



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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Taking Care of Wild Places

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

10. ACTION SUMMARY

No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1B	Mountain-Top Removal mining	Governor; your state senator; House subcommittee	"Support the Scenic Vistas bill <i>as originally written!</i> "
1C	Bottle bill (for next year)	Marge Davis	Offer help; donate
2D	ATVs degrading a wildlife area	TWRA	"Keep ATVs on designated roads!"
3	Obed activities	TCWP; Obed WSR	Participate in, and publicize, activities
4A	Corridor K threatens Cherokee NF	TCWP	Stay informed and participate. Sign up for notices.
5A	Congress's war on environment	League of Conserv. Voters	Learn about Congressional performance; support good candidates.
8D	Earth Day celebration	TCWP	Volunteer to staff the TCWP exhibit

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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

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

There is much contact information in the up-to-date Political Guide we have mailed to you. You can also access the Guide, some current action calls, and much other information, on TCWP's website (<http://www.tcwp.org>).

WHAT IS TCWP?

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

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1. THE TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE

1A. *Land-acquisition funds OK for now*

The great news is that Gov. Haslam's FY 2012/13 Tennessee State Budget submitted to the legislature included all four of the conservation-land-acquisition funds, altogether \$16,515,000. The question has been whether the General Assembly would keep these funds in their final, approved budget.

Subsequently, Sen Summerville (R) introduced SB.2726, which would abolish the recordation tax (otherwise known as the Real Estate Transfer Tax) a small percentage of which funds conservation-land acquisition. This bill came before the Senate Tax Subcommittee, and TCWP contacted members urging them to attach a negative recommendation to the bill. On February 28, SB.2726 was taken off notice in the Subcommittee. According to Tennessee Conservation Voters, this constitutes a victory and may end the issue for the year.

1B. *Scenic Vistas bill (SB.577/HB.291) in limbo*

For the first time ever, the bill was passed out of committee and on to the Senate floor. HOWEVER, the bill that emerged was completely meaningless. The title and language of the bill were gutted via an amendment offered by Senator Mike Bell (R, Polk County). The Bell amendment -- which was handed to the members *during* the committee hearing, giving them no chance to review its impacts -- erased the bill language as written (while retaining the title) and substituted a procedure that is already in place under the Clean Water Act.

When the meaningless SB.577 passed out of committee, Senate Speaker Ron Ramsey called it an act to "protect the beauty and integrity of Tennessee's mountains," and added: "The language adopted today would ... make clear that mountaintop mining will not be allowed in Tennessee." (see *Chattanooga Times* editorial of March 7). This statement is intended to deceive Tennesseans into giving credit for passage of the bill to the very legislators who were instrumental in destroying it.

SB.577 was scheduled to come to the floor of the full Senate on March 12, but was deferred until April 2. The House companion bill, HB.291, will be heard in a House Committee (see Action Box, below). The Governor, who during his election campaign opposed mountaintop removal, has stated that he is neutral on this bill. His support is essential, and it is very important for us to contact him, as well as the House committee members, without delay, urging them to support the bill *as originally written*. That bill will not harm the coal industry in Tennessee — only a few hundred people still work as coal miners in our state. On the other hand, Tennessee's \$15 billion tourism industry, much of it based on the beauty of the state's mountains, employs thousands.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Without delay, contact Gov. Haslam (see p. 2) — first priority -- and the members of the General Subcommittee of the House Conservation & Environment Committee. They are: Representatives Lollar, Floyd, Curtiss, Gilmore, Hawk, Kernell, Marsh, Nicely, Swann, Tidwell (See Political Guide for phone numbers and e-mail addresses). Urge them to support the Scenic Vistas bill (S.577/HB.291) *as originally written*.

1C. *Bottle bill: no action in this session*

Marge Davis, long-term Coordinator of Pride of Place (POP)/Tennessee Recycling Refunds, recently announced the group's decision not to push for a vote during this legislative session. The session is a short one, and legislators' minds are already on the coming elections.

Instead, the group intends to devote their energy working at the grassroots level -- organizing and mobilizing people in their communities and in key legislative districts. Efforts will be concentrated on, (a) further developing local leadership, which will work to getting counties to endorse the bill, (b) forging alliances of local decision makers who have the ear of local legislators, (c) raising funds for tools that will help POP to sell its message (a brochure, a long video, a redesigned website). More people need to know that that we throw away 9 out of every 10 cans and bottles (wasting millions of dollars), and that, by keeping these containers out of the landfill and off of the roadsides, we could create 500 small businesses and at least 1,500 new jobs.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) If you are interested in helping with the grassroots campaign, contact Marge Davis (margedavis@comcast.net)
- (2) Donate to the Pride of Place (POP) project at www.scenictennessee.org/donate

1D. *Flat Earth Tennessee*

On March 15, the Tennessee House of Representatives, by a vote of 72:23, passed HJR.587, which would put the General Assembly on record as opposing United Nations Agenda 21. This UN agenda, passed in 1992 (which, incidentally, is not binding on the United States), supports responsible environmental protection, thoughtful planning, mass transit, sustainability, etc. HJR.587 is derived from the website of, and lobbied by, the Tennessee branch of the John Birch Society. Proponents (subscribing to a conspiracy theory) charge that Agenda 21 is a scheme to take away citizens' property rights, and that environmentalism is an insidious effort by the UN to achieve world domination. One sponsor said the UN plan is meant to stop economic growth by, e.g., setting aside wetlands and regulating urban sprawl.

HJR.587 now goes to the Senate for consideration.

1E. *The movement toward deregulation*

There has been considerable pressure for making Tennessee more "business friendly" by loosening state

regulations -- especially those that protect our air, land and water -- and by reducing funds for the enforcement of state laws and regulations. Our politicians would do well to study the findings of The American Sustainable Business Council, Main Street Alliance, and Small Business Majority (published 2/1/12, <http://smallbusinessmajority.org/small-business-research/regulations/>). When small business owners were polled about what they considered to be their biggest problem, only 14% said it was the level of government regulation (34% blamed weak demand). About 86% of small business owners agree that some regulation is necessary for a modern economy.

2. OTHER TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. *Major reorganization and staff reductions in TDEC*

Two sets of news from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation came within a span of 10 days. (1) On January 24, Commissioner Martineau announced a set of organizational changes “focused on how TDEC relates to external stakeholders” to improve “coordination, communication and overall responsiveness.” The Office of External Affairs was created in the Commissioner’s Office. It is to be headed by Tisha Calabrese-Benton when she returns from maternity leave and, until then, by David Owenby, who has been promoted from Public Affairs Officer to Comm. Martineau’s Chief of Staff. Additionally, the positions of Field Office Directors have been eliminated, and field office managers in every office location will report directly to the director of their respective division.

(2) In early February, the news broke of a major TDEC shake-up that involved cutting more than 150 jobs, firing at least two top officials, and combining several divisions. Three divisions that deal with different aspects of water (water pollution control, water supply, and groundwater management) were combined into the single water resources division (according to the *Knoxville News Sentinel*); and the solid and hazardous waste division was consolidated with the toxic-cleanups division (according to *The Tennessean*). Two high-level officials, each involved with one of the above five divisions (Paul Davis, Director of Water Pollution Control, and Mike Apple, Director of Solid Waste) were fired, and a third one (Mike Carlton, Assistant Commissioner for State Parks) submitted his resignation in anticipation of being dismissed. The rationale announced by TDEC was to “streamline our structure and produce greater management efficiencies.”

According to Paul Sloan, TDEC Deputy Commissioner during the Bredesen Administration (writing in *The Tennessean* of 2/10/12), these three are among no fewer than eight mid- to upper-level managers who recently met a similar fate. These career professionals had an aggregate of more than 200 years’ experience. Davis and Apple (who had 38 and 42 years of distinguished service, re-

spectively) were summarily dismissed, with 2 weeks’ notice, and “without so much as a crumb of cake.”

According to media reports, TDEC had been a frequent target in the 2010 Republican gubernatorial nomination race, and, during Gov. Haslam’s lengthy statewide listening tour in 2011, business owners and groups repeatedly complained about the time and expense needed to obtain permits from TDEC. In his January State of the State address, the governor said that he would be pushing state departments to become more efficient.

Citizens wonder how TDEC reorganization will affect the protection of Tennessee’s natural resources; and they are particularly concerned that elimination of more than 150 staff positions could greatly diminish the state’s capability for enforcing environmental laws. Enforcement capabilities are already quite poor; e.g., there are only 3.5 inspectors to oversee Tennessee’s more than 700 active oil & gas wells.

On March 9, TDEC announced openings for, (1) Director, Water Resources Division, responsible for statewide implementation of Tennessee’s key water resource statutes, including TN Water Quality Control, Safe Drinking Water, Water Well Drillers, Safe Dams, and Surface Mining, (2) Regional Directors of External Affairs (a new position) for 8 TDEC regional field offices. TDEC welcomes recommendations for these openings, which are posted at <http://www.tn.gov/environment/opportunities/>

2B. *Tennessee oil and gas regulations will address fracturing*

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick and Sandra Goss]

Tennessee’s Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has drafted new oil and gas regulations that will for the first time specifically address the fracturing process (“fracking”) that is now widely used for oil and natural gas extraction. TCWP, along with other environmental/citizen groups and industry representatives, has met multiple times with TDEC officials to discuss groundwater and surface water vulnerabilities and appropriate regulatory controls. This unprecedented approach, leading to proposed regulations, was directed in a Resolution passed by the State Legislature in 2011 (NL298 ¶3A).

Among the main issues of concern are pre-drilling water-quality tests, well-siting restrictions, casing and cementing requirements, disclosure of chemicals injected, waste control, and adequate notification of intent to fracture. TDEC intends to post all new well permits on a public web site.

TDEC’s proposed rules will be presented to the appropriate state board, with a public comment period following. Gov. Haslam has proposed legislation that would fold the Tennessee Oil and Gas Board’s function into the Water Quality Control Board. Whether that legislation passes will determine which board will receive the proposed regulations. The proposed rules are expected to be available for public comment by late spring or summer.

2C. *Rock-harvesting regulations*

[Information from LWV]

TDEC is developing new rules on rock harvesting derived from legislation passed last year. The new rules are intended to curtail rogue operators and assure that water quality laws are respected. A draft of these rules will be presented to the public on March 20.

2D. *ATVs invading*

Wildlife Management Area

[Information from *Times Free Press* 3/2/12,
submitted by Steve Scarborough]

The Cummings Cove WMA, atop Aetna Mountain in Hamilton and Marion counties, is being invaded by ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles). This 1,200-acre area was purchased by the U.S. Forest Service in 2006 with federal funds from the Forest Legacy Program. It became a Wildlife Management Area, managed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA).

Years of unregulated use by ATVs have caused heavy erosion, siltation, and pollution that are ruining the area's hunting and fishing opportunities. According to a TWRA news release, "Parts of the Area resemble a moonscape, void of vegetation, wildlife, and stream aquatic species, once plentiful there."

Regulations prohibit operating any motorized vehicles anywhere but on designated open roads. Since no roads on Cummings Cove are currently designated as open, the WMA is effectively closed to any vehicles. Unfortunately, TWRA has not enforced this law since the agency took over in 2006.

The main constituency for TWRA are hunters and fishermen whose hunting and fishing licenses pay for 70% of the operation, but whose resources (wildlife habitat and healthy creeks) are being seriously degraded by the ATVs. ATV users are exerting great political pressure on TWRA, which is now soliciting comments on a possible compromise. One TWRA official mentioned such possibilities as "letting them use the creeks as a trail, maybe even making marked trails." What could be worse than using the creeks?

WHAT YOU CAN DO: By mid-April, e-mail your comments to TWRA.comment@tn.gov; or mail them to TWRA, 464 Industrial Blvd., Crossville, TN 38555.

2E. *Improper storage of coal waste being appealed*

[Information from TN Clean Water Network, 2/17/12]

The December 2008 coal-ash disaster at TVA's Kingston steam plant (NL285 ¶5A) stimulated an assessment of coal-waste storage nationwide. Of the 49 most hazardous coal-waste impoundments in the United States, 5 are under TVA control. A group of organizations (EarthJustice, Environmental Integrity Project, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, and TCWN) have appealed TVA's permits to discharge pollutants from ash-settling ponds at Bull Run Fossil Plant (Anderson County), John

Sevier Fossil Plant (Hawkins County), and Johnsonville Steam Plant (Benton County).

The organizations are concerned that these permits will not protect the Clinch and Tennessee Rivers from heavy-metal pollution. They are asking the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to require limits on heavy metals in general for all three plants and, specifically, mercury and hexavalent chromium at Johnsonville and mercury at John Sevier. The hearing for Bull Run is scheduled in 2012.

TVA and EPA are hosting a workshop series of six sessions (3/15-6/7/12) on restoring the river system after the ash spill. Held at Roane State in Harriman at 6:30, the events are open to the public. More info: 865-806-7688

2F. *Alliance for the Cumberlands develops trip planner for Plateau*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The Alliance for the Cumberlands has announced that Edge Trekker (<http://edgetrekker.com>), an online trip planning tool, will be up and running in April. The website combines sites as well as promotional efforts on the Cumberland Plateau through a single online portal. Trip planners can quickly create and print trip itineraries. The website's content categories will be Nature, History, Culture, Events, Places to Eat, and Accommodations. For more information see Resources (¶9, this NL).

3. OBED ACTIVITIES

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

3A. *Rafting trip with trash collection, March 31*

TCWP is sponsoring a whitewater-rafting trip from Devil's Breakfast Table (on Daddy's Creek), down the Obed, to Nemo Bridge (on the Emory River). In coordination with the National Park Service, trash will be collected en route. The outing offers outstanding scenery, but the difficulty level is high. For details, see ¶8B, this NL.

3B. *Teacher to Ranger to Teacher program*

Teachers in Morgan, Cumberland, and Anderson counties are invited to apply to participate in the Teacher to Ranger to Teacher program at the Obed Wild and Scenic River this summer. According to the park website, one educator will be selected from the applicants to work as a park ranger during the summer. That experience will empower the teacher to introduce his/her students to the remarkable American heritage that national parks preserve. Teacher Rangers form a link between school children and National Parks.

The teacher will perform various duties that could include developing and presenting interpretive programs

for the general public, staffing the visitor center desk, or developing curriculum-based materials for the park.

Those interested in applying for the Teacher to Ranger to Teacher program at the Obed Wild and Scenic River, should contact Obed Park Ranger Joe Zagorski at 423-346-6294.

3C. *Outreach to young people*

- Junior Ranger Day, March 31

Children aged 5-12 are invited to take part in the Obed's Junior Ranger Day on Saturday, March 31st. This free event lasts from 12 noon to 3 p.m. (EDT). Kids will receive a Junior Ranger booklet, which will challenge them with questions, connect the dots, a maze, and other fun activities. Upon completion of the booklet, kids will receive a Junior Ranger sticker, patch, and badge. No reservations are required for this fun, free event. The Obed Visitor Center is located at 208 North Maiden Street in downtown Wartburg. For more information, please contact the park at 423-346-6294.

- Day at the Park for Morgan County 6th graders

Thanks to grant funding and the cooperation of the Morgan County School System, every Morgan County 6th grader will spend a day at the park during the week of May 7. Activities, if weather permits, will include learning about whitewater paddling, rock climbing, and water quality.

3D. *River Cleanup Day, May 19*

Volunteers will pick up trash along various sections of the park. TCWP will sponsor part of the day's activities. See calendar for details, and plan to help.

4. THE CHEROKEE and OTHER NATIONAL FORESTS

4A. *Corridor K is ongoing threat to Cherokee National Forest*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The Hwy 64/Corridor K study area (a route on the Appalachian Development Highway System), which runs from west of the Ocoee River to SR-68 near Ducktown, is in the environmental study phase. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), scheduled for public review late this year, will provide information about the purpose and need for the project, proposed routes, and potential environmental, social, and economic effects.

The six alternatives that were presented at public meetings in the Spring of 2011 are being refined as new information is obtained and stakeholder input is considered. One "refinement" is the possibility of a 1.2-mile tunnel. Public meetings will be held this spring to discuss fieldwork results, refinements to proposed alternatives, and potential impacts of the project.

The Southern Environmental Law Center has identified Chilhowee Mountain as one of its Top 10 Endangered Places of 2012, due to possible Corridor K construction along its shoulder.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Stay informed on this project; sign up for TCWP's e-mail alert list to insure notification of the planned public meetings.

4B. *1-3 found not feasible*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

I-3, *aka* 3rd Infantry Division Highway, a long-proposed road that would extend from Savannah, Georgia, to Knoxville by way of Augusta, Georgia, was the subject of an extensive feasibility study by the Federal Highway Administration. The study has been completed and was sent to Congress last month. The intent was to develop planning-level cost estimates for potential corridors connecting these urban areas.

The study essentially derails the road project, citing "significant costs, both financial and environmental. This Southern Appalachian region contains a dense mixture of small mountain communities, sensitive environmental resources, and federally managed lands."

The study notes that no new or improved corridor between Savannah, Augusta, and Knoxville has been identified in any State DOT or MPO long-range plan. The study suggests that "corridors located farther west face fewer environmental and terrain challenges than corridors located in the center or eastern portions of the Study Area. However, significant resources impacts are likely to result from any alternative."

4C. *National Forest Planning Rule is finalized*

Near the end of January, Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack released the Final EIS for a new National Forest System Land Management Planning Rule (which can be viewed at www.fs.usda.gov). The Planning Rule, required under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA), provides the blueprint for the management plans developed by *individual units* of the National Forest System every ~15 years (NL296 ¶3A). The National Forest System encompasses 155 forests, 20 grasslands, and 1 prairie, totaling 193 million acres, all of which are covered by the planning rule.

The new Rule will replace one developed during the Reagan Administration, which has been in effect since 1982 (a revision developed by the Bush Administration was struck down in court). Nearly 300,000 comments were received on the draft that was issued last February (NL296 ¶3A; NL298 ¶5D). The proposed rule was generally praised for shifting USFS emphasis from commodity extraction to protection, restoration, and watershed preservation. There was, however, considerable criticism of the fact that the proposed rule left too much decision-making authority in the hands of *local* forest managers (and thus subject to local economic interests), without

clear *national* standards, a procedure that could be particularly risky for the protection of wildlife and of water quality (NL301, ¶3D).

Some of the criticism expressed in the comments has been addressed by revisions that compel forest managers to document how the “best-available scientific information” has guided their decisions. As might have been expected, the new rule has been criticized by House Republicans (who complain of “excessive layers of bureaucracy”).

4D. *Reinstatement of the Roadless Rule weathers the latest attack*

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule, issued during the final days of the Clinton Administration, subsequently came to be under constant assault by the Bush Administration and by various lawsuits. Finally, in October 2011, a panel of the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals (in Denver) firmly and unanimously decreed to uphold the Rule in a decision so powerfully constructed that it was thought capable of withstanding further challenges (NL300 ¶4A).

A challenge came only a couple of months later, when the state of Wyoming and the Colorado Mining Association petitioned the *full* Court to review the panel’s decision in a process, known as an “en banc” rehearing. On February 16, the Court of Appeals denied the petition for rehearing, and “as no member of the panel and no judge in regular active service on the court requested the court be polled, that petition is also denied.”

In the meantime, Republicans in the House, led by California Congressman Kevin McCarthy, are promoting the Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act, which would essentially invalidate the 2001 Clinton rule. Dozens of GOP congressmen are co-sponsoring the bill.

4E. *Regional forest-conservation coalition is closing its doors*

[Contributed by Mark Shelley, SAFC]

Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition (SAFC), the public-lands network made up of conservation organizations from throughout the southeast, is scheduled to close its doors in June of 2012. SAFC was formed to provide a unified voice for public-lands policy and to coordinate a regional approach to the protection and restoration of the southeast’s forests. For 18 years, SAFC has increased public engagement and helped to protect these national treasures for future generations.

Editor’s note: SAFC has done a great job over the years, and its closing will be a sad loss to all who care about the Cherokee National Forest.

5. NATIONAL ISSUES

5A. *Environmental scorecard for the Congress*

[Information from LCV]

The League of Conservation Voters has published its national environmental scorecard for 2011, the first session of the 112th Congress (www.lcv.org/scorecard). A 21-member advisory committee, derived (but not representing) an array of national and state environmental groups, chose 11 and 35 significant Senate and House votes, respectively, for analysis. The Scorecard illustrates the truly unprecedented assault on the environment and on public health that was unleashed by the current House of Representatives (see also, NL301 ¶5G). Fortunately, the U.S Senate and the Obama Administration were able to reject the House’s efforts to wreck basic environmental protections.

Average scores for Congressional leaders are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Average LCV scores for leaders

Leaders of environmental committees*		
	Democrats	Republicans
Senate	95	11
House	77	10
Party leaders		
	Democrats	Republicans
Senate (3 leaders)	97	15
House (4 leaders)	94	9

* Average scores for 5 Senate and 6 House committees. Leaders are Committee Chairmen (Senate Democrats, House Republicans) or Ranking Members (Senate Republicans, House Democrats)

The Senate delegations of 12 states, and 31 individual Senators (all Democrats) had scores of 100%; while 8 delegations scored below 10%, and 13 individual Senators (all Republicans) had scores of 0. In the House, the delegations of 7 states scored averages of >90%, and 24 individual representatives (all Democrats) scored 100%. The House delegations of 4 states scored averages of <10%, as did 139 individual representatives. In Tennessee, 7 of the 9 representatives were in that group (see Table 2).

Table 2. LCV scores for Tennessee’s Congressional delegation

Name	2011	2009/10	Lifetime
Senator			
Alexander (R)	27	17	18
Corker (R)	9	11	18
Representative			
1. Roe (R)	9	4	7
2. Duncan (R)	6	4	12
3. Fleischmann (R)	6		6
4. DesJarlais (R)	6		6
5. Cooper (D)	89	92	78
6. Black (R)	9		9
7. Blackburn (R)	9	0	3
8. Fincher (R)	9		9
9. Cohen (D)	91	96	95

Because it’ll be particularly important to maintain the Senate’s capability to block House efforts to wreck

environmental havoc, LCV is identifying 2012 Senate races in which environmental candidates need to be supported. In three of five such races identified to date, a pro-environment Senator is retiring, leaving an open seat. For the Virginia Senate seat, LCV is supporting former Gov, Tim Kaine; for the New Mexico Senate seat, Rep. Martin Heinrich; and for the Wisconsin Senate seat, Rep. Tammy Baldwin. Additional Senate candidates supported by LCV are Rep. Shelley Berkley in Nevada, and Sen. Jon Tester for re-election in Montana.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: To learn more about Congressional performance and about candidates, contact LCV at 202-785-8683, or lcv@lcv.org. Web: www.lcv.org.

- The Transportation Bill (HR.7) contains several amendments that would nullify environmental laws or regulations. One of these would open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling under the guise of paying for transportation projects with the revenues. Not only would such revenues be insufficient, even under the most optimistic assumptions, but they could not possibly be collected in time to close the funding gap for authorized projects. (Note: the Senate version of the Transportation bill, S.1813, passed on March 14. As far as we know, it does not contain this amendment.)
- Under the Defense of Environment and Property Act, introduced by Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), the Clean Water Act would no longer apply to ephemeral or intermittent streams. The bill would also redefine "navigable waters" and would restrain the EPA and the Army Corps from regulating or "interpreting" the definition of a navigable water without Congressional authorization.
- Sen. Inhofe (R-OK) has introduced legislation that would block the historic rule that slashes toxic air emissions from power plants (NL301 ¶5D). His bill would, moreover prevent any substantially similar rule from being issued in the future.

5B. *Clean Water Act celebrates anniversary*

[From River Network]

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the 1972 Clean Water Act, one of the most important milestones in the history of environmental protection. Contrary to popular belief, the day-to-day work required by the CWA is not done primarily by EPA but by state agencies. They receive oversight from 10 regional EPA offices, which in turn receive broad guidance from EPA Headquarters. States set their own water quality standards – the benchmarks that determine how clean and healthy each water body should be. Almost all states run their own pollution permitting programs. And the principal responsibilities for monitoring and enforcement lie almost entirely with the states – which depend, in turn, mostly on data submitted by dischargers themselves.

River Network has found that where there are well-organized citizens' groups that understand how the CWA is supposed to work, state programs work well. Where there aren't, the CWA is poorly implemented.

5C. *Bad bills in the Congress*

[Information from national organizations]

To the dismal environmental record of the 2011 U.S. House of Representatives (¶5A, above; NL301 ¶5G), a few recent examples from both Houses of Congress may be added.

- HR.1581, the "Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act," would open vast areas to developers and polluters. It would essentially abolish the Roadless Rule (¶4D, this NL). Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt has called the measure "*the most radical, over-reaching attempt to dismantle the architecture of our public land laws that has been proposed in my lifetime.*"
- HR.3407, the "American Energy Independence and Price Reduction Act", would open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling, wiping aside decades of bipartisan protection for some of America's most splendid, unique, and endangered wild lands.

5D. *Natural gas and fracking*

Fracking needs large amounts of water

[information from FSEEE]

Natural-gas recovery from the Marcellus Shale (which reaches from New York state through Pennsylvania, Ohio, the Virginias, and into parts of Kentucky and Tennessee) requires huge amounts of water. About 5 million gallons are needed to develop and exploit a single hydrofracking well. The likely sources for all that water are the small streams that flow out of the Appalachian valleys.

Drillers add chemicals, the nature and amount of which they are not required to disclose. The water that is returned to the surface (60-80% of it) contains not only the fracking chemicals, but also whatever other minerals and toxics are found underground. The water is either left to settle in a holding pond (often resulting in toxic leaks that kill forest vegetation), dumped into old wells (where it can pollute connected aquifers), or trucked to sewage treatment plants (none of which are designed to handle the toxic chemical stew).

Natural gas wells are leakier than believed

[From sciencenews.org, reporting on a NOAA study]

Natural-gas wells in Colorado have leaked about twice as much gas into the atmosphere as previously thought. Although natural gas, made mostly of methane, emits less CO₂ than coal *when burned*, methane itself strongly warms the atmosphere. This means that even relatively small methane releases can have a big impact on the climate. Air-quality measurements by a NOAA team in the Denver area (published in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*) suggested that about 4% of the me-

thane in nearby gas wells was leaking. Previous studies by EPA and by industry groups pegged this loss at 1-2%. But the earlier estimates were done by measuring leakages from individual pieces of equipment (a “bottom-up” approach). A recent Cornell study also found higher-than-expected levels of methane being released from wells that extract gas from shale by hydraulic fracturing.

5E. *U.S. cities are losing trees at a great rate*

[Information from *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*]

In a satellite-image study of 20 major U.S. cities, US Forest Service researchers have found that tree cover is on the decline, while impervious cover — roads, buildings, sidewalks, and the like — is on the rise. The loss in tree cover was shown for 19 of the 20 cities, and was statistically significant for 17 of these. The average tree coverage for all 20 cities fell 1.5% over roughly 5 years. Houston (3%) and Albuquerque (2.7%) suffered some of the biggest losses. The average loss per year was 0.37%. Impervious surfaces increased at an average rate of about 0.31% per year. Of the 20 cities studied, Atlanta had the most tree cover (54%), while Denver had the least (10%). New York City led all cities in impervious cover (61%), while Nashville had the least (18%).

the world). According to the Heartland curriculum, carbon dioxide might not even be a pollutant.

The “major scientific controversy” label is similar to one that has been used successfully by opponents of teaching evolution. Over the past few years, parents’ groups, boards of education, and state legislatures have already taken steps to undermine climate education, and the Heartland curriculum will undoubtedly find a receptive market. Our young people are the ones who will have to deal with the dire consequences of global warming. They should be learning how the changes will affect them, and what can be done.

6B. *Increased fuel-economy standards will greatly decrease GHG emissions*

[From Sierra Club Insider]

The Obama Administration has set a new average fuel-economy standard of 54.5 mpg for cars and trucks by 2030 (NL301 ¶5C). That translates to using 1.5 million fewer barrels of oil per day -- as much oil as we imported from Saudi Arabia and Iraq combined last year. The cumulative amount of carbon pollution eliminated would be a staggering 6 billion metric tons over the life of the program -- the equivalent to one year of current U.S. CO₂ emissions. It will be the single biggest thing any nation has done to address climate pollution -- and the biggest step yet toward moving America beyond oil.

6C. *Shifts in bird and tree species resulting from climate change*

[Information from *Mother Jones*, 2/10/12]

The fate of *forests* will affect the future of many species of *birds*, and the US Forest Service has developed databases for both: the *Climate Change Tree Atlas* (www.nrs.fs.fed.us/atlas/tree/tree_atlas.html) and the *Climate Change Bird Atlas* (www.nrs.fs.fed.us/atlas/bird/index.html), developed from a paper by Matthews *et al.*, in *Ecography* 34 (2011).

Statistical models were developed of 147 bird-species distributions in the eastern United States, using climate, elevation, and the distributions of 39 tree species to predict contemporary bird distributions. These models were then projected onto three models of climate change under high and low emission scenarios for both climate and the projected change in suitable habitat for the 39 tree species. Breeding habitat in the eastern United States will decrease by at least 10% for 61-79 species, and will increase by at least 10% for 38-52 species.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE

6A. *A huge propaganda machine supports climate-change deniers*

[Information from Climate Reality and from Forecast the Facts]

For several years, the multi-million dollar Heartland Institute has been behind much of the efforts to cast doubt on climate change. It has now been revealed that Heartland is funded by oil and coal companies with a financial interest in denying climate science, and by several other major corporations that include GM (which was bailed out with taxpayer money, and which owes some of its comeback to the production of fossil-fuel-saving vehicles). [Update: After hearing from numerous concerned citizens, GM’s CEO announced a couple of weeks ago that he would review the company’s funding of the Heartland Institute.]

Heartland’s slick publications feature articles that, to the layman, have the appearance of solid scientific papers. They are often cited by weather forecasters. Heartland directly funds a retired TV meteorologist who regularly questions climate science.

Even more insidious is Heartland’s aggressive entry into the educational process. The Institute is dedicating significant funding to the development of a curriculum that portrays global warming -- and its causation by human activities -- as a scientific controversy, instead of as a fact (accepted by National Academies of Science all over

7. OAK RIDGE/KNOXVILLE AREA

7A. *North Ridge Trail boundaries update*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The North Ridge Trail, developed by TCWP almost half a century ago and maintained by TCWP ever since,

strays onto private property in a few spots. This finding is the result of work by NRT Steward Susan Donnelly and Jon Hetrick of Oak Ridge Parks & Recreation Department. In addition to poring over maps to identify these places, Susan and Jon prioritized the necessary trail re-routing. Susan will be flagging changes for Jon to review this spring.

Celebration of National Trails Day, June 2, will include a North Ridge Trail activity. Details in next NL.

7B. *U.T. plans to stop burning coal*

[From CREDO Action, 2/22/12]

In response to a petition sent to U.T. Knoxville last fall to shut down its coal-fired plant, the Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration, Chris Cimino, wrote as follows: "While the University cannot commit to transition to a 100% clean, renewable energy source at the moment, we are making plans to make a giant leap by transitioning away from a coal-fired plant to natural gas. We have submitted the project to the state for approval this fiscal year. Once approved, we will continue with design and modification of our current facility to move away from coal 100%."

We can hope that the natural gas will eventually be replaced by a really clean energy source.

8. TCWP NEWS

8A. *Political Guide – save it and use it often*

TCWP's 2012 Political Guide you have recently received in the mail is, once again, the product of Carol Grametbauer's painstaking research and organization. Keep it in an easily accessible place, and use it often. You can also find it on the TCWP website (www.tcwp.org). Because of the recent re-districting, it is important for you to double-check who your state and federal legislators are. Many counties are split into several districts, so the map may not be the most accurate form of information; make sure by contacting the sources listed in the Guide.



8B. *Upcoming activities*

[Contributed by Carol Grametbauer]

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

Obed rafting trip with trash collection – Saturday, March 31

Paddlers are invited to join TCWP for a whitewater rafting trip from Devil's Breakfast Table to Nemo Bridge. The trip will include trash collection along the river, coordinated with the National Park Service.

Some raft seats are still available. Rafters must be 18 years old or over, and have a moderately high level of physical fitness and stamina. The trip will include a portage over large boulders. The difficulty level of this outing is high,

and potential participants are encouraged to consider carefully their fitness and stamina before signing up.

Pre-registration by Monday, March 26, is required. The weather and river conditions are unpredictable, and decisions about the nature of the trip, or its actual occurrence, will be made on the morning of the event. A few wetsuits are available for loan to participants who need them. Participants should wear wicking fabric (avoid cotton clothes), and will need to bring lunch and water.

For more information or to pre-register, call or write 865-583-3967 or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com. Participants will meet at 9 a.m. at the Obed Wild and Scenic River Visitors Center in Wartburg.

Wildflower Greenway Garlic Mustard Pull and Wildflower Walk – Saturday, April 7

The Greenway behind Oak Ridge's Rolling Hills Apartments (formerly known as the Garden Apartments) is one of the best wildflower trails in Anderson County, but it is threatened by garlic mustard, a very invasive exotic that crowds out native plants. TCWP and Greenways Oak Ridge have been making some headway in recent years in ridding the trail of this harmful plant. Volunteers are needed to help with this effort again this year.

We will meet at 10 a.m. at the rear parking lot (near the woods) behind 101-135 West Vanderbilt Drive. Wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothes, and bring water, food/snacks, and a digging spike or similar tool if you own one.

Wildflower Hike at Jackson Bend – Saturday, April 14

This joint outing with the Tennessee Native Plant Society will follow the Jackson Bend Trail along the shore of Tellico Lake. We expect to see many wildflowers, possibly including the uncommon Northeastern Tansy-Mustard (*Descurainia pinnata*). This can be an out-and-back hike of the length of hikers' choosing, or a moderate, approximately five-mile hike with a car shuttle. There are some steep cliffy sections in the last half of the hike.

We will meet for carpooling at 10 a.m. at the Citco gas station (Bimbo's) on the northwest side of the U.S. 321 (Lenoir City) exit on I-75. Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray. For more information, contact TCWP board member Larry Pounds at PoundsL471@aol.com or 865-705-8516.

Hike on Cumberland Trail – South Brady Mountain – Saturday, April 21

Botanist and TCWP board member Larry Pounds will lead a hike on the south side of Brady Mountain along the Cumberland Trail. The rich limestone soils found here make excellent habitat for spring wildflowers. The Obed Watershed Community Association is co-sponsoring this hike with TCWP.

We will meet for carpooling at 9 a.m. in the Books-A-Million shopping center in Oak Ridge (at the front end of

the parking lot, along South Illinois Avenue near the Waffle House). A second carpooling stop will be made at the Shoney's in Harriman (I-40 exit 347) at 9:30 a.m. Those not carpooling can meet at the Jewett Road trailhead at 10:15 a.m. Bring a lunch and water, and wear sturdy shoes. For more information, contact Larry at PoundsL471@aol.com or 865-705-8516.

Hikes at Historic Rugby – Saturday, May 12

Tennessee State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath will lead a pair of hikes in the Rugby area suitable for those who like to stop and look at the flowers. The first will be an easy 1.2-mile hike at the Rugby State Natural Area at 10 a.m.; the second, a moderate 1-mile hike to the Gentleman's Swimming Hole at 12:45 p.m.. Lunch will be at 11:30. The Harrow Road Café is an option for those who do not want to pack a lunch.

Hedgepath describes the hikes as “slow, stop-and-go, interpretive walks.” Participants should wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothes, and might want to bring sunscreen and bug repellent. This outing is cosponsored by the Cove Lake Hiking group of the Tennessee Trails Association.

We will meet for carpooling at the Rush Fitness Center parking lot in Oak Ridge to depart at 8:30 a.m., and will also make a stop at the Obed Wild and Scenic River Visitors Center in Wartburg, to depart at 9:05 a.m. Those who do not wish to carpool can meet the group at the Rugby State Natural Area trailhead behind the Rugby Visitor Center at 10 a.m.

Additional information on all TCWP activities may be obtained from TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com or at 865-583-3967.

8C. *Recent events*

[Contributed by Carol Grametbauer]

Alley Ford Cumberland Trail workday – Saturday, February 25

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

On February 25 TCWP sponsored a day of trail work and hiking on our adopted segment of the Cumberland Trail State Park between Nemo Picnic Area and Alley Ford at the Obed Wild and Scenic River. TCWP has performed routine maintenance on the Alley Ford segment of the trail since we adopted it in 1998. This year we had eight volunteers (including three new recruits from Cincinnati, Ohio!) and three Obed NPS employees (Volunteer Coordinator Moria Painter, Ranger Brett Painter, and Facility Manager David Swanson).

We were fortunate to have David with us this year to help out with our trail work. He shared his extensive trail knowledge and led us through some intensive trail tread rehabilitation on two sections of the trail. The NPS supplied us with Pulaskis, rogue hoes, and other grubbing tools that we used to restore the tread on two long sections of the trail. We also managed to clean out the water bars on

the trail and to cut back brush in the old strip mine section. In addition to fixing up a large portion of our trail, we also got to enjoy some early flowering yellow violets and bluets on a beautiful, warm, late-winter day.

“Ferns of Tennessee” – Thursday, March 8

Tennessee is home to nearly 100 species of native ferns, as well as some undesirable invasives; but many amateur and even professional botanists can find it difficult to distinguish one fern from another. On March 8, 35 members and guests gathered at the Oak Ridge Civic Center to hear a presentation on “Ferns and Fern Relatives of Tennessee” by TVA Botanical Specialist Patricia Cox.

Dr. Cox explained the terminology associated with the structure and lifecycle of ferns. She gave us tips on identifying ferns, and showed photos of ferns representing all of the families found in our state and of the fern relatives—the club mosses, spike mosses, and quillworts. She also warned us to be on the lookout for two very invasive ferns that are beginning to make their way into Tennessee: Japanese climbing fern, which has been occasionally showing up in mulch imported from other states; and Mariana maidenhair fern, a non-native maidenhair fern that has recently been found on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

Spring Cedar Barren cleanup – Saturday, March 10

(Contributed by Tim Bigelow)

Ten volunteers, including two hard-working Oak Ridge High School students, participated in the cleanup, enjoying nice weather. Activities included removal of a large amount of bush honeysuckle, privet, and other invasives. Several larger dead pine trees had blown over in the recent winds, and these were sawn up and removed. Small trees growing in the front section of the barrens area were pulled or trimmed.

Afterwards, the volunteers gathered for a pizza lunch, with discussions that included wetland pond projects currently under consideration.

8D. *Wanted: Ambassadors for TCWP display*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Oak Ridge Earth Day will be celebrated at the Oak Ridge Civic Center on Saturday, April 28, from 11:00—4:00. Two-hour shifts are available starting at 11:00, and hourly thereafter until 2:00. Training is available. To sign up, or for more information, call or write Sandra at 865-583-3967 or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com

8E. *Circle-of-Change Awards Dinner*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

TCWP is a member of Community Shares (CS) and benefits from the CS workplace-based fundraising campaigns that are conducted in businesses across the state. Last year TCWP received \$8,128 in contributions through CS.

The organization's 12th Annual Circle of Change Awards Dinner will be held Saturday, April 14, at the Bearden Banquet Hall from 5:00-9:00 p.m. This event will honor one person/organization in each of five categories: Danny Mayfield Champion of Change, Heart of Change, Gardener of Change, Seed of Change, and Institution for Change. Tickets are \$30.00 individually, or \$250 for a table of 10. To be a part of TCWP's table, call or write 865-583-3967 or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

8F. *Notes from the Executive Director*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The newsletter deadline has already passed as I hastily write these paragraphs. Nearly one-third of the year has already passed! It's been quite the busy year so far, starting with setting up the TCWP booth at Wilderness Wildlife Week. Numerous public events have had to be developed and executed (13 of them through June 2); activities of the State Legislature have required constant attention; and Tennessee's Oil and Gas Rulemaking has been a constant task.

All of these efforts, as well as our committee, coalition, and sister-organization meetings, are made possible with the help of volunteers. Thanks to each of you for your help in furthering TCWP's work to maintain and protect natural lands and waters. It takes more than a village; it takes a state.

If you're not a volunteer, please give it some consideration. There's a wide range of areas, timing, and duration in which one can be helpful. We've got an immediate need for ambassadors at our Oak Ridge Earthday booth on Saturday, April 28 (see ¶8D, above). We have ongoing and varying volunteer duties with Community Shares, and regularly-meeting Mailing and Program Committees, both of which have membership openings. Call or write me if you have questions or ideas.

All of us are needed in the next several days regarding the Scenic Vista Protection Act, which would prevent surface mining (deep mining still allowed) above the 2000' elevation. I take heart from the fact that the bill passed out of committee to the Senate floor, where the vote was postponed to April 2 (¶1B, this NL). Although a committee amendment has rendered the bill quite toothless, the whole Senate will have the opportunity to discuss the issue. THIS IS PROGRESS! In the many years in which we've fought to get this bill passed, it's never before made it out of committee.

The Tennessee Legislature is moving quickly toward adjournment. Let's stay on our toes, ready to send e-mails or phone calls as the House Environment Subcommittee takes up the Scenic Vista Protection bill. To stay informed, let me add you to the TCWP e-mail alert list.

There's been good and effective work on the part of many conservation-conscious Tennesseans throughout this legislative session. Organizations from across the state, including TCWP, began work late last summer on the key environmental issues likely to be, or needing to be, considered by the Legislature.

A high point in our mutual efforts was the February 22 Conservation Day on the Hill, which Marion Burger, Jan Lyons, and I attended. We watched a meeting of the House Enviro Subcommittee, met with key legislators, and mingled with like-minded folks from across the state. Each Conservation-Day-on-the-Hill registrant sported a green sticker. It was quite impressive to see green-stickered folks in the halls and meeting rooms of Legislative Plaza, and to know our elected officials saw that also.

Thanks again to all you who work to protect our state's incomparable natural resources and beauty. May we each enjoy those things in the current temperate season and be inspired to do more.

Sandra

8G. *Thanks, and a tip of the hat to ...*

[From Sandra Goss]

- The January Newsletter mailing preparers: Jean Bangham, John Bates, Don Davis, Frank Hensley, Charlie Klabunde, Dick Raridon, Marti Salk.
- TCWP Secretary Carol Grametbauer for compiling Board-meeting minutes as well as the Activities sections of the newsletter.
- North Ridge Trail Steward and noted ultra runner Susan Donnelly and City of Oak Ridge Parks & Recreation Department hero Jon Hetrick for beginning the necessary work to insure that the trail does not encroach on private property.
- Special call-out for Carol Grametbauer for her stellar work in updating the TCWP Political Guide.
- John Bates, Mary Lynn Dobson, Frank Hensley, Charlie Klabunde, and Dick Raridon for preparing the Political Guide for mailing.
- Marion Burger and Jan Lyons for attending Conservation Day on the Hill and communicating with our elected officials about important environmental bills.
- Jimmy Groton for arranging and publicizing our most recent informational program.
- Pat Cox for sharing her passion and expertise on ferns with TCWP members and friends.
- Oak Ridge Cedar Barren Steward Tim Bigelow, Jimmy Groton, and Larry Pounds for their leadership and energy at the recent OR Cedar Barren clean-up.
- TCWP Treasurer Charlie Klabunde for his diligent stewardship of TCWP's finances.
- Frank Hensley and Lee Russell for composing excellent comments on the proposed changes to the Jackson Law.
- Francis Perey for maintaining our web site.
- Cindy Kendrick for her work on Tennessee's oil & gas regulations.

- Jimmy Groton for his publicity and organizational efforts and leadership of the Alley Ford clean-up.
- Lee Russell for her inimitable editorial skills on our Newsletter.
- Thanks to each of you who have called, e-mailed, or written your elected officials about pending legislation. **DON'T STOP NOW!!**

teers are needed to help pick up trash along various sections of the park. Meet at the Obed Wild & Scenic River Visitors Center, 208 North Maiden Street in Wartburg. Volunteers will return to the Visitors Center at noon to enjoy a picnic lunch.

- June 2, North Ridge Trail workday on National Trails Day (details in next NL).

9. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• CALENDAR (events and deadlines)

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

- March 22-24, Gatlinburg, All Taxa Biological Inventory (ATBI) meeting for the Smokies; will feature two talks by E.O. Wilson (one in Knoxville). For more information, contact Dr. Patricia B. Cox, TVA, 865-632-3609.
- March 29, Rain Barrel Workshop, Crossville (see Resources, below).
- March 31, Obed Wild and Scenic River Whitewater Rafting Outing (see ¶8B, this NL).
- March 31, wildflower walks (10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.) at TVA's River Bluff Small Wild Area, Norris. Call Heather M. Hart, 865-632-6362.
- April 3, 12-1 p.m., Lunch with the League (LWV), speakers on "The greenhouse effect, global warming, and Earth's climate history." Unitarian Church (Social Hall), Oak Ridge.
- April 7, Wildflower Greenway Garlic Mustard Pull/Wildflower Walk (see ¶8B, this NL).
- April 7, wildflower walks (10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.) at TVA's River Bluff Small Wild Area, Norris. Call Heather M. Hart, 865-632-6362.
- April 14, Wildflower Hike at Jackson Bend (see ¶8B, this NL).
- April 14, 2-4 p.m. Anderson County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event, Oak Ridge Public Works Building (100 Woodbury Lane. For more info, 865-463-6845.
- April 14, 5-9 p.m., Community Shares' Circle-of-Change Awards Dinner (see ¶8E, this NL).
- April 21, Hike on Cumberland Trail – South Brady Mountain (see ¶8B, this NL).
- April 28, Oak Ridge Earth Day celebration, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Oak Ridge Civic Center and Bissell Park. Free celebration of Earth Day in Oak Ridge, featuring local music and food, educational presentations and exhibits (including TCWP's exhibit), green vendors; children's activities including climbing walls, animal encounters, and a fun run. See www.orearthday.org for more information and a calendar of events.
- May 12, Hikes at Historic Rugby (see ¶8B, this NL).
- May 19, 9 a.m., Obed Wild and Scenic River Annual River Cleanup Day and Volunteer Appreciation Lunch. Volun-

•• RESOURCES

- If you need assistance with getting the type of photo ID that is now required for voting, contact the League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge, 865-685.5989 or lwvov@comcast.net. Elections are Aug. 2 and Nov. 6. [Valid photo IDs can be obtained from your local Department of Motor Vehicles, or your County Clerk.]
- A Rain Barrel Workshop will be held March 29, 4 - 6 p.m. (CDT) at Common Ground, Crossville (405 W 4th St). Prices for the preassembled barrels are \$40/barrel (for non-members) and \$30/barrel (for members). To sign up for a 15-minute presentation about how to install the barrel, call 931-484-9033.
- The Southern Appalachian Highland Conservancy is sponsoring a series of hikes this spring, including one to Rocky Fork on March 24. For hike registration or questions, contact Rich Preyer, rich@appalachian.org, or 828-253-0095 x 205.
- Edge trekker (<http://edgetrekker.com>) is an online trip-planning tool for the Cumberland Plateau. Every trip that is either printed or downloaded will be saved on the website and viewable to the general public. For more information, visit the Alliance for the Cumberlands website, <http://www.cumberlands.org>, or call 931-372-6125.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, is offering small grants for long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. Info at www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/Small/index.shtml



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***Check out our Hikes, Strolls,
Wildflower Identification,
Work Trips, and even
A Raft Trip.***

See ¶ 8B on pages 10 & 11