Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning

ISSN 1089-6104

Newsletter No. 322

July 19, 2015

Taking Care of Wild Places

1. Obed and Big South Fork . . . . . p. 3
A. Obed acquisition funds: your help is needed
B. BSF climbing management
C. Climbing at the Obed WSR
D. Fracking threatens BSF and Obed
E. Dedication of crucial Clear Creek tract

2. Tennessee news . . . . . p. 4
A. Tennessee Wilderness Act Update
B. BioBlitz at Whites Creek Small Wild Area
C. Non-governmental land acquisitions
D. Opportunity for more Grassy Cove conservation
E. Frozen Head: Emory River Tract Planning Group to meet again
F. Hatchie permit bad precedent for State Scenic River System

3. TVA's latest IRP . . . . . p. 5

4. National news . . . . . p. 5
A. Battle for LWCF reauthorization
B. Endangered Species Act in grave danger
C. WOTUS rule clarifies Clean Water Act applications
D. EPA being attacked on all fronts
E. The newest national monument

5. The Knoxville area . . . . . p. 7
A. BioBlitz for Knoxville's Urban Wilderness
B. The Legacy Parks Foundation saves land
C. Urban hikes in Knoxville
D. *Climate Knoxville* group reports progress

6. The Oak Ridge area . . . . . p. 7
A Manhattan Project NHP: cultural landscapes on the ORR
B. Education about legacy contaminants on the ORR
C. New ORR birding trail
D. TWRA's Jim Evans, ORR Wildlife Manager, retires

7. TCWP NEWS (Upcoming & recent activities; Funding a summer camp; Adopters for NR Trail segments; In the news; Thanks; ED notes) . . . . . p. 9

8. Calendar. . . . . p. 11

9. ACTION SUMMARY . . . . . p. 2

The BIG stories

Help us secure Obed acquisition funds ..... ¶1A

TN Wilderness Act needs support in House ..... ¶2A

TVA's IRP weak on energy efficiency, renewables .... ¶3

LWCF must be reauthorized ..... ¶4A

Endangered Species Act In grave danger..... ¶4B

Cultural landscapes for Manhattan Project Park . ¶6A

Editor: Liane B. Russell, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. E-mail: lianerussell@comcast.net
Shaded box or star means "Action Needed." Don't be overwhelmed -- check the ACTION SUMMARY on p. 2

9. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Obed appropriation	US senators and rep.	"Support Obed appropriation!" – HIGH PRIORITY
1B	Climbing in Big South Fork	Nat'l Park Service	"Protect bluff-top, cliff-face, and -base vegetation!"
2A	Wilderness in Cherokee NF	Reps. Fleischmann, Roe	"Introduce Tennessee Wilderness Act in the House"
2D	Grassy Cove Conservation --	TennGreen	Assist fund raising for acquisition
4A	Land & Water Conservation Fund	Your Members of Congress	"Strongly support reauthorization of LWCF!"
4B	Endangered Species Act	Your Members of Congress	"Leave this crucial and successful law alone!"
4C	Waters of the United States	Your Members of Congress	"WOTUS rule is essential for protecting drinking water!"
6A	Manhattan Project NHP	Sens.Alexander, Corker; Rep Fleischmann; City Council	"Urge NPS to include cultural landscapes, such as Three Bend Area!"

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

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

The Hon. John Doe
U.S. House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Pres. Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111 (comments);
456-1414 (switchbd); Fax 456-2461
www.whitehouse.gov/contact

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Governor Bill Haslam
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243-9872
615-741-2001; Fax 615-532-9711
bill.haslam@state.tn.us

Dear Gov. Haslam
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bob Corker
Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-0566
e-mail: http://corker.senate.gov/public/
Local: 865-637-4180 (FAX 637-9886)
800 Market St., Suite 121, Knoxville 37902

Sen. Lamar Alexander:
Ph: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3398
e-mail: http://alexander.senate.gov/public/
Local: 865-545-4253 (FAX 545-4252)
800 Market St., Suite 112, Knoxville 37902

Rep. Chuck Fleischmann:
Phone: 202-225-3271
FAX: 202-225-3494
Local (O.R.): 865-576-1976
https://fleischmann.house.gov/contact-me

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.

You can find contact information in our Political Guide. It's on TCWP's website (http://www.tcwp.org), as are some current action calls.
You can also 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.

TCWP: 130 Tabor Rd., Oak Ridge, TN 37830 **President:** Jimmy Groton, 865-483-5799 (h)
Executive and Membership-Development Director: Sandra Goss, 865-583-3967. Sandra@sandrakgoss.com
Newsletter editor: Lee Russell, lianerussell@comcast.net
TCWP website: http://www.tcwp.org.

Editor's note. Just as Newsletter-writing time arrived, your editor was struck with colitis (an infected colon) that put her in the hospital for several days. After her return home this somewhat slender Newsletter was produced with the help of several contributors and with Sandra Goss's tireless assistance (thank you all!!!). We apologize for being unable to include a number of interesting items on energy and climate change.

---

1. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

1A. *Your help is needed in securing Obed acquisition funds*

Almost 40 years after its authorization, about one-fifth of the 5,000-acre Obed Wild and Scenic River is still in private hands and increasingly threatened by growing developments in the region. The last appropriation ($750,000) was ten years ago. This year, however, we have a fine chance to get some of that land acquired. President Obama's budget for FY 2016 includes funds for Obed WSR land acquisition ($1,204,000 for 451 acres). Even more remarkable, these funds are item #2 in the National Park Service's priority list of 23 items (NL320 ¶1A). The budget is essentially an Administration proposal, and the funds must now be appropriated by the Congress. We must make sure our members of Congress give their fullest support to the proposed Obed appropriation. Sen. Alexander and Rep. Fleischmann are members of the Senate and House Committees, respectively, on Appropriations, and are thus key legislators to contact. On June 5, TCWP and representatives of several sister organizations visited Sen. Corker's Knoxville office.

Everyone can help (see action box) – won't you please take just a few minutes to do so?

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Please contact your Congressman and both senators, especially Senators Alexander and Corker and Rep. Fleischmann (contact information on p.2 and in Political Guide). – E-mail, phone, or write a letter, strongly urging their support for the Obed WSR appropriation. Tell them what a wonderful resource the Obed is, and that, after nearly 40 years, more than one-fifth is still unprotected and is increasingly threatened by adverse development.

1B. *BSF climbing management*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The BSFNRRA is holding two listening sessions to hear from the public their thoughts on rock climbing management issues. The first took place July 16 at Knoxville, with more than 35 people attending to provide input. Several Park staffers were on hand to collect attendees' ideas about climbing locations, the kinds of climbing opportunities that are available in the park, management and enforcement strategies, and other aspects of climbing.

TCWP Executive Director Sandra Goss suggested that bluff-top and cliff-face vegetation be protected, as well as any ancient red cedars and other valuable trees and shrubs that grow at the cliff base. Topping out should be prohibited, except for traditional climbing or bouldering. Additionally, climbing trails should be strategically sited in order to avoid social trails on the bluff top and around any bouldering sites. Bolt placement should be carefully planned so as to limit damage to the rock faces.

The second meeting will be held Thursday, July 23, from 5 to 7 p.m. (ET) at the Interpretation and Education Building next to Bandy Creek Visitor Center (for more information call 569-9778).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Send comments addressing the concerns mentioned by Sandra (see article above) to Biso_Superintendent@nps.gov.

1C. *Climbing at the Obed WSR*

The two most popular rock-climbing spots in the entire Southeast are both located in the Obed WSR, and both owned by The Nature Conservancy. One, the 73-acre Clear Creek Preserve, at the lower end of Clear Creek (river- left), was a gift to TNC from Bill and Lee Russell. At Lee's request, TNC is developing a rare-species monitoring plan that will be used to better track impacts by visitors when climbing or hiking on the preserve. Among special concerns are very ancient eastern red cedars that have been documented at the Clear Creek site.

Climbers have been very cooperative. Since 2011, members of the East Tennessee Climbers Coalition (ETCC) have volunteered their time on the annual "Adopt a Crag Day" to treat local hemlocks against damage from the deadly woolly adelgid. The climbers have devoted many hours to administering a chemical treatment that will protect the trees for several years to come. A few years ago, ETCC joined TCWP in purchasing a strip of land above the bluff that protects trail access to the Preserve.

1D. *Fracking threatens Big South Fork and Obed*

[Info from NPCA, SE Region]

Within the BSFNRRA, there are currently 19,000 acres of privately held mineral rights. There is a chance that oil & gas exploration, using fracking in new wells, will take place within the BSFNRRA, or in close proximity to the Obed, and will impact streams in the two watersheds. Numerous horizontal-well permits are currently on file.

NPCA is working to promote a new Mobile App by which people can take photos of oil & gas development and upload them to an interactive map, This should help to visualize the extent of development near our national parks. Visit www.fractracker.org/apps to download the application.

1E. *Dedication of crucial Clear Creek tract*

At a ceremony held June 6 at the Morgan County Visitor Center, The Nature Conservancy dedicated the recently acquired 63-acre tract located in the center of the

view from Lilly Bluff (NL321 ¶1C). Lee Russell, in whose honor the tract was dedicated, disclaimed any credit for the saving of this particular crucial tract (other than wishing fervently that it would come about). It was TCWP folks like Frank Hensley who had for some time been talking to the landowner, it was Jimmy Groton who brought about the contact between the generous anonymous donor and TNC, and finally it was TNC folks who handled all the sales transaction. In recounting almost 50 years of history of Obed protection, she concluded: "So many people, and many organizations, have worked over the years, and are continuing to work, in the ongoing process of protecting this great treasure. The honor belongs to them all."

2. TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. *Tennessee Wilderness Act update*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Earlier this month, the Senate Agriculture Committee heard USDA's Under Secretary Robert Bonnie testify, and the first sentence of his testimony was: "there is enthusiastic support for the Tennessee Wilderness Act at USDA." (USDA is, of course, the parent department for the US Forest Service.) The Tennessee Wilderness Act designates six special areas (totaling about 20,000 acres) of the Cherokee National Forest as Wilderness (NL314 ¶4; NL292 ¶4A). The necessary committee hearing occurred sooner in this Congress than it had in the previous Congress.

The bill awaits a Senate mark-up and introduction in the House of Representatives. Congressmen Roe and Fleischmann need to help our Senators pass to pass this legislation. Because the property is *already* federal land, no additional land acquisition is required and no additional expenditures are needed for the Forest Service to manage the proposed Wilderness Areas. As a recent (3/19/15) editorial in the Maryville *Daily Times* said: "There are plenty of tough issues that Congress has to wrestle with in Washington. This is not one of them. This is an easy test of leadership. Come on, guys . . ."

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Help us communicate to Reps. Fleischmann and Roe the importance of the Cherokee NF Wilderness designation, and of their introducing a House bill. Contact information is on p. 2 and in our Political Guide, which may be found on www.tcwp.org. Your help is very important.

2B. *BioBlitz at Whites Creek Small Wild Area*

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

On Saturday, July 11, TVA and Discover Life in America (DLIA) hosted a BioBlitz at TVA's Whites Creek Small Wild Area on Watts Bar Reservoir in Rhea County. For some years, DLIA has been responsible for the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. More recently, DLIA has reached out more widely to organize similar events that help document the biotic resources at other parks and natural areas in our region.

About 20 biologists from all over participated in the event. Volunteers helped collect or catalog various bugs, plants, and fungi from the White's Creek SWA and from TCWP's adjacent property. Each specimen was photographed to help with identification, and all insects were returned to the wild after they had been photographed. Volunteers used iNaturalist, a cell-phone app, to document plants and animals in the field. The database created by this app can be used by other scientists to verify species and to conduct basic ecological research.

The first results are in: Zach Irick, a graduate student at The University of Tennessee Chattanooga, identified 109 species of plants at the Whites Creek SWA!

2C. *Non-governmental land acquisitions*

Both, the Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation (TennGreen) report recent land acquisitions. Among TNC's are a small but very scenic and geologically significant addition to the Big South Fork NRRA, and two conservation easements, one in the Southern Cumberlands (6,000 acres) the other in south central Tennessee (1,716 acres).

In the past four years, TNC has acquired and protected nearly 13,000 acres, including, among others, Doe Mountain (8,600 acres), Bridging the Smokies lands (4,000 acres), a key Obed River tract (63 acres, via funds from an anonymous donor who contacted TCWP, see NL321 ¶1C), and an 8-acre addition to the North Cumberland WMA, which TNC helped establish with the state of Tennessee in the "Connecting the Cumberlands" land deal of 2007. Among TNC's earlier acquisitions (2005) is Pogue Creek Canyon, which has since become a 3,000-acre State Natural Area.

Just last year, TennGreen purchased Island Mesas at the head of Pogue Creek (43 acres), land along the Duck River 1,753 (acres), and a waterfall in Davidson County. These are just the latest three of 60 acquisitions (in fee or easement; gift or purchase) across the state of Tennessee. Among protected areas expected to grow in the near future are lands along the Blackburn Fork, a State Scenic River, where TenneGreen already bought 211 acres for the creation of Cummins Falls State Park and was given a 414-acre conservation easement (this gift will grow).

Among projects TennGreen intends to pursue are 3,000 acres on bluffs above Pogue Creek Canyon, two mountain sides at Grassy Cove (1,000 acres), and 2,170 acres in the corridor that links Fall Creek Falls State Park to the Bridgestone Firestone Wilderness (Scotts Gulf).

2D. *Opportunity for more Grassy Cove conservation*

[Contributed by Kathleen Williams]

A 200-acre forest surrounding Lost Waterfall Cave, Grassy Cove Creek, headwaters for the Sequatchie River,

and the connection to Justin P. Wilson Cumberland State Scenic Trail is available. By borrowing some funds and working with a conservation buyer who will hold the land until fundraising is complete, TennGreen will protect these sites as additions to the Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Park. About $450,000 is needed to pay for this land. Nashville conservationist Shirley Caldwell-Patterson will match up to $100,000 in donations.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If you could help our committee lead hikes, plan fundraising events, serve the committee, or donate, please contact TennGreen at 615-329-4441 or email Kathleen@tenngreen.org

2E. *Frozen Head: Emory River Tract Planning Group to meet again*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The extensive Emory River Tract was added to Frozen Head Park & Natural Area as part of Gov. Bredesen's "Connecting the Cumberlands" initiative of 2009. Tennessee Deputy Commissioner for Parks and Conservation Brock Hill is re-convening the Emory River Planning Group that met several times in 2009 to hammer out a Management Plan for the then-new acquisition. This is a follow-up to concerns that were voiced at the Frozen Head State Park Management Plan Public Meeting (NL320 ¶2).

The group will meet later this month at Frozen Head. TCWP Executive Director Sandra Goss will attend the meeting. Users of the Emory River Tract and other interested persons are encouraged to contact Sandra before July 27 with their comments about the tract and their experiences.

2F. *Hatchie permit sets bad precedent for State Scenic River System*

[Information from Tennessee Clean Water Network, 6/25J]

The Hatchie River in West Tennessee, our longest State Scenic River, has for some time been under threat from a proposed new 4,100-acre economic-development megasite near Brownsville, TN. TDEC has drafted permits for discharge of industrial waste, and for a proposed 15-mile pipeline, from an *unknown* future tenant of the massive megasite. The megasite would be served by the Brownsville Energy Authority's sewage treatment plant. A coalition of citizen groups, with prime assistance from TCWN, has submitted joint comments, calling on TDEC to deny the discharge permits

The permits would set a terrible precedent, (a) by authorizing the discharge of toxic industrial wastes to a State Scenic River, and (b) by granting permission to an *unidentified* industrial discharger. The comments ask TDEC not only to deny the permits, but to confer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the EPA, and with TWRA regarding impacts to threatened and endangered species, other sensitive aquatic species, and the Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge.

---

3. TVA's latest IRP

[Information from www.cleanenergy.org]

The following is based on analysis by SACE (Southern Alliance for Clean Energy) staffers, who played an integral part in both the 2011 and 2015 IRP planning process. When you compare TVA's 2011 IRP plans to those in the 2015 IRP, it becomes clear that the agency is rolling back its commitment to both energy efficiency and renewable energy just as these resources are becoming the cheapest they've ever been.

TVA's plan continues to emphasize construction of natural gas plants, both in the short and long term. SACE believes that while *some* additional natural gas plants will be needed, TVA's plan is unnecessarily costly, risky, and polluting. The evidence shows that a greater emphasis on energy efficiency, solar and wind would lower customer bills and reduce the risk of overexposure to natural gas price fluctuations.

The purpose of the IRP is to determine how TVA can best meet the energy needs of the Tennessee Valley region over the next 20 years while supporting TVA's equally important mandates for environmental stewardship and economic development. The Final IRP and EIS are available at www.tva.com/irp.

---

4. NATIONAL NEWS

4A. *Battle for reauthorization of the Land & Water Conservation Fund*

The LWCF was established in 1965 and is set to expire on September 30 (NL 321 ¶5A). It has a federal and a state component. The former provides funding for additions to national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests and other federal public lands, making it the principal source of funds for federal acquisition of lands for outdoor recreation, habitat preservation, and expansion of federal land holdings. The state component provides matching grants to state and local governments for outdoor recreation areas and facilities such as parks and playing fields.

The fund collects $900 million annually in royalties from offshore oil and gas leases. In recent years, though, Congress has diverted about two-thirds of that money to the general US Treasury to fill the black hole of general spending. To date, of the total of $37.5 billion that the LWCF should have received, only $17 billion were left for conservation.

At recent Congressional hearings some Republicans argued that at least 60% of LWCF dollars should to go to states. They also argued that the money should go not to acquiring new land but to the upkeep of roads and facilities on existing federal lands, which they say are poorly maintained. Utah Republican Rob Bishop, who chairs the committee, argued that by purchasing land, the federal government reduces local tax revenues, which are needed for schools.

What do ordinary US citizens think? Bipartisan polling has found that at least 85% of likely voters support permanent full funding for the LWCF. Some good bills have been introduced. S.890, by Cantwell (D-WA) and 19 co-sponsors, would mandate full funding forever. A Republican bill, S.338 (Burr, R-NC) would also enact permanent reauthorization; but it excludes a full-funding provision. That's better than nothing, however since, without reauthorization, the LWCF would die.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your Members of Congress to give strong support to reauthorization of the vital LWCF, a fund that is essential for the protection of our special lands and waters, and for local outdoor recreation. Of special interest to Tennesseans is the need for the LWCF to complete essential land acquisition for the Obed WSR, the Big South Fork NRRA, and the Cherokee National Forest, among other things. S.890 and HR.1814 will keep the Fund alive and will keep it from being continually raided for non-related purpose.

4B. *Endangered Species Act in grave danger*

[Information from CREDO action]

Legislators who would love to get rid of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) face the facts that the law has been successful and is highly popular. Their strategy has therefore been to keep the law but make it totally ineffective by allowing local politicians to overrule science whenever they feel like it.

In recent weeks, the U.S. Senate considered eight bills that would modify the ESA, most of which aim to saddle resource-strapped federal wildlife agencies with burdensome new hurdles and requirements. Many of the bills also include rules that would force agencies to consider shoddy science and to prioritize economic considerations like dirty fossil fuel drilling over wildlife habitat protection.

An interesting recent case concerning a specific listing is that of the sage grouse, which USDI has proposed to designate as endangered because its numbers have fallen into the mere thousands. One-third of the country would be affected by the listing, including large stretches of land that are potential drilling sites. The oil & gas industry, among top donors to election campaigns, has mobilized to prevent listing of the sage grouse as endangered.

Among attacks on the entire ESA, the one that tops all the others is by Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY). His bill has been described as the "Extinction Acceleration Act." Paul's bill would remove protections from 94% of currently listed species, including polar bears, wolves, grizzly bears, and sea otters. It would force the automatic removal of species from the endangered list after five years, whether or not these species had recovered and were deemed safe by scientists.

Worst of all, it would take the entire process of species protection out of the hands of biologists and wildlife experts, where it rests right now, and require the consent of state governors and a joint resolution of Congress. And if an endangered species was found to reside entirely within the borders of a single state, that state's governor would have the power to overrule the protection of that species.

A good article supporting the ESA may be found at http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/protect-the-endangered-species-act-editorial/?print=true

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Tell your Members of Congress (addresses on p.2) that the ESA is a crucial and immensely successful wildlife-protection law that is becoming ever more essential as species are facing climate change in addition to many other threats. The expertise of biologists and wildlife scientists is vital for proper implementation of the law. Tell the Congress to leave the ESA alone.

4C. *WOTUS rule clarifies that the Clean Water Act applies also to smaller water bodies*

After years of study and receipt of more than a million public comments, EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers issued the final Water of the United States (WOTUS) rule, which removes confusion over the implementation of the Clean Water Act that had been brought about by a couple of Supreme Court decisions in the past decade. The WOTUS rule, released May 27 and effective June 27, better defines wetlands and smaller water bodies, removing years of uncertainty that had left many drinking-water sources without guaranteed protections. It should be obvious that water quality in perennial waters is directly influence by water quality in intermittent and ephemeral waters that feed into them.

Some agricultural interests and others have labeled the rule as a massive 'power grab' by the Obama administration that could give federal officials authority over every creek and puddle. A number of bills have been introduced in Congress to delay the rule and/or require EPA to start the rule-making process from the beginning. Three "moderate" Democrats in the Senate -- Heitcamp (ND), Manchin (WV), O'Donnell (IN) -- and 24 in the House (none from TN) have joined the GOP in opposition, but leave them far from the two-thirds majorities they would need for a veto-proof vote. Of greater danger are attacks on EPA via the appropriations process (see ¶4D, below).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Tell your Members of Congress (addresses on p.2) to accept the WOTUS rule. It is essential for protection of the water we must all drink to survive.

4D. *EPA being attacked on all fronts*

Pro-polluter members of Congress have a two-pronged strategy: prohibit the EPA from limiting or preventing pollution, while emasculating the agency by bleeding it dry. The House Appropriations Committee released an Interior and Environment spending bill in mid-June that aims to decimate the funding necessary to actually enforce pollution limits, and would block potential EPA rule-making on everything. Spending bills *have* to pass or the government will shut down, and they cannot be vetoed. In the Senate, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has for

some time endorsed using appropriations riders to target EPA policies wherever possible.

Even while the agency has been trying to survive Congressional attacks, it has been hit on another front. At the start of July, the Supreme Court handed down the terrible decision to gut EPA's landmark clean-air rule that limits toxic mercury pollution from power plants. The Court ruled that EPA had adopted these regulations without properly considering the financial burden they place on the private sector.

4E. *The newest national monument*

[From NPCA]

On July 10, President Obama declared Texas's Waco Mammoth Site a national monument. This site holds the largest known concentration of Columbian mammoth fossils in North America. In 1978, two Waco-area citizens discovered what would be the first of more than 24 Columbian mammoths ranging from 3 to 55 years old, all of which appear to have died in a single event. Waco Mammoth will provide a unique opportunity for the National Park Service to answer the riddle of how these prehistoric animals lived.

For well over 100 years, the Antiquities Act has been a bipartisan conservation tool. It has been used by eight Republican and eight Democratic Presidents to declare 142 national monuments from *existing federal* lands.

---

5. The KNOXVILLE AREA

5A. *BioBlitz to be held in Knoxville's Urban Wilderness*

[Contributed by Dr. Emily Zefferman, U.T.]

A DLIA BioBlitz, similar to the one recently conducted at the Whites Creek SWA (¶2B, for more information), will be held in Knoxville's Urban Wilderness on August 22nd from 10am-6pm. Discover Life in America, UT, the City of Knoxville, and Legacy Parks Foundation (¶5B, below) are holding the event to begin to understand the conservation value of urban forests right in our own backyard, and to get local residents excited about nature and biodiversity!

The data from this initial survey start a baseline of information that can be used as a jumping-off point for research. The data will also be used to prioritize management, such as invasive plant removal in sensitive areas. For more information, contact Dr. Zefferman (ezefferm@utk.edu).

5B. *Legacy Parks Foundation saves land*

The Legacy Parks Foundation, established in 2005, is an East Tennessee nonprofit organization "working to ensure that our community enjoys exceptional recreational opportunities, natural beauty, and open spaces, and that these assets exist for generations to come." Over five years, the Foundation raised $4 million and has helped save over 1000 acres of land. The Foundation works with city governments, TWRA, and TVA in meeting their objectives.

Among their several projects is the Knoxville Urban Wilderness. The Oak Ridge Recreation & Parks Board has encouraged DOE to grant the ED-6 land-parcel use agreement to the Legacy Parks Foundation, enabling the "Sinkhole Trail" project near the Westwood Subdivision.

5C. *Urban hikes in Knoxville*

Three members of the Harvey Broome Group of the Sierra Club have written a book, *Urban Hikes in Knoxville and Knox County, Tennessee.* Ron Shrieves, Mac Post, and Christine Hamilton explored, researched, and documented historical and physical data about the city and county greenways, including the Knoxville Urban Wilderness in South Knoxville. The 161-page book describes 31 of the authors' favorite trails, and includes many color photos. An honest account of the pros and cons of each hike is provided, and the book has detailed maps not only of the trail but also the surrounding residential lots.

The book is available for $25 at local bookstores, outdoor stores, and online at www.legacyparks.org/shop-online. All proceeds benefit the Legacy Parks Foundation (see ¶5B above).

5D. Climate Knoxville *group reports progress*

There has been tangible progress toward one of the three major goals of *Climate Knoxville,* the group formed last year to work with partners (including TCWP) for climate protection and resiliency (NL321 ¶7B). Knoxville has been selected for TVA's Extreme Energy Makeover. The city will receive $7.12 million to weatherize approximately 615 local homes. Knoxville is one of only two communities in the Tennessee Valley selected for this funding. Thanks go to the Smarter Cities Partnership efforts in securing this award. The partnership consists of 20 groups that are developing plans to weatherize inner-city homes, educate the wider community about how to save energy, and create green jobs.

---

6. The OAK RIDGE AREA

6A. *Manhattan Project NHP: cultural landscapes on the ORR*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss and Virginia Dale]

Representatives of Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) last month visited with Washington staff of Senators Alexander and Corker, and Rep. Fleischmann, and with National Park Service staff to talk about cultural landscapes on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

Cultural landscapes can provide many ways to reach out to the public. A prime example of such cultural landscapes is the Three Bend Scenic and Wildlife Management Refuge Area (Solway, Freels, and Gallagher Bends). Under the agreement establishing this area in 1999, the Three

Bends Refuge is to be retained under DOE ownership and managed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). Such an arrangement would probably continue if the Three Bends was included as part of the Manhattan Project National Historic Park. The mention of Three Bends in the December 2015 Historical Park planning document would be a way to add to the Historic Park

- *Accessible* cultural landscape features (it is not "behind the fence")
- Examples of movement of people off the land during the Manhattan Project
- Experience of living on the land during the war years (provided by the Freels Bend cabin, the City's oldest structure and Oak Ridge's only remaining residence that was built beginning in 1810)
- The site of lifetime observation of cattle exposed in a bomb test, and of radiation experiments performed on animals, including the first kidney transplant ever performed (on a cow).
- Unique ecological values that have remained well-preserved under DOE's tenure
- Recreation: swimming, boating, hiking, biking and birding.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Please contact both Tennessee Senators and Congressman Fleischmann, as well as Mayor Gooch and other members of Oak Ridge City Council, to express your appreciation for the Manhattan Project NHP and your support for including cultural landscapes, such as the Three Bends Area, in the planning for the Park. You can specifically request they ask the Park Service to include mention of the Three Bends Area in the December planning document for the Park.

6B. *Education about legacy contaminants on the ORR*

[Contributed by Natalie Landry]

TCWP is cosponsoring adult environmental education through a program called Community School with the Oak Ridge League of Women Voters. Community School will educate Oak Ridge residents about legacy contaminants from the Oak Ridge Reservation as well as about the cleanup efforts by the Department of Energy (DOE). The purpose of Community School is to give residents the tools to become involved in the decision-making process for prioritizing what areas get remediated and when and how to successful navigate the process.

The Community School seminars are free of charge but advanced registration is required. They will be held three Tuesday evenings in September (9/15, 9/22, 9/29) from 6:30-8:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge. Please register at www.facebook.com/ORREEI, or contact Natalie Landry at natalieelandry@gmail.com or 603-498-9307. DOE funding for Community School is made possible through the New Mexico Community Foundation's Community Involvement Fund.

6C. *New birding trail on Oak Ridge Reservation*

[Information from Mark Peterson]

Situated along Bear Creek Road just off Hwy 58 in Roane County, the site was previously referred to by local birders as the K-25 Beaver Ponds or ETTP Beaver Ponds. Until recently, a U.S. Government sign forbade public entry to the ponds, so birding the ponds without trespassing could only be done from the adjacent roadway. This area is now officially open to the public (walk in only) and is known as the *Heritage Center Greenway Powerhouse Trail*.

The wetland contains numerous dead snags and has historically been a reliable location for red-headed woodpeckers, prothonotary warblers, numerous water birds and other interesting species.

Users should park to either side of the bar gate and walk around the gate to access the trail. The trail is a 0.4-mile long gravel road, bisecting two ponds and associated wetland habitat. Visitors will encounter a second sign, indicating no public access beyond that point. The trail makes a right hand turn just before this second sign, leading users to the far end of one of the ponds. CROET manages this property for the USDOE.

6D. *Jim Evans, TWRA Wildlife Manager for the Oak Ridge Reservation, retiring after 30 years of service*

[Contributed by Warren Webb]

Jim Evans, long-time TWRA officer of the ORR, retired at the end of June. Jim arrived at the Lab in 1985, when, with other TWRA officers, he instituted the first deer hunt. Since then, the ORR deer hunts have become an annual operation, requiring coordination with DOE, Laboratory Management and Security, University of Tennessee student volunteers, and other TWRA personnel. Jim's efforts have gone far beyond that, however, including, though not limited to, the following*:

- Annual turkey and goose hunts;
- Annual Canada Goose roundups;
- Other wildlife damage control (e.g., beaver relocation, feral cat and feral hog removal);
- Frequent public bird walks;
- Bat monitoring;
- Native plant restoration (including controlled burning) on the Three Bends and elsewhere;
- Removal of invasive plant species;
- Partners-in-Flight and other bird monitoring;
- Installation and monitoring of bird nest boxes.

Throughout all these and other efforts, Jim has remained friendly and accessible, communicating easily with the public and with officials from various agencies, and never failing to answer a call to return from home on evenings or weekends to deal with an emergency**.

Our hats are off to Jim Evans as we wish him a happy and eventful retirement.

* Many other volunteer and paid individuals assisted in these endeavors.

** Jim says that these after-hours calls are the one thing he will not miss.

---

7. TCWP NEWS

7A. *Upcoming activities*

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

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

Picnic Outing to Gibbons Property on the Obed - Saturday, July 25

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

Longtime TCWP members Jack and Mary Ann Gibbons have graciously offered to host a picnic outing to their Obed River property, ~400 acres of beautiful land overlooking the Obed near Alley Ford.

In addition to the picnic, the outing will include an opportunity to explore their land. Possible adventures include a hike – perhaps ending with a swim - down to the river at Alley Ford (about 0.7 mile one way, with an elevation change of 400 feet), a short off-trail hike to a waterfall, a hike to some bluffs overlooking the Obed River gorge across from Breakaway Bluff, and exploration of the fields and forests that make up the Gibbons property.

For the picnic lunch, please bring food for yourself and food to share with others, as well as a portable chair to sit on. If you are musically oriented and you aren't shy about entertaining others, you may want to bring a musical instrument.

We will plan to arrive at the Gibbons property at 10 a.m., allowing some time to hike and explore before lunch. We'll plan to eat sometime between noon and 1 p.m., and will also have some time to explore more after lunch.

Participants can meet for carpooling in Oak Ridge, in the parking lot in front of Gold's Gym (formerly Rush) on S. Illinois Avenue near Salsarita's. We plan to leave Oak Ridge at 9 a.m. Eastern. We'll stop at the Obed Visitor Center in Wartburg for a quick pit stop before going on to the Gibbons farm. (Please note: there are no facilities at the farm.) For the adventurous travelers, the GPS coordinates for the Gibbons farm are North 36.089931°, West 84.672535°.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Please contact TCWP Executive Director Sandra Goss (865-583-3967, or *Sandra@sandrakgoss.com*) to sign up.

Summer Cedar Barren cleanup – Saturday, August 15

Located next to Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge, this barren is a joint project of the City of Oak Ridge, the State Natural Areas Division, and TCWP. The area is one of just a few cedar barrens in East Tennessee, and is subject to invasion by Chinese lespedeza, Japanese privet, autumn olive, mimosa, Nepal grass, multiflora rose, and woody plants that threaten the system's prairie grasses. Our spring, summer, and fall cleanups help to eliminate the invasives and other shade-producing plants that prevent the prairie grasses from getting needed sun.

Volunteers should meet in the Jefferson Middle School parking lot at 9 a.m.; wear sturdy shoes and bring loppers, gloves, and water. The work session will conclude at noon with a pizza lunch. For additional information, contact Tim Bigelow at Bigelowt2@mindspring.com or at 865-607-6781.

National Public Lands Day cleanup at Worthington Cemetery – Saturday, September 26

TCWP and TVA will again partner for our annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) celebration, to be held at TVA's Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area on Melton Hill Reservoir in Oak Ridge. Our yearly efforts in this area are helping to eradicate wisteria from the cemetery, and privet and other invasive exotics from the ESA. A pizza lunch will follow our work session, which will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude around noon. TCWP has for many years partnered with TVA to enhance and protect natural resources at Worthington Cemetery and on other TVA lands throughout East Tennessee as part of our mutual stewardship efforts. Additional details will be provided in the September newsletter and via email alert.

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.

7B. *Recent events*

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

Big South Fork raft trip with trash collection -- May 30

This event was rescheduled from April 11, when water levels were too high. It had to be canceled because the May 30 water levels were too low. We'll try again next year!

National Trails Day Workday on North Ridge Trail - June 6

[Contributed by Donna Kridelbaugh]

On June 6, volunteers participated in a North Ridge Trail workday as part of the National Trails Day celebration. North Ridge Trail lead stewards JoAnn and Ray Garrett hosted the event. The event kicked off with an introduction by Jimmy Groton and Lee Russell on the historical relevance of the North Ridge Trail followed by a trail cleanup along the Mississippi Avenue to Illinois Avenue section.

Afterwards, volunteers were treated to (and properly bribed with) pizza and beer, while they signed up for trail sections to adopt. Trail section adopters for the 2015–2016 season include Jean Bangham, Tim Bigelow, April Dixon, Hal Hoyt, Donna Kridelbaugh, Jan Lyons, Liz Norred, Duck and Hope Waddel, and Dennis and Julie Wolf.

The North Ridge Trail, originally constructed by TCWP in 1969, is designated as both a State and National Recreation trail and runs more than eight miles as a woodland trail in Oak Ridge. You can learn more about the North Ridge Trail and the Adopt-A-Section Program on the TCWP website. To stay updated on trail work and to volunteer during work-

days, call or email the Garretts at (865) 483-4466 or garrett.ray1@att.net.

Kayak Outing at Oak Ridge Marina - June 20

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

About two dozen folks braved an overcast, rainy day to celebrate the approach of the Summer Solstice by exploring Melton Hill Lake by kayak on June 20. After a quick paddle through a box culvert, we found ourselves in a lovely cove with birds and plants to marvel at. There was a surprisingly sudden shift from the main waterway along a road to a quiet, flat inlet surrounded by woods with little evidence of humans.

Further paddling took us downstream by islands, over Oak Ridge's well-known rowing area. As the end of our kayak rental period approached, we headed back to the marina in a downpour, which hastened our return trip.

Information Program by Kodak Butterfly Keepers - June 25

About 35 people turned out to hear Master Gardeners Lois English Worthington and Glenna Julian, "The Kodak Butterfly Keepers," discuss creating habitats for butterflies in a program held in the City Room of Roane State Community College-Oak Ridge.

Lois discussed attracting butterflies, pointing out that "You can't run a habitat on just a lawn." She described the need for host plants, shelter, nectar, and water. Glenna focused on caterpillars: their host plants, habitats for raising caterpillars (including hand-made structures made from pop-up clothes hampers), and metamorphosis.

Glenna and her husband, Dub Julian, garden at their pre-1850 home on two-plus acres, where they plant for butterflies and hummingbirds; their garden is certified by the National Wildlife Federation and is a Monarch Way Station. She and Lois have been presenters at Wilderness Wildlife Week since 2006.

7C. *Partnership with Rainbow Camp helps fund summer camp with environmental theme*

[Contributed by Natalie Landry]

A successful, weeklong summer camp at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church received a financial boost this year from a unique partnership between TCWP and the Oak Ridge League of Women Voters. Thirty-five of the 51 campers who attended Rainbow Camp this summer received scholarships, covering 50-100% of the costs for attending camp. Children from all religions and socio-economic situations were encouraged to attend the camp that focused on fun, fellowship, and learning.

This summer's theme was Guardians of the Earth, and campers spent time each day learning about a specific country and culture. While being global citizens, the campers were practicing being stewards of the local environment by visiting City of Oak Ridge parks each day and conducting litter cleanups, with a trip during the week to the Chestnut Ridge Landfill in Heiskell, TN, to emphasize there is no "away." Campers learned about pollution during the June 15-20 camp using a hands-on, interactive model called an EnviroScape® that makes the connection between what we do on earth and the impact on the environment.

DOE funding for Rainbow Camp scholarships was made possible through a grant secured by TCWP and LWV-OR from the New Mexico Community Foundation's Community Involvement Fund.

7D. *Adopters for North Ridge Trail segments*

New stewards for the North Ridge Trail, Ray and JoAnn Garrett (NL321 ¶8E) have already performed a great service; they have identified adopters for nine segments of the North Ridge Trail. These are listed in the second paragraph of ¶7B (by Donna Kridelbaugh). A trail section is adopted for a period of one year, renewable annually. These volunteers deserve our thanks!

7E. *Thanks, and a tip of the hat to …*

[From Sandra Goss]

-- Lee Russell, Carol Grametbauer, and Jimmy Groton for their work on the May *TCWP Newsletter 321*.
-- Michele Thornton for handling the data and producing mailing labels for the *TCWP Newsletter*.
-- Janet Sale for writing thank you notes to TCWP contributors.
--Ray and JoAnne Garrett for their leadership and hospitality during the June 6 North Ridge Trail Clean-up Day.
-- Dick Raridon, Jean Bangham, Harriet McCurdy, Melissa Muendel, and Marti Salk for preparing *TCWP Newsletter 321* for conventional mailing.
-- Dennis Gregg, Katherine Medlock, Wolf Naegeli, Axel Ringe, and Lee Russell for representing Obed Watershed Community Association, The Nature Conservancy, Foundation for Global Sustainability, Sierra Club, and TCWP, respectively, at a meeting with Jane Jolley, Sen. Corker's Field Representative.
-- Larry Pounds and Lee Russell for reviewing the TCWP website.
-- Jimmy Groton and Tim Bigelow for their leadership of the June 20 Summer Solstice kayak outing.
-- Jamie Herold, Carol Grametbauer, and Jan Lyons for serving as greeters at the Butterfly Gardening Presentation.
-- Jean Bangham, Tim Bigelow, April Dixon, Hal Hoyt, Donna Kridelbaugh, Jan Lyons, Liz Norred, Duck and Hope Waddel, and Dennis and Julie Wolf, for adopting segments of the North Ridge Trail.

7F. *Friends and Members in the news*

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]

-- Ben Pounds wrote an article about rafting on the Pigeon River in the May 15 *News Sentinel*, about hardcourt bike

polo in the June 12 edition, about the Gentlemen's Swimming Hole on June 19, and about kayaking on Melton Lake in the May 8 issue. There were also articles about the UT Arboretum in the May 29 issue, and about the Knoxville Skatepark on July 10.

-- Joe Zagorsky is featured in a March 4 *Morgan County News* article about his presentation on significant weather events in East Tennessee, and is pictured at the Obed Preschool Story Time.

-- Sister organization Tennessee Environmental Council is featured in an article in the May/June *Tennessee Conservationist* about the statewide campaign to plant 50,000 trees in one hour on March 14.

-- Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area Ranger Michael Hodge authored an article about various researches of flora and fauna in the park. This appeared in the May/June *Tennessee Conservationist*.

-- Kris Light is featured in an article about Frozen Head State Park hikes in the March/April *Tennessee Conservationist.*

-- Doug Colclasure was pictured at an Oak Ridge League of Women Voters meeting in the April 28 *Oak Ridger.*

-- Marion Burger and Dan Robbins were pictured at an Oak Ridge League of Women Voters meeting in the April 29 *Oak Ridger.*

-- Louise Gorenflo and Dennis Gregg are pictured in a May 24 *News Sentinel* article about Knoxville's regular Social Paddle.

-- Matt Hudson and son Henry were pictured in the May 20 *Morgan County News* during the Obed Wild and Scenic River's "In your Backyard Program."

-- Patrice Cole authored the May 28 *Knoxville Mercury* article "When It Pours" about storm-water management.

-- Joe Zagorski was mentioned and pictured in a June 3 *Morgan County News* article about an Obed WSR presentation about bears.

-- Chance Hall was pictured in the *Morgan County News* participating in the Mountain Laurel Festival on June 3.

7G. *Executive Director's Column*

[By Sandra Goss]

I love little mottos. A favorite is *Strive for humor, grace, and dignity*. Another is *Life is a series of repairs and reboots*. These apply to many aspects of life, including TCWP's work. As an organization, we strive to conduct ourselves with courtesy and honor, basing our positions and comments on science-based information.

There has been much in the popular press over the past several years about science, its value and its validity. Scientists DO sometimes disagree. In many cases, time proves which view was correct. On many issues, scientific opinion slowly develops a leaning one way or another as more research is conducted and theories are tested and retested.

I find the science-based approach comforting because it provides a solid foundation for action. Action based on non-science is akin to building on a sandy beach: the eroding foundation cannot support the building over time.

It seems that many people are not hearing the truth about the effects of or need for various rules and laws. There is a move afoot to diminish the good work of the Waters of the U.S. rule through untrue interpretation (¶4C, this NL). Our waters need this rule!

There is a belief among some folks in District 3 that proposed Wilderness Areas in Cherokee National Forest would result in a significant road closure. Not true! The legislation has been carefully written to forbid the road closure.

Our Newsletter is regularly filled with various action items, usually asking you to contact your elected officials. As we race through the second half of 2015, I ask you to commit to making 3 calls or writing 3 letters about issues in this Newsletter. Phone calls take very little time and can make a big difference in the outcomes.

I close with one more motto: *Good intentions, like crying babies, should be carried out immediately*. Please go make those calls!

Sandra

---

8. CALENDAR

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

- July 23, Big South Fork climbing meeting (¶1B, this NL).
- July 25, Picnic/Outing at Gibbons property on the Obed (¶7A, this NL).
- August 15, Summer Cedar Barren cleanup (¶7A, this NL).
- August 22, BioBlitz at Knoxville Urban Wilderness (¶5A, this NL).
- Sept. 26, National Public Lands Day cleanup at Worthington Cemetery (¶7A, this NL).
- Sept. 30, LWCF expires, unless reauthorized (¶5A, this NL).

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR
WILDERNESS PLANNING

130 TABOR ROAD
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37830

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
www.tcwp.org

Taking
Care of
Wild
Places

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
OAK RIDGE, TN
PERMIT NO. 178

Board of Directors
Jimmy Groton .....President
Mark Bevelhimer .....V. Pres.
Carol Grametbauer.....Secretary
Tim Bigelow .....Treasurer
Mary Lynn Dobson ..... Director
Frank Hensley..... Director
Jamie Herold..... Director
Larry Pounds ..... Director
Liane (Lee) Russell..... Director
Michele Thornton ..... Director
Warren Webb..... Director
Sandra Goss .... Executive Director

Coming Events

July 25, Sat. Obed Riverside Picnic

August 15, Sat. Oak Ridge Cedar Barren Maintenance
COME SEE GORGEOUS PRAIRIE GRASSES IN BLOOM

Sept.26, Sat. Worthington Cemetery Cleanup

Volunteers Needed

Wanted: Contributors to TCWP Newsletter who can write 1 or 2 100 word articles every other month. Newsletter Contributor Workshop to be scheduled later this summer. For more info or to sign up, call 865-583-3967.