

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING
Newsletter No. 2, October 20, 1966

NEXT MEETING

November 1, 8:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 1500 Oak Ridge Turnpike. Mack S. Pritchard, Naturalist, Tennessee State Parks, will present an illustrated talk, "Preserving Our Tennessee Park Heritage." Mr. Pritchard is a dedicated conservationist and highly informed and interesting speaker. We urge you to bring friends -- this talk should have a wide appeal. There will be a discussion period.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Please send membership record blank and dues (\$3 regular, 50¢ for 18 years and under) to Jean Bangham, 432 Villanova Road, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830.
2. Send any contributions for future newsletters to Liane B. Russell, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830.

LETTERS YOU MAY WISH TO WRITE (Tell us if you do; we'll keep tally.)

1. We feel that the State of Tennessee can play an important role in future conservation efforts. For this reason, and because so many technical issues are involved, it seems important that the new Commissioner of Conservation be a professional person, rather than a political appointment. Write your opinion to Governor Buford Ellington, 929 Third National Bank, Nashville, Tennessee 37219.
2. The State of Maine will have a referendum on November 8 on a bond issue that would lead to wilderness protection on the famous 100-mile Allagash canoe trip. Funds would be matched by the federal government. If passed, this will be an important precedent for state-supported scenic rivers. The Maine public needs to be aroused to the asset a scenic river can be for tourism. Write to The Bangor Daily News, Bangor, Maine, or to The Portland Press Herald, Portland, Maine, supporting the state plan for control of the Allagash. (For details, call Russell, 482-2153.)
3. Action on the two proposed Grand Canyon dams has been delayed for a year, largely as a result of public pressure. Opinions should continue to be expressed to members of the next Congress. (For details, call Ken Warren, 483-3572.)

FIRST PUBLIC TCWP MEETING, October 12, 1966

The first public meeting of TCWP, held at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Church, was attended by about 60 persons from Oak Ridge, Knoxville, Oneida, Harriman, Chattanooga, and Nashville. The evening was divided into two portions--reports of recent activities and of future plans, and a business session.

A. REPORTS

1. Smokies. Dick Lorenz, Oak Ridge, reported that TCWP had distributed 1500 copies of our newsletter, "Last Chance to Save the Smokies Wilderness." TCWP members also had circulated and filed with the Hearings Officer two petitions: one signed by 47 AAA members protesting AAA's endorsement of the transmountain road (circulated by Elizabeth Peelle), and one signed by 240 biologists endorsing the maximum wilderness proposal from a scientific point of view (circulated by Liane Russell). Ernest Dickerman, Knoxville, reported that over 5000 letters were received for the Hearings Record and that the testimony was over 3:1 in favor of the Hiking Club and the Wilderness Society proposals. He also announced details of the "Save Our Smokies" hike planned for October 23.
2. Obed River Gorge. Since very few members are familiar with this gorge, Bill Russell, Oak Ridge, presented a short slide show. Liane Russell told of TVA's probable plans to dam this watershed, and of the Emory River Watershed Development Association, a four-county citizens group formed last May under the TVA Tributary Area Development program. She reported that a group of conservationists planned last June to fight for preservation of the Obed in its wild state and decided to integrate their efforts with TCWP rather than form a separate organization. The group will work toward having the Obed established as a "Scenic River," either under Representative Saylor's Scenic Rivers bill or by the State of Tennessee. Efforts to date include taking Rep. Duncan on a canoe trip down the river; making political contacts on the national scene (Rep. Saylor, Justice Douglas), with Tennessee congressional and gubernatorial candidates (Clement, Bass, Baker, Ellington, Hooker), and with the Tenn. Dept. of Conservation and the Game and Fish Commission; efforts to work with the Emory River Watershed Development Association; and

presenting talks to service groups. Dick Reed is organizing the filming of a 16 mm sound movie about the beauties of the river. This project will require financial assistance.

3. Big South Fork of the Cumberland. This river gorge, too, is threatened by a dam (at Devil's Jump) proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers. Two years ago, John Bombay, then at Oak Ridge, talked to the Oneida Kiwanis and argued that a free-flowing river of such beauty would be a greater asset to local citizens than a reservoir. Local efforts for river preservation ultimately led to the formation of the Scott County Conservation Board, four of whose members attended our meeting. Interestingly, three of these had originally been strongly pro-dam. Tom Gentry and Dr. Roy McDonald, Oneida, presented this history and reported on the canoe race held July 4 to help publicize the free-flowing river. To date, TCWP's efforts on behalf of the Big South Fork were in connection with a recent House committee hearing on the dam proposal. TCWP sent a wire to the committee chairman and called Rep. Duncan in Washington, asking him to look into the matter.

4. Tellico Dam. Although most of the battle to preserve the Little Tennessee was fought before TCWP came into existence, Ron Keyser, Oak Ridge, presented to the membership a short analysis of the recent loss of this battle. He believes that the concept of "dam" is, in the minds of most, synonymous with economic salvation, and that the anti-dam forces, in spite of amassing impressive factual reports to the contrary, were unable to counteract this belief. It was felt by TCWP members that publication of the whole story of the unsuccessful struggle might help us in other battles. TCWP efforts in behalf of the Little T came at the end and consisted of sending wires and letters to the dam opponents in the House-floor fight and of mobilizing 10 wires for the Senate committee hearing.

5. Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association. Bill Russell reported on the formation of this Association in Nashville on September 15. The TSRA is devoted to preserving Tennessee's free-flowing streams in their natural state. Twelve have been selected for immediate attention. President of TSRA, which includes experts in various fields, is Robert A. Miller, Nashville. Bill Russell is chairman of the Obed and the Big South Fork committee.

6. Possible future projects. Bill Russell suggested that TCWP should work toward the establishment of a walking trail through Oak Ridge greenbelt areas, possibly with the aid of the new federal Urban Trails program. He also thought TCWP should show interest in Tennessee strip-mine-control legislation. Walter Williams, Chattanooga, drew the membership's attention to the Cherokee National Forest and suggested that TCWP might study the problem of preserving wilderness in that area.

7. Long-range planning. Rod Davis, Oak Ridge, stressed the necessity for long-range planning to keep us from being forced into a position where all we can do is to fight delaying actions. He believes that the notion of zoning must be extended to non-urban areas to stop the constant "degradation of wilderness to public garden to playground."

B. Business Session

The membership voted to organize on a permanent basis. A nine-man steering committee was elected as follows: Liane Russell, O.R.; Dick Lorenz, O.R.; Dr. Roy McDonald, Oneida; Rodney Davis, O.R.; Elizabeth Peelle, O.R.; Ernest Dickerman, Knoxville; Frank Bruce, O.R.; Prof. Edward Clebsch, Knoxville (U.T.); Robert McNeas, O.R. Elected to the nominating committee were Jean Bangham, Robert Peelle and Bill Russell, all of Oak Ridge. Dues were set at \$3 for regular members, 50¢ for junior members (18 and under). Formulation of by-laws was left to the newly elected Board. There was some discussion of the name of the organization, but this matter also was deferred for Board action.

BOARD MEETING, October 18, 1966

The term "Steering Committee" was changed to "Board of Directors." The resignation of Frank Bruce for personal reasons was regretfully accepted and Dick Reed was elected as replacement. The following officers were elected: President, Dick Lorenz; First Vice President, Liane Russell; Second Vice President, in charge of Planning, Rodney Davis. The following appointments were made: Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Jean Bangham; Secretary, Ruth Young; Newsletter, Liane Russell; Publicity, Elizabeth Peelle (temporary); Greenbelt and Oak Ridge Trails committee, Bill Russell, chairman. Other appointments will be made when the membership list has been more fully compiled.