



Taking Care of Wild Places

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The BIG stories

New state park: Rocky Fork ¶2A

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Wind energy in jeopardy ¶5A

Presidency: what was at stake ¶6D

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

11. ACTION SUMMARY

No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
2B	Obed access through Catoosa	Deputy Comm. Brock Hill.	"Thank you for your effort to open access for paddlers!"
3A	Cherokee NF Wilderness	Your congressman	"I urge you to pass the Tennessee Wilderness bill!"
3C	Corridor K (Cherokee NF)	Various resource agencies	"Thank you for protecting our lands and waters in Cherokee NF!"
4G	Western Arctic Reserve habitat	Interior Secretary Salazar	"Thank you for granting protections; resist Big Oil pressures!!"
5A	Development of wind energy	Your Congressman	"Vote to extend the renewable-energy Production Tax Credit!"
9C	TCWP activities	TCWP	Come and enjoy!

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
202-456-1111 (comments);
456-1414 (switchbd); Fax 456-2461
www.whitehouse.gov/contact

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

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Haslam
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bob Corker
Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-0566
e-mail: <http://corker.senate.gov/public/>
Local: 865-637-4180 (FAX 637-9886)
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Sen. Lamar Alexander:
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e-mail: <http://alexander.senate.gov/public/>
Local: 865-545-4253 (FAX 545-4252)
800 Market St., Suite 112, Knoxville 37902

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

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

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.

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

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TCWP website: <http://www.tcwp.org>.

1. BIG SOUTH FORK and OBED NEWS

1A. *Huntsville Wastewater Treatment Plant will no longer pollute Big South Fork*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

A malfunctioning wastewater treatment plant is the recipient of a federal Community Development Block Grant that will allow a much-needed upgrade. The October announcement by Governor Haslam is good news for the water quality of the New River and Big South Fork.

Earlier this year, Huntsville Wastewater Treatment Plant leaked raw sewage into New River, and in mid-March, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) issued a recreational water-contact advisory for the portion of the New River downstream from river mile 14.8, part of which is within the Big South Fork NRRRA (NL303 ¶3D). According to the *Independent Herald*, the CDBG funding will enable the town to switch from the expensive cassette-based treatment system to an effective cheaper treatment system.

Aging or obsolete water infrastructure of small municipalities are likely to become a larger problem in coming years. Along the plateau, those issues could have a negative impact on important rivers, including the Obed and Big South Fork.

1B. *Summary of oil & gas management plan*

The National Park Service has now published an 18-page, beautifully illustrated, summary of the very extensive "Non-federal oil & gas management plan for the Big South Fork NRRRA and Oved WSR" that was published in July (NL 305 ¶1B). The Summary comes with an appendix of more detailed technical information, and with a CD of the full Plan and EIS, plus the 2006 Operators Handbook for units of the National Park System. Copies can be borrowed from TCWP by contacting Sandra Goss, 865-583-3967, or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com

1C. *Real-time water-quality monitoring for both parks*

The National Park Service (NPS), with the assistance of USGS partners, has installed real-time water-quality monitoring instrumentation at five locations. Three are in the Obed WSR: Adams Bridge on the Obed, Lilly Bridge on Clear Creek, and near Hebbertsburg on Daddys Creek. Two are in the Big South Fork NRRRA: one on New River, and the other near Robbins on the Clear Fork. The New River, Adams Bridge, and Daddys Creek gages are located just upstream of designated park waters, while the remaining stations are located at USGS gages within park boundaries.

Data obtained are a valuable asset to NPS and as well as to state, federal, municipal, and private-sector partners. The Crossville Wastewater Treatment facility,

which is already using these data, is initiating a UV disinfection project, which should help lower conductivity parameter numbers.

1D. *Hemlock protection at the Obed WSR*

Volunteers are continuing to help NPS's efforts to control the woolly adelgid's deadly attacks on hemlock trees in the Obed WSR and Big South Fork NRRRA. Prominent among these are climbers who devote Adopt a Crag Day each year to public service. In 2011, members of the East Tennessee Climbers Coalition (ETCC) helped to treat many trees on The Nature Conservancy (TNC) tract on lower Clear Creek. On this year's Adopt a Crag Day, Sept. 8, one of the areas treated was the ~20-acre tract purchased by TCWP a few years ago on top of the bluff in the same region. At this, and one other area, 16 volunteers (TNC and ETCC members) assisted 6 NPS staff in treating altogether 406 hemlock trees. For almost 6 hours, they labored in the rain, and those who worked on the bluff, where there is no stream access, had to carry all of the water needed to dissolve the chemical. It is estimated that the chemical treatment of roots is effective for 3 years.

1E. *BSF in the news*

During the past couple of months, the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area has been featured twice in the media. The *Sunday News Sentinel* of October 30, under a beautiful photo, carried an article by Morgan Simmons, entitled "Dam nearly did it in, but love for Big South Fork deepens." TCWP is mentioned in the brief history (although only in the context of an unsuccessful attempt at protection).

The National Parks and Conservation Association's (NPCA's) *Park Lines* for October had the BSFNRRRA as its Featured Park. After a brief description, the Honey Creek Loop was mentioned as a favorite hike. There was a link to a short slide show, and another link to "A Mountain of Controversy," an article (from the Winter 2009 issue of *National Parks* magazine) about mountaintop removal and the scenic vistas bill.

2. TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. *A new state park: Rocky Fork*

The 10,000-acre Rocky Fork tract in upper East Tennessee has for years been at the top the US Forest Service's land-acquisition priorities for addition to the Cherokee National Forest. The tract, which contains a segment of the Appalachian Trail and many miles of trout streams, is surrounded by national forest land. It was privately owned, but leased for hunting by TWRA. When the owners started marketing the land for development, the Conservation Fund led a fund-raising effort to add to the \$6 million Land & Water Conservation Fund appropriation, allowing the USFS to purchase almost 8,000 acres (NL298 ¶5B).

At the end of October, Gov. Haslam and Sen. Lamar Alexander announced that the remaining 2,000 acres will become a state park, Tennessee's 55th (Cummins Falls was the 54th – see NL303 ¶2A). This purchase was made possible by \$6 million from Tennessee's Heritage Conservation Trust Fund.

2B. *News about our state parks*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

At TCWP's October Annual Meeting, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill presented an overview of our State Parks.

He reported that State Parks are celebrating their 75th anniversary over a two-year period: 2012, to mark the signing of enabling legislation, and 2013, to mark the opening of the first park, Harrison Bay

The state is making investments in the system, which yields a \$725 million economic benefit annually. Among big-ticket outlays is Fall Creek Falls, undergoing a \$12.5 million improvement project, the single largest capital improvement at a park. Two new parks have opened this year: Cummins Falls and Rocky Fork (¶2A, above). Upgrades were provided for the eight most-used campgrounds.

Computer technology upgrades for reservations and interpretation have been undertaken, and a State Park Passport will soon be available at all parks, to serve as a record of one's state park visits.

Other developments in the State Parks are: the okay to launch personal non-motorized craft on State Park waters; the initiation of a second annual Bike Ride Across Tennessee (BRAT), making it a spring AND fall event; and the sponsorship by many parks of First Hike, a hike on New Year's Day.

In additional efforts to promote health and fitness, State Park Restaurants now feature calorie counts on the buffet, and soon there will be a downloadable app with a hike route to work off those calories!

"Green" training is being provided for all park employees, to heighten awareness of environmentally friendly hospitality techniques.

Hill also mentioned that State Park personnel are working with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to allow February and March Obed River access through Catoosa Wildlife Management Area. This would facilitate paddling on the Obed during prime paddling months.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank Deputy Commissioner Hill (see Political Guide) for his effort to open up Catoosa for Obed River access in February and March. This will facilitate paddling activities and increase eco-tourism opportunities for the surrounding counties.

2C. *Final fracking rules are toothless*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

In its last hours of existence the Tennessee Oil and Gas Board flung a big rose bouquet and kiss to the indus-

try it supposedly oversees by approving adoption of fracking rules that were largely created by the Tennessee Oil and Gas Association (TOGA). Simultaneously the Board gave Tennessee citizens a raspberry by ignoring the overwhelming majority of comments that urged strict protection of Tennessee's water quality.

In October, the legislatively-created Water-Quality Control, Oil and Gas Board held its first meeting. It is composed of representatives from the Department of Environment and Conservation; Department of Health; Department of Agriculture; the public-at-large; environmental interests; counties; agricultural interests; municipalities of the state; a small generator of water pollution representing automotive interests; one member representing manufacturing industries (who is currently employed by a manufacturing concern in Tennessee, and who holds a college degree in engineering or the equivalent, and has at least 8 years of combined technical training and experience in NPDES permit compliance and management of wastewater or water treatment facilities); one member representing the oil and gas industry; and one member representing oil or gas property owners.

This body meets monthly to consider various water-quality issues, including oil and gas drilling. April and October meetings are designated public comment meetings and the floor is opened to citizens for comments. TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss attended the October meeting and presented newsletters and brochures to the Board members. A member of the Board asked TDEC staff for a briefing on fracking, the predominant subject in the public comments. TCWP will monitor the Board's activities on fracking.

2D. *TDoT policy reform:*

Advisory Council is reconstituted

[From Southern Environmental Law Center]

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDoT) has reconstituted its Advisory Council and has appointed Anne Davis, the managing attorney of SELC's Nashville office, as one of its 8 members. The Council will help TDoT sustain a transportation system that enhances communities, protects the environment, and saves energy. It provides new opportunities to promote a cleaner and more efficient transportation network in Tennessee.

For recommendations made in the recent Smarter Transportation report see NL305 ¶2D.

2E. *Final cleanup plan*

for Kingston coal-ash spill.

TVA has developed a preferred plan for final cleanup of the coal-ash sludge spilled just before Christmas 2008 from a ruptured holding pond at the Kingston steam plant; and EPA has approved this plan. What's involved are about 500,000 cubic yards of sludge that remains at the bottom of the Emory and Clinch Rivers, dispersed intermittently over 200 acres. TVA's proposed Monitored Natural Recovery avoids disturbing legacy contaminants from past DOE projects. It is also the most cost-effective

option, and EPA has determined that the plan poses a relatively low environmental risk. TVA's Action Memorandum may be viewed at www.tva.com/kingston. Comments (deadline, December 8) will be included in a Responsiveness Summary.

For proposed *federal* coal-ash legislation, see ¶4D, below.

2F. *Illustrated talk about Cumberland Trail at ERWA meeting*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The photographer (Bill Campbell) and writer (David Brill) of the coffee-table book *Cumberland Odyssey* (about the Cumberland Trail) will make a rare joint appearance at the Emory River Watershed Association December meeting. TCWP members may recall the excellent slide show presented by Bill Campbell the year before last. The ERWA meeting offers a chance to see great photographs as well as meet renowned writer David Brill, who was inducted into the East Tennessee Writers Hall of Fame last month.

The meeting, which is free and open to the public, is to be held at the Obed National Wild and Scenic River Visitors Center in Wartburg on Tuesday, December 4, at 6:00 Eastern Time. It'll kick off with a potluck dinner, featuring ham and beverages provided by ERWA, and a Silent Dessert Auction to help fund next year's ERWA events and activities.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a covered dish for the potluck; and, to help with the fundraiser, please bring your favorite dessert or bid on someone else's creation. *Cumberland Odyssey* will also be available for purchase and signing just in time to serve as a lovely Christmas gift.

RSVP by November 27 by calling Ruth Hurst at 423-346-3770, or e-mail ruth.hurst@tn.nacdnet.net. Contact Sandra K. Goss at 865-583-3967, or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com, to learn about carpool arrangements from Oak Ridge.

3. The CHEROKEE and other NATIONAL FORESTS

3A. *Big push for Cherokee NF Wilderness bill needs your help*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

More than two dozen wilderness-designation bills have languished in the House Natural Resources Committee. Not a single one has been reported out to the full House. If the House does not act, this will be the first Congress since 1966 to have failed to save a single acre of wilderness.

The necessary federal legislation to place 20,000 acres of the Cherokee National Forest in permanently protective Wilderness status has a few weeks to be passed by this Congress. The Wilderness designation has been rec-

ommended by the U.S. Forest Service for special places in the forest. Keeping those special places wild protects our water and air quality, provides unparalleled recreation opportunities, and contributes to the local economy.

It is hoped that this Congress will pass the Tennessee Wilderness Bill before it adjourns for the last time.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Please contact your congressman (address p. 2), urging passage of the Tennessee Wilderness Bill. Tell him why it's important to you.

3B. *Groups approach TDoT about Corridor K in the Cherokee NF*

TCWP was one of several groups that recently urged TDoT to improve the *existing* route through the Ocoee gorge instead of re-routing Hwy 64 between Cleveland and Dillsboro through the Cherokee National Forest. The groups signed on to a letter in which SELC analyzed the very complex issues of the applicability of the Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC's) design standards to the Appalachian Development Highway System. ARC's guidance to TDOT, regarding applicable design standards, was found to be entirely consistent with the alternative of improving the *existing* route.

3C. *Corridor K project stalled by agency non-concurrence*

[Information from Melanie Mayes, WaySouth]

Tennessee's Corridor K (US64/74 through the Ocoee Gorge) is currently stalled. As the Tennessee Department of Transportation prepares an environmental study for Corridor K, several state and federal agencies have the power either to agree ("concur") or decline to concur with TDOT's plans. Six of those agencies (the US Forest Service, EPA, TWRA, US Army Corp of Engineers, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and TDEC) recently declined to concur that TDOT has identified a full range of alternatives. This stops the progression of the project until the permitting agencies are satisfied that TDOT is fairly considering all reasonable alternatives.

For years, environmental groups have been advocating for a reasonable alternative that would improve the current road through the Ocoee Gorge, meeting transportation and safety needs with the least environmental cost. Until now, however, TDOT has resisted the addition of such an alternative, instead focusing on "big build" alternatives that would needlessly destroy our public lands and waters — all with a price tag that Tennessee simply can't afford.

Because of the non-concurrence by federal and state resources agencies, TDOT is considering adding a new alternative to address their concerns. The next step will be negotiation between the agencies and TDOT to figure out what exactly the new alternative will look like.

We can help by contacting the agencies and letting them know how much we appreciate their careful stewardship of our lands, their continued integrity for uphold-

ing their mission and regulations, and their attention to the concerns of ALL stakeholders.

4. NATIONAL ISSUES

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If possible by the end of November, send a brief e-mail telling the agencies (addresses below) why you care (e.g., "I use this road and I hike in this forest), telling them how important it is to you that they are watching this project carefully to protect OUR special places, and telling them that you appreciate their commitment to protecting our public lands and waters.
 USFS: jmorris@fs.fed.us;
 Corps of Eng.: Tammy.R.Turley@usace.army.mil;
 USFWS: john_griffith@fws.gov
 EPA: Higgins.jamie@epa.gov;
 TDEC: Richard.Urban@tn.gov;
 TWRA: Dave.McKinney@tn.gov.
 For more information, contact <mamayas5@yahoo.com>

4A. *Four national monuments designated during Obama's first term*

One of four national monuments designated by Pres. Obama (in Sept. 2012) is Chimney Rock, a 4,726-acre area in the San Juan National Forest in southwestern Colorado (between Durango and Pagosa Springs). The twin rock spires that lend Chimney Rock its name are over 535 million years old, and offer 75-mile panoramic views of the local area. Every 18.6 years they perfectly frame the moon during what is known as the northern lunar standstill. The Ancient Pueblo People site, with its stunning remains of ceremonial and other archaeological sites, was a community inhabited about 1,000 years ago. It has about 200 rooms that were used for living, work areas, and ceremonial purposes.

Prior to Chimney Rock, Pres. Obama designated Fort Monroe in Virginia (NL300 ¶5A) and Fort Ord, in California. The latter holds some of the last undeveloped natural wildlands on the Monterey Peninsula. Located on the former Fort Ord military base, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) protects and manages 35 species of rare plants and animals along with their native coastal habitats. Habitat preservation and conservation are primary missions for the Fort Ord Public Lands, but there are also more than 86 miles of trails for the public to explore.

Most recently to be designated (10/8/12) is César E. Chávez National Monument, 105 acres in Kern County, California, about 27 miles southeast of Bakersfield among the Tehachapi mountains. The property was home to César Chávez from the early 1970s until his death in 1993 and includes his gravesite and the headquarters of the United Farm Workers.

The authority under which national monuments are designated is the Antiquities Act of 1906, which allows the president to ensure "... the protection of objects of historic and scientific interest." The value of this Act was once again demonstrated by these recent designations. Chimney Rock, for example, despite its cultural significance and valuable sites, had lacked any protective designation.

4B. *Large coal company will end mountaintop removal mining*

[Based on information from Sierra Club, 11/16]

Patriot Coal Company, one of Appalachia's largest, has committed to phase out its mountaintop removal coal-mining operations. This is part of an agreement with three groups (including the Sierra Club) that had won a court order requiring the company to install expensive selenium-treatment systems at several mines in West Virginia. In exchange for the Patriot's phase-out commitment, the groups have agreed to extend the schedule under which the company is required to install the pollution systems. Patriot Coal, which had filed for bankruptcy in

3D. *Old growth in the northern Cherokee protected*

[Information from SELC]

An exceptionally large old-growth area on Ripshin Ridge, near Roan Mountain State Park contains trees ranging from 150 to 398 years old. Portions of this area were slated for logging as part of the Clarke Mountain timber sale. Now, as a result of appeals from SELC and partners, the US Forest Service has agreed to protect 55 acres of that sale as designated old growth. The USFS also agreed to limit timber cutting on steep, erosion-prone slopes. This is a continuation of protection resulting from SELC's appeal in connection with the Big Creek timber sale a year ago.

3E. *Supreme Court declines to hear a challenge to Roadless Rule, but USFS allows mine expansion*

[Based on information from FSEEE]

The US Supreme Court recently decided not to hear an appeal by the Colorado and Wyoming Mining Associations and eight states to strike down the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

The Bush Administration allowed states to make their own rules, and Colorado was one of the ones that did. The Colorado Roadless Rule, which was approved by the Obama administration in July, makes exceptions to roadless protection in some areas for coal-mine expansions, while other areas are strongly protected.

A few weeks ago, the Forest Service's regional office signed off on plans by Arch Coal to expand its West Elk Mine into a three-square-mile roadless area of national forest backcountry. The decision rejected an appeal by local citizens and national environmental groups. Arch Coal has claimed that the mine expansion would sustain 350 jobs.

The Colorado Roadless Rule also has complexities regarding other types of mining (e.g., sand, borax, gypsum) that may or may not be permitted.

July, can thus postpone \$27 million in expenses into 2014 and beyond.

Patriot will retire significant infrastructure required to perform mountaintop removal mining, including drag-lines. The company will also withdraw applications for Clean Water Act section-404 valley-fill permits currently pending before the Army Corps of Engineers, which would have allowed them to dump the waste from mountaintop removal mines into valleys, burying streams and headwaters. Astonishingly, along with its commitment to end large-scale surface mining in the region, the company also acknowledged the impact this destructive form of mining has on local communities and announced its commitment to reduce its environmental footprint.

4C. *House Republicans wage campaign to "Stop the War on Coal"*

The "most anti-environmental House of Representatives in history" (NL305 ¶4B) is compiling an ever more extreme record. Fortunately, the Senate has been our bulwark in 2011/2012 and will, hopefully, be even stronger in 2013. In accordance with their claims that Pres. Obama is waging a war on coal, the House Republicans put together a package of dirty-water and dirty-air bills labeled the "*Stop the War on Coal Act of 2012*." This legislative package includes the following bills:

[Summarized from Sierra Club compilations]

HR 3409 would amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) to prevent the Secretary of the Interior from proposing or issuing any rule before 2014 that would in any way reduce surface-mining coal production.

HR 910 ("Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011") amends the Clean Air Act to bar EPA from regulating greenhouse gases to address climate change, and redefines the term "air pollutant" to exclude greenhouse gases for purposes of addressing climate change.

HR 2401 (TRAIN Act). This bill would directly block two long delayed, critical public health safeguards - The Mercury and Air Toxics Standard for Power Plants and the Cross State Air Pollution Rule.

HR 2273 (coal ash), with changes to reflect the new Senate bill 3512 (¶4D, below) shields utilities from their responsibility to timely upgrade unsafe ash dumps.

HR 2018, entitled, "Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011, as passed by the House, is a direct assault on two key components of the Clean Water Act: enforcement of water quality standards and protection of aquatic resources from discharges of dredged and fill material. It would limit the federal government's ability to compel states to effectively implement or make necessary improvements to their water quality standards to deal with modern pollution challenges. The bill would also block EPA from objecting to individual permits that fail to comply with water quality standards, and would stymie EPA's ability to stop dredge and fill projects that have "unacceptable adverse effect[s] on municipal water supplies, shellfish beds and fishery areas ..., wildlife or recreational

areas."

4D. *Attempts by Congress to prevent coal-ash regulations*

[Based on information from Clean Water Network]

S.3512, the "Coal Ash Recycling and Oversight Act," introduced in July by South Dakota and Montana senators, would prevent EPA from finalizing its proposed coal ash rule, which received 450,000 public comments (NL292 ¶3C; NL303 ¶8B), or from ever issuing regulations for this, the nation's second largest, industrial waste stream. The bill encourages inadequate *state* programs; e.g., there are no deadlines for states to implement a permit program.

There are over 1300 aging coal ash dumps in the country, many of which consist of leaking and unstable ponds and landfills, and most of which currently lack adequate safeguards (such as liners and leachate collection systems). In September, more than 300 public-interest groups, representing people in every state in the country, sent a letter to the U.S. Senate opposing S.3512.

4E. *Regulations inadequate for fracking fever*

[Based on information from NRDC]

Oil and gas companies are scrambling to secure drilling rights for fracking operations on public and private lands all over the country. BLM (Bureau of Land Management) is leasing public lands to fracking companies for an average of just \$47/acre(!) in some parts of the country. Energy companies are also securing drilling rights in hundreds of thousands of acres in national forests.

Strong federal regulations are needed to protect public health and the environment from the potentially devastating effects of this type of natural-gas extraction. Both EPA and BLM have recently proposed fracking standards. The EPA proposals are fairly promising, but the BLM standards do not go nearly far enough. For instance, they allow the use of open pits to store toxic waste.

4F. *Website with information on Farm Bureau's anti-environment positions*

The Clean Water Network has released a website named Farm Bureau Investigation (FBI), www.fbinvestigation.org, to be a repository of information about the American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF -- aka Farm Bureau) policies, actions, and history. According to the website, the Farm Bureau, which has undue influence on US and global policies, is a front group for big agribusiness and insurance interests that is serving large corporate entities, not the family farmer. Among AFBF's policies are opposition to climate-change and clean-water legislation.

Clean Water Network (CWN) invites anyone with relevant information on the Farm Bureau to submit it for posting on the site (contact the website, or e-mail cwn-headquarters@cwn.org). All contributions from groups will be posted on the community contributions page.

4G. *Administration deserves thanks for habitat protection in Western Arctic*

[Information from NRDC]

Since the Western Arctic Reserve was set aside as a “National Petroleum Reserve” almost a century ago, it has been constantly vulnerable to efforts by Big Oil to turn it into an oil and gas wasteland. In response to considerable public sentiment, the Bureau of Land Management recently adopted a plan that would protect 11 million acres of critical wildlife habitat in the Reserve from oil and gas development. That includes the prized Teshekpuk Lake region, which provides critical calving grounds for a large caribou herd, as well as summer habitat for polar bears ... and the Kasegaluk Lagoon, where thousands of beluga whales gather every year to feed and bear their young. A staggering variety of birds also take refuge in these wetlands, some migrating from as far south as Antarctica.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank Interior Secretary Ken Salazar for granting the Western Arctic Reserve the strong protection it needs. Urge him to resist all pressure from Big Oil to weaken the wildlife protections. Address: ken-salazar@ios.doi.gov; or, USDI, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240

cans for Prosperity, funded by the oil industry’s billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch, who argue that the government is playing favorites by granting the wind industry the tax credit. Look who’s talking! Fossil fuels and nuclear power have been feasting on federal subsidies for decades (the oil and gas industry has received an average of almost \$5 billion in subsidies every year for nearly 100 years.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your Representative (address on p.2) to extend the PTC. By failing to act, Congress is jeopardizing tens of thousands of American jobs.

5B. *Misleading coverage of climate science by News Corporation*

[Information from UCS]

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) has recently reviewed references to climate science in two of News Corp.'s flagship properties. On Fox News Channel during a 6-month period (February through July 2012), 93% of the references to climate science were misleading. In the *Wall Street Journal* Opinion pages, in a one-year period (August 2011 through July 2012), 81% of the references were misleading.

The misleading citations include broad dismissals of human-caused climate change, rejections of climate science as a body of knowledge, and disparaging comments about individual scientists. Furthermore, much of this coverage denigrated climate science by either promoting distrust in scientists and scientific institutions or by placing acceptance of climate change in an ideological, rather than fact-based, context.

5C. *Ozone, a GHG, may aggravate drought impacts on forests*

[From <http://phys.org/news/2012-10-scientists-ozone-forests-availability-southeast.html>]

A study published in the November issue of *Global Change Biology* by U.S. Forest Service and ORNL scientists suggests that ozone, a greenhouse gas, has amplified the effects of warmer temperatures in reducing streamflow in forested watersheds. Researchers developed models based on 18 to 26 years of data and observed streamflow in response to climate and atmospheric chemistry during the growing season. Ozone has a possible connection in the reduction of streamflow in late summer when flow is generally lowest, particularly in areas with high ozone levels such as the Appalachian Mountains in the Southeast. "The concern is that ozone-induced increases in plant-water loss could aggravate drought impacts on forests, and reduce the water available for people and stream life dependent on water flow during the dry seasons."

5D. *Anatomy of Hurricane Sandy*

[Based on information from Forecast the Facts]

Was Sandy caused by global warming? When a baseball player is on steroids, his overall performance is

5. CLIMATE CHANGE; ENERGY POLICY

5A. *Development of wind energy must be saved*

[Based on information from UCS]

In 1992, Pres. George H.W. Bush signed into law the renewable-energy production tax credit (PTC), which for a cost of about \$1.6 billion annually has helped make the U.S. wind industry the second-largest in the world. The PTC will, however, expire at the end of this year if Congress does not renew it.

The PTC is critical to the relatively young wind industry because it helps developers secure financing for new facilities and to sign power purchase agreements with utilities. If Congress fails to renew the PTC, investment in wind projects could drop 65%, from \$15.6 billion in 2012 to \$5.5 billion in 2013, forcing developers to install only 2,400 MW of wind capacity in 2013—less than a quarter of what is expected this year—and lay off nearly half its workforce (some 37,000 people).

Over the past five years, wind capacity has tripled to more than 50,000 MW—enough to power nearly 13 million homes and retire 44 typical coal-fired power plants. Particularly exciting is the fact that since 2005, the percentage of U.S.-manufactured components for wind turbines has jumped from 35% to 67%, keeping some 500 factories in 44 states humming. All told, the U.S. wind industry employed 75,000 people as of late 2011.

Although extension of the PTC has the support of several Republicans from wind-producing states, what’s holding it up are a number of groups, including Ameri-

enhanced, but any one particular homerun cannot be attributed to the drug.

Both, the warmer ocean temperature and the warmer atmosphere greatly increased the severity of the storm. Ocean temperatures off the mid-Atlantic coast were 2.3°F above average (the 2nd greatest departure from average for ocean temperatures in this region since reliable ocean temperature measurements began over a century ago). This circumstance, (a) enabled Sandy to pull more energy from the ocean than a typical October hurricane would, and (b) increased Sandy's rains, since more water vapor evaporates from a warm ocean. The warmer atmosphere held more water vapor, which could condense into heavier rains. Furthermore, the condensation process releases heat energy (latent heat), which invigorates the storm, making its updrafts stronger and creating even more rain.

6. ELECTION RESULTS and the FUTURE

6A. *Oak Ridge City Council*

Ellen Smith, who has been a strong advocate for protecting the environmental values of lands and waters of the Oak Ridge Reservation, lost her bid for reelection. We are grateful that she plans to continue her public service in other capacities.

6B. *House of Representatives*

Republicans lost many seats (number still not completely certain), but retained the majority. This means that committee chairmanships will continue to be held by some of the most anti-environmental Congressmen in history. A handful of House incumbents targeted specifically for denying climate change were defeated. Many of those who remain come from gerrymandered districts where their tenure is ensured for some time to come. The Tennessee delegation remains unchanged.

6C. *The Senate*

The House of Representatives compiled a record as the "most anti-environmental in history" (NL305 ¶4B; ¶4C, this NL), and the next two years may be only marginally better. Fortunately, the Senate was our bulwark in 2011/12 and there are signs that the Senate will be even stronger in 2013.

[Much of the subsequent information is from LCV,
League of Conservation Voters]

There'll be an increased environmental voice in the Senate. Not a single pro-environment senator was defeated. This includes incumbents (Sherrod Brown, Bob Casey, Jon Tester) who had courageously defended EPA's actions on global warming. Of LCV's priority races (to defend allies and elect more climate champions), 8 of 9 were won. Among newly elected environmental champions are Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), who succeed retiring Jeff Bingaman and Herbert

Kohl, respectively. Maine's new senator, Angus King (I), ran on a largely environmental platform.

It's interesting to look at who spent what in these Senate races. In LCV's 9 priority races, the Chamber of Commerce and Big Oil spent \$62 million and won just one race. In the NM race alone, Karl Rove's groups and the Chamber of Commerce spent nearly \$3 million, much of it attacking Heinrich on energy. More than \$20 million was spent against Sherrod Brown and more than \$12 million against Jon Tester, with much of these resources focused squarely on attacking those candidates on energy issues.

LCV and the electoral program of six environmental groups spent more than \$8 million in Senate races. Environmental donors were the largest fundraisers for five of the candidates.

Prospects are not entirely rosy, however. Several stridently anti-environment senators remain in office. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK), whose recent book calls climate change "The Greatest Hoax," is expected to serve as the most powerful Republican on the committee that oversees EPA. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), who has taken hundreds of thousands of dollars from the oil, gas, and mining industries, once ran a campaign ad where he "shot" climate-change legislation with a rifle.

6D. *Presidency: what was at stake*

(We didn't have a pre-election Newsletter, so we'll have to make do with looking back.)

(a) Romney/Ryan.

A Republican plan on energy, <http://www.eenews.net/assets/2012/08/23/document_gw_02.pdf>, subsequently presented in a Romney speech, had as one of its major components the transfer of control over energy production (oil and gas drilling as well as renewable resources) on federal lands to the states. States would be given control of regulatory and permitting processes for any federal lands within their borders. This would affect the management of hundreds of millions of acres of lands under the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service. The plan also focused on lowering gasoline prices, reducing EPA regulations that affect the coal industry, and approving the Keystone XL pipeline that would transport oil from Canadian oil sands to the Gulf of Mexico.

The candidates differed widely in their positions on climate change. As governor of Massachusetts, Romney had signed on to a regional cap-and-trade plan designed to reduce carbon emissions 10% below 1990 levels. At that time, he said: "The benefits will be long-lasting and enormous -- benefits to our health, our economy, our quality of life, our very landscape." That was then. During the campaign, he changed 180°, and when accepting the nomination, he mocked the idea of climate change, and proclaimed, "I will fight for oil, coal, and natural gas." Supporting Romney, fossil fuel interests spent an estimated \$270 million on television ads promoting their agenda and attacking clean energy. They outspent clean-

energy advocates by more than 350% according to a *New York Times* analysis.

Both Romney and Ryan rejected the President's call to extend the wind production tax credit (see ¶5A, this NL), and they supported a budget plan that would extend billions in special oil-industry tax breaks. Romney's first priority to grow the economy was to increase domestic drilling, build the Keystone XL pipeline, and boost coal production

(b) Obama/Biden

Obama implemented landmark fuel efficiency standards (NL305 ¶4A) that represent the most significant steps ever taken by any administration to cut our national dependence on oil and slash the pollutants that cause climate disruption. He also proposed the first-ever limits for power-plant carbon emissions (NL303 ¶6A), implemented the first-ever national standards to limit mercury and other toxic air pollution from power plants (NL301 ¶5D), invested \$80 billion of stimulus funds in clean energy projects, and more than doubled electricity generation from wind.

He gave up on attempts to get climate change-legislation *per se* enacted after Congress failed to pass a cap-and-trade bill in 2010. After the mid-term election, it would have been a hopeless endeavor. His "all of the above" approach to energy sources was worrisome, though he said (in the first debate), "We've got to look at the energy sources of the future, like wind and solar."

His belief in human-caused climate change was expressed in statements such as, "I believe scientists, who say that we're putting too much carbon emissions into the atmosphere and it's heating the planet. And it's going to have a severe effect." In his victory speech, he said: "We want to see our children live in an America ... that isn't threatened by the destructive power of a warming planet." He is conscious, however, of having paid insufficient attention to the subject. In his first post-election press conference, when asked about climate change, he mentioned the increased fuel-efficiency standards that were promulgated in his first term, then added "But we haven't done as much as we need to." He said he hoped to begin his second term by opening a "national conversation" on climate change.

New York's Mayor Blumberg, an Independent, endorsed Obama, saying: "The two parties' nominees for president offer different visions of where they want to lead America. ... One sees climate change as an urgent problem that threatens our planet; one does not. I want our president to place scientific evidence and risk management above electoral politics."

change is, of course, the BIG one. Of a number of other issues listed below, the first four belong to EPA.

- Power-plant emissions (EPA)
Laudably, EPA set limits on power-plant emission of mercury and other toxics (NL301 ¶5D). Even more important, EPA has also proposed limits on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from *new* coal-fired power plants (NL303 ¶6A), and these will soon be finalized. The Administration has, however, given no indication that GHG limits will also be set for *existing* plants.
- Stream destruction from mountaintop removal (EPA)
EPA has taken several courageous actions, including vetoing of the permit for the largest MTR operation (NL295 ¶5A; NL303 ¶4), and appealing the subsequent blockage of the veto by a court. But EPA appears to have abandoned plans, to rewrite the Clean Water Act "fill rule" to revert it to language that could severely limit the burial of streams beneath valley fills.
- Coal-ash regulations (EPA)
Currently it does not look as if EPA will pursue a tough path toward the first national standards for the handling and disposal of toxic coal ash from power plants (NL292 ¶3C; NL303 ¶8B).
- Clean water issues (EPA)
Waters of the U.S. Guidance would restore critical protections for wetlands, small streams, etc. (NL301 ¶5A). An EPA and Army Corps of Engineers document on this subject is languishing in interagency review.
- Roadless Rule enforcement (USFS)
The US Forest Service is not managing forests in the spirit of the Roadless Rule (e.g., see ¶3E, this NL).
- Fracking on public lands (BLM)
The Bureau of Land Management, which administers hundreds of millions of acres of federal lands, has proposed fracking standards that do not go nearly far enough (¶4E, this NL).
- Wilderness
This Congress has designated not a single acre of Wilderness (¶3A, this NL). The President's active support might get bills moving.
- Keystone XL tar-sands pipeline (State Dept.)
The State Department should complete an independent review of this climate-wrecking project.

6E. *Actions remaining*

to be completed or redirected

While the first Obama Administration had a number of important accomplishments in the area of environmental protection (NL305 ¶6C and above), several actions remain to be completed, and others redirected. Climate

7. OAK RIDGE AREA

7A. *New management provisions*

*for Oak Ridge Barrens (aka Cedar Barrens)
State Natural Area*

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

On October 8, TCWP President Jimmy Groton and TCWP board member Larry Pounds met with Lisa Huff

(East Tennessee Regional Steward for TDEC's Division of Natural Areas), Josh Collins and John Hetrick (Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks Dept.), and Jack Suggs and Jerry Dover (Oak Ridge Electric Dept.) to discuss responsibilities associated with maintenance of the Oak Ridge Barrens State Natural Area. The meeting was held at the barren in response to a citizen complaint about herbicide spraying along the fence in front of the natural area along Fairbanks Road. Responsibilities for the City, TCWP, and TDEC are summarized below.

The City agreed not to spray herbicides in the grassy portions of the barren. Only direct application of selective herbicides will be used on cut stumps of woody plants that must be removed from the powerline right-of-way that intersects the barren. The Electric Department will bush-hog recently cleared areas within their ROW every other year to allow prairie plants to flourish in recently-cleared areas. The City will also evaluate recovery of areas damaged by the recent herbicide applications and replant areas as needed in consultation with TCWP and TDEC.

TCWP agreed to continue maintaining and expanding the barrens openings, including the opening along Fairbanks Road (aka the Triangle), to ensure that no woody vegetation establishes itself in the area sufficient to threaten the electrical line. TCWP agreed to continue control of invasive exotic plants at the natural area. TCWP also agreed to update the barrens management plan and to work with TDEC and the City during the formalization of the updated management plan.

TDEC agreed to develop and pay for "Registered State Natural Area" signs to be placed along the boundary of the natural area. TDEC will work with TCWP to develop educational materials for display on the new kiosks recently created by Eagle Scout Thomas Crout at the entry trails on Fairbanks Road and Jefferson Middle School (see ¶7B, below). TDEC will also pay to reproduce the educational material on suitable outdoor stock for the displays.

7B. *New kiosks developed by Boy Scout at trail entrances to Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens*

[Contributed by Mark Bevelhimer]

Thomas Crout of Boy Scout Troop 46 in Knoxville completed a project at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens this past summer to fulfill the community service portion of his Eagle Scout requirements. Part of the project was the development of two kiosks at the entry trails to the Barrens. TCWP interviewed Thomas about the project.

TCWP: Thomas, can you tell us what you did for your Eagle project?

Thomas: Well, I was very excited to help the TCWP with the cleanup and pulling of invasive species of plants at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens. Assisted by others, we pulled invasive species of wild plants such as privet and lezpedeza. I also organized a cleanup of the trails of trash and dead-fall, and built trail-head signs.

TCWP: Is this something you did by yourself or did you have lots of help?

Thomas: I did; I had help from both the TCWP as well as fellow scouts from Troop 46. For the Eagle project, I had several workdays attended by both the Troop 46 boys and adults as well as some TCWP members. I would like to thank all the people from TCWP who helped me with my project.

TCWP: Did you learn anything about cedar barrens and why they are important to protect?

Thomas: While working with the Cedar Barrens I have learned about many exotic species of plants, both good and bad. The Cedar Barrens are habitat for several species of rare native plants, and without the barrens many of these plants would cease to exist.

TCWP: Do you see any similarities between the goals of conservation organizations like TCWP and the things you learned as a Scout?

Thomas: Like the TCWP, the Boy Scouts of America is dedicated to protecting nature. The Leave No Trace program is instilled into every outing and every event put on by the Boy Scouts. Scouting also teaches the study of wildlife and how to protect it in a variety of merit badges, such as Nature and Wildlife, Environmental Science, and many others.

TCWP: Most people recognize what a great accomplishment it is for a young man to achieve Eagle Scout status. Can you tell us what it means to you?

Thomas: Well it means quite a lot, because it is not an easy task to achieve Eagle scout. It also reminds me of everything that has led me to this point in scouts. From being a little cub scout, to becoming an adult leader in my scout troop.

TCWP: Is there anything else you would like to say about your Eagle project at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens?

Thomas: I would like to thank Mr. Tim Bigelow, for without his help this project would not have happened and I would not be an Eagle scout. At first I was a little scared of all the work that the eagle project was going to be, then Mr. Bigelow helped me break down each part of the project into manageable smaller projects. I would also like to thank every one who came out and helped with my project.

TCWP: Thank you, Thomas, for a job well done.

8. BLASTS FROM THE PAST

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

8A. *From the Oct. 1971 TCWP Newsletter* Big S. Fork legislation

Senators Baker (TN) and Cooper (KY) are working on legislation to preserve the Big S. Fork and surrounding areas. Current indications are that they do not favor any one of the proposals put forth in the Interagency Report but something intermediate between a couple of them. A bill may be introduced in this session.

We believe that the gorges of many of the tributaries, even the small ones, are as worthy of preservation as the main river itself -- they are intimate, secluded, and blessed with rockhouses, waterfalls, and an unbelievable wealth of plant life. Not only must we assure true preservation of the main rivers but of a large enough surrounding area to protect the tributary gorges. Land prices will only escalate in the future.

We hope that you will contact Sen. Howard Baker (Senate Office Bldg, Washington, D.C. 20510) to express your opinion. Time is short!

8B. *From the April 1980 Newsletter*

New River problems

The New River is one of the two main stems of the Big S. Fork, and its lower portion is included in the authorized BSFNRRRA. The Act that established the Area asked for a special study on New River water quality problems. This study, contracted to Robert Kimball & Assoc., was completed a year ago, and its findings may shock you.

The annual discharge of sediment, derived from 16,000 acres disturbed by mining, was found to be over 200,000 tons, with 41% coming from orphan mines and most of the remainder from active stripmines. Just as an example, the soil loss from 374 miles of haul roads amounts to over 700 tons per acre! What does all this do to the streams? Only 6 of 21 New River tributaries support cool-water fish species. Only 20 species of fish have been reported in the New River, in contrast to 62 species in the BSF. The report further states that, while the economy of the area is based on coal mining and forestry, local people benefit only very marginally, since most of the income generated leaves the area as profits.

9. TCWP NEWS

9A. *2013 Board and*

Nominating Committee elected

The following were elected unanimously at our Oct. 27 Annual Meeting:

President: Jimmy Groton

Vice President: Tim Bigelow

Treasurer: Charlie Klabunde

Secretary: Carol Grametbauer

Directors:

Mark Bevelhimer Liane (Lee) Russell

Mary Lynn Dobson Michele Thornton

Frank Hensley Warren Webb

Larry Pounds

Nominating Committee:

Tom McDonough (chair), Beth Adler, Mac Post.

9B. *TCWP People*

- Long-term member Hal Smith died on October 9.

The following is an excerpt from remarks made by Lee Russell at Hal's Memorial Service:

"I met him when we were organizing TCWP, back in 1966 – and meeting him was certainly one of my great rewards for this endeavor. ... He served as treasurer for the fledging organization in its second year; then, as member of the Board. Soon, his passion got aroused by the threat to a group of dramatic river gorges in the Cumberlands – those of the Big South Fork and its tributaries, which were in imminent danger of being inundated by the proposed ultra-high Devils Jumps Dam. Over the many-year-long process of, first, defeating the dam, and then fighting our way through a complex series of alternatives, Hal participated actively in TCWP's efforts. When, finally, we got to work with Sen. Howard Baker's staff to draft the authorizing legislation, Hal played a major role in helping to set the boundaries of the proposed Area. It was in this capacity that I worked most closely with him. We spent many hours pouring over topo maps and county road maps, and many days doing on-the-ground scouting. ... The 125,000-acre Big South Fork NRRRA was *finally* authorized in 1974. In subsequent years, Hal was always *there* for TCWP, doing whatever needed to be done at the time. Often, that has involved contributing his outstanding photographs; in most recent years, he served as active member of the Program Committee."

- Jan Lyons appointed to ORSSAB. Jan, an active member of TCWP's Program Committee, was appointed to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board in July. In September, Jan was elected to the Board of Community Shares, where she'll serve as TCWP's representative. Before coming to Oak Ridge, Jan, who has a doctorate in industrial and systems engineering and engineering management, was on the faculty of SMU (Dallas) and, before that, worked for Lockheed Martin.
- Sandra Goss, keynote speaker. Sandra, TCWP's executive director, was invited to give the keynote address at SOCM's annual meeting, Oct. 20, at which the organization celebrated its 40th anniversary
- Dr. Patrick Mulholland honored by ALS Walk. Pat, a former valued TCWP Board member, who died on Earth Day, April 22, after a four-year battle with ALS, had a team walking in his memory in the recent Walk to Defeat ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease). The team of 30 raised over \$8,000 (including a UT-Battelle corporate gift of \$1,500)

9C. *Upcoming activities*

[Contributed by Carol Grametbauer]

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

TCWP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 13

This annual event, which has become one of the most popular of the year, will again be held at the home of long-time TCWP members Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen, 371 East Drive, Oak Ridge.

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 19

TCWP will sponsor a day of trail-maintenance work at Whites Creek Small Wild Area in Rhea County at 10 a.m. as part of our ongoing stewardship activities for this TVA Small Wild Area trail. The trail loops onto adjoining land that TCWP purchased from Bowater several years ago, thanks to the generous support of our members.

Participants should wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring work gloves, loppers, and small bow saws or folding saws. Some hand tools will be available at the event. Please be sure to bring clothing appropriate for weather conditions, water, snacks, and/or a lunch.

Participants can meet for carpooling in Oak Ridge at the Rush/Books-A-Million parking lot (park in the Waffle House corner of the lot, close to South Illinois Avenue). We will leave Oak Ridge at 9 a.m.; or volunteers can join the crew at the trailhead at 10 a.m. We plan to spend three or four hours at the site, but volunteers may come and go as they wish. (**NOTE:** If the weather is uncooperative—excessive rain, or snow and ice—we will reschedule for the following Saturday.)

For additional information, contact Jimmy Groton at 865-805-9908 or at groton87@comcast.net.

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.

9D. *Recent events*

National Public Lands Day cleanup -- September 29

[Contributed by Carol Grametbauer]

Thirty-eight volunteers, including many students along with some teachers and parents, participated in our annual National Public Lands Day workday at TVA's Worthington Cemetery Cedar Barren Ecological Study Area. The event began with an interpretive talk on the ecology of sensitive cedar barrens and wetlands at the site, followed by a presentation on the cemetery by Ann Worthington. We then continued our work to restore the native cedar barren and to remove exotic invasive plants and trash. The event concluded with a pizza lunch.

Special thanks to Wes James and Clay Guerry of TVA for giving the group a safety talk and for providing tools, water, and protective gear such as gloves and safety glasses. TVA has been extremely supportive over the years of our partnership at Worthington and in other areas.

TCWP Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 27

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

About two dozen folks attended the October Annual Meeting at the Cumberland Mountain State Park. The meeting started off with interesting news about Tennessee State Parks, courtesy of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill (see ¶12B, this NL). After a delicious buffet lunch at the Park Restaurant, several folks went on the hikes—one around Byrd Lake at the park, and the other up Brady Mountain. In spite of the view-obscuring clouds, the Brady Mountain hikers reported a very pleasant hike, and the lake hikers thoroughly enjoyed an easy hike with good leaf color.

Oak Ridge Cedar Barren cleanup -- Saturday, November 3

[Contributed by Carol Grametbauer]

Eighteen volunteers, including 10 students from the Oak Ridge High School classes of Beth Adler, Deni Sobek, and Nayeema Ahmad, participated in our fall workday at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren. TCWP President Jimmy Groton says the students were very enthusiastic and “interested in what we were doing and why we were doing it.” The group enjoyed a pizza lunch at the conclusion of the cleanup.

Located next to Jefferson Middle School, the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren is a joint project of the City of Oak Ridge, the State Natural Areas Division, and TCWP. Our efforts help to eliminate the invasives and other shade-producing plants that prevent the prairie grasses from getting needed sun.

9E. *Readers Write*

[“*Readers Write*” is a new feature of the TCWP Newsletter.

Send your comments or questions to: Editor, *TCWP Newsletter*, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, or liannerussell@comcast.net.]

“I always look forward to the newsletters, but the latest one is just Super! It has so much good info that I'd really have to hunt for to get factual information.

Thanks for this one, and all the others over the years.

Now I have to find the time to send off a few E mails and letters.

Warm Regards, Glenn Marshall”

9F. *Note from the Executive Director*

It's been a busy time since our last newsletter: TCWP sponsored two successful cleanups aimed at eradicating invasive exotic plants, one at the Cedar Barren of Oak Ridge and one at the Elza Gate/Worthington Cemetery. We sponsor these cleanups regularly so as to protect the special natural plants that grow in these places

TCWP cosponsored a workshop on exotic plants, and had a TCWP Annual Meeting that was informative and enjoyable.

On the policy side, the Oil and Gas Board finalized rules on fracking, the newly formed Water Quality, Oil and Gas Board held its first meeting, and the annual Sus-

tainable Tennessee Conference was held. There are stories about these topics sprinkled throughout our Newsletters, where one can stay up-to-date on the many environmental issues of the day.

Coming in the next several months will be news about Corridor K along the Ocoee River, the State Legislature, water quality improvement projects in the Emory River watershed, mountain-top removal coal mining, and numerous other issues.

YOU can make a difference when there are threats to the quality of our air and water. Please get in touch with your elected representatives between now and Christmas, just to say hello, and to let them know that you are interested in conserving Tennessee's natural resources. As you probably know, there are many new State Senators and Representatives, who have little or no staff to delve into complex issues. It's up to us to educate our elected and appointed officials about environmental topics.

Over the next several months, we'll issue action alerts via the Newsletter, and e-mail. They'll also be posted on our website at www.tcwp.org. These alerts are based on careful analysis of each issue. Phone calls and e-mails have an effect. To receive e-mail alerts, contact me at 865.583-3967 or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com

In this season of Thanksgiving, thanks for your past support of TCWP, and please think favorably about TCWP in your year-end giving. Thanks to all of you who have called and e-mailed in response to the various action calls, who have helped with the many trail and natural-area maintenance events, who have enjoyed a hike or informative program. Finally, thanks to the Officers and Board and to committee members for their work. From event planning to policy ramifications, to outreach, our volunteers are busy and helpful.

If you want to involve yourself and can't quite get started, call me. We can discuss available options.

Thanks, Sandra

- The Program Committee (Chair, Carol Grametbauer, and Jean Bangham, Tim Bigelow, Jimmy Groton, Janet Lowrie, Jan Lyons, Larry Pounds, and the late Hal Smith) for planning TCWP events, most recently the Elza Gate/Worthington Cemetery National Public Lands Day Celebration, the TCWP Annual Meeting, and the Cedar Barren Cleanup.
- Lee Russell for editing the newsletter
- Francis Perey for his help with the TCWP website.
- Warren Webb, Lee Russell, Jimmy Groton for staffing a TCWP table at a Community Shares event.

10. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• CALENDAR

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

- Nov. 27, RSVP deadline for Dec. 4 meeting (see below)
- December 4, ERWA Annual Meeting and program (see ¶2F, this NL).
- December 8, Comment deadline for ash-spill disposal final plan (see ¶2E, this NL).
- December 13, TCWP Holiday Party (see ¶9C, this NL)
- January 19, Whites Creek Trail workday (see ¶9C, this NL)

•• RESOURCES

- NY Times blog: "Water supply in a Warming Planet, Part 2" can be viewed at <http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/11/13/water-supply-in-a-warming-world-part-2/>

Global warming happens just slowly enough that political systems have been able to ignore it. The distress signal is emitted at a frequency that scientists can hear quite clearly, but is seemingly just beyond reach of most politicians." -

Bill McKibben in *New York Review of Books*

9G. Thanks, and a tip of the hat to ...



[From Sandra Goss]

- Frank Hensley, Charlie Klabunde, and Dick Raridon for preparing the TCWP newsletter for mailing.
- Jimmy Groton for working with the Emory River Watershed Association and other organizations on water and other issues.
- Marion Burger for handling the Kroger Certificate Program
- Jan Lyons for serving on the Board of Directors of Community Shares, thereby fulfilling some TCWP "sweat equity" requirements. Cindy Kendrick, Mark Bevelhimer, and Jimmy Groton have worked on their workplace campaigns, providing additional sweat equity.

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Larry Pounds Director
Liane (Lee) Russell Director
Michele Thornton Director
Warren Webb..... Director
Sandra Goss Executive Director

Tennessee Conservation Voters Lobbyist **Stewart Clifton** will be in Knoxville, Thursday evening, Nov. 29 to teach state legislative advocacy skills.

Call or write Jameydobbs@yahoo.com or 865.548-0818, president of sponsor Knoxville/Knox County League of Women Voters for more information about this free event.

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