



Conservation

... with Marie Mellinger

The Summer Season

I had a conservation column planned and almost entirely written, on *Carolina in Crisis*, a title borrowed from a bulletin issued by the Citizen's Association of Beaufort County, South Carolina, during their fight against BASF. This was to be a weighty discussion of all the large issues confronting citizens of North and South Carolina including BASF, Crowder Shoals, Baldhead Island, and the Lake Norman Nuclear Plant. There has never been a time when the environmental crises have been as big an issue as they are in all the newspapers and magazines and over radio and television. One would have to be an ostrich not to see at least one of the headlines that demand our attention.

But it is summer, and hours spent out of doors at many of our parks and recreation areas, and rambling along the Chatooga River, led to a more personal type of thinking. We can all easily wax eloquent about environmental issues, and tend to ignore our need for personal involvement in fundamentals, the need to do rather than to talk, to set an example in at least a minor way. We deplore the individual who throws a drink can out of a car window, or leaves his picnic litter in the middle of some mossy dell.

"Of course," we say, with a certain amount of smug pride, "we never would do such a thing!" But how often do we exert ourselves to do the little bit extra, the picking up of the discarded can or litter? Do we leave the roadside or the beach or the stream or the picnic area cleaner than it was when we arrived?

Those hikers who use the Appalachian Trail should appreciate the privilege and be good trail keepers, yet we found litter and pieces of Catawba rhododendron, carelessly picked and discarded along the trail. Here again, let us hope the next hiker picks up the debris leaving the trail as clean and as undefiled as it should be.

Are we really good citizens, who will do the little bit extra needed to make this a better environment? Granted it is no fun to pick up after some one else, yet we can hope that our example may be followed. The National Forest Service is asking us to be such

concerned citizens. In four Chattahoochee Forest recreation areas, they are asking every visitor to clean the area as well as use it. Called the "Clean Up Honor System" this experiment will be tried until 1 July.

Pickens and Oconee Counties, South Carolina, have each hired a special deputy to crack down on litterbugs. If each of us would clean up one small area, such policing might not be necessary.

Quotable Quotes

"I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country, its soil and minerals, its forests, waters, and wildlife."—Conservation Pledge

"It would be worth it if in each town there would be a committee appointed to see that the beauty of the town received no detriment."—Henry David Thoreau

"Man has it in his power to remedy enough of the damage that he has caused to permit the survival of his civilization. The question is will he do it in time?"—Fairfield Osborn

"If you litter with disgrace,
And spoil the beauty of this place,
May indigestion rack your chest,
And ants invade your pants and vest."
from a sign at the entrance to the Pleasure Gardens of Ceylon

Hawks and owls are protected by law in North Carolina, yet a certain citizen of Franklin celebrated Easter morning by shooting and killing a handsome Red-shouldered Hawk that responded to his crow call.

"The earth is ours and the fullness there of." The land and all its creatures are in our stewardship. How did this individual accept his responsibility?

New and Timely

Our own CBC member, William C. Grimm, has almost done the impossible, combined trees, shrubs, and wild flowers in one readable volume highlighted with his most excellent drawings. He has grouped look-alikes in habitat situations, certainly a new approach. Those who browse through a book looking for a picture to match a recently seen plant specimen will be delighted with this *Home Guide to Trees, Shrubs, and Wild Flowers*, describing some 650 species, including many plants of the Coastal Plain. Available from Stackpole Books (\$9.95), Cameron and Keller Sts., Harrisburg, Pa. 17105.