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**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE REELFOOT LAKE
BIOLOGICAL STATION**

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The 1958 summer session was the twenty-eighth consecutive session of the biological station which was made possible by a cooperative plan between the Tennessee Academy of Science and the State of Tennessee.

Teachers and students of biology use the station frequently to observe the wealth of biological material, the illustrations of ecological succession, the lake-pond-swamp transition, the numerous amphibians, fishes and birds that inhabit the lake and vicinity, and submerged and emergent vegetation available for collections and observations.

Classes from Memphis high schools find a week-end trip a very stimulating and profitable experience for studying nature first hand. Students from nearby summer institutes for high schools teachers visit the lake and the station.

Dr. Robert J. Schoffman of the Spalding Institute, Peoria, Illinois, spent his twenty-first consecutive summer in residence engaged in researches on the growth rate of fishes of the lake. This summer completed a study of the "Age and Rate of Growth of the Bluegills in Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee, for 1950 and 1958." Similar studies are contemplated on other game fishes.

A Plan for Comprehensive Development of Reelfoot Lake, recently published by the Tennessee State Planning Commission points out that: "the scientific value of Reelfoot Lake justifies research and study facilities beyond those presently offered by the Reelfoot Lake Biological Station." The Plan proposes that "approximately 65 acres of land be utilized for an expanded Reelfoot Lake Biological Station in the belief that Reelfoot is of such biological uniqueness as to justify facilities for professional study, for academic field work by college biology classes and for field trips by legitimate amateur nature study groups. Physical facilities should be in keeping with the natural surroundings and would include at least a laboratory, classroom, dormitory-type living and dining accommodations, a boat dock

and parking area. The station should be financed by the state as an integral part of its facilities for higher education, with sponsorship by the state universities in cooperation with the Tennessee Academy of Science. Private educational institutions and responsible nature study groups within the state should have access to the area on a reasonable fee basis and out-of-state groups should be allowed to utilize the facilities on a third priority basis, by payment of a higher out-of-state charge. It is believed that such a facility (which is not uncommon among states with unique biological features) in conjunction with the Reelfoot Lake museum and other proposed state park developments could prove an attraction for conferences and conventions related to the biological sciences. Some fill material would probably be useful in stabilizing this area."

The present appropriation from the State of Tennessee is appreciated by the Tennessee Academy of Science but the facilities available are quite limited. Scholarships covering board and room are offered to competent investigators provided they live and eat in the station. No other facilities are available notwithstanding the abundance of motels, lodges and tourist cabins that are being developed about the lake. The short road to the station remains a problem as it is used by the public but is on land belonging to the Division of Game and Fish of Tennessee. Neither the county nor the state will provide any upkeep for for this road even though it is an access road to the Reelfoot National Wild Life Refuge. Problems of adequate drainage of nearby areas have been created because of a lack of knowledge of property boundaries.

It is hoped that an increased appropriation can be obtained from the State to at least cover increased costs of operation, that a desirable road can be made permanent and that some arrangements can be made for more suitable accommodations for living quarters for those working at the station.

NEWS OF TENNESSEE SCIENCE

A new shelter building at the Elise Chapin Wildlife Sanctuary in Chattanooga was recently dedicated to Robert Sparks Walker, Chattanooga naturalist and author.

OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY

The following new personnel have recently joined the Biology Division:
Donald M. Green—Cytology and Genetics Group. Dr. Green received the Ph. D. in Biology from the University of Rochester, New York.
Patricia R. Hunsicker—Mammalian Genetics and Development Section. Miss Hunsicker is a graduate of Cedar Crest College, Allentown, Pa.
A. Marie McCarthy—Microbial Protection and Recovery Group. Dr. McCarthy received the Ph. D. in Microbiology from Michigan State University, East Lansing.
Philip J. Snider, Jr.—Cytology and Genetics Group. Dr. Snider received the Ph. D. in Biology from Harvard University.

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