

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 23, June 9, 1969

HEADLINES

- The date has been set for us to meet with Secretary Hickel concerning wilderness in the Smokies. Join us if you can!
- Tennessee General Assembly endorses Circle-the-Smokies Drive.
- A \$200,000 appropriation and addition of a staff member to the Dept. of Conservation give promise of implementation of our State Scenic Rivers bill.
- In other action on the state level, a bill that would have created a pro-Devils-Jumps dam commission was put aside; the archeology bill was sent back to committee; the natural areas bill will require our study and support before the Assembly reconvenes.
- A HOLIDAY Magazine Award for a Beautiful America was given to TCWP members.
- Two big outings are set for successive weekends.
- Among national issues requiring our attention are a timber supply bill that threatens National Forests; a strong water pollution control bill that requires support; and the "State's Rights" Wildlife bills which would open National Parks to public hunting.
- The Sierra Club Grand Canyon exhibit can now be viewed in Knoxville.

GT. SMOKY MOUNTAINS DELEGATION: THE DATE IS SET

* Monday, June 23, has been set for our meeting with Interior Secretary Hickel. TCWP has been coordinating the efforts of about 30 organizations who wish to be represented at this meeting. Every individual interested in keeping the wilderness of the Gt. Smoky Mts. National Park undisturbed and roadless is enthusiastically invited to join the delegation. If you are thinking about going but have not yet been specially contacted, please get in touch with us immediately (TCWP, 130 Tabor Rd., Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830, 615-482-2153). Cost of round trip transportation (chartered bus) ca \$20, lodging ca \$7. We are leaving Sunday morning June 22, and returning in time for work Tuesday June 24.

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENDORSES ALTERNATIVE TO TRANSMOUNTAIN ROAD

House Joint Resolution No. 92, signed by Governor Ellington on May 14, is entitled "A RESOLUTION memorializing the United States Congress to adopt and implement the 'Circle-the-Smokies Scenic Drive' proposal, greatly favored by the citizens of Tennessee and North Carolina who are vitally interested in the preservation of the Great Smoky Mountains." The resolution does not specifically oppose (or, in fact, mention) the controversial transmountain road. However, the implication of its statement that "the 'Circle-the-Smokies Scenic Drive' would keep unspoiled the beauty of the mountains which are the prime attraction of the Great Smokies Park" seemed rather clear in Washington, as judged by a Powell Lindsay column in the News-Sentinel of May 25.

STATE SCENIC RIVERS ACT BEING IMPLEMENTED

Two important items will aid in implementing the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act, now well over a year old. (a) The miscellaneous appropriations bill recently signed contains the following item (Item 50): "From the capital outlay funds available to the Department of Conservation, an amount not to exceed \$200,000 is hereby authorized

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to be expended on the development of a scenic rivers program..." (b) A new staff member, Mr. Max Young with a U.T. Master's Degree in Forestry, will shortly be added to the Division of Planning of the Dept. of Conservation to devote most of his efforts to making our state scenic rivers system a reality. TCWP has offered the Department every possible assistance.

WIND-UP OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 86TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The fate of some of the bills mentioned earlier may be of interest.

1. Consideration of the natural areas bill, HB 936 (see NEWSLETTERS #21 and 22) has deliberately been postponed until the second session. In the meantime, all TCWP members have received a copy of the bill by mail. They are invited to comment to the sponsor, Repr. Victor Ashe, 3709 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tenn. 37919. Anyone who favors the bill should state so to his own representatives and senator before the General Assembly reconvenes in January 1970.
2. The bill which would create an eight-county commission to work for Devils Jumps dam (HB 856-SB719, see NEWSLETTER #22) was put aside in response to a considerable volume of mail opposing it. Repr. Elkins wrote "The proposed commission... involved... Anderson County of which I was not aware. I was... not given an opportunity to discuss it [HB856] with my constituents. I have since... been given [the sponsors'] assurance that no action will be taken on this measure in this session." Repr. Cook of Anderson and Roane Counties was similarly instrumental. Repr. Jensen (Knox County) wrote "I... will oppose the passage of this bill."
3. The bill which would establish a Division of Archeology (HB928), having passed the Senate, was sent back to committee by the House on the last day of the session.

HOLIDAY MAGAZINE AWARD TO TCWP

A 1969 HOLIDAY Award for a Beautiful America was bestowed on "Robert A. Miller, J. William Pope, William L. Russell and Liane B. Russell, concerned citizens of the State of Tennessee, for demonstrating how individuals can affect the course of legislation. Working through the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association, and Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, organizations they called into being, they gave their state the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. The act was the first in the nation to provide a full-fledged, comprehensive system of free-flowing rivers, protected by law from dams, pollution and other encroachments." The awards were presented by Governor Ellington on May 27.

OUTINGS

Please note that we shall have outings on two successive weekends--(1) a hike with car camping, and (2) a float with canoe camping.

- (1) ROAN MOUNTAIN, June 28, 29. (Joint with SMHC. Leaders: Dick and Evelyn Lorenz, Oak Ridge 483-4742; Mike Weatherly, Knoxville 524-5066).

The natural rhododendron gardens should be at the height of their bloom, and although the Rhododendron Festival is scheduled for this and the previous weekend, we shall be away from the crowds most of the time. There will be two organized hikes -- Saturday, 1 p.m. EDT, from campground to Laurel Fork Gorge, and Sunday, 10 a.m., from Carvers Gap to 19E on the A.T. -- with camping at the primitive Dennis Cove Campground (U.S. Forest Service) Saturday night. In addition, you may wish to explore the rhododendron gardens on your own, possibly Saturday evening or early Sunday morning.

Driving directions: (a) to Dennis Cove Campground: From Johnson City take US 321, through Elizabethton and Hampton, to Braemar (1 mile past Hampton). Turn right at

Forest Service sign near Brown's Supermarket and proceed 5 miles (hilly gravel road) to campground. (b) to Carver's Gap and Rhododendron Gardens: From Hampton (see above) take US 19E to Roan Mt. village (12.3 mi), turn right on 143 and proceed to State Line (Carver's Gap), ca 25 miles from Hampton. Turn right for Gardens (picnic area, water, restrooms, trails). Roundtrip from Knoxville 300 miles.

Camping: Dennis Cove campground is alongside a nice stream and has only 5 improved campsites, but we are permitted to "spill over." The well may not be working, so bring drinking and cooking water. Outhouses available. The A.T. passes nearby. In case this campground gets overcrowded, you may wish to try one of the following, which are also indicated on the map below:

- Cardens Bluff (USFS) on Watauga Lake (US 321) 42 campsites;
- Roane Mt., Tenn. State Park primitive campground on Tenn. 143;
- Limestone Cove on Tenn. 107, 18 units, attractive, not intensively used.

see p. 5
for map

Hikes: (a) Laurel Fork Gorge. Saturday, 1:00 p.m. from Dennis Cove Campground. The A.T. (white trail blazes) along Laurel Fork will take us about four miles to Hwy. 321. The gorge, with its sheer cliffs and wooded slopes, its waterfalls and rapids, possesses spectacular natural beauty. Swimming is reported good below the 40-foot high Laurel Falls. Hike from the campground as far as you wish and return; or we'll help arrange a car shuttle.

(b) Carvers Gap toward 19E on the A.T.: Sunday, 10:00 a.m. from Carvers Gap (State Line, Hwy 143): This mountaintop hike with spectacular views takes us past rhododendron and over open meadows. The main group will hike out and return to Carvers Gap at their pleasure. Experienced hikers, on their own, may want to leave a pickup car at 19E and hike the total distance of 10.5 miles (white blazes).

- (2) BIG SOUTH FORK FLOAT, July 4, 5, 6. (Joint with TSRA. Leaders: Grimes Slaughter, Oak Ridge 483-5859, and Don Bodley, Chattanooga 877-6256).

We had originally announced a one-day float for July 4 to assist with the "pleasure cruise" that had been scheduled to precede the annual canoe race (see NEWSLETTER #22). This race has now been cancelled by the Oneida Kiwanis. However, some visitors, who had indicated to the organizers of the events that they were interested in the cruise, will be invited to join our outing -- which we have decided to expand into a three-day affair (with option to take out after the first day).

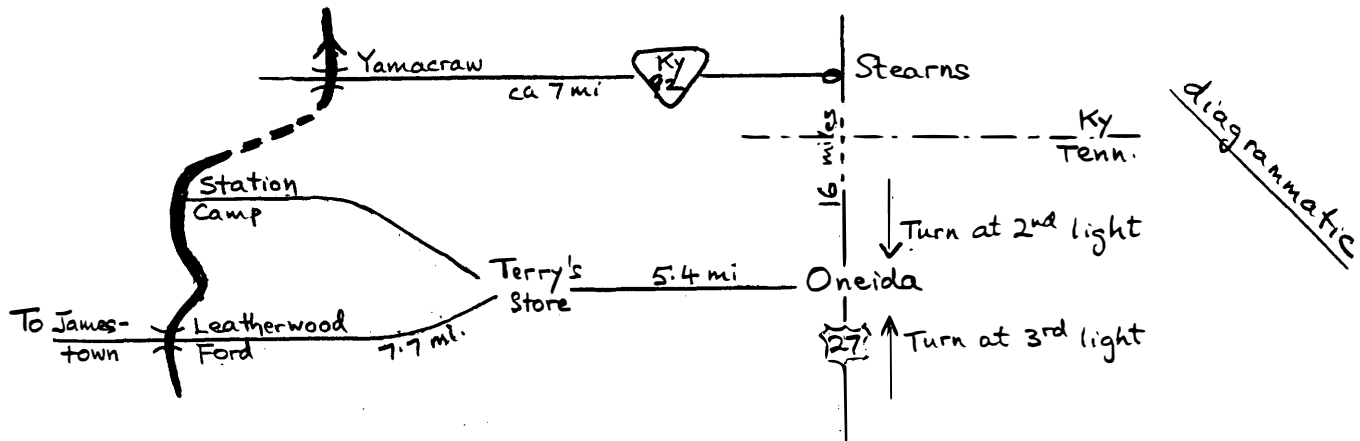
We shall float the 30 miles from Leatherwood Ford to Yamacraw in a leisurely fashion, camping two nights on the river. Put-in Friday 10:30 a.m. EDT, Leatherwood Ford; take-out Sunday afternoon, Yamacraw. Those who wish to come for one day only may take out Friday evening at Station Camp; and those who have only 2 days available, may start at Station Camp Saturday morning and join the main group which will be camping a couple of miles downstream. We hope to arrange for local residents to shuttle cars on Friday at the rate of about \$5 per car (you can share cars, if you wish). If you do not want to avail yourself of this service, be sure to allow sufficient time before put-in to do your own shuttling.

Except for Angel Falls (2 miles after start) and Devils Jumps (5.5 miles before finish) -- around which portages are mandatory, except by express permission of the trip leaders -- we shall encounter nothing more difficult than an occasional Class-II rapid. For the major portion of the trip, we shall be in relatively calm waters, surrounded by magnificent scenery.

Canoes and paddles may be rented by prior arrangement with Don Bodley, 3003 Ozark Circle, Chattanooga, Tenn. 37415. Please note that the following equipment will be required: lifejackets; rope for lining canoe, if necessary; waterproof bags for

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provisions, duffel, cameras, wallet, etc., to be tied into canoes; dry change of clothes; drinking water; gas or spirit stove, or some wood for cooking fires. Remember, there will be two portages, so pack accordingly.



- (3) OTHER OUTINGS: We wish to remind you of two outings listed by us earlier, both sponsored by TSRA (for information, call Don Bodley, Chattanooga, 877-6256): June 14, 15 a float-camp or hike on the lovely Conasauga, just added to our Scenic Rivers System; and June 22-29 a week of float camping on the Powell (no canoeing experience required). TSRA will also have a trip on the Harpeth July 11-13.

NATIONAL ISSUES AND NEWS

1. National Timber Supply Bill (H.R. 10344 and companion bills). This bill, which is supported by the timber industry, would immediately increase the annual allowable cuts in National Forests, violating multiple-use principles, ignoring present levels which have been set to assure long-range yield, and -- most important -- threatening the orderly study and review of 8-10 million acres that contain candidates for placement in the National Wilderness Preservation System. All of the nation's remaining old growth forest (only 6-8% of the original, as it is) would be completely removed in the next 15 years. Timber-industry-owned lands do not produce their proportionate share of saw timber. Furthermore, utilization is wasteful not only in the woods but in the mills; and the use of wood in housing could be reduced by utilization of substituted materials and by streamlining of practices. Experts propose that what is needed, instead of the present harmful bill, is a comprehensive national timber management bill that would recognize long-term supply problems and ways to meet them. Letters concerning the bill should be sent to the Honorable John L. McMillan, Chairman, House Forests Subcommittee, 1301 House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515.
2. Water Pollution Control bill. The House has passed H.R. 4148. However, the Senate Public Works Committee is working on the much stronger S.7 introduced by Sen. Muskie. Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr., (Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510) is a member of this committee. You may wish to urge him to support S. 7, the strong version of the Water Pollution Control bill, and to call early hearings.
3. "State's Rights" Wildlife bills. We have earlier (NEWSLETTER #21) mentioned these bills which would cripple the authority of the NPS and of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to protect wildlife in National Parks and Refuges, make these lands vulnerable to public hunting, and weaken the Endangered Species Act of 1966. These bills (S.1232 and S.1401) are now before the Senate Commerce Committee of which Senator Baker is also a member. Express your opinion!
4. The first wilderness-designation proposal to be considered this year is for the 2,600-acre Monomy Island, south of Cape Cod. To give the program a good send-off you

* may wish to support H.R.486 (without amendments) by writing to the Honorable Walter S. Baring, Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

5. Environmental Quality Council created. On May 29, President Nixon announced the formation of this council of which he and Mr. Agnew will be chairman and vice-chairman respectively, and whose other members are the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Health Education & Welfare, Housing & Urban Development, and Transportation. The President's Science Advisor, Dr. DuBridge, is executive secretary. Sponsors of bills that would create a more independent and more specifically oriented council have expressed some doubts concerning the new body's effectiveness. As one Senator stated, members of interdepartmental councils seek to protect the interests of their own departments and no significant common policy is achieved. We hope to have more information on some of the bills (Tydings', Jackson's, Dingall's) later.

EXHIBIT

The Sierra Club exhibit "Grand Canyon of the Living Colorado" which hung in two locations in Oak Ridge for several weeks, is now on display at the McClung Natural History Museum (Alfred Guthe, Director) on the University of Tennessee campus (Circle Park, near the Vol symbol). If you have not already seen this very fine work of photographic art, be sure to avail yourself of this new chance.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS; DUES NOTICE

In the last four months, 66 new individuals have joined our membership. We welcome all these new members and invite them to express their special interests and/or willingness to help with some of our projects and committees.

* We are enclosing another bill for those members who have not yet paid their 1969 dues. The year is half-way over. May we ask you please to send your payment to the Treasurer to make operations easier for us? Thank you.

L. B. Russell
130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge
482-2153

MAP for ROAN MT. OUTING

