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**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 East Tennessee, our efforts may extend to the rest of the state and the nation. TCWP's strength lies in researching information pertinent to all issues, informing and educating our members 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.

Contact information on p. 15
1. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

A. OBED ONRW designation has indeed happened!

We had to go to the printer just one day before it happened, on June 22, but we anticipated the outcome correctly (NL228 ¶1). The Obed has been an Outstanding National Resource Water for exactly two months now. The State of Tennessee at last officially recognizes the Obed WSR for the treasure it is.

The compromise that finally did the trick was to give immediate ONRW (Tier-3) designation to the entire federal portion of the Obed; but if the Cumberland Plateau Regional Water Authority (recently created by the legislature) were to determine that it is necessary to use the River as a source of drinking water, such a permit would be considered under the requirements for Tier 2 (instead of Tier 3). Fortunately, the multitude of alternative water-supply options for the Cumberland Plateau that have recently been identified, and which provide more economical, secure, and environmentally sensitive means for obtaining water for the region (NL226 ¶1A), make it highly unlikely that this exception would come into play. And no new sources of water pollution will now be permitted, recognizing the National Park Service’s mandate to preserve our national parks unimpaired for future generations.

The compromise was put before the Water Quality Control Board on the initiative of TDEC Commissioner Hamilton, after he had become fully apprised of the situation (described in NL226 ¶1A, ¶B, NL227 ¶1A) and of the strong support there was for the Obed. (Read more in NL228 ¶1 about our role in the outcome.) TCWP is planning a presentation to Commissioner Hamilton in appreciation of his actions.

B. A leaderless time for both Obed and Big South Fork

Neither the Obed Wild & Scenic River nor the Big South Fork NRRA currently have a superintendent. At the Obed, Don Forester is about to retire and will be on sick leave until then. At the Big South Fork, the superintendent position has been vacant since Rolland Swain retired in March, and Assistant Superintendent Judy Iberg will retire in September. Even Mary Collier, Superintendent at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, who for a while was also Acting Superintendent at BSFNRA, has gone back to her own park full-time. A new superintendent for the BSFNRA has been identified and will arrive in October. He is Reed Detering, presently chief of law enforcement at Everglades National Park. After his arrival he will have to fill at least three other vacancies now existing in the Park.

This leaderless time at the two parks comes at a time when there is much important planning either under way (BSF General Management Plan) or needing to be done, such as the BSF Roads & Trails Plan (NL228 ¶2B) and the Obed Climbing Plan, without which destructive climbing is proceeding uncontrolled (NL226 ¶1C).

C. Attend water-quality meeting for Big South Fork watershed

The Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has for some time been using a watershed approach to analyze and deal with water quality. The watershed of the Clear Fork, one of the two major stems of the Big South Fork, will be addressed at a meeting on September 14, 7 p.m. (CDT), at the York Institute, Jamestown.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: This TDEC study is an important step in protecting not only water quality but also quantity (e.g., proposed impoundments in the watershed), and we urge TCWP members to attend the Sept.14 meeting. Please contact Sandra Goss (423-522-3809, skgoss@esper.com) or Marcy Reed (423-691-8807,
D. Input Into BSF Management Plan urgently needed
Here is an important reminder from NL228 §2.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: We need to send a loud and clear, yet simple, message before the draft General Management Plan gets cast in stone: the GMP must designate major portions of the Adjacent Area that are kept off-limits to ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles). Contact the NPS planner at john_fischer@nps.gov, or at National Park Service, SE Region, 100 Alabama St, SW, Atlanta Federal Center, Atlanta, GA 30303.

E. Capsules
- An effort is under way to start an Obed Watershed Association in Morgan County, involving local interested citizens and diverse stakeholders. The focus will probably be on water quality. Don Todd and Joni Lovegrove are planning an exploratory meeting in the near future.
- A new Nemo Bridge over the Emory River is under construction, and the Cumberland Trail Conference has proposed that the old one be retained as a foot bridge for the Trail, and also to preserve its historical significance. It is not yet clear whether approval can be obtained from all the parties involved.
- With completion of the new, unbelievably high (208 ft!) Route-52 bridge over the Clear Fork River west of Rugby, the Dept. of Transportation has proposed to remove the old Brewster Bridge. It is very likely that endangered mussels exist at the site. TDoT proposes that “at least 75% of mussels will be removed and relocated by hand to the nearest suitable habitat upstream.”

2. STATE PARKS and FORESTS

A. State Parks Forum, Aug. 28
[Contributed by Marcy Reed]

TCWP is co-sponsoring the Third State Parks Forum, August 28, 9 am to 4:30 pm, at the Sevierville Civic Center. Cost is $10 for the forum (including a continental breakfast) and $5 for lunch (optional). Other co-sponsors are the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Assoc., Tennessee Environmental Council, Environmental Action Fund, and Sierra Club.

We have an exciting line-up of participants for this forum. The keynote speaker will be Richard Hilton, a former state parks employee, who worked both as a regional naturalist and as a park ranger. He is still an avid user of, and advocate for, state parks.

The remainder of the agenda consists of two panels (each lasting about 1 1/2 hours). The first will discuss the implementation of the recently completed master plan, and the second will examine financial issues related to state parks management.

Participating in the first panel are Walter Butler, Assistant Commissioner of State Parks, Nancy Dorman, TDEC parks planner, and Bill Terry (unconfirmed). Terry, a planner for the city of Goodlettsville and a member of the Sierra Club and TSRA, would provide balance to this panel and a different perspective.

The second panel will consist of Sue Atwood, Accountant Manager, State Parks; Dwight Hensley, Director of Facilities Management, State Parks; and Ed Cole, TDEC Assistant Commissioner. With the panels manned largely by the people who are running our state-park system, we have a great opportunity to make our concerns known and to ask some really hard questions.

The final item on the agenda is to develop strategies and an action plan for the future. Please come to the forum with all your questions, concerns, and suggestions.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: For information contact Marcy Reed at 423-691-880, or MarcyRRreed@aol.com. You may pre-register over the phone or by e-mail and then pay at the door. Registration will still be allowed on the day of the event, but no lunch will be provided unless you pre-registered.

B. Additions to existing state areas
Frozen Head. In ongoing negotiations with the Forestland Group, which currently owns much of the land encompassing Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area (NL223 §6), the State appears to be discussing acquisition of the Love Mountain tract, for which sufficient money has now been
obligated. Acquisition of the Bird Mountain tract will be pursued as funds become available.

**Pickett.** The 1,125-acre Burton Talley tract that was donated to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) earlier this year is, hopefully, the first of several areas contiguous with Pickett State Forest to be protected. A few of us went to view this spectacular and wild area a couple of months ago, and TCWP will probably become formally involved in its safekeeping by one or another mechanism (negotiations with TNC are in progress). TCWP's Frank Hensley, who has been urging the State to acquire other adjacent areas that he has researched, was encouraged by a State Lands Committee meeting he attended last week in Nashville. It looks as if, in aggregate, an additional ~3000 acres contiguous with Pickett (including the Burton Talley tract) may receive protected status.

**C. Cumberland Trail SP progress.** The highly energetic Cumberland Trail Conference, under Project Manager Rob Weber, has organized site surveys for a number of major segments projected for the Trail. Several TCWP members are actively involved in teams conducting these site surveys (e.g., Charlie Klabunde, Mike Lain, Doris Gove, Gary Grametbauer). Don Todd and Jon Lovegrove will guide the surveys for the Frozen Head Segment of the CTSP. This segment will cross downtown Wartburg on its way between Nemo Bridge (over the Emory) and Frozen Head SP, thus providing access to the Obed WSR Park office. One of the two CTSP rangers, which are coming on board late this summer or fall, will also probably be headquartered there. The Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation (NL226 §3E) is providing leadership for adding the Black Mountain registered State Natural Area (in the Grassy Cove Segment) to the CTSP.

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**3. OTHER STATE ISSUES.**

**A. Forest conversions and over-harvesting.**

There are glimmers of hope on the horizon for alleviation of the rapidly increasing threats of massive forest conversion (hardwoodsto pine) and non-sustainable harvesting in our state. Help may come from two different processes, both of which will benefit from our involvement and assistance.

(a) **SCCM's Economic Incentives Bill, SB.1754 (Kyle)/HB.1570 (Curtiss).** SB.1754 (Kyle)/HB.1570 (Curtiss). SB.1754 passed the full Senate this year (NL228 §3A), but HB.1570 still needs to pass the House in 2000, the second half of the two-year General Assembly. Modeled on a successful Kentucky law of 1995, the bill requires the State to undertake a forest-resource assessment prior to granting economic incentives for wood-products industries.

J.M. Huber, a huge NJ.-based company, was denied economic incentives in Kentucky, where the 1995 law had just gone into operation. Unfortunately for us, Huber then located in Spring City, TN, and received $600,000-700,000 in incentive funds from the state of Tennessee. The company is cutting trees in an area that is already being heavily harvested by the Bowater Paper Co. To prevent repetition of such disasters, let's all get ready to push HB.1570 (Curtiss) through the House when the General Assembly reconvenes.

(b) **Southern Forest Resource Assessment.** This 2-year comprehensive assessment of both privately owned (90%) and public forests is being initiated for Tennessee and 12 other southern states by the US Forest Service (USFS), in partnership with EPA, US Fish & Wildlife Service, TVA, and state forestry agencies (NL228 §7B). Information will be collected and evaluated, on forest productivity (timber, wildlife, recreation, water, range), ecological diversity, and sustainability.

This is the type of comprehensive study we have advocated for quite some time. It should focus attention on forest values in addition to board-feet of timber, and it should throw a glaring light on the non-sustainable industrial exploitation of our forests that is currently under way. The success of this process is heavily dependent on public input.

Five meetings are being held in August to solicit public comments on the direction of the study. Unfortunately, the Knoxville meeting (August 17) will be over by the time you receive this NL (quite a few TCWP members attended); however, written comments will be accepted until Sept. 1 (see box, below). You can ask questions you would like to see answered by the study about the impacts of various types and magnitudes of harvesting, state what our forests mean to you and why you want them protected against destruction, and suggest safeguards you would like to see in place before large-scale industrial harvesting is permitted or facilitated.
EPA had last year called on 22 states, including Tennessee, to bring about major reductions in their smog-forming emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx). These pollutants are dangerous to human health, have caused major death of plant species in the southern Appalachians, and have diminished the visitor experience in the Smokies and elsewhere (NL226 ¶7A; NL222 ¶7B). State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for reducing NOx by the year 2002 were to be submitted by September 1999.

In May of this year, a U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals put a "stay" on the SIP deadline. The court did not question the science and process conducted by EPA that justified the setting of more protective standards, but based its ruling solely on an old and often discredited constitutional theory. The court's ruling, further, does not prevent states from voluntarily moving forward to adopt NOx controls consistent with the SIP Call.

Not surprisingly, a few polluting industries, like Tennessee Eastman, are pressuring the state to pull back on the submission of the SIP. (See www.TnGreen.com for more detail). It is therefore doubly important for us to urge the Governor to submit Tennessee's SIP in September 1999, as planned. Too much is at stake for our human and ecological health. Furthermore, in view of TVA's public-spirited decision to proceed with cleanup of their steam plants, which constitute a major source of NOx in our area (NL224 ¶6C), it should be relatively easy for Tennessee to comply.

C. Linked water trails proposed
(from InSites, U.T.)

The University of Tennessee's Water Resources Research Center is facilitating the development of a regional "blueways" network of linked water trails in East Tennessee that will encourage canoeists and kayakers to make use of local waterways and also promote other forms of recreation, natural resources stewardship, and ecotourism. The project (coordinated by Laura Wilks and Jeff Duncan) began as a pilot program along the Holston and lower French Broad rivers and proposes to link to other waterways and greenways in East Tennessee.

4. Tn LCV will increase political effectiveness of tennessee environmental movement
(Contributed by Mary Lynn Dobson and Erin Kelly)

The Environmental Action Fund has metamorphosed into a new environmental coalition, the Tennessee League of Conservation Voters (Tn LCV). With this change comes the promise of better communication and support between our respective conservation groups, the media, and most important, the people who are representing us in Nashville. This coalition is able to draw on the resources and strategies that have been effective in other states. The Tn LCV plans to:

- Publish a scorecard on how each of our legislators voted on bills affecting the environment. Did your representative, e.g., vote for the bill that addressed the water-quality impacts of bad forestry? The answer will be in the scorecard. Overall, did your representative consistently vote to provide Tennesseans with a clean environment and protection of natural resources? The scorecard will make clear whether he/she is representing your needs.
- Provide funds to send interested members from environmental groups across the state to a leadership training course, May 1-6 in Atlanta. This will strengthen the overall effectiveness of the environmental community.
- Prior to an election, send out candidate questionnaires to incumbent legislators and potential challengers to ascertain their position on a variety of environmental issues. The responses will help us target races and determine
which candidates deserve our endorsement and support.

- Hold briefings for candidates with environmental groups in their electoral district to make the candidates aware of local environmental issues.

These actions will increase communication and effectiveness throughout the web of our state’s environmental groups. TCWP is excited to be one of the 18 members of this coalition.

5. CHEROKEE and SMOKIES

A. Critical viewsed needs acquiring

Adjacent to 9 miles of the Appalachian Trail, and constituting a major component of the viewedshed from the Max Patch area and the eastern end of the Smokies, is the “Gulf Tract.” This 6,600-acre tract in Cocke County, TN, about 3 miles from I-40, is owned by Champion International, which is eager to sell it. A Congressional appropriation is needed for the US Forest Service to purchase this land. Unless this happens, the tract is bound to be sold to private developers.

Acquisition by the USFS is supported by Rep. Bill Jenkins (in whose district the land is located) and by Tennessee’s two Senators. The Clinton Administration has included $3.5 million for the Gulf Tract acquisition in its FY2000 budget proposal for the Land & Water Conservation Fund. However, only $500,000 has been appropriated by a Senate committee, and zero by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior Affairs. Rep. Zach Wamp is a member of the latter. In response to a letter from us supporting the Gulf tract appropriation, he writes: “Unfortunately, the House bill does not include the money. I support the preservation of the Gulf Tract and will urge my colleagues to include the funds in the final bill.” (He also states that he was able to secure $900,000 for infrastructure improvements in the Cherokee NF, and $150,000 for the Trail of Tears.)

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to Reps. Wamp and Jenkins and to Senators Frist and Thompson (address on p.2) urging them to support an appropriation of at least $3.5 million for acquisition of the Gulf Tract.

B. Protecting the wildlands of the Appalachian Trail: program & hike

[Contributed by Eric Hirst]

The Appalachian Trail runs a thousand miles through the rugged and beautiful Southern Appalachian mountains, including the Cherokee National Forest and Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee. Unfortunately, the U.S. Forest Service has built roads and allowed logging on steep and scenic wildlands just outside the narrow trail corridor. Preservation as wilderness would protect critical areas for future generations and save them from all forms of “development.”

On behalf of a coalition of conservation groups, Peter Kirby, a former staffer for the Wilderness Society, is leading a hike along the AT to promote protection of wildlands along this famous trail. At a time when forest-plan revisions are in late stages of preparation by the US Forest Service, it is hoped that the hike will educate and influence the public, federal agencies, local officials, and the media about the need and opportunity to protect these wildlands. It will be possible for us to join Peter for segments of his hike (see below).

The Sierra Club and TCWP are sponsoring an Evening with Peter Kirby, who will present a talk and slide show “Southern Appalachian Wilderness Walk: A Hike to Protect the Wildlands of the Appalachian Trail.”

Tuesday, August 31, 1999
Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church
2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville
7:30 - 9 p.m.

Complimentary copies of the report, Tennessee’s Mountain Treasures, will be available. Refreshments will be served after the talk.

Peter has also invited people to join him for one or more days of hiking along the Appalachian Trail in Tennessee (where he’ll be most of August). The pace will average about 10 miles a day.

Contact Will Skelton (423-523-2272, skelton@bassberry.com) or Eric Hirst (423-483-1289, Hirstea@esper.com) for more information about what promises to be a very interesting and informative evening, and also about the options for hiking with Peter along the Appalachian Trail in Tennessee.
C. Cherokee Capsules

- A comprehensive multi-agency assessment of the forest resources of 13 southern states has got underway (NL228 ¶7B). While national forests, including the Cherokee, are included in the study, almost 90% of the forest in this region are privately owned and managed (¶3A(b), this NL).

- An article on the A.T. by TCWP’s Sandra Goss and Eric Hirst appeared in The Oak Ridger on August 4. In addition to announcing the Peter Kirby Walk and Talk (¶5B, above), the article contains several interesting facts, e.g.,
  - The origin of the 2,160-mile A.T. is traced to a 1921 article by Benton MacKay, in which he suggested establishment of recreational communities along the Appalachian chain, to be connected by a walking trail.
  - Of 632,348 acres in the Cherokee National Forest, only 10.6% are permanently protected from timber harvesting through Wilderness designation, and another 34% have partial protection. Over 55% of the Cherokee is open to logging and associated road construction.

D. Smokies air is bad, bad, BAD

You have heard it before, but it bears repeating in the light of related stories in this NL (¶3B and ¶6C). The park is downwind from a great many pollution sources associated with “growth.” It’s a barometer of what’s happening in a much wider region.

- At least 30 species of plants in the park are dying or have been badly damaged because of ozone and acid precipitation.
- SO₂ pollution increased 21% over a recent ten-year period.
- A record 44 days of unhealthy ozone levels in the park were charted in 1998, twice as many as in 1997.
- Summertime vistas have been reduced by 80%.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Your Representative and Senator (addresses on p. 2) need to know that EPA must be allowed to enforce the revised National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for Ozone (O₃) and Particulate Matter smaller than 2.5 microns (PM 2.5).

E. Huge Inventory under way

The All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory has got underway in the Smokies. It is planned to take 10 years and will be the largest bioinventory of an area ever undertaken. As of now, scientists can name only about 10% of the over 100,000 species thought to live in the ~520,000-acre park.

F. Many in Townsend oppose 5-laning

Construction is scheduled to start in the fall for 5-laning the highway into and through Townsend. A group led by Eric Bonner points out that there are just three weekends during the year when the present road experiences excessive traffic. (He asks: “should you 20-lane I-40 through Knoxville to accommodate traffic for the 6 Saturdays of U.T. home-games?”). The group, which is concerned about Townsend turning into another Pigeon Forge, is collecting evidence of local opposition. For more information and action suggestions, contact Eric Bonner, 423-573-6716 and leave a message.

S. TVA ISSUES

A. Commend TVA for “staying the course” on NO₂ reduction

( Based on a contribution by Steven Smith)

Despite the fact that a federal appeals court has thrown a (hopefully temporary) monkey wrench into EPA’s rules for reducing nitrogen oxides (NO₂) emissions (¶3B, this NL), TVA has chosen to “stay the course,” planning to reduce summer NO₂ emission by 75% by 2003. This is particularly important in view of the fact that it should make it much easier for the state of Tennessee to file a State Implementation Plan (SIP, see ¶3B, above).

Most harmful to ecological and human health, visibility, and visitor experience in the Southern Appalachian region, including the Smokies, are sulfur emissions (that cause acid precipitation and haze) and ozone-forming NO₂. Approximately 40% of the latter come from coal-fired power plants, with 30% emitted by automobiles. The power plants additionally contribute 75% of the fine sulfur particulate matter.

The 1990 Clean Air Act grandfathered older steamplants against the new, more stringent, requirements on the assumption that these plants would be phased out before long. If any plant instead expanded its production of electricity, it was required to install upgraded pollution-control equipment. This, in fact, has not happened, and the biggest and dirtiest coal-burning power plants, many of them upwind from us, have been in violation of the 1990 Act. The three biggest utilities in the region that includes the Midwest—American Electric Power, Southern, and TVA—account for about 1.3 million
tons of NOx annually, equivalent to the pollution from 200 million cars. Of these huge polluters, TVA is the only one that has announced a voluntary program of compliance: $500-600 million will be spent to reduce NOx emissions from all 11 of the agency's coal-fired power plants. And, TVA is staying the course, even though the recent court ruling has essentially said it doesn't have to.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to TVA to thank them for "staying the course" on their NOx reductions, and to offer support. Encourage them to make similar reductions in sulfur emissions.
Address: Chairman Craven Crowell, TVA, P.O. Box 1133, Knoxville, TN 37902. Send a copy to the editor of your local paper.

B. Columbia Dam being dismantled
A concrete manifestation of the end to Columbia Dam and Reservoir (NL223 ¶4) that TCWP had worked for so hard some years ago came on June 1 when workers returned to the uncompleted dam to start tearing it down. Last summer, already, the massive gates that would have held back the water, had the dam been completed, were dismantled. The current demolition, which should be finished by January 2000, will reduce the 105-foot-high concrete structure to a height of 32 feet and form a natural-looking beak retaining the diversion channel that was constructed preparatory to dam construction. All of these efforts will cost $2.4 million, including the final expenditure for an unneeded project that was the pork barrel of local politicians. Over the years, TVA had conducted three feasibility studies, all of which failed to show an economic justification for Columbia Dam. Yet, some of the local business leaders even now blame the Endangered Species Act for non-completion of the project. [For fate of the Columbia lands, see NL228 ¶8D.]

C. Advisory council for land and water programs
A plan to form the Regional Resource Stewardship Council, a public advisory group, was announced by the TVA Board in June. Except for $7 million specifically earmarked for Land Between Lakes, TVA no longer receives a Congressional appropriation for its resource (non-power) program and is using about $100 million of interest saved from refinancing its debt to run the needed activities. Consequently, there has been some concern that, in the absence of Congressional oversight, components of the non-power program other than flood control and navigation might be allowed to wither away. The Regional Resource Stewardship Council was conceived as a means of strengthening public input into TVA decisions concerning its resource program.

D. Completing the TVA Board
Following the resignation of Johnny Hayes (to work on the Gore campaign) and the retirement of William Kenney in May, the TVA Board has operated with a single member, Chairman Craven Crowell. The following two nominations by Pres. Clinton are very likely to be announced in September. Skila Harris and Glenn McCullough. Harris, who has in the past worked as chief of staff for Vice President Gore, is executive director of a DOE advisory board. She would be the first woman ever to serve on the TVA Board. McCullough, proposed by Trent Lott, has been mayor of Tupelo, Mississippi, since 1997 and was at one time state office director for the Appalachian Regional Commission.

E. Woman promotes clean Tennessee River by swimming all of it
To draw attention to the beautiful environment of the Tennessee River and to the need for improving and preserving the river's water quality and other features, Mimi Hughes has started a 652-mile swim. It will take her 5 years of August swims to get from the start of the Tennessee River, above Knoxville, to where it joins the Ohio at Paducah, KY. Mimi Hughes is a 43-year-old mother of 4. TVA has decided to sponsor the swim.

7. OAK RIDGE and KNOXVILLE

A. North Ridge Trail has new steward
[Contributed by Eric Hirst]
The baton is passed! For about a decade, Ken and Helen Warren have maintained the North Ridge Trail in Oak Ridge. Ken and Helen periodically walk the 11 miles of trail; mark trees with white, blue or red blazes on the main, access, and Delaware-loop trails; pick up trash; and remove trees that have fallen across the trail. Thanks to their efforts, many people can readily enjoy hiking on this trail, which offers as near to a wilderness experience as one can get so close to home.

W. A. (Tom) Thomas is the new trail steward. Tom, a 30-year member of TCWP, is the
Senior Planner at Oak Ridge Associated Universities. An avid birdwatcher and runner, Tom spends much of his time in the Oak Ridge greenbelt. Any TCWP members (or others) interested in helping Tom maintain this Oak Ridge treasure should contact him at 423-576-9561 or Thunnast@ORAU.gov. Thanks Tom for taking over this important responsibility for TCWP.

B. Part of Oak Ridge Reservation designated as conservation area

On June 23, Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson set aside 3,000 acres of the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Oak Ridge Reservation as a conservation and wildlife management area. In a ceremony at the historic Freels Cabin, attended by many TCWP members, a proclamation was signed for a cooperative agreement between DOE and TWRA (Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency) that calls for the land to be managed for preservation purposes under a use permit. In recent years, TWRA has been responsible for deer and turkey hunts on the 35,000 acre Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) and for habitat development programs.

The Three Bends Scenic and Wildlife Management Refuge Area is located in the ORR’s buffer zone, on Freels, Gallaher, and Solway Bends. The three peninsulas jut out into the Clinch River (Melton Hill Lake), forming about 20 miles of shoreline, some of which rises in high limestone bluffs. The land is vital habitat for at least 10 neotropical migrant songbird species, waterfowl, and much other wildlife. Threatened plant species, rare plant communities, caves, and other unique features are also found within the Three Bends area.

AFORR (Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation) believe that the new agreement must give officials legitimacy to the use of this area for wildlife conservation, recreation, and education. They are hopeful that, as the public increasingly recognizes and appreciates first-hand the conservation, recreational, educational, and research values of the land, people will stand up for its permanent protection.

Secretary Richardson’s very welcome announcement does not, of course, eliminate the need for concern about the rest of the 35,000-acre ORR. AFORR points out that, even for the Three Bends Area, no permanent protection is guaranteed by the announcement – the agreement is for 5 years only. Local real estate developers and some city officials would like to see this shoreline become a high-end residential development and will continue to exert pressure on DOE, which could terminate the agreement with very short notice.

C. Land trust for Knox lands and a WILL SKELTON GREENWAY

The Knox Land and Water Conservancy, a new land trust, has been formed to preserve the land and water resources of Knoxville and Knox County. Protection may be through donation, bequest, purchase, or conservation easements. The first property to be acquired was a 130-acre tract on the French Broad upstream from Ijams. Contact Tim Gangaware, c/o Ijams Nature Center, PO Box 2601, Knoxville, TN 37901.

The Conservancy will also protect land for greenways. And, talking of greenways, the one formerly referred to as the “Forks of the River Greenway” was dedicated as the “Will Skelton Greenway” at groundbreaking – a most fitting way to honor Will, who had the vision for the Knox greenways system and has been such a major factor in the effort to bring it to fruition.

8. NATIONAL ISSUES

A. Good chance for land-acquisition and other conservation funding

At last there seems to be a chance to “liberate” LWCF money! The Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which is fed by royalties from offshore oil & gas drilling, is the
source of money for acquiring lands needed for parks, forests, wildlife refuges, etc. It is authorized for $900 million annually, but the money that was actually been appropriated in recent years for federal acquisitions is but a fraction of this, with the rest of it being credited to the general revenue. The state matching-grant portion of the LWCF has dried up altogether. In the meantime, millions of acres nationwide that badly need to be protected are being irrevocably lost to development.

Several bills introduced into this Congress would require the annually authorized $900 million of the LWCF to be actually appropriated each year. The major ones of these bills are, (a) the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA), HR.701 (Young)/S.25 (Murkowski), and (b) the “Resources 2000 Act,” HR.798 (Miller)/S.446 (Boxer). Both of these have good features for protecting habitat on a state, as well as federal, basis. However, CARA had several other provisions (see below) that made it originally unacceptable. Fortunately, an earnest effort is presently underway to eliminate or soften these initially objectionable provisions in the House bill. This is very important because, by virtue of Young and Murkowski being chairman of their respective committees, the bill that will move is CARA, rather than Resources 2000.

While the chance of getting a Senate bill out of committee is slim indeed, things look good on the House side. Rep. Don Young has been agreeable to working with Rep. George Miller’s staff to achieve an acceptable compromise and get a substantially improved CARA out of his committee by September 15. This, in turn, will greatly improve the chances for getting the provisions of the bill incorporated into the President's budget package, as part of the Administration’s Land Legacy Initiative. For this reason, it is essential that we support the improved CARA without delay (see box below).

As originally introduced, CARA had several major failings. One of these was that it required a separate Congressional authorization for each project costing over $1 million. In actual fact, most needed land acquisitions involve areas that had already been authorized (e.g., completing the boundaries of the Obed WSR and the Big South Fork NRRA, or buying inholdings in the Cherokee National Forest), or areas that currently do not need separate authorization (e.g., small new wildlife refuges). As revised, CARA will now require only an appropriation and not a new authorization in such cases. Another failing of the original CARA was limitation of land acquisition on the basis of geography (thus, acquisition of the important Baca Ranch in NM, for example, would not have been easily possible). Also repaired have been some features of CARA that would have provided incentives for additional off-shore drilling.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Without delay, please urge your Congressman (address on p.2) to support CARA (HR.701 – Don Young). If possible, include some examples, such as the ones given in the article above (Obed, Big South Fork, Cherokee), or mention needed state acquisitions (additions to state parks, national areas, etc.).

**B. Protection for Alaska’s Wilderness**

(a) Hopes for the Morris K. Udall Wilderness Act, HR.1239, which would give wilderness designation to the important coastal plain of ANWR (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), have received a boost. Altogether 160 representatives have now signed on as cosponsor – nine more than last year’s total. The Senate bill, introduced by Senator Roth, S.867, now has 24 cosponsors.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Urge your representative and senators (addresses on p.2) to co-sponsor HR.1239/S.867, which would protect “America’s Serengeti” from destructive and unneeded oil and gas development.

(b) On August 11, Dr. Edgar Wayburn was one of eight individuals awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award bestowed by the United States Government. The award read, in part: “Recognizing that development threatened California’s most beautiful open spaces, he worked to establish the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Point Reyes National Seashore, and Redwood National Park. With his wife, Peggy, he led a successful campaign to preserve millions of acres of Alaskan wilderness.”

**C. Endangered Species Act**

The fact that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has for several years now been overdue for reauthorization makes it very vulnerable to dangerous amendments. Last year, the Kempthorne bill that would have weakened the ESA in about 30 different ways was stopped after almost passing, despite its proponents’ attempt to
sneak it through as a rider on a must-pass bill. This year, S.1100 (Donnelly), has already been marked up by the Senate Environment Committee. Sen. Chafee and others were able to remove several bad features, though it still remains of concern because it would weaken the critical-habitat provision of the ESA. Further, the great likelihood that S.1100 would attract serious weakening amendments on the floor makes it a bill to be opposed. By contrast, Rep. George Miller’s HR.960 would enact comprehensive, rather than piecemeal reform. Sen. Lautenberg is about to introduce a companion bill to HR.960.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your senators (address on p.2) to oppose S.1100 and to contact Sen. Lautenberg’s office to offer support for the Senate version of HR.960.

D. DOE creating wildlife refuge

The Department of Energy released a Draft EIS in April concerning its plan to create a 90,000-acre national wildlife refuge at the mothballed Hanford Nuclear Reservation. The land, which borders the Hanford Reach, the only undammed section of the Columbia River, is home to 200 species of birds, elk, mule deer, and mountain lions. Sen. Richardson’s proposal to create this wildlife refuge is based on a 1996 recommendation by the US Department of the Interior. (For DOE’s land-protection initiative on the Oak Ridge Reservation, see 97B, this NL)

9. TCWP NEWS

A. Changes in the Board

(a) Jenny Freeman is on the road, but she’s agreed to stay on the Board (our Board member “at large”!), communicating by e-mail. She took off on August 8 for an extended trip with her husband, BillAllen, and 11-year old daughter, Mei Mei. They are headed first to points north (Maine, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island) “to see the sights and find the cool,” says Jenny. Their subsequent trip includes stops along the east coast, Mexico, the west coast, the southwest, and the western mountains. They’re traveling in a Coleman pop-up camper and have their bikes. Jenny, Bill, and Mei will be home for the TCWP Annual Meeting on November 13, so they can catch you up on what they are seeing and experiencing. Their on-the-road e-mail address is allfree1@worldnet.att.net They would love to hear from you!

(b) Anticipating ratification of the proposed constitutional amendment (99B, below), the Board has moved to fill two vacancies—Roger Carlsmith and Don Barger, who have had to resign. The new Directors are Dr. Ralph Harvey (Lenoir City) and Olive Gaines (Rockwood). We are most grateful for their willingness to serve and for the service they have already given — on the water-resources and parks committees, respectively.

B. Proposed amendment to TCWP Constitution

The TCWP Board of Directors proposes an addition to Article II of the TCWP Constitution. This new paragraph would follow the existing second paragraph, which specifies the method of election of Officers and Directors by ballot at the Annual Meeting. The wording of the proposed additional paragraph is as follows.

“In case a vacancy occurs among Officers or Directors, the remaining members of the Board of Directors may seek nominations from any TCWP member for a replacement. If more than one nomination is received, a simple majority vote of the remaining members of the Board will choose the replacement, who will assume his/her duties at the next Board meeting and will serve for the remainder of the calendar year. That person’s name may subsequently be included among the nominees presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting during which election of the Board for the succeeding calendar year occurs.”

Constitutional amendments may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of members voting at the Annual Meeting.

C. TCWP’s Inter-group Interactions

Coalitions, networks, boardrepresentations—these are ways groups can interact to become more effective in specific areas. TCWP has long been an organizational member of TEC (Tennessee Environmental Council), EAF (Environmental Action Fund) and of a few smaller, specialized, coalitions. More recent interactions are the following:

• We joined the Tennessee Clean Water Network, which operates an informative action-oriented listserv and organizes an annual conference. Our representative is Philip Young who is a member of the TCWN steering committee.
We are represented on the Board of the recently formed AFORR, Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (see §7B, this NL), by Frank Hensley.

We have become a member of the brand-new Tn LCV (Tennessee League of Conservation Voters), which is described in §4, this NL. Mary Lynn Dobson represented us at the inaugural meeting.

D. September TCWP outings: "mini-prairies"

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Did you know that the Oak Ridge area has several mini-prairies with unique native plants? Join expert botanist Larry Pounds in exploring these some or more of three successive Saturday mornings in September: September 11, 18, and 25. A different area will be visited each week, and Larry will discuss the ecology and conservation of these areas in addition to identifying plant species. Assemble at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot in front of the American Museum of Science and Energy. Participants will walk short distances (less than a mile), some of which is over rough ground. The outings are limited to 24 persons, and each participant should pre-register by calling Sandra K. Goss at 423-522-3809 or e-mail skgoss@esper.com.

E. TCWP activities to celebrate Public Lands' Day, Sept. 25

[Contributed by Marcy Reed]

Public Lands' Day is celebrated on the last Saturday of September as a day for volunteers to invest some time in our public lands. Since its inception in 1994, the activity has grown from 700 volunteers working on 3 sites to nearly 17,000 volunteers at 82 sites in 1998 (NL128 §10G). These volunteers contributed nearly $1.5 million in improvements, such as building and upgrading trails, improving wildlife habitat, and planting native species. Tennessee's first Public Lands' Day Celebration was held last year at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

TCWP will hold its first Public Lands' Day Celebration on September 25th, in conjunction with TVA, at the Worthington Cemetery ecological study area at the east end of Oak Ridge. The morning starts out with a plant identification walk led by Larry Pounds (see §9D, above), who will meet participants in front of the Museum of Science and Energy at 8:30 a.m. and go from there to Worthington Cemetery. During the walk, there will be some exotic-plant removal, so, if you have a hand saw, bring it along.

After the walk, at about noon, we will have a picnic. Hot dogs, drinks, and chips will be provided. If you wish, you may bring something to share with the group, or bring your own lunch if you prefer. The final event of the day is the building of a small footbridge across a low-lying muddy area. Frank Hensley will be coordinating this effort. This should start around 1:30 p.m.

For further information, or to volunteer to help with organizing this event, please call Marcy Reed at 691-8807 or e-mail her at MarcyRReed@aol.com.

F. Annual Meeting Nov. 13 -- updated plans

This Saturday meeting at Norris Dam State Park will feature an informative and timely program in the morning, a choice of outdoor (and indoor) activities in the afternoon, and socializing in the evening. There will also be a short business meeting before the catered lunch. Headquarters for the meeting will be the lovely secluded Norris teatoom that has a deck overlooking a wooded cove of the reservoir.

Following a continental breakfast, the topic of the morning is TVA's nature programs, specifically, the proper planning for watersupply resources of the region (Dan Ferry), and the preservation of the natural character of TVA's public lands (Judith Bartlow). A non-TVA speaker (to be announced) will take a look from the "outside" at how well TVA is doing, what programs need support or change of direction, and what citizen conservationists can do to help realize the potential for good that resides in this important regional resource agency.

In the afternoon, attendees can choose from hikes of varying difficulties inside or outside Norris Dam State Park (TVA and State Parks naturalists will be available to lead these activities), a museum tour, and (if you'd rather stay indoors), games, puzzles, displays, and discussions of current conservation topics. We'll then have substantial snacks and drinks to get us ready for an evening of social activities that will probably include slide shows. For people coming from farther away, reasonably priced overnight accommodations are available at the Park.

Put November 13 on your calendar now, and look for your brochure in early October to register for this enjoyable day. For further information,
**G. Volunteers needed for a few limited tasks**

This is not a generalized call for volunteers but one for a few specific, very short-term tasks.

- For the 8/28/99 State Parks Forum (NL228, this NL), we need a few “meeters and greeters.”
- For the 8/31/99 Peter Kirby talk and slideshow, (NL228, this NL), we need help with refreshments.
- For the 11/13/99 Annual Meeting, we need help with the continental breakfast and the evening snacks and drinks.

If you can help with any of these tasks, please contact Sandra K. Goss, 423-522-3809, skgoss@esper.com; or Marcy Reed, 423-691-8807, marcyreed@aol.com

**H. e-mail network and slide show**

- e-mail listserves can be an invaluable aid for achieving quick communication among members, or to send out urgent alerts. If you have an e-mail address, kindly send it to the TCWP e-mail address, TCWP@kornet.net, and/or to Marcy Reed, MarcyRReed@aol.com and Sandra K. Goss, skgoss@esper.com.
- The TCWP slide show is ready — about 35 minutes of pictorial and word slides (NL228 §10D). Volunteer to present it to your favorite group (a “cheat sheet” with text is available), or ask us to supply an presenter. Contact Sandra K. Goss, 423-522-3809, skgoss@esper.com; Marcy Reed, 423-691-8807, marcyreed@aol.com; Lee Russell, 423-482-2153, russellb@spyinet.com

**J. Special mentions**

Throughout this NL, in conjunction with specific issues or events, you’ll find mentions of TCWP members, who have contributed their time and effort in highly significant ways. Here are a few additional folks that richly deserve our very special thanks.

- Bob Olszewski was the easy winner with regard to the number of people collected from for this year’s March for Parks, as well as for the total amount collected. Bob managed to get 48 donors to contribute altogether $430. Great job, Bob!

- NL228 was assembled by Don Davis, Kahla Gentry, Frank Hensley (leader), Charlie Klabunde, Dick Raridon, Marcy Reed, and Juanita Williams, to all of who we are grateful.

**K. Fund-raising efforts**

Through the efforts of our Membership & Development Directors and Board members, several grants have been applied for, and other funding sources are being explored. Grants applied for include East Tennessee State Parks Connections, and grants from Lockheed Martin and Bechtel Jacobs. (Unfortunately, we failed to get the Urban Forestry grant — see NL228 §110C). Applicants for the ORNL management contract have been approached as possible contributors. Organizational membership in Community Shares is being explored. Sandra and Marcy will attend a fund-raising workshop in Atlanta on October 9.

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**10. CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES; OPENINGS; RESOURCES**

**Events calendar** (For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra K. Goss, 423-522-3809, skgoss@esper.com; or Marcy Reed, 423-691-8807, marcyreed@aol.com)

- **August 28, 9-5, State Parks Forum, Sevierville Civic Center** (§2A).
- **August 31, 7-30 p.m., Southern Appalachian Wilderness Walk — talk and slideshow by Peter Kirby, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville (§7B).**
- **Sept. 1, deadline for comments on Southern Forest Resources Assessment (§3A(b)).**
- **Sept. 11, Watershed Improvement Workshop #2, Brookhaven Farm, Seymour (NL228 §6A).**
- **Sept. 11, 18, 25, 8:30 a.m., Miniprairie outings, Oak Ridge area (§9D).**
- **Sept. 14, 7 p.m. (CDT), York Institute, Jamestown, state water quality meeting on Clear Fork (a major stem of the Big South Fork) (§1C).**
- **Sept. 16, Knoxville, “Landowner’s Options for the Voluntary Conservation of Land,” a seminar presenting legal, tax, and financial strategies for preserving family lands by Stephen Small, Esq., P.C. For location, time, seminar fee, etc., call 615-855-3700.**
- **Sept. 25, TCWP’s Public Lands Day celebration at Worthington Cemetery, §9E.**
- **Oct. 22, NC Arboretum, Asheville, “A Centennial Celebration of our Public Lands,” sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition (SAFC, 828-252-9223 or [toll-free] 888-8FOREST).**
Nov. 1-3, Gatlinburg, TN, SAMAB (Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere) Conference (Call 423-974-4583, or samab@vtk.edu). Abstracts may be submitted by Sept. 1.

November 13, TCWP Annual Meeting Norris State Park (99F).

Volunteer Opportunities
Executive Director (overseeing staff of 5) for the Society for Ecological Restoration (access www.ser.org, or write Dr. William Halvorsen, 125 Biological Sciences East, Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721). Application deadline, Sept. 1.

Qualified volunteers (free room and board) for ecological restoration activities on a forested reserve in Costa Rica (contact Joel Clement at canopy@seanet.com, or 206-524-1376).

Resources
SouthWings - Conservation Through Aviation - concentrates its efforts primarily on the Southern Appalachians and Cumberland regions (NL219 93F). In 1998, with one plane and one pilot, SouthWings flew 233 influential decision makers in 64 missions, in addition to educating conservation group representatives, media people, educators, and others on issues such as deforestation and mining. SouthWings, (287 Airport Road, Jasper, TN 37347) accepts tax-deductible gifts for its conservation missions.

Americans for the Environment has launched a campaign to prepare local activists for grassroots action in the all-important election of 2000. (Contact AFE at 1400 16th Street, NW, Box 24, Washington, DC 20036-2266.) To subscribe (free) to GREENLines, news from around the world about wildlife and wildlands, send the following e-mail message to listproc@envirolink.org: subscribe greenlines John Doe. The service is operated by the GrassRoots Environmental Effectiveness Network, 202-682-9400x236.

The Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont offers environmental education programs that feature the natural and cultural heritage of the Smokies (phone 423-448-6709 for list of upcoming events, or visit www.nps.gov/grsm/tremont.htm).

Natural Resource Year in Review, 1998, is a National Park Service publication that summarizes and analyzes the year in natural resource stewardship and science in the national park system. (For a printed copy, contact Jeff Selleck, NPS WSAO-INF0, POBox 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287; or jeff_selleck@nps.gov)

Co-op America, a non-profit organization, publishes the National Green Pages, which list over 150 categories of ecologically sound products and services from socially responsible businesses. ($20 from Co-op America, 1612 K Street, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006, 202-872-5307: www.coopamerica.org)

Congressman John J. Duncan has given up his e-mail address. You can find a link to “Write Your Rep” on his homepage at www.house.gov/duncan or www.house.gov/writerep

Notices for proposed projects requiring Corps of Engineers regulatory permits are no longer being mailed (except on special request) and now appear on the Nashville District’s web page, http://www.orn.usace.army.mil/cof/ To receive hard copy, contact Brad Bishop, Regulatory Branch, POBox 1070, Nashville, TN 37202-1070.

Republicans for Environmental Protection try to raise environmental awareness among the legislators of their party which, with a few exceptions, have very poor environmental voting records. REP publishes a newsletter, the GREEN elephant. (REP AMERICA, POBox 7073, Deerfield, IL 60015)

“Nobody makes a greater mistake than one who does nothing because they could only do a little” Edmond Burke.

TCWP contact information (continued from p.2)

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Marcy Reed, 691-8807; MarcyRReed@aol.com
President: Jimmy Groton, 423-483-5799 (evening)
e-mail: TCWP@kornet.org
On the web: http://www.kornet.org/tcwp/