



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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November 21, 2010

Taking Care of Wild Places

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Editor: Liane B. Russell, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. E-mail: lianerussell@comcast.net

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

12. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Ridgeline stripmining	Governor-elect Haslam	"Strongly support state's Suitability Petition!"
1B	Fiery Gizzard Trail and viewshed	The Land Trust	Contribute to funds. Also, thank Gov. Bredesen
1C	Heraeus emission controls	TDEC	"I am concerned about this potential pollution source!"
2A	Water pollution from MTR mining	EPA -- by December 1	"Strengthen and finalize the guidance; ensure adherence!"
2B	Permit for Spruce Mine No. 1	EPA Administrator Jackson	"Veto the permit for this huge, destructive MTR mine!"
3A	Protection of 350,000+ acres in TN	Gov. Bredesen	"My gratitude for your huge conservation legacy!" (also see 1A, 3B)
3B	Protecting Cummins Falls	Governor-elect Haslam	"State should contribute to purchase of this remarkable area!"
3C	Short Springs State Natural Area	Duck River Devt. Agency	"Do not raise level of Normandy Dam!"
3D	Hunting of Sandhill Cranes	TWRA – by January 19	Submit comments on the proposal
5A	Cherokee Wilderness bill	Sens. Alexander & Corker	"Support 2010 passage of package containing this bill!"
5B	Cherokee Landscape Restoration	Website for the Initiative	Participate in online survey
6	North Shore Road settlement	CEFSC	Contribute to this worthy and effective Swain County group
7C	Energy Efficiency	TVA	"Set target to reduce electricity consumption!"
9A	North Ridge Trail	Oak Ridge City Council	"Recognize tree cutting in greenbelt as <i>criminal vandalism!</i> "
10C	Archiving TCWP NL collection	Sandra or Lee	Volunteer to scan old Newsletters

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. Barack Obama
 The White House
 Washington, DC 20500
 202-456-1414; Fax 456-2461
president@whitehouse.gov

Governor Phil Bredesen
 State Capitol
 Nashville, TN 37243-9872
 615-741-2001; Fax 615-532-9711
phil.bredesen@state.tn.us

Dear Senator Doe
 Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
 Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
 Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Bredesen
 Respectfully yours,

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

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

Rep. Zach Wamp:
 Phone: 202-225-3271
 FAX: 202-225-3494
 Local: 865-576-1976
 Web: www.house.gov/wamp

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

There is much contact information in our up-to-date Political Guide. Visit the TCWP web site (<http://www.tcwp.org>)

WHAT IS TCWP?

See p. 16

1. THE CUMBERLANDS: big news

1A. *Gov. Bredesen signs Suitability Petition to stop stripmining Cumberland ridgelines*

[Information from TDEC press release]

On October 1, the state of Tennessee filed a Lands Unsuitable for Mining petition with the Office of Surface Mining (OSM), which requests that ridgelines on public-use lands in the Northern Cumberland Plateau be designated unsuitable for coal surface mining. Much of the property covered by the Suitability Petition is part of the "Connecting the Cumberlands" conservation initiative (NL276 ¶1A) and is located in Anderson, Campbell, Morgan, and Scott counties.

The areas covered by the petition include the Royal Blue, Sundquist, and New River (also known as the Brimstone Tract Conservation Easement) units that comprise the North Cumberland Wildlife Management area. The petition area also includes the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement, which is managed by Frozen Head State Park for public use. A portion of the Cumberland Trail also traverses the property.

Approval of the petition would prevent surface mining of coal for 600 ft on each side of the ridgelines in the designated area, creating a 1,200 foot ridgetop corridor encompassing approximately 67,000 acres. This area contains most of the older growth forest that exist in the area as well as a diverse array of habitats and wildlife, some of which are considered rare or threatened. The ridgelines covered in the petition include about 40% of the total North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Conservation Easement Tract.

The petition does not affect, (a) underground mining, (b) permits that have already been issued, and (c) sites of pre-1977 mining where re-mining could improve environmental impacts.

Next steps: After OSM determines that the petition is administratively complete, it must prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, with opportunities for public input. The final step is approval of the Suitability Petition by the Secretary of the Interior.

For the TDEC press release, see <http://tn.gov/environment/lumpetition.shtml>, which provides links to the full petition and to a map

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Thank Gov. Bredesen (address on p.2) for his monumentally significant action in submitting this Suitability Petition.
2. Contact Governor-elect Bill Haslam (<https://www.billhaslam.org/suggestions-for-government/>)* and urge his strongest support for the State's petition. It represents a reasonable compromise position and provides for the long-range economic viability of the tourism/recreation future of the region.

*Or write: 1701 West End Avenue, Suite 300, Nashville, TN 37203. Phone: 615-254-4799.

1B. *Fiery Gizzard trail and viewshed protected*

The iconic Fiery Gizzard Trail, ranked among the top 25 of the nation's backpacking trails, has for some time been managed by the State of Tennessee as part of the South Cumberland State Recreation Area. Not known to most of its users was the fact that about half of the trail and most of the beautiful views from it were in private ownership and increasingly threatened. Specifically, 6,200 acres of the western bluff of Fiery Gizzard Cove, owned by a timber investment firm, were under option with a group planning major developments. Recently, as a result of the slow market, the deal fell through and there was a second chance to protect the trail and its viewshed.

In September, a total of \$8.1 million came together for this effort. This includes (a) ~\$4 million from the state's Land Acquisition Fund (derived from a portion of the Real Estate Transfer Tax), matching US Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) money, and part of a federal grant; (b) \$2.1M raised by conservation groups (the Land Trust for Tennessee, the Conservation Fund, and Friends of South Cumberland); and (c) \$2 M from the expected sale to a conservation buyer of part of the property. (Note that the Bredesen Administration had earlier provided an additional \$2.2 M for Fiery Gizzard protection). When this acquisition phase is completed, altogether ~9,800 acres will have been protected.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Thank Gov. Bredesen (address on p. 2) for yet another one of his significant land-protection efforts.
2. If you want to contribute to funds that remain to be raised, contact Beth Thomas, The Land Trust, at 615-244-5263 or bthomas@landtrusttn.org.

1C. *A potential source of air pollution near Frozen Head*

Some of you may have noticed a belching smoke stack just east of the turn-off to Frozen Head. It belongs to Heraeus Metal Processing, Inc. (a precious-metal reclamation facility), and that company has recently applied for a permit that would permit major expansion of the facility. The plant is located 0.2 air miles from a water-treatment plant, and within two miles of three schools. Its emissions can easily travel to the nearby Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area.

The company's air-pollution record is bad. In January 2009, they pled guilty in US District Court to falsifying and omitting information concerning pollution controls. Required records were not kept, and false logs and other entries were created (<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/cases/criminal/highlights/2009/heraeus-metal-01-21-09.pdf>). Heraeus is a German company formed in 1851, and the Wartburg plant is one of its 8 worldwide facilities, three of them in the USA (TN, NJ, CA). The company's catalog states:

“Environmental compliance, protection and conservation is one of our top priorities. Our refineries are in full compliance with any and all governmental -- federal, state and municipal -- laws and regulations.”

TCWP has requested that TDEC hold a public meeting so concerned residents can learn more about Heraeus' proposed emission controls.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: This facility should be held to the highest degree of accountability, especially if they expand their operation. Tell TDEC that you'd like to know more about Heraeus' emission controls and how compliance would be enforced. Contact Barry R. Stephens, Director Air Pollution Control Division, TDEC, 9th Floor, L & C Annex, 401 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37243-1531.

1D. *TDEC proposes changes to Oil & Gas rules*

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

Oil and gas exploration and extraction are major activities in the Cumberland mountains. They occur even in public-use areas (parks and natural areas) wherever the state or federal government does not own the mineral rights.

As of this writing, changes to Tennessee's Oil & Gas rules were scheduled to be proposed by TDEC to the State Oil & Gas Board on November 18, with a request that they be put on public comment and go to public hearing. The proposal would then return to the Board for consideration.

Proposed changes include some tightened and some relaxed measures:

- increased bond amounts and cost structure based on well depth;
- increased time allowed (365 days vs 90 days) to begin drilling operations;
- increased fees for drilling permits, amendments, and transfers;
- requirement to specify latitude and longitude of proposed drilling in application;
- requirement for more detailed plat information for horizontal wells;
- requirements for as-built plats and fee for deviation from permit;
- more specific requirements for erosion prevention;
- lengthened deadline to plug wells from 6 mos to 1 year after cessation of drilling; expanded requirements to include not only dry wells but also newly defined "abandoned wells";
- new requirements addressing temporary abandonment;
- clarified prohibition on discharges from pits and facilities;
- expanded required distance of pits from stream or lake from 25 ft to 100 ft;
- expanded requirements for tank secondary containment capacity and corrosion control;
- requirement to clear 50 ft around tank berms for fire prevention; and

- requirement for structural support of gathering lines crossing waters and for ARAP if lines cross below stream bed.

TCWP will monitor actions with respect to these proposed changes, since they have potential impacts on public lands (including Frozen Head State Park) and waters.

1E. *Emory River Watershed Association's annual meeting*

[Contributed by Amy Mathis]

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 7 at 6 pm for the ERWA board meeting and party! Bring your kids, bring your parents, bring your friends, and bring a dish. Anyone and everyone is welcome!

Along with David Beaubien's promise of a guitar and caroling, Joni Lovegrove has agreed to come and tell some old Cherokee legends. She's a great storyteller who performs all over our region. That means we'll be having music and stories to go with wassail and all the potluck you can shake a stick at! It's bound to be a good chance to hear, see, and taste something new and different. It's also an opportunity to share your thoughts on activities and events for the coming year. And we'll be electing next year's officers for the board of directors. If you can't make it by 6, swing by when you can

2. PROBLEMS of COAL MINING and COAL BURNING

2A. *EPA needs support to implement water-pollution policy related to mountaintop-removal*

[Information from EarthJustice and Sierra Club]

EPA's Guidance on Stream Pollution Associated with Mountaintop Removal Mining (Docket ID EPA-HQ-OW-2010-0315) is highly commendable, though it could use strengthening. A major basis for the policy is the recent solid scientific evidence that Mountaintop Removal (MTR) mining elevates water conductivity downstream, and that conductivity of at least 300-500 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ harms aquatic life, indicating much broader dangers to the ecosystems and people who depend on them. EPA is proposing to promptly follow the science discussed in this guidance by setting a National Recommended Water Quality Criterion for conductivity for central Appalachia and requiring states to adopt this criterion.

The policy also recognizes that the Clean Water Act does not permit the massive, cumulative impacts that result from mountaintop removal mining. Appalachia cannot afford to continue burying its streams (more than 2,000 miles have already been lost) and to pollute entire watersheds by impacting vital headwater streams.

There are at least two ways in which the policy could use strengthening. (a) EPA should refuse to per-

mit mitigation as an option for the loss of streams, because “stream creation” is unable to re-create the ecological functions of streams. (b) EPA should not allow sequencing of valley fills, because there is no scientific evidence demonstrating that sequential construction of these stream-burial sites avoids the devastation of downstream waters.

E-mail Jackson.lisap@epa.gov, or phone 202-564-4700. Or write: Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator USEPA, Ariel Rios Bldg., 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Before December 1, express your support for EPA’s efforts to protect Appalachia from MTR’s destruction of streams. Urge EPA to strengthen and finalize the guidance (Docket ID EPA-HQ-OW-2010-0315), and to make sure that its regional offices and other federal and state agencies adhere to the policy.

You can send your message by either of these methods:

- (1) <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow instructions for submitting comments.
- (2) e-mail to ow-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Include the docket No. (see above) in the subject line

2B. Ask EPA to finalize veto of largest mountaintop-removal permit

[Information from EarthJustice]

In mid-October, EPA’s regional administrator for Region 3 recommended that the agency fully veto the Army Corps of Engineers’ permit for Spruce Mine No. 1, the largest mountaintop removal coal mine in Appalachia. The Clean Water Act (CWA) gives EPA the ultimate enforcement authority via a veto process. The EPA’s proposal to veto this permit is based on scientific studies that contain clear evidence that the mine would have severe impacts on local watersheds, ecosystems, and wildlife; and in its analysis EPA also addressed health impacts on the people of the surrounding area. EPA’s proposal to veto the mine’s permit comes after extended discussions with the company failed to produce its agreement to follow the Clean Water Act.

The Spruce No. 1 mine would directly impact 2,278 acres of wooded mountains and fill six Appalachian valleys with over 100 million cubic yards of debris, burying more than seven miles of headwater streams (NL291 ¶5B). We must strongly urge EPA to take the final action to stop this mine.

The coal industry is exerting tremendous pressures on the Administration. The mining company is actually suing to stop EPA’s critical veto and to undo any protections, even before the agency has time to finalize its decision. We must provide support against this. Every one of us needs to send at least a brief message (see Action Box).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Tell Administrator Lisa Jackson (address below) how much you welcome the Regional recommendation for a veto and ask her to sign it. It is imperative that EPA follow science and not succumb to the industry’s pressure to evade the law.

2C. Coal-ash hearing in Knoxville – last of the EPA series

[Contributed by Sandra Goss and Cindy Kendrick]

Thanks to the intervention of Senator Lamar Alexander, EPA expanded the previously announced locations for hearings on coal ash rules to include Knoxville. This was the only hearing scheduled in the state that experienced the worst coal ash spill in our country.

Unlike other hearings of this nature, where commenters sign up as they arrive, commenters had to register online within a 3-hour timeslot. There were so many registrants that TCWP Executive Director Sandra Goss was assigned a 4:45 p.m. slot when she requested earliest possible time. The hearings started at 9:00 and each commenter was limited to three minutes.

This registration technique prevented a large audience at any one time. A variety of folks spoke, including some from Alabama who urged EPA to keep coal ash at its present non-hazardous status. There were some familiar faces sprinkled throughout the hotel, all of whom, along with Sandra, urged EPA to regulate coal ash as hazardous waste under RCRA Subtitle C.

Under Subtitle C definitive and consistent rules and permitting would be developed and federal enforcement would be provided. Cradle-to-grave oversight would be included. (NL293 ¶3A).

There is no dispute that coal ash is hazardous. It leaches arsenic, lead, mercury, boron, cadmium, lead, selenium, cobalt, and nitrate/nitrite from surface impoundments and/or unlined or inadequate landfills. If not for the special exemption granted under the Bevill Exclusion in 1980, coal ash would already be regulated. After the recent coal ash disaster, we have learned that risks posed by activities conducted under this exemption are too high. Coal ash should no longer get special treatment. It should be regulated under Subtitle C and not like household trash, as it would be under Subtitle D.

The comment period ended November 19.

2D. More coal ash facts

[From Defenders of Wildlife]: Coal-burning plants across the country generate coal ash that escapes into the environment daily. Coal ash toxins -- such as arsenic, cadmium, and selenium -- are polluting our waters, impacting a variety of species of bass, muskie and walleye, as well as the people and wildlife (such as bald eagles) that eat them.

[From EarthJustice]: An astonishing 140 million tons of coal ash is produced every year. That’s enough to fill more than 340,000 jumbo-747 jets! The number of contaminated sites is still growing.

3. OTHER TENNESSEE NEWS

3A. *Governor Bredesen's great gifts to Tennessee*

In his two terms as governor, Phil Bredesen has spearheaded the protection of more than 350,000 acres across the state, perhaps most significantly the 127,000 acres in the Northern Cumberlands set aside under the Connecting the Cumberlands initiative of 2007 (NL276 ¶1A). Now, near the end of his term, he has taken yet another hugely significant action (described in ¶1A, this NL). Another recent large initiative is described in ¶1B. He will leave office having created an invaluable legacy of protected lands and waters for which countless generations will be immeasurably grateful.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: How wonderful it is to be able to express a sincere "thank you" to Gov. Bredesen as he leaves office (address on p.2). An our thanks, too, to the wonderful leadership and staff in TDEC.

3B. *Save Cummins Falls!*

Cummins Falls, 75ft high and the eighth largest waterfall in Tennessee, is located in Jackson County on a 186-acre parcel abutting Blackburn Fork, a State Scenic River. The Falls' location on the Eastern Highland Rim makes for dramatic topography. Wildlife thrives in the lush, forested gorge. The parcel, which extends for 1½ miles along the most scenic part of Blackburn Fork, was sold at auction in May, and TPGF (Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation) now has an option (expiring June 16, 2011) to purchase the 186 acres.

TPGF needs to raise \$1 million for the sales price and additional expenses. The state has pledged \$200,000 of LWCF money, and might possibly have an additional \$130,000 of federal funds available to be matched by private dollars. TDEC has contracted for a feasibility study with regard to Cummins Falls' potential as a State Natural Area and/or State Park. Much more extensive funding will obviously be needed before TPGF's option expires 8 months from now, and a commitment from Governor-elect Haslam would be most desirable.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Thank Gov. Bredesen (address on p.2) for pledging a state contribution and urge that this be increased if possible.
2. Contact Governor-elect Bill Haslam (<https://www.billhaslam.org/suggestions-for-government/>) and ask for a pledge from his coming administration.
3. If you can, contribute to TPGF for this project (kathleen@tenngreen.org).

3C. *Raising Normandy Dam would harm Short Springs Natural Area*

The Duck River Development Agency is examining water-supply issues in the upper Duck River region.

One of five proposals being considered is to raise Normandy Dam 5 feet, with a corresponding rise in the winter pool of Normandy Reservoir. This increases the risk of flooding of the lower slopes and alluvial zones of Short Springs, flooding that would inundate areas of highest density and diversity of wildflowers. Although there is at present no proposal to raise the summer pool, such rises might be a future consequence of the addition to the dam. Additionally, the project is estimated to cost \$62 million, which would come out of a monthly charge to water users.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If you wish to have an input into this decision, contact Doug Murphy, Executive Director, Tennessee Duck River Development Agency, doug@duckriveragency.org

3D. *Should sandhill cranes be hunted?*

In their annual migration to winter feeding grounds, increasing numbers of sandhill cranes, as well as occasional whooping cranes, are stopping at the Hiwassee Waterfowl Refuge, managed by the Tennessee Wildlife Management Agency (TWRA).

The Eastern Population (EP) of greater sandhill cranes, located within the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways, is currently not hunted, while other populations are. The EP has shown significant growth over the past 30-40 years, and the 2010 mid-winter count in SE Tennessee documented more than 40,000 (5-year average, 22,000). At current EP population levels, sandhill crane impacts to agriculture are resulting in the annual issuance of 200-300 depredation permits each year in Mississippi Flyway states.

Based on these various considerations TWRA is considering proposals for limited hunting of Sandhill Cranes.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Comments to TWRA must be submitted prior to January 19, 2011 at <http://www.tn.gov/twra/sandhillproposal.html>. Other informative links will be found at that website.

3E. *CCC Museum opens at Pickett*

The tremendous contributions of the Civilian Conservation Corps (a Roosevelt Era agency) to our national and state parks is honored in a new museum at Pickett State Park. The museum was dedicated on November 4 by Conservation Commissioner Jim Fyke who paid tribute to the CCC boys who left their mark on our public lands. The program featured park interpreters, historians, period music, and special guests.

(The museum is located on Hwy 154, shortly past the ranger station, on the left.)

3F. *Sustainable Tennessee Summit*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The 4th Annual Sustainable Tennessee Summit took place at Cumberland University in Lebanon, TN, early this month. It successfully continued the tradition

of gathering citizens, conservation groups, environmental policy experts, elected officials, and representatives of private business and industry to explore the most pressing conservation issues in Tennessee. The attendees developed a preliminary list of pressing environmental/conservation legislative concerns, which we will collectively work on over the next several months.

A major success came from our work last year, as the Tennessee Property Transfer Fund for Conservation was kept in the budget, rather than allocated to the General Fund as had happened in years past (NL292 ¶1A). That was a significant cash infusion for wildlands and waters in Tennessee, leveraging federal dollars for state park buffer zones, wetlands protection, family farm safety nets, and other habitat-friendly projects.

A Conservation Day on the Hill will be scheduled during the coming session, and it is hoped that many of us from across the state will take the day to educate our state legislators about the importance of adequate pure drinking water, protected ridge tops, recycling bottles, and a host of other issues.

3G. *Watershed conference*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Several organizations joined the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation in sponsoring a watershed conference in late September. The purpose was to convene federal, state, and local government representatives, as well as watershed organizations, for a focused discussion on Tennessee's future water policies, and to identify goals for the next five years.

There were informative presentations, including a scary forecast by ORNL's Tom Wilbanks on climate change. He reported that current conditions are *already* in excess of what scientists had once thought to be maximum limits for survival of many species and habitats. This has happened much more quickly than anticipated. Projections for 2070 indicate that the Northeastern Seaboard area's 100-year floodplain will become the 5-year floodplain. Florida residents will flee north to escape extremely hot summers.

Another presenter was Robert Burns with UT Agriculture Extension Service. Fairly new to his position, Dr. Burns spoke warmly about environmental concerns of Tennessee's farmers, their awareness of the effects of climate change, and the possibility of mutual projects among the extension service, which has representatives in every Tennessee county, and various environmental/conservation projects.

Nancy Stoner, Deputy Assistant Administrator, US EPA Office of Water, was the keynote speaker. The EPA Office of Water faces many challenges and she urged the group to work with EPA to maintain adequate healthy waters.

This conference had many interesting posters on innovative watershed projects across the state. Our sister organization, Obed Watershed Community Association, featured restoration work on One Mile Creek, an urban Obed tributary. To see more about the conference pres-

entations and posters, visit

<http://www.tnwatershedconference.com/home.htm>.

4. ELECTION RESULTS: OUTLOOK for the ENVIRONMENT

4A. *Tennessee*

Our delegation in the Congress

Neither of our Senators was up for re-election this time. In the House, due to three retirements and one defeated incumbent, the Tennessee delegation will include four new members next year. Sadly, one of the ones who have been replaced, Bart Gordon, had a LCV score of 100%, and two others (Davis and Tanner) had scored reasonably well, especially when compared with the Republican members of our delegation, whose average score is only 7%.

	Present Representative	LCV (2009)	New Representative
1	David Philip Roe (R)	7	Same
2	John Duncan, Jr (R)	7	Same
3	Zach Wamp (R)	14	Chuck Fleischmann-R
4	Lincoln Davis (D)	64	Scott DesJarlais (R)
5	Jim Cooper (D)	93	Same
6	Bart Gordon (D)	100	Diane Black (R)
7	Marsha Blackburn-R	0	Same
8	John Tanner (D)	57	Stephen Fincher (R)
9	Steve Cohen (D)	100	Same

Governor

Governor-elect Bill Haslam's choices for Commissioners of Environment & Conservation, Agriculture, and Transportation will provide early clues as to the direction his administration will take in environmental matters. Before the election, his campaign stated that he opposes mountaintop removal. There are some hopeful signs that he will not oppose Gov. Phil Bredesen's Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition (see ¶1A, this NL). As quoted in *The Tennessean* of Oct. 25, his campaign manager said: "Mayor Haslam applauds the governor's efforts to protect the natural beauty and resources of the Northern Cumberlands Wildlife Management Area. He understands the importance of the area to hunters, outdoors enthusiasts, and everyone who enjoys the scenic beauty of the region." Concerning those whose property rights might be affected, Haslam hoped the state and federal government would find "a workable solution to preserve this important tract of land for all Tennesseans."

State legislature

[Information from Stewart Clifton, Tennessee Conservation Voters]

Prior to the election, TCV-PAC, issued a list of endorsed candidates, with endorsements based on past votes (not only those of the most recent or other specific

year) and future commitments. Of the 7 endorsed for the Senate, 5 won (2R, 3D) and 2 lost (both D). Of 42 endorsed House candidates, 26 won (5R, 20D, 11) and 16 lost (all D).

The losers were not only numerous, but they included legislators who had worked exceptionally hard and efficiently for environmental causes. Thus, among the subset of 8 House candidates targeted for special support by TVC-PAC, 7 lost. Examples of valuable legislators who lost are Reps. Henry Fincher and Kent Coleman, who had managed to stop a number of anti-environmental bills in the House Judiciary Committee. Butch Borchert, who lost a rural West Tennessee district, was one of the most consistent pro-environment votes on the House Environment subcommittee. And Eddie Yokley was another standout supporter of the environment year after year.

These will all be missed, but we do have the majority of our pro-environmental legislators back, and will immediately go to work to educate the numerous newcomers on the vital role they can play in protecting the land, water and air of our state (e.g., see ¶3F, this NL).

In retrospect, the 2010 Legislative Scorecard

In NL293 (¶2A) we drew your attention to the 2010 Legislative Scorecard, which was about to be released by Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) and which we subsequently sent you in a separate mailing. The top-ranked senators for 2010 were Marrero, Berke, Barnes, Finney, Herron, Jackson, and Stewart. On November 2, Finney won and Jackson lost. Roy Herron lost in his run for US Congress (8th District open seat). The remaining four were not up for election this year. The top-ranked House members for 2010 were Stewart, McDonald, Gilmore, Pruitt, Borchert, Cobb, Hardaway, Ulysses Jones, Shepard, and Mike Turner. Of these, 8 won and 2 (including Borchert – see above) lost.

In addition to identifying these “Legislative Friends,” TCV also presented the Good Green Deeds Award to honor the following legislators for specific actions in 2010: Sen. Andy Berke (mountaintop removal, Green Jobs Act), Senator Mark Norris (restoring Real Estate Transfer Funds), Rep. Frank Niceley (farmland preservation measures, container-deposit legislation, brownfield redevelopment), and Rep. Mike Stewart (Green Jobs Act). Fortunately, none of these lost on Nov. 2.

4B. *Federal elections*

The really bad news: with the Republican sweep of the House, the leadership of committees that control public lands and environmental protection will pass to Congressmen hostile to these concepts. There will be legislative attacks on the executive agencies that protect our lands, waters, wildlife, and air, such as the EPA and USDI. “Drill baby drill” will be reborn. And the subpoena power will be used to discredit climate science (see ¶8A, this NL).

Losses of certain individuals portend major blows to clean-water protection, most notably the defeat of Sen. Russ Feingold (WI), the biggest proponent for the Clean Water Restoration Act (NL290 ¶8C), and Rep. James Oberstar (MN-8), clean water champion in the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, which he chaired. Among many other environmentally grievous losses was Rep. David Obey (WI-7). There did not, however, appear to be an anti-environmental message in the election returns. Support of pro-environmental policies did not contribute to the defeat of those who lost, and some of the worst ‘flat earthers’ and deniers of climate change (Ken Buck, Sharron Angle, Christine O’Donnell, and Carly Fiorina) failed to get elected. Additionally, 7 of LCV’s Dirty Dozen were defeated.

Several important environmental champions managed to squeak through very tough races. They include Senators Boxer (CA), Murray (WA), Bennet (CO), and Reid (NV); and Representatives Maurice Hinchey (NY-22, prime supporter of redrock wilderness), Raul Grivalja (AZ-7), Rush Holt (NJ-12), and Martin Heinrich (NM-1). And let us not forget Rep. Heath Shuler (NC-11), without whom the defeat of the North Shore Road through the Smokies would not have occurred (see ¶6C, this NL).

4C. *Propositions and ballot measures*

One bright spot among the election results was the defeat of Proposition 23 in California (by a vote of 60%). This proposition, backed by oil companies, would have effectively killed AB 32, a law aimed at reducing California’s emission of greenhouse gases by 80% by 2050, to be achieved by requiring cleaner cars, more energy-efficient buildings, and renewable fuels. A scare campaign, lavishly funded by the oil companies, warned that Prop 23 would drive up energy prices and cost jobs (in a state that has the country’s third highest unemployment rate). In actual fact, green jobs have grown in California 10x faster than the state average. This was the largest referendum in history on climate policy.

There were signs in this election that conservation is still a value highly cherished in this country; thus, 80% of the state ballot measures for land conservation passed. Voters voluntarily taxed themselves in support of land conservation and open space for local communities. Examples:

- Iowa. By 63%, voters approved an amendment to the state constitution to create a permanent trust fund aimed at protecting and restoring the state’s natural resources.
- Oregon. By 68%, voters passed Measure 68, which indefinitely directs 15% of Oregon Lottery revenue to protection of clean water, parks, and wildlife habitat.

Americans chose to defeat anti-environment proposals in addition to Prop 23 (see above). Defeated were Colorado’s Prop 101 and Amendments 60 and 61 that would have interfered with environmental programs, and Arizona’s Prop 301 and 109, which would have, respectively, robbed the state’s land conservation fund and

wrested wildlife protection decisions from wildlife managers.

At least one harmful measure was, however passed -- California's Prop 26, the "evil twin" of Prop 23. This proposition requires a 2/3 supermajority vote in the state legislature for many fees and new taxes. This could erect significant barriers to many environmental programs in California, including AB 32. There are predictions that Prop 26 will end up in court.

5. THE CHEROKEE and other NATIONAL FORESTS

5A. *Cherokee Wilderness bill now part of a package*

Dozens of bills addressing public lands designations remain to be passed by the 111th Congress. Many have taken years to get this far and have strong local and bipartisan support. The Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2010 (Cherokee wilderness, NL292 ¶4A) is one of them.

TCWP has joined 165 other organizations from 41 states in signing a letter that urges the House and Senate leaderships to take up pending land-water-wildlife bills before Congress adjourns. These measures will bring great benefits to communities across the nation by facilitating economic development, creating jobs, preserving essential components of America's national heritage, and protecting key natural resources. The leadership is also being asked to avoid coupling these important conservation measures with other proposals that would harm our natural environment (a favorite opposition trick).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge Senators Alexander and Corker (addresses on p. 2) to get the Cherokee Wilderness bill passed in 2010 as a component of the important omnibus public lands bill. Submit a copy of your communication to the letters-to-the-editor column of your paper.

5B. *Cherokee Landscape Restoration Initiative*

[From Catherine Murray, Cherokee Forest Voices]

Cherokee Forest Voices has for many years encouraged increased emphasis on the ecological values of the Cherokee National Forest. This mission includes the restoration and preservation of biodiversity, improved protection of fish, wildlife, plants, soil and water resources, and related activities. In response, the Forest Service has now formed the Cherokee Landscape Restoration Initiative. Catherine serves on the steering committee.

Such restoration, as defined by the Society for Ecological Restoration, is "the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed." Cherokee Forest Voices wants to ensure that the Cherokee Landscape Restoration Initiative focuses on the long-term science-based ecological

restoration and management of the native vegetation, rare communities, watersheds and aquatic systems, in order to maintain and improve the overall health of the CNF. To encourage public participation, the Initiative is seeking responses to a questionnaire (see Action Box).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: You are encouraged to participate in an on-line survey designed to elicit your thoughts and opinions about the forest and its restoration. Please visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CherokeeForestRestorationSurvey>

5C. *Forest Planning rules being rewritten*

[Information from FSEEE, 10/29/10]

Pursuant to the 1976 National Forest Management Act, Forest Planning rules, first written in 1979, require key protections for wildlife and water quality. The most important of these rules — the wildlife "viability" requirement — is the lynchpin on which rests the protection of old-growth forests. The Bush administration tried twice to rewrite the forest planning rules, each time focusing on eliminating the protection of wildlife viability. They failed — the first time there was no EIS, the second time the EIS was meaningless.

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has announced that USDA will now rewrite the rules. Conservation groups have recommended a simplified version that retains all of the key environmental protection requirements of the existing rules, but provides more flexibility for local national forests in the process they use to revise forest plans. The Obama Administration should resist the Forest Service's instinct to write unenforceable rules that give only lip-service to protecting the environment.

6. SMOKIES: Status of North Shore Road settlement

The North Shore Road has been stopped, and a new agreement approved, but the work of completing the monetary settlement to Swain County continues (only a "down-payment" has been received so far). The challenge is to get an appropriation through Congress, which will take a lot of hard work.

Citizens for the Economic Future of Swain County, who did all the local heavy lifting, have depleted their bank account this year by paying for a ceremony, making a lobbying trip to DC, and buying over \$1,000 of advertising to thank Congressman Heath Shuler (who, fortunately, was reelected, see ¶4B, above).

CEFSC has been a major factor in getting the North Shore Road stopped. In the face of vocal, confrontational opposition from the pro-road forces, they educated the community about the issue, and they shepherded a settlement-endorsement resolution through their

County Commissioners. That local endorsement made a BIG difference in stopping the road. CEFSC folks attended many strategy meetings and public hearings on both sides of the mountains. They could use our contributions, however modest, to restore their depleted accounts.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contributions can be sent to CEFSC, P.O. Box 526, Bryson City, NC 28713.

7. TVA NEWS

7A. Board nominees *finally* confirmed

On September 16, just four days after publication of our latest Newsletter in which we had lamented the political maneuvers that were about to deprive the TVA Board of a quorum (NL293 ¶5A), the Senate finally confirmed the four nominations announced up to a year earlier by President Obama. Because of the huge delays, these new members will have terms considerably shorter than the regular 5 years.

The new members are listed here in the order in which their term expires.

- Marilyn A. Brown, professor of energy policy at Georgia Tech's School of Public Policy, and formerly manager of the energy-efficiency research and development program at ORNL. Term ends 5/18/12.
- Neil McBride, of Oak Ridge, the General Counsel with the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland. Term ends 5/18/13.
- Barbara Haskew, an economics professor at Middle Tennessee State University, who had previously worked as TVA's head of development of wholesale and retail rates. Term ends 5/18/14.
- William Sansom of Knoxville, former TVA Board chairman and CEO of a wholesale business. Former president of Knoxville C of C. Term ends 5/18/14.

Continuing members of the TVA Board are Dennis Bortoff (Chairman), Mike Duncan, Tom Gilliland, William Graves, and Howard Thrailkill.

7B. TVA releases

Draft Integrated Resource Plan

On September 10, after a year of analysis and input (NL287 ¶4B), TVA issued the draft of its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), a comprehensive study designed to guide efforts to meet regional electricity needs over the next 20 years. When adopted, it will replace the IRP of 1995. Using the new IRP's findings, the TVA Board of Directors in the spring of 2011 is expected to select the planning strategy that best meets TVA's strategic goals.

The Draft IRP and the Environmental Impact Statement are accessible at

<http://www.tva.com/environment/reports/irp/index.htm>, where a link is provided for commenting online. The comment period (which was extended to Nov. 15) has ended, but if the link no longer works, try

IRP@TVA.gov, or call Charles P. Nicholson, TVA's NEPA Project Manager, at ☐ 865-632-3582.

As part of its methodology, TVA examined seven possible long-term scenarios for the next two decades (e.g., Dramatic economic recovery; Prolonged economic malaise, etc.). Aiming for strategies that establish financial and operational flexibility, the IRP suggests a diverse portfolio – including more nuclear, less coal, more energy-efficiency and demand-response programs, and more renewable generation.

7C. *The need for TVA*

to stress energy efficiency

[Information from flyer by Louise Gorenflo]

Energy efficiency is a large, untapped, and low-cost energy resource that aligns well with TVA's objective to provide reliable service at the lowest possible price. Per kilowatt-hour, energy-efficiency improvements cost very much less than the building of new energy supplies. Very large energy savings are available in existing homes and businesses, and methods of achieving them are labor intensive rather than capital intensive, thus providing jobs..

Electricity use in Tennessee homes is twice the national average. The TVA service area is missing the economic and environmental benefits that energy efficiency provides. TVA needs to unleash the power of energy efficiency.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge TVA to set an energy-efficiency target to reduce electricity consumption by at least 1% annually. ☐(TVA Board, 400 West Summit Hill Dr., ☐Knoxville, TN 37902)

8. NATIONAL ISSUES

8A. *Climate-change deniers*

in new Congress

(From information by NRDC, UCS, and EDF)

Come January, a wave of newly elected climate deniers will start rolling into Washington. During their election campaigns, attacking scientists and their work was deemed acceptable and popular. Examples: Ron Johnson, who defeated Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI), said "I think it's far more likely that it's just sunspot activity or something just in the geologic eons of time where we have changes in the climate." Todd Young, new congressman from Indiana: "We have discovered that a good portion of the science used to justify 'climate change' was a hoax perpetrated by leftist ideologues with an agenda." Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA), poised to become chairman of the House Oversight Committee, is planning to subpoena climate scientist to elicit evidence of data manipulation.

The campaigns of most of the climate deniers were backed by big oil, the coal industry, and electric utilities (Big Oil alone spent \$68.5 million on TV ads for their

candidates). Senators and Representatives with such backing will not only try to obstruct progress toward climate change; they will also attack the safeguards that keep our air and water clean (e.g., EPA's ability to control emissions), and will attempt to hand our most precious natural places over to energy companies.

There is good evidence that these politicians don't represent the views of the American people -- polling from across the country shows that Americans overwhelmingly support clean energy policies and comprehensive efforts to protect our air and water. The problem is only that these issues are never high on anyone's agenda. The environmental movement must do a better job of linking climate directly to shrinking harvests, falling water tables, receding glaciers, extended droughts and more violent storms. Already, food, water, and climate problems are simultaneously hitting many nations around the globe. It's happening *now*, and we need to connect that to climate change in the minds of all people.

If we don't speak up, the vocal minority will dominate the public discourse, and we will pay the price. Already, CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere has reached 389 ppm; and 18 countries set *all-time* heat records this year.

8B. *Push to get National Monument designation for ANWR*

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the designation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (in northeastern Alaska). Near the end of the Carter Administration, the bulk of the Refuge was designated Wilderness, but its tundra-covered coastal Plain in the north was left to future studies.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is well worthy of being a National Monument, a designation that could be made under the Antiquities Act through Presidential action. Quite a few National Monuments were designated by Pres. Theodore Roosevelt, and many of our iconic National Parks, including Yosemite and Grand Canyon, started out as National Monuments.

The Refuge is our last great wilderness, and the Coastal Plain, in particular, is one of the world's most essential havens for innumerable species of birds and mammals. Many millions of the world's birds feed and nest on the tundra of the Coastal Plain in the summer, important caribou herds calve there, the rare musk oxen make it their year-round home, as do polar bears, grizzlies, and Arctic foxes.

On its 50th anniversary, a National Monument designation would be a fitting celebration for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Sadly, several members of Congress, especially recently elected ones, have promised to undo such a designation if it is bestowed by Pres. Obama.

8C. *Pres. Obama signs first-ever National Ocean Policy*

[Information from NRDC's Oceans Initiative]

The oceans are the "blue heart of our planet" (Sylvia Earle), our life-support system.

On July 19, Pres. Obama signed an executive order that creates the first national policy to protect and restore our oceans. This requires coordination of more than 20 different federal agencies that oversee activities affecting the ocean, activities that are governed by more than 140 laws. A National Ocean Council will help oversee the policy's implementation.

There are numerous "traditional" stresses on our seas: oil spills, pollution, overfishing, coastal development. And there are numerous new challenges: global warming that makes oceans more acidic, threatening the entire ocean food chain; the need to identify non-harmful locations for the placement of offshore wind power; the urgency to protect and enhance essential hotspots, like spawning areas and migration paths. The ocean is not simply a source of commodities or a dumping ground. It is essential to keeping life on earth (including ours) alive.

9. OAK RIDGE NEWS

9A. *Illegal tree cutting in Northern Greenbelt impacts North Ridge Trail*

Oak Ridge is a green city, a city that was laid out with a plan that set aside greenbelts -- natural areas sadly lacking in the majority of other cities in the country. The Northern Greenbelt, our largest one, has been made accessible to all citizens who would enter it for its refreshing serenity and its opportunities for healthful outdoor recreation by means of the North Ridge Trail, developed by TCWP members in the 1960s and maintained by us ever since.

Unfortunately, it takes only a few people who disregard the public good to cause serious damage to what others have worked hard to accomplish. In various locations, owners of houses upslope from the trail have cleared the trees not only in their backyards but in the contiguous City-owned greenbelt so as to open a view for themselves. Walkers on those segments of the trail are no longer in a natural, peaceful forest but exposed to the sights and sounds of a city street. The time and labor that so many have freely given for the benefit of all have been destroyed in a selfish act.

Although the City has attempted to take these cases to court, violators sometimes go unpunished; and even when they have to pay, the fine imposed by a lenient court is so inadequate as to represent but a small payment for the mountain view the tree cutters have managed to clear for themselves.

<p>WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact City Council (address below) to insist that unauthorized tree cutting in the greenbelts be recognized as criminal vandalism and that cases be taken to courts willing and able to prosecute violators to the maximum extent possible.</p>

(To e-mail all members simultaneously, use
CCouncil@corn.org. Or phone 42 5-3410)

Additional information on all TCWP activities may be obtained from TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com or at 865-522-3809.

9B. *A new conservation area established from former Oak Ridge Reservation land*

[Extracted from AFORR Newsletter]

In 2002, DOE announced its intention to deed the developable parts (426 acres) of Parcel ED-1 (the Horizon Center) to CROET (Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee). Area 4, at the far western end of ED-1, is separated from the rest of the Horizon Center by Poplar Creek and adjacent riparian land. Highway access to Area 4 would separate the floodplain from the large tract of undisturbed land on McKinney Ridge (now part of the 3,000-acre Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement, BORCE). For this and many other reasons, AFORR became concerned that future development of Area 4 would be environmentally destructive. There followed 8 years of effort by AFORR to secure conservation protection for Area 4. This effort, in which TCWP shared, has now come to fruition.

On November 17, CROET formally donated 50 acres of the East Tennessee Technology Park's Horizon Center (Area 4) to the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation for perpetual conservation. This land is to be managed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, which also manages the BORCE. Users of the North Boundary Greenway will have continued access to this popular recreation trail. And songbirds and other wildlife win through the protection of habitat and habitat interconnections.

10. TCWP NEWS

10A. *Upcoming activities*

[Contributed by Carol Grametbauer]

TCWP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 9

The holiday season is here, and once again long-time TCWP members Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen will open their home at 371 East Drive, Oak Ridge, to members and friends. This annual event has become one of the most enjoyable of the year.

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

Whites Creek Trail workday – Saturday, January 22

TCWP will again sponsor this annual trail cleanup at Whites Creek in Rhea County as part of its ongoing stewardship of this TVA Small Wild Area. The trail loops onto land previously owned by Bowater, and (thanks to the generous support of our members) purchased by TCWP several years ago. Watch for additional details in the January newsletter.

10B. *TCWP Newsletter Collection may be archived*

TCWP Newsletters have been published since 1966, covering conservation/environmental issues in Tennessee and the nation. They chronicle many significant achievements (and defeats) in conservation history, most of these spanning many years, and they serve to reflect grass-roots organizing skills and techniques. For the latest 20 years, the Newsletters are available in digital form, but most of the earliest 172 issues exist on paper only, many as single copies.

TCWP has been in contact with the University of Tennessee Digital Library Initiative (DLI) to explore the idea of getting the collection archived there. It would be a growing collection to which current Newsletters would be added as they are published. We have prepared a proposal for the DLI, which will be evaluated by a UT committee in the fairly near future. Completion of the task will require a number of TCWP volunteers. Please see ¶10C, below.

10C. *We need volunteers to scan old Newsletters!*

If our proposal to archive the TCWP Newsletter collection is approved (¶10B, above), we will need volunteers to help us scan the issues that are available on paper only. To do this job, you don't need any prior experience. The beautiful UT Library in Knoxville has state-of-the-art equipment that friendly DLI staff would guide you to use. In your off hours, you could visit the McClung Museum nearby, or wander around the campus.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: To volunteer for this very worthwhile task, or find out more about it, contact Sandra Goss (Sandra@sandrakgoss.com, or 865-522-3809) or Lee Russell (lianerussell@comcast.net; do NOT phone).

10D. *A note from the Executive Director*

Dear TCWP folk,

As the year winds to a close, the TCWP Board is reviewing our accomplishments and setting goals for 2011. We are doing very well in many areas; regretfully, we lag in a couple of very important measures: membership and volunteers.

Our membership numbers are stagnant. When TCWP comments on coal ash, Land and Water Conservation Funding, developer mitigation on ARAPs, and many other issues, the comments start, "On behalf of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, a state-wide environmental advocacy organization with a membership

of 500.” Our comments are the result of careful, knowledgeable analysis that is aimed to protect our natural infrastructure

Surely, more than 500 folks feel the same way! In order to function with high effectiveness, we must increase our membership

My goal is to establish a short-lived *ad hoc* group to brainstorm about membership recruitment. What works? How can we do it? As an incentive, delicious homemade snacks will be provided, meetings will last no longer than 1.25 hours, and there will likely be only two meetings. Who will help us with this important task? Call or email me at 865-522-3809 or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

This fall is full of developments of an environmental nature. The leaves changed color, and most are dropping off. The birds we hear and enjoy have changed, with many heading to warmer climes. The state of Tennessee has filed a petition to protect the Upper Cumberland lands from destructive and unsightly mountaintop removal coal mining procedures (§1A, this NL). There are a couple of dozen new state legislators who might benefit from information about how to maintain pure drinking water and natural lands for Tennessee citizens and why it's economically essential to foster eco- and agritourism

As we prepare for 2011, the chore list is lengthy. We have short-term, episodic tasks, as well as longer-term, issue-oriented efforts. Please call me and let us schedule a time we can talk on the phone to explore ways to involve you in TCWP.

Happy Holidays!
Sandra

10E. *A million thanks!*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

A million thanks to these TCWP enablers:

Newsletter assembly: John Bates, Jean Bangham, Don Davis, Frank Hensley, and Charlie Klabunde

TCWP Newsletter digitization and archiving: Jimmy Groton, Charlie Klabunde, Lee Russell

Cedar Barren Workday Leaders: Tim Bigelow, Jimmy Groton, Larry Pounds

Updating TCWP Constitution: Cindy Kendrick

Community Shares Campaign: Mark Bevelhimer, Tim Bigelow, Jimmy Groton, Cindy Kendrick

Outings Leaders: Jimmy Groton, Larry Pounds

Annual Meeting Planning and Program: Keynote speaker - TWRA Director Ed Carter; Service Committee - Carol Grametbauer (Chair), Jean Bangham, Tim Bigelow, Janet Lowrie, Jan Lyons, Larry Pounds, Hal Smith.

Greenbelt-protection campaign: Susan Donnelly, Lee Russell

Nominating committee: Doris Gove, Frank Harris, and Joan Nelson

Legislative Information: Stewart Clifton

10F. *Recent events*

[Contributed by Carol Grametbauer]

Leatherwood Ford field trip with Tennessee Native Plant Society - Saturday, September 11

Seven people participated in this joint outing at the Big South Fork. Despite heavy downpours in the morning, when it was time to start walking the rain was nearly gone, and by afternoon the sun was shining. Participants were rewarded with sightings of many rare plants on and near the cobble bar, including Cumberland rosemary (*Conradina verticillata*, federally threatened), southern racemose goldenrod (*Solidago arenicola*, state threatened), mountain witch-alder (*Fothergilla major*, state threatened), and swamp sunflower (*Helianthus giganteus*). The rarest plant seen in this area was near the cobble bar but in full shade: the Rockcastle aster (*Eurybia saxicastelli*, state endangered) is found at probably no more than 20 sites in the world.

In the afternoon the group visited a rockhouse to see some species limited to that habitat. There they saw a recently described species, Cumberland featherbells (*Stenanthium diffusum*, state endangered), which is perhaps even rarer than the Rockcastle aster. Also in the rockhouse was Cumberland sandwort (*Minuartia Cumberlandense*, federally endangered). TCWP hopes to hold another joint outing with TNPS in 2011.

National Public Lands Day cleanup -- Saturday, Sept. 25

More than 30 people, including some 20 middle-school students and their teachers, helped with invasive exotic plant removal during our National Public Lands Day workday at the Worthington Cemetery. Our annual efforts in this area are helping to eradicate undesirable species from this TVA Ecological Study Area. Wes James represented TVA, which provided equipment, supplies and a safety briefing. After a walk and discussion about the cedar barren and wetland ecology, participants removed invasive pest plants and planted some native plants before concluding with a picnic lunch.

TCWP Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 9

Our annual meeting was an afternoon event this year, so that attendees could enjoy a late-day outing to the Elk Viewing Stand at Royal Blue in Campbell County. Thirty people attended the meeting to hear Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Executive Director Ed Carter, our excellent guest speaker. Following the business meeting and a box meal, most made the trip to Royal Blue, where they were able to see more than 30 elk. Excellent weather made the outing even more enjoyable.

Oak Ridge Cedar Barren cleanup -- Saturday, Nov. 6

Despite cool temperatures and occasional snow flurries, 13 volunteers (including five Oak Ridge High School students) worked on pulling invasive species including bush honeysuckle, privet, autumn olive, and stubborn Chinese lespedeza, which has made a further invasion into areas opened up on previous workdays. Several

bags of trimmings containing seeds were removed. After the work session, the group enjoyed a chilly pizza lunch!

10G. *Changes to TCWP Constitution and By-laws are approved*

The revisions to the TCWP Constitution and By-laws identified and recommended by the Board (NL293 ¶9A) were approved by vote of those present at our Annual Meeting on October 9. The revised documents may be viewed on our website.

10H. *Community Shares seeks nominations*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Community Shares, a non-profit organization that raises funds through payroll deduction campaigns in workplaces across the state, has issued a call for nominations for 2011 Circle of Change Awards. TCWP is a member of Community Shares. These annual awards are to recognize those in the area who have sought positive social changes on a systemic or institutional level.

Among the awards are Heart of Change, which is presented to one who has made social change a significant part of his or her life's work and Gardener of Change, for an educator who teaches his or her students to think critically about issues of injustice and encourages them to take action. There are also awards for the Institution of Change, Seed of Change, and the Danny Mayfield Champion of Change.

The deadline for nominations is February 16, 2011. The Circle of Change Awards Banquet is slated for Saturday, April 16, at the Bearden Banquet Hall. For more information call 865.522-1604 or visit www.communitysharestn.org.

•• RESOURCES

- Key recommendations from the Administration's recent "America's Great Outdoors Initiative" (NL292 ¶6B) are highlighted in http://www.npca.org/americasgreatoutdoors/NPCA_AGO_Report_0910.pdf
- *Cumberland Odyssey: A Journey in Pictures and Words Along Tennessee's Cumberland Trail and Plateau*, a "coffee-table" book with photography (beautiful!) by Bill Campbell and essays by David Brill. Order from Marleya Pendleton, CTC Office Manager, at marleyapendleton@frontiernet.net, or 931-456-6259. Free for anyone becoming a supporting member (\$50) of the Cumberland Trail Conference (CTC) by Dec. 31; \$30 for non-members.
- A link to the Obed Wild & Scenic River may be found in NPCA's Explore the Parks at <http://www.npca.org/parks/obed-wild-and-scenic-river.html>. On this website, you can comment on the brief presentation.
- "GoodGuide" was founded in 2007 by Dara O'Rourke, a professor of environmental and labor policy at the University of California at Berkeley, to help consumers identify non-toxic, environmentally friendly products from companies with good social and safety records. The organization's team of science and technology experts has rated more than 65,000 products. See www.goodguide.com.
- *Grand Canyon National Park: Resource Challenges and Future Directions*. an 84-page report by NPCA, may be viewed at http://www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/grand_canyon/GRCAR-report.pdf. For a summary, go to www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/grand_canyon/

11. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• CALENDAR (events and deadlines)

(For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra Goss, 865-522-3809, or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com)

- December 1, deadline for comments supporting EPA's mountaintop-removal policy (see ¶2A, this NL).
- December 7, ERWA Annual Meeting and party (see ¶1E, this NL).
- December 9, TCWP Holiday Party (see ¶10A, this NL).
- January 19, Deadline for comments on hunting of sandhill cranes (see ¶3D, this NL).
- January 22, Whites Creek Trail workday (see ¶10A, this NL).
- February 16, Deadline for Community Shares nominations (see ¶10H, this NL).

WHAT IS TCWP?

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

TCWP: 130 Tabor Rd., Oak Ridge, TN 37830

President: Jimmy Groton, 865-483-5799 (h)

Executive and Membership-Development Director:

Sandra Goss, 865-522-3809; Sandra@sandrakgoss.com

Newsletter editor: Lee Russell, lianerussell@comcast.net

Internet: <http://www.tcwp.org>

Do you like **The TCWP Newsletter?**

Since 1966, the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning Newsletter has been providing the best source of environmental news in the Southeast.

The **TCWP Newsletter** brings you: **Concise** and timely summaries of environmental issues of importance to Tennessee and the nation; **How** you can make your voice heard in environmental decisions; **Listings** of events and activities for all ages and interests. **Six** issues per year.

Here's how to get these for yourself — **join TCWP today**

Complete the coupon below and mail with a check for TCWP to:

Charlie Klabunde, TCWP Treasurer, 219 East Vanderbilt Dr., Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

TCWP membership includes a subscription to the Newsletter and our annual Political Guide.

Individual dues are \$25, Family \$35, Sustain \$100, Support \$200, Life \$500, all IRS tax-deductible.

More info at www.tcwp.org or 865-522-3809 You may use form for Renewal.

I (we) would like to join TCWP and receive the Newsletter and Political Guide.

Name(s) _____ E-Mail address _____

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**“Wilderness is not a luxury
but a necessity of the human spirit.”**
— Edward Abbey

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TCWP Annual Christmas Party
— Thursday, December 9. (see page 14)

***“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”***
— Margaret Meade