



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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-
1. **Obed, Big South Fork, Emory Watershed** p. 3
 - A. Proposed removal of water from Obed
 - B. Wild & Scenic Rivers Act celebrated at Obed
 - C. 12-year olds go backpacking in BSNRRA
 - D. Crooked Fork Stream Restoration Project
 - E. Obed species list
 2. **Tennessee news** p. 4
 - A. Environmental Scorecard
 - B. New bottle-bill campaign: TennCan
 - C. Wetlands in Flat Fork Valley
 - D. Stream-mitigation guidelines being revised
 - E. New Frozen Head Manager
 - F. New trail to Virgin Falls
 - G. Norris Dam SP Plan
 3. **Public lands** p. 6
 - A. Major bills for Lame Duck session: (1) LWCF; (2) Maintenance backlog
 - B. National Monuments belong to all Americans, not just Utah residents
 4. **Other national issues** p. 6
 - A. The midterm election: outlook for environmental legislation
 - B. Ballot initiatives
 - C. Endangered Species Act: Bad and good news
 - D. Forest Service needs to recognize real purpose of Wilderness Act
 5. **Climate change; Energy** p. 7
 - A. Prospects have worsened for controlling global warming
 - B. And a new study of oceans makes prospects even worse
 - C. Carbon taxes: none enacted in USA, but Canada is getting there
 - D. Climate-change capsules
 6. **Oak Ridge Reservation** p. 8
 - A. Bicycle use in the BORCE incompatible with conservation values
 - B. DOE proposes new landfill in Bear Creek Valley
 7. **The state of TCWP, 2018** p. 9
 8. **TCWP news** (Upcoming and recent activities; TCWP is hiring; Jo Ann Garrett; Thanks; In the news) . . p.10
 9. **Jobs; Calendar; Resources** p. 12
 10. **ACTION SUMMARY** ... p. 2

Taking Care of Wild Places

The BIG stories

Proposal to remove water from Obed WSR ¶1A

Bottle-bill initiative for TN Legislature ¶2B

LWCF, NPS maintenance backlog to Lame Duck ... ¶3A

Election returns improve environmental outlook¶4A

Ocean study worsens global-warming outlook ..¶5B

New landfill proposed for Bear Creek Valley ¶6B

10. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
2A	General Assembly	Your TN legislators	"Your constituents care about the environment!"
2B	Bottle bill	Marge Davis (TennCan)	"Please suggest timely actions in support of bill!"
3A	Public Lands bills	Your Members of Congress	"Support LWCF reauthorization, maintenance backlog bill!"
6B	Landfill in Bear Creek Valley	DOE	"Consider better alternatives!"

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To call any rep. or senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772.
 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.

You can find contact information in our Political Guide. It's on TCWP's website (<http://www.tcwp.org>), as are some current "take action" alerts
You can also choose to receive e-lets 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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1. OBED, BIG SOUTH FORK, and EMORY WATERSHED

1A. Yet another water removal proposed for Obed headwaters

The Crab Orchard Utility District (COUD), one of Cumberland County's five utility districts, has proposed installation of a raw water intake on Daddys Creek, upstream of the Obed WSR boundary. The proposed water basin would have a dam 60 ft. high and 1000 ft. long, with a retention area of 36.4 acres – a pretty major reservoir.

Déjà vu. For about two decades, TCWP has been fighting repeated attempts to withdraw water from the Obed. Crossville sits essentially at the upper end of watersheds and seeks its water supply from lower down in these watersheds. At the same time, Cumberland County has been identified among the state's top 10 counties for projected growth rate. We lost the fight against COUD's present water source, the Otter Creek Reservoir (which dams a sizeable Obed River tributary), and against a more minor reservoir on a Daddy's Creek tributary.

The current COUD proposal closely resembles one made in the summer of 2013, though that previous one involved water storage in an existing quarry, rather than impoundment by a dam. We won actions on a couple of water-supply solutions. One was the county's use of Crossville's Meadow Park Lake (*not* in the Obed watershed), which can supply 3.5 million gallons per day. The other was a Corps of Engineers study to identify long-term solutions. Five actions were recommended by that study: (a) expanding capacity of water-treatment plants; (b) removing pipe constraints; (c) expanding Lake Holiday service area; (d) relaxing institutional constraints; (e) raising Meadow Park Lake Dam. Of these, (e) has been implemented.

We believe that water-supply problems should *never* be solved with Wild & Scenic Rivers or Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRWs). By Sec. 7(a) of the WSR Act, the National Park Service (NPS) must determine whether the project will "unreasonably diminish" the Park's scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values. There are clear concerns about impacts on five federally listed species that are found *downstream* from the project. Deleterious impacts on these species could result from alterations in flow, entrainment and/or mortality at the intake structure, and possibly other factors.

There are additional concerns about the new COUD proposal. Who would make sure that water is harvested only at specified stream flows, or at specified volumes, as promised? Besides, regardless of the harvesting threshold, it seems likely that there could be damage to the watershed at all flows. The seasonal high flows are essential to the ecology of the river corridor. This proposed project could very well set a precedent that encourages water withdrawals from other parts of the watershed.

TCWP, with sister organizations, is keeping a watch on this situation to determine what actions might be appropriate and timely. Between Newsletters, keep checking our website (www.tcwp.org) for action suggestions, or sign up for e-lets on the website.

1B. Obed Wild & Scenic River celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act

On October 2, the NPS staff at the Obed Wild and Scenic River Visitor Center put on a fine celebration for the 50th anniversary of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. Entertainment was provided by part of the Morgan County High School band and, later, a Country and Bluegrass musical group. After Superintendent Niki Nicholas welcomed the attendees, Ranger Joe Zagorski presented a fine account of the history of the Act and of the current state of the WSR program. A couple of Wild & Scenic River films were shown, and an appropriately decorated cake was served.

The roughly three dozen attendees included TCWP founder Lee Russell, TCWP Executive Director, Sandra Goss, some folks who had participated in the struggle to protect the Obed (Reid Gryder, Juanita Guinn), NPCA Senior Regional Director Don Barger, and long-time paddler Billy Bob Scarborough.

The National WSR System currently includes segments of 209 rivers, protecting 12,754 miles in 40 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (the Obed, designated in Oct. 1976, was one of the earliest). This may sound like a lot, but it actually represents just a little more than 0.25% of the nation's rivers. By comparison, more than 75,000 large dams across the country have modified at least 600,000 miles, or about 17% (could actually be more than 20%) of American rivers.

The Obed staff have presented TCWP with a lovely framed Obed poster. The signatures of all of them were around the margins. Thank you!!!

1C. 12-year-olds go backpacking in BSFNRA

John Beard, science teacher at Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge, recently took 16 seventh and eighth graders on a three-day, two-night backpacking trip through the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Among the many places they hiked were the Twin Arches and Charit Creek Lodge.

TCWP was very pleased to be able to help with this project by funding a scholarship and paying for the purchase of two backpacks. In a thank-you message, John Beard wrote: "Our students are the next generation of conservationists. To this end there is nothing more powerful than spending quality time in the woods to mold a student's love for and desire to preserve and protect our natural world." Quite a few of the students also wrote – a paragraph for most, a poem for one.

1D *Construction begins on Crooked Fork Stream Restoration Project*

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

After months of delays, construction began in mid-October to restore and stabilize a 575-foot section of Crooked Fork. The project team includes Emory River Watershed Association, Obed Watershed Community Association, and Lynn Bumgardner. OWCA Executive Director Dennis Gregg designed and oversaw the restoration project and Lynn Bumgardner operated the heavy equipment needed to restore a natural meandering pattern to the creek and reshape the banks to reconnect the creek with its historic floodplain. The restored channel will also protect a 10-acre wetland mitigation area restored several years ago by Lynn. Work to restore the stream is presently about 70% complete. Next steps are to fine-tune the restored area and complete planting with native riparian trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. After completion of construction, planting, and streambank stabilization, ERWA will monitor the restored area to ensure that the restoration is successful. In addition to protecting the wetlands mitigation area and reducing sediment loading to Crooked Fork, ERWA and OWCA hope to use the restored site as a demonstration to show other landowners in the Crooked Fork watershed how stream restoration can reduce soil erosion and improve water quality on their own property.

1E. *Obed species list is growing*

[From NPS's Obed e-Newsletter]

Continuing work on species identification for the Obed WSR last year led to the addition of 16 more species of plants. Among these are Elliott's Bluestem, red chokeberry, purple chokeberry, sand milkweed, long-leaved panic grass, lobed coreopsis, common ground-pine, and galax.

2. TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. *The 2018 Environmental Scorecard*

Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV), dedicated to protecting Tennessee's environment through effective legislative advocacy, has issued its 2018 Scorecard for the General Assembly at www.tnconservationvoters.org. TCV has a dozen member organizations, of which TCWP is one. During the legislative sessions (the next one starts January 8, 2019), TCV issues roughly weekly e-mail updates at the above website to keep us well informed, so that our message and impact on legislation can be more successful.

In summarizing the past year, the Scorecard characterizes 2018 as "not an easy year, though some of the worst bills were stopped, delayed, or significantly modified." Not included among these rescued bills was one on stripmine primacy. After years of unsuccessful effort, the coal lobby finally succeeded in making the state of Tennessee, instead of the federal government, be the enforcer of stripmine control regulations developed under the 1977 federal law.

As in past Scorecards, TCV recognizes legislators with the best voting and sponsorship records. In the House, these are: Akbari (D-91), Cooper (D-86), DeBerry (D-90), Fitzhugh (D-82), Powell (D-53), Turner (D-85), Gilmore (D-54), Hardaway (D-93), Love (D-58), Stewart (D52). In the Senate, they are: Harris (D-29), Yarbrow (D-21), Dickerson (R-20), Kyle (D-30), Norris (R-32).

Important note, after the midterm: In terms of party composition, the numbers remain the same for the Senate, 28 Republicans and 5 Democrats. In the House, there are now 74 Republicans and 25 Democrats, a net gain of one Democrat. Overall, however, there was a sizeable turnover in the House due primarily to retirements. In Tennessee, newly elected legislators are officially in office *as of their election*. We hope to bring you the new list soon.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Send a polite e-mail to your legislators (see Political Guide, except for those newly elected on Nov. 6), letting them know that you care about the environment. Regardless of their past voting record, they need to know that their constituents care.

2B. *Last Round? Why 2019 might be the year for a Tennessee Bottle Bill*

[By Marge Davis, TennCan coordinator]

For more than a decade now, TCWP has been part of the grassroots effort to save resources, reduce litter, and boost recycling via a Tennessee "bottle bill"—a 5-cent deposit on glass, plastic and aluminum beverage containers, with returns to redemption centers.

As we've prepared a draft bill for the 2019 legislative session, these central goals haven't changed. Also unchanged is Tennessee's low recycling rate. For beverage containers, it's still just 10%, compared to the 80% we expect under TennCan.

What has changed for 2019, in addition to our name, our website and our cool new bottle-cap logo (a big "T"), are these key things:

- Downturn in recycling economics. Due to stagnant recycling rates, high levels of contamination in curbside bins, China's ban on dirty bales, and unusually low commodity prices, recycling programs in Tennessee and elsewhere are costing more and earning less. (Bottle bills are largely unaffected by these conditions.)
- Continued high demand for clean feedstock. US manufacturers are increasingly frustrated by contaminated or limited scrap supplies, leading some to call publicly for new bottle bills.
- Middle Point landfill's pending closure. Rutherford County's decision not to extend the life of Middle Point has underscored the need to take recycling seriously.
- Plastics water pollution. Turns out the Tennessee River has the highest concentration of surface microplastics of any tested river in the world: 16,000 particles per cubic meter. The Rhine River has just 200. Even the legendarily dirty Yangtze in China has just 9,000. Can you say "litter"?

- A surge in new programs. Since 2016, nine new jurisdictions globally, from England and Scotland to Jamaica to Maharashtra State in India, have begun implementing deposit-return. This brings the total worldwide to at least 54, representing nearly a half-billion people.
- Bottlers' changing attitudes. Between stagnant recycling rates, ocean plastics, public pressure and their own ambitious recycling goals, bottlers around the world are starting to rethink their decades-old opposition to deposits. In Great Britain, a pending deposit-return "scheme" has the strong support of both Coca-Cola and Nestle Waters as well as three major grocery chains. "11 Key Principles for a Well-Designed DRS," produced by Coca-Cola Great Britain and Coca-Cola European Partners, mirrors almost exactly the bill proposed for Tennessee.
- Emphasis on nonprofits. Deposit-return programs have always been a boon for good causes, but TennCan 2019 takes that a step further, by requiring that every redemption center in the state either be a nonprofit, or have at least one nonprofit "buddy" to benefit from bottle drives, say, or donation bins. With more than 4 billion cans and bottles consumed in Tennessee annually, we can expect \$8 million a year in donated refunds alone. And that doesn't count revenue earned at nonprofit redemption centers. (Under TennCan, redemption centers earn scrap revenue, supplemented by a 1.6¢-per-container overhead allowance that comes out of the reserves of unclaimed deposits plus a bottlers fee of 3/4¢ per container. Average gross earnings, assuming 500 redemption centers, an 80% redemption rate and 2018 scrap prices, should be roughly \$175,000 a year.)

These factors all help, but the key to passage is mobilizing ground troops (see box below).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: You can help TennCan by calling legislators, talking to nonprofits, getting business endorsements, etc. Please go to www.tnbottlebill.org to sign up, or contact Marge Davis (615-294-2651; marge@tnbottlebill.org) for more immediate marching orders.

2C. Proposed expansion of Heraeus Metals would affect wetlands in Flat Fork valley

According to an October-9 notice by the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Heraeus Metals facility, located on H'way 62 near the corner of the road leading to Frozen Head State Park, proposes an extensive expansion. The project includes filling 2.28 acres of wetlands and encapsulating 992 linear feet of stream channel. Heraeus would have to implement an on-site mitigation plan that increases stream channels and replaces impacted wetlands.

The impacted streams and wetlands flow into the section of Flat Fork restored by the Tennessee Stream Mitigation Program several years ago. Flat Fork, which rises in the Frozen Head State Natural Area, is still listed as an Impaired Water on the 303(d) list.

The large new Heraeus buildings would nearly surround the veterinary clinic owned by Linda James (formerly, TCWP executive director Linda LaForest). The construction activities are likely to have an adverse effect on the well-being of her animal patients and on the ability of her clients to access the clinic. The view of the clinic will be obstructed by the buildings in front of it, making it harder for new clients to find Linda's practice. All in all, the project threatens to devalue her property interest and the sustainability of her livelihood.

2D. Stream-mitigation guidelines being revised

Where permits for unavoidable impacts to aquatic habitats result in an appreciable permanent loss of stream resource values, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) requires compensatory mitigation to offset those resource losses. TDEC's Division of Water Resources is now proposing to update the mitigation guidelines, which were last published in 2004. The public notice ("Revised Stream Mitigation Guidelines, and the Mitigation Debit Tool") may be downloaded from the Division's [Public Participation Opportunities](http://www.tn.gov/publicparticipationopportunities) website. To provide additional information, TDEC has arranged a Videoconference presentation on December 11, starting at 2:00p.m. ET (1p.m. CT), at all their Environmental Field Offices, including the Knoxville office at 3711 Middlebrook Pike. Comments may be e-mailed by January 10 to water.permits@tn.gov.

2E. Frozen Head State Park Welcomes New Manager

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

Frozen Head State Park formally welcomed its new Manager, Jacob Ingram, on Saturday, Oct. 13, at the 2nd annual Stonecipher-Kelly Homecoming celebration. Jacob has served with Tennessee State Parks for several years. While attending college, he worked as a seasonal ranger at Henry Horton State Park. He began his career with State Parks in 2005 with the Chief Rangers Office, and later became a Ranger at Tims Ford State Park. He has also held Ranger positions at Natchez Trace State Park and, most recently, at the Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail State Park. Jacob literally grew up in Tennessee's State Parks; his dad is the park manager at Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

TCWP has worked closely with Jacob for the past several years. He has collaborated with us in coordinating trail work on the Alley Ford section of the Cumberland Trail at the Obed. We look forward to working with him at Frozen Head.

(Note: Anyone interested in the new, active citizens' group, *Friends of Frozen Head*, can contact Lucinda Burnham -- ranger1172@yahoo.com.)

2F. Increased hiking access for Virgin Falls

[Info from TPGF's *The Conserver*, vol.2(3)]

A 582-acre land acquisition, earlier this year, by the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation and partners (NL340 ¶2A iii), in addition to expanding two protected areas, has allowed the creation of a new 9-mile trail to Virgin Falls. This new trail from Lost Creek State Natural Area begins at Rylander Cascades and connects to the western boundary of the heavily traveled Virgin Falls trail. Along the way, hikers can experience beautiful views of the Dry Creek Headwaters property overlooking Big Bottom and the Caney Fork River.

2G. Norris Dam State Park Business Plan

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

In recent weeks, on a staggered schedule, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation has held public meetings at several state parks to update each park's management plan. The current and proposed plans can be viewed through this link: <https://tnstateparks.com/about/planning-process>.

Public comments on the proposed plans will be accepted 30 days from the date of each park's public meeting. This writer attended the public meeting for Norris Dam State Park. Several Park personnel were on hand for the meeting, at which retiring Park Superintendent Mark Norris spoke about maintenance efforts on the original cabins. The old Tea Room is well-used by wedding parties and other events.

When asked about possible development adjacent to the Park, the park folks said they didn't know of any such projects at this time.

and renewable energy operations that are not already allocated by law to other programs; they would direct 50% of these available, unobligated receipts to the fund — up to \$1.3 billion a year.

It is left for the Lame Duck session to get HR.6510 passed by the full House, and to get the two bills reconciled by a conference committee and then passed by both Houses of Congress.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your members of Congress to strongly support reauthorization of the Land & Water Conservation Fund. Your Congressman should also support Maintenance Backlog bill, HR.6510 (see NL341 ¶5B).

3B. National monuments belong to all Americans, not just Utah residents

[Information from Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, 10/5/18]

Aware that President Trump's drastic reduction of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments was more likely to be viewed favorably in the state of Utah than anywhere else, the Administration took steps to move critical decision making to that state. Earlier this year, Trump's Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a motion to transfer legal challenges from federal district court in Washington, D.C. to the federal court in Utah, arguing that that these cases dealt largely with local issues.

A few weeks ago, however, Judge Tanya Chutkan rejected those arguments and decided that the cases address issues of *national* interest and importance, and thus should remain in D.C. The lands in question belong to *all* Americans; and the Tribes of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition (which is also challenging Trump's actions) have a government-to-government relationship with the United States.

Judge Chutkan also ruled that the federal government must notify the plaintiffs before allowing any ground-disturbing activities (like mining or claimed road "improvements") within the monuments' original boundaries.

3. PUBLIC LANDS

3A. Two major public lands measures headed for the Lame Duck session

(1) The Land and Water Conservation Fund expired at the end of September, but reauthorization bills passed out of both Senate and House committees before the Congress went on pre-election recess (NL341 ¶5A). The Senate bill, sponsored by Sen. Cantwell (D-WA) would not only permanently reauthorize the LWCF, but would also provide \$900 million annually in dedicated funding into perpetuity. The House bill, HR.502, is sponsored by Rep. Grijalva (D-AZ), who will be committee chair come January.

(2) Legislation addressing the huge maintenance backlog in national parks and other public lands (NL341 ¶5B) also had not been completed by the time the Congress went on recess. The Restore Our Parks Act, of which Tennessee's Sen. Alexander is a sponsor, had passed the Senate, and a companion House bill, HR.6510, had been marked up by committee. Both bills would fund the maintenance through revenues the government receives from on-shore, off-shore,

4. OTHER NATIONAL ISSUES

4A. The midterm election: outlook for environmental legislation

[Based on post-election analyses by League of Conservation Voters and others]

- **U.S House.** 42 new pro-environment representatives were elected, including Sharice Davids (KS-03), Colin Allred (TX-32), Angie Craig (MN-02), and Sean Casten (IL-06). 8 out of 13 Dirty Dozen candidates were defeated. (These numbers could change slightly, since a few races have not yet been finally settled.) Rob Bishop's chairmanship of the House Resources Committee has ended; he will probably be replaced by public-lands champion Raul Grijalva (D-AZ).

- **Governors.** At least 10 new green governors were elected, including Janet Mills, a clean-energy champion who ran a pro-environment campaign to defeat climate denier Shawn Moody in Maine, and Tony Evers, who ran on clean water as a key part of his platform and beat Scott Walker in Wisconsin. Other pro-environmental governors elected include Jared Polis (CO), Steve Sisolak (NV), J.B. Pritzker (IL), Ned Lamont (CT), and Gretchen Whitmer (MI).
- **State legislatures.** Great gains were made in a number of state legislatures — including flipping the Colorado senate to be pro-environment, winning the largest pro-environment gain in the Michigan House and Senate since 1974, and securing a super environmental majority in the Nevada assembly. LCV reports that 10 out of 12 Dirty Dozen in-the-States candidates were defeated.)

Opportunities and risks loom with the coming lame duck session. Republicans may redouble efforts to do all the damage they can (e.g., to the Endangered Species Act) before losing power in the House. It is to be hoped that the election results will embolden Democratic leadership to block bad legislation.

4B. Ballot initiatives

There were mixed results for ballot initiatives. The most disappointing failure was that of Washington State's carbon tax proposal (see ¶5C, this NL). Also defeated were Colorado's oil and natural-gas drilling restrictions and Arizona's renewable-energy mandate, similar to one that passed in Nevada (see below). The one thing all these measures had in common was record-setting amounts of money spent to defeat them --\$31 million by a handful of oil companies.

On the plus side of the ledger was a win for Nevada's renewable energy mandate, which will require electric utilities to produce 50% of their electricity from wind and solar by 2030 (up from current requirements of 25% by 2025). Another win was the defeat of an initiative that would have repealed California's fuel tax.

4C. Endangered Species Act: bad and good news

The Trump Administration had earlier proposed three major rules changes that would essentially dismantle the 1973 Endangered Species Act, ESA (see NL 341 ¶6B). Now, two additionally disastrous rules changes are being proposed.

One would preclude the designation of critical habitat in areas that are not currently occupied by a species listed for protection under the act. The other would curtail the presently required consultation with the agencies charged with implementing the ESA for projects (mining, logging, etc.) that might harm species listed under the Act.

In addition to the Administration, House Republicans are gunning for the ESA. No fewer than nine bills have been introduced to amend it.

But here is some good news. On September 24, U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen struck down the Trump Administration's decision to remove the Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear from the Endangered Species list, reinstating federal protection for the bear. Trophy hunts are not just postponed — they're off for good. The judge cited the lack of scientific evidence for delisting the bears.

4D. US Forest Service needs to recognize real purpose of Wilderness Act

[Based on information from the *Wilderness Watch's* Fall newsletter]

Through several recent actions, the US Forest Service has given evidence that it views designated Wilderness solely through the lens of recreational users. This may be because most of the interactions they have are with members of specific user groups concerned with access to wilderness for their particular use, e.g., horseback riding, climbing, goat packing, trail running, etc. Access for a particular use or activity becomes the focus, rather than the opportunity to experience wilderness. Howard Zahniser, the author of the Wilderness Act, said, "The purpose of the Wilderness Act is to preserve the wilderness character of the areas to be included in the Wilderness System, not to establish any particular use."

5. CLIMATE CHANGE; ENERGY

5A. Prospects have worsened for controlling global warming

[Based on report in the *Washington Post*, 10/7/18]

A recent, thoroughly peer-reviewed, report by the U.N.'s IPPC (International Panel on Climate Change), concludes that chances for reaching the goals of the 2015 Paris agreement look increasingly slim. To avoid racing past warming of 1.5°C (= 2.7°F) over preindustrial levels, the world's annual CO₂ emissions which amount to more than 40 billion tons per year) would have to be on an extremely steep downward path by 2030. But, as of 2018, emissions appeared to be still rising (¶5D, below). We're already at 1°C; and 2°C of warming would be catastrophic.

Reductions in emissions in the next decade would probably need to be more than 1 billion tons per year, larger than the current emissions of all but a few of the very largest emitting countries. According to the executive director of UNEP (U.N. Environment Program), the need to either stop emissions entirely by 2050 or find some way to remove as much CO₂ from the air as humans put there "means net zero must be the new global mantra."

5B. And a new study of oceans makes prospects even worse

A recent study by Princeton scientists (Resplandy et al., *Nature* 563:105–108 [2018]) uses measurements of atmospheric oxygen (O₂) and carbon dioxide (CO₂) as a whole-ocean thermometer. Levels of these gases increase

as the ocean warms and releases gases. This approach allowed researchers to recheck the contested history of ocean temperatures in a different way. For past decades, ocean heat uptake has been quantified by using hydrographic temperature measurements from the same imperfect ocean dataset (prior to 2007, differing types of temperature records — and an overall lack of them — contributed to murkiness about how quickly the oceans were heating up.) The new data suggest that ocean warming is at the high end of previous estimates.

The difference represents an enormous amount of additional energy, the yearly amount representing more than eight times the world's annual energy consumption. More heat in the oceans signals that the planet warmed more than had been thought. It was hidden from us just because it wasn't sampled right.

The oceans absorb more than 90% of the excess energy trapped within the world's atmosphere. The world's oceans also absorb more than a quarter of the CO₂ emitted annually from human activities — an effect making them more acidic and threatening fragile ecosystems.

The world could have a smaller "carbon budget" than once thought. That budget refers to the amount of CO₂ humans can emit while still being able to keep warming below dangerous levels.

5C. Carbon taxes: none enacted in USA so far, but Canada is getting there

(1) Back in late July, GOP Rep. Carlos Curbelo (FL-26) introduced an innovative bill, the Market Choice Act, to fund American infrastructure that would *also* cut carbon pollution. It requires that companies pay when they pollute, allowing flexibility to choose how best to cut climate pollution, while creating incentives to invest and innovate in clean technologies. Unique for a carbon tax bill, it establishes clear and measurable pollution-reduction goals. To date, no progress has been reported for this bill. (Post-midterm note: Curbelo's apparent concern for the climate did not help get re-elected.)

(2) In the midterm election just past, Initiative 1631, the Carbon Emissions Fee Measure, was on the ballot in Washington State. It would enact a carbon-emissions fee of \$15 per metric ton of carbon beginning on January 1, 2020, with an annual fee increase of \$2 annually until the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals are met. The revenue would be used, under oversight of a public board, to reduce pollution, promote clean energy, and address climate impacts. This initiative, attacked with the aid of much fossil-fuel money, was defeated 56%:44% (returns still incomplete). Are carbon taxes not politically viable in the United States?

(3) As recently announced by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, carbon fee and dividend will be the default policy for pricing carbon in Canada. The policy is a backstop to cover the four provinces — Ontario, Saskatchewan,

Manitoba and New Brunswick — that have not initiated carbon pricing policies of their own. Nearly half of Canada's population lives in these provinces. The plan will assess a fee on carbon starting at \$20 per ton and increasing \$10 per ton each year until it reaches \$50 in 2022. Revenue from the fee will be returned to households.

5D. Climate-change capsules

- After remaining flat for three years, total global CO₂ emissions in 2017 rose by 1.4%, hitting record levels and dashing hopes that they had peaked. Now, according to the International Energy Agency's Executive Director, energy sector carbon emissions — which account for 80% of total global emissions — will rise again in 2018.
- Earlier this year, the City of New York became the first U.S. city to commit to divesting its pension funds from fossil fuels. Subsequently, Mayor de Blasio pledged to go further by investing \$4 billion of NYC's pension funds in climate solutions: "renewable energy to power the planet and ensure our collective survival." If the 50 largest pension funds in the U.S. would join New York by investing 2% of their assets in climate solutions, it would finance enough new solar energy to power half the homes in America.
- A bill before the District of Columbia's Council aims to use entirely renewable sources of energy for the city's power grid by 2032. Under its existing policy, the city is on track to get 50% of its energy from renewable sources by 2032. The bill must pass two committees before going to the full Council. D.C. could be directly harmed by climate change, experiencing dangerously hot summers and floods from the Potomac and Anacostia, both tidal rivers that would be affected by sea-level rise.
- California is working to supply 50% of residents' electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

6. OAK RIDGE RESERVATION

6A. Bicycle use in the BORCE incompatible with conservation values

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

In mid-October, the TWRA Office of General Counsel contacted the City of Oak Ridge regarding bicycle use on hiking trails in the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement. TWRA (Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency) reminded the City that the BORCE management plan expressly prohibits bicycle use on hiking trails, and that any land-use decisions at the BORCE can only be made by TWRA, TDEC, and DOE. TWRA indicated that they planned to take steps to prevent bicycle use on unauthorized trails and unauthorized trail construction of any type.

TWRA also reminded the City that their, and TDEC's, personnel have reached out to the cycling community in the past to request that they cease using the hiking trail, but the use has continued. To that end, TWRA personnel will place appropriate signage on the BORCE to alert the public that the

use of bicycles off established roadways is illegal, and inconsistent with the intent of the conservation easement granted by DOE.

TWRA plans to begin enforcement details to deter individuals from cycling on unauthorized trails. Wildlife law enforcement officers will warn first offenders, and any repeat offenders discovered will be cited. Violations of TWRA's rule constitute a class-B misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$500 and/or imprisonment up to six months.

6B. DOE proposes new landfill in Bear Creek Valley

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

On November 7, the Department of Energy presented plans to construct a new Environmental Management Disposal Facility in Bear Creek Valley. DOE claims they need the new facility to dispose of legacy waste associated with the cleanup and demolition of older buildings at Y-12 and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Many attendees were skeptical of DOE's plans for a variety of reasons.

1. This landfill is outside the bounds of areas that are already dedicated to waste management. Its establishment will increase that dedicated area by more than 70 acres.
2. This landfill is being treated as a Superfund cleanup action, not a landfill, so it would not be required to comply with the normal environmental regulations for landfills
3. DOE would not be seeking a new landfill if the space in the existing disposal facility had been used responsibly.
4. DOE will not release the Waste Acceptance Criteria for the new landfill.
5. Receiving waste from ORNL and mercury waste from Y-12, this landfill would introduce contaminants into the watershed of Bear Creek that aren't part of the contaminant burden currently in that watershed.

Better options exist in the form of commercial disposal sites in Utah, west Texas, and Nevada that are licensed for these wastes, have capacity to accept them, are in arid settings far more suitable for waste management, and are already destined to become the legal responsibility of DOE after they are closed.

DOE's claim that onsite, unlike offsite, disposal is protective of health and environment in the short term, is based on a specious argument. DOE's scenario that people could die from traffic collisions during transport to a western site is based on assumed long-distance transport by truck, when it's acknowledged that the waste would go by rail.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Oak Ridge was promised a cleanup, not a new waste site on clean land. There are better alternatives that DOE should consider. By December 10, send comments to john.japp@orem.doe.gov, or John Japp, DOE Oak Ridge Operations, P.O. Box 2001, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-2001.

7. The STATE OF TCWP, 2018

[By Mark Bevelhimer, TCWP President]

2018 has been a busy and productive year for TCWP. Our members were involved in a variety of service activities, outings, and educational outreach. Working directly or indirectly with the National Park Service, TCWP contributed to the addition of over a hundred acres to the Obed Wild and Scenic River.

Service activities included:

- Whites Creek Trail Maintenance
- River cleanup on the Obed River
- Garlic Mustard Pull & Wildflower Walk
- Alley Ford Cumberland Trail Workday
- Spring Cedar Barrens Weed Wrangle
- Summer Cedar Barren Cleanup
- National Public Lands Day Cleanup at Worthington Cemetery ESA
- Obed Citizen Scientist Water Sampling Program (OWSR-TCWP Grant)

Group outings included:

- Frozen Head Wildflower Pilgrimage
- Search for the Hog Plum in Flower
- Whippoorwill Outing
- National Trails Day hike on North Ridge Trail
- Discover Life in America BioBlitz at Worthington Cemetery
- Fall Flowers of Daddy's Creek Cobble Bars
- Three Bends Canoe Outing

Educational outreach hosted or co-hosted by TCWP included:

- "Freshwater Mussels in the Clinch and Powell Rivers" presented by Steve Ahlstedt, USGS (retired)
- Screening of "Bringing Nature Home" co-hosted with the UT Arboretum Society
- "The Songs of the Trees" presented by David Haskell, author
- "Climate Change: Past, Present, and Future" presented by Peter Thornton, ORNL
- Kids in the Creek Event at Devils Breakfast Table – Daddy's Creek
- "Discover Life in America" presented by Todd Witcher

Partners - We are especially proud of the opportunity to partner with so many other great organizations this year including the UT Arboretum Society, Tennessee Native Plant Society, National Park Service - Obed Wild & Scenic River, Tennessee Valley Authority, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Emory River Watershed Association, Obed Watershed Community Association, East Tennessee Whitewater Club, and Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation.

Land Acquisition – Several years ago TCWP's generous members responded to a fundraising appeal with enough money to purchase 19 acres of prime land, known as the Sample property, within the Obed WSR boundaries. This year

we sold that land to the NPS and transferred other acreage that we acquired with Tennessee Grants funding. These latest property transfers bring to more than 600 acres the total area of several tracts brought under Obed WSR protection in past years through actions of TCWP and its members. We have come quite a bit closer to the goal of conserving all acres (approximately 5000) inside the boundaries established by Congress in the authorizing legislation, but we're not there yet.

Persistence pays off – Projects that TCWP has been supporting for some time came to fruition this year. The \$1.3 trillion omnibus bill that was passed March 22 in order to prevent a government shut-down (after Congress was unable to pass the 2018 appropriations) contains funding for land acquisition in TCWP's backyard; appropriations for the Obed WSR are \$810,000 and for the Big South Fork NRR, \$217,000.

8. TCWP NEWS

8A. Upcoming activities

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

[NOTE: Times listed for all events are Eastern Time, unless specified otherwise.]

TCWP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 13

This annual event, one of our most popular of the year, will once again be held at the home of 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 12

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. [NOTE: Carpooling is important this year because Roddy Lane, the road that leads to the Whites Creek parking area from the highway, is currently closed, and parking is much more limited than usual.]

We plan to spend three or four hours at the site, but volunteers may come and go as they wish. 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.

8B. Recent events

Fall Flowers of Daddy's Creek Cobble Bars - Saturday, September 15

[Contributed by Larry Pounds]

The last of our three joint outings with the Tennessee Native Plant Society this year, with eight participants, was an adventure that combined asters, goldenrods and the glorious rocks and rushing waters of Daddy's Creek.

We were able to get a peek at the Devil's Breakfast Table from the parking area; there will be a full view after the leaves fall. The "table" is an enormous rock sitting atop a thirtyish-foot pillar of stone. It appears to be ready to fall any second, as it is well off-center.

The cobble bars were the prime places to find the fall flowers. Unfortunately, though we found some soapwort gentians, they were not yet mature enough to have their full deep-blue color. You can never see it all—even in the case of fall flowers—with one trip!

National Public Lands Day Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® at Worthington Cemetery - Saturday, September 29

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Our annual NPLD Cleanup/Weed Wrangle, held on a pleasant sunny day (after several cloudy and rainy days in a row) was enjoyed by 15 folks. Thanks to our event partners—Manhattan Project National Historic Park and the Tennessee Valley Authority—and historic researcher and interpreter Ann Worthington, there were presentations about Elza Gate history (since the 1940s), Worthington Farm history (since ca. 1840), and invasive plants as well as desirable native ones.

Recent rains had left low areas quite marshy. A clump of invasive buckthorns was identified, and discussions are under way about how to attack this noxious invasive. Among the native plants we saw were touch-me-nots (jewelweed), prairie dock, several kinds and colors of asters, black-eyed Susans, fleabane, and rose gentian.

TCWP has for many years partnered with TVA to enhance and protect natural resources at the Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area and at other TVA lands throughout East Tennessee as part of our mutual stewardship efforts.

Our annual efforts in this area are helping to eradicate wisteria from the cemetery, and privet and other invasive exotics from the ESA.

Three Bends Canoe Outing – Saturday, October 6

[Contributed by Tim Bigelow]

On a warm early-fall day, 11 paddlers enjoyed the first of several planned canoe/kayak trips along the Three Bends area of Melton Hill Lake. The Solway Bend is a continuous string of peaceful inlets below a backdrop of western Haw Ridge.

We had sunny weather, and saw a few birds and a hint of fall colors on the trip. A lunch-break stop was made in a shady cove near the historic EGFR building. The group took out at the Pumphouse Road cove, where we plan to begin a Freels Bend trip in the spring.

Norris Watershed Hike – Saturday, October 20

October 20 started out rainy, and no one met at either the Oak Ridge carpool site or the Norris Elementary meeting spot, so this year's hike—one of an annual series exploring the network of forest roads and single-track trails in the Norris Municipal Watershed—was called off. We're hoping for better luck next year!

TCWP Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 27

More than 30 people turned out for our 52nd annual meeting, held this year at the Fairfield Glade Library near Crossville. Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner, Dr. Shari Meghreblian, was our keynote speaker.

Dr. Meghreblian, who was named TDEC Commissioner in 2017, outlined her career in environmental science and noted that in her current position she tries to take a pragmatic, science-based approach and to be transparent. She described the Tennessee H₂O Water Plan—a draft plan comprising an assessment of water resources and recommendations to help ensure Tennessee has an abundance of water resources to support future population and economic growth—and a variety of issues important to East Tennessee, including coal mining primacy, the proposed landfill on the DOE Reservation, and land conservation.

The talk was followed by our annual business meeting, which included the election of 2019 board members and officers. TCWP President Mark Bevelhimer presented a “State of TCWP” report (§7, this NL), describing the past year's service activities, outings and programs, land acquisition successes, and long-term projects that came to fruition.

After a buffet lunch from Mediterranean Delight in Oak Ridge, many attendees participated in one of two afternoon hikes: an easy outing on the Library Trail, led by Larry Pounds, or a more difficult hike on the Hemlock-Good Samaritan-Rotherham Loop, led by Jan Lyons.

Fall Cedar Barren Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® – Saturday, November 3

[Contributed by Tim Bigelow]

For our third and final cleanup of the year at the Cedar Barren, we had a good turnout of 15 volunteers, including four students, on a fabulous fall day. Workers made a heroic effort at pulling several types of invasive plants that are attempting to take over the Barren; they covered a large area that included the ellipse area boundary and some of the front entrance. Students enjoyed learning about preservation efforts and using a weed wrench to pull the invasive plants up by the roots. A pizza picnic lunch was enjoyed by all after the work was finished.

Located next to Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge, the Barren—one of just a few cedar barrens in East Tennessee—is a joint project of the City of Oak Ridge, State Natural Areas Division, and TCWP. Our efforts help to eliminate invasives and other shade-producing plants that threaten the system's prairie grasses.

8C. TCWP is hiring

See ¶9, below, for a part-time position TCWP is offering. We hope you will bring this notice to the attention of any qualified person you know.

8D. We mourn the loss of Jo Ann Garrett

Jo Ann Garrett, who had generously included TCWP among the numerous organizations to which she contributed her valuable services, died on October 30. She and her husband, Ray, revived our stewardship efforts for the North Ridge Trail. A service to remember and celebrate her life will be held on December 1, 2:00 PM. at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Church; a reception will follow.

8E. Thanks, and a tip of the hat to

[compiled by Sandra Goss]



- Jean Bangham, Marion Burger, Bob Compton, Jimmy Groton, Patsy Monk, Eileen Neiler, and Lise Neiler for their help with distributing the *TCWP Newsletter*.
- Robbie Meyer of Manhattan Project National Historic Park and Angela Polly Sutton of Tennessee Valley Authority for partnering on the recent Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area at Elza Gate Park event.
- Larry Pounds and Jimmy Groton for their leadership and plant identification skills during the Worthington Cemetery cleanup.
- Tim Bigelow, Johnny Cosgrove, Jimmy Groton, Jamie Herold, and Jan Lyons for their help publicizing events.
- Patsy Monk and Lise Neiler for their help in mailing the Annual Meeting brochures.

- Tim Bigelow for his leadership of the recent Solway Bend canoe outing.
- Joe Feeman for his willingness to lead a hike on the Norris Municipal Watershed.
- Marion Burger, Jimmy Groton, and Ellen Smith for their service as the Nominating Committee this year.
- David Adler, Staci Monroe, and Ben Williams for a tour of proposed landfill sites on the Oak Ridge Reservation.
- Shari Meghreblian for speaking at the Annual Meeting.
- Jan Lyons and Larry Pounds for leading the Annual Meeting outings.
- Chair Carol Grametbauer and Program Committee Jean Bingham, Tim Bigelow, Ed Clebsch, Joe Feeman, Jimmy Groton, Jamie M. Herold, Wes James, Jan Lyons, Larry Pounds for their work organizing and implementing TCWP's outings, presentations, and other events.
- Mary Lynn Dobson, Gary Grametbauer, Johnny Cosgrove and numerous others for their help in setting up and breaking down for the Annual Meeting.
- Cathy Fugiel for her help in securing a venue for the Annual Meeting.
- TCWP officers Mark Bevelhimer, Michele Thornton, Carol Grametbauer, Tim Bigelow and directors Johnny Cosgrove, Jimmy Groton, Melanie Mayes, Larry Pounds, Lee Russell, Hannah Tippet, Warren Webb for their leadership and service.
- Tim Bigelow, Jimmy Groton, and Larry Pounds for their leadership and knowledge at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren Cleanup.
- Eileen and Lise Neiler for their generous contribution of a digital mail scale.
- Betty Glenn is quoted in a September 29 News Sentinel article about Stan Brock.
- Neil McBride wrote a letter to the editor for the September-30 News Sentinel about pre-existing conditions and health-care insurance.
- Shelley Wascom is quoted in the October 5 News Sentinel article about Brewers' Jam.
- Bob Fulcher is pictured in an October 3 (Rhea) Herald News story about the opening of a new Cumberland Trail section, Soak Creek.
- The October-4 Oak Ridger carried a letter to the editor about the Bull Run Steam Plant coal-ash storage by John Todd Waterman; there was a picture of him at the Coal Ash Storage Public Meeting in the October 8 issue.
- Kris Harris Light's presentation to Altrusa International was featured in the October 5 Oak Ridger.
- Chet Hunt wrote a column about campaign finance in the October 14 News Sentinel.
- The October 16 Oak Ridger carried Eileen Neiler's letter to the editor about walls.
- Jan Berry authored an op-ed column about nuclear power in the October 23 News Sentinel.
- Mary Headrick's October 29 News Sentinel op-ed column was about Affordable Care Act open enrollment.
- Lee Russell's oral-history interview for *Voices of the Manhattan Project* may be viewed, and the transcript read, at <https://www.manhattanprojectvoices.org/oral-histories/li-ane-russells-interview?>

8F. *Friends and members in the news*

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]

- Mick Wiest is pictured and quoted in a September 11 Oak Ridger story about an American Museum of Science and Energy sale.
- Joe Feeman wrote about his travels in the September 12, 19, 26 and October 10, 17, and 24 issues of the Norris Bulletin.
- Tom Burns was quoted in a September 20 News Sentinel article about the Oak Ridge Friendship Bell.
- Lee Russell's Letters to the Editor about Bredesen's candidacy for Senate were in the September 20 News Sentinel and the September 20 Oak Ridger.
- Betty Glenn is pictured in the September 26 Oak Ridger at a voter registration drive.
- Mary Uziel is pictured in the September 26 Oak Ridger article about a recent AAUW meeting.

9. JOB OPENING; CALENDAR; RESOURCES

.. JOB OPENING

TCWP part-time Membership Records and Outreach Coordinator

The position would have responsibilities for:

- Managing membership records on Google Sheets, regularly producing mailing labels and email address lists.
- Posting existing articles and announcements on various social media, the TCWP website, and Mailchimp.
- Coordinating snail mail communications, including 'welcome' letters and dues/support appeals.
- Keeping the website up to date (WordPress) and publicizing Action Alerts.
- Other duties, as needed.

Candidates should have good oral and written communication skills and be comfortable interacting with volunteers, representatives of other organizations, elected and appointed officials, and other people. The position is 40 hours/month and requires attending some meetings in Oak Ridge and nearby counties. Much of the work can be done from home. Needed skills: proficiency in Google sheets, Excel, Mail

RENEW TODAY!

JOIN WITH THIS FORM

Chimp, Facebook, and other social media; writing press releases, event announcements, newsletter articles; volunteer recruitment and management. Compensation will be dependent on experience. Inquiries and resumes should be sent to sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

•• CALENDAR (events and deadlines)

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

- Dec. 1, 2:00 PM – Memorial Service for Jo Ann Garrett (see ¶8C, this NL).
- Dec. 10 – Comment deadline for landfill proposal (see ¶6B, this NL).
- Dec. 13 – TCWP Holiday Party (see ¶8B, this NL).
- Jan. 10 – Comment deadline for stream-mitigation guidelines (see ¶2D, this NL).
- Jan. 12 (snow date, Jan. 19) -- Whites Creek workday (see ¶8B this NL).
- Feb.16 (snow date, Feb. 23) -- Alley Ford workday

•• RESOURCES

- Information about the US Senate – organizational chart, bibliographies, senate rules, committees, contacting the senate, etc., -- may be found at <https://www.senate.gov/general/contacting.htm>

TCWP dues year is the calendar year, Jan 1 to Dec 31. Electronic, secure contributions can be made at www.tcwp.org. Your tax deductible contribution (payable to TCWP) can be mailed to:

Tim Bigelow, Treasurer, TCWP, 10626
Forest Crest Rd., Knoxville, TN 37922

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 10 – Comment Deadline for Proposed Landfill in Oak Ridge Reservation
December 10 – TCWP Program Committee
December 13 – TCWP Holiday Party
December 20 – TCWP Board Meeting

2019:

January 12 (snow date Jan 19) – Whites Creek workday
February 16 (snow date Feb 23) – Alley Ford workday
March 2 – Spring Cedar Barren cleanup