Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning

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Taking Care of Wild Places

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

10. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Tenn. General Assembly	Your state legislators	"I care about the environment"

Senator John Doe United States Senate Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510	The Hon. John Doe U.S. House of Representatives House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	Pres. Donald Trump The White House Washington, DC 20500 202-456-1111 (comments); 456-1414 (switchbd); Fax 456-2461 www.whitehouse.gov/contact	Governor Bill Haslam State Capitol Nashville, TN 37243-9872 615-741-2001; Fax 615-532-9711 bill.haslam@state.tn.us
Dear Senator Doe Sincerely yours,	Dear Congressman Doe Sincerely yours,	Dear Mr. President Respectfully yours,	Dear Gov. Haslam Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bob Corker Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-0566 e-mail: senator@corker.senate.gov 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: lamar@alexander.senate.gov 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 "take action" alerts
You can also choose to receive e-lerts 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: P.O. Box 6873., Oak Ridge, TN 37831 **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

1. TENNESSEE NEWS

1A. The Legislature is back in session

[Information from Tennessee Conservation Voters]

The Tennessee General Assembly reconvened on January 9 for the second half of the session that started last year. This is expected to be a short legislative year, which means that there will be less time to organize and stop any damaging legislation that ends up getting pushed.

TCV expects these special challenges:

- A new strategy of anti-environment interests is to attack the *mechanisms* of regulation, e.g., the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, as well as specific processes, under the guise of reducing regulation.
- The coal industry will attempt to remove the federal oversight of coal mining in Tennessee.

The first session of the League of Women Voter Breakfast with the Legislators will be Monday, January 29, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at the Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room. Subsequent breakfasts will be held on the fourth Monday of every month the legislature is in session.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:
(1) To stay on top of what's happening familiarize yourself with www.capitol.tn.gov.
(2) Be ready to communicate with your legislators as soon as you become aware of a need! In a truncated session, time will be of the essence.
(3) Take a moment NOW to tell your legislators you hope they will protect the environment. Hearing from constituents makes a difference!

1B. Grassy Cove parcel transferred to State

In mid-December, the Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation (TennGreen) announced the official transfer of nearly 1,000 acres of land along the southern portion of Grassy Cove to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). The land will be managed by TDEC in perpetuity, and added to the Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail State Park. The 956-acre parcel offers optimum views and habitat of Bear Den and Brady Mountains, dramatic bluffs and boulder fields, and eight caves, including the scenic Lost Waterfall, Spouting Dome, and Bear Den Mountain Caves.

The land belonged to the Kemmer family, who had occupied it since the early 1800s, and who decided to sell it to TennGreen, rather than to the real-estate, timber, and limestone companies that were seeking to exploit it. A major portion of the purchase price came from USDA Forest Legacy Program, which ranked the project (The Karst Forest at Grassy Cove) eighth in the country to receive funding.

1C. Addition to South Cumberland State Park

South Cumberland State Park (SCSP) is actually a collection of nine separated areas that now total almost 30,000 acres. Best known among these areas (which are scattered over four counties) is Savage Gulf and several State Natural Areas centered around waterfalls. A year ago, 4,000 acres were added to SCSP, including the 3,000-acre Sherwood Forest, located on the steep slopes of the Plateau escarpment and known for an abundance of limestone, sinking streams, and steep climbs. The Southern Cumberlands are regarded as a biodiversity hotspot for limestone obligate species - including copious cave fauna.

The Nature Conservancy and The Land Trust for Tennessee were among the partners that made the complicated real-estate transaction possible. The previous owner, the Sherwood Mining Co., retained the mineral rights, which includes the ability to operate a surface limestone quarry on a 200-acre area.

1D. Status of the Cumberland Trail

When complete, the Cumberland Trail will be 300 miles long. As of now 210 miles have been completed. In the past year, the Cumberland Trail Conference (CTC), in partnership with Tennessee State Parks, built more than 9 miles of new trail. These additions are located above Daddy's Creek near Crab Orchard and along McGill Creek on Brayton Mountain in Rhea and Hamilton Counties. 2018 efforts will focus on linking Ozone Falls and Black Mountain.

Much of the work is done by volunteers, most often during the annual Spring BreakAways, which bring college students from around the country on their spring break. In 2017, another group of volunteers came from the American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations Program. In addition to the volunteers, there is a small paid trail crew.

CTC is not funded by the State and is supported by volunteer contributions. For more information, visit CTCs website, www.cumberlandtrail.org.

1E. Tennessee is special

[From TNC's Field Notes]

Seven of the eight most biologically diverse rivers in North America flow through Tennessee. We have more than 10,000 caves -- the most of any state -- many of which contain species found nowhere else in the world. Overall, Tennessee is the most biologically rich inland state, with

- 300+ species of fish
- >80 species of mammals
- >60 species of reptiles
- ~70 species of amphibians (incl. >40 salamander species)
- ~340 species of birds

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2. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

2A. Great Obed news

Just before the end of 2017, our friend Mary Ann Gibbons donated 161 acres of the beautiful Gibbons property to the National Park Service. This land includes some of the most spectacular portions of the Obed River gorge, and some of the highest cliffs. The property contains over two miles of river frontage along the heart of the Obed River, which includes some of the park's most notable rapids, including Widow-maker and Keep Right.

Jack and Mary Ann were important participants in TCWP's fight to save the Obed from the Nemo Dam and secure its protected status.

2B. Obed to celebrate Wild & Scenic Rivers Act

This year, it'll be half a century since the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed (Oct2, 1968). TCWP, which is two years older, was working hard for passage of that Act, having earlier succeeded in passing the Tennessee State Scenic Rivers Act -- first in the Nation – from which, however, both Obed and BSF had been deleted by amendment. Passage of the National Wild& Scenic Rivers Act was the first step; it took another eight years, and passage of yet another bill, for the Obed, which was listed only in the study category, to become a Wild & Scenic River. We invite you to read "How the Obed got saved from being turned into a reservoir and became a National Wild & Scenic River" (see www.tcwp.org > About Us > History).

Half a Century after its passage, the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act protects only 12,734 out of the country's 3.6 million river miles, 0.35%. Much remains to be done. In this coming anniversary year, however, the Obed WSR staff will celebrate what has been done. They are planning a year of activities celebrating #WSR50! They invite us to stay tuned.

2C. Obed and BSF Capsules

- During the past year, three new butterfly species have been recorded in the BSFNRRA
- The 4th annual photo contest for the BSFNRRA is under way. All entries (which must be in digital format) must be received by COB on August 3, 2018. Entry forms may be downloaded from https://www.nps.gov/biso/planyourvisit/biso-photo-contest.htm.

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3. NATIONAL MONUMENTS and OTHER PUBLIC LANDS

3A. The ten national monuments on Trump's destruction list

Of the ten national monuments Pres. Trump is seeking to alter, seven are on land and three in the ocean. Four of the former and two of the latter would be reduced in size (marked *), two of them very significantly so. All ten would be opened to exploitation of resources.

Land monuments: Bears Ears* (UT), Grand Staircase-Escalante* (UT), Cascade-Siskiyou* (OR/CA), Gold Butte* (NV), Katahdin Woods and Waters (ME), Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks (NM), Rio Grande del Norte (NM).

Marine monuments: Pacific Remote Islands* (Pacific Ocean), Rose Atoll* (Pacific Ocean, near Samoa), Northeast Canyons and Seamounts (Atlantic Ocean).

3B. The questionable legality of tampering with national monuments

[Information from Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance]

The 1906 Antiquities Act gives the president the power to create national monuments, but is silent on subsequent alterations. During the earlier years of this 112-year history, there were a few instances where acreages were diminished, the changes in all cases being noncontroversial and mostly quite small. The most recent presidential action to adjust a monument's size was 55 years ago, in 1963, when President John F. Kennedy added some acres and took away others in Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico. That executive order, and all the ones before it that tinkered with monument boundaries, was issued prior to 1976, the year in which the Federal Land Policy and Management Act became law. In debating FLPMA, Congress was clear that it intended to leave intact a grant of power to the president to create -- but not to gut or rescind -- a national monument. No president has acted since.

3C. The danger beyond presidential action: laws getting passed

The interests that want to take away national monument status so they can exploit the resources of these lands have started to take out insurance against the possibility that the courts will rule against any presidential interference with the original designations. They are working to get Congress to decree the changes that the president had proposed. This is happening for the two largest monuments, both in Utah, on the Trump-destruction list.

In early December, Rep. Chris Stewart (R-UT) introduced HR.4558, the "Grand Staircase-Escalante Enhancement Act" which, as proposed by Trump, would create three small national monuments in place of the repealed Grand Staircase-Escalante (a loss of 47% of the acreage). Management would be tilted towards grazing and mineral development -- development that would be dictated by parochial local (rather than national) interests. The bill also includes a cynical proposal to establish a so-called national park ("Escalante Canyons National Park and Preserve") in a portion of the Escalante Canyons that would be managed not for conservation, but for grazing, hunting, and recreation -- a national park in name only.

HR.4558 was heard in subcommittee on Dec. 14, when local business owners testified that the monument had been of great benefit to local communities. Though no markup has been scheduled, the bill is likely to move quickly, since Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop has made it a top priority.

Another bill, HR.4532, was introduced by Utah Congressman, John Curtis, to ratify Trump's repeal of Bears Ears. Copying Trump's directive, the Monument would be replaced with the 142,337-acre Shash Jáa National Monument, and the 86,447-acre Indian Creek National Monument, eliminating 83% of the lands protected in the original Bears Ears National Monument.
Much like the Stewart bill, Rep. Curtis' legislation creates a new management council comprised of the same local elected officials who sought the undoing of the monument, as well as members of Tribes who are picked not by tribal governments, but by the Utah delegation. Furthermore, the bill excludes three of the five Tribes that advocated for protection of Bears Ears from the management council. The bill has not yet been scheduled for a hearing.

3D. While hugely expanding fracking on public lands, the Administration has rescinded oil & gas drilling safeguards

During 2017, DoI's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has auctioned off more than a million acres of public lands for fracking in six western states (CO, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY). The pace of public lands giveaways is set to increase in 2018 with lease sales for the first *half* of the year at almost one million acres.

After years of effort, safeguards were developed during the Obama Administration to shield the environment and human health from the perils of oil & gas extraction on public lands. The Trump Administration's DoI has rescinded these rules as of December 29. One of the rules would have required companies to disclose chemicals used in fracking.

3E. Proposed pipeline would cross national forests in WV and VA

[With information from FSEEE]

A draft decision signed by the new head of the US Forest Service, Tony Tooke, would allow 21 miles of a proposed natural-gas pipeline to cross the Monongahela and George Washington National Forests (in West Virginia and Virginia, respectively). The decision represents a flip-flop of the USFS's position: before issuing the draft decision, much of the agency's input on the proposal expressed skepticism that it could be constructed without risking serious environmental damage.

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4. OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

4A. Slaughter at EPA hits scientists

[With information from *NY Times* and *ProPublica,* 12/22/17]

More than 700 people have left EPA since President Trump took office, the Administration's goal being to eventually shrink the agency by 3,200. Of the employees who have quit, retired or taken a buyout package since the beginning of the year, more than 200 are scientists. An additional 96 are environmental protection specialists, a broad category that includes scientists as well as others experienced in investigating and analyzing pollution levels. Nine department directors have departed the agency as well as dozens of attorneys and program managers. Those leaving are, for the most part, not being replaced.

Science in particular is taking a hard hit. The exodus has left EPA depleted of decades of knowledge about protecting the nation's air and water. What's happening here is part of an Administration-wide trend of muting government scientists, cutting research budgets, and making it more difficult for academic scientists to serve on advisory boards.

4B. The war on science continues: language is censored

Staff at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were instructed not to use certain words or phrases in budget documents. Among these are "evidence-based" and "science-based." Other reportedly banned words, not necessarily science-related, are "diversity," "entitlement," "fetus," "transgender," and "vulnerable."

The presidents of the National Academies of Sciences (NAS), Engineering (NAE), and Medicine (NAM) issued a joint statement, saying: "Evidence-based advice to inform policymakers and public discourse has been the foundation of National Academies' counsel since the creation of the NAS more than 150 years ago by Abraham Lincoln. . . . . If it is true that the terms 'evidence-based' and 'science-based' are being censored, it will have a chilling effect on U.S. researchers – who may question whether their advice is still welcome – as well as on the quality of the counsel actually rendered to government."

4C. If getting laws passed is cumbersome, just change regulations

The Trump Administration's unrelenting campaign against protections of public lands, clean air and water, wildlife, and climate change policies has been waged not so much through legislation as through executive rules changes. A list compiled by the Sierra Club about a month ago (December 19) shows the following totals:

29 rules overturned
24 rollbacks in progress
7 rollbacks in limbo

Among recent ones: (1) Companies engaged in hard-rock mining (precious metals, copper, iron, lead and other ores) will no longer be required to prove they have the financial wherewithal to clean up their pollution, despite an industry legacy of abandoned mines that have fouled waterways across the U.S (2) Reopening a regulatory loophole would allow the sale of super-polluting trucks, running outdated engines that release up to 40 times as much pollution as modern truck engines.

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5. ENERGY; CLIMATE CHANGE

5A. DOE's proposed bailout of aging coal plants is nixed by FERC

Based on the argument that coal and nuclear plants are vital to our electric grid's long-term reliability and that there will be increasing demand for them, Sec. Perry's DOE drafted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) to bail out aging coal and nuclear plants by having electricity customers pay more for their power (NL 336 ¶6E). Recently, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) unanimously slammed the door on Perry's plan.

The pre-Perry version of the report, based on studies from energy-policy experts and major universities, had found that wind and solar energy contributed to the affordability, reliability and resilience of the grid, lowered prices for customers, and would continue to grow rapidly in the future.

5B. Court questions BLM's argument supporting federal coal leasing

Around 40% of the nation's coal comes from open-pit mines on BLM lands in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming. Because of the major contribution to climate change brought about by the burning of this coal, the Obama Administration had proposed to end federal coal leasing. The Trump Administration, working to reverse this ban, revived an old argument that federal coal leasing has no net effect on climate change because the coal can simply be mined elsewhere.

The court was not convinced. In September, the 10th US Circuit Court of Appeals required BLM to provide more data to support its argument that, once burned in power plants, coal makes no net contribution to climate change. In the meantime, mining continues at several mines on federal lands.

5C. Climate advisory committee disbanded by Trump is partially restored in NY State

As part of his war on climate-change action, Pres. Trump in August disbanded an important federal climate advisory committee. The purpose of the Committee for Sustained Climate Assessment was to interpret federal data for private and public construction projects and to advise local communities how to plan their projects to account for climate change. For example, the committee was working to make sure the American Society of Civil Engineers would get the detailed data they needed to help develop new building codes based on the National Climate Assessment, rather than on historical weather records which are no longer likely to be adequate by themselves.

The State of New York and Columbia University's Earth Institute have now stepped in to reinstate the committee. Effective Jan. 1, the Earth Institute has brought on Richard Moss, the former chairman of the Federal Advisory Committee for the National Climate Assessment, as a visiting senior research scientist in the Earth Institute. In his role, Moss will reestablish the panel, and deliver the report that the committee originally set out to write. The Earth Institute is supplying financial and logistical support as well as office space for the effort.

New York's Governor Andrew Cuomo (D), as co-chair of the U.S. Climate Alliance, will reconvene the Advisory Committee. In his recent State of the State address, he explains: The committee won't have the same power or reach as the federal version, of course. Its power will be limited in its current capacity. However, it aims to make information about climate change more accessible and provide resources to better understand how dire of a situation we're in and what we can do to mitigate that.

5D. Weather isn't climate. Ignorance in high places.

Feeding the public ignorance, Pres. Trump composed this message to tweet on Dec.28, in the midst of the first cold spell: "Perhaps we could use a little bit of that good old Global Warming that our Country, but not other countries, was going to pay TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS to protect against."

[Information from the *Climate Reality Project*]

The unusual weather we're seeing this winter is in no way evidence *against climate change*. It is an example of precisely the sort of extreme winter weather we expect *because of* climate change.

Heavy snowfall. Global warming is leading to later freeze-up of the Great Lakes and warmer lake temperatures. It is the collision of cold Arctic air with relatively warm unfrozen lake water in early winter that causes lake effect snows in the first place. The warmer those lake temperatures, the more moisture in the air, and the greater potential for lake effect snows.

Frigid temperatures. Yes, we were in a record low period. But, over the past 365 days, the record highs have outpaced the record lows 61 to 7, i.e. they have occurred nine times more often. Also, while the eastern half of N. America has been frigid, the western half has been unusually warm. (That's why we call it *global* warming, folks.)

Extreme cold even relatively far south.

[Info from M. Kretschmer et al., *Bull. of the American Meteorological Soc.* online 9/22/17]

The evidence is clear that the Arctic has been warming faster than the rest of the planet. That warming is reducing the amount of Arctic sea ice, allowing more heat to escape from the ocean. The scientists think that the ocean energy that is being released is causing a weakening of the stratospheric polar vortex winds high above the Arctic, which normally keep cold air centered over the polar region. That weakening is then allowing cold polar air to slip southward more often.

5E. World Bank to stop financing some fossil-fuel projects

[From *EcoWatch* 12/12/17]

At the international One Planet climate summit called by French President Macron, the World Bank, which provides financial, advisory, and technical support to developing countries, announced it will "no longer finance upstream oil and gas [exploration and extraction] after 2019." This plan is aimed at helping countries meet their emissions reduction pledges made at the 2015 Paris climate talks (that resulted in the Paris Agreement).

Oil Change International has recently analyzed how public finance drives the climate crisis through oil, gas, and coal expansion. On average, public finance institutions controlled by G20 governments, along with multilateral development banks such as the World Bank Group, provide $71.8 billion per year in public finance for fossil fuels, and only $18.7 billion in public finance for clean energy.

5F. Administration is determined to allow methane pollution

Oil and gas facilities release billions of cubic feet of methane (Me) into the atmosphere every year, through leaks, and the practices of venting and flaring. Near the end of the Obama Administration, EPA and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) finalized a methane waste prevention rule, which requires oil and gas companies using public lands (often adjacent to national parks) to do a better job of preventing their Me from leaking into the atmosphere. Not only would this improve air quality (Me mixes with other pollutants to form unhealthy ozone) and reduce global warming (Me is a powerful greenhouse gas), but it would save the taxpayer great sums of money. Since 2013, more than $1.7 billion worth of natural gas, on which royalties could have been collected, has been squandered on public and tribal lands.

During the past year, BLM attempted both in court and through the Congress to kill the Obama rule. Environmental groups managed to thwart both of these attempts. Despite all that, the Trump Administration is taking another pass, now aiming to delay the rule by a year.

Low-cost technologies to fix the Me-waste problem are available. Their use in states like Colorado and Wyoming has shown that they can be extremely successful.

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6. TCWP NEWS

6A. Upcoming activities

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

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

Alley Ford Cumberland Trail Workday – Saturday, February 17

A day of trail work and hiking will take place on the 2.5-mile section of the Cumberland Trail at the Obed Wild and Scenic River between Nemo Picnic Area and Alley Ford adopted by TCWP in 1998. Participants should dress appropriately for winter weather, wear sturdy shoes or boots, and bring work gloves, loppers, small bow saws or folding saws, shovels and grubbing tools, as well as a lunch and plenty of water. Some tools will be available at the event.

Participants can meet for carpooling in Oak Ridge at the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot (meet at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) in time to leave Oak Ridge at 9 a.m. Eastern, or can join the crew at Nemo Picnic Area or Rock Creek Campground at 10 a.m. We expect to return to the trailhead by around 3 p.m. (NOTE: If the weather is uncooperative--excessive rain or snow and ice—we will reschedule for February 24.)

Participants will need to sign a National Park Service volunteer form (parent's or guardian's signature required for minors). Forms can be requested in advance from TCWP, or NPS representatives will also have forms available at the event.

"Climate Change: Past, Present, and Future" – Thursday, February 22

Dr. Peter Thornton, deputy director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Climate Change Science Institute and group leader for the Terrestrial Systems Modeling Group in ORNL's Environmental Sciences Division, will describe the current best understanding of climate change in a program cosponsored by TCWP, Climate Coalition Lobby-Knoxville and the Citizens Climate Coalition at Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. The program will be held Thursday, February 22, at 7 p.m. in the Social Room at the Oak Ridge Civic Center.

Dr. Thornton's presentation will describe evidence regarding historical and modern climate changes, and projections of future climate based on Earth system models. His current research involves the development, evaluation, and application of Earth system models for future climate change prediction. His areas of expertise include the interaction of water, energy, carbon, and nutrients within land ecosystems, the interactions of vegetation communities with the atmosphere, and weather observations over land.

Spring Cedar Barrens Weed Wrangle® – Saturday, March 3

We will conduct our spring invasive plant removal at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens on March 3 as an official Weed Wrangle®, an invasive plant removal project coordinated by The Gar-

den Club of Nashville and Invasive Plant Control, Inc. This is the second year TCWP has been a partner in this program.

The Barrens, a Tennessee State Natural Area, is located next to Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge. Its management is a joint project of the City of Oak Ridge, State Division of Natural Areas, and TCWP. One of only a few cedar barrens in East Tennessee, the area 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 plants.

Volunteers should meet at the Jefferson Middle School parking lot next to the baseball field at 9 a.m., with sturdy shoes or boots, loppers, hand saws, weather-appropriate clothing, snacks, and water. TCWP will provide other tools and work gloves. Our efforts will eliminate shade-producing plants, benefiting the native prairie plants and three rare plants. Volunteers will be treated to pizza following the event at around noon. The day's activities should conclude by 1 p.m.

For additional information, please contact Tim Bigelow, TCWP's Cedar Barrens steward, at (865) 607-6781 or at *bigelowt2@mindspring.com*.

Mark your calendars now for two April events to be cosponsored by TCWP and the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society:

Screening of "Bringing Nature Home" – Thursday, April 5

On Thursday, April 5, TCWP and UTAS will cosponsor a screening of "Hometown Habitat: Bringing Nature Home," a documentary focused on showing how and why native plants are critical to the survival and vitality of local ecosystems. The director and film crew traveled across the country to visit individuals and families who are reversing detrimental impacts on the land and in the water of major U.S. watersheds, one garden at a time. The program will be held at 7 p.m. in the City Room at Roane State-Oak Ridge.

"The Songs of the Trees" – Tuesday, April 24

David Haskell, author of ***The Forest Unseen*** (which received the National Academies' Best Book Award for 2013 and was a finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer Prize in nonfiction) and the recently released ***The Songs of Trees***, will speak at a 7 p.m. program cosponsored by Strata-G, TCWP, and UTAS. Haskell's work integrates scientific, literary, and contemplative studies of nature. In this program he will discuss how the lives of people and trees are intertwined.

The program will be held at 7 p.m. at the UTAS Auditorium on S. Illinois Avenue in Oak Ridge.

Additional information about both these programs and our other April events will be included in the March newsletter.

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.

6B. Recent events

TCWP Annual Meeting – Saturday, November 18

About 35 people turned out for our 51st annual meeting, held this year at the Grassy Cove Community Center with Steve Law, executive director of Tennessee Parks & Greenways, as our keynote speaker. Steve discussed his background prior to coming to TennGreen, the oldest accredited statewide land trust in Tennessee, and the organization's conservation philosophy. He stressed that TennGreen strongly believes in partnerships, and said it would like to strengthen its relationship with TCWP.

Steve described current projects, including one nearly complete in Grassy Cove that involves 956 acres of forest on Brady and Bear Den mountains, adjoining the Cumberland Trail. This land will soon be conveyed to the state, and will become part of the Cumberland Trail State park.

Steve's talk was followed by the annual business meeting, including the election of 2017 board members and officers. Mark Bevelhimer was elected TCWP president, succeeding Jimmy Groton, who will become a board member at large; Michele Thornton succeeds Mark as vice president. Carol Grametbauer and Tim Bigelow will continue as secretary and treasurer, respectively. Following the election, TCWP founder Liane Russell expressed the board's thanks to Jimmy, who has served as president since 1999, with the exception of one or two short gaps.

After a buffet lunch from Mediterranean Delight in Oak Ridge, Martha Kemmer Hale, a sixth-generation "Cove-er" who is an experienced tour guide and historian, entertained attendees with a talk about early settlers, historic sites, and geological features in the Cove.

TCWP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 14

Once again this year we had a wonderful turnout for our holiday party, held at the home of Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen in Oak Ridge, with nearly 50 in attendance. This get-together annually provides us with the opportunity to celebrate the holiday season with other TCWP members and special guests in the relaxing setting of Jenny and Bill's beautifully decorated home, while enjoying a wide-ranging selection of hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Our sincere thanks to Jenny and Bill for opening their home to us again for this party.

6C. Thanks, and a tip of the hat to

[compiled by Sandra Goss]

Steve Law and Martha Kemmer Hale for their outstanding presentations at the 51st TCWP Annual Meeting.

Program Committee chair Carol Grametbauer and members Jean Bangham, Tim Bigelow, Ed Clebsch, Joe Feeman, Jimmy Groton, Wes James, and Jan Lyons for their outstanding help in successful, interesting events, outings, and clean-up functions in 2017.

Tim Bigelow for leadership of the après-Annual Meeting outing.

Jean Bangham, John Bates, Bob Compton, Jimmy Groton, Harriet McCurdy, Eileen Neiler, Lise Neiler, Marese Nephew, Dick Raridon, Dick Roop, Gary Salk, Marty Salk for their help in getting TCWP Newsletter distributed.

Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen for their gracious hospitality at the TCWP Holiday Party.

Nominating Committee members Sam Suffern, Don Barger, and chair Chuck Coutant for their services in securing the Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee for 2018.

6D. Friends and members in the news

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]
Penny Lukin is pictured and mentioned in the November 16 *Oak Ridger*, providing Hanukkah music for an Oak Ridge event.

Sandy Kurtz penned an article about weakening water regulations in the December 13 *Chattanooga Pulse*.

Brian Paddock's letter to the editor about tax cuts was published in the December 19 *Tennessean*.

Lee Russell was featured in an article in the December 30 *News Sentinel*.

Joe Feeman authored an article about traveling in Ireland and Scotland in the January 10 *Norris Bulletin.*

TCWP Newsletter welcomes members letting us know
about their recent mentions in printed media.
Send news of you being in the news to
sandra@sandrakgoss.com, or 865.583-3967.

6E. Executive Director's Column

The days are discernably longer on the clear days. Hallelujah! Our wild lands and waters are full of wonder-full things during these darker, colder days. TCWP has winter events that can be quite enjoyable as well as helpful: The Alley Ford leg of the Cumberland Trail will undergo its annual maintenance effort on February 17, and in March we'll sponsor the spring Oak Ridge Cedar Barren Weed Wrangle.

The latest on climate change research will be covered in a February 22 presentation by Dr. Peter Thornton, Deputy Director of ORNL's Climate Change Science Institute. In April there will be a screening of "Bringing Nature Home," a film about how to make one's backyard more hospitable to creatures of all sorts and author David Haskell will talk about his recent book, *The Song of Trees*.

Thanks so much to the TCWP Program Committee, which meets on Monday evenings about every 6 weeks. There are a couple of vacancies on the committee and we welcome visitors. Call or e-mail for more info.

The State Legislature has convened for the season. Stay informed—sign up for TCWP e-lerts at www.tcwp.org. We send out info on the important issues that merit a call or e-mail.

Thanks to each of you for your support of TCWP and your work to conserve our wild lands and waters.

Sandra

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7. CALENDAR

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

- February 17, Alley Ford workday (see ¶6A, this NL)
- February 22, "Climate Change: Past, Present, and Future," Dr. Peter Thornton (see ¶6A, this NL)
- March 3, Spring Cedar Barrens Weed Wrangle® (see ¶6A, this NL)

March 10, Workshop "Protect your land and heritage for future generations" features presenters from UT Knoxville, Southeastern Grasslands Initiative, Panther Creek Forestry LLC, and Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation. See tenngreen.org for more info and registration

- April 5, Screening of "Bringing Nature Home," co-sponsored with the UT Arboretum Society (see ¶6A, this NL)
- April 24, "The Songs of the Trees." David Haskell, co-sponsored with Strata-G and the UT Arboretum Society (see ¶6A, this NL)

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TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

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UPCOMING EVENTS

February 6 – Emory River Watershed Association
February 15 – TCWP Board Meeting
February 17 - Alley Ford workday
February 20, 21 – Conservation Day on the Hill
February 22 - Peter Thornton, ORNL, climate change research Presentation
February 23 Nature Votes (TCV fundraiser in Nashville)
March 3 - Spring Cedar Barren cleanup, and official Weed Wrangle event
March 31 –Obed Cleanup from Rafts