

# TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 9, November 14, 1967

## N E X T M E E T I N G

Although we must reserve TCWP's major efforts for our avowed purpose, "The care of Tennessee's superb natural environment," we do feel the occasional need to take an official stand on certain issues of broad national significance. The Board of Directors has taken action on several of these during the past year.

Two issues on which, we believe, many members would like to be better informed are the Redwoods National Park controversy and the Grand Canyon Dams proposals. We have reserved two excellent Sierra Club films on these subjects, and Elizabeth Peelle will outline the political history and bring us up to date. A third film will also be available for anyone who wants to stay late. This should be an excellent program to which to invite non-members.

TIME: Wednesday, December 6, 1967, 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Oak Ridge Unitarian Church, 1500 Oak Ridge Turnpike

PROGRAM: 1. "Zero Hour in the Redwoods"  
2. "The Grand Canyon". . . . far and away the Sierra Club's best film...  
...shows movingly and convincingly that the Canyon is a universe in  
itself, and that a living river is vital to keeping the Canyon alive."  
3. "Glen Canyon". . . . was a uniquely beautiful stretch of the  
Colorado River. . . . incredible colors and sculpture . . . . Every-  
thing shown in this film is now beneath the surface of Lake Powell,  
lost for this and future generations."

## ANNUAL MEETING, October 31, 1967

In spite of two conflicts -- Hallowe'en and a Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Board meeting -- our annual meeting was attended by about 30 persons. The following officers for 1968 were elected:

### Board of Directors:

President:	Ilene B. Russell	{	Richard L. Lorenz (past president)
Vice-President:	Ernest M. Dickerman		Stanley I. Auerbach
Secretary:	Jean W. Bingham		Robert S. Lefler
Treasurer:	Harold G. Smith		Robert W. Peelle
			Bruce L. Welch
Nominating Committee:		Stanley S. Kirsliis, chairman; Claire Nader; Richard E. Reed	

The proposed constitution and bylaws, which you received in your last Newsletter, were adopted with only two minor grammatical changes.

The Treasurer reported our current assets at \$278.

The first hour of the meeting was devoted to progress reports on the Smokies (Ernie Dickerman, read by B. Welch), rivers (Lee Russell), stripmine legislation (Bob Lefler), and miscellaneous subjects (Dick Lorenz). Since our Newsletters have kept you informed on major developments throughout the year, the current issue will bring you only the latest information and calls to action on these topics.

New subjects discussed at some length were: possible TCWP involvement in working toward hike-bike trails from Knoxville to the Smokies; and sonic boom threats to wilderness (for more on both, see below). Mack Prichard, State Parks Naturalist, briefly mentioned various ways in which the state might become more effective in

the conservation field. Since we hope shortly to devote a special program to this topic, nothing more will be said on it here.

SMOKIES No decision has yet been announced by the Department of the Interior on transmountain road versus alternate road proposal(s). We must not permit a stalemate that will keep the wilderness proposal for the Smokies in abeyance. Again, it is important that we remind Secretary Udall of our support of the alternate road proposal submitted by the Carolina Mountain Club (see the brochure we sent out with Newsletter No. 5). It is, perhaps, even more important to urge North Carolina friends to write to their governor (Governor Dan Moore, Raleigh, N.C.) about this. Pamphlets available on request from E. M. Dickerman or L. B. Russell.

A possible meeting between Secretary Udall and Governors Ellington and Moore was announced at one point, and TCWP, upon inquiring, was assured that it would be invited among citizens' groups to be represented. There have been no further developments along these lines.

RIVERS TVA and the State of Tennessee have just announced that they would seek funds to preserve the upper 60 miles of the Buffalo River as a float-stream. Last August, a committee of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association, Don Bodley, chairman, TCWP members Tom Berg and Lee Russell, approached TVA, stating that "it is our earnest desire that details of TVA's program be such that citizens groups, such as ours, could lend their full support." In September, Bodley, Miller, Bill and Lee Russell, and Farrell met with representatives of the TVA Recreation Department in Nashville to discuss details of their plan. These seemed to be good. However, we felt that permanent preservation of a river was not assured by administrative action alone; there must be legislative protection. Consequently, we sought -- and have since received -- assurance from TVA that their Buffalo project would not preclude consideration of the Buffalo for National Scenic Rivers legislation.

We have also had contact with the TVA Recreation Department in connection with studies of the Obed: we have guided them on a field trip, shown slides, and submitted a report. It is our hope that the outstanding qualities of the Obed as a free-flowing system are becoming better recognized. The Emory River Watershed Development Association, a group that has been highly dam-oriented, is holding its first annual meeting in Wartburg, November 25. Congressman Joe Evins will be featured speaker. We strongly urge you to express to him in a short letter or wire your preference for a free-flowing Obed system (House Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20515).

STRIP MINE LEGISLATION The strip mine battle is far from over, and a considerable effort is still required from us. In summary, these are the reasons: (a) the law passed this year is now subject to interpretation, to be incorporated in specific regulations, and <sup>the</sup> end product <sup>may</sup> be considerably watered down if conservation forces relax; (b) it is possible that weakening amendments may be introduced in the next session of the Legislature; (c) the present 9-man Review Board to which mine operators cited for violation can take their case is dominated by members from the mining industry; (d) mining operations started before the law was passed are not subject to reclamation requirements.

A Division of Strip Mining and Reclamation of the Department of Conservation has been set up under Commissioner Francis Watkins. This division drew up a set of detailed regulations which, to us, seemed quite good, but which came under strong attack at a hearing in August, dominated by the mining industry. TCWP had not had enough prior notice of this hearing to do anything but send a telegram, which was incorporated into the record. The regulations have now been redrafted and Bob Lefler (482-3302) will have a copy for inspection. A new hearing is ~~tentatively~~ scheduled for November 30 in Nashville. In data, Bob Lefler will have

Dec. 5, 9 a.m., Room 1  
Capitol Bldg, Nashville

~~the information~~) It is very important that interests other than those of the mine operators be represented this time. Please plan to attend and, if possible, testify; or, at least, send a message (to Commissioner F. Watkins, Division of Strip Mining and Reclamation, Tennessee Department of Conservation, 2611 West End Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37203).

After meeting with Mr. Watkins for several hours on October 26, Bob Lefler and Bill and Lee Russell were impressed by his earnest efforts to do a good job. He has had special training and has consulted with a number of authorities. We feel we should give him all possible support so that he is not under one-sided pressure.

We also feel that Governor Ellington needs to be told that the 9-man Review Board should not contain seven members from the industry and only two concerned with conservation (Herman Baggenstoss and Clyde York, president of the Tennessee Farm Bureau).

SMOKIES    The idea of acquiring the roadbed of the defunct Smoky Mountain Railroad  
HIKE-BIKE    for a major portion of proposed hike-bike trails to the Smokies has been  
TRAILS       considered for some time by various individuals and organizations. The  
NPS is greatly in favor. If the state agreed to land acquisition, about \$75,000 in matching funds would probably be available under the National Trails Act. At the time of the Annual Meeting it seemed that all that was needed was for TCWP to provide impetus for a coordinated effort. A committee, chaired by Mary Ann Gibbons, has since found that the legal situation with regard to the railroad bed is quite complicated. We shall inform you if any action by members is required.

Other trails suggested for future TCWP action: "John Muir Trail" from Pickett State Park to Morgan Forest (Mack Prichard); Cumberland Trail (Evan Means).

SONIC       Bruce Welch points out that NASA has predicted 17,802 domestic SST (super-  
BOOMS       sonic transport) flights in 1971. If SST flights are permitted to fly  
overland, they will be routed over wilderness areas in order to minimize their impact on population centers. If you are concerned about this threat to wilderness, write to Citizens League Against the Sonic Boom, 19 Appleton Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, for suggested action.

POLLUTION    We should like to draw your attention to Carson Brewer's fine series of  
IN TENNES-    articles currently appearing in the Knoxville News Sentinel.  
SEE RIVERS

#### MEMBERSHIP

Please send your 1968 dues as soon as possible to Jean Bangham, 432 Villanova Road, Oak Ridge. The fewer people we have to bill, the more money and effort we save.

Enclosed with this Newsletter is material for a membership drive. Please give it to someone you think might be interested in TCWP. More brochures available on request.

Lee Russell, Editor