

## TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 20, February 13, 1969


Where we suggest action on the conservation front, you will find a star in the margin. Please do not overlook the outing announcement and other important organizational items that follow the conservation news.

### WHAT NEXT IN THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS CAMPAIGN?

Last spring, Secretary Udall was asked by several members of the Tennessee and North Carolina congressional delegations to reconsider his December 1967 rejection of the transmountain road. After a careful review of the problem, and shortly before he left office, Mr. Udall reconfirmed his decision against the building of the road. The following alternative solution to the 1943 Agreement was proposed: continuation of the Blue Ridge Parkway from Ravensford to Deep Creek, this road to lie within the Park; and a 2-mile connecting section from Deep Creek to Bryson City. This solution, unfortunately, was not accepted by the state of North Carolina prior to the expiration of Governor Dan Moore's term of office in January.

The National Park Service has indicated that it cannot recommend wilderness boundaries, and thus cannot propose a wilderness plan for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to the Congress until the matter of the 1943 Agreement is settled.

There are now new administrations, both in Washington and in North Carolina, and we do not yet know their attitudes. It is highly desirable that Secretary of the Interior Hickel learn of the feeling of the people in this Great Smokies wilderness and roads matter. Even prior to his contested confirmation as Secretary, Mr. Hickel heard from Swain County. We think it very important that he now be made to recognize the sentiments and thoughts existing on the other side of this controversy.



It is hoped that you will communicate your views to SECRETARY WALTER J. HICKEL, U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240. If at all possible, send copies of your letter to your two Senators and your Congressman, so they will understand that a change in administration does not warrant a change from the previous Dept. of Interior road decision.

Meanwhile private efforts will continue in North Carolina to develop an atmosphere in which it will be possible for an acceptable revised agreement to be worked out. The folder entitled "Wilderness and Roads in the Great Smoky Mountains", dated August 30, 1968, presents the conservationists' position and proposal. Printing of this folder was partly financed by TCWP, and copies are available on request.

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### BIG SOUTH FORK OF THE CUMBERLAND

TCWP has continued its cooperation with the three-agency field task force which, this year, must complete its report to Congress on alternative plans for the use of the Big South Fork area. Hal Smith's South Fork committee has, to date, provided the following materials: a large series of photographs (black-and-white enlargements and color slides), a historical outline, archeological data, several ecological reports, float data and river characteristics, and a detailed mapping of suggested boundaries for the more comprehensive plan proposed by us (see below). The committee has had a number of meetings with several different members of the task force. It has also familiarized itself thoroughly with the region through a number of field trips and considerable research.

A Statement of Goals for the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River Region has been drawn up and submitted to a number of organizations. To date, this has been endorsed by 39 organizations having a combined membership of over 48,000. Since the alternative study authorized by Congress must explore "recreational, conservation, or preservation uses", the Statement of Goals reads, in part: "The undersigned organizations emphatically affirm that the goals of recreation, conservation, and preservation in the region of the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River can be best achieved by the following Congressional actions:

1. First and foremost, the entire free-flowing Big South Fork of the Cumberland, its entire Clear Fork stem, and at least the lower portions of the New River should be preserved in their free-flowing state and protected by designation as national wild or scenic rivers under the provisions of P.L.90-542 (National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act), or by other designation giving at least equivalent protection.
  2. In addition, surrounding land areas and tributary streams should, if possible, be included in a more comprehensive plan, preferably through National Park or National Recreation Area designation."
- Reasons for these recommendations are enumerated in the remainder of the statement. Any member who belongs to an organization that might be willing to endorse these goals should request a copy of the full statement from Lee Russell, 482-2153.

It is to be noted that the Clear Fork and lower portions of the New River are clearly included in our proposal. This would definitely rule out such alternate damsites as Helenwood, which have sometimes been mentioned as "compromises." (Such dams would, incidentally, have even less economic justification than Devils Jumps.)

The South Fork National Park Association has recently been incorporated in Kentucky and, together with the Cumberland Chapter of the Sierra Club, will lead efforts for South Fork preservation in that state. They have issued an attractive folder, copies of which are available on request.

OBED

\* Although the Obed, with Clear Creek and Daddys Creek, is listed for possible future inclusion in the National Scenic Rivers system, it is competing with many other rivers for BOR study time and funds. In the meantime, there are pressures working against its final inclusion. Those of us who would like to see this magnificent river system preserved in its wild state may want to write their Senators and Congressman expressing their pleasure at having the Obed listed in the Act but urging a speedy and favorable study.

STATE PARKS

TCWP's new State Parks committee is hard at work gathering information from other states and our own. Ernest Dickerman recently spent two days in Nashville, conferring with officials of the Department of Conservation and others. The program being developed by the committee will include the following:

(1) The State Legislature will be asked to look into the matter of how the approved \$10 million bond issue for the state parks shall be spent. (2) TCWP will recommend that a big portion of the \$10 million be spent for acquisition of new park land. Present plans of the Department of Conservation do not provide for purchasing any new land with the \$10 million. (3) The question will be raised whether motels, restaurants, stores, and golf courses should be built in the state parks, which are intended to be places for outdoor experience, where nature is dominant, not man. These commercial features are the prime sorts of development proposed by the Department of Conservation.

STATE SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

The Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act was signed over 10 months ago, but, so far, the state has done little to make it a reality. Bill and Lee Russell, together with representatives of TSRA, had recent conferences with members of the State administration in Nashville to discuss ways of remedying this situation. TCWP and TSRA, jointly, are preparing a legislative proposal that calls for an appropriation of \$200,000 over the next two years to acquire land (mostly by scenic easements) along some of the rivers already in the system; as well as for designation of several additional rivers.

The Tennessee Act has become a model for bills now being proposed in several states and has had wide acclaim in various quarters. The February issue of the Sierra Club Bulletin carries an illustrated article by W. L. Russell, entitled "Volunteer State Shows the Way."

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### OUTING, MARCH 22

Our first outing of the year will be along part of the proposed Cumberland Trail. Bob Brown, President of the new Tennessee Trails Association, TTA (see Newsletter No. 19), will be the trip leader and will take us to what he considers one of the most scenic parts of the trail. Meeting time and place: Saturday, March 22, 9 a.m., Central Time (note: this is 10 a.m. Eastern Time) at entrance to Cumberland Mt. State Park (near junction of U.S. 127 and Tenn. 68). Car shuttle will be arranged at that time.

Description: This outing will be a hike on Brady Mtn. and Dorton Knob lying between Grassy Cove and the head of Sequatchie Valley. Excellent views of the surrounding valleys and mountains, and the blooming of early spring flowers should make this a very pleasant outing indeed, especially if the weather cooperates. We will start on State Hwy. 68 at the northern end of Grassy Cove and hike across Brady Mtn. and Dorton Knob to Hicks Gap. This is a distance 7.5 to 8 miles and requires a car shuttle prior to starting the hike. We climb from the 1800 ft. elevation to 2900 ft, then down to 2200 ft at Hicks Gap, with several short ups and downs along the way. It's largely cross country through open and not so open woods, along game trails and remnants of jeep trails. In the depressions along the way there is some steep, rough, rocky footing so wear good, sturdy hiking shoes.

The more ambitious hikers may want to descend from Hicks Gap to the head of the Sequatchie Valley and climb up along a series of cascades known as the Hell Hole, and out along the west rim of the valley to Morris Gap. This adds about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, a descent from 2200 ft. to 1100 ft. and back to 1800 ft. elevation.

### PREVIEW OF OUTINGS AND OTHER EVENTS

1. We are considerably expanding our outings program this year. In addition to our March 22 outing (see above), the following are being planned. Others may be added. Look for details in future Newsletters.
  - April 19. Scotts Gulf (Caney Fork), Virgin Falls. Trip leader: Grimes Slaughter.
  - Late May or early June. Clear Fork and Rugby area. For those who want to float, Gerry Cosgrove will lead a group down an easy part of the Clear Fork. For the remainder, there will be short river hikes and swimming in the Clear Fork and Whiteoak Creek, and a chance to visit the Rugby Restoration (Bob Lefler, leader).
  - June 28 and 29. Roan Mountain, jointly with SMHC. Trip leaders: Dick and Evelyn Lorenz.
  - July or August. Obed or Clear Creek (tentative).

September. Land-between-the-Lakes (tentative).

October 18. Savage Gulf, an area worthy of addition to the State Parks system. Trip leader: Mack Prichard.

2. The following float trips are being planned by TSRA  
 March 15-16 Buffalo  
 May 3-4 Obed and Emory  
 June 14-15 Conasauga  
 July 12-13 Harpeth  
 For information, contact Don Bodley, 3003 Ozark Circle, Chattanooga, Tenn. 37415.
3. Sierra Club Grand Canyon Exhibit. Elizabeth Peelle is completing arrangements for the showing of this exhibit. It will probably be in Oak Ridge in April; in Knoxville after it leaves here; then, possibly, in Nashville and Memphis.

#### TCWP on TV

TCWP activities are described on two Tennessee TV programs.

(1) On the series "Crisis of the Environment", WSKV-TV, Channel 2 Pete Gunter is interviewing Lee Russell. To be shown Monday, February 24, 7:30 p.m.

(2) Hal Smith, Lee Russell, Don Bodley, and Cartter Patten III appear on the series "Point of View" WDEF-TV, Channel 12 (Chattanooga), Sunday, February 16, 12 noon. The title of the program is "Tennessee, the Scenic River State." We regret that this NEWSLETTER will be distributed after the event. There is a chance that the program may be re-broadcast on other channels.

#### TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Frank Bruce, TCWP representative to TTA reports that the Trails Assn. will next meet Saturday, February 22, 10 a.m. (CST) at Cumberland Mountain State Park (restaurant building). All interested persons are welcome.

TCWP's March 22 outing to Brady Mt. and Dorton Knob (see above) is designed to acquaint us with part of the proposed Cumberland Trail. An outing to McLearn rock sponsored by SMHC, on March 16 will cross another portion of the trail. For information, call Mildred Sears, O.R., 483-4080, or Beth Simms, Knoxville 522-5381.

#### COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

##### A. Activities

1. Big South Fork. Hal Smith, chmn., Ernest Dickerman, Bob Lefler, Mike Pelton (replacing Bruce Welch), Bill Russell, Lee Russell.

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2. State Parks. Ernest Dickerman, chmn., Ed Clebsch, Rod Davis, Bob Peelle.
3. State Scenic Rivers (joint effort with TSRA). Bill Russell, chmn., Don Bodley, Bob Miller, Lee Russell, Bill Terry.
4. Smokies Wilderness. Ernest Dickerman and Leroy Fox.
5. Education, Environmental Studies Course. Claire Nader, chmn., Stan Auerbach, Bill Countess, Jack Gibbons, Jo Henderson, Bill Russell, Lee Russell, Walcott Watson.
6. Education, Harvey Broome Film Series: Chairman to be announced; Anne Broome, Theresa Brichetto, Peter Cohan, Mary Ann Gibbons.
7. TCWP Representative to Tenn. Trails Assn. Frank Bruce.
8. TCWP Liaison with Tenn. Wilderness Action Council. Ken Warren.

#### B. Service committees

1. Outings. Ray Payne, chmn., Charles Klabunde. Trip leaders: Bob Brown, Gerry Cosgrove, Dick Lorenz, Mack Prichard, Grimes Slaughter (see sections on Outings).
2. Program. Ernest Dickerman, chmn., Elizabeth Peelle.
3. Publicity. Elizabeth Kelly.
4. Telephone. Oak Ridge chairman, Helen Warren; Knoxville chairman, Mrs. T. C. (Maxie) Swindell.
5. Librarian. Minnie Duncan.
6. Photographic. Dick Lorenz, Peggy Turner.
7. Nominating. Bill Countess, Rod Davis, Jack Gibbons.

All of the committees would greatly welcome help. If you wish to volunteer your services, please get in touch with a committee chairman or with Lee Russell (130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, 482-2153).

#### DUES ARE DUE

If you have not yet paid your 1969 dues, a billing will be enclosed with this Newsletter. A prompt return of the form, with your payment, will help greatly with our bookkeeping. This year, for the first time, we shall issue membership cards (wallet size). These will be sent out to paid-up members, starting with the next Newsletter.

Lee Russell  
Editor