

12. ACTION SUMMARY

No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Withdrawals from Obed watershed	TCWP	Check TCWP website for suggested actions. Get on e-lerst list
2C	Claiborne County stripmine	By 10/4,Dave.Turner@tn.gov	"Deny this permit application!"
4A	Wilderness in Cherokee NF	Reps. Roe & Fleischmann	"Introduce Senate bill in the House!" Copy to editors of papers
4B	Corridor K in Cherokee NF	TDoT website	Sign up for mailing list to indicate interest and receive notices
4C	Fracking in national forests	FSEEE and other groups	Keep informed; join campaigns
6A	Carbon pollution from power plants	EPA.	"I strongly support limiting these carbon emissions!"
6B	Energy-efficiency bill	Your US senators	"Keep S.1392 clean of damaging amendments!"
7B	Federal coal leasing	DoI Secretary Sally Jewell	"Place a moratorium on this disastrous program!"
9A	New Kroger benefit program	Kroger website	Sign up for easy community rewards program

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. John Doe
U.S. House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Pres. Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111 (comments);
456-1414 (switchbd); Fax 456-2461
www.whitehouse.gov/contact

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

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Haslam
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bob Corker
Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-0566
e-mail: <http://corker.senate.gov/public/>
Local: 865-637-4180 (FAX 637-9886)
800 Market St., Suite 121, Knoxville 37902

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

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

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

There is much contact information in the up-to-date Political Guide. 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.

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

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

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

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

1. CONTINUING THREATS TO THE OBED

1A. *The Obed watershed should not be used for Cumberland County water supply!*

The Crab Orchard Utility District's proposal to "harvest" water from Daddy's Creek (NL 310 ¶1A) at flows above 20 cubic feet per second (a pretty low flow) has been formalized in a permit application submitted to the Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). Having fought several battles in the past to keep the Obed watershed protected from withdrawals for Cumberland County's water supply, TCWP has been concerned by this latest attempt.

- Regardless of what the harvesting threshold would be (and it would, actually, be quite low), there would be damage to the watershed at all flows. The seasonal high flows are essential to the ecology of the river corridor.
- Once COUD starts removing water, who is going to make sure they take it only at certain flows?
- What remedies do we have if COUD violates whatever limits get set?
- This could very well set a precedent that encourages water withdrawals from other parts of the watershed.

For these and other reasons, TCWP and several other groups have begun to conference on this topic about every 3-4 weeks. Our Exec. Dir. Sandra Goss reports that the groups collectively monitor the permitting process, the COUD Board meetings, and the Army Corps of Engineers water-supply report.

The National Park Service will meet with the COUD general manager on September 26. In the meantime, NPS has written to TDEC, outlining a number of hurdles that the utility district's proposed project would encounter.

- It would require a TVA 26(a) permit as well as a Corps of Engineers permit.
- It is likely to require federal funding.
- By Sec. 7(a) of the WSR Act, NPS must determine whether the project will "unreasonably diminish" the Park's scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values.
- Daddys Creek is a designated Exceptional Tennessee Water, and the Obed River is a designated Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW).
- The Obed WSR supports four federally protected species. Obed and Daddys Creek are critical habitat for two of these.

NPS points out that, in place of the past and present piece-meal approach taken to address regional water demands, the region needs a comprehensive water-supply plan that takes into account mandates of the Obed WSR System. COUD's proposal states that its variable withdrawal rate would be ~5% of stream flow. Together with water harvested from Lake Tansi, however, the proposed project could remove as much as 8% of Daddys Creek flow.

TDEC is still reviewing the COUD proposal to determine whether the permit application contains all the required information. If and when it does, the public participation phase of the permit application review will commence and a public hearing will be announced.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Although the project currently appears to be on a slow track, things could move quickly. Please get on our e-lert list (contact Sandra Goss at sandra@sandrakgoss.com) and/or frequently check our website (www.tcwp.org), so we can keep you informed of needed comments and upcoming hearings.

1B. *Potential impacts from coal mining near or under Catoosa WMA*

Two separate activities -- with geographically adjacent sites -- are being monitored: (a) the Turner surface mine just outside Catoosa, and (b) a proposed deep mine just inside Catoosa. The drainage from both goes into the Obed watershed. The Wild & Scenic River (WSR) portion of the Obed is a designated Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW), and the entire watershed supports designated critical habitat for two endangered aquatic species.

(a) The Turner Surface Mine, located in East Cumberland County, has a *long* record of noncompliance with permit conditions, including both SMCRA and Clean Water Act violations. In a letter sent September 2009 regarding proposed revisions to post-mining land use at the mine, the National Park Service (NPS) identified the area as a *long-term or permanent* source of acid mine waters. At a hearing earlier this month, TCWP Executive Director Sandra Goss and other commenters requested that any permit renewal ensure the completion of comprehensive reclamation activities to fully address acid mine drainage. (Because the reclamation costs are likely to be quite high, another request was that OSM increase the amount of the reclamation bond.)

(b) There have been talks about deep mining for metallurgical coal that underlies Catoosa WMA, through a shaft that has been in place for a number of years. According to TWRA, the underground area of interest is less than 300 acres. Early in July, NPS personnel met with TWRA to discuss the issue of assuring that the WSR and ONRW requirements were being addressed. Representatives of EPA and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (administrators of the Endangered Species Act) were also present at the meeting. Citizens commenting at the Turner Mine hearing [see (a) above] opposed any mining in the Catoosa WMA.

1C. *Obed and BSF capsules*

(1) Additional visitor center for BSF

The City of Crossville and Cumberland County are breaking ground on a new visitor center. This gateway to the Big South Fork facility will be located right off I-40.

The project completion date is estimated to be December 2013.

(2) “Art in the Park” reception at Obed

Friday, Sept.27, beginning 5:00 p.m. ET, photo-contest winners will be unveiled! Vote on your choice for People’s Choice awards. Enjoy the music of the Shelter Road Band. Kids’ art activities and more. Light refreshments will be served.

(3) BSF backpack followed by MTR tour

The Sierra Club is sponsoring this 3-day event (see ¶2D for MTR tour) on Oct. 13-15. Register: http://action.sierraclub.org/TN_MTR_Outting. Questions: Bonnie Swinford at bswinford1@yahoo.com.

2. TENNESSEE:

Threats to the natural environment

2A. *UT fracking: currently, no go!*

With approval of the State Building Commission, the University of Tennessee had issued requests for proposals to frack for natural gas in the university’s 8,600-acre Cumberland Forest in Morgan and Scott Counties. UT’s Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) was proposing to conduct fracking research in conjunction with these commercial activities that would (incidentally?) generate income for UT (NL308 ¶1A; NL309 ¶1B, NL310 ¶2A.).

Big news: NOBODY proposed to conduct the fracking. By the time of the bidding deadline, September 6, only one response was received, and that one declined to bid under the current lease terms.

The no-bid was submitted by CNX Gas, a subsidiary of CONSOL Energy, which holds gas leases on 240,000 acres in East Tennessee, including the land *surrounding* Cumberland Forest. According to company spokesmen, they remain interested if the proposal is re-structured. On September 13, however, it was announced that UT’s plan has been placed on indefinite hold, that there will not be a re-bid, and that the fracking proposal has been removed from, (a) the agenda of the UT Board of Trustees October meeting, and (b) the agenda of the State Building Commission.

Strong, sustained, and collaborative citizen action over many months and by many groups and individuals surely played a major role in this big victory. For example, shortly before the above announcement was made, Sandra Goss had delivered a large bundle of petitions to the UT Board of Trustees, asking for decision delay and for consideration of non-fracking land-use options. The more than 3,000 signers of the petition included UT alumnae, students, and faculty among the concerned citizens.

The successful citizen effort involved a large number of partners, including adjoining landowners and neighbors of the UTIA Cumberland Forest, TCWP, Tennessee Sierra Club, TCWN, TN League of Women Voters, SOCM, Southern Environment Law Center, Coal-

tion for a Frack-Free Tennessee, and others. It is to be hoped that UT will continue to heed the voices of concerned citizens, who have presented multiple reasons for why there should be no fracking on these public trust lands.

2B. *The hunting of Sandhill Cranes has been approved*

For the second time in two years (NL295 ¶3A), the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) proposed changing the status of sandhill cranes from non-game to hunted species (NL310 ¶2B). There was extensive opposition to this proposal, even from many hunters. At its August 23 meeting, however, the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission (acting on the recommendation of TWRA), unanimously approved the state’s first sandhill-crane hunting season.

Cranes may now be shot between sunrise and 3 p.m. from November 28 through January 1, 2014. There will be 400 permits available and each permit will carry a limit of three birds, i.e., a total of 1,200 birds could be killed. Hunters applying for a permit will be required to pass a crane identification test before their permits become valid. Theoretically, this should prevent the shooting of the extremely endangered whooping cranes, a few of which travel with the sandhill-crane flocks. The *young* whooping-cranes, however, can be easily misidentified as sandhill cranes.

As the cranes migrate through Tennessee, their roosting and foraging site is in a very small geographic area at the confluence of the Hiwassee and Tennessee Rivers, TWRA’s Hiwassee Refuge. At the corner of the refuge is an observation gazebo, and many of us, along with thousands of other visitors over the course of several weeks, have annually enjoyed viewing the birds from there when they are present in large numbers in the coldest winter months. Cornfields planted all around the area are what attracts the cranes to this location; and it is around these fields – perhaps landing or taking off – that they will presumably be shot, just yards away from where the public has come to enjoy and admire them. TWRA may be proud of their ironically-named “Refuge!”

2C. *Big new strip mine proposed for Claiborne County. Need comments*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

A new 1000+ acre strip mine is proposed for a part of Claiborne County that has been extensively mined in the past. The proposed mine would degrade water in an area that already suffers the cumulative effects of numerous mines. The mine would probably wipe out the blackside dace in Straight Creek.

The mining operation will discharge to Valley Creek (a tributary of the Clear Fork of the Cumberland River), Tackett Creek, Bennetts Fork, Burrell Creek, Hurricane Creek, Pigeon Roost Branch, Bear Creek, and Spruce Lick Branch via 39 sediment ponds. The mine would encapsulate approximately 1,125 linear feet of

streams at 21 road crossings, and would alter 2.55 acres of wetlands.

We call on permitting authorities to address the cumulative effects of the existing and proposed strip mines in the Clear Fork watershed before issuing any new permits. If permitted, any mitigation should be used in the area affected. Finally, the applicant, Appolo (sic) Fuels has had many notices of violation at its other mines in Kentucky and Tennessee. This company does not deserve a new permit.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Written testimony related to the permit applications will be accepted by participating agencies until October 4, 2013. Send comments to Dave.Turner@tn.gov, referencing Sterling and Strays Surface Mine 1, NPDES Permit TN0069281 (Draft), and SMCRA Permit Application 3264..

2D. *Mountaintop Removal (MTR) capsules*

- Field trip and briefing on MTR.
In conjunction with a Big South Fork backpack trip (see ¶1C), the Sierra Club is sponsoring a MTR tour. Activists from the Beehive Design Collective² and Hands Off Appalachia³ will present workshops on the impacts of the mining. Oct. 13-15. Register: http://action.sierraclub.org/TN_MTR_Outting. Questions: Bonnie Swinford at bswinford1@yahoo.com.
- Ridgeline coal property acquired by Chinese
[From Martha Hobson in Senior Living]
According to *Marketwatch*, the Guizhou Guochuang Energy Holding Group paid \$616 million to acquire mineral rights to 30,000 acres of Anderson County ridgelines. The Triple H Coal Co., is apparently the first US company to sell mineral rights to a Chinese company.

2E. *Coal-ash health damage alleged*

A group of 49 workers who had participated in the cleanup following the Kingston power-plant spill in December 2008 have filed a federal lawsuit, claiming that the health hazards of coal ash were intentionally misrepresented to them by their employer. The workers were not given respirators or protective clothing. Eye, sinus, heart, and lung problems may have resulted from the exposure.

3. TENNESSEE:

Protecting the natural environment

3A. *Significant additions to Cumberland Trail lands*

[Based on information in *News Sentinel*]

Two tracts, totaling 1,050 acres in Rhea and Bledsoe counties, will connect the Cumberland Trail State Park with existing state natural areas (SNAs). One

is Soak Creek, connecting with Stinging Fork Falls SNA, Piney Fork Falls SNA, and Piney River. The other, the Wendell Wilson tract, provides a critical link on the crest of Brady Mountain, overlooking Grassy thes Cove. Multiple state, federal, and ngo funding sources supported these purchases .

3B. *Progress in the hemlock-protection campaign*

[Including information from the THCP 8-21-13 Update]

The Tennessee chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) began leading the Tennessee Hemlock Conservation Partnership (THCP) in mid-2011 to battle the hemlock woolly aphid (HWA). A database has been initiated, based on the mapping of hemlocks on public lands that have satellite imagery available. In 2012 and 2013 (with additions yet to be made for the latter), THCP successfully chemically treated 1,815 acres on public lands across the Cumberland Plateau and Mountains. (For woolly aphid control in the Smokies, see NL310 ¶5B). In addition, TNC and partners carried out chemical treatments at four of its preserves, three of them within or abutting the Obed WSR.

Volunteers groups from colleges and citizens' groups have participated in various efforts. THCP held two landowner workshops last year and is about to hold another one this month (see ¶3C, below).

It is hoped that HWA can eventually be controlled by "predator" beetles, so that chemical retreatments are no longer needed. Beetle control is being tested in the Smokies (NL310 ¶5B). In the Cumberlands, beetles have been released by a U.T. researcher since 2008. There are signs that the beetles are effective and reproducing in the wild, but research that would yield a statistically valid result has not, so far, been conducted. It generally takes 5 years or more for biological controls to show their efficacy.

For additional information about hemlock protection efforts, contact TNC's Trisha Johnson (trisha_johnson@TNC.org, or 931-265-1637).

If you spot hemlock woolly adelgids, notify the Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture's Division of Forestry (615-837-5432).

3C. *Hemlock-treatment workshop, Sept.28*

This free workshop will be held on September 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. ET at Unicoi Work Center of the U.S. Forest Service, Watauga Ranger District, Cherokee National Forest. Topics to be covered include how to identify HWA, steps to protect your hemlock trees, how to treat HWA, how much the chemical costs, and where to buy the chemical. Participants will gain hands-on experience by treating hemlocks at the site.

Register by immediately contacting Douglas Godbee with Tennessee Division of Forestry: (865) 318-1371 or Douglas.Godbee@tn.gov. To learn more, visit

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/tennessee/explore/hemlock.xml>

3D. *Two plants may qualify for endangered species protection*

The Fish & Wildlife Service (US FWS) is seeking public input on a proposal to list two Tennessee plants as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. They are the Short's bladderpod and the whorled sunflower

USFWS is seeking all available information on the plants, including the distribution, status, and population size. The Service also proposes to designate critical habitat for these species. Comment deadline is October 1 (for address, see Political Guide).

3E. *Friends of Pickett State Park*

This recently formed group meets the first Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. CT, and you are welcome to join. The group plans hikes and events to support Pickett State Park. Please call Ken Pasternack at 931-704-5232 for details.

4. CHEROKEE and other NATIONAL FORESTS

4A. *Tennessee Wilderness bill needs support in the House*

After being stalled in the last Congress, which passed no wilderness legislation at all, the Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2013, S.1294, was reintroduced on July 15 by Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker (NL310 ¶4). Hearings originally scheduled for July 30 have not yet been held. For an OpEd by Lee Russell, urging citizen support, see <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2013/aug/03/liane-b-lee-russell-politicians-citizens-urged/>.

The bill now needs to be introduced in the House. The Congressmen in whose districts the new wilderness would be located are Representatives Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN3) and Phil Roe (R-TN1). Wilderness in District 3 would total 12,200 acres (Upper Bald River proposed wilderness, Big Frog and Little Frog additions, Joyce Kilmer Slickrock addition). In District 1, it would total 7,268 acres (Sampson Mountain addition and Big Laurel Branch addition).

We hope that, in urging these Congressmen to introduce the bill, their constituents will remind them that designation of these special areas, which are already part of the Cherokee NF, have been recommended by the US Forest Service, that the designations have considerable support (including from local businesses), and that Wilderness designation adds no management costs.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Residents of Congressional Districts 1 and 3, please contact your US Representatives, Phil Roe and Chuck Fleischmann, respectively (see Political Guide), and urge them to introduce the Tennessee Wilderness bill that has already been introduced in the Senate by Sens. Alexander and Corker. Send a copy, or a similar letter, to the editor of your paper. For more information, visit http://tnwild.org/get_involved.

4B. *The Corridor-K proposal is becoming ever more indefensible*

[With input from Melanie Mayes]

It's been 5 years now since the re-start of the Corridor-K project, which could result in a new major highway being blasted through the Cherokee National Forest, causing damage to streams, wildlife, and recreation (NL308 ¶5B; NL302 ¶4A). Potential road builders recently conceded that project could take up to 25 years to complete, but the existing road will need to be upgraded either way. In August, Tennessee Dept. of Transportation (TDoT) Commissioner John Schroer informed officials from Bradley and Polk counties that, because of the long timeframe, he would use \$10.1 million from his budget to upgrade 11 spots along the existing roadway (US Hwy 64 through the Ocoee gorge) to improve safety. A recent landslide on Hwy 64 has been used as an argument for the new Corridor K, but the slide was entirely contained by protective fencing, indicating the efficacy of recent remedial efforts on the existing road.

Back in the Spring, Commissioner Schroer noted that he had only \$300 million in ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission) funds for Corridor K, which is a \$1 billion project (NL309 ¶4B). In view of the pyritic rock in the area, \$1 billion is likely to be an underestimate because remedial costs are not included. Meanwhile, TDOT has nine times as many projects as they have funds to complete (<http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/2012/08/30/smart-growth-america-and-tdot-mapping-out-tennessees-transportation-future/>). If a Corridor-K road is built on a new location, around a billion dollars of other roads in Tennessee will not get built or maintained/ This proposed road is in direct competition for Tennessee's other projects around the state for federal highway dollars.

Completion of the NEPA process for Corridor-K proposals has been pushed back, and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is expected in Winter 2014. We may only have a year in which to spread the word about how environmentally damaging and fiscally irresponsible it would be to construct a Corridor-K road in a new location. Public support for fixing the *existing* road—and fixing it now—could help to convince TDOT to stop wasting time and money on an ill-advised project it can't afford.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Sign up for the mailing list at TDOT's website (<http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/corridork/contact.htm>) to let

them know you are interested in the project and want to be notified of any public communications or meetings.

4C. *Fracking in national forests threatens the nation's clean-water supply*

One of the reasons the US Forest Service was established over a century ago was to protect the nation's supply of clean water. Presently, more than 60 million Americans receive their drinking water from a source originating in a national forest. Unfortunately, this essential water source is now threatened by the spread of the natural-gas industry into national forest lands (for one nearby example, see ¶4D, below):

The fracking process can damage our clean-water supply in a number of ways.

- It requires the use of huge amounts of water (a single well can use 5 million gallons).
- The noxious chemicals pressure-injected with the water can contaminate subsurface waters.
- Surface-water contamination can result by spillage from the heavy trucks that carry the mixture to the drilling sites.
- Even more significantly, much of the wastewater returns above ground and can result in polluting our watersheds.

To assure that our national forests are protected against these hazards and that the industry is held accountable when damages occur, the USFS should do the following.

- Where the US government owns both surface and mineral rights NO fracking leases should be issued.
- Where the mineral rights are owned by private interests, the USFS should regulate how drillers use the surface, effectively banning the fracking process. This can be done through the Surface Occupancy Permit, which operators must obtain before they can build access roads or start drilling. Such permits should also regulate how fracking fluids are stored, transported, and disposed of.
- Where the private ownership of mineral rights leads to the development of a well, the USFS should require the use of "tracers," unique to each operation, to identify the culprit for any damage that may occur. One of the best ways to ensure that environmental safeguards are implemented is to hold drillers responsible.

WHAT YOU CAN DO. Keep informed and work through organizations that address this important problem. One informative website is at <http://fsee.org/index.php/stay-informed/>

4D. *Will the George Washington National Forest ban fracking?*

The pristine, biologically rich 2 million-acre George Washington National Forest in Virginia is the cradle of the Shenandoah, Potomac, and James Rivers.

The Forest is underlain by Marcellus Shale from which the oil & gas industry wants to extract natural gas by fracking. Oil companies have 12,000 acres under lease. For the 15-year Forest Management Plan currently being finalized, the USFS will have to decide whether to ban or allow fracking in the George Washington NF.

Two agencies responsible for regional drinking-water supply (the Army Corps of Engineers and the Fairfax County Water Authority) support the fracking ban that was proposed by the Forest two years ago. Fracking pollution would eventually end up in Chesapeake Bay.

One overheard comment: "Our species has survived millions of years without fossil fuels. The same cannot be said for water ..."

5. TVA NOTES

5A. *Marilyn Brown confirmed at last for TVA Board*

On September 10, the US Senate at long last confirmed Marilyn Brown to a second (full 5-year) term on the TVA Board. Dr. Brown was among five nominees Pres. Obama sent to the Senate about a year ago. While four of these nominees were confirmed on January 1, finally restoring a quorum, Brown's confirmation was blocked by Tennessee's two Senators (NL307 ¶5A and B). The 9-member TVA board is now complete.

Dr. Brown, who had already served a two-year TVA term with distinction, is a prestigious scientist who specializes in energy conservation and efficiency, with considerable expertise on carbon (see NL307 ¶5B for a summary of her employment, performance, and awards received).

Last January, Sen. Corker (R-TN) had blocked her confirmation to the full term on the grounds that she lacked an abiding appreciation of TVA's important economic development role. This time around, with Pres. Obama declining to name someone else, he evidently held his fire. TVA and the region need wise energy-efficiency strategies, and Dr. Brown is a leading expert in this field.

5B. *Council to advise on energy efficiency and renewables*

The recently formed Regional Energy Resources Council has been charged with advising TVA on energy efficiency and renewable energy, among other matters. The 19 members, who reflect a wide variety of interests and views, include Stephen Smith, executive director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, and Anne Davis, head of the Nashville office of SELC (Southern Environmental Law Center).

5C. *TVA's mixed strategies on coal-generated electricity*

TVA recently announced plans to idle four coal units at the Colbert Fossil Plant, near Tusculumbia, Alabama, by 2016.

On the other hand, the agency has decided to keep one of the worst offenders in operation by retrofitting, instead of retiring, the 54-year-old Gallatin power plant near Nashville. In challenging the flawed environmental analysis of the project, the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) charges that the Gallatin plant would continue to emit, for decades to come, more than 10,000 pounds of hazardous air pollutants (including mercury), and over 7,000,000 tons of the greenhouse gas, CO₂. The upgrade would also generate 2x-5x more coal ash each year. SELC's aim is to halt the project until TVA fully considers alternatives, such as retiring the old plant and investing instead in energy-efficiency and renewable-energy alternatives.

[proposed-carbon-pollution-standard-new-power-plants](#), to read the information on the proposed new standards, and find a link for commenting. We must get on the path toward solving the climate crisis, so please take action on this issue.

6B. *Energy-efficiency bill, S1392, threatened by damaging amendments*

S.1392, a bipartisan bill crafted by Senators Shaheen (D-NH) and Portman (R-OH), would increase energy efficiency in buildings, industry, and the federal government, reducing carbon pollution while saving taxpayer dollars and promoting job growth. As soon as the bill was brought to the floor in early September, a push was made to add highly damaging amendments. They include proposals to lower vehicle-emissions standards, to approve the Keystone XL pipeline, and to undo President Obama's plan to limit carbon pollution (NL310 ¶6A).

6. CLIMATE CHANGE; ENERGY

6A. *EPA getting ready to limit carbon emissions from power plants.*

Your comments are needed!

On June 25, President Obama noted that Congress was highly unlikely to tackle the pressing problem of climate change, and enumerated several steps that his Administration would therefore take (NL310 ¶A6). No. 1 among these was putting an end to the limitless carbon emissions from our power plants. (At this time, 40% of the CO₂ that is driving climate change is due to coal-fired power plants.) There is currently NO limit to carbon pollution, but in 2007, the Supreme Court ruled that greenhouse gases are pollutants covered by the Clean Air Act, and the Court required EPA to determine whether such gases are a threat to our health and welfare. The answer was yes.

On September 20, EPA issued a new proposal for limiting carbon pollution from new power plants. "After considering more than 2.5 million comments from the public about the 2012 proposal and consideration of recent trends in the power sector, EPA is changing some aspects of its approach. EPA is proposing to set separate standards for natural-gas-fired turbines and coal-fired units."

Carbon pollution, in addition to being the main contributor to climate disruption, is also linked to health hazards, such as asthma-inducing smog. The coal industry has already mounted a publicity campaign in opposition to these regulations, so it is vitally important that we tell EPA of our strong support for standards to clean up dangerous carbon pollution from new power plants.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your US senators and urge them to keep S. 1392 clean of bad environmental amendments. Addressing the dangers we face from climate change will support a healthy environment AND a healthy economy. S.1392 was built on a principle of consensus -- that's why it has such broad support.

6C. *Republican former EPA heads endorse climate action*

On August 1, *The New York Times* carried an OpEd by four former EPA administrators who had served during Republican administrations: William Ruckelshaus (Nixon; Reagan), Lee Thomas (Reagan), Bill Reilly (Bush, Sr.), and Christine Todd Whitman (Bush, Jr.). Their message: "The United States must move *now* on substantive steps to curb climate change, at home and internationally."

There is no longer any credible scientific debate about the basic facts, they say, and the costs of inaction are undeniable. Because the best path to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions, a carbon tax, is unachievable in the current political gridlock, they recommend the achievable actions laid out in Pres. Obama's June climate action plan (NL310 ¶6A). "Rather than argue against his proposals, our leaders in Congress should endorse them and start the overdue debate about what bigger steps are needed and how to achieve them — domestically and internationally."

They remind us that "conservative principles" that guided their actions under four Republican presidents helped them tackle major environmental challenges to the nation and the world, e.g., major water pollution, the ozone hole, and acid rain. "And despite critics' warnings, our economy has continued to grow. ... We can have both a strong economy and a livable climate."

Their conclusion: "The only uncertainty about our warming world is how bad the changes will get, and how

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Visit the EPA website, <http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/2013->

soon. What is most clear is that there is no time to waste.” Amen.

6D. *Biomass energy generation should not include wood*

[Based on information from SELC]

Wood biomass is a booming sector of the world's energy market, and the power industry has claimed that wood is an inherently carbon-neutral energy source. Not so, says a recent careful study commissioned by SELC and NWF, which shows that, in the next 35-50 years, use of wood would produce higher levels of atmospheric carbon per megawatt than use of fossil fuels. America's forests serve as carbon "sinks" that absorb and hold some 10% of the heat-trapping carbon dioxide emissions our country pumps out each year. Burning trees to generate electricity releases this CO₂.

At risk are our native forests, particularly in the Southeast, the "fiber basket of the world." Mature forests would be turned into energy plantations. SELC is leading efforts to ensure that if wood-energy is developed, it is at the right scale, with adequate monitoring and regulation.

No, to:

- Conversion of native forests into energy crops;
- Trees from national forests;
- Trees from old growth forests, and from forests associated with streams, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and other natural treasures;
- Wood pellets made from whole trees,* exported in quantity to Europe, where they are mistakenly considered as climate-friendly. *(The industry claims that these pellets are made primarily from waste material, but SELC discovered that some mills are chipping up whole hardwood trees)

Yes, to:

- Wood waste, such as "slash" left over from timber harvesting, sawdust and other residue from lumber milling, and construction debris;
- Thinnings and small-diameter pulpwood cut from existing pine plantations; and
- Other energy crops, such as switchgrass, grown on previously fallow land.

EPA had proposed to give all existing wood-burning power plants a categorical three-year exemption from CO₂ regulations. *New* plants approved during these three years would avoid ever having to comply with CO₂ regulations. Fortunately, with the evidence of the SELC/NWF study (see above), a federal court overturned EPA's three-year exemption from new permitting standards.

6E. *Media fail to identify funding sources for climate-change-contrarian think tanks*

[Information from UCS]

An investigation of 2011 and 2012 news stories by UCS (Union of Concerned Scientists) has revealed that U.S. news media routinely fail to inform the public about the fossil fuel industry funders behind climate-change contrarian think tanks. Such think tanks include the American Enterprise Institute, Americans for Prosperity, Cato Institute, Competitive Enterprise Institute, Heartland Institute, Heritage Foundation, Institute for Energy Research, and Manhattan Institute for Policy Research. These groups have been funded by the oil industry and by family foundations controlled by the Koch brothers. The Kochs, for example, paid more than \$15 million between 2001-2011 to think tanks and advocacy groups that dispute climate science in the press (www.ucsusa.org/unreliablesources)

6F. *A new Keystone-XL analysis*

[From Sierra Club Insider]

“FAIL: How the Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline flunks the climate test” (17 pages, 137 references, 2.31 Mb) is a new report by Sierra Club and Oil Change International. It may be downloaded from <https://content.sierraclub.org/beyondoil/sites/content.sierraclub.org/beyondoil/files/documents/kxl-climate-report.pdf>.

The report shows how tar-sands development in Alberta can expand only if Keystone XL is approved. Pipeline construction would indirectly lead to emission of about 181 million metric tons of carbon pollution each year – the equivalent of building 51 new coal-fired power plants.

6G. *Growth in renewable energy sources -- but not enough*

[From Union of Concerned Scientists]

The amount of electricity generated from renewable sources such as wind and solar power increased nearly four-fold in the United States from 2007 to 2012.

Nine states currently generate 10% or more of their electricity from wind and solar power, including Iowa (24%), Minnesota (14%), Colorado (12%), and Oregon (10%).

Nationwide, the U.S. generates only 3.6% of its electricity from wind and solar power, much less than many other countries, including Denmark (30%), Spain (19%), and Germany (15%).

7. OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

7A. *Scientist/environmentalist now has high position in DOE*

The new Chief of Staff for Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz is Kevin Knobloch, who has for years served as president of the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). Knobloch accepted his new position on June 24. During his 17 years with UCS, the organization played a significant role in several victories, such as the increase in U.S. vehicle fuel-economy standards, expansion of renewable-energy standards in 29 states, passage of the Whistleblower Protection Reform Act of 2012, and others.

7B. *Federal coal leasing, a financial as well as environmental disaster*

[From CREDO Action]

The Department of the Interior (DOI) last year sold 721 million tons of publicly owned coal (from BLM lands) to Peabody Energy for the ultra-low price of \$1.10/ton. Peabody is selling it overseas for almost 100x as much, and the American taxpayer has lost \$1.2 billion (overall, the leasing has cost taxpayers nearly \$30 billion). The climate-change impact of that coal being burned is tremendous; and the program has slowed development of *clean* energy.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge Interior Secretary Sally Jewell (see Political Guide) to place a moratorium on the federal coal-leasing program.

8. OAK RIDGE/KNOXVILLE AREA

8A. *Impact of the city's proposed 69-kV transmission line on natural areas*

[Contributed]

On Saturday, August 24, TCWP, along with Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) and Greenways Oak Ridge, sponsored a hike on the North Boundary Greenway in Oak Ridge. The purpose of the trip was to view and discuss the route of a 69-kV transmission line that the City of Oak Ridge has proposed to build to supply additional electricity to Horizon Center. Because of the potential impacts of this project on the sensitive resources of the BORCE and of the Horizon Center Natural Area, the proposal has been controversial, especially in view of the City's reluctance to consider alternative routes. The hike gave participants a chance to see the forested land along the North Boundary Greenway that extends between the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE) and DOE's Horizon Center Natural Area, as well as Bear Creek and East Fork Poplar Creek.

TCWP and AFORR members are concerned about potential impacts of the project, such as the cutting of trees that currently tower over a large section of the greenway, and the removal of vegetation adjacent to East Fork Poplar Creek and to a moderately large wetland complex, next to the route, that is fed by a large spring. TCWP and AFORR are also concerned that construction would impact the natural resources of the BORCE, which was established in part to fulfill DOE's obligations under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process to compensate for contamination in Watts Bar Reservoir that resulted from activities at Y-12, K-25, and ORNL.

TCWP and AFORR have suggested several viable alternatives for the proposed 69-kV transmission line route. One option would be to place the electrical lines underground. Another is to extend transmission lines down Oak Ridge Turnpike to Horizon Center from the City's substation along the Turnpike near Louisiana Avenue. Earlier this summer, TCWP and AFORR submitted a petition to the Oak Ridge City Council requesting that they work to find another solution for providing additional power to Horizon Center. As an example, the petition cited an alternative plan suggested by a consultant to the Industrial Development Board. Thus far, the City and the IDB have been reluctant to consider *any* alternatives to the project as currently proposed.

8B. *TCWP will participate in Knoxville's commemoration of the Conservation Expo of 1913*

[Based on contribution by Jimmy Groton]

On October 12, the City of Knoxville is putting on a centennial commemoration of the National Conservation Exposition of 1913, held when the population of Knoxville numbered just over 35,000. The event will be held in Chilhowee Park (from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), which was also the location of the 1913 Exposition.

In announcing this celebration of 100 years of conservation efforts, Knoxville Mayor Rogero said: "Generations of dedicated East Tennesseans have accomplished great things in conservation during the past 100 years. From the Great Smoky Mountains to Ijams Nature Center, we have worked to preserve and protect wild areas, wildlife, air and water. The Centennial Conservation Expo will be an opportunity to showcase much of the work that has been done during the past century, and the work that is still being done."

TCWP, which for almost half of that century has been a major player in the efforts to preserve and protect, has been invited to participate in the October-12 Conservation Expo. This 2013 event may not be quite as exciting as the original thing, which featured elephants, fortunetellers, and a zip line across the Chilhowee Park lake, and which included among its attendees Helen Keller, Booker T. Washington, and William Jennings Bryan. Nor will the same assortment of issues be highlighted --

issues like flooding and erosion, natural-resource scarcity, and modern farming techniques.

There's continuity, though. For instance, many of the notable Knoxvilleans who worked on planning and organizing the 1913 Exposition went on to be involved in the movement to found the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. That Park is now there for us to protect. And that's been one of the issues TCWP has been involved in, along with numerous others -- the Obed River, Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area, Frozen Head State Park, Cherokee National Forest, strip-mine threats, and much, much more. We hope to see you October 12!

9. TCWP BUSINESS

9A. *Try this new way to benefit TCWP through Kroger purchases*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

TCWP is now enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards Program.* TCWP supporters are encouraged to register online at krogercommunityrewards.com. Registration requires one to sign on to Kroger's web site and establish a password through the Sign Up Today New Customer box.

With your password, click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number. Then enter TCWP's number, which is 26906.

Once this process is completed, every time your Kroger Plus card is used on check-out, TCWP will receive a credit. Kroger will send TCWP a check each quarter that reflects a percentage of all purchases made by TCWP shoppers.

For help navigating the registration process, please call Sandra at 865. 583-3967. Thanks to everyone for supporting TCWP when you shop at Kroger.

***IMPORTANT:** If you have Kroger gift cards, keep using them – they're still good (although no additional ones will be issued by Kroger). In fact, we have a bunch of them (already paid for by TCWP) that need to be purchased by you for your use.

9B. *Four Oak Ridge churches celebrate Creation Care; TCWP benefits*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

On August 18, First Presbyterian, First Christian, High Places Community, and Unitarian Universalist churches held an ecumenical service in the historic Grove Theater in Oak Ridge. The service, attended by ~400 worshippers, included a skit by the pastors from the churches that highlighted the strength of working together to address stewardship of creation.

The churches selected TCWP as the beneficiary of the day's collection, which resulted in TCWP receiving \$800 to further our work on maintaining natural areas

and trails in the Oak Ridge area. Among our project areas are the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren, the North Ridge Trail, and the Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area. Cleanup and maintenance sessions are held at each of these annually or more frequently (e.g., ¶9C)..

9C. *Upcoming activities*

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

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

National Public Lands Day cleanup at Worthington Cemetery – Saturday, September 28

Our annual observance of National Public Lands Day will feature a morning of invasive-exotic-plant removal at the TVA Ecological Study Area at Worthington Cemetery on the east end of Oak Ridge. Our yearly efforts in this area are helping to eradicate wisteria from the cemetery, and privet and other invasive exotics from the Ecological Study Area. We will begin with an interpretive walk to discuss the ecology of sensitive cedar barrens and wetlands at the site; plants we will see will include prairie rosinweed and big bluestem. Following the walk, we will continue our work to restore the native cedar barren and to remove exotic invasive plants and trash.

We will meet for the cleanup at 9 a.m. ET at the Elza Gate Park picnic area near the intersection of Oak Ridge Turnpike and Melton Lake Drive. At the completion of our work (around 12 to 12:30 p.m.), TCWP will provide a pizza lunch.

Participants should wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothes, and bring water, gloves, and clippers, loppers, or bow or pruning saws, if possible. Other tools and equipment will also be available at the worksite. For more information, contact Jimmy Groton at (865) 805-9908 or at groton87@comcast.net.

Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 5

This year's annual meeting will feature a program by Lisa Huff of the Tennessee Natural Areas Program on the state's initiative to restore native grasslands and shortleaf pine to the Cumberland Plateau. In the afternoon we'll take a field trip to the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area, accompanied by Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency staffer Marc Lipner and by Clarence Coffey, former District III TWRA manager, to view examples of this project.

The meeting will be held at the Morgan County Board of Education building (136 Flat Fork Road) in Wartburg, with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m.. The morning session will include our featured speaker and our annual business meeting, followed by lunch at 11:30 and the field trip at 1 p.m. The \$15 registration fee includes lunch.

Attendees can meet for carpooling at the Rush/Books-a-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge, to leave at 9 a.m.

Oak Ridge Cedar Barren cleanup -- Saturday, November 9

The Oak Ridge Cedar Barren will again be the site of exotic-invasive-plant removal as we conduct our fall cleanup, our third and final cleanup of the year. Located next to Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge, the Barren is a joint project of the City of Oak Ridge, State Natural Areas Division, and TCWP. The area is one of just a few cedar barrens in East Tennessee, and is subject to invasion by Chinese lespedeza, leatherleaf viburnum, Chinese privet, autumn olive, mimosa, Nepal grass, multiflora rose, and woody plants that threaten the system's prairie grasses. Our efforts help to eliminate invasives and other shade-producing plants that prevent the prairie grasses from getting needed sunlight.

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

TCWP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 12

Save the date: This annual event, which has become one of the most popular of the year, will again be held at the home of long-time TCWP members Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen, 371 East Drive, Oak Ridge. Mark your calendar, and plan now to join us!

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

9D. *Recent events*

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

Rocky Fork State Park hike – Saturday, July 27

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

Fourteen optimistic folks set off for the late July Rocky Fork State Park outing in spite of rainy weather in the Oak Ridge/Knoxville area. Hike leader and State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath led us on the three-mile hike, which traveled along the swift-flowing, melodious Rocky Fork Creek for the first three-quarters of a mile. Thanks to recent rains, the creek was full and the air was humid.

We branched away from the creek for an uphill trek along an old logging road. There were some nice viewpoints that will provide great vistas when the leaves fall. Butterflies and blooms were plenteous, and the trail was not crowded, allowing ample time to examine various nature displays along the way. Thanks to Randy Hedgepath, we had helpful explanations about why the butterflies were gathering where they did, and the nature of various plants along the way.

Summer Cedar Barren cleanup/kiosk dedication – Saturday, August 17

(Contributed by Sandra Goss and Jimmy Groton)

Several officials, including Oak Ridge Mayor Tom Beehan, State Natural Areas staffer Lisa Huff, TCWP Board members, and teachers from Jefferson Middle School, were on hand last month for the unveiling of the new kiosks at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren. Thanks to Boy Scout Thomas Crout and the volunteers he recruited, as well as Cedar Barren Steward Tim Bigelow and wife Janet, there are kiosks at either end of the Cedar Barren that describe the cedar barren phenomenon and the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren in particular.

Located next to Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge, the barren is a joint project of the City of Oak Ridge, the State Natural Areas Division, and Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning. This area is one of just a few cedar barrens in East Tennessee, and is subject to invasion by Chinese lespedeza, Chinese privet, autumn olive, mimosa, Nepal grass, multiflora rose, and native woody plants that threaten the system's prairie plants.

Following the ribbon cutting there was a brief interpretive tour of the barren, and extensive exotic-invasive-plant cleanup. The summer cleanup, along with the annual spring and fall cleanups, helps to eliminate the shade producing plants that keep needed sun from the prairie plants.

“Marvelous Mushroom Diversity” -- August 22

Certified forester and “amateur field mycologist” Dr. Whitey Hitchcock spoke to a crowd of about 55 people at the Oak Ridge Civic Center. In his talk he described the Fungi Kingdom and showed the wonderful diversity of mushrooms included in the groups Basidiomycota and Ascomycota, which produce fruiting bodies. He discussed morphological characteristics—features to consider in identifying mushrooms—and the edibility of various species, and provided his audience with resources (web sites and books) to consult for more information.

Following a question-and-answer period, attendees gathered with Hitchcock for further discussion around several tables full of mushrooms he'd gathered over the past several days. Hitchcock, who is also an Anderson County Commissioner, has been a student, hunter, and consumer of mushrooms for nearly two decades.

Tour of 69kV Power Line Route, North Boundary Trail – August 24

See ¶8A, this NL.

Head of the Sequatchie – September 14

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

On September 14, TCWP coordinated a volunteer workday with a visit to the Head of the Sequatchie and Devilstep Hollow. Volunteer Terri Ballenger led a group of 14 volunteers who helped to prune shrubs, clean gutters, and pull weeds from flower beds around the visitor center. TCWP botanist Larry Pounds took us on a short hike to see many of the nice wildflowers that are bloom-

ing right now and to view the sinkhole that contains the entrance to Devilstep Hollow Cave. We also saw the Head of the Sequatchie Spring where the Sequatchie River emerges from a cave system that collects water from Grassy Cove. The Head of the Sequatchie will eventually be accessible via a side trail from the Cumberland Trail. In all, we enjoyed a beautiful late summer day in a magnificent location.

Party on Thursday, December 12, and a lot of other events in between.

Thanks for your support!

Sandra

9E. *Do you have photos?*

If you have photos taken at TCWP events, send them to Jimmy Groton (groton87@comcast.net). They may make good additions to our website, to our Facebook page, and to display materials.

9F. *Executive Director's Column*

[By Sandra Goss]

On Friday, September 13 (my birthday!), the University of Tennessee announced that the proposed Fracking Study is being abandoned. There were several concerns with the study as proposed, including institutional conflict of interest and the fact that there was no appraisal of the mineral rights. It is gratifying to have this proposal withdrawn

Several groups, including TCWP, have worked on this proposal for many months, providing information to the University staff and circulating petitions. Working together, our groups got a lot done, much more than we could have done singly. I deeply appreciate our sister organizations and their willingness to share expertise, time, and other resources. This sharing makes each of us more effective.

The birthday mentioned earlier was a significant one, and I'm asking friends to make a contribution to our Obed Fund. The Obed Fund is used to maintain and protect the viewshed of the Obed Wild and Scenic River. It's not too late to make a contribution in honor of Lee's birthday or mine.

You may recall that we've bought, or brought about conservation-buyers' purchase of, several Obed properties that will ultimately go to the National Park Service. In the meantime, the land is managed as if it were part of the Obed Park, and a ribbon of primitive wildlands is spared buildings, roads, electric lines, and other signs of modernity. The area we strive to protect is the gorge of the Obed River and its major tributaries. This is beautiful country.

The TCWP Program Committee will begin planning our 2014 outings at the end of this month. Among possible sites for outings are a waterfall in the Obed area, the Fort Loudoun Historic Area, and a cleanup trip down Big South Fork, in addition to our now traditional Obed Cleanup at the end of March.

We've received several good suggestions from members, and we encourage you to let us know of other possible outings. Don't forget our upcoming Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 5, the TCWP Holiday

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

[From Sandra Goss]

- Frank Hensley, Nick Jagim, Charlie Klabunde, Dick Raridon, and Marti Salk for TCWP Newsletter mailing preparation. *This activity occurs bi-monthly and features lively conversation and occasionally good snacks. Join this friendly crew for a great time!*
- Oak Ridge City Councilman Charles Hensley, Mayor Tom Beehan, and Oak Ridge City Council for designating Liane "Lee" Russell Day in a unanimous vote to a standing ovation at the August 12 City Council meeting.
- Jimmy Groton, Jeff Hussey, and SAIC for assistance in producing a flier promoting future TCWP events.
- Oak Ridge Cedar Barren Steward Tim Bigelow, Jimmy Groton, and Larry Pounds for their leadership of the Cedar Barren cleanup. Special thanks to Tim and Janet for their hard work on the new kiosks at the barren.
- Jenny Freeman and Annetta Watson for their tireless efforts in developing and implementing the celebration of Lee Russell's 90th birthday.
- Jimmy Groton and Frank Hensley for their help with the August North Boundary Trail outing.
- Lee Russell for once again ably editing the TCWP Newsletter.
- Whitey Hitchcock for his interesting and informative presentation on mushrooms. *He brought samples of more than 30 different area mushrooms for us to examine in detail.*
- Marion Burger for handling Kroger Gift Cards. *This program is drawing to a close (§9A, this NL). Don't miss the opportunity to purchase \$100 Kroger Gift Cards, valid for groceries, postage stamps, prescriptions, gasoline, and more. The user purchases the card at face value (\$100); TCWP(which bought it for \$95) makes \$5.*
- Tom McDonough, Beth Adler, and Mac Post for serving on the Nominating Committee. *They are responsible for the nominees on which we'll be voting at the October 5 Annual Meeting.*
- Gretchen Hagel of Tennessee Environmental Council for her good work organizing last month's Sustainable Tennessee Policy and Practice Meeting, where the issues and policies of concern for the coming months were discussed.

- Francis Perey for continuing to manage our website.
- Terri Ballenger for leading our mid-September outing at Devilstep Hollow/Head of the Sequatchie

9H. *Errata*

(1) Our profound apologies for a printing error in NL310. On p.3, the last two lines of the second paragraph slipped from the left to the right column, where they got stuck within a subheading. Made quite a puzzle!

(2) In ¶6A of NL310 the last sentence of §3 should read as follows: "EPA had already announced that it'll do so for existing plants (NL303 ¶6A; NL304 ¶7A), but the exciting news is that *new* plant will be included." [We had switched "existing" and "new."]

- The Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS) program has a variety of Wild Crew volunteer trail crew opportunities in its fall lineup. Desired experience level varies by crew. Tools and equipment are provided. For more details on specific Wild Crew dates, or to register, visit <http://www.trailcrews.org/volunteer-opportunities/>.
- Zygmunt J.B. (Zyg) Plater, who argued the Snail Darter case before the Supreme Court and almost saved the Little T, has written a new book, "The Snail Darter and the Dam – How pork-barrel politics endangered a little fish and killed a river," Yale University Press, June 2013. It's available at Union Avenue Books in Knoxville (865-951-2180; mail@unionavebooks.com).

10. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• CALENDAR (events and deadlines)

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

- September 28, National Public Lands Day cleanup at Worthington Cemetery (¶9C, this NL).
- September 28, Hemlock-treatment workshop (¶3C, this NL).
- October 1, comment deadline for proposed endangered species (¶3D, this NL).
- October 4, comment deadline for big stripmine permit (¶2C, this NL).
- October 5, TCWP Annual Meeting (¶9C, this NL).
- October 11-13, APIEL conference at U.T. (see Resources).
- October 12, Centennial Conservation Exposition, Knoxville (¶8B, this NL).
- October 29, Sustainable Tennessee Summit, Chattanooga (<http://tectn.org/oct29summit/>)
- November 9, Oak Ridge Cedar Barren Cleanup (¶9C, this NL).
- December 12, TCWP Holiday Party (¶9C, this NL).

•• RESOURCES

- Amateur mycologist Whitey Hitchcock's (see ¶9D, this NL) web site is www.thefungiforager.com.
- The APIEL (Appalachian Public Interest Environmental Law) conference, to be held Oct. 11-13 at the U.T. College of Law, brings together eco-minded and socially conscious activists, attorneys, students, scientists, and citizens to exchange information, exchange skills, and foster collaboration. A series of workshops will address the region's most pressing ecological problems, as well as underlying laws, policies, and institutional dynamics that have enhanced these issues. Learn more at: www.APIEL.org.

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See ¶9A

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING
NOMINEES for 2014 OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Jimmy Groton-Works on environmental issues (wetlands, threatened and endangered species management and exotic species control) with an Oak Ridge environmental consulting firm. Worked for National Park Service for 6 years. Has M.S. in forestry; B.S. in natural resources. TCWP Board member since '93; President 1999—2002, 2006—2012; served on O.R. EQAB. Active on trails, water, program, Obed, & Cherokee NF issues. Enjoys hiking, paddling, and being outdoors.

VICE PRESIDENT: Tim Bigelow- Electrical Engineer working on fusion energy at ORNL. Serves on the Program Committee and as the Oak Ridge Barrens Steward. Interested in land preservation, exotic species control, hiking, camping. Also an active member of SM Hiking Club and supporter of Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation, Foothills Land Conservancy, Cherokee Forest Voices.

SECRETARY: Carol Grametbauer-Retired public affairs manager for Lockheed Martin and BWXT Y-12. TCWP member since the early 70s. Chairs the Program Committee and produces TCWP's annual Political Guide. Has served as one of TCWP's representatives to the Alliance for the Cumberlands. An amateur naturalist, values wilderness, enjoys hiking and the outdoors.

TREASURER: Charlie Klabunde-Physicist, retired 16 years ago from ORNL's Solid State Div., past president and 24-year newsletter editor and 10 years annual Handbook editor, SMHC. Avid folk dancer. Has served as TCWP Treasurer and membership records organizer for 35 years, and is pleased to continue this service to the organization.

DIRECTORS

Mark Bevelhimer - Aquatic ecologist/fish biologist in the Environmental Sciences Division of ORNL for past 20 years. Has conducted research on the effects of environmental stressors on aquatic ecosystems and contributed to environmental impact assessments for many energy projects. Enjoys hiking, camping, paddling, and fishing and mentoring youth and young adults.

Mary Lynn Dobson-An avid naturalist who enjoys getting to know the plants and critters that share our world. Board member of Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation. Interested in ways wilderness and biodiversity can be protected on private as well as public lands.

Frank Hensley-Retired mechanical engineer. Avid paddler and hiker. He is very interested in the Cumberlands. Also serves as Treasurer of Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation.

Larry Pounds- Botanical consultant, particularly for TVA and ORNL. Ph.D. in plant ecology. Member of the TCWP Program Committee and Tennessee Native Plant Society.

Liane (Lee) Russell-Retired from ORNL, but continues on guest status, writing up results of past genetics research. TCWP founder; Vice Pres. '66; Pres. '67-'70, '86-'87; Board member and Newsletter author and editor, '66-present. Instrumental in authorization and implementation of Big South Fork NRRRA and Obed WSR; also active in strip-mine, wilderness, and public-lands issues.

Michele Thornton-GIS Analyst at ORNL with the Environmental Sciences Division. Master's degree in Biology with an emphasis in stream ecology. BS in Biological Sciences. Taught secondary science in public schools in Michigan and natural science programs in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. Michele spends her free time hiking, biking, and shuttling and volunteering within her children's various interests.

Warren Webb- animal ecologist/wildlife biologist retired from the Environmental Sciences Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he worked for 25 years. A student of nature, conservation, and the outdoors since early youth, he has conducted research in forest ecology, served as ORNL wildlife management coordinator, and participated in environmental impact analyses of many energy technologies.

2014 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Cindy Kendrick, Jason Darby, Beth Adler

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Membership Renewal for 2013.
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Larry Pounds Director
Liane (Lee) Russell..... Director
Michele Thornton Director
Warren Webb..... Director
Sandra Goss Executive Director

THINGS TO DO

Register for **October 5 Annual Meeting:**
Call or write 865-583-3967 or sandra@sandrakgoss.com

Sign up for *Kroger Rewards TCWP Program*
See details in **9A** on page 11.

New Coal Mine Permit in Claiborne County.
Send your comments by October 4.
See details in **2C** on page 4.