



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

ISSN 1089-6104

Newsletter No. 315

May 18, 2014

Taking Care of Wild Places

The BIG stories

Nolichucky River in danger ¶1A

Cumberland Trail Conference dissolved ¶1B

Cherokee Wilderness Bill progresses ¶4A

Clean Water Act protections being restored ... ¶6A

Nat'l Climate Assessment should awaken public ..¶7A

1. Tennessee News. p. 3
 A. Nolichucky River in danger D. No new road projects for Tenn.
 B. Cumberland Trail Conference dissolved E. Old growth protected
 C. Yet another stripmine proposed for Claiborne County

2. Tennessee legislature wrap-up p. 4
 A. Bad bills that did not pass B. Mildly helpful bills that passed

3. Obed and Big South Fork news ... p. 4
 A. Opening of new visitor center C. TCWP revises Obed booklet
 B. Obed WSR movie premiers 5/23 D. NPS-assistance program

4. Cherokee National Forest p. 5
 A. Wilderness bill progresses in Senate C. Identification of old growth
 B. Recreational Mining rules will affect Cherokee

5. Smokies stats p. 5

6. National news p. 6
 A. Restoration of vital Clean Water Act protections
 B. Supreme Court lets Spruce No.1 permit denial stand E. Fracking capsules
 C. Antiquities Act again under attack F. Senator Alexander endorsed by new conservation PAC
 D. Obama budget includes full funding for LWCF G. Wilderness stats and needs

7. Climate change; energy p. 8
 A. National Climate Assessment should awaken the public E. Hydropower: renewable energy that buries rivers
 B. IPCC report stresses extreme urgency F. The moneyed nay-sayers can be proved wrong; a bit of history
 C. Why EPA needs to limit carbon emissions G. Not all news is bad news
 D. Climate change is poorly covered in the news H. A new way to make (new types of) biofuels

8. Oak Ridge area: The proposed overhead powerline along the BORCE p. 10

9. TCWP NEWS (Upcoming & recent activities; Tree for Bob Luxmoore; Kroger benefits; Help wanted; Members in the news; Thanks; ED column) p. 10

11. Job openings; Calendar; Resources p. 14

12. ACTION SUMMARY p. 2

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

12. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Threat to Nolichucky River	TDEC, by May 30	"Deny the permit for US Nitrogen
4A	Cherokee NF Wilderness	Senators Alexander, Corker Reps. Fleischmann and Roe Media in pertinent districts	"Please get S.1294 passed!" "Support our senators in getting bill passed!" Write letters to the Editor
6A	Clean Water Act protections	EPA	"I support proposed rule that defines Waters of the US!"
6B	Stream Buffer Zone Rule	U.S. Senators	"Please oppose bill that would lock-in bad SBZ Rule!"
6C	Antiquities Act	U.S. Senators	"Oppose bill that would emasculate this vital Act!"
9D	\$\$ benefits for TCWP	Kroger website	Sign up for Community Rewards program
9E	Secret City booth	Sandra Goss	Volunteer to help 2-3 hours

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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
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Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

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

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

WHAT IS TCWP?

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

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1. TENNESSEE NEWS

1A. *Nolichucky River in danger*

[Information from Tenn. Clean Water Network and local residents]

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) is on the verge of granting a discharge permit to U.S. Nitrogen LLC, which has proposed withdrawing 1.4 million gallons per day of water from the Nolichucky River for use in an industrial process. The water would be used for the production of ammonium nitrate for fertilizers and explosives. Wastewater, containing hundreds of pounds of ammonia, sulfates, and other pollutants would be returned to the river. Most of the jobs produced by the plant would be only temporary construction jobs that would soon vanish.

The Nolichucky is one of our cleanest rivers. Area residents are concerned about impacts of the proposed operation on drinking water, livestock, crops, wetland species, and sites of ancient Indian villages and burial sites. Impacts of the variations in the Nolichucky's stream flow, and of the plant's intake screens on the river's fish and other aquatic life must also be considered. Area residents are petitioning TDEC to refuse the US Nitrogen LLC request, or any request that involves pumping water out of the Nolichucky and returning toxic wastewater.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: By May 30, urge TDEC to deny the permit -- Tracking Number: TN0081566, File: NRS13.205. Comments may be e-mailed to water.permits@tn.gov. A Facebook page that has the latest updates and action suggestions is at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Save-the-Nolichucky/240125856178528?ref=hl>

1B. *Tennessee Trails Association assumes role of Cumberland Trail Conference*

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

On May 3, the Tennessee Trails Association (TTA) board of directors voted unanimously to reorganize and dissolve the Cumberland Trail Conference (CTC), ending CTC's 17-year relationship as an affiliate organization of TTA. TTA will assume CTC's role in the completion of the Cumberland Trail, and all CTC assets, records, and equipment have been transferred to TTA. Current CTC employee, Marleya Pendleton, will become a TTA employee.

Details are still emerging but TTA will assume all the roles and responsibilities of the former CTC. TTA will work with the State of Tennessee, the Cumberland Trail State Park management, the Friends of the Cumberland Trail State Park, and other partner organizations to complete the Cumberland Trail by 2018.

It is sad to see the efforts and accomplishments of the CTC end this way. Nevertheless, TCWP will continue its

commitment to maintain the Nemo-to-Alley Ford section of the Obed Wild and Scenic River segment of the trail, which we adopted in 1998. We have been a strong supporter of the Cumberland Trail since it was first conceived by Bob Brown, Evan Means, Donald Todd, and Mack Prichard.

1C. *Yet another stripmine proposed for Claiborne County*

A third new stripmine has been proposed for the Clear Fork of the Cumberland watershed in Claiborne County [note: this is *not* the Clear Fork tributary of the Big South Fork]. The lineup includes Kopper Glo's 1,496-acre Cooper Ridge Mine, Appolo Fuel's 1,088-acre Sterling and Strays Mine (NL311 ¶2C), and now Kopper Glo's 578-acre proposal for King Mountain above Clairfield.

On May 6, TDEC held a public meeting on the permit to discharge into Rock Creek, King Hollow, Straight Creek, and the Clear Fork. (The comment deadline has passed.) This permit is strongly opposed by a number of organizations, including TCWP. The Tennessee Clean Water Network points out that the streams are already heavily impacted by coal-mining discharges and that Straight Creek and the Clear Fork, which are designated Exceptional Tennessee Waters, are important habitat for the blackside dace, a federally threatened species.

1D. *No new road projects for Tennessee*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

According to an April 24 *Knoxville News Sentinel* report, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDoT) Commissioner John Schroer, in recently speaking to the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization, commented that Tennessee must review its "archaic system" of funding road projects from fuel taxes. Schroer advocated for a usage fee system based on miles traveled and weight of vehicle.

The federal Highway Trust Fund, source of about half of Tennessee's transportation budget, is projected to be out of money by late summer. The commissioner explained that other states use various techniques to fund road building. He cited Florida as an example: it provides 70% of road project funding, compared to Tennessee's 20% match.

Schroer said that TDoT is now "purely in a maintenance mode," concentrating on existing infrastructure. TDoT will not embark on any *new* road projects without a guaranteed revenue stream. This is good news for the Corridor K proposal (NL311 ¶4B), which would invade the Cherokee National Forest with a new routing for US 64.

1E. *Large tract of old-growth habitat is protected*

A conservation easement on a 1,363-acre tract of old-growth wooded habitat has been donated to the Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation. The property runs along

a portion of the Natchez Trace Parkway and contains more than 9,000 linear feet of streams that drain to the South Harpeth River. The protected forest will provide an old-growth refuge for biodiversity in this rapidly growing part of the state (Williamson County).

2. TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE WRAP-UP

[Compiled from TCV reports by Sandra Goss and Lee Russell]

The 108th Tennessee General Assembly adjourned April 17. When the legislature next meets (January, 2015), it will be a different body as a result of the upcoming elections. The following are highlights of this session, viewed through conservation and environmental prisms.

2A. Bad bills that did not pass

- The Tennessee Mining Assn.'s efforts to reverse the primacy decision of the 1980s, which gave the feds authority to fully regulate and oversee mining in TN (NL314 ¶2B). -- TCV and the entire environmental community mobilized to defeat this bill and were ultimately successful, thanks in part to TDEC and Gov. Haslam not wanting to take on full regulatory authority without more funding certainty. This issue will definitely be back next year.
- Efforts to usurp the authority of local governments to keep guns out of local parks. -- The defeat of these efforts succeeded, thanks to a courageous House Finance subcommittee. This issue is also likely to be back next year.

2B. Mildly helpful bills that passed

- SB1640 (Norris)/HB 1435 (McCormick) modifies the process for third-party appeals of permitting decisions pertaining to air quality, solid waste, and hazardous waste. While this is an improvement over current law, it is imperative to stay vigilant as to its application.
- SB1641 (Norris)/HB1437 (McCormick) revises various provisions governing the structure of certain state boards and commissions attached to the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC).
- SB1917 (Southerland)/HB1898 (Swann) increases the recycling goal for municipal solid waste regions, and creates the Tennessee Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee, which is to submit its recommendations in a report to the Speakers of the House and Senate by February 15, 2015. Requires the state solid waste management plan developed by TDEC to identify incentives and systems to facilitate recycling and reuse, large-scale composting in major metropolitan areas, composting strategies that may be applied to specific types of waste producers, and recommendations for a statewide system of collecting recyclable plastics.
- SB2495 (Nicely)/ HB2445 (Faison) authorizes growing of industrial hemp subject to regulation by the Depart-

ment of Agriculture. This measure might provide alternative crops that would diminish the extensive use of pine-plantation wood and cotton, which lead to water pollution and clear-cut lands.

- SB1708 enables the state to give Morgan County the Brushy Mountain State Prison campus for development as a tourist-attracting distillery, along with stables, gift shops, and other amenities (NL313 ¶1C). The bill authorizes the county to keep most of the sales tax collected from developing the former prison, provided certain conditions are met.

3. OBED and BSF NEWS

3A. Opening of new visitor center

One of the two new visitor centers we reported in NL314 (¶1B) had its grand opening on April 17. Located in Crossville (at I-40 exit 320), it is named the Gateway to the Big South Fork Visitor Center. It also serves not only the Obed WSR but the entire Upper Cumberland region. That's because the National Park Service operates it in partnership with the TN Dept of Transportation (TDoT), the city of Crossville, Cumberland County, and the city/county Chamber of Commerce.

3B. Official Obed WSR movie to premier May 23

After hundreds of hours of filming spanning four seasons at the Obed WSR, the new movie is ready for the public. "To capture the heart of the Obed, the film crew of Silver Fir Media braved ice storms, Class IV rapids, and the park's steeply overhanging cliffs to give visitors a glimpse of the park like never before seen," says the announcement. "The result is an intimate look into the heart of the park." Several TCWP members appear briefly in the film.

The premier screening is May 23, and the film will thereafter be available at the Visitor Center.

3C. TCWP revising Obed booklet

TCWP is producing an updated edition of the illustrated booklet *Obed Wild and Scenic River in Peril*, first published about 7 years ago.

Almost 40 years after its designation as a National Wild and Scenic River, roughly 20% of the land authorized for the Obed has neither been acquired nor protected. If lands within the remaining ~1000 acres of inholdings were to be developed, this crown jewel of the Cumberlands would be so seriously degraded as to lose much of its value to the region and the nation.

We plan to use the booklet to urge policy makers to support an appropriation from the Land & Water Conservation Fund that will permit the National Park Service to acquire and protect the remaining lands for the Obed Wild & Scenic River. The booklet may also be helpful in identi-

fying conservation buyers – individuals or groups willing to buy parcels and protect them until the NPS is able to acquire the land. To this end, the booklet includes a map and list of all the private inholdings within the Obed WSR boundary (almost three dozen of them).

3D. NPS-assistance program available for area communities

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, a part of the National Park Service (NPS), is a network of professionals that partners with community groups, state and local governments, etc. to design trails and parks, conserve and improve access to rivers, protect special places, and create recreational opportunities. When a community requests assistance with a project, NPS staff provide free, on-location facilitation and planning expertise.

The BSFNRRRA hosted an information session on May 20 at Bandy Creek to introduce the RTCA program to the communities surrounding the BSF and Obed WSR, and to discuss how the program may be helpful to ongoing tourism-related planning in the area. More information may be found at <http://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>.

4. CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

4A. The Tennessee Wilderness Act progresses in the Senate

On April 15, the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry committee voted unanimously to send the Tennessee Wilderness Act, S.1294, to the floor. Senators Alexander and Corker first introduced this bill back in 2010, but this is the first time it has been voted out of committee. The legislation, which would protect nearly 20,000 acres, creates one new wilderness (Upper Bald River) and adds acreage to five existing ones (NL292 ¶4A). All of these areas were recommended for protection by the U.S. Forest Service in its 2004 management plan (NL314 ¶4).

“The Tennessee Wilderness Act would preserve federally owned land that has been managed as wilderness areas since 2004,” said Sen. Alexander. *“Creating and expanding these wilderness areas would have no effect on privately-owned land and will not increase costs for taxpayers. This legislation would help protect some of the wildest, most pristine and beautiful areas in East Tennessee and give the millions of visitors to our state an additional reason to come enjoy our outdoors.”*

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) Urge Senators Alexander and Corker (p.2) to get the bill passed.
- (2) Contact Reps. Chuck Fleischmann and Phil Roe (Political Guide), in whose districts the various areas are located, and urge them to support their senators in passing S.1294.

- (3) Write Letters to the Editors of newspapers in the districts of Reps. Fleischmann and Roe; send copies of your letters (published or not) to Sandra. For details and sample letters, visit the Tennessee Wild website at http://www.tnwild.org/get_involved.

4B. Recreational Mining Rules promulgated by TDEC will affect Cherokee NF

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Recreational prospecting has occurred in the state of Tennessee for a number of years, particularly at Citico Creek in the Cherokee National Forest. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has recently drafted a general Aquatic Resource Alterations Permit for this activity, held a public information meeting and hearing, and is accepting comments until May 27.

The permit divides recreational prospecting into two categories or classes: manual prospecting (e.g., pans, hand sluices) and mechanical prospecting (e.g., dredges, powered sluices). The former would be allowed without any notice to TDEC with the use of best management practices outlined in the general permit.

The draft permit can be reviewed at any of TDEC’s offices or at <http://www.tn.gov/environment/ppo/#water>. At press time, the permit had not been analyzed by TCWP. Our comments will be posted on the TCWP website, <<http://www.tcwp.org>>.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If you wish to comment on this activity in the Cherokee NF, remember that the deadline is May 27.

4C. Identification of old growth

The US Forest Service has, in the past, denied the existence of old growth on the Cherokee, insisting that everything was cut a century ago. There are, however, places that the loggers of 100 years ago either couldn’t get to or couldn’t be bothered with. One of the activities of the organization Cherokee Forest Voices has been to survey the Forest for old growth and to press the USFS for protection of such areas. To learn more, contact Catherine Murray at cfvcatherine@worldnet.att.net.

5. SMOKIES STATS

According to a recent National Park Service economics report, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was the most visited park in the nation in 2012. The 9,685,829 visitors spent \$741 million in communities near the park, supporting 10,959 jobs in those areas.

6. NATIONAL NEWS

6A. *Restoration of vital*

Clean Water Act protections

[Based on EPA information]

As a result of confusing Supreme Court decisions of 2001 and 2006, there has been uncertainty over the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act over large portions of the nation's waters, namely those designated intermittent and ephemeral. This has been a problem of huge magnitude. About 59% of the linear streams of 49 states (excluding Alaska, for which data are not available), are of this type. For almost all of the lower 48 states for which data are available, 91-100% of the population gets some of its drinking water directly or indirectly from streams that are seasonal, rain-dependent, or headwaters. In addition, protection of 20 million acres of wetlands has been uncertain.

The EPA and Corps of Engineers have now proposed a rule to close the loopholes caused by the Supreme Court decisions. This rule was published in the Federal Register of 4-21-14. The public comment period is open until July 21, 2014.

The agencies propose to define "waters of the United States" to mean: Traditional navigable waters; interstate waters, including interstate wetlands; the territorial seas; impoundments of traditional navigable waters, interstate waters, including interstate wetlands, the territorial seas, and tributaries, as defined, of such waters; tributaries, as defined, of traditional navigable waters, interstate waters, or the territorial seas; and adjacent waters, including adjacent wetlands. No additional analysis would be required for such waters.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Before July 21, support this rule, which defines Waters of the United States in a meaningful way. Without it, more than half the nation's waters are at risk of unchecked pollution and development. Email to: ow-docket@epa.gov. Include EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0880 in the subject line of your message. Or, comment online at www.regulations.gov/#!submitComment;D=EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0880-0001

6B. *Supreme Court finds EPA has authority to protect clean water whenever necessary: the Spruce No.1 Mine permit denial will stand*

[Information extracted from extensive analysis by EarthJustice]

In 1999, the Corps of Engineers' permit for the Spruce No. 1 Mine, the largest (over 2,000 acres) and most harmful mountaintop-removal coalmine in West Virginia's history, was found unlawful by the late Judge Charles

Haden. This federal court decision initiated years of controversy and litigation.

In January 2011, the EPA decided to veto the Spruce No. 1 Mine permit based on robust science showing the irreparable harm that would occur if the mining company were allowed to permanently bury and pollute natural headwater streams (over 6 miles of them) with mining waste. The EPA veto was issued after substantial new science had come to light (~100 scientific studies and data sources), after consultation with the Corps, and after public notice and a hearing that resulted in more than 50,000 written comments.

Subsequent action in the courts: In 2012, the D.C. district court, without addressing the scientific merits of EPA's decision, ruled that EPA lacked authority to veto the permit after the Corps had issued it. In 2013, the D.C. Circuit unanimously reversed the district court's ruling and upheld EPA's authority to veto whenever there is unacceptable harm, *including after a permit has been issued*. The full D.C. Circuit then denied the coal company's petition for en banc review. The coal industry then requested the Supreme Court to hear a case against the EPA. On March 24 of his year, the Supreme Court denied the industry's request.

This Supreme Court action reaffirms what the D.C. Circuit decided -- *that EPA has authority to veto a harmful permit after it is issued*. The case now goes back to the district court to review the scientific merits of EPA's veto decision in this specific instance (merits which that court had failed to consider in 2012).

Related note. In NL314 ¶7B we reported on a court action that restored the original 1983 Stream Buffer Zone (SBZ) rule designed to protect mountain streams from the worst ravages of surface mining. But we also reported on a House bill (HR. 2824) that could undo that court action and lock in a disastrous 2008 version of the SBZ rule. Subsequently, HR. 2824 was indeed passed. It is now up to the Senate to be, once again, the firewall against the really bad measures that emanate from the House.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your senators (p.2) to strongly oppose HR. 2824, which is environmentally disastrous, ignores or denies established facts and science, and would waste taxpayer dollars adopting a rule that has been vacated by a federal court.

6C. *Antiquities Act again under attack*

[With information from NPCA]

Since 1906, the Antiquities Act, under which National Monuments are designated by Presidents, has been used in a bipartisan manner as one of our most important conservation tools. Of the 174 national monuments created in the past 108 years, 82 were designated during Republican administrations. Many were subsequently enlarged or redesignated by Congressional action. Administratively, they break down as follows:

- National Park Service, 134 (=77.0%)
- Bureau of Land Management, 31 (=17.8%)
- US Forest Service, 4 (=2.3%)
- Fish & Wildlife Service, 5 (=2.9%).

Among national parks that started out as national monuments are Grand Canyon, Bryce, Statue of Liberty, Death Valley, Zion, and Denali.

On March 26, 2014, by a vote of 222:201, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1459, the Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act. The bill would limit each president to a single National Monument declaration in a state per 4-year term. Any declaration that exceeds 5,000 acres would expire in three years unless it gains congressional approval. Additionally, each antiquities proclamation would be subject to NEPA (Rep. Rob Bishop, the sponsor, says this is to allow public involvement). This would mean an average waiting time of six years, without holds on fracking, mining, or other harmful activities.

Rep. Fleischmann voted for this very bad bill, as did Reps. Duncan, Des Jarlais and Tennessee's other Republicans. Reps. Cohen and Cooper voted against it. To defend his vote, Rep. Fleischmann writes: "concerns have been raised regarding Presidents potentially abusing this power by, for example, using it to block energy development. Of additional concern is the fact that this law does not provide any protection for private property within lands being declared a national monument, nor is it subject to any congressional oversight."

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (a) Urge your senators (p.2) to oppose this disastrous bill. The Senate must be a firewall to this folly.
- (b) Tell your representative (p.2) what you think of his vote.

6D. *Obama budget includes full funding for the LWCF*

The intention, in the President's budget, to fully fund the Land & Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million was recently blasted by House Natural Resources Committee chairman Doc Hastings (R-WA). Interior Secretary Sally Jewell defended the Administration request, saying that it seeks to "fulfill the intent of Congress 49 years ago," when it established the LWCF.

By contrast, Rep. Ryan's (Republican) budget proposal not only fails to include items that would protect land and water, but it would strip the EPA of its ability to properly enforce many environmental regulations. The proposed budget would also ease future dirty energy projects, and it would expand tax cuts to large oil companies.

6E. *Fracking capsules*

[Includes information from greenamerica.org, contributed by Harry Shatz]

- In July 2013, the House passed HR.2728, deceptively named Protecting States' Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act, which would ban the federal gov-

ernment from regulating fracking on public lands. The Senate has, to date, acted as firewall to final passage of this bill.

- Testifying in a recent budget hearing by the House Natural Resources Committee, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell defended BLM's update to decades-old regulations governing fracking on federal lands (fracking occurs at 90% of wells on BLM land), saying that fracking "can be done safely and responsibly." She mentioned that she was still evaluating the best platforms to promote disclosure of injected chemicals. (In 2005, the Bush Administration specifically exempted fracking-related injections from compliance with the Clean Water Act.)
- The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) being debated in Congress would require the federal government to automatically approve all exports of fracked gas to countries in the agreement, including Japan, the world's largest importer of natural gas. That would dramatically encourage even more fracking.
- Though natural gas is often touted as a plentiful (almost limitless) resource, it is a very finite one. The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimates that, at the 2011 rate of consumption, the US sits on 92 years' worth of gas, at most.

6F. *Senator Alexander is endorsed by new conservation PAC*

[Information from E&E reporter, 5-8-14]

On May 7, Sen. Alexander (R-TN) became one of the first 12 congressional candidates to be endorsed by a new conservation-focused Political Action Committee. The PAC, which was created by former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and hedge-fund billionaire Louis Bacon, has, to date, raised just over \$200,000. The candidates -- six Democrats and six Republicans -- have so far each received \$5,200 for their re-election campaigns; they were assured \$100,000 total to share during the cycle (average, \$8,333).

The first 12 recipients are Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Mark Begich (D-AK), Thad Cochran (R-MS), Susan Collins (R-ME), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Kay Hagan (D-NC), Mary Landrieu (D-La.), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Mark Udall (D-CO); and Reps. Hal Rogers (R-KY), Mike Simpson (R-ID) and Raul Ruiz (D-CA). While we are very pleased that Sen. Alexander, sponsor of the Tennessee Wilderness Act (§4A, above) has been chosen, the rationale for the selection of some of the other supported candidates appears mysterious. At least four of them have very poor voting records on conservation issues (including the LWCF, which is said to be a litmus test for this PAC), and several are only minimally, if at all, threatened in the upcoming election.

6G. Wilderness stats and needs

Wilderness, as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964, is "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." This year, when we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, is a good time to look at how much has been protected and how badly additional protections are needed.

There are currently about 750 designated areas in the National Wilderness Preservation System, comprising a little over 109 million acres --roughly 5% of the area of the United States. The previous, 112th, Congress (2011/2012) was the first since the 1964 law's passage to fail to designate *any* new wilderness. The current 113th Congress has, so far, designated only one, the Sleeping Bear Dunes Wilderness (NL314 ¶7A), although it has received proposals for 27 areas (including the Tennessee Wilderness, ¶4A this NL), totaling more than 13.5 million acres.

Very little land in the USA remains untouched by civilization. As reported in *USA Today* (3/25/14), "there are more than 4 million miles of public roads, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, and that doesn't count private roads, utility roads or off-road vehicle trails. Add to that 2.5 million miles of oil and natural gas pipelines and approximately 160,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, and you've got a landscape diced into bite-sized bits."

7. CLIMATE CHANGE; ENERGY

7A. National Climate Assessment is a bombshell that should awaken the public

[From <http://www.globalchange.gov/ncadac>]

The 3rd National Climate Assessment (NCA), the most comprehensive and specific study of its kind, has confirmed that climate change is real, it's already altering our daily lives and costing us billions of \$\$, and we have the power to slow it down.

It's taken four years of work, 13 participating agencies (NOAA, DOE, DoI, DoA, NSF, Smithsonian, NASA, DoT, EPA, DoD, and more) and >250 scientists and other researchers to get to the point where the Third National Climate Assessment (NCA) could be published on May 6. A draft report was released in January 2013, following which over 4,000 public comments were received. A panel of the National Academies also reviewed the draft report and published its consensus report. The draft NCA was revised by the authors in response to the public comments and the National Academies review, and was then submitted for formal interagency review. The link above (below the title) provides access not only to the final 840-page document but to various stages in its generation. Full PDFs of individual chapters can be downloaded.

One great strength of this NCA report is its detailed specificity. Findings are published not only for specific geographic areas (regional and local universities provided reviewers for the report), but also for particular sectors of the economy (e.g. agriculture). This specificity could hopefully lead to popular support for the president's climate-change policies (such as limiting carbon emissions from power plants, ¶7C, this NL) and counter the politically generated charge of "Obama's war on coal." Human activity has already made a temperature rise of 3-5° inevitable, but the planet's temperature will rise up to 10° if we do nothing.

On May 21, Senators Barbara Boxer and Sheldon Whitehouse -- co-chairs of the Climate Action Task Force -- will kick off the Capitol Hill Climate Action Rally to wake up Congress to climate change. Climate champions from the House, Senate and across the country are sounding the alarm for climate change.

7B. Latest IPCC report stresses extreme urgency but mentions some encouraging trends

[Information from NY Times 4-14-14]

Atmospheric CO₂ levels have risen almost twice as fast in the first decade of this century as they did in the last decades of the 20th century finds the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published mid-April in Berlin. Governments are not doing enough. Only an intensive push over the next 15 years to bring those emissions under control can achieve the goal of limiting the rise in the global average temperature to less than 3.6° Fahrenheit (2° Celsius) above the preindustrial level. Exceeding that amount of temperature rise is likely to produce drastic effects (rapid rise in sea levels, difficulty growing enough food, huge die-offs of forests, and mass extinctions of plant and animal species – by now a well-known list).

But the report finds that, while the divisions between poorer countries (rushing to use coal-fired power plants for economic development) and richer countries (making only slow progress in cutting their high CO₂ emissions) persist, both types of countries have recently been doing more domestically to address the problem. Further, action to slow warming (e.g., tougher building codes and efficiency standards) are becoming more common, and costs of renewable energy, like wind and solar power, are falling so fast that its deployment on a large scale is becoming practical.

The new report does not prescribe the actions that governments need to take. But it does make clear that putting a price on GHG emissions, either through taxes or the sale of emission permits, is a fundamental approach that could help redirect investment toward climate-friendly technologies. Annual investment in electrical power plants that use fossil fuels will need to decline by about 20% in

the coming two decades, while investment in low-carbon energy will need to double from current levels.

The Berlin IPCC report is the third in recent months. The first, issued in Stockholm in September, found a certainty of 95% or greater that humans were the main cause of global warming. The second, issued in March in Yokohama, said profound effects were already being felt around the world, and were likely to get much worse.

7C. Why EPA needs to finalize the rule to limit carbon emissions

The final rule for limiting carbon emissions from new power plants, proposed in September 2013 (NL312 ¶7A; NL313 ¶7A), still remains to be promulgated by EPA. Another rule for existing power plants is due to be proposed in June. Here’s why these rules are so badly needed (info from EDF). U.S. power plants emit approximately 2.3 billion tons of heat-trapping CO₂ pollution each year, accounting for 40% of the CO₂ pollution emitted in the United States. The average coal-fired power plant emits 3.5 million tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere every year -- and operates for an average of 50 years. Yet, in spite of our significant contribution to the climate crisis, the U.S. currently has NO national limits on carbon pollution from fossil fuel fired power plants.

7D. Climate change is poorly covered in the news

[From Union of Concerned Scientists, sciencenet-work@ucsusa.org]

UCS has analyzed the frequency and nature of climate-change (CC) coverage by the media in the year 2013. We’ve constructed a little table from their information.

	CNN	Fox	MSNBC
No. of times CC was covered	43	50	132
% that included misleading portrayals of science	30%	72%	8%
Nature of misleading coverage	Guests disputed science	Disparaged CC, criticized scientists	Overstated link between CC and some types of extreme weather

7E. Hydropower: renewable energy that buries rivers

Researchers at Oak Ridge National Lab have participated in generating a recent DOE report that analyzes the existing additional hydropower potential for the country. Currently, the US has 79 gigawatts (GW) of hydropower generating capacity, which provides 7% of total power production. Undeveloped rivers have an additional 84.7 GW capacity. By excluding sites that would affect nation-

al parks (but excluding no other special places) the report arrives at a figure of 65 GW of as yet untapped new capacity (almost as much again as already existing capacity).

Hydropower involves considerable temporal variability. The greatest potential exists in Western states, involving such rivers as the Rio Grande, Snake, Columbia, Colorado, Missouri, North and South Platte. The DOE report is not recommending any specific hydropower development, but some of the local proposals that may grow out of the report are sure to generate opposition from those of us who feel that too many of our rivers are already dammed.

7F. The moneyed nay-sayers can be proved wrong; a bit of history

[From Environmental Defense Fund, 3/26/14]

In 1990, as bipartisan support rose for a cap-and-trade plan to harness markets and solve the acid rain disaster, the Koch Brothers poured their money into a front group -- the "Concerned Citizens for the Environment" -- with the goal of derailing this much-needed solution.

The group -- without any citizen membership -- produced studies insisting that acid rain was a myth (sound familiar?). They lobbied for deregulation of corporations, insisting that was the true way to protect the environment.

They lost. The plan to reduce acid rain was put into action, affecting even the Kochs' heavy-emitting refineries and factories. And it was a massive success.

SO₂ emissions were cut in half, at a fraction of the expected costs. By 2000, scientists were documenting decreased sulfates in Adirondack lakes, improved visibility in national parks, and widespread benefits to human health. *The Economist* called it "the greatest green success story of the past decade."

7G. Not all news is bad news

Jeff Barrie creator of "Kilowatt Ours: A Plan to Re-Energize America," a 2004 documentary, has included the following in his list of "indicators that the world is getting better" (he’s obviously an optimist).

- Nationwide, 181 proposed coal plants have been cancelled, and 155 coal plants have been shut down, including 8 units within TVA’s coal fleet that are scheduled for retirement. In the past four years, coal-generated electricity has declined from 52% to 39% of America’s total electricity generation.
- Solar-power installations have more than doubled in the US in 2012 to 7,000 megawatts, and they grew to 11,000 megawatts in 2013 (enough to power 1.7 million America homes). The cost of panels has declined by 60% since 2011.
- Unsubsidized wind power is cost-competitive with subsidized coal; and 13,000 megawatts of wind generation were added in the U.S. in 2012 alone (a new record).
- U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are 12% below 2005 levels, and have declined every year since 2008.

7H. A new way to make

(new types of) biofuels

[Extracted from more detailed information in *Nature*, 4/23/14]

Novel catalytic techniques and compact designs will make second-generation biofuel plants not just environmentally friendly, but also profitable enough to compete with petroleum-based fuels without subsidies. Although questions remain about how realistic this hope is, some customers are giving the plants a try. For example, by the end of 2015, all British Airways flights out of London City Airport will be fuelled by the product of such a plant.

First-generation biofuel plants usually require fermentation of edible products (corn, sugarcane), which yields alcohol. Fermentation of such 'waste' materials as cornstalks and woodchips is difficult because these materials contain tough, long-chain molecules, such as cellulose and lignin, that yeast cannot easily digest. This barrier has been partially overcome by pretreatment with acids and enzymes. The use of the resultant alcohol as a biofuel is, however, further limited by other considerations.

These drawbacks have spurred vigorous research into thermochemical reactors, which convert biomass directly into fuels other than alcohol, using heat and catalysts. The products of gasification and pyrolysis are combined and refined into diesel, naphtha, jet fuel, or petrol. The resultant fuels burn cleanly and completely, and the raw materials for this process can be urban refuse, agricultural waste (e.g., cornstalks), or wood waste. The second-generation biofuels reactors are small enough so they can be brought to the biomass instead of vice versa. Unfortunately, the financial viability of any of the second-generation biofuel technologies is still an open question.

8. OAK RIDGE AREA: the PROPOSED OVERHEAD POWERLINE along the BORCE

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Frank Hensley, representing Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR), and Sandra Goss have been calling on a number of the NRDA Trustees regarding the proposed aboveground powerline along the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement. The purpose of the visits was to encourage the powers-that-be to blaze the route of the overhead power line so the public can see exactly what degradation to the BORCE would occur if the powerline were to be installed.

The stated purpose of the proposed powerline is to supply electricity to an Oak Ridge Industrial Park, Horizon Center, located between the BORCE and the Oak Ridge Turnpike. Horizon Center has a self-imposed covenant against overhead powerlines. Should that covenant be lifted, the needed power could be supplied via the Oak Ridge Turnpike.

Should the powerline be built, the redress for citizens will be figured from the diminishment of ecological services and recreational services caused by tree removal on the BORCE. The diminishment of the greenway (the actu-

al location of the powerline) would not trigger a redress, since the greenway was (is) DOE's land and not part of the BORCE.

AFORR will have detailed information available in their booth at the June 13 and 14 Secret City Festival. Visit them or call or write AFORR Treasurer Frank Hensley at fwhensley@aol.com or 865.483-0849.

9. TCWP NEWS

9A. Upcoming activities

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

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

Frog outing with John Byrd - Saturday, May 31

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Frogs and other wetlands creatures will be the big attraction of a family-friendly nighttime outing on Saturday, May 31, at 8 p.m. The outing will be led by John Byrd (assisted by Steve Forbes), as a follow-up to the "Frogs and Salamanders of Anderson County" program John presented to TCWP in February.

The outing will begin at Grand Oaks Elementary School (1033 Oliver Springs Hwy), where there will be a discussion of the importance of and construction strategies for wetlands. At 8:30 p.m., we'll caravan six miles to Dutch Valley Elementary School to see what we can find at the two wetlands there. John says we might even see the rare Valley Flame Crayfish during the evening: "It's the mystery of what we might see or hear that makes night walks so exciting!"

Participants should bring flashlights, rain gear, and their best observation skills. The outing will wrap up between 10 and 10:30, but people can come and go as they like. A carpool/caravan will leave from First Presbyterian Church in Oak Ridge at 7:45 (parking lot behind activities building, enter from Lafayette Drive).

Potters Falls cleanup and "Save the Hemlocks" day - Saturday, May 31

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

The First Annual Potters Falls Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Treatment Workshop and Cleanup will be held in Wartburg on Saturday, May 31. The event will focus on cleaning up the trash around Potters Falls, along the beautiful Crooked Fork Creek.

In conjunction with the cleanup, experienced National Park Service staff from the Obed Wild and Scenic River and The Nature Conservancy staff will train volunteers and landowners on how to protect their hemlock trees from attack by the hemlock woolly adelgid. Volunteers will treat some of the majestic hemlocks near the Falls to fight off this pervasive pest. The remaining trees will be treated over the next two years.

We'll meet for carpooling in Oak Ridge in the Rush/Books-a-Million parking lot (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's), to leave at 8 a.m.; or participants can go directly to the Morgan County Visitor Center at the junction of Highways 62 and 27 in Wartburg, where sign-ups will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Lunch will be provided to all volunteers. This event is sponsored by the Emory River Watershed Association and TCWP, with funding assistance from a Tennessee Valley Authority Reservoir Community grant. For more details, see the TCWP website (www.tcwp.org) or our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tennessee-Citizens-for-Wilderness-Planning/497914745462>).

National Trails Day workday on North Ridge Trail - Saturday, June 7

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

In an event planned to coincide with National Trails Day, TCWP will host a working morning trimming vegetation in the section of North Ridge Trail that runs east from Illinois Avenue

The North Ridge Trail is one of TCWP's oldest ongoing projects. Developed and maintained by TCWP members for many decades, the 11+-mile National and State Recreation Trail is one of the crown jewels of the acclaimed Oak Ridge Greenways system. Sections of the trail are available for adoption.

Volunteers should meet at 9 a.m. at the Oak Ridge KARM Thrift Store parking lot (south end toward the turnpike) at 346 N. Illinois. Participants are encouraged to bring loppers or shears. The workday will conclude by noon, and will be followed by a complimentary pizza lunch.

Wear weather-appropriate clothes and boots or sturdy shoes, and bring work gloves, drinking water, and protection against chiggers, ticks, and poison ivy. Hand tools such as clippers, hand pruners, loppers, and/or cordless weed-eaters will be useful. Chainsaws are not permitted. For more information, or to register, contact TCWP Executive Director Sandra Goss at 865-583-3967 or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

Hike at Seven Islands State Birding Park - Sat., July 12

Effective July 1, the Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge in Knox County will become the newest of Tennessee's state parks (NL312 ¶2A), and its first state birding park. Tennessee State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath will lead a TCWP outing at the 400-acre park, located on former farmland near the French Broad River. We'll begin at 10 a.m. and take a birding walk up the hill, then continue to the bottomland by the historic farmhouse where we'll have lunch.

We'll meet for carpooling in Oak Ridge in the Rush/Books-a-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's), to leave at 9:15 a.m.; or hikers can meet at 10 a.m. in the parking area at the park en-

trance. (The park is located just off Kodak Road, on Kelly Lane.) Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray.

Snorkel with the Fishes and Conservation Fisheries – Saturday, July 26

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

On Saturday, July 26, Conservation Fisheries, Inc., will lead us on a snorkeling trip on Clear Creek to learn about the fishes of the Cumberland Plateau. This event will be a follow-up to the March 27 talk to TCWP by CFI cofounder Pat Rakes (see ¶9B, below).

Pat and other CFI employees will introduce us to the aquatic life of Clear Creek and talk about the life histories of these amazing creatures. All participants are encouraged to bring their own masks, snorkels, wet shoes/sandals, personal flotation devices, and other water paraphernalia (including wetsuits if you need them) for swimming with the fishes. Participants must be reasonably physically fit and able to swim. We'll start at Lilly Bridge and rock-hop from pool to pool (and swim in riffles if there is enough water). If the stream is not clear or if flows are too high, the event will be rescheduled.

We'll meet for carpooling in Oak Ridge in the Rush/Books-a-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's), to leave at 9 a.m.; or participants can meet the group at Lilly bridge at 10. (Directions: From Wartburg, take State Route 62 north to Lancing. Stay on SR 62 North for about 2.2 miles to the intersection with Ridge Road (look for NPS sign to Lilly Access). Turn left on Ridge Road and drive about 3.2 miles to Lilly Bridge. Or call the Obed Visitor Center (423-346-6294) for directions.)

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

"Thirty Years of Culturing Threatened and Endangered Fish Species In Tennessee" – Thursday, March 27

About 25 people gathered on March 27 to hear Pat Rakes, one of the principals of Conservation Fisheries, Inc., discuss the nonprofit's work recovering rare non-game fish species in Tennessee. For 30 years Knoxville-based CFI has worked to preserve aquatic biodiversity in our streams and rivers, developing techniques to propagate many of the region's rarest fishes.

Pat pointed out that there are some 625 aquatic species in Southeastern watersheds, far more than in the West. But their level of imperil is also high, due to pollution, habitat destruction, and population fragmentation caused by dams. He discussed habitat protection and restoration, along with CFI's work in fish stocking, translocation, and propagation. In addition to saving some species, propagation allows CFI to do life history research, test for toxicity tolerance, and produce fish for mussel hatcheries. CFI works with numer-

ous nonprofit and corporate partners, some as far away as New York, and to date has propagated 64 fish species. Pat showed us numerous photos of colorful fish and discussed propagation techniques, work in progress, and CFI's future plans.

"Living Sustainably in the Future Based on the History of Survival" – Thursday, April 10

Sustainability is more often associated with European than American culture. Dodd Galbreath, head of the Institute for Sustainable Practice at Lipscomb University, showcased practices on both sides of the Atlantic in a program cosponsored by TCWP and the Oak Ridge Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB).

In a series of photographs he made during a tour of European sustainability sites and later during travels in Vermont and New England, Dodd discussed the importance of "density with quality," the progress that's been made in many small- and medium-sized cities, and the challenges faced by large cities. Pictured were advanced mass-transit systems, external "green skins" on buildings, green roofs, and porous paving, as well as progress toward reforestation, conservation, and non-fossil energy sources. A question-and-answer period followed his presentation.

First Annual Big South Fork rafting trip with trash collection - Saturday, April 12

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

TCWP held its First Annual On-The-River Cleanup on the Big South Fork in cooperation with Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association, Chota Canoe Club, East Tennessee White-water Club, and National Park Service staff from the Big South Fork NRR. The weather was warm, and water levels were nearly perfect. We've had similar cleanups on the Obed, but this year was the first for the BSF. We had three hard boats and four rafts guided by NPS staff (Thomas Hall, Noel Mays, and Brett Painter) and by TCWP whitewater expert Frank Hensley. Fourteen volunteers and three NPS rangers participated.

We started our journey at the New River-Clear Fork confluence. The cleanup began at the put-in and continued down to Leatherwood Ford. It was surprising how much trash we collected from this stream so far back in the wilderness. Along with the usual glass and plastic, there were old tires and the remains of wrecked powerboats. When we arrived at Leatherwood Ford, we had picked up a nearly complete set of racing tires! Unfortunately, there was more trash than there was time to collect it or space on rafts to transport it. Next year's cleanup can concentrate on picking up a particular reach of the river. Eventually we can get the whole river run cleaned up.

Wildflower Greenway Garlic Mustard Pull and Wildflower Walk – Saturday, April 12

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

On Saturday, April 12, TCWP sponsored the annual Garlic Mustard Pull at the Wildflower Greenway in Oak Ridge. We had beautiful weather for this year's event, attended by 12 participants representing TCWP, Greenways Oak Ridge, and Oak Ridge citizens. TCWP members Allen and Susan Sweetser led the wildflower walk; Wildflower Greenway steward Roger Macklin led the garlic mustard removal.

The good news from this year's event was that there appear to be visible signs of progress in our efforts to control the spread of this noxious weed. The lower concentrations of garlic mustard plants in the greenway allowed volunteers to concentrate on plant removal from the areas on top of the hill immediately behind the apartments.

Joint outing with TNPS at Black Mountain/Windlass Cave - Saturday, April 26

[Contributed by Larry Pounds]

The weather was perfect and the group enthusiastic for this first of two 2014 outings with the Tennessee Native Plant Society. We went first to the overlook on the top of the mountain, with lovely Grassy Cove stretched out below us. We descended from the cliff top using a crack in the rock face. Very quickly we left the sandstone soils and started to see plants of limestone. We ate lunch at Windlass Cave (a fine place for eating, though we didn't get there until 2:30 Eastern!). Next we climbed back up a bit into acidic sandstone soils with lots of mountain laurel. We found pinxter bush, a native azalea, in bloom; other notable wildflowers seen during the outing were pink lady's slippers, dwarf larkspur, several varieties of violets (including green violets), yellow and spotted mandarin, Canada lily, and pennywort. We ended at TN 68, where the Cumberland Trail continues up onto Brady Mountain.

9C. Tree planted to honor TCWP member Bob Luxmoore

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

This spring, TCWP planted a white oak tree at Frozen Head State Park in recognition of Bob Luxmoore's service as an advocate for protection of the natural resources of the Cumberland Plateau and Mountains. Bob and his wife Annetta Watson have devoted a significant part of their lives to this task. Bob's passing in January left a huge hole in our hearts.

Bob's white oak will join several other trees (including a Carolina silverbell, fringe tree, serviceberry, red buckeye, and mountain camellia) that Bob and Annetta planted and/or cared for at Frozen Head in honor of another TCWP member near and dear to our hearts, our co-founder, Lee Russell. Bob's tree will be dedicated over Memorial Day weekend at a gathering to celebrate Bob's life.

9D. Your Kroger shopping can benefit TCWP

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Area Kroger stores participate in the Community Rewards program. This program results in a quarterly check to TCWP, based on the purchases by enrolled TCWP supporters.

Enrolling is easy, and TCWP's Executive Director Sandra Goss is available to help you with the enrollment process. To get started, visit www.krogercommunityrewards.com or call Sandra at 865.583-3967 (or see NL312 ¶9C).

TCWP supporters will notice that "Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning" will appear at the bottom of their receipts. Take a moment to check, make sure you're a TCWP supporter!

9E. HELP WANTED

Sister organization Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation will have a booth at the Secret City Festival, June 13 and 14. AFORR will be highlighting the conservation values of the Reservation.

ARE YOU A PEOPLE PERSON?
SIGN UP TO BE AN OAK RIDGE RESERVATION
PROMOTER
AT AFORR'S *SECRET CITY FESTIVAL* BOOTH
Friday, June 13, 11:00-6:00, or
Saturday, June 14 10:00-6:00,
2- to 3-hour shifts. Training Provided.
865.583-3967 for more info

9F. Members in the news

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

- While it's not a member, the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area IS a strong part of our organization's work. In the March 14 (Knoxville) *News Sentinel*, the BSNRRA enjoyed a very positive, congratulatory editorial on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.
- Lee Russell, Sandra Goss, Mary Lynn Dobson, and Jimmy Groton's visit to Rep. Fleischmann's office was covered in a front-page *Oak Ridger* article (March 13) that reported on the campaign to pass the Tennessee Wilderness Act.
- Judy Roitmann was pictured in the *News Sentinel* on Tuesday, April 1, as she volunteered to explain the Affordable Care Act to enrollees.
- Former TCWP Board member Ralph Harvey was mentioned and pictured in the April 20 *News Sentinel* coverage of the Boston Marathon, in which Ralph has run several times, including last year and this year.
- Program Committee member and TCWP representative on Community Shares Board Jan Lyons authored three articles in the April, 2014 *Anderson County Visions Magazine* on gardening, with tips on organic gardening and other topics.
- J. R. Shute, co-director of Conservation Fisheries and long-time TCWP friend, was mentioned and pictured in

an April 18 *News Sentinel* article about smallmouth buffalo spawning on Citico Creek.

- Jimmy Groton, Frank Hensley, and Lee Russell were quoted and pictured in an April 6 (Rhea County) *Herald News* feature article about the Whites Creek Small Wild Area and the Whites Creek Trail that TCWP built and maintains.
- Stephanie Cramer was quoted and pictured in a *Bearden Shopper* article about "A Very Special Arts Festival," at which she and some of her students volunteered.

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

[From Sandra Goss]



- Jimmy Groton for help publicizing the Conservation Fisheries Presentation, Sustainability Presentation, and the Black Mountain Outing.
- Francis Perey for his amazingly quick website updates.
- Roger Macklin, Susan Sweetser, and Alan Sweetser for leading the very successful Wildflower Walk/Garlic Mustard Pull.
- Jean Bangham, John Bates, Frank Hensley, Charlie Klabunde, and Marti Salk for their help in getting the TCWP newsletter mailed.
- Jimmy Groton, Frank Hensley, and Lee Russell for meeting with Rhea County officials and media to talk about the Whites Creek Small Wild Area and the TCWP-built and -maintained trail.
- Dodd Galbreath for his very interesting presentation about sustainability.
- The folks at Oak Ridge Associated University for allowing us to use Pollard Auditorium for Dodd Galbreath's Sustainability Presentation.
- The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area staff for their invaluable help with the April 12 Big South Fork clean-up; especially Thomas Hall, Noel Mays, and Brett Painter.
- The tireless paddlers/trash gatherers at the Big South Fork clean-up: Mark Bevelhimer, Keith and Sue Havens, Cindy Kendrick, Jimmy Groton, Frank Hensley, Ian Anderson, Stephanie Terry, Diana Cochran, Donnie Safer, Russell DeCastongrene, and Brandon Hughett.
- Frank Hensley, Wes James, Jan Lyons, and Michele Thornton for their help with TCWP's booth at Oak Ridge Earth Day.
- Larry Pounds and Jimmy Groton for their leadership on the April 26 Black Mountain/Windlass Cave outing.
- Pat Rakes for his wonderful March 27 presentation about Conservation Fisheries' work to protect and reintroduce native fish to Tennessee waters.

- Jimmy Groton and Jan Lyons for their generous auction item contributions for Community Shares' April 12 Circle of Change Banquet.
- Lee Russell, Carol Grametbauer, and Jimmy Groton for their work on the TCWP Newsletter.

9H. A Note from the Executive Director

[By Sandra Goss]

TCWP has sponsored more events in the past several weeks than ever before, including informational programs; trail, greenway, and river clean-ups; and an Earth Day booth. Ah, spring! A big **THANK YOU** to our event partners, Greenways Oak Ridge, Obed Wild and Scenic River, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Tennessee Native Plant Society, Conservation Fisheries, Clinch River ESO, Oak Ridge Environmental Quality Advisory Board, David Lipscomb University Sustainability Institute, and others.

Another big **THANK YOU** to the various volunteers: organizers, participants, leaders, publicizers, presenters. Working together, we are making a visible difference in saving wild areas throughout East Tennessee.

Working together, we have also made some not very visible differences in the area of policy and legislation. With the adjournment of the State Legislature we can be glad about the passage of a few bills as well as about the failure of some others (see ¶2, this NL).

The Tennessee Wilderness Act has made progress in the U.S. Senate. Designation of those six special places in the Cherokee National Forest has been on a burner for 8 years. Sometimes it's been on the back burner; now it's on the front burner, on medium.

Securing passage of the necessary legislation to protect these special places is a good example of environmental activities: much work, including letters, phone calls, strategizing meetings, and presentations, over a period of many years, may ultimately lead to success. To the casual observer, the success will seem easy and quick. We who labor behind the scenes know better!

It takes many cards, letters, calls, and visits to effect changes in rules and laws, and many people to perform those communications. Thanks to each of you for your efforts and please, keep up the good work!

TCWP is dedicated to empowering people with the information they need to make their voices heard. This information is available through the outstanding *TCWP Newsletter*, the website, Facebook, or e-mail alerts. Take a moment NOW to e-mail or call me that you want to be included on our e-let list, or find other ways to further our work: Taking Care of Wild Places.

Sandra

10. JOB OPENINGS; CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• JOB OPENINGS

SOCM (Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment), a statewide, multi-issue, multi-racial community organization working for social, economic, and environmental justice in Tennessee, is seeking applications for two community organizer positions (to be based in middle and east Tennessee). Positions require some fundraising, extensive writing, and ability to travel throughout the state. Application deadline is June 10, 2014. Please see www.socm.org for a full job notice.

•• CALENDAR (events and deadlines)

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

- May 23, Obed WSR Film Premiere (¶3B, this NL).
- May 25, Bob Luxmoore Memorial Service (¶9C, this NL).
- May 30, Deadline for Nolichucky comments (¶1A, this NL).
- May 31, Frog outing with John Byrd at Grand Oaks and Dutch Valley elementary schools (¶9A, this NL).
- May 31, Potters Falls cleanup and "Save the Hemlocks" Day (¶9A, this NL).
- June 7, National Trails Day workday on North Ridge Trail (¶9A, this NL).
- June 13&14, AFORR booth at Secret City Festival (¶8, this NL).
- July 12, Seven Islands State Birding Park outing with State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath (¶9A, this NL).
- July 21, Deadline for Clean Water Act comments (¶6A, this NL).
- July 26, Snorkeling outing with Conservation Fisheries (¶9A, this NL).
- Sept. 3, celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act (details later).
- Sept. 21, TPGF walkathon (see RESOURCES, below).

•• RESOURCES

- The transition period between the time the Smokies were "terra incognita" (when the mountains were still untouched by lumber companies) and the beginnings of the formation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is captured in the photography of Herbert Webster (b.1908). The Great Smoky Mountains Regional Project has recently made 500 of Webster's images available online at <http://digital.lib.utk.edu/webster>.

- The Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council has started sending out a quarterly newsletter by email. You can contact them at <http://tneppc.org> to get on their mailing list.
- For the upcoming Oak Ridge Dragon Boat Race (on May 31) there are spaces available on TVA's Green Power Dragon Boat, which publicizes the renewable energy option. To reserve your spot, contact Jenny Wright at greenpowerswitch@tva.gov or 423-751-3046.
- The most recent annual water-quality report for Oak Ridge, mandated under the Safe Drinking Water Act for all municipalities with >10,000 people, may be viewed at www.oakridgetn.gov. Once again, the report shows that Oak Ridgers have excellent drinking water.
- A walkathon in support of the conservation efforts of the Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation will be held on Sept. 21 on the Cumberland Trail in the Black Mountain State Natural Area. Registration donation, \$30. For more information, www.tenngreen.org.
- More information about the work of Conservation Fisheries staff in preserving aquatic biodiversity (see ¶9B, this NL) can be found on their website, <http://conservationfisheries.org>.
- For more information about Lipscomb University's Institute for Sustainable Practice (see ¶9B, this NL), see their website at <http://www.lipscomb.edu/sustainability>

ERRATUM

In NL314, the date on the cover page (top right corner) should have read March 16, 2014.

TAKING CARE OF WILD PLACES

Word puzzle search.
Find words in list below.

Y B E H G X H H N R D G Z Y F
 B K W A W N S I E A N R D V T
 C U C P S S I D K B A E A R S
 Y I U U T E N D K E L E C F A
 K N T R H A M C R P R N E M R
 Q R E I M C O E M I E W E E H
 I A A A C L I O N I B A O E H
 M U L P M O U L V T M Y C R C
 G A O E A N J I O W U F O T Q
 S L H Z T O B E D N C O C Y Q
 Q N I A F I S H I N G R N J M
 H O I A K A X J N C R E H I S
 X N F W R M L E A E H S T J Q
 D Z L Y N T Q M V U N T A S E
 F P S O V I P I B M T B T V O
 N O I T A V R E S N O C I Q F
 C A N O E I N G E L K P B W V
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| FALLS | SALAMANDER |
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Membership Renewal for 2014.
PLEASE, do it NOW ! See page 17.
You may even add a contribution.

Coming Events

Things to do outdoors

- May 31 – Potters Falls Cleanup + Save the Hemlocks see ¶9A
- May 31 – Frog outing at night with John Byrd see ¶9A
- June 7 – National Trails Day workday on North Ridge Trail see ¶9A
- June 13&14 – AFORR booth at Secret City Festival see ¶8
- July 12 – Seven Islands State Birding Park w/ Randy Hedgepath see ¶9A

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