

Our best conservation activities continue thru the fine work of Mrs. Anderson.

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Brinton Brook, several matters:

1. Mr. Bastaya, a builder, who has added 100 new homes on Watch Hill Pk., route 29, Peekskill, that necessitated building a new school, now hopes to add a 175-dwelling unit apartment in Cortland near our property, not yet approved by Planning Board. At Mr. Kayser's suggestion Mr. Haas & Mr. Ridgeway will request the Planning Board's adding their names to mailing list for notices of hearings, for advance information on those that might affect Brinton Brook.
  2. Mr. Haas said that signs of hunters are much fewer this year, he having found no shotgun shells. Others, including Mrs. Anderson and Let Holmes, have found shells this year.
  3. Mention of Davis & Brown properties adjoining Brinton Brook, where pending developments may be good or bad for our property. Discussion of expense of building high wire fence if ever needed.
  4. Much work done at the Sanctuary by Mr. Haas, perhaps most strenuous being his demolishing the fireplace at the spring, as recommended at last B.E. Advisory Committee meeting. Also mowing the trail over the dam and continued upkeep of trails along with frequent tours. Immediate plans are to add more sanctuary signs, for erection of which many at the meeting volunteered assistance, Mr. Haas to fence them when signs are ready. About 150 signs needed. Enlisting help from a fairly mature science class of boys from a nearby high school also recommended. Mr. H. described his patent securing a sign and chicken wire by four staples instead of nine, the previous style. Discussion of Boy Scouts as helpers, and previous Girl Scout bird feeders.
  5. Mr. Haas was highly complimented and commended for all his good work, and informed that other members stand ready to assist when more projects are in order.
  6. Former practice of an employee of Mrs. Brinton's mowing trails every 2 years now at an end.
  7. Kaufman property, at corner of Sanctuary, long discussed as a possible purchase to be added to Brinton Brook, was mentioned. Atty. & Mrs. Forsyth concerned in previous inquiries as to situation there; I plan to contact them about it.
  8. General feeling which we might call a recommendation to BB Advisory Committee, that widening of trail to the dam in order to move machinery there would not be desirable.
  9. What is future status of our right of way thru Mrs. Brinton's property to the Sanctuary, and continued use of present parking lot on her land? The situation was described as "undetermined" in April report of Advisory Committee meeting, Mr. Haas and Mr. Porter being asked to find out legal status from the deed. No finding has been reported.
- The Sanctuaries plan to meet again in January with Mr. Mahon as guest speaker.

DR. FRUYN has requested a meeting for Sunday with your President, Chairman & Sanctuaries Directors.

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEM: Chernick needs a cleared space, perhaps in the form of a pond. Mr. Mahon has suggested a diversion causing a new branch to the present inflow brook. Mr. Balgovey, Naturalist at Teatown, who was brot up in the area and wrote us a glowing letter when we acquired Chernick, recommends against it. So does Mrs. Anderson. Apparently a pond is what Mr. Pearson, Greenwich Center Director who toured the Sanctuary a few months ago, may have had in mind in his recommendation. Your views, please?

Leon D. Nettleton

December 12, 1968

A meeting of the Board of Directors of SMRAS, Inc. was held on December 12, 1968 at the home of Kay Koste. Members present were Messrs. Osborn, Holmes, Ridgeway, Kayser, Lincoln, Nettleton, Powell and Haas, and Mesdames Holmes, Ridgeway, Curnen, Coggeshall and Koste. Miss Thelma Smith also attended.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand as of Nov. 31 of \$2772.25 and in the Sanctuary Endowment fund a balance of \$4673.92.

A vote of thanks was expressed for Miss Pickhard and Mrs. Lincoln for getting out the directory.

A gift of \$500 to the Sanctuary fund by Mrs. Malone had been given with the implication that it be used for Brinton Brook if possible. It was the sentiment of the Board that monies donated for specific sanctuaries will be put into the whole endowment fund but insofar as possible the Board will honor the intent of the donor.

Mr. Lincoln mentioned the open spot on the Board created by Mrs. Anderson's resignation and made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Coggeshall that Miss Thelma Smith be appointed to fill this vacancy until the annual meeting in April. *Motion carried.*

Regarding Kaye Anderson's helping Mr. Balgooyen, it was decided there were no objections since it would be mutually beneficial to our program.

Sanctuary Director's and Naturalist's reports are attached.

Gedney Brook - Mr. Nettleton stated that Dr. Pruyn wants to give us an option on his land and make us the owner in the manner of a "gift of the future", ~~which would free him from taxes.~~ Leon will discuss this with him further and also with Mr. Brisson.

Chernick - Mr. Osborn recommended taking water from the Pocantico River and make it go through the land without obstruction so that it cannot form a stagnant pond.

Thurber - Mr. Lincoln read letters from Nature Conservancy which showed a great mix-up in communications. Mr. Nettleton said he would talk with Mr. Emanuelson whom he had met at a meeting and he has promised to come to see our sanctuary.

Brinton Brook - There is a possibility of an industrial park being built on our property line, and we should ask the builders to make us their agent. Also we should have some member present if hearings come up. *NAS*

~~Est. National Audubon to make~~  
Mr. Holmes suggested that Boy Scouts entering the sanctuary not be permitted to carry hatchets. Mr. Nettleton will incorporate this into our policies.

Mr. and Mrs. Ridgeway offered to repair the sign at Brinton.

Conservation: Mrs. Coggeshall reported the Secretary of the Interior withdrew his objections to the Hudson River Expressway. He had formerly stated that it would be detrimental to the scenic values of the Hudson River. The Secretary recommended that park and recreation facilities be developed concurrently with the expressway and all possible precautions be taken during construction to prevent undue siltation and turbidity in the river.

Dumping on Croton Point has been extended for another year by the Westchester Co. Board of Supervisors, in a unanimous vote. Dumping is extended to at least Jan. 1, 1970. In addition to many conservation groups opposition to the continued use of Croton Point as a dump has now been voiced by the N. Y. State Health Dept. because of the danger of pollution in the Hudson River. In a private conversation with Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, I was told that a plan will be announced in January for the eventual discontinuation of dumping at Croton Point, but that until that plan is put into effect, there is no alternative to continue the dumping in Croton.

Thermal Pollution Seminar - sponsored by the Federated Conservationists of West. Co. was excellent. The speakers were well informed on the topic and gave objective points of view. After 7 revisions, the State has come up with some standards for thermal pollution.

- C. Coggeshall

*bulletin*  
Thelma Smith reported the directory is in the process of being addressed and would come out as soon as Grasslands is ready to do it. The cards next month will be the last that will be addressed there. Discussion ensued as to some method of changing our form of communication and Stan Lincoln will look into other possibilities. He asked that the committee be empowered to consider action on this before the next meeting. It was Miss Smith's recommendation that the bulletin come out faster and more often, possibly once a month, since this way it could serve as a channel for notices of trips and meetings and eliminate the cost and work of sending interim cards.

Mr. Holmes announced that the Ecology course at Pleasantville Adult School will be entitled "The World Around Us" and would begin in January, with Mrs. Elwyn as instructor. *Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> - 10 weeks*

Membership: Mr. Holmes announced a total of 420 members.

Mr. Holmes was requested to bring official stationery to the next meeting for distribution to various members of the Board.

Mr. Lincoln asked for suggestions for the replacement of Kaye Anderson as publicity chairman.

Mr. Haas is to contact Mr. Manypenny to see if he will again handle the advertising and ticket sales for the paid meeting in March.

Junior Audubon: Mrs. Curnen is going to get another group going at her school.

Mr. Nettleton reported that the gifts in the Fennell collection have been completely designated and a letter of thanks has been sent to Mrs. Fennell.

The January board meeting will be at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ridgeway.

With thanks to Mrs. Koste for her hospitality, meeting adjourned at 11:00.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kaye Koste*  
Recording Secretary

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Leon D. Mattleton

Report

NATURALIST'S REPORT TO SMCAS INC. DIRECTORS, Dec. 12, 1968

Brinton Brook & Thurber: Dec. 7 - Mrs. Elwyn's Saturday morning class, 8 adults, for a walk at Brinton. These are interesting people, including Mr. & Mrs. Yale Joel. He is a photographer for "Life" magazine and was snapping pictures all over the place. After the walk (during which Mrs. Elwyn waited in the car) we spent some time with Mrs. Brinton at her house. If the birds and squirrels seem to be missing from the Sanctuary, it's because they are all at her house, feasting! Two hours in all.

Dec. 5 - 2 hours at Brinton

Nov. 26 - spent 1/2 hours on the trails at Brinton Brook, lots of branches to be picked up. Saw no sign of huater. Also some of this time at Thurber. The two bridges there are still intact, but the trails are not definable for the most part, even tho most of the lush growth has died back. Lots of trash, as usual.

Nov. 14 - Cleaned up the cabin at Brinton Brook, trying to incorporate all the museum material in cases, etc. There was quite a bit of garbage in the wastebasket of the orange peel and coke bottle variety, which I carried out. The stove still works very efficiently.

Chernick: Nov. 11 - picked up the labels from Chernick, what few were to be found. These are labels made by Ed Ditterline, and have stood up well; but most of them, particularly the wildflower ones, had disappeared.

Gedney Brook--Dec. 3, 4 hours spent.

School sessions: Nov. 8, the three afternoon kindergarten sessions of the Douglas Grafflin School having been rained out three times for walks at Gedney Brook Sanctuary, I finally took some material to the school and gave a talk. They seemed to enjoy it just as much, poking puff-ball mushrooms and actually holding birds in their hands, etc.

Nov. 15, had an interview with Mrs. Sally O'Neill at the Roaring Brook School. She is very anxious to have her third grade class go to Gedney, and is going to contact me when the weather is good and the schedule will permit time. I believe she and her husband were recipients of a scholarship several years ago.

Dec. 5, this evening attended a meeting at the Park St. School, Ossining, about which Stan had been contacted by Mrs. Irene Dickinson, one of the faculty. Teachers there want an adjacent park, which has been in existence for many years as a passive sitting park, converted into a highly-developed recreation area with multiple uses. The people of the neighborhood and town officials are very much against this change and, according to the outcome of this meeting, the teachers lost. They had gone to a lot of trouble to get plans from a young man who works for the County and had invited people such as representatives of SMCAS and the Federated Conservationists who really did not seem to have much stake in the outcome. I was interested to see that the FC's representative was our own member, Ruth Krasner, who is also active with the Westchester Trail Association & the present in-service Conservation course for teachers at the Community College, Valhalla.

Coming Events: Right after Christmas we will put a display in the case at the Mt. Pleasant Library. Any suggestions will be welcomed.

On January 18 I will have a group of children and adults from the West Orchard St. neighborhood at Gedney Brook Sanctuary. Mrs. John Cox has asked to have this done, and I have given her some material for the children to read before their walk, at her suggestion. She says that she and her husband would like gradually to become more active in the Audubon field as their children grow and their other obligations become less pressing.

Teatown Reservation, Board's views requested: Nov. 17, spent two hours with Warren Balgovey, naturalist at the Teatown Reservation, and one of his children's groups. He has offered to help me with large groups in exchange for similar help on my part. I would like to know what the Board's reaction is to this suggestion. He is not a member of our Society (something to worry about) but is highly qualified, of course, and we are all serving the same cause.

(Mrs.) Kaye Anderson