



Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning

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Shaded box or star means "Action Needed." Don't be overwhelmed -- check the ACTION SUMMARY on p. 2

11. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1E	Conserved properties	Land Trust for Tennessee	Volunteer as monitor
5A	Integrated Resource Plan	TVA	"Thanks for replacing coal by efficiency and renewables!"
6A	National Monument designation	Pres. Obama	"Thank you! Keep up the good work!"
6E	Disastrous Wilderness bill	US senators	"Oppose HR.5205; it threatens wilderness!"
7A	U.S.-China climate accord	Pres. Obama	"Thank you! I support improved carbon-reduction targets!"
7D	Downsizing of environmental staff	NPR	"Don't reduce coverage of climate change!"
9D	Kroger Rewards		Enroll or re-enroll to help TCWP finances

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. John Doe
U.S. House of Representatives
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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Haslam
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bob Corker
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Rep. Chuck Fleischmann:
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FAX: 202-225-3494
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To call any Repr. or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772.
URLs: <http://www.house.gov/lastname/> and <http://lastname.senate.gov/> General contact info: <http://www.lcv.org>
With mail to Congress still slow following the anthrax scare, consider faxing, phoning, and other modes of communication.

There is much contact information in the up-to-date Political Guide. You can also access the Guide, some current action calls, and much other information, on TCWP's website (<http://www.tcwp.org>). You can choose to receive e-alerts by contacting Sandra Goss (see below).

WHAT IS TCWP?

TCWP (Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning) is dedicated to achieving and perpetuating protection of natural lands and waters by means of public ownership, legislation, or cooperation of the private sector. While our first focus is on the Cumberland and Appalachian regions of Tennessee, our efforts may extend to the rest of the state and the nation. TCWP's strength lies in researching information pertinent to an issue, informing and educating our membership and the public, interacting with groups having similar objectives, and working through the legislative, administrative, and judicial branches of government on the federal, state, and local levels.

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TCWP website: <http://www.tcwp.org>.

1. TENNESSEE LAND PROTECTION

1A. Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area is enlarged

[With information from TennGreen]

The 3,000-acre Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area is adjacent to Pickett State Forest. Pogue Creek, which has carved the canyon, is a tributary to the Wolf River, which flows into the Cumberland River. Most of the Canyon was preserved in 2006, through the Nature Conservancy and the State Natural Areas program, but much of the bluff land remained at risk.

Two spectacular bluff mesas jut out into the canyon, the Island Mesas. These will now be added to the Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area, thanks to a generous 25-acre land donation by Doyle Newberry and Ron Bicknese, and a 43-acre acquisition by TennGreen (Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation) in partnership with the State. Working with Tennessee State Parks, TennGreen has also funded a 2-mile loop trail that takes hikers below the top of the bluff, past a rock house and to a beautiful overlook. Governor Bill Haslam spoke at the trail dedication on October 24, which was attended by TCWPs Sandra Goss and Marion Burger.

TennGreen is working to get more of the bluff lands protected and needs your donations. Their current fund-raising goal to complete the project is \$13,100. Call [615-329-4441](tel:615-329-4441) or visit TennGreen.org.

1B. Conserved Morgan County tract, a legacy for Bob Luxmoore

Almost 135 acres of beautiful Solomon Hollow have been placed under a perpetual conservation easement with TPGF that forbids clear-cutting of timber, coal or gas extraction, and subdivision development. The land, nestled between Whetstone Mountain and Little Brushy Mountain, contains the headwaters of the Little Emory River.

This conservation easement was the gift of Annetta Watson and her husband Bob Luxmoore, who acquired the property over the course of several decades, and it honors the memory of Bob, who died earlier this year (NL313 ¶9C). The most recently purchased part of the tract had to be cleared of a large accumulation of domestic waste, including abandoned tires, scrap steel, and 100 lbs of aluminum cans (all now recycled). When that was accomplished, and the native vegetation was again free to flourish, Bob and Annetta further restored the landscape by planting native trees and shrubs, restoring the original watercourse, and revegetating a wetland.

The northern portion of the property is adjacent to 2,777 acres of the 8616-acre Cumberland Forest, a public trust land managed for the people of our State by the Univ. of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture. Last year, U.T. proposed to conduct fracking in The Cumberland Forest (NL311 ¶2A), an activity that posed risks of contaminating the ground water on which Solomon Hollow residents and livestock depend, and would have negatively impacted oil, gas, and coal reserves underlying Solomon Hollow (and

owned by Bob and Annetta). In September 2013, and after months of strong and strategic opposition (in which Annetta, TCWP and Southern Environmental Law Center played a major part) the fracking proposal was shelved by the industry (though probably not permanently abandoned).

A fuller account of the Solomon Hollow conservation easement, and a profile of Bob, may be found in Annetta's article in TennGreen's 2013-2014 Annual Report, accessible at www.tenngreen.org/website.

1C. Emory River property at Camp Austin donated by Reisters

A few months ago TCWP members David and Willa Reister donated 50 acres on the Emory River to the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA). A dedication ceremony was held November 5.

The land is situated on the west side of the river (river-right), off the Camp Austin - Deermont Road. TWRA has named it the Reister Access Area and has repaired the road, which had become deeply rutted from ATV or 4WD use. There are several places along the river bank suitable for launching a variety of watercraft.

According to TWRA staffer Mark Thurman, the area supports a unique riparian plant community; and the river provides ideal habitat for numerous species of interest, including the threatened Spotfin Chub.

With this new river access, a boat trip from Nemo to Camp Austin (about 5 river miles), or from Camp Austin to Oakdale or Webb Park in Harriman, offers a river experience that can be enjoyed by most paddlers. Thurman is looking to recruit partner groups to help with seasonal clean-ups at the Reister Access. For more information, call him at 931-484-9571 or 931-797-9500 (mobile).

1D. Radnor Lake State Park addition supports important plants

[Information from *The Tennessean*, 9/28/14]

Tearing out honeysuckle and other invasive exotic plants from a newly purchased 69-acre addition to Radnor Lake State Park led to the finding of three native plant species of considerable importance (including endangered or threatened status). The plants are wild dill, Deam's copperleaf, and notting rattle snakeroot, all of which require access to sunlight. To keep them growing at Radnor Lake will require annual removal of invasives in their vicinity.

1E. Get outdoors and help the Land Trust for Tennessee

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

The Land Trust for Tennessee (www.landtrusttn.org) is looking for folks who will help visit conserved properties in select areas of the state. The Land Trust is required to monitor over 250 properties across Tennessee each year. They train volunteer monitors to visit properties and make a three-year commitment to the program. Currently, visits are scheduled between Jan. 1 and March 31, with the bulk of them in January.

The Land Trust is looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- Upper East Tennessee (including Greene, Hawkins, Grainger, and Sullivan counties)
- South Cumberland (including Grundy, Van Buren, and Marion counties)
- North Cumberland (including Fentress, Scott, and Pickett counties)
- Western Middle Tennessee (Hickman, Maury, Perry, and Lewis counties).

If you have an interest in becoming a volunteer monitor in any of the areas above, contact Meredith Hansel at mhansel@landtrusttn.org.

2. OTHER TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. The Tennessee Stream Mitigation Program restores streams

[Contributed by Dan Eagar]

The Tennessee Stream Mitigation Program (TSMP) was established in 2003 to provide one means of providing compensatory mitigation for permitted stream impacts. Since its inception, the program has implemented 28 projects, restoring or enhancing over 250,000 linear feet of stream. Projects have been completed in all regions of the state, and include the restoration of 3.5 miles of Flat Fork in Morgan County, and about 1.5 miles of Third Creek along the greenway trail in Knoxville. Those who have worked with the program to implement stream improvements on their property include dozens of private landowners, local governments, state agencies, and the federal government.

TSMP is a private company housed within the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation, a non-profit organization (501(c)(3)) established to support the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and promote responsible stewardship of Tennessee's natural resources. Representatives of state and federal agencies responsible for regulation and/or management of Tennessee's water resources conceived the program, and continue to serve on an oversight group known as the Interagency Review Team (IRT).

As an approved "third party" mitigation program, TSMP is able to accumulate mitigation funds for numerous, typically small, permitted stream impacts and identify longer reaches of stream in need of restoration or enhancement. Longer reaches of stream restoration and enhancement provide more environmental benefit on a foot for foot basis than do smaller projects. All of the mitigation fees collected by the program must be spent on providing water quality improvements sufficient to offset losses permitted by the state and federal regulators. TSMP has divided the state into ten Service Areas, primarily along watershed boundaries. Impacts within a given Service Area must be mitigated within that area.

TSMP typically funds 100% of the cost of its restoration projects, but it must find projects that generate mitigation credit commensurate with the collected mitigation

fees. In addition to the direct stream improvements, projects require establishment and perpetual protection of a forested riparian buffer averaging fifty feet on each side of the subject stream. One of the program's biggest challenges is to identify landowners who are willing to enter into the long-term land-use restrictions necessary to assure the ecological success of projects and to meet the requirements of the regulatory agencies. Those land use restrictions, typically conservation easements, do not include provisions for public access to otherwise private property.

TSMP is anxious to work with any individual or organization that has identified stream restoration opportunities potentially meeting the criteria for mitigation. For additional information, or to discuss potential restoration projects contact Dan Eagar at 615-831-9311 xt. 113, or by e-mail at dan.eagar@tsmp.us.

2B. Fight against industry using Nolichucky water may be lost

US Nitrogen LLC has proposed withdrawing 1.4 million gallons per day of water from the clean Nolichucky River for the production of ammonium nitrate, and returning wastewater to the river (NL 315 ¶1A). This summer, despite extensive opposition, TDEC issued the requested discharge permits. For a while, it looked as if TDoT would deny the company the right to build needed pipelines along roads (NL 316 ¶1B). Pipeline permits, however, have now been issued by TVA and the Corps of Engineers. The two pipelines (a total of 12 miles), which will be owned by the Industrial Development Board of Greeneville and Greene County, will be located on the rights-of-way of State Highways 340 and 348, and on property owned by the IDB. The project is expected to be finished early next year. Austin Powder, the parent company of US Nitrogen, chose the plant site because it provides access to the interstate, has a robust supply of natural gas, and has a rail line adjacent to the property. And, of course, plenty of water from the Nolichucky (a withdrawal of 1.4 million gallons per day is proposed).

3. OBED and BSF capsules

3A. Tidbits from the Superintendent

[With thanks to Supt. Nicholas]

In her talk at TCWP'S Annual meeting on October 25, Obed WSR and BSFNRRRA Superintendent Niki Nicholas reported on a large number recent developments and achievements for the two parks. Here are just a few of them.

-- Obed WSR received the prestigious Keeper of the Light Award for its annual program that brings every sixth grader in Morgan County to the park for an all-day, intensive introduction to the park's resources and recreational opportunities (NL309 ¶3C; NL317 ¶2C).

--The recent film "The Obed: Find Yourself Here" (NL315 ¶3B) won top prize among films produced for other national and state parks.

- A contract has been let for making a movie about The BSFNRRRA that will be shown at the park's Visitor Centers. The film, which will include footage from all four seasons, is expected to be completed by the summer of 2016.
- The Big South Fork's Brewster Bridge, Joe's Branch, and Peter's Bridge Day Use Areas have been renovated to include ADA-accessible sites.
- Ranger-guided hikes are conducted every Saturday and Sunday during summer months from NPS's new Rugby visitor center.
- In order to address impacts to the federally endangered Tuxedo Darter, found *only* in the Big South Fork, the Corps of Engineers will be mitigating some of the contaminated coal-mine drainage in the Kentucky portion of the BSFNRRRA.

3B. More hemlocks treated at Obed WSR

During this year's Adopt a Crag Day (Sept, 6), volunteers of the East Tennessee Climbers Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, and NPS treated more than 120 hemlock trees in the Clear Creek gorge against invasion by the deadly Woolly Adelgid.

3C. Cumberland Plateau Scientific Research Symposium was Informative

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

On October 29, the Big South Fork NRRRA and Obed WSR sponsored a Symposium on the Upper Cumberland Plateau Parks that allowed attendees to learn about various research projects that are underway. Keynote speaker Dr. Ryan Sharpe from Eastern Kentucky University talked about public land, how it comes into being and its importance. Setting aside land for public use has been, and always will be, controversial, according to Ryan. Even setting aside the magnificent Grand Canyon was controversial.

Several presentations covered a wide range of research topics, including archaeology, plant ecology and cobble-bar communities, hydrology and geology, and aquatic ecology.

Some interesting factoids from the day's presentations:

- Plant cultivation happened on the plateau as early as 7500 years ago, in the Sewanee area. The Eastern US is one of a handful of places in the world where cultivation started on its own. There's evidence that ancient peoples on the plateau started cultivating sooner than did folks in the Memphis area.
- No other place in the world has the number of rock houses and caves in close proximity that the Plateau does. Preliminary research indicates that ancient folks moved between rock houses on a seasonal basis, e.g., facing south in winter, northerly in summer.
- Cobble-bar communities are known as river-scour prairies, endemic to the Cumberland Plateau in TN and KY, with fewer than 500 acres left. Tallgrass prairie plants are on the cobble bars. Fire is essential to tallgrass prai-

ries. Floods replace fire in BSF or Obed cobble-bar prairies. Most of the biomass of prairie plants is below ground.

This symposium is slated to be an annual event, with the 2015 session scheduled for November 4.

3D. Horse camp at BSF's Station Camp

[From the Sept. 2014 E-newsletter for the parks]

NPS has issued a prospectus soliciting proposals for operating overnight horse-camp service on Station Camp Road (near Oneida) within the BSFNRRRA. The camp includes a shower house and 24 trailer/tent sites each with tie-ups, electrical hookups, and water. The terms of the new concession contract will be for ten years and start in the spring of 2015.

4. CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

4A. No Cherokee Wilderness this time, either

Yet another Congress is about to end without passing the modest proposal for the addition of ~20,000 acres of Wilderness in the Cherokee National Forest. The only encouraging news is that both Sen. Corker and Senator Alexander are still anxious to pass their "Tennessee Wilderness Act." Unfortunately, the Republican members of the Tennessee House delegation, which was reelected without change on Nov. 4, has never shown an enthusiasm for the bill.

4B. Trail of Tears section added to Cherokee NF

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

According to news reports, the U. S. Forest Service has acquired approximately 392 acres in the Coker Creek Section of the Cherokee National Forest. Included in the property is a portion of the Unicoi Turnpike, an ancient walkway that was used in the Cherokee Removal.

The Conservation Fund purchased the destined-for-development property in 2013. The Forest Service used Land and Water Conservation Funds, secured with the help of Senators Alexander and Corker and Representative Chuck Fleischmann, to purchase the property from The Conservation Fund.

4C. Deforestation adds to global warming

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, every year more than 30 million acres of forest are cleared or lost globally. Deforestation is a key contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions. One acre of forest can consume all the CO₂ produced by a car driven 26,000 miles a year.

5. TVA NEWS

5A. *TVA's new Integrated Resource Plan may emphasize energy efficiency*

TVA's Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs), generally released at ~7-year intervals, estimate how much electric power will be needed by the region over the next 20 years, and what resources are needed to provide it (taking into consideration the costs and reliability of various electrical power sources). The IRP currently being generated follows only four years after the last one (NL 317 ¶4C). People involved with the process are pleased by TVA's efforts to share information with the public. It is expected that the Draft Supplemental EIS and IRP will be released in February, and that public-comment submission will be complete in the Spring of 2015.

One expected improvement in the draft plan is a greater emphasis on energy efficiency. Energy efficiency will be treated as a power resource in the modeling. We have heard mention of a recent DOE study that showed that it costs 4-10 times more per kwh to build and use a power plant than it costs to implement efficiency programs that reduce the amount of wasted energy.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank TVA (see Political Guide for address) for shifting away from coal use and putting more emphasis on energy efficiency. Urge them to reduce the use of natural gas, a fossil fuel that emits greenhouse gases. To inform yourself in preparation for commenting on the revised IPRP, and to contact TVA, visit tva.gov/IRP. This links to reports that provide information on TVA's current energy situation, the IRP process, and TVA's efforts at developing clean energy sources

5B. *TVA may be sued over the release of coal ash into the Cumberland River*

[From Tennessee Clean Water Network]

In a communication sent Nov. 10, the Tennessee Clean Water Network and the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), representing Tenn. Scenic Rivers Assoc., notified TVA and TDEC of their intentions to bring suit under the Clean Water Act to stop the release of coal-ash pollutants into the Cumberland River and other surface and groundwater sites near the Gallatin Fossil Plant in Middle Tennessee. The groups charge that coal ash ponds at the plant have been leaking harmful pollutants into the Cumberland River (which provides drinking water for 1.2 million residents downstream) and surrounding groundwater for decades, in violation of the Clean Water Act.

The ponds are located adjacent to the Cumberland River and hold over 55 years of coal-ash waste in unlined, unprotected pits. In some cases, the amounts of pollutants tested at the site are hundreds of thousands of times what is legally allowed.

The notice-of-intent letter is available on www.tcwn.org. The notice gives TVA and TDEC 60 days in which to fix the problem before the environmental groups file suit. According to an AP report, TVA has said

it is working with TDEC on its plan to convert to dry storage of the coal ash.

The Gallatin Steam Plant is over half a century old and has been violating air-pollution standards. Despite repeated urgings to replace its output with other source of energy, TVA decided two years ago to keep burning coal and install scrubbers (NL317 ¶4A).

6. NATIONAL NEWS

6A. *President Obama designates yet another large National Monument*

Having designated the nearly 500,000-acre Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in May (NL316 ¶6A), Pres. Obama followed this up on October 10 with protecting yet another very large area under the Antiquities Act. The 350,000-acre San Gabriel Mountains National Monument is the 13th national monument of his presidency. The San Gabriel range, often referred to as "L.A.'s wild backyard," is part of the Angeles National Forest, one of the busiest forests in the nation (more than 3.5 million annual visitors). In addition to serving as a recreation destination for millions, the range provides 1/3 of Los Angeles County's drinking water and more than 70% of its open space. The San Gabriels also provide essential habitat for wildlife, including rare and endangered species like California condors, Nelson's bighorn sheep, and mountain lions.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank Pres. Obama (address on p. 2) for designation of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, expansion of a marine National Monument (see ¶6B, below), and, if you haven't done so already, for designation of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in May (see NL316 ¶6A).

6B. . . . AND, he expands another National Monument

In September, President Obama expanded the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument -- home to coral gardens and threatened sea turtles and sharks -- to six times its previous size, making it the largest marine reserve in the world.

6C. *EPA's proposed rule clarifies definition of "Waters of the United States."*

The comment period has just ended for EPA's and the Corps of Engineer's proposed rule that would reduce regulatory uncertainty by clarifying the definition of Waters of the United States. TCWP partnered with the Southern Environmental Law Center, which submitted extremely extensive and technically informed comments (more than 50 pages). This rule became necessary because confusing Supreme Court decisions of 2001 and 2006 have caused considerable uncertainty about the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act over large portions of the nation's waters,

namely those designated intermittent or ephemeral (NL 315 ¶6A).

The proposed EPA rule draws on a large body of scientific evidence demonstrating a significant connection between the health of upstream waters or wetlands and larger navigable or interstate waters. These rivers and streams are the source of drinking water for millions of Americans and provide protection to the multi-billion dollar water recreational industry dependent on clean water.

Factually untrue propaganda against the proposed rule has fed a vocal opposition, culminating in the passage of H.R. 5078 in September (NL317 ¶5A). This bill, which prohibits the federal government from adopting or enforcing the rule, has no chance of passing the *current* Senate. Unfortunately, the prospects for the just elected *new* Senate are very different.

6D. Two pipelines would expedite use of tar-sands oil, the dirtiest oil on earth

As this Newsletter goes to press, the US House of Representatives has voted to approve the Keystone XL pipeline, which would carry 830,000 barrels per day (bpd) of climate-destroying crude oil from tar-sand deposits in Alberta, Canada, through America's heartland, to be refined on our Gulf Coast and exported. Senate action on Keystone XL and a possible presidential veto may have occurred by the time you read this.

Few of us, however, have heard of a *second* pipeline that could carry an equivalent amount of crude with no environmental review whatsoever. By the middle of next year, the Canadian pipeline company Enbridge, having circumvented the U.S. pipeline-permitting process, may be transporting 800,000 bpd of tar-sands oil from western Canada into the U.S. Enbridge avoided permitting by diverting tar-sands crude to another pipeline of theirs that already crosses the border, having received an earlier permit. Enbridge modified an aging cross-border section, and thus avoided the public environmental review that is applied to new pipelines crossing our borders. The U.S. State Department quietly approved this scheme.

On Nov. 11, tribal and environmental groups sued the State Department for approving Enbridge's plan to increase the flow of heavy crude oil from Alberta into Minnesota before environmental studies required by NEPA, etc., are finished.

6E. A wilderness bill that threatens future wilderness bills

[Information from Wilderness Watch, 10-28-14]

Seems like the only wilderness bill this House of Representatives will pass is one that hurts wilderness. A House-passed bill that would designate new Wilderness in Nevada (HR.5205) contains terrible, precedent-setting provisions that threaten to show up in all future wilderness bills. Among several such provisions, these three are the most dangerous. (1) It would allow anyone claiming any kind of disability the right to drive ATVs or other motor vehicles into the Wilderness for hunting or fishing. (2) It

would allow any federal, state, or local agency to build roads and conduct logging in the name of wildfire *pre-suppression*. (3) It declares that livestock grazing is *compatible* with Wilderness.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Tell your senators (addresses on p.2) why HR. 5205 must be *opposed*, and urge them to do so.

6F. The mid-term elections: predictions of how they'll affect the environment

NRDC. -- "*Both* houses of Congress will be run by a faction of climate deniers and friends of the Koch Brothers [fossil-fuel interests]. . . . They want to force approval of the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline ... cripple the President's bold plan to crack down on the power plant pollution that is driving climate chaos ... open the Arctic Refuge to oil drilling ... launch a full-blown attack on the Endangered Species Act ... restrict the government's ability to protect our drinking water from fracking ... slash budgets that promote clean energy ... and strip the EPA of its authority to block the disastrous Pebble Mine.

SUWA. -- "In a nutshell, the outcome of the recent elections means the Senate will no longer act as the reliable counterweight to terrible anti-environment bills coming from the House -- a role it has played since the 2010 election.

"The good news is that Republicans don't have the three-fifths majority needed to override Democratic filibusters and the two-thirds supermajority needed to override a presidential veto. The bad news is the Republican leadership has indicated it will operate by attaching riders [with anti-environmental content] to major spending bills that the government needs to pass in order to operate -- and spending bills are not subject to filibusters."

Earthjustice. -- "Big industrial polluters, including oil and gas companies, spent record sums to influence political campaigns. We will soon see attacks on our air, water, public lands, and wildlife. Anti-environmental lawmakers will try to create loopholes, riders to spending bills, amendments, exemptions, and subsidies that would let polluters off the hook for cleaning up their pollution, worsen the impacts of climate change, and gut our water, air, and wildlife protections."

Union of Concerned Scientists. -- "We may see actions to delay or repeal rules we are fighting for, such as the vital limits on global warming emissions from power plants. Congress may now try to pass laws that handicap our agencies from using the best science to guide decision-making. And the gridlock we have seen for the last four years may get worse -- with more government shut downs, spurious 'investigations,' brinkmanship, and inconsequential haggling that divert us from the pressing problems we face."

Everyone agreed that the election was not a referendum on environmental protection. National exit polling showed that most voters believe climate change is a 'seri-

ous problem.’ An ABC/*Washington Post* survey has reported that 70% of Americans view climate change as a serious problem and want the government to tackle it. Poll after poll shows overwhelming support for strong environmental protection.

6G. The latest on Spruce No.1 Mine: Court upholds the EPA veto

[Information from EarthJustice]

Spruce No.1 Mine is one of the largest and most extreme mountaintop removal coalmines ever proposed. Its saga starts in 1999, when a court found that the Corps of Engineers’ Clean Water Act permit for the mine was unlawful. Years of litigation have followed.

In January 2011, the EPA decided to veto the Corps’ Spruce No. 1 Mine permit. Its decision was based on robust science showing the irreparable harm that would occur if the mining company were allowed to permanently bury and pollute natural headwater streams (over six miles of pristine mountain streams would be buried under by “valley fills”).

In 2012, the D.C. District Court, without addressing the scientific merits of EPA’s decision, ruled that EPA lacked authority to veto the Corps’ permit.

In 2013, the D.C. Circuit (in an opinion by Judges Henderson, Griffith, and Kavanaugh) unanimously reversed the district court’s ruling and upheld EPA’s authority to veto whenever there is unacceptable harm, including after a permit has been issued.

On 9-30-14, the case went back to the District Court for review of the scientific merits of EPA’s veto decision in this specific instance. The court upheld EPA’s veto, ruling that it was reasonable, supported by evidence, and well within EPA’s scope of responsibility to protect waters.

An EPA veto is a rare thing indeed. Out of the thousands of permits the Army Corps has issued to allow filling of U.S. waters during the past 41 years, including hundreds of permits for large-scale coal strip mines, this is only the 13th time EPA has ever exercised its veto authority under the Clean Water Act. It is also the first such determination ever to protect U.S. waters from coal-mining waste.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE

7A. The new U.S.-China climate accord improves prospects for a global pact

[With information from *N.Y. Times*, 11/12/14]

On November 12, President Obama and President Xi Jinping of China announced an historic joint plan to curb climate pollution. The U.S. (the world’s No. 2 carbon emitter) would emit 26-28% less carbon in 2025 than it did in 2005. This represents an increase from the president’s previous goal of 17% below 2005 levels by 2020. China (the world’s No. 1 carbon emitter) committed to stop its emissions from growing by 2030, if not sooner.

The major significance of this agreement (which has been in the works for the past 9 months) is that it may gal-

vanize efforts to negotiate a new *global* climate agreement by 2015. Next year, representatives of countries from across the globe will meet in Paris to set worldwide targets for reducing climate pollution. Unless China and the U.S., the No. 1 and No. 2 polluters, have resolved their differences, few other countries will agree to mandatory cuts in their emissions.

The U.S. commitment, while laudable, is not as ambitious as it might be. The European Union, by comparison, has committed to a 40% reduction from the more significant 1990 levels, in the same time period. China’s pledge that, by 2030, clean energy sources would account for 20% of the country’s total energy production is remarkable and significant.

Climate deniers have lost no time in attacking the president’s action. It’ll “ensure higher utility rates and far fewer jobs,” said future U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Speaker Boehner called the announcement “yet another sign that the president intends to double down on his job-crushing policies.” But the accord undercuts the crucial Republican argument that U.S. carbon-cutting measures are futile since the world’s largest polluter, China, refuses to act.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank Pres. Obama (address p.2) for the China accord, and show your support for the improved carbon reduction targets.

7B. Pentagon says climate change threatens national security

[Information from *New York Times*]

In a report released October 13, the Pentagon asserts decisively that climate change poses an immediate threat to national security, with increased risks from terrorism, infectious disease, global poverty, and food shortages. Additionally, more global humanitarian crises created by extreme weather will increase the demand for military disaster responses.

While earlier studies have highlighted the national security risks of climate change, this report is the first one characterizing it as a *present-day* threat demanding *immediate* action. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel wants defense leaders to be part of the global discussions leading up to the UN agreement on carbon emissions to be signed in Paris next summer. (Negotiations will begin in a December meeting in Peru.)

7C. Non-binding progress on deforestation

At a one-day annual U.N. Assembly meeting, September 23, world leaders made a number of non-binding pledges on climate change. Some of these pertain to deforestation. Forests are vitally important because they are carbon sinks. Living trees are efficient in absorbing the main greenhouse gas, CO₂. On the other hand, burning wood for energy generation adds CO₂ to the atmosphere.

The United States, Canada, and the entire European Union were among well over 100 countries that signed a

declaration to halve forest loss by 2020, and eliminate deforestation entirely by 2030. Sadly, Brazil, a key player in deforestation, would not sign this pledge.

7D. NPR's downsizing of staff threatens climate-change coverage

[Information from CREDO Action]

In early November, National Public Radio reduced its environmental staff from four full-time journalists to a single, part-time reporter. NPR is one of the few major sources of journalism in the public interest. Due to deliberately misleading coverage by many other news outlets, the American public is being actively misinformed about climate change. As a result, public understanding of the crisis is heading in the wrong direction: the percentage of Americans who do *not* believe in climate change actually went *up* by 7% in 2013. Only 47% believe that climate change is caused by human activities.

NPR's decision is part of a disturbing anti-science trend within the news media. In the past 25 years, the number of newspapers that include a weekly science section has shrunk from 85 to just 19. NPR was created by an Act of Congress in order to be an alternate news service that would address issues of national concern.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge NPR not to reduce their coverage of climate change and other environmental issues. Visit <http://help.npr.org/npr/includes/customer/npr/custforms/contactus.aspx>. Under "I Want To," choose "Contact an NPR Department or Service;" and under "Department," choose "NPR Management."

2014 revision of the Oak Ridge Barrens Natural Area Management Plan. The extensive document contains sections on Major Activities and Accomplishments, Management Objectives, and Future Plans, as well as appropriate Appendices. In October 2014 TDEC's Division of Natural Areas and the Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks Department reviewed and approved the updated plan. You can read the 2014 plan on the TCWP website:

http://www.tcwp.org/Oak_Ridge_Barrens_Natural_Area_20141001.pdf

8C. TCWP to partner in League of Women Voters project

[Information from LWVOR news release]

The Oak Ridge League of Women Voters (LWVOR) has received a grant that will require partnership with TCWP. The \$20,000 grant, funded by DOE, is targeted to young adults (30 years old and under) with the purpose of expanding their knowledge and understanding of the environmental management process and remediation actions in the Oak Ridge community.

There will be two educational sub-projects: (1) a Citizens Academy, primarily for young adults, and (2) addition of an environmental day(s) to the Rainbow Academy, a camp run by the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church (ORUUC) that targets K-12 students, with an emphasis on reaching members of the minority community.

In developing the educational curriculum for both Academies, LWVOR will partner with experts in TCWP and ORUUC. Liaisons among the team members will be Sandra Goss (TCWP's executive director) and Rev. Tandy Scheffler (ORUUC).

8. OAK RIDGE and the RESERVATION

8A. Portion of Natural Area at Horizon Center threatened with development

At a recent O.R. Industrial Development Board (IDB) meeting, there was discussion of a proposal to request transfer of a 10- to 20-acre parcel within the Horizon Center that is presently designated Natural Area from DOE to the City. The purpose would be to facilitate marketing of two IDB parcels (Areas 6 and 7) currently separated by the natural area as one larger parcel.

TCWP has written to DOE pointing out the functions of this parcel as an important wildlife corridor connecting the floodplain to the upland forest of the BORCE, its importance enhanced by the presence of a tributary stream to the East Fork Poplar Creek. In another letter to DOE, AFORR pointed out that any exchange of ownership or land use involving the DOE property retained as natural areas would require NEPA review.

8B. Cedar Barrens Plan is revised

Jimmy Groton, assisted by Tim Bigelow, Warren Webb, Larry Pounds, and Wes James, has completed a

9. TCWP NEWS

9A. 2015 Board and Nominating Committee elected

The following were elected unanimously at our Oct. 25 Annual Meeting:

President: Jimmy Groton

Vice President: Mark Bevelhimer

Secretary: Carol Grametbauer

Treasurer: Tim Bigelow

Directors:

Mary Lynn Dobson

Frank Hensley

Charlie Klabunde

Larry Pounds

Liane (Lee) Russell

Michele Thornton

Warren Webb

Nominating Committee:

Chuck Estes (chair), Bill Allen, Kirk Eddlemon.

9B. **Upcoming activities**

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

[NOTE: Times listed for all events are Eastern Time.]

TCWP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 11

This annual event, which has become one of the most popular of the year, will again be held at the home of long-time TCWP members Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen, 371 East Drive, Oak Ridge.

All members and friends are welcome! The hours are 7 – 9:30 p.m.. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share; beverages will be provided.

Whites Creek Trail workday – Saturday, January 17

TCWP will sponsor a day of trail-maintenance work at Whites Creek Small Wild Area in Rhea County at 10 a.m. as part of our ongoing stewardship activities for this TVA Small Wild Area trail. The trail loops onto land that TCWP purchased from Bowater several years ago, thanks to the generous support of our members.

Participants should wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring work gloves, loppers, and small bow saws or folding saws. Some hand tools will be available at the event. Please be sure to bring clothing appropriate for weather conditions, water, snacks, and/or a lunch.

Participants can meet for carpooling in Oak Ridge at the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's). We will leave Oak Ridge at 9 a.m.; or volunteers can join the crew at the trailhead at 10 a.m. We plan to spend three or four hours at the site, but volunteers may come and go as they wish. (NOTE: If the weather is uncooperative—excessive rain, or snow and ice—we will reschedule for the following Saturday.)

For additional information, contact Jimmy Groton at 865-805-9908 or at groton87@comcast.net.

Additional information on all TCWP activities may be obtained from TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com or at 865-583-3967.

9C. **Recent events**

National Public Lands Day cleanup at Worthington Cemetery – Saturday, September 27

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

TCWP and TVA partnered again for our annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) celebration, held at TVA's Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area on Melton Hill Reservoir in Oak Ridge. The fall weather was spectacular, and we had some much-appreciated help from 28 volunteers, including TCWP members, students from Oak Ridge High School and Jefferson Middle School, and parents. Volunteers this year also included local members of the Sons of the Revolution.

Activities included learning about the history of the Worthington family and the ecology of cedar barrens and wetlands, and removing invasive, exotic plants from the historic cemetery and the cedar barren. Anne Worthington, our resident expert on Worthington family history, provided us with an engaging overview of the cemetery and the family members buried there. Volunteers removed privet, wisteria, bush honeysuckle, and other invasive shrubs and vines from the area. Students also helped to clear vegetation away from many of the gravestones in the cemetery. After working hard for a few hours, we all enjoyed a pizza lunch.

TCWP has partnered with TVA for many years to manage and protect natural resources at Worthington Cemetery and other TVA lands throughout East Tennessee as part of our mutual stewardship efforts. We are very lucky to have great partners like ORHS, JMS, and the Sons of the Revolution to help us.

Hike in Norris Watershed – Saturday, October 11

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

Eight souls enjoyed a four-mile hike on the Norris Municipal Watershed October 11, beginning at the Lenoir Museum and climbing to Observation Point before heading back down the hill. Thanks to hike leader and Norris Watershed Natural Resource Manager Joe Feeman and to renowned area botanist and TCWP board member Larry Pounds, the hike featured interesting information on the history of the 2,300-acre watershed, the stewardship of its forests, and various plants. There were persimmons to sample, and expansive vistas to view. A good time was had by all!

Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 25

About 20 members and guests attended this year's annual meeting, held at the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Our guest speaker was Niki Nicholas, superintendent of BSFNRRRA and the Obed Wild and Scenic River, who gave an excellent overview of community outreach programs at both BSF and the Obed (see ¶3A, this NL). At the conclusion of the brief business meeting that followed Niki's talk, incoming Treasurer Tim Bigelow presented an engraved hiking stick to Charlie Klabunde as an expression of TCWP's appreciation for his more than 40 years of service as our Treasurer.

After a delicious buffet lunch, part of the group enjoyed a hike to the Devil's Den rock shelter, following a trail that is part of the John Muir Trail and crosses the old O&W Railroad bridge; the others did an easier hike to Sunset Overlook. It was a beautiful fall afternoon, perfect for hiking in the Big South Fork.

Fall Cedar Barren Cleanup – Saturday, November 8

(Contributed by Tim Bigelow and Sandra Goss)

The November 8 workday, our third and final Cedar Barren cleanup of the year, was held on quite a nice fall morning, with a great turnout! With 35 participants, much was accomplished, including removal of bush honeysuckle, autumn olive, privet, and lespedeza. If left in place, these non-native plants can take over and crowd out the prairie

plants at the barren. Some amazingly large mushrooms were spotted as we worked.

A second Jefferson Middle School wetland has been established on the north side of the campus. Cedar Barren volunteers helped with mulch spreading, brush removal and rock placement there. It is hoped that frogs, birds, salamanders, and other creatures will be enjoying the wetland over the next several months.

Enticed by extra credit were a number of Oak Ridge High School Environmental Science students, who appeared to have a great time. Also helping were several "Vols for Life" UT athletes performing required community service. There were many new faces at this cleanup.

9D. Make one toll-free phone call and Kroger will send TCWP \$\$

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Kroger's Community Rewards Program is in full swing. Please take a moment, with your Kroger Loyalty Card in hand, to register as a TCWP supporter. This can be done through the Kroger website (<http://krogercommunityrewards.com>), or by calling 1-800-562-4438. Alternatively, call Sandra at 865-583-3967, who says, "We'll get through it together, somehow!"

Regrettably our friends in NE Tennessee are in a different Kroger division and can't register. Thanks to TCWP Member Daniel Shaffer for trying to enroll. Sorry that didn't work out.

9E. Some gifts to TCWP may be matched

If you are a UT-Battelle employee, your gift to TCWP may be matched by the company (\$50-500 per employee). Matching gift applications are accepted quarterly.

Each quarterly allotment of \$10,000 in matching funds gets depleted quickly, so gifts and applications should be sent *early* in the quarter. *The next application period runs from January 1 through March 31, 2015.*

To request matching of your gift, you should complete Section A of the form [http://www.ornl.gov/File%20Library/Main%20Nav/ORN L/News/Communications%20News/Community%20Outreach/Matching-Gifts-Program.docx](http://www.ornl.gov/File%20Library/Main%20Nav/ORN%20L/News/Communications%20News/Community%20Outreach/Matching-Gifts-Program.docx) and mail it, along with your gift, to Tim Bigelow, TCWP Treasurer, 10626 Forest Crest Rd., Knoxville, TN 37922.

9F. Award to Lee Russell results in \$500 donation to TCWP

In September, Lee Russell won the Knoxville Association for Women Executives' Lucy Gibson Notable Woman Award. The award carries with it a \$500 donation to an organization of the awardee's choosing. Past winners include Knoxville Mayor Rogero and UT coach Pat Summitt.

9G. Members and friends in the news

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]

- Frances Lamberts addressed the Tennessee Wilderness Act in an op-ed column in the September 24 (Jonesborough) *Herald & Tribune*.
- "Finding Nemo Bridge" is the title of a Ben Pounds column in the October 2 *Metropulse*. The historical and descriptive account includes a mention of TCWP and our work on the establishment of the Obed Wild and Scenic River.
- Several TCWP friends and members working on the North Ridge Trail on National Trail Day were in an October 9 *News Sentinel* picture, including Stephanie Cramer, Susan Donnelly, Nicholas Goodgame, Frank Hensley, Jean Bangham, Oliver Goodgame, Hiram Rogers, Charlie Klabunde, Wes James, and Jimmy Groton.
- Jan Lyons' election as vice-chair of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board was reported in the October issue of the *Advocate* (an ORSSAB publication).
- Gerry and Carole Middleton and their bat research were the topic of a *MetroPulse* article on October 9.
- Lee Russell's Letter to the Editor in support of Ellen Smith's election to City Council appeared in *The Oak Ridger* of Nov. 4 and on the website <http://oakrigetoday.com/2014/11/01>.
- Jan Lyons is a member of a Knoxville tennis team that made it to the Southern Sectional Finals, as reported in the September 14 *New Sentinel*.
- Joe Feeman authored articles on his Western US travels in the September 10, 24, October 8, and November 5 issues of the *Norris Bulletin*.
- Lucy Gibson and the West Knoxville Rotary Club, of which she was the first female president, were featured in the September 17 *Shopper News*. The Rotarians took part in an ALS Ice Bucket Challenge in Lucy's honor; she was recently diagnosed with ALS.
- Brian Paddock wrote a Letter to the Editor of the July 27 *News Sentinel* about funding college education.
- Harry Shatz was cited in an October 1 *Norris Bulletin* article as a new member of the Board of Directors of Citizens for Safety and Clean Air.
- Harry Shatz wrote a Letter to the Editor of the June 1 *Clinton Courier News* about Anderson County litigation.
- Judy Poulson wrote a Letter to the Editor of the October 19 *News Sentinel* about downtown Knoxville parking issues.

9F. Thanks, and a tip of the hat to ...

[From Sandra Goss]



- John Bates, Frank Hensley, Charlie Klabunde, Melissa Muendel, Dick Raridon, and Marti Salk for stuffing, folding, labeling, and tabbing the mailed TCWP newsletters.
- Jimmy Groton, and assistants Tim Bigelow, Warren Webb, Larry Pounds, and Wes James, for completing a revision of the Oak Ridge Barrens Natural Area Management Plan (see ¶8B, above).

- Lee Russell, Carol Grametbauer, Jimmy Groton, for their work on the TCWP Newsletter.
- Annual Meeting speaker Niki Nicholas for her informative, lively presentation (see ¶3A, above).
- Cindy Kendrick for her work on the ORNL Community Shares Campaign Kick-Off, and for helping to organize Community Shares Day at ORNL.
- Michele Thornton and Lee Russell for helping man the TCWP table at Community Shares Day at ORNL.
- Jan Lyons for working at the Community Shares Brewers Jam, thereby earning necessary “sweat equity” points.
- Jimmy Groton, Wes James, and Larry Pounds for their leadership at the Worthington Cemetery cleanup.
- Sons of the Revolution, particularly Reid Gryder, for their help with the Worthington Cemetery clean-up.
- Tim Bigelow, Jimmy Groton, Larry Pounds, J.D. Goodlaxson, Kathy Strunk, and John Byrd for their leadership at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren cleanup.
- Antone Davis and UT Vol for Life members who helped with the Cedar Barren workday.
- NPS staffer Noel Mays for getting the locked-up keys from an Annual Meeting attendee’s locked car.
- Mary Porter for setting up a speaking engagement for TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss to the Retired Citizens of the Smokies.
- Tim Bigelow for his work as Treasurer-Elect, learning about TCWP’s books.
- Marion Burger for providing a ride to the recent dedication at Pogue Creek Canyon (¶1A, above).
- Jimmy Groton for helping at tabling event, TDEC’s Watts Bar/Emory River Watershed Meeting.
- Community Shares for the loan of a digital projector.
- Ed Clebsch for the donation of a DR Field and Brush Mower, Blue Hole canoe, and Nordic Track.

new Newsletter cover). Help us! Call or e-mail me for more information about this dynamic group.

I’ve put together a presentation called Environmental Activism 101. It starts with a basic truth, “Public lands don’t just happen. Citizens make them happen” and progresses to “It takes all of us working together to protect wild lands and waters.” There are many pictures of pretty places throughout the 15-22 minute commentary. Please call or e-mail if you’re interested in this presentation for your group.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, December 11’s TCWP Holiday Party. This is a very warm, convivial gathering. Your presence would enhance that.

With thanks for all you do,
Sandra

10. CALENDAR

*(For details, check the referenced NL item;
or contact Sandra Goss, 865-583-3967,
or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com)*

- December 11, TCWP Holiday Party (see ¶9B, this NL).
- January 17, White’s Creek Trail workday (see ¶9B, this NL).
- February 21, Cumberland Trail work day (details later).
- March 28, Obed raft trip (details later).
- April 11, Big South Fork raft trip (details later).
- May 16, Obed volunteer lunch and cleanup (details later).

9J. Executive Director's column

[By Sandra Goss]

The past few weeks have been eventful, i.e., full of events. TCWP sponsored or cosponsored several events. In this Newsletter, one can read about exotic pest plant cleanups, hikes, and informational meetings in which we’re involved.

The TCWP Program Committee takes on the challenge of developing interesting programs that appeal to a range of ages, educate about our complex, interrelated natural world, and inspire citizen action in the environmental regulatory arena. Under the leadership of Committee Chair Carol Grametbauer, the committee implemented 10 clean-ups or trail maintenance sessions in 2014, as well as 5 informational presentations, and informational field trips to see cool fishes, flame-colored crawfish, and bats!

The Committee is working on the 2015 calendar, and welcomes input about program topics and hike sites. The committee meets about every 6th Monday at the TCWP office at the Oak Ridge First Presbyterian Church at 7:00 p.m. for about an hour. Soon the committee will begin planning to celebrate TCWP’s 50th anniversary, which is officially September 2016 (see the anniversary logo on our

At TCWP, we're counting our blessings.

There are so many things for which we're grateful:

Smart, involved members and volunteers
For writing and calling officials about important issues
For help with invasive plant removal, trail maintenance,
Newsletter preparation and informational programs,
For our many members and donors who believe in our work,
For the kind and inclusive community that TCWP is.



Particular thanks go to
Charlie Klabunde, TCWP Treasurer
1972-2014

Charlie has managed TCWP funds, membership records, office supply purchases, mailing lists and label creation. He has handled the required reports to IRS and other agencies. There were regular financial reports to the Board of Directors. Thank you, Charlie, for your years of dedicated service to Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning and for taking care of wild places. TCWP has benefitted greatly over the years from your dedicated service.

Thank you, Tim Bigelow, for stepping up to take on the Treasurer responsibilities and the transition details involved.

YOU AND YOUR GUEST ARE INVITED

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

HOLIDAY PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014

7:00—9:30

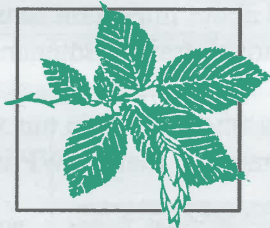
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Coming Events

TCWP's 2014 Board of Directors

Jimmy GrotonPresident
Tim Bigelow Vice President
Carol Grametbauer.....Secretary
Charlie KlabundeTreasurer
Mark Bevelhimer..... Director
Mary Lynn Dobson Director
Frank Hensley..... Director
Larry Pounds Director
Liane (Lee) Russell..... Director
Michele Thornton Director
Warren Webb Director
Sandra Goss ... Executive Director

Dec. 8, Mon.	TCWP Program Committee Meeting
Dec. 11, Thurs.	TCWP Holiday Party
Jan. 17, Sat.	Whites Creek Cleanup
Feb. 12, Thurs.	E-Mammal—Learn about creatures in the Night
Feb. 21, Sat.	Alley Ford sect. Cumberland Trail Cleanup
Mar. 7, Sat.	Spring Cedar Barren Cleanup
Mar 28, Sat.	Obed River Cleanup from rafts
April 11, Sat.	Big South Fork River Cleanup from rafts Tour and Garlic Mustard Pull at Wildflower Greenway
April 25, Sat.	Earth Day Oak Ridge