

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 21, March 31, 1969

Occasionally our Newsletters have to carry heavy loads of material. To keep you from bogging down before you read to the end, and to direct your attention to all items, here are the headlines:

- A high-level group has again pushed for another transmountain road, and TCWP is organizing a delegation to acquaint Interior Secretary Hickel with the other side. Your participation is invited.
- TCWP's efforts to show that deletion of the Buffalo from the State Scenic Rivers Act is a matter of statewide and even national concern may bear some fruit.
- TCWP supports a bill introduced by Senators Berry and Ayres that would use a major part of the bond issue for land acquisition and would prohibit commercial developments in State Parks.
- Other Tennessee legislative matters of interest are a bill that would strengthen the present water pollution control law, and a natural areas bill. TCWP members are asked to help with stripmine studies.
- Among national issues requiring our attention are "State's Right's" Wildlife bills that would open National Parks to public hunting.
- Details are given concerning a TCWP open meeting on the BOR, April 18; the Grand Canyon Exhibit, April 14-26; the next TCWP outing to Caney Fork and Virgin Falls, April 19; a wildflower hike April 27, numerous other outings, and the annual Angel Falls canoe race.
- Be sure to read the dues notice.

SMOKIES: TCWP ORGANIZING DELEGATION

On March 18, all Tennessee and North Carolina Senators, Representatives Duncan (Tenn.), Quillen (Tenn.), and Taylor (N.C.) and about 20 persons from Tennessee and N.C. (mostly Bryson City) met with Interior Secretary Hickel and urged him to approve the Transmountain Road, which Secretary Udall had twice rejected. One newspaper account reported that "the road's backers found him [Sec'y Hickel] much more responsive to their cause than former Interior Secretary Stewart Udall." But other accounts agree that Mr. Hickel had made no commitments; and this was confirmed by us in phone calls and personal visits to the Interior Department. We believe that credit for this is at least partly due to the strong expression of sentiment by TCWP members and others prior to the meeting, and to the good newspaper support prompted by our communications (see, e.g., Knoxville Journal editorials of 3/8 and 3/17). Mr. Hickel is quoted as saying "Just this meeting has drawn opposition."

Two days after the meeting, TCWP telephoned Mr. Hickel's office and asked that he grant an audience to proponents of wilderness that excludes another transmountain road. Mr. Hickel agreed to such a meeting as soon as a suitable date can be found, and TCWP offered to coordinate the several organizations that would send representatives and members. We also stated that the "'summit conference' among leading supporters and opponents of the road," which had been suggested by Senator Baker, would be out of place since Mr. Hickel had just heard unanimous pro-road sentiment but not yet from the other side.

For the purpose of sending a delegation to talk to Mr. Hickel, to our Senators and Representatives, and to other Government officials, we are planning to charter a bus to Washington. This would cost about \$18-20 round trip per person; and lodging in Washington would be about \$6. We welcome all interested persons to join us, for it is a strong expression of citizen sentiment that will finally kill this road proposal and allow the NPS to proceed with the long overdue wilderness designation for the Park.

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* If you are at all interested in joining the delegation (and we hope you are), or if you know of any other individuals or organizations who may be, please get in touch with us, so that we can make tentative plans. We shall then notify you as soon as we know the date and other details. In Oak Ridge, call Jeanne Carver, 483-8611, ext. 3-6786 (weekdays), or L. B. Russell 482-2153 (evenings); in Knoxville call Jeanne Carver 525-9888 (evenings); or, write TCWP, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830.

A THREAT TO THE TENNESSEE SCENIC RIVERS ACT

A bill to exempt the Perry and Wayne County portions of the Buffalo from the provisions of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 was introduced into the Tennessee General Assembly less than three weeks ago and rushed through both Houses without public hearing. Humphreys County was added when the bill passed the House 70:11 on March 18, and Lewis County when it passed the Senate 21:6 on March 20, leaving only a few miles of headwater of the total of 116 miles that were originally preserved by the Act. As of this writing, the bill has yet to be signed by the Governor (see below).

Sentiment behind the Buffalo-exclusion bill came from local landowners who, not understanding the provisions of the Scenic Rivers Act, thought that land would be forcibly seized from them and developed. On the contrary, the Act permits the continuation of normal agricultural practices for Class-II rivers and the farmers would, in addition, be recompensed through scenic easements paid for by the state. (The possibility that the farmers were used as a tool by outside real-estate interests was strongly suggested by one columnist). Another factor leading to the lopsided vote was the fact that the bill was presented as a "local" one, and legislators are loath to vote negatively on such items, for fear that their own local measures may draw opposition.

TCWP, through its Rivers Chairman, W. L. Russell, sent a mailing to every member of the Legislature, explaining the state and even national impact of this bill, and enclosing other material (such as the SCB article "Volunteer State Shows the Way," see Newsletter No. 20). Though this mailing arrived only hours before the vote (due to the manner in which the bills were rushed) some legislators actually withdrew their names from the bill. Considerable contact with newspapers also resulted in strong editorials (as well as in a cartoon!) against Buffalo deletion in at least 4 leading newspapers. This publicity, plus subsequent personal contact with legislators and with residents of the Buffalo region, makes it likely that if the Governor should veto the bill -- as he has been asked to do from many sources, including Senators Ray Baird and Brown Ayres and Repr. Victor Ashe -- the veto would probably be upheld.

Paradoxically, the exclusion of the Buffalo has done more to make the state aware and proud of being first with a scenic rivers system than passage of the Scenic Rivers Act did last year. It is only hoped that the Department of Conservation will finally begin to implement the Act, thus demonstrating its worth, and avoiding future misunderstandings by local landowners.

* The following Senators voted against deleting the Buffalo from the Scenic Rivers Act: Ray Baird (Anderson, Roane, and Meigs Counties), Brown Ayres and Fred Berry (Knox County), Bruce and Person (Shelby County), and Oehmig (Hamilton County). Senator Neal, who originally voted for deletion, changed his vote a few days later when he learned the facts. Representatives from this region voting against deletion (we do not have full tally) were Victor Ashe and Bob Bible. Reps. Cook, Elkins, and Bowman all voted for deletion of the river. We hope you will let your own Senator and Representative know whether you approve or disapprove of his action. As long as this matter is considered only a "local" one no river on the bill is safe!

TCWP will testify on state scenic rivers at a conservation hearing in Nashville, April 1.

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS

The TCWP State Parks Committee, Ernest Dickerman chairman, supports a bill, recently introduced by Senators Fred Berry and Brown Ayres, which amends the \$10 million bond issue bill of 1967 to read as follows: "the proceeds of any and all issues of bonds herein authorized shall be expended solely and alone for state park, state scenic rivers system and recreational purposes, expressly including the acquisition of land and waters, the erection, construction and equipment of sites and buildings, and the expansion, improvement and betterment of existing structures and sites; provided that none of the proceeds shall be expended for the erection, construction and equipment of any motel, hotel or similar lodging accommodation, restaurant, or golf course; and provided further that not less than \$4,000,000 of the proceeds shall be expended for the acquisition of land and waters, not less than \$2,000,000 to provide foot trails, picnic grounds, campgrounds (including group camp facilities), and nature study centers, and not less than \$2,000,000 for the expansion, improvement and betterment of existing structures and sites."

Contact your legislator to lend support.

TCWP will testify on State Parks at a joint hearing of both Houses, April 1.

OTHER TENNESSEE LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

1. An amendment (HB 175) to the existing pollution-control statute (TCA 51-511), which has been introduced in the House by Dr. Harold Bradley, and Carter Witt, Nashville, would greatly strengthen this law. The present statute protects only against conditions that are injurious to the life of fish. The amendment expands this to include organisms utilized by fish for food -- much more sensitive and reliable indicators of pollution. Contact your legislators.
2. Repr. Victor Ashe, Knoxville, will put on the books a bill which would zone for protection of miscellaneous natural areas in cities as well as in rural or undeveloped regions. Several TCWP and TSRA members are consulting with Mr. Ashe in the formulation of the bill.
3. TCWP will look into the workings of the Stripmine Control Act of 1967. Are the regulations being enforced? Should there be any changes in the regulations, or amendments to the Act itself? The present law does not, for example, prevent drastic alterations in the contour of the land. Lily Rose Claiborne and Bob Lefler will welcome help from other interested members for these studies.

NATIONAL ISSUES AND NEWS

1. "State's Rights" Wildlife Bills.
S. 1232 and S. 1401 (referred to the Senate Commerce Committee), and H.R. 71 and others (pending before the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries), would cripple the authority of the NPS and of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to protect wildlife in National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges, respectively. National Parks could be opened to public hunting, and various features of the Endangered Species Act would be weakened. Express your opinion to your Representative and two Senators. Note that Tennessee's Sen. Baker is a member of the Commerce Committee.
2. The House Government Operations Committee recently established a Subcommittee on Conservation and Natural Resources, chaired by Rep. Henry S. Reuss (D., Wisc.). This is the first subcommittee in either House with overall natural resources jurisdiction.

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3. A Dept. of the Interior nomination of interest is that of Dr. Leslie L. Glasgow to the post of Assistant Secretary for parks, fish and wildlife, and marine resources. Dr. Glasgow, an ecologist and Professor of Wildlife Management at LSU, takes the post formerly held by Dr. Stanley Cain.
4. A local matter that became national, the Red River Gorge in Kentucky. Our friends in the Cumberland Chapter of the Sierra Club have achieved the near-impossible: a damsite already authorized for the Corps of Engineers was shifted to an alternate downstream location that leaves the most spectacular parts of the gorge unflooded. The excellent campaign by the Sierra Club convinced Sen. Sherman Cooper and Governor Nunn, who were instrumental in getting agreement to the change in site.

MEETING

Time: Friday, April 18, 8 p.m.

Place: Oak Ridge High School, Room E-207 (round classroom building)

Topic: "The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation: its role in relation to new federal and state legislation", Luther Winsor, Chief of Resource Area Studies, BOR, Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta.

Film: "Tennessee and Its Natural Resources" produced by Bureau of Mines.

Mr. Winsor will discuss the BOR's relationship with state, local, and private organizations, giving particular attention to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the National Trails Act, and wilderness areas. He will also answer our questions as to what role, if any, the BOR can play in such State matters as the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act, the proposed Cumberland Trail, and problems affecting State Parks.

The Bureau of Mines film is said to be photographically excellent, but the point of view of its commentary will undoubtedly provoke discussion.

The Grand Canyon exhibit (see below) will be on display in the auditorium lobby on the night of the meeting. Be sure to stop by and view it.

EXHIBIT

"Grand Canyon of the Living Colorado" color photographs by Ernest Braun, a Sierra Club Exhibit, will be on display in the lobby of the Oak Ridge High School auditorium from April 14-26 inclusive, weekdays and evenings, and Saturday evening April 26 (ORCMA concert).

"Only a boat trip could demonstrate more convincingly that the living river must be allowed to stay alive....and why the Canyon, the whole entity, should be preserved as it is....in an enlarged Grand Canyon National Park." This superb exhibit has been displayed in over 20 major cities and on many college campuses throughout the country, but this is its first appearance in Tennessee. Be sure to tell your friends. If you can help with the hanging or dismantling of the exhibit, call Elizabeth Peelle 483-8974.



After its sojourn in Oak Ridge, the exhibit will be moved to U.T. and will probably hang at the University Center at Knoxville. Look for announcements.

OUTINGS

(1) Our next TCWP outing, Saturday, April 19, Scott's Gulf and Virgin Falls. Trip leader Grimes Slaughter.

We shall take a look at various points of the 8-mile stretch of the Caney Fork that lies between the confluence of Bee Creek and Dodson. The river here flows

through an 850-ft. deep valley into which drops Virgin Falls, a unique 120-ft. high waterfall that comes out of a hole and disappears into a hole. Because spring rains may make river crossings hazardous we shall make two separate entrances into the valley: first from the western end, hiking upstream to Virgin Falls and back to our cars; then driving to the upper end, an overlook, and down to the Bee Creek confluence and Rose Cave. Topographic quadrangles: Lonewood (plus de Rossett for the drive).

Driving directions: Take 70S to Sparta, turn south on Tenn. 111 (toward Spencer) and proceed 2.6 miles (from Sparta) to a left fork. This is our rendezvous spot, 8:30 a.m. CST (note, this is 9:30 a.m. EST). Driving time to this spot is about 2 hrs from Oak Ridge. We shall proceed by car for about 9 miles, past a waterfall at Dodson Cave, to a point near Dodson, where we shall park at an abandoned house. (If you fail to join the car caravan, ask your way to the community of Lost Creek, where you turn right, proceed south for 2 miles to the divide; continue 2.3 miles, past Dodson Cave, to the flat river bottom; turn left off the "main" road and immediately left again. Proceed 0.4 mi. to parking.) After our hike to Virgin Falls, we shall drive back to Sparta in a group, thence east to de Rosset where we turn south to look at Scott's Gulf from a spectacular overlook before again descending into it.

Hiking details. The hike to Virgin Falls takes about 1 hr 45 min each way, and is entirely on the north side of the river. It starts in the flat bottom, runs next to and below the bluff for about 2 miles, then climbs to above the first section of rock, where it continues for about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles and drops down again. After this, there is a short ascent to the foot of the falls, where we shall eat lunch. The hike in Scott's Gulf and to Rose Cave follows lumber roads in the valley. All walking will be easy, but wear sturdy boots, waterproof if possible.

(2) Morgan State Forest, wildflower hike, Sunday afternoon April 27. Mr. Donald Todd, in charge of the Morgan County section of the Cumberland Trail (Tenn. Trail Assn), will lead a 3-mile walk along old CCC roadbeds in the Forest. Driving directions: take Tenn. 62 north from Oliver Springs; shortly before Wartburg, turn right at the State Honor Farm and proceed to the caretaker house (State Forest). Hike starts at 1:30 p.m. Eastern time. For further information, call Mr. Todd, Wartburg 346-3113.

(3) TCWP, Clear Fork - Rugby outing, May 25. Mark your calendar. Details in next newsletter.

(4) Outings of interest sponsored by other organizations

April 12-13. Big South Fork of Cumberland backpack.

Cumberland Chapter, Sierra Club. (Contact: Tom Brizendine, Greenville, Ky., 502-338-1395)

May 3-4. Obed-Emory float, TSRA (contact: Don Bodley, Chattanooga, 615-877-6256)

May 31-June 1. Big South Fork float (Leatherwood to Yamacraw).

Cumberland Chapter, Sierra Club (contact: Paul Harbour, Lexington, Ky., 606-277-9537)

For Smoky Mts. Hiking Club outings, contact H. Ray Payne, Knoxville, 588-0866

(5) The Annual Angel Falls - Devils Jump Canoe Race, sponsored by the Oneida Kiwanis and the U.T. Agric. Extension Service, will be held Saturday July 5, starting at 9 a.m. at Leatherwood and ending at No Business. For details and

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entry blanks, write: H. H. Huffines, County Agricultural Agent, P. O. Drawer H, Oneida, Tenn., 37841. On the day preceding the race, there will be "a pleasure cruise for those wishing to view the scenery....without the stress of race participation."

DUES NOTICE

Many thanks to the approximately 200 members who have already paid their 1969 dues. They will find a wallet-size membership card enclosed with this Newsletter. If this envelope contains no card, you owe dues. Please pay promptly and save us the trouble of re-billing. (Your 1969 bill was enclosed with Newsletter No. 20).

L. B. Russell
130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge
482-2153

P.S. Remember, a star in the margin means "ACTION REQUIRED".

LATE BULLETIN ON BUFFALO, 4/2/69

A public hearing on "Conservation" was scheduled by Senator Berry in the State Capitol Building, Nashville, Tennessee, at 3 p.m. April 1, 1969, before the Tennessee Joint, Senate-House, General Welfare Committees. It was hoped that misunderstandings resulting in the hasty passage of HB 210, a bill to remove most of the Buffalo from the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, would be explained and publicly aired and that the Governor would then veto the bill or that it could be recalled to the General Assembly for further consideration.

However, just before the time of the "conservation" hearing, which was subsequently called off until next week, it was announced that the Governor had signed HB 210 that morning.

Legislators and witnesses assembled for the hearing expressed themselves as shocked that the signing had occurred just hours before the scheduled first public airing of the bill. Senator Berry suggested that this action may have been taken "purposefully". This latest undercutting of a public discussion of the bill was cited as the third time that an attempt to have a hearing had been thwarted. It was felt that a bill of statewide importance should not have been rushed through without a chance to clear up misunderstandings that were apparent to major newspapers across the state and that had been repeatedly pointed out to the Governor by several members of the Legislature.

One comment was that if the Governor had vetoed the bill to remove the Buffalo, he could have gone down in history, not only as the signer, last year, of the first state comprehensive scenic rivers act, but as a man who believed in what he had signed and who was willing to defend Tennessee's river scenery.

However, conservation of the Buffalo has not really suffered. The Buffalo is now released to the two federal agencies already committed to plans for its preservation. TVA had already published a plan for a "Buffalo Scenic Riverway" and was waiting only for funds to implement it. The river is also in the study category of the national Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The river will presumably be preserved by one or the other of these two methods, or by a combination of them.