

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 7, July 19, 1967

OUTING PROGRAM

During the summer, we have planned a number of outings to take the place of our usual meetings. These outings are designed to acquaint members, prospective members, and friends with some of the areas that we have been trying to preserve. The first two outings planned are a picnic on the Obed and a float trip down the Little T. Details concerning both of these are presented elsewhere in this newsletter. The third outing, in September, will involve the Big South Fork of the Cumberland. Details will be sent later.

URGENT CALLS TO ACTION

1. SMOKIES

Because of the strong opposition to the proposed transmountain road, the Department of the Interior has sent to the Governor of North Carolina an alternate road proposal to satisfy the 1943 agreement between the N.P.S. and Swain County, N.C. In many ways, this new N.P.S. plan is identical to the alternate road proposal formulated by the Carolina Mountain Club and endorsed by the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club. (We circulated this to you as an enclosure with Newsletter No. 5 in April.) However, there is one undesirable difference: instead of turning south and ~~across~~ Fontana Reservoir just east of Noland Creek and thence continuing toward Fontana as a southshore scenic drive, the road proposed by the N.P.S. continues on the north shore, i.e., within the Park, as far as Chambers Creek. This would involve much needless destruction of wilderness and the crossing of several lovely creeks.

It is now most important for North Carolinians to write to their governor and urge him to accept the alternate road proposal formulated by the Carolina Mountain Club (as opposed to that suggested by the N.P.S.). Since most of us are not North Carolinians we should write to as many North Carolina friends as we can and acquaint them with the problem. Ask them to (1) write to Governor Dan Moore, Raleigh, N.C.; (2) write letters to their newspapers; (3) spread the word to their friends.

We have available a letter that can be sent to North Carolina friends as well as a map showing the various road proposals. These ~~can~~ be obtained on request from L. B. Russell, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, 482-2153.

2. OBED

In recent contacts with Tennessee's Senators and Representatives, we have had much encouraging support for national scenic rivers legislation and for the inclusion in such legislation of a number of Tennessee rivers. We have heard from both of our Senators (Sen. Gore has specifically endorsed the Obed, Big South Fork and Buffalo) and from eight of our nine Representatives.

The only one who has not replied is Congressman Evins, and repeated efforts to visit him at his Washington office have failed. Mr. Evins is, of course, a key figure since (a) several of the rivers proposed by us for scenic-river status (Obed, Big South Fork, Upper Duck, Collins) are in his district, and (b) he holds a high position on the House Public Works Appropriations Subcommittee. Unfortunately, Mr. Evins has just the other day again expressed himself in support of feasibility studies for a TVA dam (or dams) on the Obed.

With the recently proposed changes in Tennessee's congressional districts, all of Oak Ridge would probably lie in Mr. Evins' district. This is our opportunity for letting him know that he has thus added a very large number of constituents who are strongly in favor of preserving the Obed and its tributaries (important, since there is also a proposal for headwaters dams) in their free-flowing, wild state. We urge you to write now to The Honorable Joe L. Evins, U.S. House of Representatives, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Both of the calls to action we have issued concern very important matters, and we urge you to act on them very soon.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We plan shortly to launch a membership drive which will include, among other efforts, the mailing of a description of our objectives and accomplishments to potentially interested persons. Each one of us has several acquaintances who would be most enthusiastic about an organization such as TCWP -- but are unaware of its existence. Won't you please let us have the names and addresses* of such persons so we can compile a rewarding mailing list?

L. B. Russell, editor

*Please send to Jean W. Bangham, 432 Villanova Road, Oak Ridge, or call her at 483-9862.

OBED PICNIC

Date: Sunday, August 20, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Place: Kirsli's property near Obed Junction. (Total distance from Oak Ridge, about 40 miles.) For instructions on how to reach, see map on reverse. From Lansing onward, signs will be posted at all intersections. Cars may be parked at the top, at the Hicks farm, from which there is a 1/3 mile walk down to the river.

Activities: Swimming in river pools; walks up and down the Obed and up Ramsey Creek; Indian rock houses. Bring your own food. Cooking is permitted on the sandy beaches.

General: This picnic is not restricted to TCWP members. If you wish, bring prospective members or friends. Please help to see that all visitors leave this beautiful place as they found it, by making sure no-one cuts trees, picks flowers, digs moss, or leaves garbage.

LITTLE-T FLOAT TRIP

TCWP is co-sponsoring this outing with TSRA (Tenn. Scenic Rivers Assn.). This will be an overnight trip, but anyone who wishes may take out at an intermediate point at the end of the first day. No white water will be encountered on this float. The current on the first day is helpful; the second day requires more paddling. No motors please. Trip open to non-members.

Date: Saturday and Sunday, August 26, 11 a.m. - August 27, 2 p.m.

In charge of arrangements: Bob Dorward, RFD 1, Vonore, Tennessee; and Ken Warren, 105 Evans Lane, Oak Ridge, 483-3572.

Put-in place: Hoss Holt's store, situated just below the dam. From the north-eastern intersection of U.S. 411 and Tenn. 72 (just north of where U.S. 411 crosses the Little T) go east on 72 for about five miles. Anyone wishing to camp near the put-in on Friday night may do so in the meadow next to Hoss Holt's store.

Saturday camping: Rose Island, Hiwassee Land Co. picnic area.

Take-out, overnight trip: Davis Ferry Road. If you are coming through Vonore, go north on 72 about 11 miles to intersection with Davis Ferry Road. If you are coming through Loudon, Davis Ferry Road is about four miles southeast of the junction of U.S. 11 and State 72. You may recognize the intersection of State 72 with Davis Ferry Road by an Esso station and an IGA Food Market at the corner. Turn northeast onto Davis Ferry Road (i.e., if you are coming from Vonore, turn right; if from Loudon, turn left). After one mile, bear left at fork and continue about three more miles to the river. On the right is the Vance farm. Park cars on road shoulder (if necessary, we may get permission to park on Vance farm).

Take-out, one-day trip: Rose Island. Going SE on U.S. 411, cross the Little T and continue about $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to a narrow gravel road on the right. This is marked by a sign reading "Rose Island, Hiwassee Land Co. Tree and Seed Nursery". Turn onto this road and drive, always bearing right at forks, until you reach a small wooden bridge. This is normally locked but will be left open August 26. Should it be locked, see Mrs. Dorward in house on left. Cross bridge and drive to opposite side of island.

Shuttling of cars: make private arrangements with friends if you can. If not, be at put-in by 9:30 a.m. ($1\frac{1}{2}$ hours before start of float) to make arrangements there. Driving time from Hoss Holt to Davis Ferry take-out is about 40 minutes.

OBED JUNCTION Aug. 20, 1967

