



Tennessee  
Citizens for  
Wilderness  
Planning

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Taking Care of Wild Places

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

## 10. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
3A	Coal-mine clean-up in BSFNRRRA	NPS	Submit comments
6A	New National Monument	Pres. Obama	"Thank you for protecting this large, significant area!" "Please use Antiquities Act to designate additional Monuments!"
8B	North Ridge Trail	TCWP	Volunteer to adopt a section
8C	Wilderness Act Anniversary	TCWP	Attend this great celebration
6C	Workplace giving	Sandra Goss	Ask about Community Shares

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](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact)

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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  
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Rep. Chuck Fleischmann:  
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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.**

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

## 1. TENNESSEE NEWS: WATER-QUALITY ISSUES

### 1A. *TDEC proposes to grant permit that would pollute the Hatchie, a State Scenic River*

TDEC's Division of Water Resources has released a draft NPDES (discharge) permit for a water treatment plant (Brownsville in Haywood County) that discharges into the Hatchie River. The permit was tailored to a hypothetical future megasite -- an automotive manufacturing facility that the state hopes to attract -- by allowing several heavy metals as a newly permitted category of discharge. These heavy metals are significant water pollutants with potentially severe deleterious effects on human and environmental health.

This case assumes special significance because the Hatchie (a great length of undisturbed river) is a major component of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers System. It is a Class-I river, the most highly protected category. The Hatchie has also been designated an Exceptional Tennessee Water, a designation that allows for *de minimis* degradation (see ¶1C, below) as well as for increased outflow of toxics and metals *above* that level under certain conditions. The Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act (TCA 11-13), on the other hand, states that "waters [of Class-I rivers] would be kept *unpolluted*", and it mandates management "for the purpose of eliminating or diminishing the pollution of waters within Scenic River areas."

TCA 11-13 states that in the case of conflict between laws "the more restrictive provisions shall apply." No pollution (as specified by TCA 11-13) is clearly more restrictive than a *de minimis* (or even higher) discharge of metals and toxics (as allowed by the draft NPDES permit, based on the Exceptional Tennessee Water designation).

TCWP has commented on the draft, stating that approval of the proposed NPDES permit, as written, would constitute a clear violation of TCA 11-13. It would not only hurt the Hatchie, but would set a harmful precedent for the entire Tennessee Scenic Rivers System. The comment deadline was June 19.

### 1B. *TDEC issues pollution discharge permit for Nolichucky River, but TDoT denies right to pipeline*

[Information from CREDO Mobilize, 6/13]

More than 4,800 petition signatures and more than 500 letters were not sufficient to stop TDEC from issuing discharge permits to US Nitrogen LLC. That company has proposed withdrawing 1.4 million gallons per day of water from the clean Nolichucky River for the production of ammonium nitrate, and returning polluted wastewater to the river (NL 315 ¶1A). There is, however, good news.

Tennessee's Dept. of Transportation (TDoT) to the rescue: the company has been denied the right to build needed pipelines along roads. "... Upon examination of

your application document," wrote TDoT, "it appears that the proposed pipelines [water and effluent pipelines in the rights-of-way of State Routes 340 and 348] would be for the private use of US Nitrogen, LLC, only and would not provide any public services to the general community. . . . TDoT must respectfully deny your permit application."

### 1C. *State is proposing weakened water-quality criteria*

In 2012, TDEC submitted proposed revisions in Tennessee's Water Quality Criteria to EPA for approval. These rules changes have not yet been approved, and about 3 weeks ago the Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN), joined by several organizations, including TCWP, formally requested non-approval. Specifically, EPA has been requested to, (a) reject blanket *de minimis* exceptions to anti-degradation review, (b) disapprove the new provisions regarding measurable degradation as applied to impaired waters, and (c) reject several new fuzzy definitions.

All of TDEC's proposed revisions of the Criteria would significantly reduce the stringency of Tennessee's enforcement of the federal Clean Water Act. Recent actions on the Nolichucky (¶1B, above) and Hatchie (¶1A, above) illustrate the state's willingness to sacrifice water quality to development.

### 1D. *List of impaired waters is published*

TDEC's Division of Water Resources has published a draft 2014 303(d) List of impaired and threatened waters in Tennessee. This list, required by the federal Clean Water Act, is a compilation of waters known to *not* meet one or more water quality standards. Where appropriate, each impaired stream has been prioritized for a specialized study called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

To receive a PDF of the public notice, contact [Linda Cartwright@tn.gov](mailto:Linda.Cartwright@tn.gov). This notice contains information concerning opportunities to participate in the process, including a scheduled public meeting. Additionally, the public notice has links to the draft List on TDEC's website, plus a GIS coverage specifically developed to assist the public in their review of the draft document.

TDEC will accept comments about the draft 2014 303(d) List through August 29, 2014. Subsequently, they will respond to the summarized comments and will develop a proposed final version of the List, which will be submitted to EPA for their review and approval.

### 1E. *TDEC event for Emory River and Watts Bar Lake watersheds*

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

On Monday, September 22, the TDEC Division of Water Resources will host an interactive event for the people who live, work, and play in the Emory River and Watts Bar Lake Watersheds. TDEC has coordinated with various organizations, groups, and agencies that do great work in

the watersheds to attend this meeting. These groups will set up displays and hands-on exhibits so participants can learn about outreach activities in their own watershed. Groups, individuals, organizations, and federal and state agencies that are already actively involved in the watersheds are encouraged to connect, share information, develop relationships, and collaborate.

This event will be a wonderful chance to hear and see what is being done to protect water quality and hear about successful restoration projects. It will also be a chance to learn what else needs to happen to keep the watershed healthy and how you can get involved. There are a lot of people making a difference out there, so come on out and meet them!

The meeting begins at 6:00 pm (EDT) at Roane County Park, Shelter #2 (3515 Roane State Hwy, Harri-man). (In case of inclement weather, meet at Kingston Community Center (201 Patton Ferry Rd, Kingston). If you are unsure, check the TDEC Watershed Management Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/TDECWatershedManagement>). For more information, contact: JeniLind Brinkman (931) 432-7614 or Chris Thompson (865) 594-2147

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## 2. TENNESSEE NEWS: OTHER ISSUES

### 2A. *The Cumberland Trail Conference is re- vived*

[Information contributed by Carol Grametbauer  
and Jimmy Groton]

In early May, the Tennessee Trails Association (TTA) dissolved its 17-year affiliate, the Cumberland Trail Conference, CTC (NL315 ¶1B). Just eight weeks later, CTC was back. In a special meeting on June 28, the TTA Directors voted to reverse and nullify the group's previous action. The vote restored the CTC as an Associate Organization of TTA.

Judy R. Varner has agreed to stay on for the time being as Chairman of the CTC Board, and the TTA is partnering with the CTC in all that needs to happen to re-establish the trust of the CTC members, volunteers, and supporters. Much also needs to be done on the administrative side, due to the sudden departure (for health reasons) of Marleya Pendleton.

### 2B. *Forest management on Wildlife Manage- ment Areas in the Cumberlands*

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and its partners have developed scientifically rigorous conservation measures for improved forest management in five Wildlife Management Areas in the Northern Cumberlands. In aggregate, these WMAs encompass 216,850 acres.

The final draft for TNC's Forest Resources Habitat Conservation Plan for the Northern Cumberlands has been submitted for approval to the US Fish and Wildlife Ser-

vice. The Plan, which seeks to improve forest management for 20 plant and animal species, was developed by a team of experts from academia and government.

### 2C. *TCWP urges denial of latest stripmine per- mit for Claiborne County*

TCWP has urged TDEC's Division of Water Resources to deny a discharge permit to Kopper Glo, which has proposed the third recent stripmine draining into the Clear Fork of the Cumberland (*not* of the BSF) watershed in Claiborne County (NL315, ¶1C). Our comments pointed out that this mine would damage land that is recovering from a previous disturbance, that it would pollute the headwaters of streams designated Exceptional Tennessee Waters, and that a threatened species of fish would be among organisms impacted.

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## 3. OBED and BSF NEWS

### 3A. *EIS being prepared on coal-mining cleanup efforts at BSF*

There used to be a lot of coal mining in the area now occupied by the BSFNRRRA, and it has left a legacy of acidified streams and elevated (often toxic) concentrations of heavy metals. In a prior Environmental Assessment (EA) the National Park Service developed mitigation and treatment systems for nine specific sites in the McCreary County, KY portion of the park, and recommended that a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared.

A draft of this Contaminated Mine Drainage Mitigation and Treatment System EIS is now being prepared (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=42994>). The purpose of the project is to address contaminated mine drainage (CMD) at the first nine sites (adjusting or refining the preliminary engineering plans), and to create a programmatic approach to considering future treatment options at former mining sites *throughout the park*.

Three public meetings (including one at the Oak Ridge High school) have been scheduled to solicit comments, all of them prior to the date on which you probably receive this Newsletter. You may, however, submit your comments online or mail them (see action box). We may want to make sure treatments do not extend for overly long periods, and that access roads are obliterated, once the treatment is over.

<p>WHAT YOU CAN DO: Comments may be submitted online at <a href="http://parkplanning.nps.gov/biso">http://parkplanning.nps.gov/biso</a>, or mailed to the Superintendent, BSFNRRRA, 4564 Leatherwood Road, Oneida, 37841.</p>
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### 3B. *Obed capsules*

- An abandoned oil well, located at Potter's Ford, was plugged and the site restored. This project was a collaborative effort involving the Emory River Watershed Association (ERWA), TVA, TDEC, TWRA, and the National Park Service.
- Deadline for entries for the *3rd Annual Obed Photography Contest* is July 22. Information and entry forms are available on the park's website ([www.nps.gov/obed](http://www.nps.gov/obed)).

### 3C. *BSF capsules*

- The Honey Creek loop trail was named a Great American Hike when *USA Today* recently selected what it considers to be the top 20 trails across America. Honey Creek is described as the most challenging trail in the area, "but worth the effort."
- Through Labor Day, rangers will be leading weekly hikes at Leatherwood Ford, Twin Arches, Oscar Blevins, East Rim Overlook, Sunset Overlook, Bandy Creek, Yahoo Falls, the Gentleman's Swimming Hole, and Charit Creek. Rangers will also host porch talks daily at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center and evening programs at Blue Heron and Bandy Creek Campgrounds.
- The Rugby Ranger Station, which has been open since June 21, is located on the ground floor of Rugby's Board of Aid to Land Ownership Building.

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## 4. THE CHEROKEE and other FORESTS

### 4A. *What happens to the Highway Trust Fund will affect Corridor K in the Cherokee NF*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The Federal Highway Trust Fund, which supplies the federal funds used in every state for road projects, is projected to be out of money by September. This could be good news for stopping Corridor K, a 50-year-old poverty-fighting recommendation of the Appalachian Regional Commission, that threatens to result in a new road blasted through the Cherokee National Forest (replacing Hwy 64 that runs alongside the Ocoee River).

To rescue the Highway Trust Fund, Senators Bob Corker (R-TN) and Chris Murphy (D-CT) have introduced a bill that would increase the federal gasoline tax by 6¢/gal for the next 2 years. The bill also dictates that certain, unspecified, expired tax breaks would be permanently restored, thus *decreasing* the U.S. Treasury balance by \$190 billion. Therefore, the proposed gas-tax increase would not result in new revenue for the Federal budget; rather it dedicates additional monies to roads at the expense of the Treasury balance. The bill has met with mixed reaction, and there is sure to be much debate over the tax.

### 4B. *TCWP comments on Recreational Mining Rules that will affect the Cherokee NF*

TCWP has commented on TDEC's proposed permit for recreational prospecting, such as has occurred for a number of years at Citico Creek in the Cherokee National Forest (NL315 ¶4B). The draft divides recreational prospecting into two categories: manual prospecting (Class I, e.g., pans, hand sluices), which would be allowed without any notice to TDEC, and mechanical prospecting (Class II, e.g., dredges, powered sluices).

TCWP's comments recommend that, even though people performing Class-I activities would need no permit, they should notify TDEC. A simple notification requirement would provide a mechanism for determining the number of folks engaged in Class-I prospecting, information that could prove useful in future.

TCWP also recommends that neither Class-II nor Class-I prospecting be permitted in areas where state or federally listed threatened, or endangered species might be present. Such information can be made available through clear maps on a website.

### 4C. *Great Smokies proposing regulations to limit importation of tree-killing organisms*

[From GSMNP news release, 6-30-14]

Various insects from Asia and Europe have the potential to devastate over 30 species of trees native to the Smokies. Over the past few decades, the park has already lost magnificent stands of chestnut, Fraser fir, and hemlock. Pest organisms that can cause these and other devastations may find their way into the Park stowing away in firewood.

The park is proposing to reduce this threat by changing park regulations to allow only heat-treated wood to be brought into the park for campground fires. If the proposed regulation is adopted (you can comment at [grsmcom-ments@nps.gov](mailto:grsmcom-ments@nps.gov)), beginning in March 2015, it would ban the importation of firewood that is not bundled and certified by the USDA or a state agency. Heat-treated wood will be available to purchase from concessioners in many of the campgrounds as well as from private businesses in the communities around the park. In addition, visitors may still collect dead and down wood in the park for campfires.

Current park regulations prohibit the importation of wood and wood products from states (or specific counties in states) quarantined for insects such as emerald ash borer or tree diseases such as thousand canker disease. Although the new proposed regulation prohibiting the importation of non-certified wood would not take effect until 2015, the park is asking visitors to make the switch to safe firewood now.

For more information about some of the insect pests in the park, visit <http://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/firewood-alert.htm>.

#### 4D. *America's remaining old-growth forests must be saved*

[From Forest Service Employees  
for Environmental Ethics]

Less than 10% of America's old-growth forests that existed before European settlement are still intact. Recently, over 75 U.S. and Canadian scientists, including two former USFS chiefs, sent a letter to President Barack Obama asking for a policy to preserve what remains. Only fragments remain in the eastern US, and the largest trees in the Pacific Northwest were targeted more than a century ago. The largest extent of remaining old-growth forest is in southeast Alaska's Tongass National Forest where it has faced repeated threats of logging.

Old-growth forests are superb carbon sinks, retaining more carbon than any other ecosystem. These forests harbor plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms found nowhere else, and they provide protection for salmon streams. In the Tongass, old growth ranges from scrub trees to magnificent tall hemlocks and Sitka spruce.

#### 4E. *The pace of deforestation has slowed*

[From Union of Concerned Scientists, 6-13-14]

In the 1990s, deforestation was consuming 16 million hectares a year — an area about the size of the state of Georgia — and was responsible for about 17% of the global warming pollution that has been threatening the world with climate change. Things may be improving, however. A recent UCS report, *Deforestation Success Stories: Tropical Nations Where Forest Protection and Reforestation Policies Have Worked*, highlights successes in reducing deforestation and restoring forests in more than a dozen countries, home to the bulk of the world's tropical forests. Brazil is most notably lauded for its deforestation reductions, but the report also finds numerous examples of successfully conserving or restoring forests in unexpected locations, such as Mexico and Central Africa. Lessons drawn from these success stories could be replicated elsewhere.

In Brazil, emissions due to deforestation have taken such a sharp downturn since 2004 that *overall* emissions have decreased despite continued increases from other causes. The successful reductions result from policies and programs directly targeted at deforestation, policy reforms that relieve pressure on forests, and changes in the larger socio-economic context.

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### 5. TVA NEWS

#### 5A. *TVA has new Chairman*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

A new Chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority was inducted mid-May: Joe Ritch, an Alabama attorney and TVA Board member since January, 2013, takes the place of two-term chairman Bill Sansom. Sansom's term on the Board expired in May, along with that of Dr. Barba-

ra Haskew. Both Haskew and Sansom will continue to serve on the Board until their successors are nominated and confirmed or until the current Congressional session adjourns late this year.

#### 5B. *TVA Integrated Resource Plan nearing public comment period*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Last month, the Tennessee Valley Authority held a Quarterly Update Meeting on the 2015 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). The IRP is a resource-planning tool that examines costs and reliability of various electrical power sources, and how best to meet future electricity demands in the TVA service area. This multi-year process, scheduled to be completed next spring, will supplant the 2011 IRP.

Public meetings will be scheduled this fall to allow input on the plan. Look for detailed information about these meetings in future newsletters. It is important that TVA consider the *environmental* costs of the various electricity sources, as well as the hard costs. It is equally important that TVA's environmental stewardship responsibilities are adequately supported. For detailed information about the IRP, visit: <http://www.tva.gov/environment/reports/irp/index.htm>

#### 5C. *TVA plays role in "Top Solar States" ranking*

In a ranking by Solar Energy Industries Assoc. of the *Top 10 Solar States*, Tennessee emerged as No.8 in % of new electrical capacity from solar (92%!). Two other states within TVA service territory, NC and GA, made the 'top ten' list.

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### 6. NATIONAL NEWS

#### 6A. *Pres. Obama designates a 500,000-acre National Monument*

On May 21, Pres. Obama signed a proclamation establishing the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in southwestern New Mexico. It is the eleventh -- and at nearly 500,000 acres, by far the largest -- national monument President Obama has designated using the Antiquities Act.

The new National Monument, which encompasses the Pottillo Mountains, Sierra de las Uvas, Robledos Mountains and the surrounding desert in southern New Mexico is the crown jewel of the Southern Rockies, and one of the most deserving iconic places in America to receive this designation. The Monument is filled with majestic mountains, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, rare plant species, petroglyph-lined canyons, and sites of historical events. In addition to protecting invaluable landscapes, wildlife and cultural areas, the designation has the potential to add more than \$7.4 million to the regional economy.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Thank Pres. Obama (addresses on p.2) for availing himself of the Antiquities Act to protect this large and highly significant area. Encourage him to use the Antiquities Act to designate additional National Monuments.

#### 6B. *Wilderness Act celebrates 50th anniversary on Sept. 3*

It took two decades of battles and landmark negotiations to pass an Act that would permanently protect our treasured wildlands. The effort was led by the then-young Wilderness Society, of which Knoxville's Harvey Broome was a chief founder. Legislation to establish a national wilderness preservation system was first introduced in 1956 by Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-MN). Between 1956 and 1964, Howard Zahniser, leader of the Wilderness Society, wrote 66 drafts of the Wilderness Act and steered it through 18 hearings. He died just months before the Act became law in 1964.

Since then, this law has protected 110 million acres of American wilderness, which is defined as follows: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

We'll have a chance to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Act, right here in Knoxville. Tom Tidwell, Chief of the US Forest Service will be the keynote speaker. See ¶8C for details.

Recently, some people have argued (e.g., *NY Times Sunday Review*, July 6) that even the most unmolested places have been affected by human interference (e.g., through man-made climate change), and that we should therefore intervene (e.g., by watering during droughts) so as to protect the values for which a wilderness was established. Others have responded, however, that opening up the Wilderness Act would invite attack by the usual suspects — mining companies, give-back-the-land groups.

#### 6C. *Restoration of vital Clean Water Act protections*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

As a result of confusing Supreme Court decisions of 2001 and 2006, there has been uncertainty about the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act over large portions of the nation's waters, namely those designated intermittent and ephemeral (NL 315 ¶6A). Because of the high proportion of the country's waters that are thus designated, this has been a problem of huge magnitude.

In March, EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers released a draft of the very important rulemaking that would

clarify the situation. This rulemaking will fundamentally influence work to protect or restore watersheds.

TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss has attended a couple of American Rivers webinars about the proposed rule. The more recent one of these featured three conservation leaders talking about their substantive positions on the rule as well as the political backdrop to the rule.

The presenters were: Jan Goldman-Carter, National Wildlife Federation; Kelly Foster, Waterkeeper Alliance; Jon Devine, NRDC. With that information and other on-line resources, staff and volunteers are working to develop science-based comments on the proposed rule. Look for more information in our next newsletter. The comment deadline is October 20.

#### 6D. *Approaching 6th extinction in the history of life on Earth, but ESA is under attack*

A study published May 29 in the journal *Science*, shows that human activity (climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, overfishing, etc.) has driven current rates of species extinction to 1,000 times faster than the natural rate. Species are going extinct at a pace not seen in tens of millions of years, and puts us on the verge of the sixth extinction in the history of life on Earth. Man is the cause of the crisis, but man can also do something about it. Without the Wilderness Act (¶6B, above) and the Endangered Species Act, there would have been a 20% higher extinction rate. And if we curb carbon emissions, we'll slow the extinction rate.

But what's our great House of Representatives doing instead? Congressman Doc Hastings (R-WA), chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, has introduced four bills to *weaken* the Endangered Species Act (info from Leda Huta via CREDO Mobilize). Since Americans are unequivocal about their support for this Act, Congressman Hastings knows that he can only destroy it if he goes after it piece by piece. These four bills put wildlife in danger of poachers, make a mockery of science, reduce citizens' abilities to enforce the Endangered Species Act, and place burdensome requirements on the Dept. of the Interior. And our own 3rd District Representative, Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN), writes: "Congress and those tasked with administering the ESA must work diligently to ensure such measures [i.e., ESA requirements] do not needlessly hamper vital projects or saddle job creators with overly burdensome regulations."

#### 6E. *Two judicial actions that will improve air quality*

[Information from EarthJustice, 4-30-14]

In April, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld EPA standards that will force 28 states with coal-fired power plants to clean up lethal plant emissions that drift, like secondhand smoke, into neighboring states. Known as the 'Cross-State

Air Pollution Rule,' this ruling is expected to prevent up to 34,000 premature deaths each year and provide as much as \$280 billion in health and environmental benefits.

Also in April, a federal district court judge ruled that the EPA must this year deal with our nation's smog crisis by proposing long-overdue revisions to control ozone pollution.

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## 7. OAK RIDGE/KNOXVILLE AREA

### 7A. *Partnership with the Smithsonian*

[Information from Virginia Dale]

On June 12, ORNL and the Smithsonian Institution announced a new partnership to support collaborative research programs and science education efforts. This is the first partnership between ORNL and the Smithsonian. A formal signing ceremony was held at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

Both organizations examine many of the world's most complex and time-sensitive scientific problems and support many research programs that complement and reinforce each other. They also support science education to impact students and teachers from elementary school through post-doctoral studies. The partnership may have implications for uses of the Oak Ridge Reservation.

<http://www.ornl.gov/ornl/news/features/2014/the-smithsonian-and-ornl-partner-to-advance-science-education>.

### 7B. *Oak Ridge is first Green Power Community in the Southeast*

The EPA's Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program that encourages organizations to buy green power. To be designated as a Green Power Community, a local government must purchase or produce green power in amounts that meet EPA minimum purchase requirements as determined by community electricity usage.

On July 14, the City of Oak Ridge was recognized as an EPA Green Power Community, the first in the Southeast. The recognition follows a two-month long Green Power Community Challenge that encouraged local residents and businesses to buy green power. The effort was a tremendous success: over 300 new customers enrolled in TVA's Green Power Switch program, more than triple the original goal.

### 7C. *Knoxville's Smarter Cities Partnership promotes initiative to reduce costs of warming*

[Information from Louise Gorenflo]

The City of Knoxville's Smarter Cities Partnership promotes an affordable weatherization initiative for Knoxville residents most affected by the high costs that are associated with the crisis of global warming. A group of or-

ganizations (including TCWP), businesses, and churches has issued a statement supporting the Partnership. This statement also supports the strongest climate protection standards possible for limiting carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants.

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## 8. TCWP NEWS

### 8A. *Upcoming activities*

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

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

#### 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 followup to the March 27 talk to TCWP by CFI cofounder Pat Rakes.

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.

Participants are strongly encouraged to preregister with Sandra Goss ([sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:sandra@sandrakgoss.com) or 865-583-3967) or Jimmy Groton ([groton87@comcast.net](mailto:groton87@comcast.net) or 865-805-9908) to ensure that we have enough CFI fish experts available to help with the event.

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.)

#### Summer Cedar Barren cleanup – Saturday, August 16

Located next to Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge, this barren is a joint project of the City of Oak Ridge, the State Natural Areas Division, and TCWP. This area is one of just a few cedar barrens in East Tennessee, and is subject to invasion by Chinese lespedeza, Japanese privet, autumn olive,



mimosa, Nepal grass, multiflora rose, and woody plants that threaten the system's prairie grasses. Our spring, summer, and fall cleanups help to eliminate the invasives and other shade-producing plants that prevent the prairie grasses from getting needed sun.

Volunteers should meet in the Jefferson Middle School Parking lot at 9 a.m.; volunteers should wear sturdy shoes and bring loppers, gloves, and water. The work session will conclude at noon with a pizza lunch. For additional information, contact Tim Bigelow at Bigelowt2@mindspring.com or at 865-607-6781.

Celebration of the Wilderness Act's 50th Anniversary – Wednesday, Sept. 3

See ¶8C, below.

"Secret City Bats: Creatures of the Night, Friend or Foe?" - Thursday, Sept. 4

Although they sometimes suffer from a poor public image, bats are extremely beneficial animals: they are major predators of night-flying insects. On September 4, TCWP will host bat specialist Gerry Middleton, a biologist with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, who will present a slide show featuring his study of bats. Following his talk and a question/answer period, we'll adjourn to the marina on Melton Hill Lake for a field demonstration: Gerry will use his "bat detectors" (which detect echolocation calls) to help us spot the nocturnal creatures as they forage for insects at dusk. He'll also bring a spotlight and a thermal imaging camera to help us see bats after dark.

The program will begin at 7 p.m. in Room 102 of the First Presbyterian Church in Oak Ridge, on the corner of Lafayette Drive and the Oak Ridge Turnpike. (NOTE: We'll begin PROMPTLY at 7, to allow plenty of time for the program and questions/answers while still giving us time get to the lake before full dark.) In the event of rain, the talk will be held as planned and Gerry will do an indoor demonstration with the bat detector.

Tennessee Green Hikeathon - Sunday, September 21

Save the date and plan now to join in this event in support of the conservation efforts of Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation: preserving natural areas, trails, wildlife habitat, local parks, and recreation areas across the state. You can hike any distance you choose; the East Tennessee location is the Cumberland Trail at Black Mountain State Natural Area. Registration donation is \$30 per person. Sponsorships are also available, beginning at \$500. For more information or online registration, see [www.tenngreen.org](http://www.tenngreen.org).

National Public Lands Day cleanup at Worthington Cemetery – Saturday, September 27

On September 27 TCWP and TVA will partner again for our annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) celebration, to be held at TVA's Worthington Cemetery Ecological

Study Area on Melton Hill Reservoir in Oak Ridge. Our yearly efforts in this area are helping to eradicate wisteria from the cemetery, and privet and other invasive exotics from the SWA. A pizza lunch will follow our work session, which will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude around noon. TCWP has for many years partnered with TVA to enhance and protect natural resources at Worthington Cemetery and other TVA lands throughout East Tennessee as part of our mutual stewardship efforts. Additional details will be provided in the September newsletter and via email alert.

*Additional information on all TCWP activities may be obtained from TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss at [Sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:Sandra@sandrakgoss.com) or at 865-583-3967.*

## 8B. Recent events

Joint outing with TNPS at Catoosa Savannah - Saturday, May 17

*(Contributed by Larry Pounds)*

On May 17, TCWP joined with the Tennessee Native Plant Society (TNPS) for a plant survey at the Catoosa Savannah near Crossville, which is being restored to prairie and savannah plant communities. It is generally believed such communities were common before European settlement. Frequent fires are required to maintain prairies and savannahs; for the Catoosa Savannah, such fires are now provided by controlled burns.

TNPS is in the process of creating an informal plant list for this area. We started the list on our May 17 outing, with the sighting of 193 species. We saw orchid and grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia asarifolia*) leaves, and look forward to seeing these plants in flower later in the season. We saw flowers on bastard toad-flax (*Comandra umbellate*), Virginia goat's-rue (*Tephrosia virginiana*) and pinkster-flower (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*). There will be more trips to the area to complete the list.

Frog/salamander outing with John Byrd - Saturday, May 31

*(Contributed by Sandra Goss)*

Frog, salamander, and crawfish expert John Byrd and Arcadis Engineer and wetlands creator Steve Forbes led an evening tour of wetlands at Grand Oak Elementary and Dutch Valley Elementary schools as a followup to the "Frogs and Salamanders of Anderson County" program John did for TCWP in February. While conditions were somewhat dry, the group was able to see some natural wonders, including a dragonfly nymph with a tongue that seemed to be twice the length of its body. The highlight of the evening was John digging out a rare Valley Flame Crayfish from its muddy home nearly 18 inches underground.

John has been involved with education and research on amphibians for many years: he taught biology and science at Anderson County High School and has headed the Clinch River Environmental Studies Organization (CRESO), which

introduced high school students to advanced field research techniques. John and Steve have overseen construction of more than 10 wetlands at local schools.

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

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

On May 31, the Emory River Watershed Association and TCWP sponsored a combination hemlock wooly adelgid treatment workshop and cleanup at Potters Falls in Wartburg. At least 41 people showed up to help, including lots of Morgan County residents, people interested to learn how to treat their hemlocks for wooly adelgids, and many others.

In conjunction with the workshop and cleanup, Tim Borchert, an Oak Ridge Eagle Scout candidate with Oak Ridge Troop 129, led a group of Boy Scouts and high school students in painting the bridge over Crooked Fork just above the falls. The bridge had become covered with graffiti and needed some TLC. ERWA and TCWP accomplished their goal of training hemlock volunteers and cleaning up trash from the site. We completely filled the Morgan County Solid Waste coordinator's truck with the many bags of trash we collected.

After the cleanup, volunteers were treated to lunch at the Morgan County Visitor Center, courtesy of ERWA and Darnell's Grocery. A grant from TVA funded litter cleanup supplies. The event was supported by the Obed Wild and Scenic River, The Nature Conservancy, and Tennessee Division of Forestry.

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

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

About a dozen hikers and trail fans gathered June 7 at the Illinois Avenue trailhead of the North Ridge Trail for a working morning planned to coincide with National Trails Day. Volunteers clipped, snipped, and otherwise cleared the section east of the trailhead, and celebrated their accomplishments with complimentary pizza.

The North Ridge Trail, which offers a forested escape only minutes from downtown Oak Ridge, is one of TCWP's oldest ongoing projects. Developed and maintained by TCWP members for many decades, it's one of the crown jewels of the acclaimed Oak Ridge Greenway system. Sections of the trail are available for adoption. Adopters walk their section regularly and let us know about trees across the trail or other problems. For more information about adopting a section of trail, contact Sandra Goss at [Sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:Sandra@sandrakgoss.com) or at 865-583-3967.

*Additional information on all TCWP activities may be obtained from TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss at [Sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:Sandra@sandrakgoss.com) or at 865-583-3967.*

8C. *Chief of the US Forest Service to keynote big local celebration of the Wilderness Act's 50th Anniversary*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

✱ Join us on September 3rd, 2014 at the East Tennessee History Center in downtown Knoxville for an inspirational evening celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act (see ¶6B, above). Among the millions of acres protected by the Act, are some of Tennessee's most beautiful natural wonders. Tennessee has played a key role in helping our nation realize the importance of protecting wild places that define America and represent freedom in the truest sense of the word.

**GREAT NEWS:** Our featured speaker will be Tom Tidwell, Chief of the US Forest Service. Among other speakers who will tell the story of people, place, and promise is the former executive director of Friends of the Smokies, Charles Maynard. The evening will take you on a journey to explore what wilderness means in Tennessee, why it is more important than ever, and what the future holds for the next 50 years of this natural legacy.

The event will include refreshments and plenty of time to socialize. Sponsors, in addition to TCWP, include the USFS, Wild South, Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, the TN Wild Coalition, Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards, The Wilderness Society, East Tennessee History Center, and Cherokee Forest Voices.

8D. *Community Shares membership earns TCWP \$6,000/year. You can help make this grow!*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

For the past several years, TCWP has belonged to Community Shares, a charitable federation of not-for-profit organizations that conducts workplace-giving campaigns across the state. When employees at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, University of Tennessee, Carson Newman University, SAIC, and elsewhere, participate in payroll-deduction giving, they can direct their donation to the Community Shares member(s) of their choice.

Community Shares will be visiting workplaces in the coming months, distributing informative brochures and pledge cards. If you are a Federal employee at TVA, Department of Energy, or elsewhere, please consider designating TCWP as a recipient of your charitable dollars. Our code is 77429.

✱ Any workplace can sign up to conduct Community Shares campaigns. If you are interested in Community Shares being in your workplace, call or write Sandra at 865.583-3967 or [sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:sandra@sandrakgoss.com). It's easy for your office to participate in the campaign; participation can boost employee morale and esprit-de-corps.

8E. *Members in the news*

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]

- TCWP founding member and Newsletter Editor Lee Russell was featured in a June 22 *News Sentinel* East Tennessee Salutes article about YWCA Tribute to Women honorees.
- TCWP member and Climate Knoxville Network Developer Louise Gorenflo had a lengthy op-ed article in the July 6 *News Sentinel* about the EPA draft rule to limit carbon pollution.
- TCWP members Teresa and Tim Myrick were featured in the July 7 *News Sentinel* for their work with Habitat for Humanity of Anderson County.
- TCWP member Ben Pounds is a regular contributor to *Metro Pulse*; his most recent column focused on the Devils Race Track portion of the Cumberland Trail.
- TCWP member Jason Darby was quoted in a June 23 *News Sentinel* article about mercury in East Fork Poplar Creek.

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

[From Sandra Goss]



- Jean Bangham, John Bates, Frank Hensley, Melissa Muendel, Charlie Klabunde, Dick Raridon, and Marti Salk for TCWP Newsletter mailing preparation.
- Jimmy Groton for his leadership on the May 31 Potters Falls Cleanup and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Workshop.
- John Byrd for leading the informative frog and crawfish tour on May 31.
- Lee Russell, Carol Grametbauer, and Jimmy Groton for their work on the TCWP Newsletter.
- Francis Perey for his work on the TCWP website.
- Lee Russell for researching and writing TCWP's comments on the state proposal to relax stringent protection of Hatchie River water quality.
- Cindy Kendrick, and Lee Russell for their help with Sweat Equity for Community Shares.
- Susan Donnelly for her leadership on the June 7 North Ridge Trail Cleanup.
- Frank Hensley, Bill Johnston, Virginia Dale, Marion Burger, John Bates, Kitty McCracken, and Larry Pounds for staffing the Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation Secret City Festival booth.
- Jimmy Groton and Lee Russell for their work on revising the booklet *Obed in Peril*.
- Michele Thornton for reviewing a grant-finding proposal.

8G. *Executive Director's column*

[By Sandra Goss]

This summer weather and accompanying plant and animal activities have kept me both entertained and aggravated. The lovely green growth, gorgeous flowers and vegetables, singing birds, outstanding lightning-bug displays . . . ah, bliss!

On the other hand, all that green growth that needs trimming, snipping, or eradicating, those irritating mosquitoes and plant pests, and earlier this week, a snake in my screened porch . . . arggh!

Months ago, the TCWP Program Committee talked about the hot summer and the thriving greenery, and endeavored to take advantage of these conditions to schedule several interesting events (¶8A, this NL):

Sat., July 26 -- We'll snorkel the Obed with folks from Conservation Fisheries who will help us identify the aquatic creatures on view. This will be cooling and educational.

Sat., August 17 -- We'll have a viewday/workday at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren. There will likely be a lovely stand of prairie plants in bloom, thanks to invasive-plant removal sessions TCWP sponsors twice annually during cooler seasons.

Thurs., Sept. 4 — Bat expert Gerry Middleton will tell us and then show us all about bats in a two-part evening that starts at the Oak Ridge First Presbyterian Church and ends on Melton Lake Drive, where we'll see bats galore.

The Program Committee, chaired by Carol Grametbauer, meets about every 6 weeks at 7:00 pm at the Oak Ridge First Presbyterian. We welcome new members and new ideas for TCWP programs. We're a friendly crowd and the meetings last about an hour. Call me for the next meeting date; we can attend together.

Another noteworthy event is the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act at the East Tennessee Historical Society in Knoxville, September 3 (see ¶8C). TCWP is one of several event sponsors. The Chief of the US Forest Service will be our keynote speaker. Also speaking will be Rev. Charles Maynard, and members of Harvey Broome's family will be there. Tennessee's role in wilderness issues has been pretty important, and this is your free opportunity to learn more and celebrate that!

Turning to fiscal matters, soon Community Shares campaigns will begin in workplaces across the state (¶8D). Through payroll deduction, one can contribute directly to TCWP. Please consider us as your designated recipient (or one of them). In addition to TCWP, contributions may be made to any of the other 40+ member groups.

Also, there has been some interest from Scripps Networks Interactive employees to establish a campaign there. Do you work there, or know someone who does? Please tell him, her, or them about charitable giving opportunity through payroll deductions to Community Shares, and see if there's a willingness to work with Scripps Networks

folks to start a workplace campaign there. We could use some help getting this going!

Hope to see or hear from you at an event or in my e-mail in box. Your comments and support are most appreciated.

Sandra

The entire collection of 600+ posters may be viewed at [SeeAmericaProject.com](http://SeeAmericaProject.com), where purchases can be made.

## 9. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

### •• CALENDAR (events and deadlines)

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

- July 26, Snorkeling outing with Conservation Fisheries (see ¶8A, this NL).
- August 16, Summer Cedar Barren cleanup (see ¶8A, this NL).
- August 29, Comment deadline for List of Impaired Waters (see ¶1D, this NL).
- Sept. 3, celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilderness Act (see ¶8C, this NL).
- September 4, "Secret City Bats: Creatures of the Night, Friend or Foe (see ¶8A, this NL).
- September 21, Tennessee Green Walkathon (see ¶8A, this NL).
- September 22, TDEC event for Emory River and Watts Bar watersheds (see ¶1E, this NL)
- September 22, deadline for entries in Obed photo contest (see ¶3B, this NL)
- September 27, National Public Lands Day cleanup at Worthington Cemetery (see ¶8A, this NL).
- October 20, Deadline for Clean Water Act comments (¶6C, this NL).

### •• RESOURCES

- 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](http://www.tenngreen.org).
- The *See America* exhibit by NPCA's Southeast Regional Office can be viewed July 8 to August 3 at the Tomato Head West, 7240 Kingston Pike, the Gallery. More than 75 years after FDR commissioned posters to showcase our national parks under the banner *See America*, NPCA and the Creative Action Network invite you to this special exhibit showcasing the next generation of *See America* artwork.

# 14 Reasons to be a member of TCWP for 2014

## Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning:

- \* **Issues the most informative environmental newsletter in the state**
- \* **Secures special lands in Obed River Gorge**
- \* **Maintains Whites Creek Trail (Rhea Co.)**
- \* **Provides TCWP E-letters on timely environmental issues**
- \* **The TCWP Newsletter and E-letters can help you make a difference**
- \* **Conducts regular invasive plants cleanup at Oak Ridge Cedar Barren**
- \* **Sponsors informative presentations**
- \* **Is long-time adopter of Alley Ford segment of Cumberland Trail**
- \* **Takes active role in oil and gas rules**
- \* **Sponsors a caravan to Conservation Day on the Hill**
- \* **Works to stop Mountain Top Removal Coal Mining**
- \* **Advocates for pure drinking water**
- \* **Built and maintains the North Ridge Trail (Oak Ridge)**
- \* **Fights for healthy state and national forests**

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## JOIN or RENEW NOW

Our "dues" year is the calendar year, Jan 1 to Dec 31. Contributions to TCWP are tax-deductible.

To join after August 1, you may pay half the listed annual rates.

Please visit [www.tcwp.org](http://www.tcwp.org) for secure contribution or send form, and check (**payable to TCWP**), to:  
Charles Klabunde, Treasurer, TCWP; 219 E. Vanderbilt Dr.; Oak Ridge, TN 37830

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONES: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

1. Student, Correspond, Senior (low budget)..\$15.00 3. REGULAR (individual)..... \$25.00

4. Couple. .... \$35.00 You may always contribute as much more as you want.

[ ] I prefer delivery of Newsletters as a PDF attached to an e-mail instead of paper copy via USPS.

**www.tcwp.org**

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**Membership Renewal for 2014.**  
**PLEASE, do it NOW ! See page 13.**  
**You may even add a contribution.**

**TCWP's 2014 Board of Directors**

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Michele Thornton .....Director  
Warren Webb.....Director  
Sandra Goss ....Executive Director

**Coming Events**

**Things to do Afterhours**

- July 26, Snorkeling outing with Conservation Fisheries ¶8A
- Aug 16, Summer Cedar Barren Cleanup ¶8A
- Sept 3, Celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wilderness Act ¶8C
- Sept 4, Bats... Lecture + Detect & See them Live ¶8A
- Sept 21, Tennessee Green Walkathon ¶8A
- Sept 22, TDEC event: Emory River & Watts Bar Watersheds ¶1E
- Sept 27, National Public Lands Day & Worthington Cemet'y ¶8A