

The Tampa Chapter Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution

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1999

MARCH MEETING

Our March meeting will be Saturday March 20th at the Best Western Resort & Convention Center Hotel, 820 Busch Boulevard, Tampa, Florida at 12:00 Noon. Each Person will be responsible for payment of their own meal.

PROGRAM FOR MARCH MEETING



At our March meeting we will present the Eagle Scout Essay Award to the winner of this year's contest. The winner will also go to State to compete with the winners of the other Chapters. Lets have a good turn out for this meeting and show our support for this contest.

We have printed your new yearbooks. Why not come to this meeting and pick up your copy and save us the postage.

The following taken from the National Society DAR National Defender publication and should be of great concern to all of us.

There seems to be confusing information on this article and I am including another article from the same publication of March 1999. Maybe someone can enlighten us more on this.

NATIONAL PARKS SHOULD REMAIN U.S. PROPERTY

by Mrs. Wanda Lantrip
Indiana State Chairman of National Defense

To the Editor.

In Article 4, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution, only Congress has the power to make "all needful rules and regulations respecting property belonging to the United States."

Unfortunately though, through cooperation with certain governmental branches and the U.N., our government turned over control of our federal property to the World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve. This international organization, which is a specialized agency under UNESCO in the U.N. system, aims to protect historic sites and natural landmarks by providing financial aid for restoration and technical training for these areas. While this may sound like a noble endeavor, it actually holds grave consequences to America.

Unknown to most citizens, the Biosphere Reserve now owns and controls 47 U.S. national forests and parks, including

Yellowstone and Death Valley National Park, which has been renamed Death Valley International Biosphere. In essence, not only does the U.S. no longer own its federal lands, they no longer have control in managing said property. We, as American citizens, need to preserve the sovereignty of the lands owned by the U.S. and to preserve state sovereignty and private property rights in adjacent non federal lands and this problem is addressed in the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act, (H.R. 901) which is before Congress now. This bill will require approval by Congress before any area within the United States is included in an international land reserve and would protect the property rights of neighboring rights of neighboring landowners.

Although the U.N. and certain branches of our government unlawfully broken Constitution and stripped our Federal lands, the American people need to support the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act so that we may insure that the U.N. does not continue with its present agenda.

BIOSPHERE PROGRAM DOES NOT SURRENDER SOVEREIGNTY

By Elizabeth Caffrey - a DAR Member - Asheville Citizen-Times

The Southern Appalachians is one of several hundred significant natural areas worldwide that have been designated Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in a program designed to promote international cooperation in solving natural resource problems.

The network of Biosphere Reserves focuses on generating, sharing and applying information for sustainable development without restricting the use of land and water resources by participants.

Because the Appalachians lie northeast by southwest, they formed an escape route for northern plants and animals during the Ice Age. These northern species still persist in the higher elevations, and in the valleys and gaps there are many microhabitats where relic populations have holed up and where new species have evolved. There are more than 400 endemic species here.

The climates and environments in the Southern include those from the state of Georgia to Newfoundland, also contribute to these mountains' great natural diversity.

Due to the steep slopes, the relative inaccessibility of many areas, cited relatively recent, settlement, many places have never been fully exploited, and many species life histories are poorly understood.

Every year dozens of species not previously known to occur in North Carolina are reported. For example, no sooner had the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences compiled a list of 12,520 insect species than the state's Natural Heritage Program added over 120 species of moths and butterflies from four small preserves.

The Natural Heritage Program believes that whole natural communities may be hidden in the less well-explored mountain ranges; specifically, the shrub lands at high elevation peaks, ridges and exposed slopes known as heath bards.

The Southern Appalachian Biosphere Reserve includes the mountainous areas of Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, Alabama and Georgia.

There are five core areas in the reserve: the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Coweeta hydrological Laboratory, Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park, Mount Mitchell State Park and Grandfather Mountain.

The Tennessee River Gorge, the Roan Mountain area and the Mount Rogers area also have applied for inclusion in the reserve. There has been some concern that the United Nations may be gaining sovereignty over property in the United States through the biosphere program.

But designation as a reserve is strictly voluntary, and does not affect the prerogatives of owners or administrators of sites, nor does it affect the rights of private property owners.

Nevertheless, legislation has been introduced in the U.S. House and Senate to end American participation in the Biosphere Reserve program. Under H.R. 901, "The American Land Sovereignty Protection Act," introduced by Rep. Dun Young, R-Ark., the 47 Biosphere Reserves presently recognized in the United States would be scrapped unless Congress reauthorized each site individually by 2001. The bill was approved by the House Resources Committee on June 25. A similar bill (S. 69) has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Ark. There also may be an amendment offered to the Department of the Interior 1998 budget bill to prohibit the National Park Service from spending any funds on Biosphere within their jurisdiction.

Rep. Charles Taylor is a co-sponsor of H.R. 901; he says, because he is "opposed to those that seek to protect natural resources by preventing any human use of them." An alternative is H.R. 1801, sponsored by Rep. George Brown, which increases public and congressional involvement in the Biosphere Reserve nomination process without eliminating the program.

While the above articles concerning the Biosphere group are somewhat confusing to me if a private land owner agrees and they find a rare species, under the endangered species laws they would not be able to use the land. I think the bills (S 69 & HR 901) being presented on this issue should be supported.

Minutes of the Tampa Chapter SAR meeting, Feb 20, 1999

The meeting was called to order by President Yarnell at 12:03. Jim Washburn offered the invocation. President Yarnell led the pledge to the flag and the SAR pledge.

Present were Marty Miller, Dwight and Jeannette Tetrick, Jim Chambers, Jim Washburn, Elwin Thrasher, Claude and Fimie Ritchie, Robert Yarnell and Kevin Yarnell.

The minutes were approved as printed.

Vice President Tetrick reported that a replacement membership certificate had been ordered from national. A discussion followed dealing with the responsiveness of the National Office to various requests, especially membership applications. President Yarnell related to the membership a letter from national describing many significant changes in personnel and promising better service to the local chapters. Bob will give copies of the letter to the Board of Governors at their next meeting. Treasurer Marty Miller reported a balance of \$2457.87. He further noted that we had raised \$83.40 for the "Pennies for Patriots" campaign. This is a state fund raiser whereby we ask members to contribute a penny per day or \$3.65 each year. The funds go to the principal of the endowment trust fund. Last fall the chapter informally decided to try for 100% chapter participation. Thanks to a few members contributing more than their share, we actually achieved 114%! Secretary Kevin Yarnell will write notes to the state with the check.

The membership stands officially at twenty. We regret that John Allison, Roger Crane, Fred Pachoud, Steve Roth, and Lesley White have been dropped from the rolls for nonpayment of dues.

The secretary reported the receipt of Robert Michael Hill's membership certificate. His wife informed Elwin via email that illness would prevent his attendance until next month. The essay contest has received no entries as of yet with only a few days left. He expressed hope that last minute appeals to his own students might generate at least one essay. Invitations to the ROTC units for the April meeting will be sent soon.

The next Board of Governors meeting will be held at Tampa Catholic High School 7:15 on March 4, 1999.

President Yarnell adjourned the meeting for lunch.

President Yarnell informed the meeting that the scheduled speaker decided to back out just hours prior to the meeting. Fortunately for the chapter, Bob was able to obtain from his files, and copy for the membership, a listing of major leadership events in George Washington's life. An interesting discussion ensued on which of the ten items might be considered the most significant or important. Many thought Washington's leadership at Valley Forge might rank at the top of the list.

Our guest, Janet Tetrick, won the 50-50 drawing. She accepted \$4.00 of the \$9.00 pot, the rest going to the chapter. The recessional was said followed by the benediction offered by Jim Washburn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kevin Yarnell

Kevin Yarnell
Secretary
