HEADLINES

--Three issues require your immediate action: State natural areas legislation, the U.S. Timber Supply bill, the threat to Overton Park (see items 1, 7A, 6).
--State natural areas legislation passes House but needs support in Senate. Assembly considering many other conservation bills.
--Dept. of Conservation, in report to Legislature, outlines pilot action program to implement Scenic Rivers Act. Hatchie may be added.
--Local interests are again campaigning for Obed dam.
--TCWP asks to testify on federal studies concerning Big South Fork.
--Financial help needed for court fight to save Overton Park.
--The Timber Supply bill must now be dealt with on House floor (Tuesday!)
--Bowaters proposes "pocket wildernesses" on their lands.
--Help needed in finishing Black Oak Ridge Trail.
--Our first outing of the year is announced. A number of outstanding lectures on environmental subjects are planned for next two weeks.
--Look for other news items on the national front, and concerning TCWP educational and organizational activities.

1. STATE NATURAL AREAS LEGISLATION MOVES A GOOD STEP FORWARD


The Senate version of the bill, S.B. 1115, is being sponsored by Sen. William R. Bruce (D., Memphis). It has not yet been placed on the calendar. As you may know, this session of the General Assembly is a short one, so it is important to get quick action in the Senate. Conservationists supporting the preservation of Tennessee's natural areas should plan to contact their state Senators with all possible speed. On ways to do this, refer to the "Political Guide" we sent with the last NEWSLETTER. (Incidentally, we are gratified to find that two other conservation groups, Knoxville Audubon and TSRA, have used some or all of our "Guide" to send to their memberships also.)

Although H.B. 1197 had 53 signatures when it was introduced on January 14, it did not have completely smooth sledding. Confusion was introduced by Col. Slayden's bill, which was said to have been drafted in response to last year's House Joint Resolution No. 88, but which was, in effect, not requested by HJR 88. Statements appeared in newspapers by some who had seen Slayden's bill but had not seen the revised version of the Scenic-Historic Preservation Act, asking that action on the latter be deferred until after the former was introduced (which would have the practical effect of getting no natural-areas legislation at all this year). Actually, as we have pointed out before, there is no real conflict between the two bills. There was also some opposition to H.B. 1197 by those who thought that historical areas were not given enough protection. Several phone calls by TCWP to those who were concerned, and to Repr. Ashe, resulted in the latter introducing amendments to the bill that took care of these objections. The version that passed the House contains these amendments.

(over)
The January 8 TCWP meeting on natural areas legislation was a great success. In spite of a temperature of 0°F and icy roads and driveways, close to 300 people turned out to welcome our three speakers. Many representatives of state and federal agencies, of the state legislature, and of the faculty and student body of U.T. and ORNL were in the audience. We have the texts of Prof. Lindsey's and of Roy Wood's speeches, as well as a big set of reprints kindly sent by Prof. Lindsey. All can be borrowed on request.

Remember to contact your Senator about natural areas legislation (SB 1115) today!

2. OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST IN NASHVILLE

A bill to create a Division of Scenic Rivers with a full-time professional Director, has been introduced by Senator Brown Ayres and Repr. Tom Jensen, both of Knoxville. It has received endorsements from TSRA and TCWP, but needs individual support.

A large number of other conservation-oriented measures have been introduced in this session. Among them are a bill by Ashe giving the Stream Pollution Control Board power to seek injunctive relief against persistent polluters (out of committee and on calendar); HJR 163 (Ashe), directing the Division of Forestry to study the need for developing trails, picnic sites, etc. in state forests and to recommend legislation to accomplish these needs (gone to Calendar Committee); HJR 157 (Davis), directing the Dept. of Conservation to establish a program for the designation of scenic landmark areas; HB 1322 (Ashe), to provide for the creation of municipal conservation commissions; HJR 164 (Jensen), to direct the Game and Fish Commission to study the use of DDT and other pesticides and to assess their effects on life; a bill by Comer to establish a 15-member commission on environmental affairs; HB 1224 and 1225 (Ashe), strengthening air pollution laws (still in committee); and HJR 135 (Krieg) directing a stream pollution study.

In view of the shortness of the session, it is questionable how many of these measures will see final passage.

3. WHAT'S NEW WITH OUR STATE SCENIC RIVERS?

Officers of TCWP and TSRA recently met with Max Young, in charge of the scenic rivers program in the Planning Division of the Dept. of Conservation, to discuss accomplishments and future directions of the program. Subsequently, the Division prepared a report to the Tennessee Legislature that largely follows the lines of our discussion. Enough extra copies have been printed to make one available to any TCWP member who cares to write his request to Walter Criley, Director, Planning Division, Tenn. Dept. of Conservation, 2611 West End Avenue, Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

With respect to future implementation, the report recommends an action program of pilot developments on a limited number of river segments, to reveal problems -- and, hopefully, their solution -- for the entire scenic river program. The pilot work will involve the Class-I sections of the Roaring River system (Roaring R., Spring Cr., Blackburn Fk.), a 16-mile portion of the Harpeth (Class II), and the Hiwassee (Class III). By July 1, 1970, a master plan for the five streams will be developed, an application will be filed with BOR for $300,000 federal funds to match 1970-71 state funds, and the rivers in the system will be identified on maps and at highway crossings. By July 1, 1971, implementation on the five pilot streams will include acquisition of scenic easements, and various measures for administration of the scenic river areas.

The important Ayres-Jensen bill to create a Division of Scenic Rivers is mentioned elsewhere in this NEWSLETTER (Item 2).

Repr. Wm. Walker (R., Crockett, Haywood) will introduce a bill to add the Hatchie River in West Tennessee to the system. Following conferences with local landowners, Mr. Walker was anxious to amend the Scenic Rivers Act to add a class "1A", with narrower boundaries than
Class 1, especially for the Hatchie. However, TCWP found that this would entail quite a number of changes in the strong structure of our Act, and therefore discussed the matter with Max Young and Repr. Walker. Our suggestion was to make a single change in Sect. 9(1) of the Act; which, while leaving boundaries for Class-1 gorge rivers as they are, would set boundaries for Class-1 swamp rivers (i.e., the Hatchie) between 200 and 1000 ft. from the usual banks on each side. This proposal was acceptable to Mr. Walker.

Sen. Ayres and Repr. Ashe have introduced a bill to put the Buffalo back in the Scenic Rivers Act.

4. CAMPAIGN FOR OBED-SYSTEM DAMS IS RENEWED

Should a magnificent scenic treasure be destroyed in order to give absolute safety to a small acreage that can most wisely be protected by proper flood-plain zoning? The weekly Harriman Record, which, off-and-on, for years has advocated a flood-control dam on the Obed, has renewed its violent campaign in the last four issues, which are almost totally devoted to this subject. The latest editorial effort was prompted by a quickly passing flood crest on the Emory on Dec. 30, which -- by all objective accounts (from TVA, local residents and area papers) -- did relatively little damage (in the tens of thousands of $, while a dam would cost scores of millions!)

The New Years Day edition of the Harriman Record carried a front-page editorial entitled "Our WILD river! TVA derelict in flood control". This said, in part, "....TVA directors are afraid of a few half-baked, wild-eyed conservationists, who do not live or work in the area which suffers, but who would like to ride a barge or canoe, Indian-fashion, down the Obed in calm weather. These starry eyed boys do not lose anything by any floods....We believe there should be a full-scale Congressional inquiry into TVA's neglect". A later issue of the Harriman Record carried an intemperate attack on Senator Gore who was instrumental in getting the Obed Included in the study category of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (see NEWSLETTER #18).

On January 13, Congressman Evins, speaking at Harriman, is quoted as saying: "Following the recent high waters and floods in this area, I have again strongly urged TVA to proceed with the necessary flood-control dam in this area....We in Congress have appropriated the money for them [TVA], and I think TVA should do more than study....I am a conservationist, but I also believe in building dams where loss of property is involved." (Note that Congr. Evins is acting chairman of the Public Works Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee.)

On January 21, TCWP wrote to Mr. Evins in defense of TVA, pointing out (a) that repeated and careful federal studies (1939, 1948, 1968) by TVA and the Corps of Engineers have shown that even the most feasible of a number of possible flood-control measures studied is far from economically justifiable; (b) that TVA has already given considerable relief to Harriman by the construction of Watts Bar Reservoir, and (c) that TVA in 1958 and 1960 prepared an extensive and complete flood-profile study of Harriman, on the basis of which the city prepared Zoning Ordinance No. 662. This, if implemented, would guard against damage by controlling use of the very limited flood plain -- by far the most economical solution to Harriman's problems. On January 22, the Harriman Record carried a letter from TVA Chairman Aubrey Wagner developing essentially similar arguments. Thus, it should be stressed that TVA has provided the answer (as far back as 1939) and has helped Harriman to implement it. Yet the Harriman Record's editorial comment on Mr. Wagner's letter is: "TVA has no answer at all as yet.

5. BIG SOUTH FORK DEVELOPMENTS

The Corps of Engineers' re-study of Devils Jumps dam and the three-agency study of alternatives, both authorized in the 1968 Rivers and Harbors Act, were due to be filed with the Public Works Committees on December 31. As of this writing, they have not been filed yet.
but are expected momentarily. The three-agency report to Public Works will carry no recommendations. However, it is expected that copies will also be submitted to the Interior and Agriculture Committees accompanied by letters from the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture, respectively, drawing special attention to National Park, National Recreation Area, or National Forest proposals. TCWP has written to the Public Works and Interior Committees of both Houses, requesting to be invited to testify, should hearings be held. Presumably the Public Works Committee will decide on the dam vs. no-dam question, while the Interior Committee will consider such matters as wild river status and protection of surrounding areas (both of which we advocate).

No statements by the states of Tennessee and Kentucky are included in the three-agency report, and the states are left free to transmit their own recommendation. Our Dept. of Conservation and the governor are in the process of formulating one for Tennessee, and would undoubtedly be glad to hear from you.

The Kentucky Wild Rivers Commission, in formulating recommendations for a state wild rivers bill, finished its report to the Legislature on January 10. On the subject of the Big S. Fork, it states: "Due to the interstate geography of this river (a major portion of it being in Tennessee) and the soon to be released inter-agency study ordered by the House-Senate Conference Committee of the Congress, the Commission deferred any recommendation concerning the stream at this time. A poll of the Commission indicated that a majority of members favors a free-flowing stream in Kentucky and Tennessee, including the Clear Fork tributary, within an area administered by a federal or interstate agency."

6. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED IN EFFORTS TO SAVE OVERTON PARK, MEMPHIS

Probably the most extensive woodland area within any major city is threatened with destruction by an Interstate highway. Memphis' Overton Park, which was set aside 69 years ago, contains 342 acres, of which 165 acres are natural woodland, "developed" only with hiking trails, and haven to many species of birds and other wildlife. I-40, as now planned, would go the entire length of this woodland using a right-of-way width of 250-500 feet.

The Tennessee Highway Department first proposed this routing in 1956, and -- despite testimony at two public hearings pointing out its highly destructive effects -- persisted in the design. Secretary of Transportation, John A. Volpe, gave his approval in November 1969.

Citizens to Preserve Overton Park, pointing out that all possible planning was not done to minimize damages to the park or to study alternate routes, have filed a request for a preliminary injunction. The U.S. government countered by first attempting to get change of venue (Washington to Memphis, where the power structure and press are pro-road); and, when this failed, attempting to get the case dismissed on the grounds that the citizen group was not being damaged and thus had no cause for action (!). At a January 23 hearing, the Citizens' attorney narrowly avoided dismissal of the suit by agreeing to submit to change of venue after all. The next hearing, in Memphis, will be held prior to March 1, and the Dept. of Transportation agreed before the judge, that no contract for the controversial section of I-40 would be approved before then.

These various court actions cost money, and the Citizens to Preserve Overton Park need financial help. (Here is a plucky group, trying to stand up to federal, state, and local government!) They may also require testimonies in future hearings. In either case, get in touch with Mrs. Anona Stoner, Secretary, Citizens to Preserve Overton Park, 192 Williford Street, Memphis, Tenn. 38112, Phone: 901, 327-0735. Remember that the issue transcends Overton Park itself: it concerns the whole relation of federal highway planning to natural areas.

7. NATIONAL ISSUES AND NEWS

A. Timber Supply Bill: imminent crisis

In spite of efforts of conservationists, HR 12025, the National Timber Supply bill, has
cleared the Rules Committee and will come to the floor of the House early next week. This is a thoroughly bad bill, which we have discussed on past occasions (NEWSLETTER Nos. 23, 23, 27). It is very URGENT that you call or wire your U.S. Representative (House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515) NOW to urge defeat of the bill which would abrogate the multiple-use principle of the National Forests (watershed and wildlife protection, recreation, etc.) in favor of a lop-sided advantage to the timber interests; and which would ring the death-knell to de-facto wilderness designations within National Forests. Urge your Congressman to join the bi-partisan coalition to defeat this bill.

B. Hope for Hells Canyon

Hearings will be held by the Senate Interior Committee Feb. 16 on Senators Jordan and Church's S. 940 which would prohibit licensing of hydroelectric projects in the Hells Canyon Area of the Snake River. Other bills, introduced by Rep. Saylor and Sen. Packwood, would establish the Hells Canyon-Snake National River, 120-miles long, with wilderness protection of large segments of the associated 714,000-acre area. Your views may be expressed to the Interior Committees of both Houses (Sen. Henry Jackson and Rep. Wayne Aspinall, respective chairmen).

C. Environmental Policy Act is passed

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, passed just before Christmas, has two major features: (a) a declaration of policy; backed by provisions for specific procedures to be followed by federal agencies as they develop policies and plans which would affect the environment; (b) a requirement that the President submit to Congress an annual environmental quality report and that there be established a Council on Environmental Quality as part of the Executive Office of the President. It is rumored that Russell Train, presently Under Secretary of the Interior, may accept Chairmanship of this Council. The Act may make it easier to stop projects (e.g. dams, highways) that put environmental values in jeopardy without identifying feasible alternatives.

D. Constitutional amendment proposed

Senator Gaylord Nelson has introduced S.J. Res. 169, stating that "every person has the inalienable right to a decent environment. The U.S. and every state shall guarantee this right."

E. American Heritage magazine now contains special section on conservation

The December issue of American Heritage was sent to TCWP to acquaint us with the magazine's new outstanding conservation efforts. It is available on loan to any member. You may recall that the magazine's associate conservation editor, Elizabeth Layne, attended TCWP's annual meeting, after having seen the Big S. Fork and Obed as our guest.

8. TCWP INTERACTIONS WITH BOWATERS SOUTHERN PAPER CORP.

A meeting was recently held between high-ranking officials of Bowaters-Hiwassee Land Co. and three TCWP Board members to discuss problems of mutual interest. We learned that Bowaters had actively opposed the Tenn. Scenic Rivers Act, because they considered the Class-I boundaries too wide. We explained that these were set to protect gorges at least rim-to-rim, which could, in most cases, be accomplished by the minimum width specified. Bowaters' representatives then stated that they would have no objection to preservation within gorges, where logging was, in fact, not practical. We feel that a meeting of minds was thus achieved on this subject.

The company is also in the process of setting aside "pocket wildernesses", one of them being the Virgin Falls area (we shall participate in the dedication hike -- details later). (over)
Access to these will be over as great a distance as possible by hiking trail that does not permit motor vehicle. TCWP heartily applauds these plans. At this time, the company appears opposed to granting scenic easements to the state under a state natural areas program such as that formulated by HB 1197 (see Item 1, above). For this reason, TCWP recommended inclusion in HB 1197 of a clause (Sect. 11 of HB 1197) that would create a registry of natural areas that are in private ownership, provided these meet the criteria of Class-I areas. This would give the company some official recognition for its public service, and at the same time provide a greater degree of permanency for the wilderness status of the areas.

9. TRAIL NEWS

A. Black Oak Ridge Trail planned. Help needed.

The Trails Committee has marked a large portion of the future Black Oak Ridge Trail in the northern greenbelt, which will roughly parallel Outer Drive and East Drive along the length of the town. According to TCWP standards, it will be a narrow, winding, leaf-packed foot path. There will be several entrances from Outer Drive via existing and planned trails. The portion between Georgia Ave. and Mississippi Avenue will be finished during two Sunday working parties, February 22 and March 8. On both dates, parties will be formed at 2 p.m. at the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Outer Drive. Bring shovel or dirt rake, pruning shears. All members welcome. (Leaders: Brightman, Claiborne, Duncan, Grove, Guthrie, Lefler, Russell).

In other activities, the Oak Ridge Trails committee is working to mark accesses to all greenbelts, planning to present a progress report to City Council, and thinking about mapping and ecological area marking.

B. Tennessee Trails Association

Donald Todd of Wartburg, who introduced many of us to Morgan Forest last year via trails developed by him and his two sons, is the 1970 President of TTA. The three Todds are truly dedicated to preservation of the Cumberlands. The TCWP liaison man for TTA, Frank Bruce, was elected to the TTA Board of Directors. TCWP has become a supporting member of TTA.

The first TTA outing and meeting of the year was too early for us to announce in this NEWSLETTER. No firm dates for future hikes have been set at this time. TCWP will co-sponsor a Trails Seminar to be held at Montgomery Bell State Park, probably April 11. Details later.

10. EDUCATION CAPSULES

A. The TCWP-sponsored Oak Ridge High School Environmental Studies course is now being co-sponsored by the Regional Science Experience Center, Pete Cohan, Director.

B. The Harvey Broome Film Committee has completed purchase on the following films: Glen Canyon, Two Yosemites, No Room for Wilderness, The Squeeze, So Little Time, and Persistent Seed. Study guides for these films are being developed and a mechanism for distribution set up.

C. An environmental education program started last fall at Bays Mountain Park, Kingsport's new mountaintop nature preserve, under the leadership of naturalist Jonathan Wert. Working with the Kingsport and Sullivan County school systems, Wert is conducting field trips and other activities for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders to teach a reverence for all life. Tennessee Eastman Co. has donated $225,000 for construction of an Environmental Education Center within the Park.

11. ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS; DUES

The following new appointments have been made. For committee chairmen: outings, Charles
Klabunde, Oak Ridge; Knoxville phone chain, Jessie Dempster; Oak Ridge phone chain co­chairman, Janet Meservey; political action, Frank Plasil, Oak Ridge. For TWAC District Representatives: 2nd Distr., Ralph L. Porter, Jr., Knoxville; 3rd Distr., Mrs. Bradley Curry, Lookout Mtn.; 6th Distr., Dr. G. R. Mayfield, Columbia; 7th Distr., Charles Galloway, Waynesboro; 8th Distr., Dr. Ted James, Martin. Anyone wishing to help these particular chairmen or representatives should contact them. Many members have responded well to our call for help sent with the last NEWSLETTER: be assured that we shall contact you before long.

A green membership card is enclosed if you have paid your 1970 dues. If you have not, please do so as soon as you can. We welcome the following new life members ($50 or over): Anne Broome, Prof. and Mrs. Clebsch, and Dr. E. Malcolm Campbell. This brings our total number of life members to 12.

12. OUTINGS, MEETINGS, EVENTS, CALENDAR

A. First outing of the year, Conasauga hike and float, March 14-15

Last year, the Conasauga River was added to the Tennessee Scenic Rivers system, but few people know this beautiful clear river, much of which flows through mountain wilderness. Jointly with TSRA, Tenn. Valley Canoe Club, and Georgia Canoe Club, we are sponsoring a hike and/or float. Leader Lavone Lambert (who did much of the work for adding the Conasauga to the system) supplies the following information.

Dates: Saturday, March 14: hike (5½ miles), or float (8½ miles) upper section.
       Sunday, March 15: float only (10½ miles), lower section.
Come either day or both. Camping possible Friday and/or Saturday night (see below).

Meeting place and time: At U.S. 411 crossing of Conasauga (this is 8½ mi. south of the intersection of U.S. 411 with U.S. 64). On Saturday be there by 9:45 a.m. to form guided car caravan upstream to Taylor Branch Camp, where hike and float both start. On Sunday, be at same bridge ready to start floating at 10:30 a.m. (If you want your car ready at take-out, be at bridge an hour early on Sunday to participate in shuttle. No prior shuttle arrangements needed on Saturday.)

Camping: Primitive camping possible at Taylor Branch Camp in the National Forest. Bring drinking water; branch water is available for other needs. Friday campers should be at the bridge at 7:30 p.m., Saturday campers at 5:30 p.m., to be guided to the campground.

Hike and float information: The hike will be easy walking on an abandoned logging railroad bed. It will parallel the first part of the float, as far as the National Forest boundary. This scenic section has no other access. Saturday's float (through the mountainous section) contains rapids up to grade-III difficulty, so bring life preservers (mandatory) and ropes for lining, if desired. Sunday's float (through farmland) is very easy -- nothing above grade-I. Take-out on Georgia H'way 2.

For additional information, call Lavone Lambert, Collegedale, 396-2499 (home) or 267-4473 (work)

B. Former Secretary Udall to speak in Tennessee, February 13

Stewart Udall, Secretary of the Interior during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, and now Chairman of the Board of Overview, an environmental consultants' corporation, will speak at the Tivoli Theater, Chattanooga, at 1:00 p.m., Friday, February 13. The meeting is being sponsored by several organizations, coordinated by Mrs. Bradley Curry, our 3rd Distr. TWAC Representative. We have invited Mr. Udall to speak on conservation matters of specific interest to Tennesseans. On the evening of the same day, Mr. Udall will be speaking at Knoxville, as part of the ISSUES series (see C., below). For more information on the Chattanooga meeting, call Mrs. Curry, 821-4162.

(over)

The ISSUES committee of the University of Tennessee is sponsoring "Eco-catastrophe" -- 5 consecutive evenings of outstanding authorities, speaking on environmental problems. All programs start at 8 p.m., and all except Tuesday's will be located in the U.T. Student Center Auditorium.

Monday, Feb. 9: Ian McHarg, "Public Ignorance -- Dimension of the Problem"
Tuesday, Feb. 10: Ralph Nader and S. Leary Jones, "Industrial controls and responsibility -- their jurisdictional controls" (This program only will be in the Alumnae Memorial Auditorium)
Wednesday, Feb. 11: René Dubos and John Rock, "Population"
Thursday, Feb. 12: Ralph Lapp, "Atomic Energy and Pollution -- the 20th Century"
Friday, Feb. 13: Stewart Udall, "Agenda for Tomorrow"

D. Ray Harm to speak to Knox Audubon Chapter, Feb. 5

Famous nature artist, Ray Harm, will speak on "Our Natural Environment" at the U.T. Student Center Auditorium, Feb. 5, 8 p.m. There will also be a showing of his prints and sketches.

E. Calendar summary

TODAY! Phone or wire your U.S. Congressman on Timber Supply Bill (see Item 7A of NEWSLETTER)

Jan. 31, Feb. 1, 2, etc. Contact your legislators on matters before the General Assembly (see Items 1, 2, 3).

February 5 - Ray Harm program, Knoxville (see Item 12D)
February 9-13 - Series of ISSUES Lectures, U.T., Knoxville (see Item 12C)
February 13 - Former Secretary Udall to speak in Chattanooga (see above, this section)
February 22 - Trail working party (see Item 9A)
March 8 - Trail working party (see Item 9A)
March 14-15 - Conasauga outing (see Item 12A)
April 11 (tentative) Trails seminar, Montgomery Bell (see 9B)

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