



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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Taking Care of Wild Places

The BIG stories

Fracking in UT's Cumberland Forest ¶1A

Virgin Falls in new TN Natural Area ¶2A

Senators block qualified TVA Board nominee ¶5B

Congress ended without Cherokee Wilderness .. ¶6A

Wind-energy incentives are extended ¶8A

EPA's Lisa Jackson to retire ¶8B

1. Tennessee: threats to the natural environment p. 3
 A. Fracking in UT's Cumberland Forest C. Saving some hemlocks
 B. Mountaintop removal proposed D. Coal-ash problem in SE

2. Tennessee: protection of the natural environment. . . p. 4
 A. Virgin Falls in new Natural Area D. Wilderness trail volunteers
 B. Cumberland Habitat Protection Plan E. New candidate species
 C. Clifty Creek Preserve expanded

3. Tennessee: state government and legislature p. 4
 A. Fracking rules being challenged C. Water Quality Standards
 B. TDEC key-staff retirements D. Legislative priorities

4. Big South Fork and Obed capsules p. 5
 (Bike trails; Park newsletter; Sheltowee Trace; new film)

5. TVA: The Board and energy efficiency p. 6
 A. Quorum restored for Board, BUT ... C. Energy efficiency vs. retrofits
 B. Nomination of highly qualified candidate blocked by TN senators

6. The Cherokee and other national forests p. 7
 A. Cherokee NF Wilderness campaign must start afresh
 B. ORV damage in Tellico River headwaters C. Spotted-owl protection

7. Smokies (A. Database launched B. Stream sampling C. Historic postcards) p. 8

8. National issues p. 8
 A. Renewable-energy-production incentives are saved, for now C. National Park capsules
 B. EPA's Lisa Jackson to retire D. EPA adopts standards to limit soot in the air

9. Oak Ridge and surrounding area (A. Regional greenways B. IJAMS addition) p. 9

10. Blasts from the past (February 1973; January 1983) p. 9

11. TCWP news (Support from TEC; Activities; ED message; TCWP people; Thanks) p. 10

12. Openings; Calendar; Resources p. 12

13. ACTION SUMMARY p. 2

Editor: Liane B. Russell, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. E-mail: lianerussell@comcast.net
Shaded box or star means "Action Needed." Don't be overwhelmed -- check the ACTION SUMMARY on p. 2

13. ACTION SUMMARY

No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1B	Mountaintop removal stripmining	TCWP	Get on TCWP's e-alert list re. proposed mine
5B	Blocked TVA nomination	Pres. Obama Senators Corker, Alexander Your newspaper	"Re-nominate highly qualified Marilyn Brown" "I'm disappointed you blocked this nomination!" Send letter to the editor
5C	Corridor K (Cherokee NF)	TVA Board	"Replace outdated coal-fired plants with energy efficiency!"
8B	Retirement of EPA's Lisa Jackson	Lisa Jackson	"Thank you for being clean-air and climate leader!"
11B	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)
800 Market St., Suite 121, Knoxville 37902

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

Rep. 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

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

Executive and Membership-Development Director: Sandra Goss, 865-583-3967. Sandra@sandrakgoss.com

Newsletter editor: Lee Russell, lianerussell@comcast.net

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

1. TENNESSEE: Threats to the natural environment

1A. *U.T.'s. Cumberland Forest to be opened to fracking*

[Includes information from *knoxnews.com*, 12/2/12]

The University of Tennessee announced in early December that it would lease its lands in Morgan and Scott counties to an oil and gas company and then study the environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing (fracking). Royalties from any gas or oil produced would finance U.T. research on terrestrial ecosystems, air quality, water quality, geology, and best practices. As many as 50 faculty members might be involved. Results of the research will be peer-reviewed.

Although research on the environmental effects of fracking has already been done elsewhere, the proposed studies are being justified on the basis of different local conditions. Tennessee's Chattanooga shale, which is thinner and shallower than the Marcellus shale of the Northeast, is most prevalent in the Cumberland Mountains and Plateau (320 of 824 active Tennessee wells were in Morgan and Scott counties). Due to the shallowness of the shale, companies often use nitrogen rather than water to extract the gas.

The UT Cumberland Forest unit of the UT Forest Resources Ag Research and Education Center is spread across two separate tracts, totaling 8,350 acres — a northern one that straddles the Morgan-Scott county line, and a southern one between Oliver Springs and Wartburg. The upper half of the northern tract drains into the Cumberland River, and the lower half, along with the entire southern tract of forest, is in the Emory Watershed. The drilling company will have freedom to choose its well locations, but must avoid existing research-project sites.

The forest, which was acquired by UT mostly in the 1930s, had previously been deep mined, strip mined and logged to the point that it was nearly bare. The university restored the land to mostly forest and uses it to conduct experiments on animal populations, mining reclamation, and forest management strategies. Substantial baseline information therefore exists for some sites.

On December 6, the UT Institute of Agriculture hosted an open house in Wartburg to share information on its intention to secure an industry partner (i.e., a driller) for the research project.

1B. *Mountaintop Removal site proposed for Claiborne County*

Kopper Glo Mining LLC has applied for a permit (OSM #3231) to stripmine for coal on top of King Mountain in Claiborne County. The 578-acre mine site would drain into Straight Creek and eventually Clear Fork (note: this is not the Clear Fork stem of the Big South Fork), which are designated Exceptional Tennessee Waters because they are habitats for a federally threatened fish spe-

cies, a state-listed fish, and three species identified as “in need of management.”

King Mountain has already been devastated by earlier stripmining, resulting in large areas of deforestation and severe erosion. Some of the sites are trying to heal. Polluted waters in old settling ponds often overflow. Additional discharge would devastate the streams that have already been stressed. For pictures of King Mountain and some of the proposed sediment-pond sites, go to <http://mtrintn.blogspot.com/2012/11/clear-fork-surface-mine.html>

A public information meeting was held in Jacksboro on Nov. 29, which was the comment deadline.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If OSM grants the permit, the company will then need to apply to the state for an NPDES permit. At that point there will be actions we can take. Stay alert for action suggestions, or tell Sandra@sandrakgoss.com that you wish to be notified via e-alerts, etc.

1C. *Saving some hemlocks from the woolly adelgid*

The Tennessee Chapter of the Nature Conservancy (TNC) is partnering with others to play a major role in battling the woolly adelgid infestation that is threatening the survival of hemlock trees in the Cumberlands and elsewhere in Tennessee. Because it won't be possible to save more than a small portion of the trees, the Hemlock Conservation Partnership has developed a set of criteria for prioritizing treatment sites on public lands. Trisha Johnson, TNC's East Tennessee Conservation Coordinator, is heading the hemlock effort for TNC.

Trisha is leading the organization of a hemlock workshop for private landowners on Saturday, March 16th, near mile 13 of the Obed WSR. An adjacent private tract may also get treated. For further information, or if you would like to participate in the workshop, contact her at trisha_johnson@TNC.ORG or 931-854-1552.

1D. *A map illustrates the magnitude of the coal ash problem*

The new interactive website, www.southeastcoalash.org, includes a map showing the location and hazard risk for coal-ash sites at 100 power plants throughout the Southeast. The website, which is a project of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, the Southern Environmental Law Center, and other organizations, lists details on coal-ash impoundments, such as size, local maps, nearby waterways, and risk rating by EPA (if any).

One goal of the website is to prompt nearby residents to urge EPA to regulate coal ash as a hazardous waste. Regulations are currently left up to the states, and meaningful federal regulation has been long delayed (NL306 ¶4D; NL303 ¶8B; NL292 ¶3C). Opposition comes from industries that “recycle” coal ash by using it in concrete and in wallboard.

2. TENNESSEE: Protection of the natural environment

2A. *Virgin Falls becomes part of new State Natural Area*

[Based on information from TDEC and TPGF]

The iconic Virgin Falls (as well as Laurel Falls, Big Branch Falls, and Sheep Cave Falls) is now part of a state-owned Tennessee Natural Area, thanks in good part to the efforts of the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation (TPGF) and federal funding from the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS). Part of the newly acquired 1,551-acre tract, though under private ownership (Bowater owned the lease but not the land), had been managed by the state as a natural area for nearly 40 years. The federal FWS funding came from an Endangered Species Recovery Land Acquisition Fund grant, due to the occurrence of four threatened and endangered species on the property. Additional acquisition funds came from TWRA (TN Wildlife Resources Agency) and from TPGF members and contributors.

The 110-foot Virgin Falls exits from a cave at the top of a cliff and then disappears into a second cave at its base. The waters of Big Laurel Falls similarly disappear into the ground. In addition to the waterfalls and caves, the tract, which is adjacent to the state-owned (TWRA-managed) Bridgestone Firestone Centennial Wilderness Wildlife Management Area to the SE, also includes overlooks of the dramatic Caney Fork gorge in Scott's Gulf. It has become part of a dramatic forested corridor linking Scotts Gulf to Fall Creek Falls State Park. A 54-mile hiking trail, the Mid-Cumberland Wilderness Trail, is being developed through this corridor.

The now state-owned Virgin Falls natural area will be formally re-dedicated during Tennessee State Natural Areas Week in the spring. For more information on state parks and natural areas, visit www.tnstateparks.com and www.tn.gov/environment/na.

2B. *The Cumberland Habitat Conservation Plan is progressing*

[Information from a briefing session with TNC staff, 11/29/12]

Cumberland County and the City of Crossville are pursuing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) as a way to encourage continued economic development without jeopardizing some of the significant natural resources that make the area attractive. Specifically, the HCP will lead to the implementation of best management practices that protect the long-term viability of rare terrestrial and aquatic species.

Crossville and Cumberland County were chosen because: (a) the area is a biological hotspot for numerous rare species (several amphibians and fish, crayfish, mussels, bats, birds, 6 plants), and (b) the communities are growing rapidly. Through a combination of thoughtful development practices and conservation measures implemented through the HCP, the long-term viability of the rare spe-

cies can be maintained in balance with continued economic growth.

The HCP process ensures that private interests are able to proceed with agreed upon resource uses, as long conservation measures are simultaneously undertaken. In planning, the focus is to work toward multiple community values in a collaborative process, rather than becoming stuck in adversarial conflict. Several compromises about conservation measures have had to be made.

Development of the HCP is funded by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and some of the work has been done by U.T. staff. Scientific and technical experts review the HCP, and a NEPA review will take place about 2 years from now. For more information, visit www.cumberlandhcp.org.

2C. *Clifty Creek Preserve is expanded*

[Information from TNC Field Notes]

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has expanded its preserve at spectacular Clifty Creek, a tributary to the lower Emory River. About a year ago, a land gift of 3.7 acres from Doris and Albert Clark was added to the original 77 acres that were a gift from Bill and Lee Russell. The new parcel borders on the Emory River. For directions to Clifty Creek, contact TNC at 615-383-9909.

2D. *Program of volunteers for wilderness trail maintenance*

Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS) is a program by the Wilderness Society to train, certify, and lead volunteers in performing labor-intensive (non-motorized) trail maintenance and other wilderness stewardship projects. In 2012, the program's first year, more than 100 volunteers worked in 5 national forests in the southern Appalachians. For more information, contact bill_hodge@tw.

2E. *A new candidate species in the Cumberlands*

The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) proposed only two new candidate species in 2012. One of them is the Cumberland Arrow Darter, found in our Cumberlands. Candidate species are plants and animals for which the FWS has enough information to propose them as threatened or endangered. These species do not receive protection under the ESA until actually listed. Identification of candidate species allows landowners and resource managers to address threats, and to work to preclude the need to list the species as endangered or threatened.

3. TENNESSEE: State government and legislature

3A. *Toothless fracking rules being challenged*

In its final session (Sept. 28) before ceasing to exist, the Tennessee Oil and Gas Board (which has since been

replaced by the Water-Quality Control, Oil and Gas Board) adopted TDEC-proposed fracking regulations that had largely been advocated by the industry group, TOGA (Tennessee Oil and Gas Association). The Board ignored the very carefully and knowledgeably composed comments submitted by a consortium of 5 groups (including TCWP), which suggested changes that would limit the harmful effects of fracking (NL306 ¶2C).

The Attorney General's office, which is reviewing the fracking rules adopted by the former Oil and Gas Board, has agreed to consider a letter from SELC (Southern Environmental Law Center) as part of this review. In the letter (co-signed by TCWP and other groups of the consortium, and sent late November) SELC challenges the legality of the rules on two bases: (1) the process through which the rules were developed did not comply with the requirements of the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, and (2) the proposed rules are arbitrary and capricious. If the letter's arguments are accepted, it may be that the new Water, Oil & Gas Board will be more protective of water and environmental resources than the old Oil and Gas Board. There are several East Tennesseans on the new Board, including an Oak Ridger, who is a TOGA nominee.

3B. *Key staff retiring from TDEC*

Three key staff members of the Water Resources Division (formerly, Water Pollution Control) have retired, not for age reasons. (1) Paul Schmierbach, who came to TDEC from TVA several years ago, has been a key presence for clean water. He will be working 2 days/week on the planned storm-water testing facility at the U.T. Arboretum. (2) Dan Eager, a long-time friend of TCWP, will be working with the Tennessee Stream Mitigation Program. (3) Saya Qualls, who had been with the Division of Water Pollution Control for over 20 years, most recently as Chief Engineer. She was instrumental in getting Crossville mandated for MS4 storm-water requirements (which will improve Obed water quality).

We will miss these able and dedicated people in TDEC.

3C. *Amendments to Water Quality Standards*

The 2012 Amendments to Water Quality Standards have been posted on the TDEC website <http://www.tn.gov/environment/wpc/publications/>. They include three versions: the final version incorporating all revisions, and two other versions showing revisions at various stages in colors. All three versions contain the board's proposed responses to public comments in 2011, plus the 2012 supplementary responses to additional comments.

3D. *Legislative priorities*

The General Assembly is once again in session. In November, Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) began surveying its member organizations for priority initiatives for the environmental community. The top five issues

(among 21) chosen by TCWP (which has long been a member of TCV) were: mountaintop mining; resisting de-regulation of water and air quality; protection of real-estate transfer tax funds (for land acquisition); protection of environmental funding; water-quality protection.

On the basis of returns from all of its member organizations, TCV chose the following priority issues (not necessarily in order: mountaintop mining; de-regulation concerns; protection of real-estate transfer tax funds; fracking regulations; invasive species management plan.

The House Speaker has proposed that each legislator be limited to filing no more than 10 bills. This restriction, which is still subject to committee approval, may make it difficult for some of our bills to get introduced.

4. BIG SOUTH FORK and OBED CAPSULES

4A. *International recognition for some BSFNRRR trails*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Five trails in Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area have been named Epic Rides by the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA). Park Superintendent Niki Nicholas expressed pride about the recognition and noted that BSFNRRR is the first National Park to receive this elite acknowledgement.

The five trails are Collier Ridge, West Bandy, Duncan Hollow, Grand Gap Loop, and John Muir Trail from Grand Gap Loop to Station Camp. Superintendent Nicholas credited the Big South Fork Mountain Bike Club with much effort to improve the park trails.

Other trails recognized as Epic Rides are in British Columbia and Switzerland. This is one more international accolade for the unparalleled Cumberlands.

4B. *An E-newsletter for BSFNRRR and Obed WSR*

In case you missed the note on the outside of the NL306 mailing. The BSFNRRR and Obed WSR are now publishing a free, monthly E-newsletter. To subscribe, e-mail your request to BISO_Superintendent@nps.gov.

4C. *More trail miles in BSFNRRR*

[From BSFNRRR/Obed WSR newsletter]

In collaboration with the Sheltopee Trace Association, the Sheltopee Trace National Recreation Trail is being extended almost another 30 miles in the Big South Fork NRRR. By the end of March the new southern terminus will be at Leatherwood. The Sheltopee Trace is a 282-mile backcountry trail through the Daniel Boone National Forest, BSFNRRR, Natural Bridge and Cumberland Falls State Parks in KY, and Pickett State Park in Tennessee.

4D. *New film for the Obed Visitor Center*

[From BSNRRA/Obed WSR newsletter]

Prime Lens Productions, a Chicago-based firm, recently began filming in the Obed WSR to create a new educational film to be shown in the recently renovated visitor center. The film will cover all four seasons in the park

5. TVA: THE BOARD and ENERGY EFFICIENCY

5A. *Quorum is restored on TVA Board, BUT ...*

For the past few years, the TVA Board has consisted of 9 members. In December, when there were 4 vacancies and one pending reappointment, the Board voted to allow the TVA's CEO to conduct business without the Board "in certain critical areas." The last time TVA had operated without a quorum was in 1999, when the Board consisted of only three members.

The reason for the recent vacancies was that Senate Republicans, as has become their habit, failed to act to confirm nominees put forward by Pres. Obama. The TVA nominations languished in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. One nomination had been pending before the committee since February, the other since September.

On January 1, just prior to the end of the Senate session (and just after the Senate had voted in favor of the Fiscal Cliff agreement), members were notified of a unanimous-consent request by the majority and minority leaders to confirm the nominees who were reported out of the Environment and Public Works Committee (Sen. Alexander serves on that committee). Receiving no objections, the nominees were confirmed unanimously without a vote.

The problem is that the nominee uniquely qualified in energy issues was not on the unanimous-consent list. That scandalous story is told in ¶5B, below. The remaining four are the following:

- V. Lynn Evans, TN, owner of a certified public accounting and consulting firm.
- Michael McWherter, TN, lawyer with focus on banking and administrative law, owner of distributing companies, and son of former Gov. McWherter.
- Joe H. Ritch, AL, attorney and chairman of the Tennessee Valley Base Realignment and Closures Committee.
- Peter Mahurin, KY, chairman of a financial services group.

5B. *Nomination of highly qualified TVA Board candidate blocked by Tennessee senators*

Dr. Marilyn Brown, who had been ably serving on the TVA Board for the past two years, was nominated for

a second term by President Obama. On January 2, the day after the other four nominees had been confirmed (¶5A, above), Senators Corker and Alexander issued the following joint statement: "We respect her professional credentials, but we encourage the president to send another nominee with credentials better suited to the TVA board."

It is virtually impossible to imagine anyone with credentials better suited to the TVA board than Dr. Marilyn Brown's. She is a prestigious scientist who specializes in energy conservation and efficiency. For co-authorship of an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, she was co-recipient of a 2007 Nobel Prize. While working at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (where she is still a Distinguished Visiting Scientist), she managed annual research budgets of \$50-130 million, focused on energy efficiency, renewable energy, the electric grids, and energy engineering projects. Currently, she is a professor in the School of Public Policy at Georgia Tech, where she teaches courses on energy policy and technology. And she is a widely published expert on energy efficiency, technologies, strategies and management, with considerable expertise on carbon, the largest contributor, from fossil-fuel use, to global warming. Routinely testifying before committees of Congress, Marilyn Brown has become a national leader in the analysis and interpretation of energy futures in the United States.

Dr. Brown worked very productively during her past two years on the TVA Board. Among other things, she chaired the newly formed, and very active, nuclear oversight committee,

Senators Alexander and Corker need to define what credentials they want that she does *not* possess. That question, submitted by a newspaper to the senators' offices went unanswered. It is not inconceivable that her nomination was blocked because emphasis on renewable energy, energy conservation, and energy efficiency are not to the liking of current policy makers in the TVA Region.

Dr. Brown's nomination expired when the new Congress assumed office on January 3. President Obama will have to either re-nominate her or choose someone else for the position. For Senate confirmation, her nomination may have to be handled by a member of the Democratic majority, since all senators from the TVA service region are Republicans, whose ideology with respect to energy and climate change resembles that of Sens. Alexander and Corker.

The *Chattanooga Times Free Press* ran an editorial 1/4/13, "Keep Dr. Brown at TVA." Among other things, it said: "... her name relates to all the critical issues in which TVA, the nation's largest public electric utility, must be engaged and should be a leader, but regrettably is not. ... Dr. Brown clearly merited reappointment to a second term Tuesday night precisely because she is so qualified.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Urge Pres. Obama (contact info on p.2) to re-nominate Dr. Marilyn Brown, the most clearly qualified candidate for the TVA Board. (2) Tell Senators Alexander and Corker (addresses on p.2) that you are very disappointed that they blocked confirmation of Dr. Brown. (3) Write a letter to the editor of your paper (you can copy your communication to the senators).

5C. *Energy-efficiency measures should replace outmoded steam plants*

[Information from *Tennes-Sierran*]

TVA has proposed to retrofit the Gallatin coal-fired power plant, just NE of Nashville, to meet new pollution standards. Three additional TVA coal plants may subsequently also be proposed for retrofitting. Gallatin, more than half a century old, has operated for decades without modern pollution controls, and the retrofit would cost more than \$1.2 billion (a cost that will be borne by the power customer). TVA allowed only a 30-day comment period on the proposal (extended 14 days in response to public outcry) and saw no reason to hold a public hearing.

A number of organizations (Sierra Club, SOCM, SELC) are campaigning to have TVA chose alternative options, specifically, to replace Gallatin with energy-efficiency strategies and clean energy. In addition to saving lots of money, this would keep millions of tons of GHG emissions generated by coal burning from being pumped out during the next 20 year.

Such a proposal is eminently feasible. According to an August 2012 report by *Synapse Energy Economics* ("Using Energy Efficiency to Replace TVA's Highly Non-Economic Coal Units"), if TVA would implement a program to improve efficiency by only 1.2% (a modest goal achievable by TVA's own estimates), it could replace the Gallatin plant and save at least \$2.7 billion over the next 20 years. The General Accounting Office (GAO) has reported that national utilities were reaching average savings of 1.4% through energy efficiency, already between 2005 and 2009; and energy efficiency programs have become more effective since then.

If TVA retrofits its full fleet of aging coal plants, this will cost at least \$11.8 billion, with additional costs to operate the retrofitted plants. This would add at least \$2.50/month to the average residential bill for decades.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact the TVA Board (www.board@tv.gov) and urge them to replace the Gallatin coal-fired power plant with energy-efficiency strategies and clean energy.

6. The CHEROKEE and other NATIONAL FORESTS

6A. *Campaign for Cherokee NF Wilderness bill must start afresh with new Congress*

Among the huge body of business on which the do-nothing 112th Congress failed to act were more than two dozen wilderness-designation bills that never made it out of the House Natural Resources Committee. One of these was the Tennessee Wilderness Act for the Cherokee National Forest, sponsored by Senators Alexander and Corker in the Senate. There was widespread and intense grassroots support for this legislation. As late as early December, a very large number of organizations (including TCWP) sent a letter to every representative and senator about passing the bill. The 112th was the first Congress since 1966 to have failed to save a single acre of wilderness. (At the same time, 6,000 acres of wildlands disappear in our country *every single day*).

Though it is now necessary to start from scratch in the 113th Congress, there's a piece of good news: Sen. Alexander has been appointed to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (which would handle that bill), though Sen. Corker is stepping down from his position on that Committee. (Sen. Alexander will step down from the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee).

6B. *ORV damage in Tellico River headwaters*

[Based on information from SELC]

Off-Road Vehicle groups sued the US Forest Service for closing areas of the Nantahala National Forest to ORV activities and restoring natural conditions. These 2007 USFS actions had been prompted by the threat of legal action from the Southern Environmental Law Center.

In a ruling in mid-September, a federal judge dismissed the ORV groups' lawsuit. The court recognized the USFS's duty to protect trout streams in the Tellico River headwaters from severe pollution resulting from the erosion of deeply rutted ORV trails.

6C. *Spotted-owl protection area is enlarged*

The last building block of the Obama Administration's strategy to keep the northern spotted owl from extinction nearly doubles the amount of land that the Bush administration designated 4 years ago in Northwestern national forests, but exempts private forest lands and most state forests.

The critical habitat plan recently published by the US Fish & Wildlife Service announced that 9.6 million acres of Oregon, Washington and Northern California would come under provisions of the Plan, as opposed to only 5.3 million acres proposed in 2008 by the Bush Administration. The amount is, however, down from nearly

14 million acres proposed last February, the biggest cut being in private and state timberlands.

7. SMOKIES NEWS

7A. *Smokies database is launched*

[From *Colloquy*, UTK Libraries]

The Great Smoky Mountains Regional Project at the U.T. Libraries has announced release of the Database of the Smokies (DOTS), a free online bibliography of material published since 1934, the date the GSMNP was established. DOTS contains searchable records of a great variety of sources, and many citations are linked to the full text of the published item. DOTS citations are in the areas of biology and ecology, geology, archeology, history, psychology, genealogy, economics, tourism, environmental studies, literature, cultural studies, and park management. There are plans to add links to the digitized photos from the Library's online collection. The database can be visited at www.dots.lib.utk.edu.

The pre-1934 years in the almost five centuries of human activity in the Smokies will be covered in *Terra Incognita: An Annotated Bibliography of the Great Smoky Mountains, 1544-1934*, to be published later this year by the UT Press.

7B. *Water sampling in the park*

[From Trout Unlimited]

Volunteers are needed for gathering on-stream water samples for the Water Quality (Acid Deposition) Monitoring Program in the Great Smoky Mountains NP that began in 1993. The Park Service does not have the resources to continue the sampling at the current level without the help of Trout Unlimited and the volunteers who participate. An information and planning meeting, to be held February 23, conflicts with a TCWP event (§11B, below). You can, however, obtain information from Charlie Chmielewski, 865-661-7325 or charlieflyfish@gmail.com.

7C. *Smokies history in postcards*

More than 200 vintage images from rare postcards are contained in Adam H. Alfrey's recently published *The Great Smoky Mountains National Park: Postcard History Series*. The book illustrates the role that the region's photographers played in the campaign to authorize the national park and to attract visitors to the mountains. It is for sale at the American Museum of Science and Energy, Oak Ridge.

8. NATIONAL ISSUES

8A. *The renewable-energy-production tax credit (PTC) is extended*

[Includes information from *Sierra Club Compass*]

The renewable-energy-production tax credit (PTC), signed into law in 1992 by Pres. George H.W. Bush, was set to expire at the end of last year if Congress did not renew it. It looked very much as if that would happen, despite support of a few Republicans from wind-producing states (NL306 5A).

Fortunately, a one-year extension of the Production Tax Credit, as well as of the Research & Experimentation tax credit, was included in the bipartisan fiscal cliff bill, passed January 1. The PTC is a key incentive for renewable energy; it has helped, specifically, to sustain rapid growth of the wind energy industry. 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. All told, the U.S. wind industry employed 75,000 people as of late 2011. Several states have tremendous wind resources. In Colorado, for example, wind energy businesses, provide upwards of 5,000 well-paying jobs.

The PTC pays 2.2 cents per kilowatt-hour to wind producers for the first ten years of operation. With the PTC, wind power is cheaper than new coal or new gas in most places. As ever more efficient turbines are installed, wind prices should continue to fall in the coming years, and at some point wind will be able to out-compete gas and coal *without* the PTC. The PTC extension, and a critical rule change that makes it easier for wind projects to qualify for the credit, allow the industry to continue working towards solutions that minimize the impacts of wind energy on wildlife

8B. *EPA's Lisa Jackson has resigned*

After four years of courageous efforts (many of them successful) to clean our air and combat global warming, efforts that subjected EPA to the worst-in-history attacks from Republicans in Congress, Lisa Jackson is retiring from her position of EPA Administrator. Foremost among her significant accomplishments is the finding, on the basis of an irrefutable body of science, that greenhouse gases endanger public health and welfare of current and future generations. This finding is the foundation for addressing climate pollution under the Clean Air Act.

Jackson also worked with the Department of Transportation to reduce the carbon footprint of passenger cars and trucks through fuel-efficiency standards. Another of her accomplishments was to establish the first-ever national standards for mercury and other toxic air pollution from America's power plants. A chemical engineer, Lisa Jackson is EPA's first black administrator.

Several people within the agency or in state governments are being mentioned as possible successor. Republican senators may use the confirmation process to

squeeze commitments from the president to weaken environmental and public-health protections he put in place during his first term.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson for being a clean-air and climate leader for our nation and our children. (Jackson.lisap@epa.gov, or see Political Guide)

9. OAK RIDGE and SURROUNDING AREA

9A. *Planning for regional greenways*

[With contributions from Sandra Goss]

A first step has been taken to create a regional map depicting potential greenway and blueway routes for a 5-county area in East Tennessee. The goal is to identify new connections in and between communities and to create countywide conceptual greenway plans that the local governments and other partners can then work together to implement.

The Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council, PlanET (Plan East Tennessee), and the Knoxville Regional TPO (Transportation Planning Organization) are providing technical resources to assist Union, Loudon, Anderson, and Blount Counties improve their greenways systems. Between Nov. 27 and Dec. 6, informational meetings were held in each of the four counties. No meeting was held in Knox County, which already has a countywide greenway plan, but connections will also include Knox County. At the meetings, information was solicited from local community members on what they believe a regional network of greenways should look like.

With more than half of the state's 750 greenways located in this region, it is clear that there is a great appreciation of greenways among us. For more information, contact Ellen Zavisca at ellen.zavisca@knoxtrans.org or 865-215-2500.

9B. *Ijams adds to Knoxville's urban wilderness*

The Ijams Nature Center has recently expanded its property to 300 acres by acquiring a new 22-acre parcel. The addition is a critically important ridge top located between Sevierville Pike and Ijams' Quarries. It will protect views and provide the opportunity to develop additional trails.

8C. *National Park capsules*

• National Parks benefit from EPA ruling

In November, EPA issued a final cleanup plan for three old Arizona power plants that were not in compliance with the Clean Air Act and had been among the biggest polluters in the country. The EPA's plan, which requires the use of modern, cost-effective, efficient controls, will dramatically benefit skies over 18 national parks and wilderness areas, including the Grand Canyon and Mesa Verde.

• Sequestration could result in some park closures

Even without sequestration, the national parks budget for 2013 would cut 218 full-time (or 763 seasonal) employees. Fixed costs represent a high proportion of parks budgets. Further cuts, that would result from sequestration could prompt closures in as many as 150 of 397 park units.

• Statement of National Park principles

TCWP joined almost 1000 groups in signing "National Parks for a new century: statement of joint principles." The purpose of the document read, in part: "The centennial of the National Park Service in 2016 provides an exceptional opportunity for national leaders to partner with the American people in restoring, celebrating and visiting our parks and readying the Park Service to serve our children and grandchildren through the next century. This document outlines the core principles shared by the national parks community in support of America's national parks and their owners, the American people."

8D. *EPA adopts standards to limit soot in the air*

In mid-December, EPA announced limits for fine particulate matter, also known as soot, which is caused by pollution from tailpipes, industrial smokestacks, and fossil-fuel-burning power plants. Soot consists of minuscule-size particles that can penetrate deep into our lungs and bloodstream, causing serious health effects and premature death. Soot, in addition, is a major component of haze that obscures views in parks and wilderness areas. The EPA's standards are slightly below the strongest recommended levels (NL304 ¶6A), but are considered an important first step.

10. BLASTS FROM THE PAST

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

10A. *From the Feb. 1973 TCWP NL 53*

Support legislation for wilderness in Eastern national forests

Two bills have been introduced that wilderness advocates can wholeheartedly support: They are (1) "The Eastern Wilderness Areas Act of 1973" -- SB 316 in the Senate (Jackson-Buckley), HR 1881 in the House (Saylor); and (2) The Wilderness Study Act of 1973," HR 2420 (Saylor). A third bill, The Wild Areas Act, SB 22 (Aiken-Talmadge) which may at first glance appear attractive, actually has the potential of wrecking the National Wilderness Preservation System. Below we give you some particulars on these three bills. The two enclosed brochures tell you more about two of the areas

close to home that would be protected. . . THIS MAY BE OUR LAST CHANCE TO SAVE WILDERNESS IN THE EAST!

10B. *From the Jan. 1983 TCWP NL 126*

The possibility of getting a wilderness bill

In his October meeting with wilderness advocates (see NL 125), Congressman Duncan said that early in 1983 he would make up his mind which way to go on the issue. It is therefore most important for all of us—but particularly for residents of his District—to keep urging him to introduce a bill to designate as wilderness the four areas included in the “Citizens’ Wilderness Proposal.” . . . The Forest Service is quite impressed with the magnitude of the pro-wilderness public input concerning the Citico Creek and Big Frog proposals, and with the fact that many local people came out on the wilderness side.

11. TCWP NEWS

11A. *TCWP receives support from sister organization*

The Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) gave TCWP \$500 to co-sponsor our Holiday Party. We are most grateful for this generous support.

11B. *Upcoming activities*

[Contributed by Carol Grametbauer]

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

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 as part of our ongoing stewardship activities for this TVA Small Wild Area trail. The trail loops onto land that TCWP purchased from Bowater several years ago, thanks to the generous support of our members.

This event has been added to the list of those included in the National Day of Service being planned for the Saturday before President Obama’s second inauguration. The President is asking Americans to make an ongoing commitment in their communities on January 19, focusing on seven issue areas: health, faith, education, the environment, honoring our veterans, community resilience, and economic development. Our workday is listed in the National Day of Service website by at:

<http://action.2013pic.org/page/event/detail/nationaldayofserviceenvironment/wdc>

Workday 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 (meet at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near the Waffle House). 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.

Alley Ford Cumberland Trail workday – Saturday, February 23

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

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

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

Oak Ridge Cedar Barren cleanup – Saturday, March 2

We will conduct our spring exotic invasive plant removal at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren on March 2. Located next to Jefferson Middle School, this Barren is a joint project of the City of Oak Ridge, State Natural Areas Division, and TCWP. One of only a few cedar barrens in East Tennessee, the area is subject to invasion by Chinese lespedeza, Japanese privet, autumn olive, mimosa, Nepal grass, multi-flora rose, and woody plants that threaten the system’s prairie grasses. Our continuing efforts help to eliminate these invasives and other shade-producing plants that prevent the prairie grasses from getting needed sun.

Volunteers should meet in the Jefferson Middle School Parking lot at 9 a.m., with sturdy shoes, loppers, gloves, and drinking water. The work session will conclude at noon with a pizza lunch.

For additional information, contact Tim Bigelow at 865-607-6781 or at bigelowt2@mindspring.com.

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.

11C. Recent eventsTCWP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 13

About 50 TCWP members and guests turned out for our holiday party, held at the Oak Ridge home of Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen. The coming and going of party-goers and their distribution through several rooms of Jenny and Bill's beautifully decorated home made it hard to do an accurate head count, but the house was full for both hours of the event, and everyone seemed to be having a great time catching up with old friends, meeting new friends, and enjoying all the yummy hors d'oeuvres and desserts.

As always, our sincere thanks to Jenny and Bill for hosting this popular annual event!

11D. Note from the Executive Director

Dear TCWP folk,

As 2013 marches, nay, trots, along, I remind myself (and you) of opportunities and challenges that face our natural world in 2013:

The TCWP Program Committee has a great lineup of activities and programs in the hopper, including a July outing to Tennessee's newest state park, Rocky Fork, led by State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath, a fall excursion to Devils Step Hollow at the head of the Sequatchie River, a presentation on Cumberlands music by Bob Fulcher, along with clean-up, trail maintenance, and/or exotic pest plant removal on various trails for which we've assumed responsibility. Join us, anytime!

The State Legislature has convened and TCWP will be monitoring bill introductions and committee meetings for developments that affect water quality, habitat protection, state parks, and other issue (§3D, this NL). Please prepare for this session by touching base with your elected officials. We'll be sending e-mail alerts (not signed up and want to be? Let me know—fewer than 3/month average) throughout the session with empowering information regarding communicating with our senators and representatives.

One trusts that you got a friendly fund-raising letter from TCWP last month. One HOPES you'll send us back a note, a check, or other form of support. We want to protect vulnerable land near the Obed, we want to be a strong voice against mountaintop removal coal mining, and a loud supporter of energy conservation. Your help is needed to further this work. Please renew your membership today.

Finally, welcome to new Board member Michele Thornton, and thanks to Jo Hardin, who rotated off the Board at year-end. Our TCWP Board members spend considerable effort and time on keeping us going, from monthly Board meetings to meetings with sister groups to committee meetings. Their leadership and interest are vital to TCWP's continued successes.

Looking forward to a good year for our natural world, with YOUR help,

Sandra

11E. TCWP People

- Jenny Freeman gets award
On December 7, long-term TCWP member, and one of our earliest executive directors, Jenny Freeman, received the Muddy Boot Award from the East Tennessee Economic Council. Jenny was recognized for bringing her "passionate energy and inclusive productivity to bear on the region's most important challenges – including ... environmental stewardship ..." Since 2006, she has been the vision-implementation manager at Strata-G.
- Dr. Mark Bevelhimer interviewed on TV
TCWP Board member Mark Bevelhimer appeared on WBIR on December 20, interviewed in the Aquatic Ecology Lab at ORNL. Senior scientist Mark is heading up studies on the environmental problems resulting from the use of hydrokinetic turbines as one possible way to create renewable energy. Potential problems for fish populations include mechanical impact, noise, and electromagnetic fields generated by the turbines.
- Dr. Alfred Brooks dead
Al Brooks, who joined TCWP almost at its birth, died on July 12 at the age of 90. He was a chemist, but also worked in computer applications. Always generously volunteering his talents, he was active in numerous local organizations concerned with environmental stewardship.

11F. Thanks, and a tip of the hat to ...

[From Sandra Goss]

- Lee Russell and contributors Melissa Mays, Tim Bigelow, Carol Grametbauer, and Glenn Marshall for creating another fine newsletter
- Jean Bangham, Jimmy Groton, Frank Hensley, and Charlie Klabunde for preparing the newsletter for mailing
- Marion Burger for handling the sale of Kroger Gift Certificates
- Jimmy Groton for handling recent position statements on Wilderness Act of 2010 and National Park System Statement of Principles
- Francis Perey for handling the TCWP website
- Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen for hosting the TCWP Holiday Party
- Lee Russell for hosting a Potluck dinner for the TCWP Board
- Jimmy Groton, Tim Bigelow, Carol Grametbauer, and Charlie Klabunde for handling staff evaluation
- Mark Bevelhimer, Jimmy Groton, Cindy Kendrick, and Jan Lyons for their help with Community Shares projects. Their efforts fulfilled TCWP's required sweat equity for Community Shares.

12. OPENINGS; CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• OPENINGS

- The Union of Concerned Scientists is seeking applicants for a senior engineer/scientist and three Kendall Fellowships researching climate change, clean energy, and vehicle technology. Visit the UCS website to learn more about these and other opportunities (www.ucsusa.org/about/jobs-at-ucs.html).
- Lifeguard at the BSFNRRRA: GS-0189-2 Closes 1/24/13. View announcement at <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/viewDetails/334232600>.

•• CALENDAR

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

- January 19, Whites Creek Trail workday (see ¶11B, this NL)
- February 23, Alley Ford Cumberland Trail workday (see ¶11B, this NL)
- March 2, Oak Ridge Cedar Barren cleanup (see ¶11B, this NL)
- March 16, hemlock treatment workshop (see ¶11C)

•• RESOURCES

- Breakfast with the Legislators, hosted by League of Women Voters, will resume Monday, January 28, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Civic Center Social Room. Area state legislators bring us up-to-date on what's happening in the Tennessee legislature. Members of the audience can ask questions and offer opinions. A light continental breakfast is provided at no charge. Breakfasts will continue on the fourth Monday of each month that the Legislature meets. (If the schools are closed for inclement weather, the breakfast will be cancelled.)
- *Letters to Michael: Reflections on Life, by Students of Michael Frome*, edited by Niels Nokkentved, can be ordered from www.amazon.com (it is listed as letters to Michael Reflections).
- To learn more about climate models and how they work, visit the National Research Council's Climate Modeling 101 site <http://click.newsletters.nas.edu/?qs=60e6cf3fb73655a37a9d0cab741ee6c1afd5f40fd8139706207af28d1d0db0d4>.
- If you are interested in volunteering at Obed WSR or BSFNRRRA, contact Effie Houston, Volunteer Coordinator, at 423-569-2404, ext. 228.
- The US DOE's website, www.windpoweringamerica.gov, has maps and guidance for residential, community, and utility-grade wind projects.

NOW, with the start of the new year, it is time to Renew your Membership.

TCWP MEMBERSHIP- New Joiner or- RENEWAL for 2013 (circle one)

Our "dues" year is the calendar year, Jan 1 to Dec 31. Contributions to TCWP **are IRS tax-deductible**. Your address label is coded **M__** with numbers 1 – 7 inserted showing dues class paid for '12 & '13. Numbers correspond to those in form below. "X"= none. (**Other contributions may just be coded c.**)
 New Joiners half price after Aug 1; or full price after Nov 1 to include next year.

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning 1/1 - 12/31/13 - Membership

Please send form, and check (**payable to TCWP**), to:

Charles Klabunde, Treas., TCWP; 219 E. Vanderbilt Dr.; Oak Ridge, TN 37830

NAME(S) _____ e-mail: _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONES: Home _____
 _____ Zip _____ Work _____

- "DUES" -

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2. <input type="radio"/> Student, Correspond, Senior (low budget) \$15.00 | 5. <input type="radio"/> Sustaining member \$100.00** |
| 3. <input type="radio"/> REGULAR (individual) \$25.00 | 6. <input type="radio"/> Supporting member \$200.00** |
| 4. <input type="radio"/> Family (husband, wife) \$35.00 | 7. <input type="radio"/> Life member (new) \$500.00** |
| 1. <input type="radio"/> Name your own Intermediate Rate (>\$15). \$_____ | **Includes spouse if indicated: <input type="radio"/> |

(will be recorded as next lower rate + gift) On back of form, list names, addresses of others who might want to join TCWP.

[] I prefer delivery of Newsletters as PDF attached to an e-mail instead of paper copy via USPS.

This FORM is exactly the same as the one on page 12.
Use either one you choose.

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NAME(S) _____ e-mail: _____

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- | | |
|---|---|
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(will be recorded as next lower rate + gift) On back of form, list names, addresses of others who might want to join TCWP.

[] I prefer delivery of Newsletters as PDF attached to an e-mail instead of paper copy via USPS.

OR, You may use the DONATE Button on the Website (www.TCWP.org).
(Mention Renewal in the Message space.)

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An e-mail to klabundece@aol.com does it.

Membership Renewal Now for 2013.
Please do this soon to benefit us all.
Help us keep enough natural space.

TCWP's 2013 Board of Directors

Jimmy GrotonPresident
Tim Bigelow Vice President
Carol Grametbauer.....Secretary
Charlie Klabunde Treasurer
Mark Bevelhimer..... Director
Mary Lynn Dobson Director
Frank Hensley..... Director
Larry Pounds Director
Liane (Lee) Russell..... Director
Michele Thornton Director
Warren Webb..... Director
Sandra Goss Executive Director

We Will Work to Maintain and Improve Our Local Natural Places

>> Whites Creek Trail - - - Saturday, January 19 <<

>> Cumberland Trail: Nemo to Alley Ford - - - Sat., Feb. 23 <<

>> Oak Ridge Cedar Barren - - - Saturday, March 2 <<

< see page 10, item 11B, for details >