Congress and by the State General Assembly.--It is our hope that the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River may be included under this program during the forthcoming 91st Congress. If at all possible, we shall provide such planning assistance as may be required.--The Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning is to be congratulated for the contribution it has made toward the accomplishment of this important legislation. The preservation of the natural beauty of our rivers and streams is a vital aspect of our governmental function and a challenging opportunity as well."

4. State Parks

TCWP sponsored a panel discussion on state parks to hear both sides of the question of whether the state should provide luxury developments (including golf courses) within existing parks, as well as the question of use of funds for acquisition of additional parklands. We are currently studying the problem, with a view to determining how the State can best be encouraged to give protection, without overdevelopment, to at least some of the outstanding natural areas of Tennessee.

5. Tennessee Wilderness Action Council (TWAC)

At a Tennessee Wilderness Workshop held in June, members of several conservation-minded organizations voted to establish a rapid communications and liaison network. TCWP (which has had considerable experience with such liaison activities) undertook to sponsor TWAC. So far, TWAC representatives have been designated for six of Tennessee's nine Congressional Districts. These representatives, in turn, have designated helpers and have established liaison with organizations in their district. TWAC is a communications network and does not itself make policy. Kenneth S. Warren is chairman.

6. Educational Activities

TCWP is currently developing plans for several public information and education programs. (a) Jack and Mary Ann Gibbons' project, the Harvey Broome Memorial Film series, will make available outstanding conservation films to Tennessee schools and community organizations. Projection equipment will be procured. Generous donations have already been assured for this purpose and others will be solicited. (Note that TCWP has, in the past, arranged for school showings of films

originally procured for TCWP meetings. This was the case with the Glen Canyon and Redwoods movies last year; and the films obtained for the October 30 meeting were also shown to over 1000 students in the Oak Ridge school system.) (b) A joint committee of Oak Ridge High School faculty and TCWP members is developing a curriculum for an environmental studies course which would provide students with opportunities for original research in local environmental and ecological problems.

TCWP furnished informational material to teachers attending the East Tennessee Education Association meeting.

SUMMARY OF 1968 MEETINGS AND OUTINGS

February 1, 1968 Panel on "Needed State legislation to preserve the esthetic assets of Tennessee's lands and waters." (This launched the final drive for the state scenic rivers act.)
April 27, 1968 Spring Creek gorge hike
June 15-16, 1968 Big South Fork Outing (camping, floating, hiking)
July 20-21, 1968 Little T Outing (floating, camping)
October 3, 1968 Panel and slide show on "The Tennessee State Parks System: Needs for the Future."
October 26-27, 1968 Pickett State Park Outing (hiking, camping)
October 30, 1968 Annual business meeting. Movies "Wilderness Alps of Stehekin," and "Great Swamp."

TENNESSEE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

After two meetings of interested persons (including several TCWP members), a Tennessee Trails Association was formed. Its first objective will be to develop the Cumberland Trail, running roughly from Chattanooga to Cumberland Gap (Prentice Cooper State Forest, East rim, then West rim of Sequatchie Valley, Dorton Knob, Brady Mountain, Walden Ridge, Cumberland Mountain). This trail will be a footpath, a "means of sojourning in the wilderness." It is hoped that, at least initially, rights-of-way can be obtained through private agreements with individual landowners. Committees will be formed to look into possible future needs for legislative action or more comprehensive trail systems. Robert D. Brown was elected president and Carl Leathers secretary (both are TCWP members). Evan Means and Roy Hall are in charge of certain Trail sections. The next meeting of TTA will be January 18, 10 a.m. at Fall Creek Falls State Park. TCWP will be represented. Interested persons are invited.

AN OMISSION

In past Newsletters we have thanked Senator Gore and Representatives Anderson and Fulton for supporting our position on national scenic river legislation. Not until we saw the transcript of Congressional hearings did we realize that Repr. Dan Kuykendall (Tenn. 9th Distr.) also had sent in a statement endorsing inclusion of Obed, Big South Fork, and Buffalo in a national system. We wish to express our thanks and our apologies for the earlier omission.

MANY THANKS

As the year draws to a close, the President would like to express her deepest appreciation to the many whose devoted efforts have made this organization so successful. The outgoing Board has worked beyond the call of duty. Among those busy (often night and day) on some of the special issues summarized in this Newsletter are (alphabetically) Bill Countess, Claude Black, Rod Davis, Ernie Dickerman, Leroy Fox, Jack Gibbons, Bob Ieffler, Bob Miller, Claire Nader, Bill Russell, Hal Smith, Ken Warren and Bruce Welch; several of these have been multiply involved. Ling Kelly has ably handled our publicity. Ruth Young and Jeanne Carver have helped with typing. Ken Warren and Hal Smith arranged outings. Helen Warren and Maxie Swindell have organized phone committees and report much willing help. Minnie Duncan has been our librarian. Marian Kirsliis and Sara Berg have provided refreshments for meetings. Those who collected signatures on petitions, testified at hearings, and sent those very important letters to Congressmen, though too numerous to name, will, I hope, know that I am most deeply grateful to each one.

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF TCWP

L. B. Russell, editor

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