

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 27, November 26, 1969

In this NEWSLETTER, we summarize the year's events and activities for your record. We also bring you up-to-date on important new developments, some of which require action on your part. The usual "headlines" appear at the beginning of the second part. Do not miss the announcement of our big January 8 meeting!

RESULT OF ELECTIONS

At the TCWP annual meeting held October 29, 1969, the following were elected:

President:	Liane B. Russell*	Directors:
Vice President:	Robert S. Lefler*	Edward E. C. Clebsch*
Secretary:	Jeanne S. Carver	Ernest M. Dickerman*
Treasurer:	Fred Sweeton*	Claire Nader
		William L. Russell*
		Kenneth S. Warren*

The above nine constitute the 1970 Board of Directors; (*) marks those who also served on the 1969 Board.

Nominating committee for 1970: H. G. Smith, chairman; R. A. Lorenz, Elizabeth Peele.

The proposed by-laws change concerning dues was adopted by unanimous vote.

Reports on the year's activities were presented by K. S. Warren, W. L. Russell, H. G. Smith, E. E. C. Clebsch (read by Rod Davis), W. C. Countess, Lily Rose Claiborne, and L. B. Russell. The following summaries are loosely based on these reports.

SUMMARY OF 1969 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Smokies

Just before Secretary Udall left office on January 19, 1969, he reaffirmed his decision against the transmountain road. His proposed alternative solution to the 1943 Agreement was, however, not accepted by North Carolina; and when Walter J. Hickel succeeded Udall as Secretary of the Interior, pro-road forces felt they again had a chance. On March 18, a delegation of about 35 persons from North Carolina and Tennessee, including all Senators and several Representatives, visited Secretary Hickel in an attempt to get a change in the earlier Department of the Interior ruling. The impact of this delegation was, we feel, blunted by the many TCWP letters that were sent to precede it and by the good newspaper support we received.

The day after the pro-road forces talked to the Secretary, TCWP telephoned his office to ask that proponents of wilderness be given an audience. After rather complicated negotiations, this meeting was finally arranged for June 23. TCWP coordinated the efforts of a large number of groups and individuals and assembled a delegation of 92 persons, from 7 states, who officially represented 38 organizations, and most of whom travelled to Washington in two chartered buses. Other organizations, particularly the Smoky Mts. Hiking Club and Carolina Mountain Club were highly active in the arrangements. The delegation presented its case (supported by much written & pictorial material) to Secretary Hickel and other top men in the Department of the Interior, and the Secretary then announced that he had directed National Park Service Director Hartzog to make a thorough new study -- to be completed in 15-18 months -- of ways of settling the 1943 Agreement. The delegation also made 35 other visits to the Tennessee and N.C. congressional delegations and to other key people (with follow-up communications to all) and was rewarded by clear endorsements from three Tennessee Congressmen (Blanton, Brock, Fulton) and a sympathetic attitude on the part of others. Following our return, three major area newspapers editorially endorsed us.

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The folder "Wilderness and Roads in the Great Smoky Mountains", partially financed by TCWP, was widely distributed.

The Tennessee Legislature passed a resolution, signed May 14, "memorializing the U.S. Congress to adopt and implement the 'Circle-the-Smokies' Scenic Drive."

We feel that we have very strongly made our case, not only in Washington but throughout Tennessee (and hopefully in other states too) and are confident that the transmountain road will not again be proposed by Interior. We shall keep in touch with the Department during their present studies. Presumably, no steps toward legislative wilderness designation -- our final aim -- can be taken until these studies are completed next fall.

2. Rivers (except Big South Fork of Cumberland, for which see below)

The Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act, one of our biggest accomplishments in 1968, this year underwent some changes and the beginnings of implementation. Parts of one river were removed by the Legislature and another river was added. Ironically, removal affected the river for which there had been the greatest enthusiasm during original passage of the bill -- the Buffalo. The action came about as a result of protests by local land-owners whose arguments were based entirely on ignorance and/or misunderstandings (possibly deliberately fostered in the region) concerning the contents of the Act. TCWP waged a very energetic battle which served to awaken the legislators and the newspapers to the existence and the merits of the act, in a way that original passage of the act had not done. Virtually every major newspaper throughout the state carried editorials (and even a cartoon) lauding the Tennessee Scenic Rivers system and deploring loss of the Buffalo from it. However, legislative courtesy (letting local representatives have their way) prevailed. It should be noted that the entire Buffalo still remains on the federal wild and scenic rivers bill and is also under study by TVA for development as a float stream. Due to the efforts of TSRA and TCWP, one river was added to the Act, the Conasauga (Tennessee portion above US 411). This greatly enhances river mileage in the Class-I (natural rivers) category. A bill introduced to add the Hatchie remained in committee. This river is currently the subject of a special study. TCWP attended several meetings in Nashville in attempts to assure implementation of the Act. Two important steps in that direction were authorization of up to \$200,000 from the capital outlay funds of the Dept. of Conservation to be expended on development of a scenic rivers program; and addition of Mr. Max Young to the Dept. staff in June, primarily to work on rivers. In all efforts concerning state scenic rivers, TCWP had the strongest support from Repr. Victor Ashe.

Dormancy has reigned in Tennessee with respect to the national Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Several TCWP visits to the Washington office of the BOR indicated that the Obed was high on the priorities list of rivers in the study category, and field studies were originally scheduled for late in fiscal year 1969. BOR officials have already accompanied us on informal trips to the Obed and Clear Creek. Budget problems have delayed onset of the study -- to be headed by the Southeastern Regional Office, Atlanta -- to early in calendar year 1970. The Buffalo study will follow. In the meantime, TVA has largely ignored the fact that these two rivers are on the national bill. No hint of it was made at the annual meeting of the Emory River Watershed Development Association in March, which stressed the scenic attributes of the watershed; nor was it mentioned in a new TVA publication, "A Quality Environment in the Tennessee Valley." (See also item on powerlines, below.)

TCWP has had publicity and recognition for its scenic rivers efforts. HOLIDAY magazine gave the Russells one of their "Awards for a Beautiful America" presented by Governor Ellington in May. An illustrated article on the state bill, "Volunteer State Leads the Way" was published in the February SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN (edited) and in AMERICAN WHITE WATER (in full). Numerous reprints were distributed and requests from all over the U.S.

for this article, as well as for copies of the bill, continue to come in. A large number of talks have been given (including two sermons!) and a photographic exhibit prepared.

3. Big South Fork of the Cumberland

Following our big fighting efforts in 1968 (the Whitley City hearings testimonies, power cost calculations, the Fontana debate with the Corps, collecting of 3000+ petition signatures, the campaign to convince the Public Works Committees), we began 1969 on a somewhat safer level. Although the river had been stricken from the national Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by the single voice of a Kentucky congressman, the Public Works Committee had refused to approve the Devils Jumps dam and had instead authorized a three-agency study (Depts. of Interior and Agriculture, and Corps of Engineers) of alternate plans for "recreational, conservation, or preservation uses" of the area.

TCWP vigorously participated in the study from the beginning and contributed extensive ecological, historic, and archeological data, numerous photographs and marked maps, and guide service and equipment on several field trips. We had several meetings and contacts with officials from BOR, NPS, USFS, SCS, the Kentucky Wild Rivers Commission, and the State of Tennessee. The direction of the study was influenced through our efforts in a number of ways, e.g., by getting the upper reaches of the Clear Fork included and by getting a National Park alternative added. Boundaries suggested by TCWP were largely adopted in some of the alternatives. A lengthy summary submitted by us to the 3-agency task force in April recommended that (a) the wilderness character of the undisturbed river gorges (including several tributaries of the system) should be maintained through special legislative designation, and (b) a larger surrounding area should be protected by designation as a National Park or National Recreation Area. (For recent news on the study, see another item below.)

Our "Statement of Goals for the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River Region" was widely circulated and has now received endorsements from 51 organizations (25 of them in Tennessee) having a total membership of about 200,000. These endorsements have been transmitted to various political figures.

4. State Parks and Natural Areas

Alarmed by the State administration's policy of heavy development in existing state parks (golf courses, restaurants, and luxury accommodations) and its reluctance to acquire scenic areas for preservation as future state parks, TCWP this year supported legislation that would have largely restricted the use of two \$10,000,000 bond issues to land acquisition, maintenance, and developments compatible with the outdoor experience. This legislation was unsuccessful, since most of the monies in the bond issues have already been committed. TCWP concluded that the best hope for protecting the parks was through pending natural areas legislation.

A natural areas bill (HB 936) was introduced by Repr. Victor Ashe on April 23, and all TCWP members received a copy of the bill shortly thereafter. Repr. Ashe purposely left the bill in committee in order to allow time for study, possible revisions, and the building of support before it is brought up in the second session, which starts in January 1970. In the meantime, he and others introduced and passed a Resolution, HJR 88, which directs the Dept. of Conservation to study the need for recognition, classification, and preservation of natural areas, prepare an inventory, etc. TCWP has been working with Mr. Ashe and with the Dept. of Conservation and will be heavily involved in the formulation and support of the legislation. (See below for announcement of important meeting and other natural-areas news.)

TCWP has also been active in studying specific natural areas worthy of preservation, e.g. Savage Gulf, Virgin Falls in Scott's Gulf, Morgan State Forest (see also outings summary).

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5. Educational Activities

TCWP has been involved in three separate areas in this field.

(A) The Harvey Broome Memorial Film Series, established by a gift from Jack and Mary Ann Gibbons. The committee has viewed about 20 conservation-oriented films and, to date, has purchased four. After discussion guides for these films are prepared, they will be circulated to a large number of school systems in Tennessee through the cooperation of the Oak Ridge Regional Science Experience Center.

(B) The Oak Ridge High School Environmental Studies Course. This course was suggested by TCWP, and its format was worked out in cooperation with ORHS. It is, this year, being given on a pilot basis and without credit or letter-grade (although the value to the student of having a verbal description of the course on his transcript has been stressed). Fifteen selected students (almost all seniors) are participating and have now embarked on individual research problems for which TCWP has provided "outside advisers." In addition, TCWP has set up a series of weekly speakers, drawn from Oak Ridge National Laboratory, University of Tennessee, Tennessee Dept. of Conservation, etc., on a variety of environmental topics. These seminars are open to the public. TCWP has organized field trips, provided material for debates, and has made available library materials.

(C) The NEED (National Environmental Education Development) program in the Smokies. TCWP urged the Oak Ridge School Board to give favorable consideration to this proposal, and the school system committed itself to the participation of ten 5th grade classes. This commitment was an important ingredient in assuring approval of the entire program.

6. Trails

The development of simple walking trails in the Oak Ridge greenbelts was suggested very early in the history of TCWP for the purposes not only of providing an outdoor experience in natural areas but also to help secure protection -- through citizen sentiment -- for the greenbelts which now exist. The first trail (largely a one-man effort) was completed this fall. It is the 2-mile circular "Delaware Trail" going through varied terrain, with a lovely view in the middle. Official outings were held on this trail and also along Ernie's Creek, another trail site being considered. The committee is studying various other possible trails. Favorable public response to this project has been phenomenal.

TCWP has also cooperated with the Tennessee Trails Association in establishing the Cumberland Trail, to run from Chattanooga to Cumberland Gap. We have co-sponsored outings to sections of this trail and provided publicity for it.

7. Tennessee Wilderness Action Council (TWAC)

This information and liaison network between organizations (throughout the state) with an interest in the natural environment was created at the Wilderness Workshop in June 1968 and is being fostered by TCWP. Initial financial support has come from TCWP and SMHC. So far, TWAC has sent out six calls for action on national or Tennessee issues. TCWP is now in the process of enlarging the TWAC network, both with respect to staff of helpers and number of organizations contacted.

8. National issues

TCWP becomes involved in national issues if they are broad or precedent setting. In 1969 our efforts have included, but not been limited to, the following. (a) Advocacy of Environmental Quality legislation, especially the establishment of a council that would have power to impose moratoria in the case of certain threats to resources.

(b) Attempts to counteract the drastic cut in use of Land and Water Conservation Funds recommended by the Administration. (c) Opposition to the National Timber Supply bill which would immediately increase cutting in National Forests and virtually kill orderly study of about 10 million acres of highly scenic areas that contain candidates for placement in the National Wilderness Preservation system (see also below, for new crisis). (d) Protest to the Federal Water Resources Council of a draft report advocating evaluation procedures that would result in approval of even more economically unjustified water resource projects than under the present procedures. (e) Support of several specific wilderness proposals considered under the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

9. Outings and meetings; exhibits; news media

In 1969 we had 4 open meetings and 11 outings. Almost all of the latter were related to current issues.

- 2/22/69 David Brower "The New Conservation". Two Sierra Club films.
- 3/22/69 Hike on Brady Mtn. (part of proposed Cumberland Trail)
- 4/18/69 Luther Winsor "The BOR: its role in relation to new federal and state legislation." Two films.
- 4/19/69 Hike to Virgin Falls, Scotts Gulf (an outstanding natural area).
- 4/27/69 Hike in Morgan State Forest (an outstanding natural area).
- 5/25/69 Two floats on the Clear Fork (included in the Big South Fork study)
- 6/28-6/29 Roan Mountain, hikes and car camp.
- 7/4-7/7 Float and canoe camping on Big South Fork (to take the place of the annual canoe race, which was cancelled).
- 9/21/69 Hike on Miry Ridge, Gt. Smoky Mts. Natl. Park, site of proposed trans-mountain road.
- 9/25/69 Mike Frome lecture.
- 10/12/69 Hike on Delaware Trail (greenbelt).
- 10/18/69 Hike in Morgan State Forest (part of proposed Cumberland Trail)
- 10/19/69 Hike through Savage Gulf virgin forest (a threatened natural area).
- 10/29/69 Annual meeting. Film.
- 11/9/69 Hike along Ernie's Creek (possible trail site).

TCWP sponsored two photographic exhibits: (a) the Sierra Club exhibit "Grand Canyon" hung in 3 places in Oak Ridge, then all summer in Knoxville, now in Nashville; (b) an exhibit by W. L. Russell on the Obed, prepared originally for the Emory River Watershed Devt. Assn. annual meeting. Two members of the Board starred in two specially filmed TV programs, one in Knoxville (on TCWP), the other in Chattanooga (on rivers).

10. Credits

A. Throughout the preceding summaries of activities, mention of names of individuals has been avoided except where essential. Here we shall list (alphabetically) the names of persons who have contributed substantial efforts on the various issues. In a list this long, there are probably some unforgivable omissions, for which we apologize in advance.

Smokies: Jean Bangham, Jeanne Carver, Ed Clebsch, Roy Davis, Jessie Dempster, Ernie Dickerman, Charles DuBois, Zellie Earnest, Leroy Fox, Dan Hale, Stan Murray, Ray Payne, Bill and Lee Russell, Myrtle Seno, Maxie Swindell, Helen and Ken Warren, Ruth Young.

Rivers: Claude Black, Don Bodley, Charles Galloway, Lavonne Lambert, Bob Miller, Bill Russell (chmn.), Lee Russell, Bill Terry.

Big South Fork: Herbert Bell, Ed Clebsch, Ernie Dickerman, Bob Lefler, Bill and Lee Russell, Hal Smith (chmn.), Bruce Welch.

State Parks and Natural Areas: Helen Bullard, Ed Clebsch (co-chmn.), Rod Davis, Ernie Dickerman (co-chmn.), Bob Peelle, Bill Searle.

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Harvey Broome Film Series: Anne Broome, Pete Cohan, Jack Gibbons, John Judy (chmn),
Bob Lefler.
ORHS Environmental Studies Course: Stan Auerbach, Bill Countess, Jo Henderson, Claire
Nader (chmn), Bill and Lee Russell, Walcott Watson.
NEED Program: Tee Brichetto, Bob Lefler, Jerry Olson.
Trails: Bob Brown, Frank Bruce, Lily Rose Claiborne (chmn), Minnie Duncan, Bob Lefler,
Stan Rimshaw, Bill Russell, Don Todd.
National issues: Lee Russell.

B. In addition to the issues committees, we owe deep gratitude to those who helped
with service committees and in other chores.

TWAC: Dottie Adams, Bill Chaffin, Henry Hall, Bruce Ketelle, Rick Phelps, Lee Russell,
Ken Warren (chmn), Walter Williams.

Outings: Ray Payne and Charles Klabunde. Trip leaders: Bob Brown, Grimes Slaughter,
Don Todd, Dick Reed, Tom Berg, Dick and Evelyn Lorenz, Don Bodley, Jean
Bangham, Bill Russell, Mack Prichard, Herman Baggenstoss, Bob Lefler.

Phone committees: Helen Warren (Oak Ridge), Maxie Swindell, later replaced by Luther
Woods (Knoxville). Many helpers on both committees.

Publicity: Ling Kelly and Lee Russell.

Exhibits: Elizabeth Peelle, Bill Russell, Fred Sweeton.

Newsletter: Lee Russell.

Clerical (typing, lettering, printer liaison, mailings): Jeanne Carver, Janet Stallworth,
Ruth Young; Lee Andrews; Ken Warren; Phyllis Sweeton, etc. etc.

Librarian: Minnie Duncan.

Refreshments: Mesdames Carpenter, Countess, Davis, Ketelle.

Board (last but not least): Lee Russell, pres., Ernie Dickerman, vice-pres., Fred Sweeton,
treas., Ruth Young, sec., Ed Clebsch, Bob Lefler, Bill Russell, Hal Smith,
Ken Warren, directors.

HEADLINES

- January 8 is date for our big meeting to boost natural areas legislation.
- Letters are urgently needed concerning a bill threatening scenic areas in National
Forests.
- Quick action may still make it possible to stop appropriations for a Duck River dam.
- TVA plans for a powerline across Obed conflict with national Wild Rivers Act.
- New features emerge from 3-agency steering committee session on Big S. Fork.
- Progress continues on preservation of Tennessee natural areas.
- TVA has ruled out Hiwassee dam.
- Large-scale aerial spreading of pesticides is opposed.
- Potential donors are reminded that contributions to TCWP are tax deductible.

BIG MEETING TO BOOST NATURAL AREAS LEGISLATION

X Mark your calendars now and be sure to come! Thursday, January 8, 7:30 p.m., Ballroom,
U.T. Student Center, Cumberland Avenue, Knoxville. Three major speakers to be featured:

(1) Prof. Alton A. Lindsey, Prof. of Biology, Purdue University, author of "Natural
Areas in Indiana and their Preservation," and active in establishing the exemplary Indiana
system of nature preserves;

(2) Repr. Victor Ashe, author of natural areas legislation for Tennessee;

(3) A well-known official of the federal government, to be announced.

Members of the Tennessee Legislature and of the press will be asked to attend. Coffee,
punch, donuts and cookies will be served. The meeting will be co-sponsored by the U.T.
Dept. of Botany, Graduate Program in Ecology, and Graduate School of Planning.

CRISIS ON TIMBER SUPPLY BILL

We brought the National Timber Supply bill to your attention in NEWSLETTERS Nos. 23 and 26. This bill is opposed by every major conservation organization in the country because it strikes at the core of the American conservation movement -- the 100-year effort to protect outstanding natural areas before it is too late. One newspaper editorial states that this legislation "could expose the federal forests to the greatest rape since the days of the timber buccaneers." Extreme pressure from the timber lobby is attempting to move the bill rapidly through Congress, before its defects can be aired and citizen opposition expressed. In fact, only two days ago, a sudden attempt was made to get a rule granted within 24 hours. This was thwarted through quick and concerted action of many conservationists who expressed themselves to the Rules Committee.

However, the bill will undoubtedly get to the House floor very soon, and to the Senate floor not too long thereafter. Conservation groups feel that this legislation grossly unbalances management of the National Forests in favor of one-use-logging at the expense of other multiple uses (established by the Acts of 1897 and 1960) -- such as watershed protection, preservation of fish and wildlife habitat, and recreation. If the bill becomes law, there would be virtually no chance of ever adding to the National Wilderness Preservation System the 6-8 million acres of high-quality scenic and wilderness lands in the National Forests (5%) that do not yet have protection.

* Express your own opinion about this bill (H.R. 12025, S. 1832) to your Representative and both Senators just as soon as you can (House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 and Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, respectively).

CRISIS ON THE DUCK RIVER

Although no funds had been requested by TVA or in the Administration's budget, the House Appropriations Committee (with Repr. Joe Evins in a high-ranking position) added \$1,300,000 for land acquisition in connection with the Duck River project. This package deal includes two dams: the Columbia dam downstream, and the Normandy dam upstream. The latter would flood highly scenic stretches in parts of this river that are increasingly used as a floatstream, as well as archeological sites, caves, etc. Within a radius of only 12 miles, there already exist two other major reservoirs (Tims Ford and Woods). The benefit-cost ratio for Columbia and Normandy dams combined is only 1.2 : 1.0, i.e. marginal; and many feel that the Normandy dam cannot truly be justifiable by itself, since it provides only 20% of the total reservoir area, yet requires a larger structure than does the Columbia dam.

Following the House action, communications to the Senate Subcommittee (elicited by TCWP and TSRA) met with success. Senator Ellender (the chairman) is quoted in the AP dispatch as saying that "The Duck River project had been deleted because of the letters of opposition the subcommittee had received." (Everybody note: letters do work!)

* The appropriations bill now goes to Senate-House conference -- probably shortly after December 1. Repr. Joe Evins will be a high-ranking member of this conference committee, and it is very important that you express your opinion to him as soon as possible (Subcommittee on Public Works, House Appropriations Committee, House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515). In addition, you may wish to urge the Senate conferees to stand firm (write to Senator Allen J. Ellender, the chairman of the corresponding Senate subcommittee).

TVA PLANNING POWERLINE TO CROSS OBED, DADDYS CREEK

TCWP learned that a 500-Kv powerline, planned to connect the Knoxville and Nashville areas, would cross Daddys Creek and the Obed, both listed in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers bill. Further information elicited from TVA (some supplied in a letter from G. O. Wessenauer, Manager of Power; some furnished verbally by an engineer sent to talk to us)

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indicates (a) that this line has been planned for some time, field studies having been in progress since last spring (a subsequent trip by us revealed that a survey line has been slashed and staked out); (b) that paralleling of an existing 161 Kv line is considered by TVA as having "the least effect on the environment"; (c) that the total width of clearing required would be 300 ft (the length of a football field); and (d) that alternate routes avoiding the watershed have not been carefully evaluated.

Sect. 7(b) of PL 90-542 (the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act) prohibits Federal Power Commission licensing of (among other things) transmission lines on any river listed in the Act. While TVA does not need FPC licensing, it would, we feel, be violating at least the intent of the Act. Furthermore, TVA has already violated the letter of Sect. 7(c) that requires all Federal agencies to inform the Secretary of the Interior of any studies or activities affecting the specified rivers before such studies are commenced. The TCWP Rivers Committee has communicated all of this information to the Secretary of the Interior and is awaiting an answer.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON THE BIG SOUTH FORK

(1) The Task Force draft report was briefly examined by Bill and Lee Russell at the office of the Dept. of Conservation in Nashville. It is a fine effort, incorporating many excellent points in some of the alternatives. However, we were disturbed not to find any recommendation of legislative wilderness designation. Subsequent communications with BOR led to partial rectification (see below).

(2) The three-agency Steering Committee met with the Task Force in Oneida, October 26-29, to settle on a summary report. We have since learned of a few highlights of the meeting: (a) Neither Helenwood nor New River dams can be economically justified. The current Corps proposals both concern the Devils Jumps site: a high dam (that would flood to 1220 feet elevation) and a "low" dam (that would flood to 1124 feet). (b) The power output of Devils Jumps dam would not be used in Kentucky -- it would be exported south. (c) The final report will contain, in addition to a purely economic tabulation, also a table summarizing environmental and esthetic values destroyed or enhanced by the various alternatives. (d) Our protestations resulted in the addition of a sentence, albeit watered down, to several of the alternatives: "If this alternative is adopted, due consideration can be given to managing a portion of the area under primitive or wilderness conditions."

(3) Two important field trips were held in the area on the Oct. 25-26 weekend. TSRA held a two-day float that included Roy Wood, Regional Director of the Southeastern office of BOR. TCWP had a hike in the Clear Fork, Whiteoak Creek region, then a float on the South Fork for the following visitors: Mrs. Elizabeth Layne, American Heritage magazine (Mrs. Layne also saw the Obed as TCWP guest several days later); John Franson, Central Midwest Representative of the National Audubon Society; Jim Butler, Kentucky's Chief Parks Naturalist; and Bob Gable, Kentucky Parks Commissioner (also part-owner of the Stearns Coal and Lumber Co. that supports Devils Jumps dam).

(4) Bill and Lee Russell travelled into Kentucky on the Nov. 15-16 weekend to elicit Big South Fork support from the Cumberland Chapter of the Sierra Club (holding its annual meeting) and other interested persons.

PROGRESS ON TENNESSEE NATURAL AREAS

(1) The State Parks and Natural Areas committee is working with Victor Ashe on revisions of his bill. They are also commenting on an alternate bill drafted by Col. Slayden, Deputy Commissioner of Conservation.

(2) TCWP has just received a draft of Tennessee's Comprehensive Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan, and the Department of Conservation has invited us to make suggestions

for additions to the Plan -- specifically in the fields of scenic rivers and natural areas. We shall be meeting with the Department early in December.

(3) TCWP is supporting a recent proposal to convert most or all of Morgan State Forest into a state park, provided this is done with minimum development. Park status would give greater protection against logging.

(4) Our Savage Gulf outing drew such a huge crowd (about 100) that the owners have been impressed with the possibility of legislative or administrative protection and are therefore inclined to postpone logging of the area.

(5) Bowaters Southern Paper Corp. recently sought the advice of TCWP and SMHC concerning possible preservation of and trail development in the Virgin Falls area (Scott's Gulf). A field trip by the three groups was held November 21. (Bowaters has set aside hiking trails, picnic and camp sites on their Piney River Tree Farm, and is working on recreational developments on other Tree Farms.)

HIWASSEE RIVER

The Hiwassee River upstream from US 411 is contained in the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act. There have been reports of TVA studies on downstream dams, some of which would back water above US 411. At the same time, it was learned that the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission was proposing to add the lower portions of the river to the state act.

Two days ago TVA Director McBride announced that the Charleston dam project has turned out to be not economically feasible. The Hiwassee River Watershed Development Association has asked TVA to study the river for "scenic development and recreation."

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THE VOLE POISONING CONTROVERSY

Some of our members are aware of a heated correspondence between Mike Frome and Mike Pelton following Mike Frome's talk at a TCWP meeting in Oak Ridge on Sept. 27. The controversy started over Mike Frome's comments on the Bowaters Southern Paper Corporation's vole control program of spreading zinc phosphide poison from a helicopter over large land areas. When the fury of the controversy is contained, the sound shows the two Mikes to be in agreement.

Mike Pelton:- "...there is no one any more concerned than I when it comes to alterations and disturbances to our environment and that, if taken to a vote, I too, would be opposed to dispersal of zinc phosphide on extensive land areas."

Mike Frome: - "I am opposed to it even now, without taking a vote."

TCWP endorses this important point of agreement.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

(1) December 1, 1969, Little Rock, Arkansas. Seminar on preservation of the remaining Mississippi Delta Hardwoods. Organized by Ark. Planning Commission, Game and Fish Bldg., State Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Ark. 72201.

(2) December 11, 1969, 8 p.m., U.T. Student Center. Knoxville Audubon Chapter. John Franson will speak on "Environmental Conflicts".

FUNDS FOR TCWP

Although we operate largely on human energy, we do need money too! Please remember that 1970 dues are payable January 1. How about giving TCWP memberships as Christmas presents? Finally, we want to remind you that we have officially achieved tax exempt status. Contributions made to TCWP "are deductible by donors:" any contribution made by Dec. 31 can be subtracted from your 1969 income.

Lee Russell, editor