



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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Taking Care of Wild Places

The BIG stories

Mining in Catoosa could damage Obed WQ ¶1A

UT will issue RFP for fracking Cumberlands. ¶1B

Large economic benefits from Obed and BSF ¶3B

TVA lags in energy efficiency measures ¶5

Power line threatens preserved O.R. areas ¶7

Atmospheric CO₂ is now 400 ppm ¶6A

1. Tennessee: threats to the natural environment . . . p. 3
 A. Exploitation of mineral resources on TWRA's Catoosa lands
 B. UT will issue RFP for fracking Cumberland Forest
 C. Yet another mountaintop mine proposed for Claiborne County
 D. Mining near Whites Creek SWA
 E. Water-quality enforcement at all-time low

2. Tennessee: protection of the natural environment. . p. 4
 A. DOE Mountain management plan
 B. Only modest gains from the legislative session that just ended

3. Obed WSR and Big South Fork NRRA p. 4
 A. Obed water quality threatened by possible mining in Catoosa
 B. Economic benefits of Obed and BSF exceed \$35 million in 2011
 C. Obed outreach D. Animals and trees

4. The Cherokee and other national forests p. 5
 A. Tennessee Wilderness Act not yet introduced
 B. Corridor K planning has slowed down C. Roadless Rule here to stay
 D. A backdoor attempt to circumvent Roadless Rule protection

5. TVA: the good and the bad p. 6
 A. Renewable-energy program C. The need for more energy efficiency
 B. Marilyn Brown renominated for Board D. TVA keeps Gallatin running

6. National issues p. 7
 A. CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere rises to 400 ppm D. Fracking capsules
 B. Attempts to hold up EPA-Administrator confirmation E. 2012, a big year for wind and solar power
 C. President designates five new national monuments

7. Oak Ridge Reservation: Proposed power line threatens preserved areas p. 8

8. TCWP news (Forest plan for TCWP land; Activities; Honors for TCWP members; ED's column; Thanks) . . p. 8

9. Job opening; Calendar; Resources p. 11

10. ACTION SUMMARY p. 2

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

10. ACTION SUMMARY

No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Mining on Catoosa WMA	Sandra Goss	Sign up for e-lets (e-mail alerts)
1B	Fracking in Cumberland Forest	Gov. Haslam	"Please defer approval!"
4A	Wilderness in Cherokee NF	Sens. Alexander and Corker	"Please reintroduce Tennessee Wilderness Act!"
5B	Dr. Marilyn Brown's confirmation	Sens. Alexander and Corker	"Dr. Brown is ideal fit for TCWP Board. Please confirm!"
6B	EPA Administrator	Your US Senators	"Please confirm Gina McCarthy!"
6C	New national monuments	Pres. Obama	"Thanks for designations. Please consider additions!"
7	Power line near BORCE, greenway		Sign the online petition. Get others to do so also.
8B	TCWP activities	TCWP	Have fun participating in our activities

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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

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Dear Gov. Haslam
Respectfully yours,

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

There is much contact information in the up-to-date Political Guide. 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. *Exploitation of mineral resources on TWRA's Catoosa lands*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

There has been media coverage that the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) is currently negotiating with a coal company to allow coal mining on Catoosa Wildlife Management Area. A major part of the Obed's watershed is located on Catoosa, so there are real water-quality implications for any mining activities.

In conversations with TWRA Director Ed Carter, and TWRA staffer Dave McKinney, we learned the following: Hillsborough Coal Company (already a presence in Cumberland County) has asked to mine about 170 acres on Catoosa Wildlife Management Area. The company believes that there is metallurgical grade coal in the area. That's expensive coal, currently selling at \$60/ton, that is used in steel production

TWRA proposes to permit preliminary core drilling. The sites for the core drills have been vetted, and in some cases changed, by TWRA. Afterward, some of those core-drill sites will be platformed and made available to handicapped hunters. The cores are being drilled to ascertain how deep, wide, and far the vein is. They will penetrate the nasty Whitwell shale, and go beyond it. It will take 2-3 years to perform the core drilling tests. If the project proceeds, it will be a pillar-and-post mine, with no subsidence issues.

Various stakeholder groups including hikers, paddlers, conservationists, and public lands advocates, including TCWP, are keeping informed on these proceedings, which follow closely on the heels of UT's proposed Fracking Study on forests in Morgan and Scott counties (§1B, below).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: For updates on this fast-moving issue, sign up for e-lets through <http://www.tcwp.org> or by contacting sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

1B. *UT will issue RFP for fracking Cumberland Forest*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The UT Fracking Study, having been approved at the March State Building Commission Executive Subcommittee (NL308 §1A), is now ready for the next step, a pre-bid conference. This conference, requested by the Executive Subcommittee, is a way to insure that all possible drilling bidders have an opportunity to learn more about the Request for Proposals and what the proposals should cover.

UT officials have promised that they will post information about the pre-bid conference on the UTIA Gas & Oil research website. They note that the purpose of the pre-bid conference is to allow general contractors contemplating a bid to ask questions about the RFP. It is not a forum for questions or comments by the general public.

Several groups, including TCWP, Sierra Club, Southern Environmental Law Center, SOCM, Tennessee Clean Water Network, and League of Women Voters, discuss this issue regularly. Earlier this month, they held meetings with Knoxville media representatives to talk in detail about the concerns associated with the UT Fracking Study. Those include:

--Organizational Conflict of Interest in performing research that is funded by the industry being researched.*

--Lack of research plans, which are to be expected in any study.

--Liability that the university faces, should pristine headwaters be polluted from fracking.

*(The TV station WBIR on May 15 aired this e-mail from a UT Inst. of Agriculture professor: "My congratulations to the person who came up with the creative idea for a fracking research project as a means of gaining approval to lease petroleum reserves under the Cumberland Forest. I hope the lease yields much money for the experiment station.")

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge Governor Haslam (address on p.2) to defer any approval of these activities. Tell him that our public lands are to be preserved, protected, and enjoyed. He should not allow our natural treasure to be exploited by mining and drilling.

For updates on this issue, sign up for e-lets through www.tcwp.org <<http://www.tcwp.org>> or by contacting sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

1C. *Yet another mountaintop mine proposed for Claiborne County*

[Information from Tenn. Clean Water Network]

Earlier this year, we reported on Kopper Glo's proposed 1,500-acre Cooper Ridge mountaintop mine, with its 25 highly polluted sediment basins and its impact on existing streams that are home to a threatened fish (NL307 §1B; NL308 §1C). Last year, the Clear Fork Surface Mine was proposed that would discharge to Straight Creek. In mid-March, TCWP was one of six organization urging OSM not to grant the permit.

Now comes a third proposal, Apollo Fuels' 1,088-acre Sterling and Strays Surface Mine #1 (OSM3264), discharging to Valley Creek. This mine would be located just upstream from the Cooper Ridge mine, and would only add to the harmful effects of other past and present mining in the area. The number of jobs provided by these operations would be minimal.

1D. *Mining near Whites Creek SWA*

While we have not yet seen it on the ground, satellite pictures clearly show significant areas of disturbance due to surface stone mining only 0.3 miles (as the crow flies) outside TVA's Whites Creek Small Wild Area (SWA) and TCWP's parcel that abuts it. The mining is taking place on former Bowater land that was purchased by General Shale Inc. a few years ago and that lies gener-

ally southwest of our land. Currently, it is not visible from the SWA or the TCWP addition.

1E. Water-quality enforcement at all-time low

[Information from TCWN]

TCWN's analyses of the Tennessee Division of Water Resources' enforcement information show a drastic decline in enforcement orders. Most significantly, assessment of fines has dropped, fine forgiveness is at a high level, and pollution continues apace.

In 2012, violators on average paid only 41% of their assessed fines; only two paid more than half. Over half of the mandatory fines paid to the Department are under \$2,000. Construction and development activities made up over half of all enforcement taken in the past two years. The process of fine assessment is inconsistent, resulting in low fine collection up-front, and it contradicts the Department's own written procedures.

According to TCWN, the following is a possible reason for the decline in enforcement in the past two years. A new TDEC-wide policy encourages the regulated community to *self-police* and report when they commit violations. This policy shift may have led to the perception that enforcement is contrary to the Department's goals.

2. TENNESSEE: Protection of the natural environment

2A. Doe Mountain management plan

A year ago, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), working with the State of Tennessee, purchased the ~8,600-acre Doe Mountain property for \$8.8M (NL304 ¶2C). Located in Johnson County (surrounded by the Cherokee National Forest), it was one of the largest remaining blocks of forest still in private ownership in the Southern Blue Ridge Region. In selling Doe Mountain to the state, TNC's goal was to protect this land while allowing a carefully managed and measured approach to the development that will inevitably occur. Last year's General Assembly created the 15-member Doe Mountain Recreation Authority to work toward this goal.

TNC and the Authority are now seeking proposals from qualified environmental and recreational consultants to develop a management plan for the new area, a plan that will develop recreational opportunities on parts of the area without creating environmental damage. A major challenge will be to determine what to do with the existing 35+ miles of roads and trails.

For additional information, visit the Doe Mountain Recreation Authority website, www.doemountain.org, or contact TNC's Gabrielle Lynch at glynch@tnc.org.

2B. Only modest gains from the legislative session that just ended

The first session of the 108th General Assembly ended March 19, and the second will begin in January 2014. The good news is that the state land acquisition funds (from a small percentage of the real-estate transfer tax) remained in the budget enacted by the legislature in the amounts proposed by Gov. Haslam.

On the other hand, the positive bills we had hoped for, most notably the Scenic Vistas bill (which would have stopped mountaintop-removal coal mining), failed to move. It is a consolation, however, that TCW (Tennessee Conservation Voters) and others managed to stop or amend several bills that would have negative effects. Some modest improvements will be accomplished by these two bills that passed.

- SB941(Southerland)/HB945(Swann). As written, would have prohibited disposal of aluminum cans and plastic bottles in landfills. The amended version that passed *encourages recycling* of aluminum and plastics by giving credits to municipalities.
- SB1160(Stevens)/HB952(Wirgau). Requires public notice and public hearings on any proposed change in classification (regarding authorized waste) for landfills.

TCV has promised to provide an end-of-session summary, which we'll bring to you when available

3. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

3A. Obed water quality threatened by possible mineral extraction in Catoosa WMA

A major part of the Obed's watershed is contained in the state's Catoosa Wildlife Management Area. Mineral extraction that is now threatened for Catoosa would jeopardize the water quality of the Obed and its major and minor tributaries. Please read ¶1A, this NL, and take action.

3B. Economic benefits of Obed WSR and Big South Fork NRRR exceeded \$35 million in 2011

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The National Park Service has recently released a report on economic benefits to local communities from National Park visitation in 2011. The report indicates that the Obed Wild and Scenic River (WSR) had more than 212,000 visitors. Their spending during visits was more than \$9.7 million in the surrounding communities. The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area had more than 600,000 visitors and their spending was more than \$26 million.

This report is a result of an analysis conducted by Michigan State University for NPS. Most visitor-

spending supports jobs in lodging and food/beverage service. The report, which covers every National Park installation, is available at www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/products.

3C. *Obed outreach*

The Obed WSR is implementing an outreach initiative directed at area school children. Under the "National Park in Your Backyard" program, funded by a grant from the National Parks Foundation, every one of about 250 Morgan County 6th-graders is brought to the park for an all-day field trip. Most of these kids had never visited this park in their own county, and many didn't even know it existed.

The weeklong program, held at the end of the school year, is conducted by rangers from both the Obed WSR and the BSNRRA, who talk about the park's geology and ecology. The kids wade in creeks and get to look at aquatic organisms that they gather in nets. Most exciting for many of them is a climbing experience; and if the water flow is suitable they get to paddle a kayak or canoe below Lilly Bridge. Helping the rangers with these activities are volunteers from the East Tennessee Whitewater Club and the East Tennessee Climbers Coalition, who contribute many hours to the program.

An illustrated article on the subject can be viewed at <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2013/may/12/obed-program-invites-area-students-to-discover/>. The Obed WSR plans to repeat this program for one day, May 28, for Morgan County's Science Camp.

A similar program is getting under way at the BSNRRA. Thanks to a generous gift from the National Parks Foundation, 40 Oneida students in the 4th and 5th grades will have the opportunity to spend a night at BSF and learn about the park's natural and cultural resources.

3D. *Animals and trees*

- The bears that were reintroduced into the BSNRRA in the late 1990s are doing very well. Starting from the 14 females and 16 cubs imported from the Gt. Smoky Mtns. National Park, the population has grown to almost 300. As of now, the BSNRRA bears may not be hunted.
- The March-16 hemlock-conservation workshop at The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Upper Obed Reserve (NL308 ¶2D) was a good success. About 130 trees were treated by 29 participants, who received hands-on training in the process. Four state and federal agencies of the Hemlock Conservation Partnership were represented, in addition to TNC staff. Of the almost 150,000 acres in Tennessee that are potentially at risk of infestation by the hemlock woolly adelgid, more than half are on public lands.

4. The CHEROKEE and other NATIONAL FORESTS

4A. *Tennessee Wilderness Act not yet re-introduced*

The unopposed Tennessee Wilderness Act, which would have added about 20,000 acres (in six areas) to designated Wilderness in the Cherokee National Forest, died with the past Congress. This 112th Congress was the first in half a century that failed to pass *any* wilderness legislation. Next year is the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964, a bill conceived in large measure right here in Knoxville by Harvey Broome and comrades of the Wilderness Society. How great it would be to have the Act passed and signed by then!

So why no movement yet? As an editorial in the *Kingsport Times News* states: "passage of the [Tennessee Wilderness Act] would not close any roads, would not require new appropriations, and would not cause any loss of taxes to local communities." Senators Alexander and Corker, who introduced the bill in the past Congress, and who have expressed support for it, need to be reminded to take action again. And support must also come from the House, especially from Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-3), who now has four of the areas in his district (NL308 ¶5A).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Please contact Senators Alexander & Corker (addresses on p.2) and encourage them to reintroduce the Tennessee Wilderness Act. Also, encourage your Representative, especially Chuck Fleischmann, to support the bill, should it come before the House. More information on http://tnwild.org/get_involved.

4B. *Corridor K planning has slowed down*

The long-ongoing Corridor K project, which could result in a new major highway through the Cherokee, causing damage to streams, wildlife, and recreation (NL308 ¶5B; NL302 ¶4A), has been slowed down lately. TDoT (TN Dept. of Transportation) has been stalling on promised documents and public meetings. They have been having trouble with various environmental issues, and some of the consulting agencies disagree with TDoT's alternatives.

Speaking at a recent meeting of the Southeast Tennessee Rural Planning Organization (the area group that has provided most of the impetus for the Corridor K development), TDoT Commissioner John Schroer noted that Tennessee has \$350 million in Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) funds, but part of this money is obligated elsewhere. He thus has only \$300 million for Corridor K, which is a \$1 billion project. Also, he is positive that the State will be sued regarding environmental matters pertaining to Corridor K.

He said TDoT is thinking about trying to utilize the \$300 million as efficiently as they can to make the road (Hwy. 64) safer. He is thinking of perhaps doing "spot

improvements" along Hwy. 64 that would qualify for "categorical exclusions" for environmental-assessment purposes.

4C. Roadless Rule here to stay

The latest in more than a decade of legal challenges to the 2001 Roadless Rule came from the state of Alaska. Not only was it the latest, it was also the last, because the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia dismissed the Alaska lawsuit for being filed after the six-year statute of limitations. The motions to dismiss were filed by the US Department of Justice, with NRDC and EarthJustice as intervenors. The court held that no further challenges are allowed.

The rule, which the Clinton Administration's Forest Service adopted with overwhelming public support, has withstood every one of innumerable legal challenges, and the 50+ million acres of inventoried roadless areas should now be safely protected from road construction and commercial logging. Last fall, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal on a similar lawsuit brought by the State of Wyoming and a mining-industry group from Colorado.

See, however ¶4D, below, for a new kind of threat.

4D. A backdoor attempt to circumvent Roadless Rule protection

[Information from Earthjustice's 5/6/13 Alert]

The Draft Forest Management Plan for the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in Arizona includes "Alternative C," which would manage nearly all that Forest's roadless areas as open to road construction and commercial logging. Worse, the Forest Service is not even coming clean with the public about the fact that adopting Alternative C would require rolling back the Roadless Rule. Unless this scheme of working through the Forest Planning process is nipped in the bud, the bad idea could spread to all the country's national forests.

5. TVA: the good and the bad

(TVA celebrated its 80th birthday on May 18)

5A. TVA's renewable-energy program

Green Power Switch is a program under which TVA power customers can volunteer to pay for blocks of 150 kWh renewable power. The mix of power sources was as follows for 2012: wind 47.6%, biogas 46.5%, solar 5.9%. The projected mix for 2013 is wind is 57.6, biogas 35.8, solar 6.6%, i.e., a significant growth of wind, at the expense of biogas.

The amount of renewable energy sold through the Green Power Switch program has shown steady but slow growth. Thus, between 2008 and 2011, it went from a little over 80,000 to about 90,000 MWh. In 2012, it was boosted to almost 130,000 MWh by a new pilot program that provides a lower-cost bulk-purchase option for larger consumers of electricity.

5B. Marilyn Brown is re-nominated for TVA Board

In late March, Pres. Obama once again nominated Marilyn Brown for a full term on the TVA Board of Directors. The original nomination for a full term was blocked by Tennessee's two Senators, and while four other nominees were confirmed by the Senate on January 1, she was not (NL307 ¶5A and B). Sen. Corker wrote: "... producing economical electricity must continue to be a priority for TVA. I believe every board member must have an abiding appreciation of TVA's important economic development role Unfortunately, Dr. Brown does not share that point of view."

Dr. Brown is a prestigious scientist who specializes in energy conservation and efficiency and has a distinguished record of employment and performance, including two productive years on the TVA Board (NL307 ¶5B). Her background certainly qualifies her in full measure, and the Board could only benefit from what she has to offer. TVA and the region need wise energy-efficiency strategies (¶5C, this NL), and Dr. Brown is a leading expert in this field

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge Senators Alexander & Corker (addresses on p.2) to confirm Dr. Marilyn Brown for a full term on the TVA Board. Dr. Brown's great qualifications and special expertise would benefit the region's electricity needs and economic well-being.

5C. TVA needs to provide more energy efficiency

[Information from *Tennes-Sierran*]

Proper energy-efficiency measures could save, rather than cost, dollars -- without the need to cut down on services. According to the TN Healthy Energy Campaign, many of the top distributors in the TVA service region *want* to get involved in delivering energy efficiency to their customers. They would like TVA to expand its energy-saving offerings. TVA did a study on its energy-efficiency potential and found that it could quadruple the size of its current program. Despite all this, TVA remains behind all other utilities, both nationally and regionally, in energy-efficiency programs.

5D. TVA keeping Gallatin running; but is saving mussel facility

[Based on information from Sierra Club]

Ignoring public sentiment, TVA announced plans in early April to move forward with its proposal to dump \$1 billion into the 50+-year-old Gallatin coal-fired power plant. The plant will be retrofitted with air-pollution control equipment and kept running. A lawsuit by SELC, challenging this plan, is pending (¶8C-SELC program). Gallatin is the third largest producer of climate-disrupting carbon emissions in Tennessee and it creates tons of toxic coal ash. Keeping Gallatin open means \$1 billion for higher electricity bills, and decades more of unnecessary air, water, and climate pollution. The \$1 billion could

have been more wisely and economically spent on energy-efficiency measures (§5D, this NL).

TVA had planned to do away with a nearby mussel propagation center, the Cumberland River Aquatic Center Nursery, to make room for the additional coal ash produced by the Gallatin coal-fired plant. The threat of an endangered-species lawsuit by a number of groups, however, made the agency agree to spare the highly effective facility. About 75% of the region's mussels are now at risk of extinction. As compensation for damage inflicted on wildlife by its dam system, TVA is required by law to support the Center's operation.

6. NATIONAL ISSUES

6A. **Atmospheric CO₂ concentrations have risen to 400 ppm*: a terrifying milestone on the path to disaster**

[From George Monbiot, in *The Guardian*]

“At no point in the preindustrial record have concentrations of carbon dioxide in the air risen above 300 parts per million (ppm). ... 400 ppm is a station on the Via Dolorosa of environmental destruction. It is symbolic of our failure to put the long-term prospects of the natural world and the people it supports above immediate self-interest. ...

“The only way forward now is back: to retrace our steps and seek to return atmospheric concentrations to around 350ppm, as the 350.org campaign demands. That requires, above all, that we leave the majority of the fossil fuels that have already been identified in the ground. There is not a government or an energy company that has yet agreed to do so. ... The problem is simply stated: the power of the fossil fuel companies is too great. ...

“This new climate milestone reflects a profound failure of politics, in which democracy has quietly been supplanted by plutocracy. Without a widespread reform of campaign finance, lobbying and influence-peddling and the systematic corruption they promote, our chances of preventing climate breakdown are close to zero.”

* Above 350 ppm, changes become virtually irreversible. Decreasing atmospheric CO₂ concentrations is a *very* slow process. We must stop *increasing* it.

6B. **Attempts to hold up EPA-Administrator confirmation**

[Based on information from League of Conservation Voters]

A group of Republican senators is attempting to block the confirmation of Gina McCarthy as EPA Administrator by boycotting her nomination hearings; eight of them failed to show up at the hearings on May 9. These eight have a combined total of \$5.2 million in campaign contributions from the fossil fuel industry.

McCarthy 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 is known as a fair-minded and dedicated public-health official who has worked under administrations of both parties and with utilities and state regulators, which bear the brunt of implementing EPA rules. In 2009, she was easily confirmed to head EPA's Clean Air Division.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your Senators (p.2, this NL) to tell them to get Gina McCarthy confirmed without further delay.

6C. **Pres. Obama designates five new national monuments**

On March 25, President Obama designated five new national monuments in six states. Wonderful landscapes will now be protected in the Río Grande del Norte National Monument in New Mexico and the San Juan Islands National Monument in Washington State. Three other new national monuments are of historical significance: the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad NM in Maryland, the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers NM in Ohio, and the First State National Monument in Delaware and Pennsylvania.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank Pres. Obama (see p.2) for designating these important National Monuments, and urge him to keep using the Antiquities Act to designate future ones.

6D. **Fracking capsules**

- Between January 2011 and September 2012, the 25,450 wells in the FracFocus* database used 65.8 billion gallons of water, or the amount of water 2.5 million Americans use in a year. Because the site doesn't have data for every single well in the country, the total water impact of fracking is probably even higher.

*(FracFocus is a voluntary national registry of locations and water usage of fracking wells.)

- In the first federal court decision to directly examine an agency's review of the potential environmental impacts of fracking, a federal magistrate judge in the Northern District of California ruled that the Bureau of Land Management violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) when the agency failed to prepare an EIS prior to entering into two oil and gas leases with companies seeking to conduct fracking. ... The decision, if upheld, may cause BLM to require greater environmental scrutiny of fracturing proposals on public lands.

6E. **2012, a big year for wind and solar power**

[Information from Green Power Switch News]

Decreasing costs and increased generating capacity made 2012 a record year for renewable energy. Solar photovoltaic (PV) panel prices dropped by 60% since the beginning of 2011. PV installations grew 76% over

2011, to total 3,313 megawatts (MW) in 2012. Cumulative PV installations in the U.S. surpassed 300,000.

Even better for wind: 2012 saw a record 13,124 MW of *new* wind electric generating capacity in the U.S., achieving over 60,000 MW of cumulative wind capacity. That is enough to power the equivalent of almost 15,000,000 homes.

7. OAK RIDGE RESERVATION

Proposed power line threatens preserved areas

[Contributed by Frank Hensley and Sandra Goss]

An above-ground 69 KV power line, approximately 2 miles long, is being proposed to supply power to Horizon Center, an Oak Ridge business park. The City of Oak Ridge would construct this power line, which would run alongside the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE), the East Fork Natural Area (EFNA), and the North Boundary Greenway. Several alternative routes are available for this power line.

The EFNA is a 490-acre protected riparian area, set aside by DOE as mitigation for transferring 500 acres (subsequently named Horizon Center) to the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET). The BORCE is a 2,900-acre conservation easement given to the State of Tennessee as compensation for DOE's contamination of Watts Bar Lake.

The above-ground power-line right-of-way, 50 feet wide, would require that over a mile of forested land be cleared on the East Fork Natural Area and along the North Boundary Greenway and BORCE. An additional mile of power line, though not within the EFNA, would run along the North Boundary Greenway and BORCE.

This above-ground power line degrades the North Boundary Greenway, the BORCE, and the EFNA.

TCWP, AFORR and other organizations are circulating a petition to the Oak Ridge City Council and to DOE officials that requests either an alternative route or an underground installation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Oak Ridgers are encouraged to sign a petition at http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/dont-spoil-greenway-use?source=c.fwd&r_by=7813966 by Monday, May 27.

8. TCWP NEWS

8A. Forest management plan for TCWP's Rhea County land

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

Several years ago, TCWP purchased almost 47 acres of land in Rhea County adjacent to TVA's Whites Creek Small Wild Area. We purchased the land to protect a large part of the trail that we built at the SWA in the

1980s. When we registered our deed with the Rhea County Tax Assessor's office we applied for Greenbelt status, which put us in a lower tax bracket for property taxes. Due to a clerical error the property was classified in an incorrect status. Earlier this year, the Rhea County Tax Assessor's office discovered the error and informed us that we needed to re-file our Greenbelt application and provide a Forest Management Plan in order to keep our Greenbelt status. Failure to do so would have resulted in us having to pay a rollback charge, which presumably would amount to the back-taxes difference between the reduced rate that we have been paying and the non-greenbelt rate, plus a penalty.

We contacted Joe Feeman, retired TVA forester, who is now a Consulting Forester, and he agreed to help us. Joe worked with board members Charlie Klabunde, Frank Hensley, and Jimmy Groton to develop a Forest Management Plan for our Whites Creek property. The plan identifies our primary management goals as forest recreation, wildlife habitat preservation, and forest protection, and has allowed us to keep our Greenbelt status. Joe Feeman really helped us out; we owe him a great debt of gratitude.

8B. Upcoming activities

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

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

National Trails Day workday with TVA at Whites Creek – Saturday, June 1

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

On June 1 TCWP will celebrate National Trails Day at the Whites Creek Small Wild Area on Watts Bar Reservoir in Rhea County. We will work on cutting back some of the brush along the trail and restoring the trail blazes. TCWP has partnered with TVA since the 1980s to protect the small wild area and build the trail that wanders through it.

Workday participants should wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring work gloves and brushing tools that can be used to cut and remove vegetation from the side of the trail. Portable weed whackers would also be helpful. Bring water, snacks, and/or a lunch, and be prepared for exposure to a lot of poison ivy in some places.

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.

North Ridge Trail hikers invited to tailgate breakfast – Saturday, June 15

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

All North Ridge Trail hikers are invited to attend an NRT Tailgate Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on June 15. Attendees will be able to learn about the trail's rich history and ongoing maintenance efforts, and can tour a section of the trail. The breakfast will be at the Oak Ridge KARM

Thrift Store parking lot, 346 N. Illinois (south end of lot, toward the Turnpike). Those who want to tour the section of trail just east of Illinois are encouraged to bring loppers or shears so we can trim the trail as we go.

Rocky Fork State Park hike – Saturday, July 27

[Contributed by Larry Pounds]

This mid-summer outing, to be led by State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath, will give hikers a chance to see Rocky Fork, our new state park -- our first in the Blue Ridge Mountains. We'll walk two to three miles on graveled vehicle trails through gorgeous Appalachian scenery and lush plant life, followed by an opportunity to cool off by wading or swimming in a crystal-clear cold mountain stream. The hike is rated moderate.

We will meet for carpooling at 8:30 a.m. in the Rush/Books-a-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge ((meet at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near the Waffle House); or, hikers can meet the group at the I-26 Welcome Center on the Tennessee state line at 11 a.m. (Take I-81 to I-26 going toward Johnson City. Pass through Johnson City and exit to the Welcome Center near the North Carolina border.)

Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray. For more information, contact TCWP board member Larry Pounds at PoundsLA71@aol.com or at 865-705-8516 (cell) or 865-816-3576 (home).

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

8C. Recent events

Obed rafting trip with trash collection -- March 30

(Contributed by Billy Bob Scarborough)

TCWP organized an on-the-river river clean-up in cooperation with Chota Canoe Club, East Tennessee White-water Club, and the Obed Wild & Scenic River unit of the National Park Service. The date was chosen because it was the only weekend before May that the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area was not closed for a turkey hunt. We had seven hard boats and two duckies, plus three rafts guided by NPS staff. There were 14 volunteers and four NPS rangers.

We started in Catoosa at Devil's Breakfast Table. The cleanup began at the put-in and continued down to Obed Junction (OBJ). It was surprising how much trash was collected from this stream so far back in the wilderness. Along with the usual glass and plastic, there were old tires, the remains of wrecked canoes, etc. By the time we got to OBJ, we had used up almost all of our garbage bags, and a lot of the day. Perhaps next year's clean-up can concentrate on picking up between OBJ and the Clear Creek confluence, so we can eventually get the whole river run cleaned up.

Below OBJ we moved more rapidly, but continued to pick up some of the more obvious trash. The Obed enters the Obed Canyon below OBJ, and it has to be one of the most beautiful canyons in the world. Besides the scenery, there was lots of wildlife: kingfishers, wood ducks, and some were lucky enough to see river otters in two different pools. We arrived at Nemo at about 5 pm – tired, but happy for having earned so much good river karma, and looking forward to doing it again next year.

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

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

On Saturday, April 6, TCWP sponsored its annual Garlic Mustard Pull at the Wildflower Greenway in Oak Ridge. We had cool but otherwise beautiful weather for this year's event. In all there were 25 participants representing TCWP, Greenways Oak Ridge, and students and teachers from Jefferson Middle School and Oak Ridge High School.

The cool weather we've had this year delayed the development of the wildflowers and the garlic mustard, but we still filled a large number of trash bags with garlic mustard. The students were inspired to do more than just bag invasive plants; they also picked up a large amount of other trash and debris cast off from past residents of the apartments next to the greenway. We got a lot accomplished, and rewarded ourselves with a pizza lunch afterwards.

Southern Environmental Law Center program – Thursday, April 25

About 20 TCWP and Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation members gathered at the Oak Ridge Civic Center to hear Anne Davis, Managing Attorney for the Southern Environmental Law Center's Nashville office, discuss the SELC's work in Tennessee. The program was cosponsored by TCWP and AFORR.

The Nashville office is one of six now operating in each of the states – Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia – in which the SELC (based in Charlottesville, VA) works. Davis was hired in 2011, and the office is now fully staffed. It filed its first lawsuit on April 25 against TVA for violating national environmental policy by planning to spend \$1 billion installing pollution controls at its coal-fired Gallatin power plant without fully studying alternatives to the upgrade.

Issues the office is currently tracking include hydraulic fracturing (including UT's proposed fracking project in Morgan and Scott counties); the Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition, aimed at protecting 65,000 acres of Plateau forestland; the damage done by off-roading in prohibited areas, such as the Cummings Cove WMA on Aetna Mountain; and Corridor K (proposed rerouting of Highway 64 through the Cherokee National Forest). The 11-person office has a budget of \$1.3 million for its work in

Tennessee, and is funded through donations from foundations and individuals.

When asked during the question-and-answer period about what TCWP and AFORR members can do to help the Nashville Office in its work, Davis suggested checking their website (see ¶9-Resources) from time to time to see what they're working on, and "serving as our eyes and ears" by letting them know what's going on.

"Trails and Tales of the Cumberland" – Thursday, May 2
(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

Bobby Fulcher, Superintendent of the Cumberland Trail State Park, hosted an evening of music, story-telling, 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 alternated between guitar and banjo, while Charlie McCarroll shared his talents on the fiddle. Charlie learned the fiddle from his father, Jimmy McCarroll, a legendary fiddle player who recorded in the 1920s and wrote many songs that are standards today. Together Bobby and Charlie demonstrated the traditional music of the Plateau and shared the stories behind the songs. TCWP and Emory River Watershed Association co-sponsored the event.

Obed WSR River Clean-up and Volunteer Lunch - Saturday May 11

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

Again, this year, the Obed Wild and Scenic River sponsored its annual River Cleanup and Volunteer Appreciation Lunch. The cleanup event concentrated on litter pickup at the major river access points in the park. In all there were nearly 40 volunteers representing Morgan County residents, Emory River Watershed Association, East Tennessee Whitewater Club, and TCWP. Volunteers worked until noon, then assembled back at the Obed Visitor Center for grilled hotdogs and hamburgers supplemented by side dishes and desserts brought by participants.

8D. Honors for TCWP members

• Tree planted to honor TCWP President Jimmy Groton

The Oak Ridge Environmental Quality Advisory Board has planted a tree in recognition of Jimmy's service as EQAB member for 18 years (Sept. 1994 through Dec. 2012), most recently as President, and for continuing service to enhancing environmental stewardship in our community. About 20 people attended the planting ceremony in Bissell Park, as rain was beginning to fall at the start of the Earth Day celebration. The tree, a big native sugar maple (*Acer saccharum Legacy 2*), will be an initial planting to replace the decaying weeping willow trees at the confluence of the tributary leading to the larger stream that flows through Bissell Park near the Friendship Bell.

• Award to Virginia Dale

The U.S. Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology has named Dr. Virginia Dale the 2013 "Distinguished Landscape Ecologist." She has been at the center of landscape ecology since the 1980s, and in her current role as Director of ORNL's Center for BioEnergy Sustainability, she is focused on land-use impacts of biofuel production, and the identification of ecological indicators to produce biofuels sustainably. According to the citation, "she has co-authored 7 books and nearly 200 publications covering topics in land use change and climate change (and the interaction between the two), forest management, bioenergy, ecological modeling, and biodiversity conservation."

• Ray Payne featured by media

A long April 9 posting to knoxnews.com describes Ray's conservation activities in the Smokies. In addition to hiking every trail several times and logging 3,600 hours as park volunteer, Ray has been a dedicated fighter for Wilderness in the Smokies, devoting a decades-long of effective effort to stopping the proposed Northshore Road – the "Road to Nowhere." Now that the road has been stopped, Ray would like to see Wilderness legislated for the area in order to provide permanent protection.

8E. Executive Director's column

[By Sandra Goss]

Over the past three years, a lot of my work time has been devoted to mineral-extraction issues. From the state's oil and gas rules, to the proposed UT Fracking study, and most recently the proposal to mine on TWRA lands, our lands are at risk

The oil and gas rules have been a concern for more than two years. There were two rounds of rule-making. An ad-hoc coalition of concerned organizations has worked together on the rules, and we continue to work together on the drilling and mining threats to our public lands.

TCWP has been working with allied organizations for many years, and it has served us well. Working together, we sister organizations (National Parks Conservation Association, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, SOCM, Southern Environmental Law Center, Tennessee Clean Water Network, Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, and others) can share our individual areas of expertise, as well as our human resources. Our combined efforts go much farther than any one organization can go.

The reinstated real-estate transfer fund, massive land acquisitions for the Heart of the Cumberland initiative, holding off legislative and administrative threats to water and air quality -- these victories are the result of working together. I know many who read this column have made calls, written letters, visited officials, analyzed documents and otherwise contributed to the positive developments we've reaped.

Well, we have a big job ahead of us now. As you can read in other parts of this newsletter, mineral extraction is proposed for lands owned by the state. The Uni-

versity of Tennessee has proposed a Fracking Study on forests it owns in Morgan and Scott counties (§1B). Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is entertaining mining proposals for some of its land. (§1A).

Both UT and TWRA are famously strapped for cash. They're asked to do more with less. It's predictable that each of them would look favorably at the potential income that coal mining and oil and gas drilling could provide.

We citizens must speak up for Tennessee lands. It is up to us, and our friends, and our family to advocate loudly and effectively for our lands and waters. Please take a moment to write or e-mail Governor Haslam. Ask for a deferral on decisions regarding UT Fracking and TWRA mining.

In the face of all this advocacy work, it helps to get outdoors and enjoy Tennessee's bountiful wild lands and waters. Don't miss the July 27 Rocky Fork State Park hike led by State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath (§8B, above). It's a great chance to experience Tennessee's newest state park.

Thanks to each of you for your work and support of TCWP. Hope to see you at one of our events soon.

Sandra

8F. Thanks, and a tip of the hat to ...



[From Sandra Goss]

- Frank Hensley, Charlie Klabunde, and Dick Raridon for putting the March TCWP newsletter (paper version) together for mailing. Did you know? TCWP Newsletter is now also available in PDF form. Simply e-mail Treasurer Charlie Klabunde at klabundece@aol.com to request this.)
- Jimmy Groton, Frank Hensley, Jan Lyons, Lee Russell, Ellen Smith, and Warren Webb for their help with the Radioactive Waste Education Survey.
- Obed Wild and Scenic River staff Niki Nicholas, Matt Hudson, Thomas Hall, Noel Mays, Moria Painter, Brett Painter, shuttler Kary Scarborough, and safety boaters Billy Bob Scarborough, Russell deCastongrene, Rick Zingg, Thomas Lessick, Don Safer, Sam Suffern, Andy Christiansen, Frank Hensley for contributing to a very successful River Cleanup on March 30.
- Marion Burger for contributing an item for Community Shares Silent Auction at the Circle of Change Banquet.
- Roger Macklin and Jimmy Groton for their leadership of the well-attended Wildflower Greenways Tour and Garlic Mustard Pull.
- Special thanks to Joe Feeman, Consulting Forester, who prepared the Forest Management Plan for our Rhea County property adjacent to TVA's Whites Creek Small Wild Area; and to Frank Hensley for showing Joe around our property; and to Warren Webb, Lee Russell, and Charlie Klabunde for helping to edit the plan.
- Anne Davis, Managing Attorney for the Tennessee Southern Environmental Law Center office, for an interesting and informative presentation on SELC's work in Tennessee.

- Charlie Klabunde, Frank Hensley, Virginia Dale, Bill Johnston, Ellen Smith, and Wolf Naegeli for their help with the Anne Davis presentation.
- Bobby Fulcher and Charlie McCarroll for a very enjoyable program of music and stories at the May 2 program.
- Emory River Watershed Association for cosponsoring the Fulcher/McCarroll program.
- Jimmy Groton, Linda Higginbotham, and Paisley Gunter for helping with the May 2 *Tales and Trails of the Cumberland* event poster.

9. JOB OPENING; CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• JOB OPENING

Part-time, temporary position open at the Eastern National Bookstore at the Big South Fork Bandy Creek Visitor Center. The position is clerical in nature and pays \$7.50-\$8.00/hr. Applicants must have a driving license and reliable transportation. Applicant needs a basic knowledge of computers and Microsoft Office and must be able to lift 30 lbs. Prior retail experience is a plus. Send resumes to aimeem@easternnational.org. Feel free to email or call 304-890-6651 for more information.

•• CALENDAR

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

- June 1, National Trails Day workday at Whites Creek (see §8B, this NL).
- June 15, North Ridge Trail tailgate breakfast (see §8B, this NL).
- June 21-22, Oak Ridge Secret City Festival.
- July 27, Rocky Fork State Park hike (see §8B, this NL).
- August 17 (tentative) Cedar Barren event (see next NL).

•• RESOURCES

- Information on the structure and programs of the Southern Environmental Law Center's (SELC's) Nashville office (see §8C, this NL) and on the regional organization can be found at their website, [www.southernenvironment.org/about/offices/nashville_of](http://www.southernenvironment.org/about/offices/nashville_office) [fice](http://www.southernenvironment.org/about/offices/nashville_of).
- *Panoramic Images of the Smokies* by Elgin P. Kintner, MD, may be enjoyed at www.kiva.lib.utk.edu/kintner. These images were originally created in the 1960s and 1970s as single photographs and, using modern technology, have been stitched together to form a series of seamless panoramas.
- *Guides to the Snakes, Frogs, and Salamanders of Anderson County* are on the website CRESO@cresosnake.com of the Clinch River Environmental Studies Organization. These three guides are available as pdf's. Contact John Byrd (a long-time TCWP member) at cresosnake@aol.com.

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Please do this soon to benefit us all.
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Warren Webb.....Director
Sandra Goss Executive Director

HELP WANTED

Seat available on TCWP Program Committee, with responsibility for developing and implementing activities and programs for TCWP members and outdoor enthusiasts.

Seeking volunteer to facilitate website updates, with webmeister Francis Perey. Responsible for requesting removal of out-of-date posts, and placement of new ones.

TCWP Representative at outdoor festival--Several shifts available for TCWP Ambassador at June 21 and 22 Secret City Festival. Bring a friend or get paired up with another ambassador. Training provided.

Trail Monitor — North Ridge Trail has a few unadopted segments. Monitors are responsible for walking trail segment monthly and reporting downed trees, etc.

CALL 865-583-3967 OR WRITE SANDRA@SANDRAKGOSS.COM