



Taking Care of Wild Places

The BIG stories

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13. ACTION SUMMARY

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| 5A | Cherokee Wilderness bill | Senators Corker, Alexander | "Re-introduce Tennessee Wilderness Act!" |
| 6C | EPA Administrator | US senators | "Confirm Gina McCarthy, an accomplished administrator!" |
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| 9 | TCWP activities | TCWP | Volunteer your services (many options). |

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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

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<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. You can also access the Guide, some current action calls, and much other information, on TCWP's website (<http://www.tcwp.org>). You can choose to receive e-alerts by contacting Sandra Goss (see below).

WHAT IS TCWP?

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

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1. TENNESSEE: Threats to the natural environment

1A. State Building Commission to consider UT's fracking RFP

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture is seeking the necessary State Building Commission approval to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to lease drilling rights for natural gas on the UT-owned Cumberland Forests in Scott and Morgan counties. The Commission meets on Friday, March 15, at 2:00 p.m. CDT in Nashville.

According to UT's dedicated web site on this topic, <https://ag.tennessee.edu/Pages/Gas-and-Oil.aspx>, this is a research initiative to investigate the impacts of natural-gas and oil extraction and to provide science-based facts for the scientific community, regulatory agencies, environmental groups and citizens, and the industry.

The RFP and the proposed Fracking Study are ill-considered and do not adequately protect the interests of Tennessee citizens. A few examples:

- The University would like to waive the customary appraisal of the mineral holdings on the forests. An appraisal is needed to be sure the State receives adequate compensation.
- Fracking has been cited frequently in other states as a causal factor in water pollution. The State is potentially liable for water table degradation that might occur as a result of the Fracking Study.
- The targeted forests have many conservation values. They provide connected habitat and important watershed headwaters buffering.
- The University has promised that the proposed fracking will be conducted in accordance with Tennessee laws and regulations. Current fracking regulations do not meet the standards of the American Petroleum Institute, an industry professional group. Our state's standards are even lower than the best practices recommended by the industry itself!

An *ad hoc* group of representatives from various sister organizations has asked that UT withdraw the RFP as written and develop a new RFP that addresses these and other concerns.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge that the Building Commission deny the request for a waiver of appraisal and defer the RFP until the concerns regarding environmental liability can be addressed. Write or call Governor Haslam (615.741-2001, or bill.haslam@tn.gov) before noon, Friday, March 15..

1B. Advisory Council for UT's fracking project holds first meeting

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Following the University of Tennessee announced intention to lease its lands in Morgan and Scott counties to an oil and gas company and then study the environmen-

tal impacts of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) (NL307 ¶1A), the UT Institute of Agriculture formed a volunteer advisory council of local and statewide representatives for its proposed initiative. Among council members are private landowners, managers of large Cumberland Plateau corporate tracts, and representatives of several organizations, namely, the Nature Conservancy, SOCM, Tennessee Environmental Council, the Oak Ridge Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB), and TCWP. Jimmy Groton and Sandra Goss are among these representatives. Also on the council are UT faculty members, and representatives from TWRA (TN Wildlife Resources Agency) and TDEC (TN Dept. of Environment and Conservation)

The Advisory Council had a lively 2-hour meeting earlier this month at the UT Arboretum in Oak Ridge. Attendees heard an overview of the UT system and the Institute of Agriculture specifically. A brainstorming session was held to come up with research questions regarding water. The ideas included water-quality tests of various descriptions, and other issues. The final list largely matched a list devised in a big faculty meeting on the topic, held January 2012.

It is expected that the council will meet quarterly until the project is formally launched.

1C. Proposed mine in Claiborne County: bad by any designation

Following an article entitled "Mountaintop removal site proposed for Claiborne County" in our previous Newsletter (NL307 ¶1B), we received a long and thoughtful communication from a reader, who is on the faculty of UT's Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries. Among various comments made by her was the remark that the term "Mountaintop Removal" is inaccurate, and that Tennessee is one of the few eastern states that does not allow this practice.

This is technically correct as far as the specific designation goes. What Tennessee does allow is "cross-ridge mining." But this, as well as various other methods with names such as box-cut mining, steep-slope mining, etc., removes the mountain top or ridgeline by clearing away all the forest and topsoil cover, and blasting away hundreds of feet of soil and rock. Operators in Tennessee must replace the mountaintop to its "approximate original contour," which theoretically, diminishes the use of devastating valley fill and eliminates the highwalls of earlier stripmines. In practice, a lot of rubble still goes into the valleys, and the profile of the "restored" ridgeline and mountaintops usually differs drastically from the original one. What's worse is that the quality of the returned rubble is far from conducive to growing the type of complex vegetation that covered the mountains originally. Coal-processing ponds, which result in a lasting slurry of coal dust and toxic chemicals, are a legacy of the mining, whatever its specific name.

Bottom line: Even though the proposed operation in Claiborne County may be a "cross-ridge mining," rather than "mountaintop removal" one, it would be devastating.

2. TENNESSEE: Protection of the natural environment

2A. Preserving the germplasm of Cumberlands plants

[Contributed by Larry Pounds]

Magnificent Seeds, a conference to support the Cumberland Seeds Projects, will be held Saturday, March 23, 2013, in Walden Town Hall, near Signal Mountain, Tennessee. Friends of the Cumberland Trail (FCT) are sponsoring the gathering of wildflower enthusiasts, gardeners, botanists, ecologists, and public-land managers to expand the work of this seed-banking project focused on the Tennessee Cumberland Plateau/Cumberland Mountains region. The conference plans to create partnerships between State Parks, State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, National Park units, university programs, and private organizations to preserve germplasm for long-term ecological restoration needs and genetic research. The project's goal is ambitious, and has not heretofore been achieved for any major ecoregion – the protection of an entire regional flora through germplasm preservation.

The conference's keynote speaker, Robert Karrfalt, is long-time Director of the USDA National Seed Lab and a faculty member at Perdue University. Dr. Karrfalt has established and advised seed conservation programs throughout the US and in many foreign countries. The National Tree Seed Lab was established in 1986, with Dr. Karrfalt as its first Director, and he became the first Director of the National Seed Lab in 2005, serving the US Forest Service as a strategic resource for seed science and technology with all native plants

Additional speakers include pioneering Tennessee ecologist and TCWP member Ed Clebsch, Project Coordinator Terri Ballinger, and Jeanie Hilten, who worked with the development of Discover Life in America's ATBI project.

The Science Committee and Interagency Group of the Cumberland Seeds Project will meet at 10:30 a.m. to discuss protocols, data management, and interagency agreements. Science Committee members include Dr. Larry Pounds (TCWP), Dr. Carol Baskin (UTK), Dr. Eugene Wofford (UTK), and other distinguished botanists.

Public presentations will begin at 1:30 p.m., with tours of the Trailhead Nursery at noon and 3:50 p.m. Trailhead Nursery was established by the FTC to grow restoration plants and produce native seed..

For more information:

www.friendsofthecumberlandtrail.org, or contact Terri Ballinger at 423-262-9852.

2B. Raising funds for Cumberland Trail projects

[Contributed by Larry Pounds]

On Friday, March 22, 7:30-10:30 p.m., the Friends of the Cumberland Trail (FCT) will host a gala benefit and concert at the Tivoli Theater in downtown Chattanooga to raise funds for Cumberland Trail projects. It'll

be a showcase of traditional musicians from throughout the Cumberland Trail corridor, hosted by two Grammy-winning musicians, Rhiannon Giddens and Tim O'Brien. There also will be information about the FCT and its projects. (Admission: \$20. Tickets: 423-757-5050. Info: www.friendsofthecumberlandtrail.org).

2C. Program for detection of forest pests

[Contributed by Alex Wyss, TNC]

Nissan and International Paper have donated a generous and significant gift to the Forest Conservation Fund of the TN Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC). These funds are going towards the "Healthy Trees, Healthy Tennessee" program to create an early tree-pest detection network. TNC will be placing outreach coordinators in major cities across TN to reach targeted audiences with the goal of educating them on what pests to look out for, what the impacted tree indicators are, and whom to contact if a pest is suspected in the area. The Conservancy is working with the US Dept. of Agriculture, TN Division of Forestry, US Forest Service, and other experts to develop and implement this program and to complement tree protection efforts of the agencies. To learn more e-mail Alex Wyss at awyss@tnc.org.

2D. Hemlock Conservation Partnership sponsors workshop March 16.

[Information from TNC]

Almost 150,000 acres in Tennessee are potentially at risk of infestation by the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA): 67,620 in privately-owned forests, and 78,849 on public lands. The recently formed Hemlock Conservation Partnership, which encompasses staff from TDEC, TWRA, the state's Division of Forestry, NPS, and TNC, has embarked on a program of teaching the region's private landowners how to fight the threatening infestation and protect their shade-giving hemlock trees.

A free workshop, announced earlier (NL307 ¶1C), is scheduled for Saturday, March 16, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. EDT, at a Nature Conservancy Preserve along mile 13 of the Obed WSR (near the Frankfort Community), where close to 130 trees will be treated. The workshop will include complete hands-on training (equipment and supplies will be furnished) and will provide the opportunity to meet state- and federal-agency staff who are combating the HWA on public lands. Among topics to be covered are treatment options for do-it-yourself or contracting the work, and contacts for purchasing chemicals. Register for the workshop by contacting Douglas Godbee, 865-318-1371, or Douglas.Godbee@tn.gov.

3. TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE

3A. Acquisition funds — so far so good

Gov. Haslam's budget, released at the end of January, includes the state land acquisition funds (from a small

percentage of the real-estate transfer tax) in the amounts we expected and hoped for. The budget must still be approved by the General Assembly.

3B. Bills before the General Assembly

[Information from TN Conservation Voters]

The 6 bills described below have been selected from a list of many dozens that TCV reports on each week.

- **SB99(Finney)/HB43(Johnson)**, the “Scenic Vistas Act”. Prohibits surface coal mining operations that will disturb ridgelines above 2,000 feet elevation. Set for Senate Energy, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee 3/13/13. Set for House Energy, Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee 3/13/13.
- **SB1139(Norris)/ HB875(McCormick)**. Prohibits placement of excess overburden from mountaintop removal mining operations to be placed within 100 ft of the high-water mark of any stream. Referred to Senate and House Committees. No action since 2/14/13.
- **SB941(Southerland)/HB945(Swann)**. Prohibits disposal of aluminum cans and plastic bottles in landfills. Allows a county or city to petition for waiver. In Senate Committee, received positive discussion on 3/6/13, but was rolled to 3/13/13 for clarification. Set for House committee 3/13/13.
- **SB1160(Stevens)/HB952(Wirgau)**. Requires notice to be given prior to any increase in the classification of a land-fill, or prior to expanding the categories of authorized waste. Referred to Senate and House Committees. No action since 2/13/13.
- **SB1168(Tate)/HB538(Coley)**. Tennessee Beverage Container Recycling Refunds Act (“Bottle Bill”). Referred to Senate and House Committees. No action since 2/8/13.

SB1280(Norris)/HB1127(McCormick). Requires testing and evaluation of groundwater quality prior, during, and after fracking operations. Was withdrawn in the Senate for reasons dealing with Senate rules on bill filing and time limits.

3C. Awards to legislators

At a recent event, TCV (Tennessee Conservation Voters) presented the annual Legislative Friends Awards for 2012 to Senators Kerry Roberts and Eric Stewart and to Representatives Brenda Gilmore, Mike McDonald, and Art Swann.

4. BIG SOUTH FORK and OBED CAPSULES

4A. A well-deserved award to Tom Blount

[From the Big South Fork website; contributed by Sandra Goss]

The National Park Service Southeastern Regional Office announced that Tom Blount, Division Chief for Resource Management at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and Obed Wild and Scenic River, was awarded the region’s top award for natural resource management for 2012.

Blount led the development of the Comprehensive Oil and Gas Management Plan (NL305 ¶1B), and the plugging of the majority of the orphaned or abandoned wells in the park (NL303 ¶3A), as well as the reclamation of abandoned well sites and access roads. His well-deserved award was in recognition of his outstanding contributions to natural resource management and natural resource protection.

4B. Obed River cleanup float trip 3/30/13

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Paddlers are invited to join TCWP and the National Park Service, for the second annual whitewater rafting/clean-up trip down the Obed River on Saturday, March 30, 2013. The outing from Devil’s Breakfast Table to Nemo Bridge, coordinated with NPS, will include trash collection along the river.

March 30 is the first Saturday that the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area is open to the public following the annual 2-month “rest period” where all traffic on Catoosa is forbidden.

Some seats are available on guided rafts. We also welcome kayakers to join the trip. Safety boaters, especially, are needed for the excursion. Rafters must be 18 years old or over, and have a moderately high level of physical fitness and stamina. The trip will include a portage over large boulders. The difficulty level of this outing is high and participants are encouraged to consider carefully their fitness and stamina before signing up. For additional information, see ¶9A.

4C. NPS launches

‘Memories of the Obed’ series

On February 9, the Park Service hosted the first in a series of programs that will explore the unique river-related memories of local individuals. Each month, a different speaker will discuss his/her memories of life in the vicinity of the river and will provide a window into what life was like in more simple and self-sufficient times.

The first program in the “Memories of the Obed” series featured Ola Melton, an 80-year old resident of the Shady Grove community, who was born just three years after the flood of 1929 (which, in 1965, was used by TVA as an excuse for proposing to dam the river). Melton (as quoted in the *Knoxville News Sentinel*) said: “Every hole of water in there is a special place. A dam would have covered up my memories. I’m glad the national park is there. ... I want that river to stay like it is for my great, great grandchildren to see.”

The monthly Memories of the Obed programs are held on Saturdays at the Park headquarters in Wartburg.

No registration is required. For information, call 423-346-6294.

4D. O&W Trail now open on a trial basis to wagon use

[From BSFNRRRA/Obed WSR newsletter]

The BSFNRRRA begins a pilot project to determine whether the use of wagons on the O&W trail is practical and desirable. Wagons will have access points at Mill Creek, Zenith, and Tar Kiln Trail. During the limited pilot period, wagon use will be restricted to Monday through Friday. The route will continue to be open daily to horses, mountain bikes, and pedestrians. To access the trail by wagon, stop by the BSFNRRRA headquarters to sign out a key that will allow access through the gates at these locations

5. The CHEROKEE and other NATIONAL FORESTS

5A. New prospects for the Tennessee Wilderness Act

[Contributed by Jeff Hunter, Tennessee Wild]

With the 113th Congress in session, we are currently awaiting reintroduction of the Tennessee Wilderness Act by its original co-sponsors, Senators Alexander and Corker. The dynamics of the legislation have changed to a large degree. On the House side, with Monroe County going from the 2nd Congressional District to the 3rd, Congressman John J. Duncan no longer has any acreage associated with this bill in his district. Congressman Chuck Fleischmann now represents Monroe County where the Joyce Kilmer Slickrock Wilderness addition (1836 acres) and the Upper Bald River Wilderness Study Area (9038 acres) are located. In addition, he continues to represent Polk County where the Big Frog Wilderness addition (348 acres) and the Little Frog Wilderness additions (978 acres) are located.

On the Senate side, with the retirement of Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) now chairs the Senate Energy & Natural Resources (ENR) Committee. With Senator Alexander now a member of the ENR Committee, we remain hopeful that this committee will continue to have jurisdiction over the Tennessee Wilderness Act, and that Senator Wyden will try and move a package of public lands bills, which include the Tennessee Wilderness Act, early in the 113th Congress.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Please take a moment to write to Senators Alexander & Corker (addresses on p.2) to encourage them to reintroduce the Tennessee Wilderness Act. You can also write to your Representative and encourage him or her to vote YES for wilderness, should the Tennessee Wilderness Act come before them. Link to take action: http://tnwild.org/get_involved.

5B. 'Endangered Place' designation highlights folly of new highway through the Cherokee NF

[With information from WaysSouth]

In early February, the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) named Goforth Creek in Polk County, TN, one of its "Top Ten Endangered Places" in the South for 2013. Goforth Creek is a pristine tributary that tumbles into the Ocoee gorge, north of the Big Frog Wilderness, and allows recreational access to a unique area. This area is threatened by the Corridor-K project that could result in a new major highway through the Cherokee, causing major damage to streams, wildlife, and recreation. For years, WaysSouth and other groups have advocated for a reasonable alternative that would improve the *current* road through the Ocoee Gorge, meeting transportation and safety needs with the least environmental cost (NL302 ¶4A).

The TN Dept. of Transportation (TDoT) recently acknowledged that a 2-lane road can handle projected traffic for the next 30 years, and the state already has the funds (\$273 million in earmarked federal funds) to make smart improvements to existing U.S. 64 that would speed traffic and improve safety. Building a *new* highway would quadruple this cost, and any additional money spent must be taken away from Tennessee's other, more pressing projects. In addition, while improvements to the present road could be made without delay, a new highway would take 25-30 years to construct after ground is broken.

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement is due in 2013. At that time action will be needed.

5C. Another Highlands of Roan tract is protected

In December, the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, purchased a 601-acre tract at Grassy Ridge (6,100 ft elevation) in Avery County, NC, adjacent to the Pisgah National Forest in the Highlands of Roan. This incredible tract rises along one of the highest ridges of the Southern Appalachians, and has been one of SAHC's top conservation priorities for four decades. The purchase permanently protects pristine water quality and globally significant plant & animal habitat.

5D. Not just in National Forests – the A.T.: Conference nearby

[Contributed by Leanna Joyner]

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) will hold its 39th Biennial Meeting nearby, in Cullowhee, NC (Western Carolina University), July 19-26. ATC's mission is "to preserve and manage the Appalachian Trail – ensuring that its vast natural beauty and priceless cultural heritage can be shared ... for centuries to come."

The biennial conference is held in the Southeast only once every eight years. The Cullowhee event, hosted by the five southern Appalachian Trail maintaining clubs, will include 137 organized hikes, 72 workshops,

live music, presentations on other long trails, contra dancing, and excursions (e.g., rafting) to some of the region's best sites and activities

Registration opens April 1, 2013. For more information visit: www.appalachiantrail.org/2013biennial.

6. CHANGES IN THE CABINET

Among the large number of changes in the 2nd-term Obama cabinet, four may be of special interest to TCWP members: Secretaries of Interior, Energy, and State, and Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

6A. *Sec. of the Interior – Sally Jewell to replace Ken Salazar*

Sally Jewell, nominated Feb. 6 but not yet confirmed, is the CEO of Recreation Equipment (REI), a nearly \$2 billion company, and has earned national recognition for her management skills and support for outdoor recreation and habitat conservation. She likes to bike, ski and climb mountains, and has noted that the \$289 billion outdoor-recreation industry supports 6.5 million jobs. Interestingly, she began her career as an engineer for Mobil Oil and worked as a commercial banker before heading REI.

Outgoing Sec. Ken Salazar had to devote much of his tenure to managing the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, and to respond to pressures to increase oil exploration on federal holdings on- and off-shore. However, he also promoted renewable energy development on public land with minimum damage to the natural resource (see ¶8G, this NL).

6B. *Sec. of State – John Kerry (confirmed).*

Gene Karpinski, head of the League of Conservation Voters (LCV), had this to say about John Kerry: "John Kerry has an incredible track record as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. There's also no greater champion in the United States Senate on the issue of fighting climate change. ... He's a leader, he's a visionary, he knows what needs to get done. It's a difficult challenge internationally, to make progress on that issue, but no one knows these issues better than Senator Kerry and he has great relationships with foreign leaders across the world."

Sen. Kerry's move into the Administration has lost the Senate one of its great environmental champions. It looks, however, as though another one will fill that role -- Congressman Markey, whose chances of success in the upcoming special election have improved since former Republican Senator Scott Brown has withdrawn from the contest. (Primaries will be held April 30.) "There's no greater environmental champion in Congress than Ed Markey," says LCV head Gene Karpinski. "Congressman Markey has made addressing the climate crisis and advancing clean energy the cause of his career. He has also been the biggest champion of the effort to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. He'll be a true leader in the United States Senate."

6C. *EPA Administrator - Gina McCarthy to replace Lisa Jackson*

Gina McCarthy, nominated March 4 and yet to be confirmed, is currently the assistant administrator for the EPA Office of Air and Radiation, and helped secure historic public-health safeguards, including life-saving standards to restrict soot, mercury, and other toxics (NL301 ¶5D; NL307 ¶8D). She has the respect of environmental groups and a reputation for working well with utilities and state regulators, which bear the brunt of implementing EPA rules. Because the current Congress is very unlikely to do anything positive about climate change, the only path to progress will be executive action implemented by EPA.

Before joining EPA, McCarthy was the top environmental regulator in Massachusetts and Connecticut under Democratic (Dukakis) and Republican (Romney, Rell) governors. Among other achievements, she helped lead Connecticut into a carbon cap-and-trade system for North-eastern states.

See NL307 ¶8B for a summary of past Administrator Lisa Jackson's significant achievements.

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, or to prevent meaningful EPA actions in the future. There is no *real* reason for Gina McCarthy's confirmation to be held up. She was easily confirmed in 2009 to head EPA's Clean Air Division, and she is known as a fair-minded and dedicated public-health official who has worked with both parties to find cooperative solutions that can save the environment in economically beneficial ways.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Tell your Senators that McCarthy is an accomplished administrator who is well known not only for working across party lines, but also for listening and responding to the concerns of industry stakeholders, and for pursuing a regulatory approach that is flexible, reasonable, and cost-effective.

6D. *Dept. of Energy - Ernest Moniz to replace Steven Chu*

Dr. Ernest Moniz, nominated March 4 and yet to be confirmed, is director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT's) Energy Initiative, a group whose projects include research aimed at reducing greenhouse gases. He has previous government experience, having been Undersecretary of Energy during the Clinton administration (1997-2001). For two years before that, he served as associate director for science in the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

The Moniz nomination has raised some worries. In 2011, in testifying before Congress, he endorsed natural gas as a "bridge" fuel to a low-carbon future, calling it "one of the most cost-effective means by which to maintain energy supplies while reducing CO₂ emissions." Some of

the work of MIT's Energy Initiative is funded by major oil & gas companies.

Nobel Prize winner Steve Chu, retiring Secretary of Energy, was heavily concerned over the potentially devastating effects of climate change and did much to encourage the development of clean energy. For excerpts from his farewell letter, see ¶8D, this NL.

7. OTHER NATIONAL ISSUES

7A. *The valuable Antiquities Act is in jeopardy*

For over a century, the 1906 Antiquities Act (signed by Pres. Teddy Roosevelt), which gives the president the power to designate National Monuments, has been used numerous times as a first step in protecting some of our most precious lands. Many of these Monuments were subsequently designated National Parks by Congress. Some examples are Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Arches, and Capitol Reef. Others still have the National Monument (NM) designation, or another one, such as Devils Tower NM, Grand Staircase-Escalante NM (designated by Pres. Clinton), and the extensive Alaska National Interest Lands (designated by Pres. Carter).

Now, in just the first two months of Congress, three bills have already been introduced that would weaken or abolish the President's ability to create National Monuments. Bill numbers are S 104/HR 250, HR 382, and HR 432. So much more outstanding land is in need of public-land protection that the powers of the Antiquities Act *must* remain undiminished.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your Representative and both Senators (p.2, this NL) to tell them how valuable the Antiquities Act has been. Its powers must in no way be diminished.

7B. *Administration should rule on Waters of the United States*

[Based on information from Clean Water Network]

Ambiguous Bush-era agency guidance based on messy Supreme Court decisions has resulted in significant uncertainty about the types of water bodies that are protected under the 1972 Clean Water Act, and have curtailed protections considerably more than the Courts required. Polluters have argued that the law no longer protects intermittent, headwater, and ephemeral streams, wetlands, prairie potholes, and various other waters historically covered by the Act as Waters of the United States (WOTUS). These water bodies feed into valuable drinking-water supplies, provide habitat for water-bird populations, and absorb flood waters.

For years, the Clean Water Network and member organizations have urged Congress to pass legislation that would restore protections to water bodies now vulnerable to polluters and developers, but prospects for Congression-

al action have become ever more doubtful. A strong EPA rule consistent with the best available science and law would go a long way to restore critical Clean Water Act protections to waters that continue to be lost, or could be lost, to pollution and development.

The Clean Water organizations have been frustrated because, for the past several years, a WOTUS-guidance document from EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers has been stuck in a seemingly never-ending interagency review.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge EPA and the Corps of Engineers (see Political Guide) to issue the WOTUS guidance without further delay – before any more of our valuable water resources are lost to pollution or development.

7C. *Administration should replace Bush-Era Stream Buffer Zone Rule*

[Information from EarthJustice]

The "Stream Buffer Zone Rule," adopted under the Reagan administration in 1983, prohibited surface coal mining activities from disturbing areas within 100 feet of streams. On its way out in December 2008, the Bush Administration changed this rule in a way that facilitates the expansion of mountaintop-removal mining, a process that blows the tops off mountains and fills the adjacent valleys and their streams with the rubble.

The Obama administration agreed that the Bush administration's action was unlawful, and the Dept. of Interior promised to replace the harmful Bush rule by 2012. Because this has not happened, a coalition of about a dozen groups, led by EarthJustice, is returning to court. In January, EarthJustice filed suit to challenge USDI's failure to protect Appalachian streams and communities.

7D. *National Environmental Scorecard*

[Compiled from scorecard.lcv.org/]

The League of Conservation Voters recently released the *2012 National Environmental Scorecard*, compiled on the basis of 14 Senate and 35 House votes. In addition, LCV has overhauled the website (<http://scorecard.lcv.org/>) to make it easier to access the information not just from this year, but from every year since the *National Environmental Scorecard* was first released in 1971. In 2012,

- 85 House members and 37 Senators earned a score of 90% or greater
- 175 House members and 17 Senators earned an abysmal score of 10% or less.
- The average Senate score was 56%. and the average House score was 42%.
- The average Tennessee score was 14% for our two Senators, and 24% for our 9 Representatives (only 25% and 57%, respectively, of the already low national averages)

The following table shows average scores for the leadership.

| | Dem. | Repub.. |
|------------------------------|------|---------|
| Senate committee leaders (5) | 96 | 21 |
| House committee leaders (6) | 71 | 6 |
| Senate party leaders (3) | 98 | 9 |
| House party leaders (4) | 86 | 6 |

The scores for our Tennessee delegation are shown in the following table. The dichotomy is very striking.

| | District | Party | 2012 | 2011 + 2012 | Lifetime |
|---------------|----------|-------|------|----------------|----------|
| Senate | | | | | |
| Alexander | NA | R | 21 | 24 | 18 |
| Corker | NA | R | 7 | 8 | 16 |
| House | | | | | |
| Roe | 1 | R | 3 | 6 | 5 |
| Duncan | 2 | R | 9 | 7 | 12 |
| Fleischmann | 3 | R | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| DesJarlais | 4 | R | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Cooper | 5 | D | 80 | 84 | 79 |
| Black | 6 | R | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Blackburn | 7 | R | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| Fincher | 8 | R | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Cohen | 9 | D | 97 | 94 | 95 |

7E. Administration protects valuable land in Alaska; another Alaska action still pending

[From Alaska Wilderness League]

In late February, the Department of the Interior issued a Record of Decision that adopts a new management plan for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, which includes 11 million acres of protection for habitat and subsistence resources in the Teshepuk Lake, Utukok Uplands, Kasegaluk Lagoon, Peard Bay, and Colville River special areas (NL306 ¶4G).

Another essential Alaska action remains to be finalized – the management plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This was up for comment over a year ago (NL299 ¶5A), and almost a million people recommended Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain, Alaska’s “biological heart.”

7F. Sequester consequences for the National Park Service

[Including information from NPS and NPCA]

The National Park Service (NPS) is facing a \$110 million across-the-board “sequester” cut. The NPS budget, which constitutes only 0.07% of the federal budget (and is clearly not the cause of our deficit problems), has been eroding continuously over the past few years; in today’s dollars, it is 15% less than it was a decade ago.

This is killing the goose that lays the golden egg. Studies show that every \$1 invested in the National Park System generates about \$10 in economic activity, and that

every two Park Service jobs create one job in the private sector outside the parks. Our national parks attract nearly 280 million visitors each year. In 2010 alone, they generated more than \$31 billion from tourism and recreation and 258,000 jobs.

There’s no fat left to trim in the NPS \$2.9 billion budget. Most of it is for permanent spending such as staff salaries, fuel, utilities and rent payments. Superintendents can use only about 10% of their budgets on discretionary spending for such things as interpretive programs, historic-artifact maintenance, trail repair, etc.; half of that will be lost.

The axe has fallen. On March 8, NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis wrote to his staff: “As of March 1, sequestration has imposed an across-the-board 5% cut to our Fiscal Year 13 [i.e., FY2013] budget that we must now take in the remaining seven months of this fiscal year. ... To help meet the reductions, 900 permanent positions will not be filled. In an organization with 15,000 permanent employees, 900 vacant jobs have a profound effect.” Additionally, furloughs are expected. Furthermore, “we will hire over 1,000 less seasonal employees this year.” Seasonal rangers, fire fighters, etc. are vitally important for NPS functioning.

In addition to these personnel impacts, “the \$12 billion maintenance backlog will continue to grow. ... Our investments to control invasions by exotic plants and animals will be wasted as they regain footholds in parks.” Jarvis also mentioned “impacts to entrance fees, concession revenue, and the tourism economies in gateway communities.”

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which faces a \$944,000 cut, will probably close five campgrounds and picnic areas, affecting 54,000 visitors.

Overall, the Dept. of the Interior (of which NPS is one agency) manages 398 national parks, 561 refuges, and over 258 other public-land units. If some of these close or reduce hours of operation, this will affect the livelihood of local communities. More directly, USDI will be cutting the grants and payments the agency makes to states and counties throughout the country in support of basic community services.

8. CLIMATE CHANGE

8A. National Climate Assessment provides unambiguous evidence of dangerously warming planet

[Information from <http://ncadac.globalchange.gov/>]

Every four years, the U.S. Global Change Research Program submits a report to the president and Congress that evaluates, integrates and interprets the latest findings of global climate science. Development of the draft report is overseen by the 60-person National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee (NCADAC), whose members are diverse in background, expertise, geography and sector of employment, including

representatives from leading scientific universities, influential businesses, and various federal government agencies. In putting together the current version of the report, they engaged more than 240 authors, representing a wide sampling of the scientific community. The draft of the current —the Third -- National Climate Assessment is now receiving extensive review by the National Academy of Sciences and by the public (caution: the full report is 147 Mb).

Some findings of the 2013 draft:

- There is unambiguous evidence (from the tops of the atmosphere to the depths of the oceans around the globe) that the planet is warming. (There have now been 321 consecutive months with a global temperature above the 20th century average.)
- The United States average temperature has increased 1.5° F since 1895, 80% of which has been since 1980.
- Sea-level rise, combined with coastal storms, has increased the risk of erosion, storm-surge damage, and flooding for coastal communities.
- Climate change will influence human health in many ways; some existing health threats will intensify (including increases in marine and freshwater-borne disease), and new health threats will emerge.
- Extreme heat worsens drought and wildfire risks, and intensifies air pollution.
- Temperature rises lead to increasingly frequent extreme precipitation.

For the Southeast, the NCA highlights water stress as perhaps the main impact of climate change in years to come. “Decreased water availability, exacerbated by population growth and land-use change, is causing increased competition for water.” (This projection highlights the need for our region to switch from water-intensive energy production sources, like coal and nuclear, to water-free resources, like wind and solar.)

8B. Congressional task force on climate change

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA) have formed a bicameral Task Force on Climate Change -- spanning the House and the Senate. Their goal is to tackle climate change from every possible angle. They are communicating to the White House, working on legislation, and recruiting citizen members of the Task Force to demonstrate a ground-swell of public support. Visit <http://addressclimatechange.com/>

8C. Solar energy on public lands

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), a Dept. of the Interior agency, had proposed to open vast areas (80 million acres) of public lands across six Southwestern states to solar development. NRDC and other environmental groups developed a set of criteria for focusing on sites that had the best commercial potential, while protecting wildlife and fragile desert ecosystems. After this plan was submitted, BLM shrank the proposed area to 280,000

acres, encompassing 17 solar-energy zones. This is enough land to produce the clean energy needed for the foreseeable future.

8D. DOE Secretary Chu's climate-change concerns

Nobel Prize winner Steve Chu, the retiring DOE Secretary, was heavily concerned over the potentially devastating effects of climate change and did much to encourage the development of clean energy.

In a farewell letter to his staff, he wrote (in part): “The overwhelming scientific consensus is that human activity has had a significant and likely dominant role in climate change. There is also increasingly compelling evidence that the weather changes we have witnessed during this thirty-year time period are due to climate change. ...

“Many countries, but most notably China, realize that the development of clean energy technologies presents an incredible economic opportunity in an emerging world market. China now exceeds the U.S. in internal deployment of clean energy and in government investments to further develop the technologies.

“While we cannot accurately predict the course of climate change in the coming decades, the risks we run if we don’t change our course are enormous. Prudent risk management does not equate uncertainty with inaction.” ... [After conceding that oil & gas supplies will last many decades], “the Stone Age did not end because we ran out of stones; we transitioned to better solutions. The same opportunity lies before us with energy efficiency and clean energy, and the Department has played a significant role in accelerating the transition to affordable, accessible and sustainable energy.”

9. TCWP NEWS

9A. Upcoming activities

[Contributed by Carol Grametbauer]

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

Obed rafting trip with trash collection – Sat., March 30

This whitewater rafting/clean-up trip, from Devil's Breakfast Table to Nemo Bridge, is described in ¶4B, this NL. Here is additional information.

Pre-registration by Monday, March 25, is required. The weather and river conditions are unpredictable and decisions about the nature of the trip, or its actual occurrence, will be made the morning of the event. A few wet suits are available for loan to participants who may need them. Participants should wear wicking fabric and should avoid cotton clothes. They will need to bring lunch and water.

For more information or to preregister, call or write TCWP Executive Director Sandra Goss at 865.583-3967 or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com. Participants will meet at

9:00 a.m. ET at the Obed Wild and Scenic River Visitors Center in Wartburg. A carpool will leave from Oak Ridge around 8:15 AM.

Wildflower Greenway Garlic Mustard Pull and Wildflower Walk – Saturday, April 6

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

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

Southern Environmental Law Center program – Thursday, April 25

Anne Davis, Managing Attorney for the Southern Environmental Law Center's Nashville Office, will discuss the organization's work in protecting the environment in Tennessee. The program, co-sponsored with Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation, will begin at 7 p.m. in the Social Room at the Oak Ridge Civic Center.

Davis is a graduate of Vanderbilt University Law School, and practiced civil and criminal litigation with two of Nashville's leading law firms: Bass, Berry & Sims; and Neal & Harwell, where she became a partner in 1989. She has chaired the Nashville Mayor's Task Force on Environmental Sustainability. Davis was appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen to The Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund, and she and her husband, Karl Dean, were recipients of the 2011 Tennessee Environmental Council Sustainable Tennessee award.

The Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), a nonprofit advocacy organization based in Charlottesville, VA, is involved with protecting the environmental quality and natural resources of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. The SELC was the main signatory on a recent letter to the Tennessee's State Building Commission regarding the UT fracking study, which called into question potential legal issues including conflicts of interest and waivers of appraisal (§1A, this NL).

"Trails and Tales of the Cumberlands" – Thursday, May 2

Bobby Fulcher, Superintendent of the Cumberland Trail State Park, will host an evening of music, storytelling, and other reminders of the rich cultural heritage of the Cumberland Plateau and the people who live there. For most of his life Bobby has spent time getting to know the people, listening to the story of their lives, learning their songs, and preserving this knowledge to share with the rest of the world. Bobby will be accompanied by Charlie McCarroll, a fiddle player from Roane County, whose fa-

ther, Jimmy McCarroll, was a legend across the Plateau. The first part of the program will include Bobby and Charlie sharing their music; in the second half Bobby will share the stories of the lives of the people who lived on the Plateau.

The program, hosted by TCWP and the Emory River Watershed Association (ERWA), will begin at 6 p.m. in the Morgan County Board of Education meeting room in Wartburg (136 Flat Fork Road) and will last approximately two hours. To RSVP or more information, contact ERWA Outreach Coordinator Ruth Hurst at 423-346-3770 or at ruth.hurst@tn.nacdnet.net,

or TCWP Executive Director Sandra Goss

at 865-583-3967 or at sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

Devil's Breakfast Table Outing – Saturday, May 18

This is a joint outing for TCWP and the Tennessee Native Plant Society. We will explore cobble-bar areas on beautiful Daddy's Creek, then walk through a cliffy section of the Cumberland Trail. We should see the rare Cumberland rosemary and large-flowered Barbara's Buttons. We will also see the Devil's Breakfast Table, an impressive rock formation.

Participants can meet for carpooling, (1) at the BP station at the I-40 Crab Orchard exit (#329) east of Crossville at 11 a.m. (10 a.m. Central Time), or (2) in Oak Ridge in the parking area near The Rush on Illinois Avenue at 10 a.m. (meet at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near the Waffle House). We will caravan from Crab Orchard to the parking area at Daddy's Creek. Total walking distance will be less than three miles. Bring water, lunch, and bug spray.

For more information, contact Larry Pounds, 865-705-8516 (cell, best bet), 865-816-3576 (home), or at PoundsL471@aol.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.

9B. Recent events

Whites Creek Trail workday – Saturday, January 19

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

TCWP volunteers spent a beautiful winter day doing trail maintenance at TVA's Whites Creek Small Wild Area on Watts Bar Reservoir in Rhea County. Thirteen volunteers helped clear downed trees and clear brush away from the trail.

TCWP has partnered with TVA since 1984 to enhance and protect natural resources at Whites Creek SWA and many other places on public lands throughout East Tennessee as part of TCWP's ongoing stewardship efforts. The Whites Creek trail loops onto land that TCWP purchased from Bowater several years ago, thanks to the generous support of our members.

Alley Ford Cumberland Trail workday – Sat., February 23

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

TCWP and the Obed Wild and Scenic River held their annual trail maintenance day on the Alley Ford Seg-

ment of the Cumberland Trail. Stretching 2.5 miles from Nemo Bridge to the Alley Ford near the Catoosa Boundary, this segment has been TCWP's baby since we adopted it in 1998. With the help of Obed staff, UT students, area residents, and concerned hikers, the tread was widened and brush was cleared.

The 29 participants enjoyed a mostly sunny day with views of a full, fast-running Obed River. Some spotted trailing arbutus along the trail, under the leaves. This part of the Cumberland Trail is easily accessible, about two miles outside Wartburg.

This successful workday was a joint effort of Obed staff, Calvin Wenzel, Mary Alice Wilson, Larry Pounds, UT Professor Mike McKinney, and dedicated hikers. Thanks to all for your help with this.

Oak Ridge Cedar Barren cleanup – Saturday, March 2

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

TCWP completed another work day at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren State Natural Area. Despite cold temperatures and the possibility of snow in the forecast, we had 12 volunteers, including Jefferson Middle School students, Oak Ridge High School students, and a variety of other TCWP volunteers. We continued our restoration efforts at the Ellipse portion of the barren and in the City's power line right-of-way along Fairbanks Road by removing invasive exotic plants including bushy lespedeza, Chinese lespedeza, Chinese privet, oriental bush honeysuckle, autumn olive, Japanese honeysuckle, oriental bittersweet, and other invasive shrubs and vines from the area.

TVA provided some much-appreciated equipment for the workday, including work gloves, bow saws, and the ever-popular weed wrenches. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a hot pizza lunch (provided by TCWP) and a chance to visit with one another and inspect the newly created wetland at Jefferson Middle School. TCWP has partnered with the City of Oak Ridge and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation since 1988 to protect natural resources at Oak Ridge Cedar Barren State Natural Area.

9C. Support from a paddling club

The East Tennessee Whitewater Club recently donated \$200 to support TCWP's work. ETWC has been a great partner on the Obed, and we are most grateful for this generous support.

9D. Endowment honors Pat Mulholland

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

Pat Mulholland a former TCWP board member, was a long-time dedicated and effective advocate for the causes we believe in. An endowment in his honor of has now been established with the UT Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology. It will support a postdoc in conducting collaborative research (with EEB faculty and ORNL staff) in ecology or environmental sciences, focusing on pressing environmental issues related to global change. Cathey Daniels (Pat's widow) and Dr. Gary Jacobs (former director of ORNL'S Environmental Sciences Division) made

this fellowship a reality. This is the first post-doctoral endowment in UT's College of Arts and Sciences.

The endowment was established with a 5- to 10-year goal of reaching \$100,000. It is hoped that the amount will ultimately increase to at least \$1.5 million so that its income can fully fund the fellowship. For information of how to donate to this fund, contact EEB at 865-974-3065 or cjlynn@utk.edu. You can also write a check payable to The UT Foundation, and write "Pat Mulholland Endowment" on the memo line. Send it to EEB, 569 Dabney Hall, 1416 Circle Drive, Knoxville, TN 37996.

9E. EQAB membership changes

TCWP president Jimmy Groton's term on the Oak Ridge Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB) expired. Ellen Smith, President of AFORR, and former City Council member, has returned to EQAB. EQAB's new chair is Steve Kenworthy.

9F. A note from the Executive Director

Dear TCWP folk,

The annual Spring Cleaning of the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren, held earlier this month, was a great example of the importance of our maintenance work on public lands. Twice yearly, we've worked to eliminate exotic invasive plants on the Cedar Barren such as bicolor lespedeza, multiflora rose, and honeysuckle. These plants shade the barren, and that harms the unique prairie grasses that can be found there. Several years ago, there was a big patch of lespedeza that we removed and removed and removed again, cutting off seed pods and trashing them. Now that patch is gone!

Thanks to the continuing efforts of Barren Steward Tim Bigelow and other dedicated volunteers, the native prairie grasses occupy an area that's twice as large as it was a few years ago. Because the invasives have no natural enemies in this area, they can and will take advantage of any opening to take root and shade out the native prairie grasses. We humans must fight the good fight against them, continuously

TCWP also tends the Alley Ford segment of the Cumberland Trail, the Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area, the North Ridge Trail, the Wildflower Greenway, and Whites Creek Trail on a regular basis, and welcomes your participation at any of these events.

TCWP works to protect lands directly through clean-up or trail maintenance events and we also work to protect natural lands and waters through administrative and legislative resource-management decisions. A current resource management issue is UT's proposed Fracking Study.

On Friday, March 15, the State Building Commission will hold a hearing in Nashville regarding UT's request to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to lease drilling rights for natural gas (see ¶1A, this NL). The university proposes to conduct research on the fracking process on the UT-owned forests in Scott and Morgan counties.

The research is to be funded by proceeds from the natural gas wells that will be drilled on the property.

As written, the RFP and the proposed Fracking Study are ill-considered and do not adequately protect the interests of Tennessee citizens. I urge everyone reading this to write or call Governor Haslam (615.741-2001 or bill.haslam@tn.gov) before noon, Friday, March 15 and request that the Building Commission deny the request for a waiver of appraisal and defer the RFP until concerns regarding environmental liability and the University's transparency can be addressed.

In addition to our hands-on public lands stewardship and our analysis and commentary on resource-management issues, TCWP works to educate and empower folks with knowledge. TCWP Newsletters and e-lets inform recipients about topical issues, activities, and programs. Thanks to the Program Committee, we've scheduled some dynamite programs and activities for the next several weeks: Anne Davis talking about the Southern Environmental Law Center; Bob Fulcher and a guest playing traditional Cumberlands music; a whitewater-rafting cleanup trip down the Obed; a hike to Devil's Breakfast Table with the Tennessee Native Plant Society.

For more information about programs, activities, and issues, get in touch. It's going to be a good Spring!

Thanks for all you do to protect and enhance our incomparable natural resources.

Sandra

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



[From Sandra Goss]

- Jean Bangham, Frank Hensley, Charlie Klabunde, and Dick Raridon for preparing and mailing the TCWP newsletter.
- Carol Grametbauer for the huge job assembling the 2013 TCWP Political Guide, now available on the web site <http://www.tcwp.org>.
- Carol Grametbauer, Jimmy Groton, Charlie Klabunde, Lee Russell, and Warren Webb for help with the annual Community Shares Evaluation Report.
- Jan Lyons for serving as TCWP representative on the Community Shares Board, and trekking to Nashville for a meeting in January.
- Jimmy Groton for coordinating and leading the Whites Creek Cleanup.
- Francis Perey for responsive web-meister performance.
- Marion Burger for handling Kroger Gift Cards, a TCWP fund-raising program.
- Calvin Wenzel, Mary Alice Wilson, and Jimmy Groton for coordinating the publicity and activities for the recent Alley Ford Cleanup Day.
- Obed Wild and Scenic River for supporting the Alley Ford Cleanup Day with staff and tools.

- Jimmy Groton and Larry Pounds for leading the recent Oak Ridge Cedar Barren cleanup.
- Lee Russell for her stellar work on the TCWP Newsletter, as well as Carol Grametbauer, Jimmy Groton, Larry Pounds, and Jeff Hunter for contributing to the Newsletter.

9H. Erratum

In NL307 ¶13 (Action Summary), issue 5C should have been listed as "TVA energy policy." Please correct your copy.

10. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• CALENDAR

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

- March 16, hemlock treatment workshop (see ¶2D, this NL).
- March 22, Chattanooga, benefit concert for the Cumberland Trail (see ¶2B, this NL).
- March 30, Obed rafting trip (see ¶4B & ¶9A this NL).
- April 1, Registration starts for Appalachian Trail Conference (see ¶5D, this NL).
- April 6, Wildflower Greenway Garlic Mustard Pull and Wildflower Walk (see ¶9A, this NL).
- April 13, 6:00-11:00 PM, Community Shares Circle-of-Change Banquet (tickets from Sandra).
- April 25, Southern Environmental Law Center program (see ¶9A, this NL).
- April 27, Oak Ridge EarthFest, 11:00-5:00, Al Bissell Park, Oak Ridge
- May 2, Trails and Tales of the Cumberlands (see ¶9A, this NL).
- May 11, Obed River cleanup, sponsored by Obed Wild and Scenic River (NPS). Call 423-346-6294.
- May 18, Devil's Breakfast Table Outing with TNPS (see ¶9A, this NL).

•• RESOURCES

- TCWP's Political Guide is now on our website (<http://www.tcwp.org>). Use it often.
- Breakfast with the Legislators, hosted by League of Women Voters, is held on the fourth Monday of every month (while the Legislature is in session) from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Oak Ridge 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.

When you say "someone ought to do this or that," remember - you are "someone."

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Membership Renewal Now for 2013.
Please do this soon to benefit us all.
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WANTED
TCWP Ambassadors
Oak Ridge Earth Day
Secret City Festival
April 17, June 14 and 15
2-hour shifts
Training Provided