



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

ISSN 1089-6104

Newsletter No. 312

November 17, 2013

Taking Care of Wild Places

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

11. ACTION SUMMARY

No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Withdrawals from Obed watershed	TCWP	Offer to help with research and analysis
2B	Educating Tennessee legislators	TCWP	Offer to talk to state legislators about threats to water and air
3A	Wilderness in Cherokee NF	TCWP	Offer to talk to US Reps. Roe & Fleischmann
3B	Corridor K in Cherokee NF	WaySouth, for guidance on spreading the word	"TDoT is planning colossal waste of \$\$ and time"
5	Integrated Resource Plan	TVA	"Use cleaner, more efficient energy; retire coal plants!"
6A	CWA protection for <u>all</u> waters	EPA Admin. McCarthy	"Strengthen protection for small streams, wetlands!"
7A	Carbon pollution from power plants	EPA. Admin. McCarthy	1. "Finalize strongest standards for <i>new</i> power plants!" 2. "Create strong standards for <i>existing</i> power plants"
9C	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
Nashville, TN 37243-9872
615-741-2001; Fax 615-532-9711
bill.haslam@state.tn.us

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Haslam
Respectfully yours,

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

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

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

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

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

Newsletter editor: Lee Russell, lianerussell@comcast.net

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

1. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

1A. *The Crab Orchard Utility District's proposal for withdrawing Daddys Creek water*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

As reported, the Crab Orchard Utility District's (COUD's) proposal to "harvest" water from Daddy's Creek has been submitted as a permit application to the Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation (NL 310 ¶1A). The water would be stored in a quarry near Crab Orchard. We have identified several reasons why water withdrawal at *any* flow level would be harmful to the Obed system (NL311 ¶1A).

The outcome of much testing, environmental surveys, and other reports will determine whether the COUD proposal becomes a reality. An *ad hoc* group of groups, including TCWP, is meeting regularly to analyze the effects of such a withdrawal on the Obed River system.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If you can help with this preliminary research and analysis effort, contact Sandra (865-583-3967 or sandra@sandrakgoss.com)

1B. *TVA clears rights-of-way at the Big South Fork during government shutdown*

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

The Federal Government shutdown from October 1-17 deprived us of the opportunity to visit the well-loved National Park Service units in our area, including the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and Obed Wild and Scenic River. During the week of October 21, after returning to work, Big South Fork park staff discovered that Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) transmission line rights-of-ways in the park had been cleared during the shutdown. Discussion with TVA's clearing contractor and TVA staff confirmed that the contractor had been working inside the Park during the shutdown, and that the contractor had been told to mow the transmission lines, though TVA was aware that the Park was closed.

During the government shutdown all national park units were mandated to close, all visitors were asked to leave, and all concessionaires and contractors were ordered to halt their activities. It is deplorable that TVA chose to disregard the Park closure, and especially discouraging since it demonstrates a lack of concern on TVA's part for working amidst the sensitive resources of a National Park. NPS staff were not available to conduct the routine monitoring and oversight necessary to protect sensitive species habitat while the right-of-way clearing took place. Before any right-of-way work in the Park can continue, NPS staff will be meeting with TVA to address and improve the working relationship so that this kind of disregard for federal law does not occur again and no more resource damage is inflicted.

1C. *Obed and BSF capsules*(1) Park closure

While the Obed WSR and BSFNRRRA were closed during the government shut-down (Oct. 1-17), significant resource damage occurred in the parks. This was the result of vandalism and of unsupervised activities by contractors employed by TVA (¶1B, above).

When the shut-down ended, the visitor centers reopened and regularly scheduled programs resumed. For the Obed WSR, these are Preschool Storytime (every Friday morning), the Coffee and Climb with a Ranger program (first Saturday of the Month), and Memories of the Obed.

(2) Hog hunting season

Wild hogs may be hunted in the Big South Fork as well as the Obed Wild and Scenic River from September 28 through February 28, 2014. A valid hunting license and permit are required. Dogs may not be used to hunt.

For more information, contact the Visitor Center at (423) 346-6294 or visit: www.nps.gov/obed

2. TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. *Newest state park is in Knox County*

A 400-acre wildlife refuge on a peninsula of the French Broad River has become Tennessee's 56th state park. The area belonged to Knox County, having been donated in 2001 by the Seven Islands Foundation, a nonprofit land conservancy.

The park, which is located 16 miles downstream from Douglas Dam, fronts about four miles of the French Broad River. It contains about 8 miles of trail, and a boat launch for kayaks and canoes. The river-bottom lands provide habitat to numerous bird species, including several migratory ones. Native grasses are grown on the property, and over the years more than 14,000 trees have been planted to help stabilize the river banks.

The past couple of years have seen addition of three state parks: Cummins Falls, No. 54 (NL303 ¶2A), Rocky Fork, No. 55 (NL306 ¶2A), and now Seven Islands, No. 56.

2B. *Tennessee Fracktivism update*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Since the University of Tennessee announced the abandonment of the proposed UT Fracking Study on the Cumberland Forest in Scott and Morgan counties, so-called fracktivists and others concerned with fracking and its possible negative effects on water and air quality have been strategizing about next steps.

The *ad hoc* coalition of groups that has worked on oil and gas issues for the past 3 years has identified education of state legislators as the next giant step. Over the next several weeks, it is hoped that volunteers for Operation Fracking Education for Legislators can be recruited, trained, and deployed. This program will be most effective if constituents call on their respective legislators.

Conservation Day on the Hill is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19. Conservationists and environmentalists from across the state will gather at Legislative Plaza to call on legislators and let those in state government know that many Tennesseans care about pure drinking water and clean air. See action box.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: We hope you can participate in Conservation Day on the Hill, February 19, an important day of advocacy for Tennessee's natural resources. For more information, contact Sandra (sandra@sandrakgoss.com or 865-583-3967) or visit Tennessee Environmental Council at tec@tectn.org

2C. *Legislative Scorecard now available*

As it does annually, Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) has issued its Legislative Scorecard. The full scorecard may be viewed on www.tnconservationvoters.org.

As TCV notes, 2013 was not a banner year for the passage of "headline" environmental bills. The major achievement was the maintaining of dedicated state funds for state and local park-land acquisition, etc. Gov. Haslam proposed full funding for this item, and the General Assembly agreed. On the other hand, the bill that would have stopped mountaintop mining was snuffed out, despite extensive public support. It failed in a Senate committee for lack of a motion.

No legislation passed to regulate fracking; on the contrary, the General Assembly approved a TDEC rule that allows for fracking without public notice

Due to the paucity of substantive bills, many legislators do not have recorded votes on which they could be graded. The TCV Scorecard awarded positive (or negative) points for sponsorship of certain bills, or for votes in committee or subcommittee. Highest scorers in the Senate were Finney (D-27), Ford, (D-29) and Kelsey (R-31). In the House, the top scorer was Gilmore (D-54). Also scoring high were Hardaway (D-92), DeBerry (D-90), Dunn (R-16), Matheny (R-47), Parkinson (D-98), and Powell (D-53).

2D. *Hemlock preserver wins award*

Trish Johnson, the East Tennessee Coordinator for The Nature Conservancy, has received the Forest Conservationist of the Year award from the Tennessee Wildlife Federation. She was honored for spearheading the Tennessee Conservation Partnership (NL311¶3B), which has protected more than 1800 acres of hemlocks from destruction by hemlock woolly adelgids.

3. CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

3A. *Efforts to win support for the Tennessee Wilderness bill*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Efforts are ongoing to secure the necessary legislation to preserve five special places in the Cherokee National Forest as Wilderness. The Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2013, S.1294, was reintroduced on July 15 by Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker (NL310 ¶4; NL311 ¶4A), but there has been no further movement on it. A broad coalition of groups, including TCWP, Sierra Club, WildSouth, Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, and others, recently met to strategize about the next steps. One strategy is to develop a cadre of wilderness-endorsing businesses. Over the past several months, many businesses have endorsed the wilderness designation. The next step is to mobilize these wilderness fans and to add new ones. This will enable us to demonstrate the importance of wilderness to area economies.

Wilderness designation is the most protected status for land in the Cherokee NF. The U. S. Forest Service's most recent Management Plan recommended that these areas be changed from wilderness-study designation to wilderness-area status. Such change in designation does not require additional land, funds, or changes in management.

The bill introduced by Senators Alexander and Corker needs support in the House. While the entire Tennessee Congressional delegation can affect the legislation's success, Congressmen Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN3) and Phil Roe (R-TN1) are key to the effort since the areas in question are located in their districts.

Constituents are needed to visit these congressmen to let them know that the proposed Wilderness Bill is important to them. We will schedule such visits at your convenience and will provide training. See action box.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If you are a residents of Congressional Districts 1 or 3, please contact Sandra Goss (865-583-3967 or sandra@sandrakgoss.com) and tell her of your willingness to visit Reps. Roe or Fleischmann, respectively.

3B. *Gearing up for Corridor-K Draft EIS*

[Contributed by Melanie Mayes, chair, WaysSouth]

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) just published a new schedule for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for US 64 (Corridor K) in the Ocoee gorge. TDOT wants to plough a new billion-dollar road through the pristine mountains and streams north of the Ocoee River in the Cherokee National Forest. The preliminary DEIS will be submitted to federal and state agencies for their approval this winter, with a public release of the DEIS in Summer 2014 and meetings in Fall 2014.

At WaysSouth we are advocating for an upgrade of the *existing* Highway 64. TDOT has paid lip service to this idea, but TDOT's version of "improve existing" is massive in scope – with unwavering high speeds, unnecessarily

wide shoulders, and giant cutbacks into the mountains – which would destroy the wildness and beauty of the gorge. Whether in a new location or in its present one along the river, the massive new highway would cost a billion dollars to build (*before* paying for environmental mitigation and maintenance) and would take at least 15 years of construction, during which time the quiet Cherokee National Forest would be turned upside down by construction of access roads, logging, and geological work.

In addition to the environmental cost, that's money (and time) that Tennessee can't afford to waste. TDOT has \$275 million dollars in earmarked federal funds for this road – enough to *fix* the existing road, but not nearly enough to build the road TDOT is planning. Smart, environmentally sensitive improvements are not only more affordable; they could also be done *now*. The Ocoee region deserves a fiscally and environmentally responsible road that protects our natural heritage and ensures the continued strength of the area's green-tourism economy.

To fight TDOT's billion-dollar boondoggle in your national forest, we need your assistance. We need you to help spread the word. We need to let the public know about this vast waste of money and resources, so we can advocate for TDOT to alter their course. See action box, below, for what you can do to help. With your help, we can save the Cherokee National Forest, Goforth Creek, and the Ocoee gorge.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: “Like” us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/waysouth>) for updates that you can “share” with your Facebook friends. If you're not on Facebook, visit our website (www.waysouth.org) and sign up for our Corridor-K e-news list. We are looking for new volunteers. Please contact Melanie Mayes (Chair) at mamayes5@yahoo.com.

4. SMOKIES CAPSULES

4A. *The Smoky Mountains Regional Project at the UT Libraries*

The UT Libraries administer the world's most robust collection of materials on the Great Smoky Mountains. To be published in December is *Terra Incognita: An Annotated Bibliography of the Great Smoky Mountains, 1544-1934*. The writings cited and annotated in this work describe the areas before the establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and create the build-up to the creation of the Park. For more information, visit www.utpress.org/titles.

Continuing its growth is the “Database of the Smokies,” or DOTS (dots.lib.utk.edu). New material is constantly being added to the physical and digital collections. Currently in process of being added are records for all the images in the various digital collections offered by the UT Libraries. Records for all books in the Collection are soon to be entered. Together, they bring the total of the database to over 6000 items.

You can browse the collections at www.library.utk.edu/smokies. If you want to support the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Project, call Erin Horni-Ogle at 865-974-0055.

4B. *Park administration*

Since mid-September, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park has had a new deputy superintendent. She is Patricia M. Wissinger, a North Carolinian.

5. TVA: UPDATING

THE INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

The aim of the IRP is to “identify the most effective energy resource strategy that will meet TVA's mission and serve the people of the Valley for the next 10 to 20 years with cleaner, low-cost and reliable electricity.” Although the previous IRP was as recent as 2011, this update is deemed necessary to reflect dramatic changes that have occurred, including the abundance of lower-cost natural gas, a decline in electricity demand, and TVA's clean-air commitments to retire at least 2,700 megawatts of less-efficient coal capacity by 2018.

Major issues addressed include the cost and reliability of power; the effects of power production on the environment; the availability and use of renewable power resources, including energy efficiency; the handling of waste and byproducts of TVA power operations, and the relationship of the economy to all of these activities. The IRP also evaluates electrical-transmission-system additions and upgrades necessary to transmit power from TVA generating facilities and from facilities outside the TVA region.

Comments must be received by Nov. 22. They can be submitted on the project website at <http://www.tva.gov/irp>, or by email at IRP@tva.gov, or in writing to Charles P. Nicholson, Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, WT 11D, Knoxville, TN 37902.

WHAT YOU CAN DO. Your voice is needed to ensure that TVA knows its customers want to use cleaner, more efficient energy for the next century. Urge TVA (contact info in preceding paragraph) to immediately retire coal plants and support clean, renewable energy

6. NATIONAL NEWS

6A. *Small water bodies need protection*

Ambiguous Supreme Court rulings during the past decade have resulted in the loss of Clean Water Act (CWA) protection for certain small water courses, wetlands, etc. (NL308 ¶7B). Presently 59% of U.S. streams and 20 million acres of wetlands are vulnerable to toxic dumping and pollution. This affects the drinking water for 117 million Americans and threatens the survival of wild-life like river otters, fish, and other aquatic fauna.

EPA's new report, "Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters," affirms the well-established scientific principle that we must protect the network of small, interconnected wetlands and headwater streams in our watersheds to protect the health of our larger waters downstream. This report should provide scientific back-up for strengthening the appropriate regulations without any further delays.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact Administrator McCarthy and urge EPA to strengthen protections under the Clean Water Act without delay. We need to keep all our waterways safe -- including small streams and wetlands. For address, see Political Guide; or e-mail to: a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov. Subject: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OA-2013-0582

mands on our lands and waters are greater than ever, thanks to growing populations and the very real effects of climate change.

Three important anniversaries are approaching: in 2016, we'll celebrate what has been called "America's Best Idea," our National Park System; and 2014 is the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). But since 2010, Congress hasn't acted to protect a single new acre of public land as a national park or a wilderness area. "What conservation legacy will we leave," she asked. "Will it be the legacy of short-sighted funding?" She noted that a budget that supports our parks, forests, refuges, rivers, and conservation lands is also one that strengthens our economy.

Among her proposals and plans were the following.

- Congress should adopt President Obama's budget proposal to enact mandatory, full funding of the LWCF by 2015.
- We need a comprehensive public-lands package that conserves our nation's most special lands and waters. She noted that Pres. Obama had taken steps where Congress fell short by designating (under the 1906 Antiquities Act) nine national monuments over the past four years. She will evaluate opportunities where action can ensure that our nation's stories and landscapes are preserved.
- In planning for renewable energy projects on public lands (Pres. Obama's goal is 20,000 megawatts by 2020), high-priority conservation lands must be excluded. The best science must be applied to guide development to the areas of highest resource value and lowest environmental concern.
- To engage the next generation in understanding and stewarding our public lands, Interior and other federal land-management agencies will provide 100,000 work and training opportunities to young people. The agencies will work with corporate and non-profit organizations to raise an additional \$20 million over four years to support these opportunities

6B. *What the government shutdown did to the national parks*

[Includes info from NPCA]

Nationwide, the 16-day shutdown cost our economy nearly \$24 billion (Standard & Poor's estimate). It was keenly felt by the National Park System, which had to close all 401 park sites and had to turn away an estimated 12 million visitors. Typically, in October, the National Park System has about 750,000 visits per day, and visitors spend more than \$30 million per day in local economies. Every dollar invested in the National Park Service generates \$10 in economic activity, and every two Park Service jobs yield one outside the Park Service. The local gateway communities around national parks depend on the parks being open.

Park access had to be blocked because only skeleton NPS staff was available to protect visitor safety and prevent resource damage. For an instance of where the latter did occur, see ¶1B and 1C, this NL.

The government shutdown hit the National Park Service on top of compounded budget cuts and sequestration. The budget to operate our national parks, in today's dollars, is already 13% less than it was three years ago. In the busy summer tourist season, national parks operated with approximately 1,900 fewer staff members due to the more than \$180 million cut in 2013 (\$315 million cut over the past three years).

(A little-known shutdown consequence: 860,000 gallons of fracked oil spilled in North Dakota went unreported because of the shutdown.)

6C. *Interior Secretary Jewell addresses her department's problems and objectives*

In an extensive speech on October 31, Secretary Sally Jewell outlined some of the directions in which she hopes to take the US Department of the Interior. She deplored the draconian constraints of fiscal resources brought about, most recently, by sequestration at the very time when de-

6D. *Debt-limit blackmail*

Among conditions demanded in the US House of Representatives for allowing the debt limit to be raised:

- mandating approval of the Keystone XL tar sands oil pipeline;
- blocking EPA's ability to reduce greenhouse gas pollution.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE; ENERGY

7A. *Support urgently needed for EPA's proposals to limit carbon emissions from power plants.*

We cannot overemphasize the importance of expressing strong support for standards that will limit carbon emissions from power plants. About 40% of the CO₂ that is driving climate change is due to coal-fired power plants, and there is currently NO requirement to limit these emissions. Recognizing that Congress is unlikely to take positive action on this issue, Pres. Obama ordered EPA to set carbon limits for power plants, something that (according to a 2007 Supreme Court ruling) can be done under the Clean Air Act (NL311 ¶6A). Regulations will be issued in two steps – affecting new and existing plants – and we must weigh in on both.

Draft guidelines for new power plants that were issued on September 20 include the requirement for plants to capture their carbon emissions and store them underground (a currently expensive technology). EPA is proposing to set separate standards for natural-gas-fired turbines and coal-fired units. Caution is indicated: as found in a recent UCS (Union of Concerned Scientists) analysis, a long-term over-reliance on natural gas will *not* achieve the emissions reductions needed to address global warming.

By June 2014, the EPA is also due to propose a carbon standard for existing power plants. In October, listening sessions were held in 11 major cities across the country to gather input on the best approaches to limit this carbon pollution. After the standards are finalized, states will have the opportunity to propose and implement their own plans to meet the new guidelines.

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.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: We must urge EPA, (1) to finalize the strongest carbon-pollution standards possible for new power plants, and (2) to work quickly to create strong standards for existing power plants.

Ways to comment:

(a) Visit the EPA website, <http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/2013-proposed-carbon-pollution-standard-new-power-plants>, to read the information on the proposed new standards, and find the link for commenting (top right corner).

(b) Email to: a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov, Subject: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0495.

7B. *Recent Supreme Court rulings on climate change pollution – mostly favorable*

[Includes information from EarthJustice]

Three mid-October actions by the Supreme Court affect the control of carbon pollution. The first two decisions strengthen the foundation for EPA's authority to con-

trol such pollution. (1) The Court refused to hear challenges to EPA's finding that carbon dioxide and other climate-change pollutants endanger human health. (2) The Court rejected attacks on carbon-pollution limits for cars and trucks.

In the third decision, the Court agreed to review an industry challenge to an EPA requirement for permits. Such permits would have to be obtained prior to construction of new major power plants and industrial facilities that will emit large quantities of greenhouse gases. The permits would include plant-specific requirements to limit climate-change, using available technologies. Industry claims the permit requirement lacks legal basis, but the lower court decisively rejected that argument. Earthjustice and other groups will vigorously oppose the industry position when the case comes before the Supreme Court.

7C. *5th IPCC report establishes near certainty that the warming is human-caused*

The most recent report (the 5th) by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a worldwide (U.N.) committee of hundreds of scientists, was released in early October. This 900-page IPCC report deals with the physical science of climate change. Additional reports (on impacts, and on steps to limit the damage) will be issued in 2014. Here are the major findings of this latest report.

- For the first time, IPCC identifies a level beyond which warming will be >3.6°F (=2°C) above the level during pre-industrial times, and beyond which irreversible changes will occur. This level is one trillion metric tons of carbon. We have already burned *more than half* of this amount, and at the rate we're going the level will be reached around 2040. (More than three trillion tons of carbon are still in the ground as potential fossil fuel.)
- The likelihood that the warming is human-caused is now 95-100%, up from the 90-100% estimate of 6 years ago.
- The report has taken pains to be cautious in the assessment of the evidence. For instance, it states that sea-level rise by the end of this century could be as much as 3 ft, even though several published papers set the estimated maximum near 5 ft.
- The range of potential warming resulting from a doubling of CO₂ level in the atmosphere is estimated to be 2.7-8.1°F (in the 2007 report, the estimate was 3.6-8.1°F).

U.N. Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, has announced that he plans to hold a meeting of heads of state in 2014 to push forward a new climate treaty, hopefully more productive than the 2009 Copenhagen meeting.

7D. *Some cities pledge to phase out fossil fuels*

[From www.publicnewsservice.org]

Asheville has joined Los Angeles and Chicago in approving a resolution to phase out the use of fossil fuels to create electricity and to replace it with clean energy. It is the first southern city to do so.

Asheville's resolution establishes a partnership between Duke Energy and the city to develop a plan to phase out the use of fossil fuels in western North Carolina. Duke Energy's Asheville coal plant is the region's largest source of carbon pollution. Duke Energy and city leaders already are looking at programs to help consumers and businesses invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

7E. *How the media cover climate change*

The *Los Angeles Times* has openly acknowledged that climate deniers are wrong, and has become the country's first major newspaper to ban climate-denial letters to the editor. As the *Times*' letter editor explained on October 8: "Just last month, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change -- a body made up of the world's top climate scientists -- said it was 95% certain that we fossil-fuel-burning humans are driving global warming. The debate right now isn't whether this evidence exists (clearly, it does) but what this evidence means for us.

Simply put, I do my best to keep errors of fact off the letters page; when one does run, a correction is published. Saying 'there's no sign humans have caused climate change' is not stating an opinion, it's asserting a factual inaccuracy."

Other major papers have not yet adopted the *LA Times* policy and still publish the factually wrong talking points.

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

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

On October 12, the City of Knoxville celebrated the centennial of the National Conservation Exposition of 1913 (NL311 ¶8B). The event was held in Chilhowee Park, which had also been the location of the 1913 Exposition. TCWP had an exhibit staffed by Jimmy Groton and Larry Pounds. Participation by the public was limited, but we took advantage of the opportunity to make some new friends and to strengthen our ties with our partner organizations, including Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero, Conservation Fisheries, Sierra Club, and Tennessee Wild.

8C. *Wetlands constructed at local schools*

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

John Byrd, head of the Clinch River Environmental Studies Organization (CRESO) and Steve Forbes, an engineer with Arcadis, have overseen construction of more than ten wetlands at local schools. These constructed wetlands have provided local science teachers with outdoor classrooms so students can discover first-hand the principles of ecology and aquatic biology. We will be working with John to schedule fieldtrips later in the year to visit and explore many of John's wetland projects. On Feb. 6, John will be presenting a TCWP program on local amphibians (see ¶9A, this NL)

8. OAK RIDGE/KNOXVILLE AREA

8A. *Wildlife-habitat area certified at former K-25 site*

[Contributed by Michele Thornton]

The National Wildlife Federation has designated a 26-acre area of the Heritage Center as certified wildlife habitat. Part of the former K-25 site, the habitat includes approximately 2 miles of walking paths within areas that have been restored back to native warm-season grass meadows. Trail markers and brochures describe the sites as the path passes through restored meadows, a pond lined with bird houses, and close by Poplar Creek. For local birders, the area supports more than 200 species of birds and water fowls, including nesting pairs of bald eagles and osprey. According to the National Wildlife Federation's web site, there are more than 150,000 certified wildlife habitat sites across the country. These areas help wildlife by providing food, water, cover, and a place to rear young.

In a press release, Lawrence Young, president and chief executive officer of the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee states that, "Our vision for the site was to create a natural, park-like setting with greenways and conserved land. Not only is this the best way to revitalize Heritage Center and make it attractive to potential businesses, it saves money, helps our environment, and wildlife, and it makes the property accessible to our community." The area can be accessed at the Heritage Center from Highway 58 near Perimeter Road.

9. TCWP BUSINESS

9A. *Upcoming activities*

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

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

TCWP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 12

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

All members and friends are welcome! The hours are 7 – 9:30 p.m.. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share; beverages will be provided.

Whites Creek Trail workday – Saturday, January 18

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

Participants should wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring work gloves, loppers, and small bow saws or folding saws. Some hand tools will be available at the event. Please be

sure to bring clothing appropriate for weather conditions, water, snacks, and/or a lunch.

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

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

John Byrd on Frogs and Salamanders of Anderson County -- Thursday, February 6

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

John Byrd has been involved with education and research on amphibians for many years. He taught biology and science at Anderson County High School and headed up the Clinch River Environmental Studies Organization (CRESO), which introduced high school students to advanced field-research techniques. (For his role in constructing educational wetlands, see ¶8C, this NL). The Feb. 6 presentation begins at 7:00 in the Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room.

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

9B. Recent events

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

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

On September 28, TCWP and TVA partnered again for our annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) celebration, held at TVA's Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area on Melton Hill Reservoir in Oak Ridge. The fall weather was spectacular, and we had a diverse turnout of TCWP members, Oak Ridge High School and Jefferson Middle School students, and parents—in all, 18 volunteers. Ms. Adler and Ms. Sobek at ORHS and Mr. Beard and Mr. Goodlaxson at JMS have been great in generating interest and participation among the students.

Activities included learning about the history of the Worthington family in the region and the ecology of cedar barrens and wetlands, and removing invasive, exotic plants from the historic cemetery and the cedar barren. Anne Worthington provided us with an engaging overview of the cemetery and the family members buried there. Volunteers removed Chinese privet, Chinese wisteria, bush honeysuckle, and other invasive shrubs and vines from the area. Students also helped clear vegetation from many of the grave-stones in the cemetery.

This year's cleanup was bittersweet, since Wes James, a TVA natural resource management specialist, who for many years has served as our main point of contact with TVA, was about to retire after 38 years of employment. In recognition of Wes' consistent help to TCWP, we presented him with framed prints of Bill Russell's beautiful photograph of the Obed Canyon and Cindy Kendrick's sister-in-law's lovely print of hummingbirds and rhododendrons. Although Wes is leaving TVA, we hope he'll continue to find time to work with us. As we said goodbye to Wes, we welcomed Angela Sutton, the new TVA point of contact for our work at Worthington Cemetery.

After several hours' work, everyone enjoyed a hot pizza lunch. TCWP has partnered with TVA, ORHS, and JMS many times to enhance and protect natural resources at Worthington Cemetery and at other TVA lands throughout East Tennessee as part of our mutual stewardship efforts.

Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 5

About 25 members and guests attended this year's annual meeting, held at the Morgan County Board of Education complex in Wartburg. Lisa Huff of the Tennessee Natural Areas Program opened the meeting with a very interesting talk on the state's initiative to restore native grasslands and shortleaf pine to former monoculture pine plantations on the Cumberland Plateau. Lisa pointed out that the open grasslands that once existed on the Plateau are now critically endangered, and that we need to work for their restoration just as we work to keep forests intact.

Our brief business meeting was followed by a delicious buffet lunch. After lunch most of the group took a field trip on a beautiful fall afternoon to the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area, accompanied by Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency staffer Marc Lipner and Clarence Coffey, former District III TWRA manager, to view examples of the grassland restoration project.

Oak Ridge Cedar Barren cleanup -- Saturday, November 9

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

On an absolutely beautiful fall morning TCWP convened another cleanup session at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens State Natural Area in Oak Ridge. Despite a smaller contingent than usual—only 10 volunteers—we accomplished a lot in our efforts to restore the ecology of the Barrens by eradicating invasive, exotic plants such as bushy lespedeza, sericea lespedeza, Chinese privet, Amur honeysuckle, mimosa, autumn olive, Japanese honeysuckle, oriental bitter-sweet, and other invasive shrubs and vines.

Cedar Barren Steward Tim Bigelow surprised us with a Puller Bear, a Canadian version of the celebrated Weed Wrench I. Afterwards we enjoyed a great pizza lunch, and brownies made by Stephanie Cramer. TCWP has partnered with the City of Oak Ridge and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation since 1988 to protect the sensitive natural resources at Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens State Natural Area.

9C. *An easy and automatic way to benefit TCWP*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The new Kroger Community Rewards Program* in which TCWP is now enrolled provides a way for you to benefit TCWP with no effort, except for registering. Visit krogercommunityrewards.com 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 automatically 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 bought from us, keep using them – they're still good (although no additional ones will be issued by Kroger).

9D. *Members in the news*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss and Jimmy Groton]

TCWP was sad to learn that Walter F. Ohnesorge, Jr. passed away on October 13. Walt was a loyal TCWP member and supporter for many years. For the last few years Walt had adopted a section of the North Ridge Trail in West Oak Ridge. His help with trail maintenance was a big help to all of us. We are grateful for his service.

Congrats to Maryalice Wilson and Hans Christen for their recognition in the recent Obed Wild and Scenic River Photography Contest.

Thanks to *Oak Ridger* columnist Ray Smith for three recent articles about Bill and Lee Russell and their separate and mutual contributions to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory research efforts and to Tennessee conservation.

Glenn Marshall and Warren Webb had letters to the editor in the *News Sentinel* and the *Oak Ridger*, respectively, about Wilderness designation.

9E. *A Note from the Executive Director*

[By Sandra Goss]

Dear TCWP folk,

The TCWP Board of Directors and committees have been working a rather rigorous schedule, from updating the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren Management Plan to editing our *Obed in Peril* booklet handout, to planning programs and outings for 2014. As Larry Pounds commented at our most recent Program Committee meeting, "There are so many nice outings to do!"

In partnership with the National Park Service, TCWP is sponsoring a river clean-up from rafts on the Obed River on Saturday, March 29 and on the Big South Fork on Saturday, April 12. This will be the third year we've held such an event on the Obed, and the first time on Big South Fork.

John Byrd is on tap in early February to talk about frogs and salamanders. Notice the careful timing to coincide with the beginning of frog song season! John is an Oak Ridge icon among amphibian fans, and his presentation will be informative and interesting.

In April, long-time TCWP friend and member Dodd Galbreath, Founding Director & Assistant Professor of Lipscomb University's Institute for Sustainable Practice, will present an interesting program on sustainability practices in Europe and the northeastern United States. Dodd's description of 9-inch thick insulation on a cold day, which had me thinking about high utility costs, was quite compelling.

In the near term, make sure that Thursday, December 12 is on your calendar for the TCWP Holiday Party. As in recently past years, this will be at Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen's house at 371 East Drive in Oak Ridge. This is one of my favorite holiday gatherings. Please join us and make it even better!

There's a lot to celebrate this year, including the withdrawal of the UT Fracking Study, and the financial resources to continue the Tennessee Wilderness Bill campaign. In this season of Thanksgiving, I'm grateful for TCWP members. Thanks for all you do, and Happy Holidays!!

Sandra

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

[From Sandra Goss]



- Jean Bangham, Frank Hensley, Charlie Klabunde, and Dick Raridon for helping with TCWP newsletter mailing preparations.
- Melanie Mayes, Carol Grametbauer, and Jimmy Groton, for their contributions to the latest TCWP Newsletter, written and edited by Lee Russell.
- Marion Burger, Stephanie Cramer, Carol Grametbauer, Gary Grametbauer, Jimmy Groton, Jerry Hardin, and David Hennessee, for their help setting up the TCWP Annual Meeting.
- Lisa Huff, Clarence Coffey, and Mark Lipner for their splendid presentations at the Annual Meeting.
- Jimmy Groton and Frank Hensley for researching an Obed River property that's for sale.
- Jimmy Groton, Eric Thornton and Michele Thornton for their work to improve the TCWP display.
- Glenn Marshall for arranging for TCWP to be an exhibitor at the Watershed Association for Tellico Reservoir (WATeR) Annual Meeting.
- Mark Bevelhimer and Larry Pounds for staffing the TCWP display at the WATeR Annual Meeting.
- Ben Pounds and Larry Pounds for helping with display set-up at WATeR Annual Meeting.
- Francis Perey for continuing to handle our website.
- Tim Bigelow, Jimmy Groton, and Larry Pounds for their leadership at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren cleanup.

- Marion Burger for coordinating Kroger gift certificate sales.
- Jimmy Groton and Larry Pounds for staffing the TCWP Display at Knoxville's Conservation Expo.

- The Obed Watershed Community Association, a leader in stream restoration and stabilization, has done more detailed stream assessment than any other watershed group, and is considered a model for how this information can be gathered and used. They can be reached at 931-484-9033 or 931-210-3611.

10. JOB OPENING; CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• JOB OPENING

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Natural Areas, anticipates hiring a full-time Environmental Specialist-4 (Stewardship Ecologist) to aid in oversight and management of Middle Tennessee state natural areas and supervise and to assist the Natural Areas Program Operations Steward in natural area management. For further information, visit <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/tennessee/default.cfm?action=viewclassspec&ClassSpecID>

•• CALENDAR (events and deadlines)

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

- November 22, deadline for commenting on TVA's IRP (§5, this NL).
- December 12, TCWP Holiday Party (§9A, this NL).
- January 18, Whites Creek Trail workday (§9A, this NL).
- February 6, Presentation (amphibians) by John Byrd (§9A, this NL).

•• RESOURCES

- The National Research Council, the operating arm of the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering, has issued several reports on the causes of - - and potential responses to -- climate change. *America's Climate Choices* and other climate-change resources from the National Research Council are available at <http://nas-sites.org/americasclimatechoices>
- The Nature Conservancy has a new program in Tennessee to fight invasive pests that kill trees. Called "Healthy Trees, Healthy Tennessee," the program equips communities with tools to spot and report outbreaks of pests before they get out of hand. <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/tennessee/explore/healthy-trees-healthy-tennessee.xml>
- "Water-Smart Power: Strengthening the U.S. Electricity System in a Warming World -- A Report of the Energy and Water in a Warming World Initiative (EW3)" has been published by the Union of Concerned Scientists. For executive summary, visit http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/clean_energy/Water-Smart-Power-Executive-Summary.pdf.

See you at the Holiday Party !

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Membership Renewal for 2014.

It's not too early to renew, if you want to.

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TCWP's 2013 Board of Directors

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Carol Grametbauer.....Secretary
Charlie Klabunde Treasurer
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Frank Hensley..... Director
Larry Pounds Director
Liane (Lee) Russell Director
Michele Thornton Director
Warren Webb..... Director
Sandra Goss Executive Director

THINGS TO DO

Come to the Holiday Party, Dec 12.

See **9A** on page 8

Sign up for *Kroger Rewards TCWP Program*

See details in **9C** on page 10.

Check out the new *Legislative Scorecard* from
Tennessee Conservation Voters.

Link given in **2C** on page 4.