

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 31, May 12, 1970

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1. OBED: NOW IT'S BEING STRIPMINED

Following a visit to TVA on February 18 by a pro-dam delegation from Harriman (see Newsletter No. 30, item 1A), TVA re-studied the feasibility of a flood-control dam and came out with a new benefit:cost ratio of only 0.5:1, i.e., even lower than the 0.6:1 obtained in 1967. Many residents of the watershed area are finally realizing that a dam will never be authorized and that National Wild River status for the Obed and tributaries will benefit the whole region.

But even while the wild river studies are getting underway (see Item 2, below), about 1 mile of the banks of the Obed are being destroyed by stripmining. The north bank of the river just upstream from confluence with the Emory is being ripped open in an operation that began September 1969 but was delayed by the long, hard winter. On April 22 it was learned by TCWP that the stripping was being performed under a TVA contract for the coal, and TCWP immediately wrote to Chairman Wagner requesting speedy cessation of an operation that is disfiguring a river declared by the U.S. Congress worthy of study for National Wild River status. BOR and the State were also notified by us. TSRA and TTA made similar protests. On May 1 an inspection team, made up of TVA, BOR, and State personnel, visited the area (and, incidentally, were ordered from trespassing by a deputy sheriff sent by the local landowner -- but only when their tour was almost complete). In the meantime, the State inspector had informed us that the operation consisted merely of re-opening an abandoned mine and that we should be pleased, since reclamation could now proceed under the provisions of the Tennessee Act. Field trips and photographs by our own members (with many thanks to Don Todd, Peggy Turner, Gene Oakberg, Dick Lorenz, Bill Harper), however, bring out the following points: (i) the mining operation is already extending beyond the old orphan mine;

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(ii) the old mine was all but invisible from the river due to planned as well as natural re-vegetation, but the new mine screams at you visually; (iii) in addition to visual damage there is also tangible damage from slipping spoil banks and run-off of mine waters; (iv) reclamation will not involve, and indeed does not require, covering of the "high-wall", which becomes higher the more cuts are taken. The seam of coal is no thicker than 30 inches, but the high-wall is over 30 feet high.

It is our understanding that the letting of the contract was due to failure of communication between various departments within TVA. We are hopeful that this will not re-occur. In the meantime, we are anxious for the present operation to cease. Your feelings on this matter should be expressed to Aubrey Wagner, Chairman, TVA, Knoxville, Tennessee.

The continuous threats to our potential national wild and scenic rivers underlines the urgency for completing the studies required under PL 90-542.

2. STUDIES ON TENNESSEE RIVERS THAT ARE LISTED IN NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT

Recent adverse uses of our two rivers designated for study in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act have illustrated the importance of early completion of the studies so that these rivers can be given permanent protection. Stripmining on the Obed is reported in Item 1. Earlier, we have had to resolve the problem of a powerline crossing (see Newsletters 27 and 30). In the meantime, portions of the Buffalo are being channelized, timbered, and made to carry major sewage plants.

The Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service, in February of this year, jointly published "Guidelines for evaluating wild, scenic, and recreational river areas proposed for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System." The TCWP library copy may be borrowed on request. Judging from the "Guidelines", the Obed with its tributaries clearly qualifies as a wild river; the Buffalo as scenic, with wild sections.

3. STRIPMINING ACTIVITIES ARE INCREASING

Recent strict enforcement of the Mine Safety Law has led to the shut-down of most deep mines in Tennessee and to a substantial rise (ca. \$1.50/ton) in coal prices. It is thus becoming profitable to strip-mine very marginal seams that would not have been worth the effort before. At the same time, the total coal demand is increasing greatly. We shall therefore surely see very much more stripping, and perhaps there will be pressures to relax our reclamation law or its enforcement.

Many of us, on the contrary, feel that both the law and its implementation need to be made more stringent. Since our 1967 efforts that led to passage of the Act, TCWP has not devoted any organized effort to this problem. The time has come when we must definitely do so. We would welcome volunteers who will work with a new TCWP committee to do research on the present state of things and on possible ways of improving it. Contact TCWP, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, 482-2153.

4. BIG SOUTH FORK: MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

A. Agency reports.

The 1968 Rivers and Harbors Act ordered two studies with 12/31/69 deadlines: a Corps of Engineers re-study of Devils Jumps dam, and a three-agency study on alternative uses of the river. The latter was submitted, only slightly late, in mid-February and its contents were summarized in TCWP Newsletter #30. A few extra copies of this report are now available and may be borrowed on request. The Corps of Engineers' own study had, to our knowledge, not been submitted by the end of April. It is our understanding that an outdoor recreation evaluation report on the Devils Jumps project,

requested by the Corps from BOR, recommends that monetary values assigned to reservoir recreation use not be considered in the economic analysis of the project benefits and costs. This is based on the Bureau's finding that the intangible environmental values associated with natural stream conditions outweigh the monetary value assigned to project reservoir-oriented recreation use.

B. Coordination between conservationists

In early February, TCWP contacted over 40 conservation groups and individuals throughout the country (outside Tennessee) with whom we had earlier established contact on various matters, and appealed to them to express themselves on the subject of Big S. Fork preservation to their Congressional representatives on the various pertinent committees. In a similar manner, we approached the over 50 organizations that had previously endorsed our "Statement of Goals for the BSF Region" (altogether, close to 100 contacts). The response has been most gratifying, and we wish to thank our friends throughout the country.

Recently, Bill Holstein, President, Cumberland Chapter, Sierra Club has similarly approached Sierra Club Chapter Chairmen throughout the country. Kentuckians, as well as officers of national conservation groups, are contacting Governor Nunn of Kentucky. TCWP and TSRA officers will shortly meet with some of our Kentucky friends to discuss further courses of action.

C. Political matters

TCWP asked Senator Baker for a meeting to discuss the alternatives set forth in the inter-agency report. Senator Baker declined, indicating that he had not yet formulated an opinion on the matter. Both of our Senators and Congr. Evins were invited by us to join the Clear Fork float on April 25. All had prior commitments for that date. They will be invited to join future outings in the BSF watershed (see Item 11.F). The Tennessee Department of Conservation has formulated a policy statement on uses of the BSF and has submitted it to the Governor's office for comment. We have urged that the Governor give serious consideration to the National Park alternative.

D. Oil exploration

Several exploratory wells are being drilled in the BSF watershed, including one at Leatherwood Ford. The Reilly No. 1 well near Burville, though very deep, went dry. However, several wells along Pine Creek are quite productive. There is also a natural gas well in the vicinity.

E. Exhibit

A large photographic exhibit (5'10" x 4') on the BSF region was produced by W. L. Russell and exhibited at the Earth Day fair in Oak Ridge (in addition to other TCWP displays). Duplicate photos were sent to Kentucky to be worked into exhibits there. The mounted display is available for loan in the East Tenn. area (transportable by station wagon), but cannot be shipped farther until a crate is constructed.

5. DUCK RIVER: FUNDS AGAIN RELEASED FOR NORMANDY AND COLUMBIA PROJECTS

As a result of various serious questions raised by conservationists about the Normandy dam project, the Senate in November deleted \$1.3 million contained in the appropriations bill for land acquisition in connection with Duck River dam projects (Newsletter #27).

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The conference committee (in which Congr. Joe Evins ranks high), restored the funds in December. TCWP and other conservationists then protested to the President, and, as a result, the budget that went to the Congress on February 2 specifically "froze" the \$1.3 million for this fiscal year. Now the battle has see-sawed again and the Bureau of the Budget has agreed to release the funds to TVA immediately after the start of the new fiscal year (July 1).

Conservationists are continuing their strong objections to this very marginal project that has a benefit:cost ratio of only 1.2:1, even after the claim of several benefits considered by many to be unjustified. Thus, most of the projected water-supply needs would go for pollution-dilution from predicted industrial development. (Conservationists feel that pollution could be solved by better means). Furthermore, a grossly insufficient amount was subtracted for loss of benefits from recreation on a free-flowing river (no projection was made for this, while reservoir recreation was projected into the future). Please send your opinions on the Normandy project to us (TCWP, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830) and we shall transmit them at the proper time to the appropriate agency. See Items 11.E and G for Duck River floats.

6. OVERTON PARK: CAUSE FOR HOPE

In February and March, Citizens to Preserve Overton Park were denied a temporary injunction to halt construction of I-40 through the Park. However, an appeal in Circuit Court (Cincinnati) was filed by the Citizens, joined by the Sierra Club and National Audubon; and on April 10, this Court issued a comprehensive and inclusive Stay of Action Order against Transportation Secretary Volpe and Tennessee Road Commissioner Speight. An oral hearing on the merits of the case will be held in Cincinnati in early June.

If I-40 can be kept out of Overton Park by court action, this will have implications beyond the Memphis situation itself, since the case will test the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1968 and the Transportation Act in their application to natural park areas. Our friends in Memphis, who have fought this most valiant battle, remind us that court actions are expensive. Some TCWP members have already contributed. For others who wish to do so, the address is Mrs. Anona Stoner, Secretary, Citizens to Preserve Overton Park, 192 Williford Street, Memphis, Tenn. 38112.

7. EDUCATIONAL MATTERS

A. TCWP's Harvey Broome Memorial Film series

All six of our conservation films were on continuous loan in Knoxville and elsewhere throughout Earth Day week, and they have been used widely ever since. We invite requests for the loan of these films to be directed to Regional Science Experience Center (which has agreed to take care of distribution for us), 156 Adams Lane, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830, phone 483-4391 (free calls can be made on the WATS line). Priority for requests will be given in this order: (a) schools (rural, then city), (b) service clubs, (c) civic clubs, (d) professional groups, (e) conservation groups. The following films are presently on hand: Two Yosemite, Glen Canyon, No Room for Wilderness, The Squeeze, So Little Time, The Persistent Seed. A short description of the films will shortly be available from the Science Center or from John M. Judy, 2104 Harris Road, Knoxville, Tennessee 37914.

B. Traveling library for schools

TCWP is considering setting up a library of 10-20 books dealing with conservation matters on the young elementary school level. One to several sets of this collection will then be circulated to schools that have limited library facilities of their own. Another possibility being considered is to make Ranger Rick subscriptions available to needy schools. Anyone who has suggestions for this project, or who wishes to help with labor or funds, should contact Tee Brichetto, 82 E. Tennessee Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830, phone 482-2667.

8. CONSERVATION ISSUES IN STATE POLITICS

An inter-organizational committee headed by Bill Terry (TSRA and TCWP) is approaching gubernatorial candidates concerning their stand on various conservation issues. To date, we have had a most knowledgeable reply from candidate Claude Robertson. When all candidates have had a chance to answer, we shall publish their letters. Groups of representatives from TCWP, TSRA, SMHC and other organizations will also be meeting with the candidates.

A questionnaire is being prepared for submission to candidates in the legislative races.

Governor Ellington has named his aide "Bo" Roberts (not a known conservationist) to represent him on the Southern Regional Environmental Conservation Council which reports to the Southern Governors' Conference.

State Representative Victor H. Ashe (R-Knoxville) recently proposed establishment of a Division of Environmental Research and Protection within the Department of Conservation. This would be staffed by scientists in various fields and would determine, in advance of approval, what effects, if any, projects proposed by other state agencies would have on environmental quality.

9. SELECTED NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND GLOBAL ISSUES

A. Wilderness designation lags in National Parks

Under the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964, 57 roadless areas in our national park system must be reviewed by 1974. So far, field hearings have been held for only 17 of these 57, and not a single wilderness area has yet been established. Many of the 17 NPS wilderness proposals that have been made exclude much eligible wilderness. By contrast, both the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service are having busy wilderness hearing schedules. For a detailed status report on NPS wilderness, see the spring number of The Living Wilderness.

B. Slick Rock Creek Wilderness

The Slick Rock Creek watershed of about 10,000 acres, straddling the Tenn.-N.C. border in the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests, is well deserving of protection under the Wilderness Act. A number of conservation groups, coordinated by Gus Morris, Secretary of the N.C. Council of Trout Unlimited, have formally requested this designation. TCWP will join in these efforts, particularly as they pertain to the Tennessee portion of the area.

C. Land and Water Conservation Fund increase

Following Interior Secretary Hickel's request to the Congress to raise the level of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the House Parks and Recreation subcommittee of the Interior Committee favorably reported H.R. 15913 which boosts the annual authorization level of the L & W Fund from \$200 to \$300 million. (Note that, of this \$200 million authorized, only \$124 were actually budgeted by the Administration last year, see Newsletter #26.) The L & W Fund is the principal source of revenue for land acquisition by the National Park Service, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and U.S. Forest Service. In addition, it provides major funding to the States for recreation area development.

H.R. 15913 also includes the main feature of S. 1708, which could permit land transfer, at no cost, of surplus federal lands to state and local governments for use in park and recreation programs.

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D. Increased federal funds to fight pollution proposed in Gore bill

Senator Gore of Tennessee has introduced the Water Quality Financing Act of 1970, authorizing the federal government to supply from 60-75% (instead of the present 30-50%) of funds for local antipollution programs, and asking Congress to appropriate \$3.5 billion per year for this purpose, for five years (\$17.5 billion total federal contribution). Legislation introduced by Sen. Muskie would provide \$2.5 billion per year. The Administration has proposed only \$1 billion annually in federal funds during the next 4 years, an amount which is \$250 million less than the original authorization of 1966, and which is considered grossly inadequate by conservationists. Thus, Sierra Club Exec. Director Michael McCloskey cites a \$30 billion backlog of treatment-plant construction needs alone. Water pollution funds represent only 0.1% of the federal budget. Sen. Gore has expressed the hope that reducing the amount of state participation required to trigger a maximum federal grant will be an incentive to get state governments actively involved.

E. Timber struggle continues

Although the conservationist coalition was successful in blocking the Timber Supply bill, H.R. 12025 (see Newsletter No. 30), conservationists do not consider this to be the end of the struggle for good management of our national forests. Many consider the U.S. Forest Service to be already heavily engaged in short-sighted practices (timber sale at the expense of other uses of national forests) which it may try to intensify by seeking additional funds for them. It is also considered likely that the timber industry will continue its efforts to raid the national forest. Proponents of the Timber Supply bill are hoping that the Land Law Review Commission report, due June 30, will back their cause, and they may subsequently introduce similar legislation later this year. However, House conservation leaders are now drafting legislation designed to provide sound forest and timber programs for all of the country's forest lands.

F. United Nations Petition for the Human Environment

A petition is being circulated which reads: "In recognition of the great urgency of our need to find solutions to the global problems of environmental deterioration and overpopulation, we urge you: To formally declare a Common Goal for the People of the Earth, to be achieved within the short period of time that now remains before the Third Millennium, of bringing the Family of Man into balance with its environment, in a world of peace; To add to the formal structure of the United Nations a Population and Environment Council of coordinate rank to the five major organs that now serve the General Assembly; To accelerate planning for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment that is now being planned for June of 1972, and to schedule it for the earliest reasonable date in 1971; To work together in advance of the Conference to formulate and informally agree upon specific plans for unified world-wide action to solve our major environmental problems; To formally adopt these plans at the 1971 Conference on Human Environment; To use this Conference to launch a unified assault upon those problems of our common environment on this small earth that demand, and will only yield to, the common will and concerted efforts of all men everywhere--all races, all creeds, all economic classes, all ages--all over the world." Anyone may add his name and address by sending a postcard to TCWP.

10. ERRATA

Two misprints crept into Newsletter No. 30:

- a. p. 1, heading: the date should read March 31 (not 21). Dates on inside pages were correct.
- b. p. 5, last line: Bob Miller is TCWP's (not TWAC's) representative to the Tennessee Environmental Council.

We apologize! Please correct your filed copies.

11. OUTINGS

TCWP is sponsoring, or helping to sponsor, a number of outings within the next five weeks. Descriptions follow. In addition, be sure to see the calendar (Item 11G) which lists additional events, as well as summarizing those described.

A. Obed-Emory float, May 16, 17

Sponsored by TSRA, co-sponsored by TCWP.

TCWP members need no introduction to the Obed, probably our most magnificent river, about which we have had news in many issues of this publication. However, many of you have never been there. If you have had some river canoeing experience, here is your chance to see the lowest 4 miles. Saturday's float goes from "Canoe Hole" to Nemo Bridge (5 miles); Sunday's float, on the Emory, from Nemo to Oakdale (12 miles). You may camp Saturday night at Nemo (primitive camp site, no drinking water) bringing your gear in by car (to keep your canoes light); or you may stay in a nearby motel; or you may prefer to join only one day's float. Meeting place and time, Saturday: 9 a.m. EDT at junction of Tenn. 62 and US 27, 3 miles north of Wartburg. Cars will proceed in caravan from there to vicinity of put-in. Equipment will have to be carried the last $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, down an old logging road (that sports some poison ivy).

Meeting place and time Sunday: 9:30 a.m. EDT, ready to float, at Nemo Bridge. This is reached by going to Wartburg, then turning south at the "Catoosa WMA" sign at a corner which is west of the courthouse. Proceed about 6 miles. Required equipment: life jacket (mandatory for each person); painters attached bow and stern; waterproof bags for gear, fastened to boat in a manner that will permit easy removal (e.g. bow knot); extra paddle; if possible, extra flotation for canoe (e.g. inflated inner tubes or styrofoam blocks). There will be several Class III rapids but, with support of the group, those with limited river canoeing experience can enjoy the trip, with some hazard to equipment.

Saturday night activity: campfire program featuring an illustrated talk, "Canoeing Waters in Tennessee" by Mack Prichard, State Parks Naturalist. Note that campers will need to bring drinking water and fuel. For more information, call Bill Griswold, Nashville 297-2387; Don Bodley, Chattanooga 877-6256; or Dick Reed, Oak Ridge 483-3458.

B. Big South Fork, May 16, 17

Sponsored by Cumberland Chapter of Sierra Club. Trip leader Paul Harbour (our Kentucky liaison for South Fork matters) has extended a special invitation to TCWP members to join.

Leatherwood Ford to Yamacraw (26 river miles), camping en route (below Troublesome Creek), and, optionally, camping Friday night at Leatherwood Ford. Canoes should be in the water, ready to float, Saturday 9 a.m. EDT. The two difficult portions of the river--Angel Falls and Devils Jumps--will be portaged. The remainder of the trip does not require white-water expertise, although some canoeing experience is desirable.

To reach Leatherwood Ford, go to Oneida, Tenn. (on U.S. 27) and turn west at traffic light on corner of Third Street. Measuring from this light: (a) make left jog at 0.4 mi., (b) take left fork at 1.6 mi., (c) take left fork at 5.2 mi. (T & T Grocery). Continue 6.9 mi. from the T & T Grocery to the river and camping area. A car will be waiting at Yamacraw for shuttle purposes. You will have to bring a life jacket for each person, bow and stern painters (at least 20' long), an extra paddle, food and camping gear (stowed in waterproof bags). Go light (remember the two portages). For further information, call Paul Harbour, Lexington, Ky. 606, 277-9537.

C. Cumberland Trail Clearing, Island Creek section, May 16.

Sponsored by Tennessee Trails Association. This section of the Cumberland Trail runs through a lovely gorge in the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area. Meet at 9 a.m. EDT at the Old Catoosa checking station. Bring machete, hatchet, or pruning shears. Work as long as you like, up to about 6 hours.

To reach the assembly point: in Wartburg (reached on Tenn. 62 or U.S. 27), turn south at "Catoosa WMA" sign (this corner is west of the courthouse). Follow this road (first black-

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top, then gravel), crossing the Nemo Bridge after about 6 miles and continuing about 2 more miles to the old checking station. For further information, call Don Todd, Wartburg 346-3113.

D. Virgin Falls Hike, May 23

This TCWP-sponsored dedication hike, originally scheduled for May 2, had to be postponed because of heavy rains (slippery, freshly cut trail); although, we understand, about 65 persons who could not be notified, went anyway! Details were given in our last Newsletter (which erroneously listed the alternate date as May 22, instead of May 23). Just in case, however, that you have lost this, we repeat directions for meeting.

Meet 10:00 a.m. EDT (this is 9:00 a.m. CDT) in DeRossett, which is on US 70, 17 mi W. of Crossville. Meeting place is the junction with a blacktop road going south from US 70, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mi west of the DeRossett sign and the old railroad station. The corner bears signs "Scott's Gulf" and "Fire Tower". Cars will be consolidated there before driving the additional 8 mi to the trail head. Hiking distance 7-8 mi (description in Newsletter #30). For details, call C. Klabunde, 615, 483-8055.

E. Duck River float, June 6

Sponsored by Coffee County Conservation Board, co-sponsored by TCWP. This lovely, partly natural, partly pastoral section of the Duck is threatened with inundation by the Normandy dam (see Item 5). This is an easy 8-mile float and can be handled by most novices. What's more, you do not need to own a boat (see below for info). Assemble for the float at 10 a.m. CDT (11 a.m. EDT) on Compton Creek just above where this joins the Duck. Take-out is Hiles Bridge at Riley Creek Road. A car will be waiting there to take drivers back. To reach the put-in: from Manchester, Tenn. (reached via Crossville, Sparta, McMinnville when coming from Knoxville or Oak Ridge; via I-24 from Chattanooga; via I-24 and US 41 from Nashville), take Tenn. 55 toward Tullahoma. After 3-4 miles, turn right at Supper Club Restaurant. Take first right then first left. You will be on Mountain View Road. Continue to river, about 5-6 miles from H'way 55.

For those who do not have a boat: write, (before May 25,) to Coffee County Conservation Board, P.O. Box 574, Tullahoma, Tenn. 37388, to reserve a boat loaned by the Tennessee Game & Fish Commission. Those borrowing boats will assemble 9:30 a.m. CDT (10:30 EDT) at the Lem Parks farm, Riley Creek Road, from where transportation will be provided to put-in. Instructions on how to reach Lem Parks farm will be sent to you when you reserve a boat. For further information, call Marjorie Collier, Tullahoma, 455-4186.

F. Big South Fork, Pine Creek to North Whiteoak Creek, float, hike, picnic, June 13

Sponsored by TCWP

None of you need to be told of our thorough involvement with the Big South Fork. We shall have several outings in that watershed this year--Clear Fork, April 25, was our first, with yet another one (to visit two big arches) planned for the fall.

This will be a dual outing: one group will hike and another group will float (rubber rafts), water conditions permitting.

Hikers will assemble 10 a.m. EDT on the east side of the O & W Bridge where cars can be parked. They will cross the bridge, hike a little distance down the Big S. Fork, then turn left and continue up North Whiteoak Creek. This creek must be crossed shortly above its mouth and a boat will be available for this purpose, should the water be too high for fording on foot. The entire hike will be along the old roadbed of the now defunct O & W railroad--a level, easy walk.

Floaters will assemble at 9:30 a.m. at the top end of an old lumber road leading to the mouth of Pine Creek. They will float from Pine Creek to the O & W Bridge, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, Class III and IV rapids, depending on flow), leave their boats, then cross the bridge on foot and walk a total distance of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to picnic on North Whiteoak Creek (where the bridge is out).

Driving directions: opposite Sexton's lumber yard, which is just south of Oneida on US 27, turn west. Almost immediately, fork right at an A-frame and proceed 0.7 mi to a large chicken

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barn. Turn left onto a dirt road which is the railbed of the former O & W railroad. Proceed about 7 miles (crossing Pine Creek 5 times) then look for a logging road on the left, leading backward down a hill. Boats will have to be carried down this trail. After dropping boats and passengers, drivers should take as many cars as possible to the take-out at the east end of the O & W bridge, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles farther down the road. Hikers should proceed directly to this bridge where cars can be parked. Bring lunch, drinking water, sturdy shoes, swimsuits. Floaters must wear life jackets, should have a set of dry clothes at the take-out.

(please turn page for Summarizing Calendar)

G. Summarizing calendar

- May 16 Obed float (see 11.A)
- May 16 Island Creek trail clearing (see 11.C)
- May 16-17 Big South Fork float, Leatherwood to Yamacraw (see 11.B)
- May 17 Emory float (see 11.A)
- May 23 Virgin Falls hike (see 11.D)
- May 29-31 River canoeing course on Hiwassee (offered by Tennessee Valley Canoe Club.
For info, write Training Committee TVCC, P. O. Box 11125, Chattanooga, Tenn. 37401)
- June 1-13 Whitewater canoeing course, M, W, F, evenings Melton Hill Lake, Saturdays on
nearby rivers (ETWWC; for info, contact Reid Gryder, Oak Ridge, 483-1836)
- June 6 Duck River float (see 11.E)
- June 13 Big South Fork - North Whiteoak Creek hike and float (see 11.F)
- June 20 (tentative) Trail clearing on Cumberland Trail near Cumberland Gap (TTA; for
info, contact John McIntyre, Oak Ridge 482-1713)
- June 26-28 Beginning river canoeing course on Duck River (TSRA; for info, contact Don
Bodley, Chattanooga 877-6256 or Dottie Adams, Goodlettsville 615, 865-5018)

Lee Russell, Editor
130 Tabor Road
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830
482-2153

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The conference committee (in which Congr. Joe Evins ranks high), restored the funds in December. TCWP and other conservationists then protested to the President, and, as a result, the budget that went to the Congress on February 2 specifically "froze" the \$1.3 million for this fiscal year. Now the battle has see-sawed again and the Bureau of the Budget has agreed to release the funds to TVA immediately after the start of the new fiscal year (July 1).

Conservationists are continuing their strong objections to this very marginal project that has a benefit:cost ratio of only 1.2:1, even after the claim of several benefits considered by many to be unjustified. Thus, most of the projected water-supply needs would go for pollution-dilution from predicted industrial development. (Conservationists feel that pollution could be solved by better means). Furthermore, a grossly insufficient amount was subtracted for loss of benefits from recreation on a free-flowing river (no projection was made for this, while reservoir recreation was projected into the future). Please send your opinions on the Normandy project to us (TCWP, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830) and we shall transmit them at the proper time to the appropriate agency. See Items 11.E and G for Duck River floats.

6. OVERTON PARK: CAUSE FOR HOPE

In February and March, Citizens to Preserve Overton Park were denied a temporary injunction to halt construction of I-40 through the Park. However, an appeal in Circuit Court (Cincinnati) was filed by the Citizens, joined by the Sierra Club and National Audubon; and on April 10, this Court issued a comprehensive and inclusive Stay of Action Order against Transportation Secretary Volpe and Tennessee Road Commissioner Speight. An oral hearing on the merits of the case will be held in Cincinnati in early June.

If I-40 can be kept out of Overton Park by court action, this will have implications beyond the Memphis situation itself, since the case will test the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1968 and the Transportation Act in their application to natural park areas. Our friends in Memphis, who have fought this most valiant battle, remind us that court actions are expensive. Some TCWP members have already contributed. For others who wish to do so, the address is Mrs. Anona Stoner, Secretary, Citizens to Preserve Overton Park, 192 Williford Street, Memphis, Tenn. 38112.

7. EDUCATIONAL MATTERS

A. TCWP's Harvey Broome Memorial Film series

All six of our conservation films were on continuous loan in Knoxville and elsewhere throughout Earth Day week, and they have been used widely ever since. We invite requests for the loan of these films to be directed to Regional Science Experience Center (which has agreed to take care of distribution for us), 156 Adams Lane, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830, phone 483-4391 (free calls can be made on the WATS line). Priority for requests will be given in this order: (a) schools (rural, then city), (b) service clubs, (c) civic clubs, (d) professional groups, (e) conservation groups. The following films are presently on hand: Two Yosemite, Glen Canyon, No Room for Wilderness, The Squeeze, So Little Time, The Persistent Seed. A short description of the films will shortly be available from the Science Center or from John M. Judy, 2104 Harris Road, Knoxville, Tennessee 37914.

B. Traveling library for schools

TCWP is considering setting up a library of 10-20 books dealing with conservation matters on the young elementary school level. One to several sets of this collection will then be circulated to schools that have limited library facilities of their own. Another possibility being considered is to make Ranger Rick subscriptions available to needy schools. Anyone who has suggestions for this project, or who wishes to help with labor or funds, should contact Tee Brichetto, 82 E. Tennessee Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830, phone 482-2667.

8. CONSERVATION ISSUES IN STATE POLITICS

An inter-organizational committee headed by Bill Terry (TSRA and TCWP) is approaching gubernatorial candidates concerning their stand on various conservation issues. To date, we have had a most knowledgeable reply from candidate Claude Robertson. When all candidates have had a chance to answer, we shall publish their letters. Groups of representatives from TCWP, TSRA, SMHC and other organizations will also be meeting with the candidates.

A questionnaire is being prepared for submission to candidates in the legislative races.

Governor Ellington has named his aide "Bo" Roberts (not a known conservationist) to represent him on the Southern Regional Environmental Conservation Council which reports to the Southern Governors' Conference.

State Representative Victor H. Ashe (R-Knoxville) recently proposed establishment of a Division of Environmental Research and Protection within the Department of Conservation. This would be staffed by scientists in various fields and would determine, in advance of approval, what effects, if any, projects proposed by other state agencies would have on environmental quality.

9. SELECTED NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND GLOBAL ISSUES

A. Wilderness designation lags in National Parks

Under the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964, 57 roadless areas in our national park system must be reviewed by 1974. So far, field hearings have been held for only 17 of these 57, and not a single wilderness area has yet been established. Many of the 17 NPS wilderness proposals that have been made exclude much eligible wilderness. By contrast, both the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service are having busy wilderness hearing schedules. For a detailed status report on NPS wilderness, see the spring number of The Living Wilderness.

B. Slick Rock Creek Wilderness

The Slick Rock Creek watershed of about 10,000 acres, straddling the Tenn.-N.C. border in the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests, is well deserving of protection under the Wilderness Act. A number of conservation groups, coordinated by Gus Morris, Secretary of the N.C. Council of Trout Unlimited, have formally requested this designation. TCWP will join in these efforts, particularly as they pertain to the Tennessee portion of the area.

C. Land and Water Conservation Fund increase

Following Interior Secretary Hickel's request to the Congress to raise the level of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the House Parks and Recreation subcommittee of the Interior Committee favorably reported H.R. 15913 which boosts the annual authorization level of the L & W Fund from \$200 to \$300 million. (Note that, of this \$200 million authorized, only \$124 were actually budgeted by the Administration last year, see Newsletter #26.) The L & W Fund is the principal source of revenue for land acquisition by the National Park Service, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and U.S. Forest Service. In addition, it provides major funding to the States for recreation area development.

H.R. 15913 also includes the main feature of S. 1708, which could permit land transfer, at no cost, of surplus federal lands to state and local governments for use in park and recreation programs.

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D. Increased federal funds to fight pollution proposed in Gore bill

Senator Gore of Tennessee has introduced the Water Quality Financing Act of 1970, authorizing the federal government to supply from 60-75% (instead of the present 30-50%) of funds for local antipollution programs, and asking Congress to appropriate \$3.5 billion per year for this purpose, for five years (\$17.5 billion total federal contribution). Legislation introduced by Sen. Muskie would provide \$2.5 billion per year. The Administration has proposed only \$1 billion annually in federal funds during the next 4 years, an amount which is \$250 million less than the original authorization of 1966, and which is considered grossly inadequate by conservationists. Thus, Sierra Club Exec. Director Michael McCloskey cites a \$30 billion backlog of treatment-plant construction needs alone. Water pollution funds represent only 0.1% of the federal budget. Sen. Gore has expressed the hope that reducing the amount of state participation required to trigger a maximum federal grant will be an incentive to get state governments actively involved.

E. Timber struggle continues

Although the conservationist coalition was successful in blocking the Timber Supply bill, H.R. 12025 (see Newsletter No. 30), conservationists do not consider this to be the end of the struggle for good management of our national forests. Many consider the U.S. Forest Service to be already heavily engaged in short-sighted practices (timber sale at the expense of other uses of national forests) which it may try to intensify by seeking additional funds for them. It is also considered likely that the timber industry will continue its efforts to raid the national forest. Proponents of the Timber Supply bill are hoping that the Land Law Review Commission report, due June 30, will back their cause, and they may subsequently introduce similar legislation later this year. However, House conservation leaders are now drafting legislation designed to provide sound forest and timber programs for all of the country's forest lands.

F. United Nations Petition for the Human Environment

A petition is being circulated which reads: "In recognition of the great urgency of our need to find solutions to the global problems of environmental deterioration and overpopulation, we urge you: To formally declare a Common Goal for the People of the Earth, to be achieved within the short period of time that now remains before the Third Millennium, of bringing the Family of Man into balance with its environment, in a world of peace; To add to the formal structure of the United Nations a Population and Environment Council of coordinate rank to the five major organs that now serve the General Assembly; To accelerate planning for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment that is now being planned for June of 1972, and to schedule it for the earliest reasonable date in 1971; To work together in advance of the Conference to formulate and informally agree upon specific plans for unified world-wide action to solve our major environmental problems; To formally adopt these plans at the 1971 Conference on Human Environment; To use this Conference to launch a unified assault upon those problems of our common environment on this small earth that demand, and will only yield to, the common will and concerted efforts of all men everywhere--all races, all creeds, all economic classes, all ages--all over the world." Anyone may add his name and address by sending a postcard to TCWP.

10. ERRATA

Two misprints crept into Newsletter No. 30:

- a. p. 1, heading: the date should read March 31 (not 21). Dates on inside pages were correct.
- b. p. 5, last line: Bob Miller is TCWP's (not TWAC's) representative to the Tennessee Environmental Council.

We apologize! Please correct your filed copies.

11. OUTINGS

TCWP is sponsoring, or helping to sponsor, a number of outings within the next five weeks. Descriptions follow. In addition, be sure to see the calendar (Item 11G) which lists additional events, as well as summarizing those described.

A. Obed-Emory float, May 16, 17

Sponsored by TSRA, co-sponsored by TCWP.

TCWP members need no introduction to the Obed, probably our most magnificent river, about which we have had news in many issues of this publication. However, many of you have never been there. If you have had some river canoeing experience, here is your chance to see the lowest 4 miles. Saturday's float goes from "Canoe Hole" to Nemo Bridge (5 miles); Sunday's float, on the Emory, from Nemo to Oakdale (12 miles). You may camp Saturday night at Nemo (primitive camp site, no drinking water) bringing your gear in by car (to keep your canoes light); or you may stay in a nearby motel; or you may prefer to join only one day's float. Meeting place and time, Saturday: 9 a.m. EDT at junction of Tenn. 62 and US 27, 3 miles north of Wartburg. Cars will proceed in caravan from there to vicinity of put-in. Equipment will have to be carried the last $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, down an old logging road (that sports some poison ivy).

Meeting place and time Sunday: 9:30 a.m. EDT, ready to float, at Nemo Bridge. This is reached by going to Wartburg, then turning south at the "Catoosa WMA" sign at a corner which is west of the courthouse. Proceed about 6 miles. Required equipment: life jacket (mandatory for each person); painters attached bow and stern; waterproof bags for gear, fastened to boat in a manner that will permit easy removal (e.g. bow knot); extra paddle; if possible, extra flotation for canoe (e.g. inflated inner tubes or styrofoam blocks). There will be several Class III rapids but, with support of the group, those with limited river canoeing experience can enjoy the trip, with some hazard to equipment.

Saturday night activity: campfire program featuring an illustrated talk, "Canoeing Waters in Tennessee" by Mack Prichard, State Parks Naturalist. Note that campers will need to bring drinking water and fuel. For more information, call Bill Griswold, Nashville 297-2387; Don Bodley, Chattanooga 877-6256; or Dick Reed, Oak Ridge 483-3458.

B. Big South Fork, May 16, 17

Sponsored by Cumberland Chapter of Sierra Club. Trip leader Paul Harbour (our Kentucky liaison for South Fork matters) has extended a special invitation to TCWP members to join.

Leatherwood Ford to Yamacraw (26 river miles), camping en route (below Troublesome Creek), and, optionally, camping Friday night at Leatherwood Ford. Canoes should be in the water, ready to float, Saturday 9 a.m. EDT. The two difficult portions of the river--Angel Falls and Devils Jumps--will be portaged. The remainder of the trip does not require white-water expertise, although some canoeing experience is desirable.

To reach Leatherwood Ford, go to Oneida, Tenn. (on U.S. 27) and turn west at traffic light on corner of Third Street. Measuring from this light: (a) make left jog at 0.4 mi., (b) take left fork at 1.6 mi., (c) take left fork at 5.2 mi. (T & T Grocery). Continue 6.9 mi. from the T & T Grocery to the river and camping area. A car will be waiting at Yamacraw for shuttle purposes. You will have to bring a life jacket for each person, bow and stern painters (at least 20' long), an extra paddle, food and camping gear (stowed in waterproof bags). Go light (remember the two portages). For further information, call Paul Harbour, Lexington, Ky. 606, 277-9537.

C. Cumberland Trail Clearing, Island Creek section, May 16.

Sponsored by Tennessee Trails Association. This section of the Cumberland Trail runs through a lovely gorge in the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area. Meet at 9 a.m. EDT at the Old Catoosa checking station. Bring machete, hatchet, or pruning shears. Work as long as you like, up to about 6 hours.

To reach the assembly point: in Wartburg (reached on Tenn. 62 or U.S. 27), turn south at "Catoosa WMA" sign (this corner is west of the courthouse). Follow this road (first black-
(over)

top, then gravel), crossing the Nemo Bridge after about 6 miles and continuing about 2 more miles to the old checking station. For further information, call Don Todd, Wartburg 346-3113.

D. Virgin Falls Hike, May 23

This TCWP-sponsored dedication hike, originally scheduled for May 2, had to be postponed because of heavy rains (slippery, freshly cut trail); although, we understand, about 65 persons who could not be notified, went anyway! Details were given in our last Newsletter (which erroneously listed the alternate date as May 22, instead of May 23). Just in case, however, that you have lost this, we repeat directions for meeting.

Meet 10:00 a.m. EDT (this is 9:00 a.m. CDT) in DeRossett, which is on US 70, 17 mi W. of Crossville. Meeting place is the junction with a blacktop road going south from US 70, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mi west of the DeRossett sign and the old railroad station. The corner bears signs "Scott's Gulf" and "Fire Tower". Cars will be consolidated there before driving the additional 8 mi to the trail head. Hiking distance 7-8 mi (description in Newsletter #30). For details, call C. Klabunde, 615, 483-8055.

E. Duck River float, June 6

Sponsored by Coffee County Conservation Board, co-sponsored by TCWP. This lovely, partly natural, partly pastoral section of the Duck is threatened with inundation by the Normandy dam (see Item 5). This is an easy 8-mile float and can be handled by most novices. What's more, you do not need to own a boat (see below for info). Assemble for the float at 10 a.m. CDT (11 a.m. EDT) on Compton Creek just above where this joins the Duck. Take-out is Hiles Bridge at Riley Creek Road. A car will be waiting there to take drivers back. To reach the put-in: from Manchester, Tenn. (reached via Crossville, Sparta, McMinnville when coming from Knoxville or Oak Ridge; via I-24 from Chattanooga; via I-24 and US 41 from Nashville), take Tenn. 55 toward Tullahoma. After 3-4 miles, turn right at Supper Club Restaurant. Take first right then first left. You will be on Mountain View Road. Continue to river, about 5-6 miles from H'way 55.

For those who do not have a boat: write, (before May 25,) to Coffee County Conservation Board, P.O. Box 574, Tullahoma, Tenn. 37388, to reserve a boat loaned by the Tennessee Game & Fish Commission. Those borrowing boats will assemble 9:30 a.m. CDT (10:30 EDT) at the Lem Parks farm, Riley Creek Road, from where transportation will be provided to put-in. Instructions on how to reach Lem Parks farm will be sent to you when you reserve a boat. For further information, call Marjorie Collier, Tullahoma, 455-4186.

F. Big South Fork, Pine Creek to North Whiteoak Creek, float, hike, picnic, June 13

Sponsored by TCWP

None of you need to be told of our thorough involvement with the Big South Fork. We shall have several outings in that watershed this year--Clear Fork, April 25, was our first, with yet another one (to visit two big arches) planned for the fall.

This will be a dual outing: one group will hike and another group will float (rubber rafts), water conditions permitting.

Hikers will assemble 10 a.m. EDT on the east side of the O & W Bridge where cars can be parked. They will cross the bridge, hike a little distance down the Big S. Fork, then turn left and continue up North Whiteoak Creek. This creek must be crossed shortly above its mouth and a boat will be available for this purpose, should the water be too high for fording on foot. The entire hike will be along the old roadbed of the now defunct O & W railroad--a level, easy walk.

Floaters will assemble at 9:30 a.m. at the top end of an old lumber road leading to the mouth of Pine Creek. They will float from Pine Creek to the O & W Bridge, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, Class III and IV rapids, depending on flow), leave their boats, then cross the bridge on foot and walk a total distance of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to picnic on North Whiteoak Creek (where the bridge is out).

Driving directions: opposite Sexton's lumber yard, which is just south of Oneida on US 27, turn west. Almost immediately, fork right at an A-frame and proceed 0.7 mi to a large chicken

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barn. Turn left onto a dirt road which is the railbed of the former O & W railroad. Proceed about 7 miles (crossing Pine Creek 5 times) then look for a logging road on the left, leading backward down a hill. Boats will have to be carried down this trail. After dropping boats and passengers, drivers should take as many cars as possible to the take-out at the east end of the O & W bridge, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles farther down the road. Hikers should proceed directly to this bridge where cars can be parked. Bring lunch, drinking water, sturdy shoes, swimsuits. Floaters must wear life jackets, should have a set of dry clothes at the take-out.

(please turn page for Summarizing Calendar)

G. Summarizing calendar

- May 16 Obed float (see 11.A)
 May 16 Island Creek trail clearing (see 11.C)
 May 16-17 Big South Fork float, Leatherwood to Yamacraw (see 11.B)
 May 17 Emory float (see 11.A)
 May 23 Virgin Falls hike (see 11.D)
 May 29-31 River canoeing course on Hiwassee (offered by Tennessee Valley Canoe Club.
 For info, write Training Committee TVCC, P. O. Box 11125, Chattanooga, Tenn. 37401)
 June 1-13 Whitewater canoeing course, M, W, F, evenings Melton Hill Lake, Saturdays on
 nearby rivers (ETWWC; for info, contact Reid Gryder, Oak Ridge, 483-1836)
 June 6 Duck River float (see 11.E)
 June 13 Big South Fork - North Whiteoak Creek hike and float (see 11.F)
 June 20 (tentative) Trail clearing on Cumberland Trail near Cumberland Gap (TTA; for
 info, contact John McIntyre, Oak Ridge 482-1713)
 June 26-28 Beginning river canoeing course on Duck River (TSRA; for info, contact Don
 Bodley, Chattanooga 877-6256 or Dottie Adams, Goodlettsville 615, 865-5018)

Lee Russell, Editor
 130 Tabor Road
 Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830
 482-2153