



# Conservation

. . . with Marie Mellinger

## December Darkness

Days grow short in December, and darkness comes early. Reading the daily papers, one feels that days for wilderness and wildlife are growing shorter, and that a sort of early December darkness is spreading over the world. Here and there are a few glimmers of light as dedicated conservationists fight the battle of the environment, and we are all going to have to work to our outmost to spread the light.

## Power

Seven sites are being considered for electric generating plants in North and South Carolina. Two more on Lake Keowee, one on Lake Watteree, one near Lake Wylie, all in South Carolina, and two on Lake Norman in North Carolina. Largest and probably first to be built will be Trotter Shoals on the Savannah River. Biologists of the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Department say this \$121 million dam project should be abandoned. Located between Hartwell Reservoir and Clark Hill Reservoir, the proposed project will usurp over 26,000 acres of prime deer, turkey, and wild game habitat, not to mention \$60,000 in hunting revenue lost.

Add to these the proposed nuclear power plant on the Savannah River in Burke County, Georgia, and the proposed plant at Barnwell, S.C., and there will be little of the Savannah River left in an untouched state.

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Pawley's Island is to have a \$2 million condominium. The builders have been granted state approval for an advanced sewage disposal treatment process which calls for dumping bacteria free wastes into the ocean.

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The Greenville, S.C., man who killed a rare "migratory swamp heron" (newspaper description of species) was given a suspended sentence. The Magistrate who suspended the imposed \$25.00 fine said the man "only knew that some sort of large bird was flying around at night and he shot it." In as much as South Carolina law now protects owls and other night flying birds as well as rare herons we fail to see why ignorance was any excuse for breaking the law.

The controversial billboard bill is before the South Carolina Senate. Removal of billboards would do much to beautify South Carolina's highways. Now is the time for individuals and organizations to make themselves heard. The Garden Clubs of North Carolina defined that state's billboard law, "which generally prohibits advertising within 600 feet of a primary highway." Both states must come to some agreement with the federal government or face loss of federal highway money.

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Harold Martin of the *Atlanta Constitution* has coined an appropriate name for the so called sportsmen's big game preserves, calling the one to be built in Harris County, Georgia, Mr. AMOS' ABBATOIR. Mr. Martin states, "Sportsmen won't have to go to the ends of the earth to sneak up on the animals in their native habitat. They can go down to Harris County and find the animals there already penned up behind a 12 foot fence in a 600 acre corral." In the same vein, letters poured in to the *Constitution* after a feature article on a certain South Carolinian's NATURE (???) MUSEUM of stuffed and mounted rare big game trophies. Could the average citizen be getting more civilized?

We applaud Pan-Am Airways for refusing to fly hunting safaris to Africa. A major consideration in the dwindling populations of some 500 animal species has been the safari slaughter. We also applaud the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge for initiating a very popular photo-safari.

### Recycling

Recycling is another way of saying "waste not, want not." If our waste materials can be channeled for re-use, recycling not only helps solve the waste disposal problem but conserves our dwindling natural resources as well. Glass, aluminum, and paper, can all be recycled. Needed are collection places and companies willing to accept materials for recycling. Organizations and individuals can be most helpful in establishing collection depots for materials to be recycled.

An article by Dorothy Marks in the *Atlanta Constitution* states that "50% of the trash in the world is paper or paper products." Mrs. Richard Helms of Washington, D.C., founded a group called CONCERN, INC. to create a market for recycled paper. Over 150 House members have placed orders for recycled paper with the House of Representatives Office Supply Service. Senator Frank Moss has introduced a bill to require the *Congressional Record* be printed on recycled paper. This could remove 20 million tons of waste paper a year. Gov. Reuben Askew of Florida asked all his department heads to start using recycled paper. *Conservation News* has long contained this statement, "printed on recycled paper, please recycle information."

And an extra thought: How much paper could be saved a year if all advertising matter could be printed on BOTH sides of a page?

### Winter Reading

Often asked to recommend books, these are the books I return to again and again for information and inspiration:

*North With the Spring*, Edwin Way Teale                      *Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold  
*A Field Guide to the Birds*, Roger Tory Peterson      *Maine Woods*, Henry David Thoreau  
*Birds of North America*, Robbins, Bruun, and Zim      *Wake Robin*, John Burroughs  
*Gray's Manual of Botany*, Eighth Edition, Merrit Lyndon Fernald  
*Textbook of Ecology*, First Edition, Eugene Odum  
*Deciduous Forests of Eastern North America*, E. Lucy Braun  
*Natural Gardens of North Carolina*, B.W. Wells  
*Complete Guide to American Wildlife*, Henry Hill Collins Jr.  
*Field Guide to the Butterflies*, Alexander Klotts  
*Birds Nests, a Field Guide*, Richard Headstrom  
*American Wildlife and Plants*, Martin, Zim, and Nelson  
*A Guide to the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas*, Radford, Ahles, and Bell