



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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Taking Care of Wild Places

The BIG stories

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

10. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Rule cutting carbon emissions	Gov. Haslam	"Please support strong limits for Tennessee!"
3A	Smokies firewood regulations	Nat'l Park Service	"I support proposed regulations and will abide by them now!"
4A	TVA's power generation	TVA Board	"Thanks for reducing coal! Replace by efficiency and renewables!"
5A	Clean Water Act protections	EPA Your US senators	"I strongly support the rule "Support the rule! Opposing propaganda is not based on facts."
5B	Drones in parks		Watch for info on how to make your voice heard
6A,B	Proposed carbon-emissions rule	EPA	"I support reducing emissions, but rule needs strengthening!"
7	Clark Center Park transfer	TCWP	Watch for notifications of pertinent meetings
8C	Kroger Rewards		Enroll or re-enroll to help TCWP finances

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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. *Tennessee's part in*

EPA's proposed rule to cut carbon emissions from power plants

Under EPA's proposed emissions rule for existing power plants (6A, this NL), each state is responsible for achieving its fair share of the overall target by developing its own customized plan to meet the individual carbon-reductions goal assigned to it by the agency. Gov. Haslam's office is presumably responding to this requirement and, hopefully, seizing the opportunities it represents. We must let the governor know how much we support the carbon reductions. He is hearing plenty from coal- and oil-industry-supported groups. ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council -- see ¶1C, below) is encouraging legislators to lobby governors in opposition to carbon limits, and ALEC is encouraging state attorney generals to bring lawsuits against the new EPA regulations.

Tell Governor Haslam, that you are deeply concerned about climate change, and that you strongly support EPA's proposed limits on carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants. These limits present a historic opportunity for our state to embrace a clean energy economy that can grow jobs and make us as a leader in the fight to protect future generations from climate chaos.

Even before the EPA rule was proposed, at least 10 states, mostly in New England, cut their emissions by ~30% between 2005 and 2012. Despite this, economic growth in the region ran slightly *ahead of* national average, and residential electricity bills fell by 7%.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact Gov. Haslam, (address on p.2), urging him to support the strongest possible limits on carbon emission from power plants, and to develop a wise plan for Tennessee to achieve its fair share of the overall nationwide target. The outcome will be a clean energy economy that can grow jobs in Tennessee.

1B. ***Legislative Scorecard assesses 2014 legislature***

Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) has issued its annual scorecard for the Tennessee legislature. Based on actions on 16 key pieces of legislation considered by the 108th General Assembly, members of the House and Senate were given positive or negative credit. Because most of the important legislative work and votes occur within the committee system, rather than on the floor, the scorecard evaluates legislators' work on the basis of committee votes and bill sponsorship. However, because not all legislators were on the committees that considered environmental bills, scores cannot be directly compared across the whole Assembly.

In its general assessment of 2014, TCV says: "Despite serious challenges, we had successes this year. Land

acquisition and wetlands preservation funds were included on a recurring basis in the budget. We successfully halted multiple efforts to undermine water and air quality. We successfully contributed to the effort stopping the coal mining industry's effort to eliminate federal regulations." (Note: the last item will be a real fight again next year.)

It is sad that the highest-scoring (+8) senator, Lowe Finney (D-27), is retiring, and so is Sen. Douglas Henry (D-21), who has a long record of supporting good environmental policies, including the dedicated land acquisition funds. Other high scorers in the senate were Overby (R-2), Southerland (R-1) and Ford (D-29). In the House, the highest scorers (+8) were Gilmore (D-54) and Hardaway (D-92). In descending order (from +6 to +3), they were Powell (D-53), Parkinson (D-98), Camper (D-87), Gloria Johnson (D-13), Stewart (D-52), Favors (D-29), Jernigan (D-60), Jones (D-59), Mitchell (D-50), Swann (R-8), and Tidwell (D-74). The most-negative scorers (-5 or -4) were Womick (R-34), Evans (R-66), Rogers (R-45), and Todd (R-95).

TCV gives special mention to Gov. Haslam for vetoing a bill that would have reduced penalties for polluters. It was one of only three bills that he has vetoed in three years.

1C. ***Tennessee legislators with ALEC ties***

About one-third of Tennessee's senators (9 Republicans and 3 Democrats), and one-fourth of its representatives (all Republicans, including John Ragan, R-33) have ties to ALEC. ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council, has been described as a corporate bill mill. Through ALEC, corporations (including coal and oil companies) hand state legislators their wish lists that benefit the corporate bottom line. ALEC drafts model bills for state legislatures. Corporations fund almost all of ALEC's operations. They pay for a seat on ALEC task forces, where corporate lobbyists and special interest reps vote with elected officials to approve "model" bill.

From *Union of Concerned Scientists*, Sept. 2014: "[A]mong its current efforts, ALEC has set out to weaken or repeal state renewable-energy standards in the 29 U.S. states that have established them. To do so, the group is pushing "model" legislation called the "Electricity Freedom Act," using disinformation and fear mongering to depict these states' sensible renewable standards as a tax on consumers when, in fact, renewable energy is proving wildly successful, popular, and a boon to local economies across the country.

"[While more than 80 companies have backed] away from supporting the organization, ... ALEC continues to count among its dues-paying corporate members many prominent companies including top fossil fuel companies such as ExxonMobil, Peabody Energy, and Koch Industries, as well as tech giants Google, Yahoo, and Facebook."

1D. Organization formed to fight polluting industry on Nolichucky River

Despite extensive opposition, TDEC recently issued 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, NL 316 ¶1B).

A new group has recently been formed that plans to challenge the permits, which it believes failed to adequately consider the impact on the river, particularly during periods of low flow. The Nolichucky is home to a number of endangered species and is also a site for reintroduction of endangered mussels. More information about the new organization, Stakeholder Easement Land and Water Group of Tennessee, may be found on their website, www.SELAWGTN.org.

1E. TCWP comments on list of impaired waters

TDEC recently published its draft 303(d) list of impaired and threatened waters in Tennessee (NL316 ¶1D). In its comments, TCWP urged the department to consider two actions:

1. Allocate adequate resources to survey *all* Tennessee streams;
2. Expand the volunteer water quality testers program. This would help with the effort to survey *all* Tennessee streams.

The draft version of the list can be accessed at <http://www.tn.gov/environment/water/docs/wpc/2014-draft-303d-list.pdf>

1F. Citizen's Guide to Clean Water being developed for Tennessee

Under an EPA grant, the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) is working to develop a citizen's guide for use in Tennessee. Dennis Gregg of OWCA is writing significant portions of the Guide. The complete document will be available on the TEC website (www.tectn.org) as well as the OWCA website (www.obedwatershed.org).

2. OBED and BSF

2A. TCWP comments on Park Service plan to treat abandoned-mine drainage in BSFNRRRA

Coal mining in the area that is now within the boundary of the BSFNRRRA ceased in the 1960s, but its legacy is about 100 abandoned mine sites and spoil-pile remnants. Many of these sites are producing drainage of high acidity (pH as low as 2.7) and severely contaminated with heavy metals. They thus adversely impact the water quality, the aquatic fauna, and the riparian flora of the Big South Fork

Cumberland River into which all Park streams, big or little, eventually drain.

The National Park Service (NPS) developed mitigation and treatment systems for nine specific sites in the McCreary County, KY, portion of the park, and is now preparing a Contaminated Mine Drainage Mitigation and Treatment System EIS. The purpose of this 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* (NL316 ¶3A). TCWP representatives attended one of the public meetings and subsequently submitted comments on the plan.

TCWP comments applauded the plan to treat drainage contaminated by the approximately 100 abandoned coalmines and spoil-pile remnants in the Area, but recommended certain cautions. First, we strongly urged that all measures be taken to prevent needed access to the sites from becoming public accesses by motorized vehicles into the Gorge portion of the NRRRA. The authorizing legislation specifically prohibits such additional vehicular accesses. It is essential that this stipulation be enforced. The needed temporary roads must be used for treatment activities as rarely as possible and as temporarily as possible. Not only should they be physically blocked to non-authorized vehicles, but it should be made abundantly clear to everyone that they will never be opened to public vehicular access.

In addition to chemical contamination from the abandoned mine sites, NPS should consider physical contamination, namely siltation. The Big South Fork is already suffering from siltation coming from outside sites, particularly on the upper New River, and this contamination has gravely affected the valuable mussel population in the Area, including rare and endangered species. This condition should not be an excuse for ignoring additional siltation emanating from abandoned sites within the Area. Instead, NPS should quantify how much of the sediment in the BSF derives from the two sources, respectively.

Scoping is but the first step in the formulation of the Draft Plan/EIS, to be followed by the Final Plan/EIS.

2B. Obed WSR and BSFNRRRA boost local economy

[From Aug.2014 E-newsletter for the parks]

A new NPS report shows that visitors to Obed spent \$3.3 million in communities near the park during 2013. That spending supported 37 jobs in the local area. Big South Fork visitors spent \$16.3 million in communities near the park. That spending supported more than 200 jobs. The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by U.S. Geological Survey economists for the National Park Service. For more information on Tennessee's national parks, go to www.nps.gov/TENNESSEE

2C. Award for Obed WSR

The Obed WSR has received the prestigious Keeper of the Light Award for its “National Park in Your Backyard” program. This program brings every sixth grader in Morgan County to the park for an all-day, intensive introduction to the park’s resources and recreational opportunities (see NL309 ¶3C). The program is made possible through the dedication of park staff, volunteers, and Morgan County Schools. Over 750 students have participated since the program started in 2012. The park is committed to continuing it in perpetuity.

2D. Invitation to participate in scientific symposium for the parks

[From Aug.2014 E-newsletter for the parks]

NPS’s inaugural Scientific Research Symposium on the Upper Cumberland Plateau Parks will be held on October 29 at the Historic Rugby Visitor Center. The symposium will focus on natural and cultural scientific research in the parks or on issues linked to the parks. Oral and poster session abstracts are being accepted. For more information, send an email to henrietta_degroot@nps.gov

2E. Capsules

- An extensive mapping project for the BSNRRA has recently been completed. This information will be used to improve future park maps. Available trail mileage is impressive:
 - 171 miles hiking trails
 - 139 miles horse trails
 - 67 miles bike trails
 - 5 miles wagon trails.
- Winners of the Obed photo contest were chosen by the Southern Appalachian Nature Photographers Society. The winning photos are on display at the Obed Visitor Center.

3. FORESTS in the SMOKIES and elsewhere

3A. Smokies firewood regulations to limit importation of tree-pest organisms. TCWP sponsors speaker.

The Great Smoky Mountains (GRSM) National Park is actively soliciting comments on its proposed rules pertaining to the use of firewood brought into the Park. Several types of insects from Asia and Europe have the potential to devastate over 30 species of trees native to the Smokies. Over the past 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 by stowing away or laying

eggs in firewood (NL 316 ¶4C). For more information on several of these pests, visit www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/firewood-alert.htm

To decrease the threat from imported tree pests, the Park is proposing to allow only USDA- or State-certified firewood to be imported into the park for campground fires. This will be kiln-dried wood (heat treatment kills the pests). Pending a vote by park staff in December, the policy change will take effect in March 2015. The park, however, is urging visitors not to wait till March, but to make the switch to safe firewood now. Heat-treated wood is available from an increasing number of businesses outside the park, and staff is working with concessioners within the Park to use low-risk wood sources until they are able to make the transition. Visit www.nature.org/firewoodmap for a map of local stores and businesses that sell certified firewood. Visitors may still collect dead and down wood in the park for campfires.

Other regulations are already in place. For the past three years, the Smokies has prohibited the importation of firewood from areas quarantined by the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). No wood and wood products may be imported from states (or specific counties in states) quarantined for insects such as emerald ash borer, or tree diseases such as thousand-canker disease. It should be noted that almost 40 Tennessee counties, mostly from East Tennessee (e.g., Anderson, Roan, Morgan, Knox), are on the quarantine list (www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/quarantine-counties.htm).

TCWP is sponsoring a program by The Nature Conservancy’s Martin Wood on forests pests spread through firewood. Bring friends – it’s a good way to spread the word

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (a) Abide by the existing and proposed firewood regulations when you visit the Smokies – or any forests you value. (b) Submit comments to NPS, supporting the proposed regulations (GRSM-NP, 107 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738; or grsmcomments@nps.gov); (c) Attend the upcoming TCWP-sponsored program “Forest Pests in Your Firewood?” Nov. 13 (see ¶8A, this NL) and spread the word.

3B. Potential changes in the U.K.’s use of biomass would help U.S. forests

[Information from SELC, 8/21/14]

On August 21, the chief science advisor to the United Kingdom energy agency released a report finding that burning wood pellets made from whole trees from southeastern U.S. forests may emit *four times* as much carbon as the burning of coal or natural gas over 40- and even 100-year time horizons.

The U.K. has been the major importer of wood pellets from the southern United States. (In contrast to other European countries, the United Kingdom planned to rely

significantly on burning wood - instead of other alternatives such as solar and wind - to meet a European Union mandated goal of 20% of energy production from renewable resources by 2020.)

In response to the carbon report, U.K. and U.S. science and policy experts are pushing the U.K. government to deny subsidies to generators who cannot demonstrate actual carbon benefits (and not merely sustainability, as required of *all* biomass power generators). Without government subsidies in Europe, the wood pellet export industry in the U.S. probably cannot exist. This is good news for southeastern forests. Already, the wood pellet industry (primarily, Enviva) has constructed production facilities and associated export facilities in several states, and several more have been proposed (in NC, VA, and SC). Wood pellet producers have focused on harvesting whole trees, including natural forests and even wetland forests, to meet pellet production needs.

3C. UT Arboretum sponsoring

Woods and Wildlife Field Day, Oct. 15

The UT Forest Resources Ag Research and Education Center is sponsoring an event at the UT Arboretum (Oak Ridge) on Oct. 15, 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. It will feature expert presentations focused on many topics, including experimental intercropping of oak and pine, forest inventory analysis, and establishing constructed wetlands. Additional topics include integrated pest management, white-tailed deer management, and the UT Arboretum Bat Monitoring Project

3D. A few tree facts

[From www.americanforests.org]

- More than half of the country's drinking water originates in forests. Roughly 180 million Americans depend on forests for their drinking water.
- An acre of forest can consume all the CO₂ pollution produced by a car driven 26,000 miles a year.
- Trees are great at reducing rain-caused erosion. A single front-yard tree can intercept 760 gallons of rainwater in its crown, reducing runoff and flooding

4. TVA NEWS

4A. TVA retiring more coal generation

TVA will retire additional coal-fired units: all five at the Colbert plant in NW Alabama, one of two remaining units at Widows Creek in NE Alabama, and two at the Paradise plant in Kentucky, which will be replaced with gas-fired generation. All three coal-fired units at the Allen Fossil Plant (990 mW in Memphis) will also be replaced with a new 1,000 MW natural gas plant. Although TVA originally proposed replacing Allen with a large 1400 MW natural gas plant, Sierra Club, SACE, and allies strongly

advocated for a smaller natural gas plant that would leave room for additional renewable generation resources in the area. In the end, TVA signaled that the smaller (1000 mW) natural gas plant they agreed to would allow for more flexibility to add renewable generation in the future.

Not all the news is good. Despite opposition, TVA plans to spend \$1.2 billion to keep the half-century-old Gallatin coal plant (near Nashville) running.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Send a message to the TVA Board of Directors (400 W. Summit Hill Dr., Knoxville, TN 37902), thanking them for reducing coal generation of power and urging that this be replaced not only by gas, but by energy efficiency and conservation, solar, and wind.

4B. TVA changing from wet storage of Kingston coal ash to dry

[Information from TDEC's Div. of Solid Waste Management]

At its Kingston steam plant, where a disastrous break in the ash-storage pond occurred in December 2008, TVA is developing a dry-stacking waste-management process for its coal-combustion residuals. The dry-stack landfill method will produce a more stable final fill.

The facility is a modification to the existing Class-II Landfill for the disposal of industrial waste (consisting of gypsum waste, fly ash, bottom ash boiler slag, cinders, and clinkers) generated at TVA's Kingston Plant from the burning of coal and the operation of air-pollution control equipment. The facility is located at 714 Swan Pond Road, approximately 2½ miles southeast of Harriman.

The draft permit documents may be viewed at http://environment-online.state.tn.us:8080/pls/enf_reports/f?p=19035:34001:6389317268593. The public comment period ends at COB on October 27. TDEC has made a preliminary determination that this proposal meets applicable requirements, and its present intent (pending consideration of any contrary technical information received during the public comment period) is to issue the permit.

4C. TVA Integrated Resource Plan presenting challenges/opportunities

TVA's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), a projection of the agency's energy portfolio, is usually released at ~7-year intervals. 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. The latest IRP was released in 2011 (NL297 ¶3A). A fresh IRP is now projected for as early as 2015. The accelerated time frame is the result of several major changes in the energy field, e.g., a lower demand for electric power (partly due to well-functioning energy-efficiency measures), decreased prices of natural gas, and new regulations governing emissions from power plants.

Visit www.tva.gov/lerc to learn about the IRP process. Public meetings will be scheduled later this year (possibly in December) to allow input in the plan. For detailed information about these meetings check future newsletters, or visit www.tva.gov/environment/reports/irp/index.htm.

4D. TVA should expand investment in solar

[Guest Column in the *News Sentinel*, 8/9/14, by Anne Davis, SELC, and Stephen Smith, SACE]

The authors point out that TVA's solar record is poor when compared to that of neighboring utilities. Duke Energy, NC, will have more than 3x the solar capacity per customer; and Georgia Power will have 7x more solar per customer than TVA by 2016. For cleaning up dirtier sources of energy, each TVA customer is annually paying over \$400, as opposed to \$4 for new solar installation.

"TVA customers are eager to take advantage of the benefits of solar, particularly as the costs have been rapidly declining. The cost to install solar panels on homes and businesses has dropped by 37% since 2010. Homeowners and businesses have a critical window of opportunity to receive the 30% federal investment tax credit on their purchase of a solar system, since this credit is set to be rolled back at the end of 2016.

"TVA could unleash the potential for solar in the state by expanding its solar programs for homeowners, businesses and solar farm developers, and not allowing customers to idle on a waiting list to participate. Over the past few years the cap on participation has created a cycle of boom and bust periods that has driven companies to relocate to more solar-friendly states such as Georgia and North Carolina."

5. NATIONAL NEWS

5A. Vitally important restoration of Clean Water Act protections is threatened by Congressional action

Earlier this year, EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers proposed the long-awaited rule that would ensure clean water for future generations and reduce regulatory uncertainty by clarifying the definition of Waters of the US. The comment period ends October 20. This rule has become necessary because confusing Supreme Court decisions of 2001 and 2006 have caused considerable 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). This uncertainty has caused the discontinuance of well over 1,000 major pollution investigations.

There has been well-orchestrated vocal opposition to the proposed rule, mostly from farmers, ranchers, and fac-

tory farms, who claim that intermittent and ephemeral streams are widely used in normal farming and ranching practices, such as the drainage and irrigation. On September 9, by a vote of 262-152, the US House of Representatives passed H.R. 5078, the "Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act", which prohibits the federal government from adopting or enforcing the rule. (The Tennessee delegation voted along party lines; only Reps. Cooper and Cohen opposed H.R. 5078.)

The propaganda unleashed against the proposed EPA rule is far from being based in fact.

What the proposed rule, in fact, does:

- Covers only water bodies that the Clean Water Act has traditionally covered, such as intermittent headwater streams that have a defined bed and bank and flow to water already covered by the Act.
- Reiterates existing exemptions for farming, forestry, mining and other land use activities, and very explicitly for the first time excludes many ditches, ponds, and other upland water features important for farming and forestry.

What the proposed rule does NOT do:

- Cover any new types of waters that have not historically been covered under the Clean Water Act. It actually applies to fewer waters than were historically covered under the Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton administrations.
- Expand coverage to any new ditches. In fact, upland drainage ditches with less than perennial water flow are explicitly excluded.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) By October 20, send comments in support of the rule to EPA. This can most easily be done by e-mailing to owdocket@epa.gov. Include docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0880 in the subject line of your message. Or, you can mail to Water Docket, EPA, Mail Code 2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460. Attention: Docket No. EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0880.
- (2) Tell your US senators how important it is to support the proposed rule; without it, more than half the nation's waters are at risk. Show him how the propaganda against the rule is NOT based on fact (see article, above).
- (3) Tell your US representative how disappointed (or pleased, in the case of Cooper or Cohen) you are by his/her vote. Let him have the facts.

5B. Park Service bans drones in parks, but policy is under review

In June, the National Park Service (NPS) temporarily banned drones in the entire National Park System. By August 20, each of the 401 units had to prohibit the use of drones and had to change its unique set of regulations to make the ban enforceable. The words "drone" and "unmanned aircraft" don't appear in existing federal regulations pertaining to the parks, and new activities are not al-

lowed until they're reviewed. The policy review will happen over the next 18 months and will involve public comment.

Drone proponents expect that the ban will be "greatly narrowed" during this upcoming process, and that drones will be given free range in some national-park-controlled locations "including things like beaches and forests."

Drones are more than disturbers of the peaceful park experience. They have been used to harass wildlife in national parks, can be used to surreptitiously film park-goers without their consent (e.g., they have been flown close to cliffs to capture shots of climbers), and they pose a serious safety risk. Since November 2009, law enforcement agencies, universities, and other registered drone users have reported 23 accidents and 236 unsafe incidents. And that doesn't even count near-collisions with commercial airplanes.

Until now, drones have been largely free to operate in public places as long as they stay below 400 ft in relatively unpopulated areas and avoid full-scale aircraft. Federal agencies are only beginning to decide how to regulate use of this new technology. The ongoing rule-making by the NPS will not only determine whether our national parks are protected from drones, but will also set an important precedent for how drones are regulated elsewhere.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Watch for information on opportunities for making your own voice heard.

5C. *The Wilderness Act was 50 years old on Sept. 3*

[From FSEEE]

Signed into law on this day in 1964 by President Lyndon Johnson (see NL316 ¶6B), the act originally protected 9.1 million acres of land. Today, nearly 110 million acres have been preserved under the National Wilderness Preservation System in 44 states and Puerto Rico.

But the fact remains that very little of our national landscape has been protected. Only 5% of our nation has been designated under the Act with nearly half of those acres located in Alaska. Even more discouraging is that the last congressional session ended without designating a single acre of new wilderness; a first for any congress since the passage of the Wilderness Act.

Locally, a joyful celebration

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

TCWP, several sister organizations, and the U.S. Forest Service combined efforts to throw a sparkling party on September 3, the 50th anniversary of Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Wilderness Act. Held at the East Tennessee History Center, another cosponsor, the event featured remarks by U. S. Forest Service Associate Chief Mary Wagner, former Wilderness Society President Bill Meadows, and Charles Maynard, United Methodist Church minister and storyteller.

Among the 150+ attendees were descendants of Harvey Broome, a co-founder of the Wilderness Society, several TCWP members and friends, Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero, and Cherokee National Forest Supervisor JaSal Morris.

6 CLIMATE CHANGE

6A. *The proposed carbon-emissions rule: what it is*

The long awaited proposed rule to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from *existing* power plants was released in June (the proposal for *new* plants has been available since last September, see NL311 ¶6A). In a nutshell, it requires a nationwide reduction of carbon emissions by 30% of 2005 levels by 2030. Each state is responsible for achieving its fair share of the overall target by developing its own customized plan to meet the individual reductions goal assigned to it by EPA.

First and foremost, we need to champion this crucial step that the EPA has taken in proposing a first-ever carbon standard for power plants — nothing is more essential for the very future of our planet than stringently limiting carbon pollution. The fossil-fuel industry is doing more than its level best to destroy the EPA proposal, and we must have a strong voice supporting it. (A few quotes from those attempting to destroy the EPA rule: "Stop EPA overreach and the war on coal" -- Sen. Ted Cruz; "This is just another EPA power grab" -- Sen. Mitch McConnell).

The EPA's proposal would generate tens of thousands of jobs and an estimated \$93 billion in health and climate benefits. A stronger rule (see ¶6B, below) would yield even greater benefits.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: By October 16, send a message strongly supporting EPA's proposal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from existing power plants. For additional point to make in your comments, see ¶6B, below. Your message can be sent by one of these three routes:

- (1) e-mail to: A-and-R-Docket@epa.gov. Include docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0602 in the subject line of your message.
- (2) Fax to: 202-566-9744.
- (3) Mail to: EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), Mailcode 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460. Attention Docket ID No. OAR-2013-0602.

6B. *The proposed carbon-emissions rule: it should be strengthened and supported*

(1) Carbon reduction needs to be greater. By scientific consensus, emissions in developed countries need to fall 80% or more by 2050 if global warming is to be held to tolerable levels. To get there, EPA's required reductions need to be greater than 30%, and/or need to kick in *before*

2030. An additional consideration is that part of that 30% has *already* been achieved, *without* reducing present emissions levels. That's because EPA's emissions baseline is set for 2005, subsequent to which recession and manufacturing slowdown reduced emissions. Either, the baseline should be set closer to the *present* emissions level, or the required % of reduction should be raised. Many states are already doing more to address climate change by 2020 than EPA is requiring by 2030. Europe is considering a 43% cut by 2030.

(2) Shifting to fracked gas should not be counted as an emissions reduction. Fracked gas has lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions close to, and possibly worse than, coal. The proposal, as written, may lock in a growing dependence on natural gas to generate electricity.

(3) The rule should not allow states to use cap-and-trade programs to meet the emissions targets. Such programs can make it cheaper for the dirtiest power plants to simply pay for permits instead of cleaning up pollution.

(4) Incentives should be given for improvements in energy efficiency. Presently, most utilities ignore the vast potential of such improvements.

(5) EPA should consider allowing a sufficiently robust carbon tax or fee as a compliance mechanism.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Add some or all of the above points to your comments of general support described in ¶6A.

The Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Operations intends to transfer ownership of Clark Center Park, formerly Carbide Park. The 82-acre park has been offered to the City of Oak Ridge with the condition that it be used for recreational purposes only. The proposed transfer is an effort to cut costs; the park costs DOE \$300,000 annually to operate.

A public meeting was held last month by the Oak Ridge City Council, where about 30 people spoke; every speaker was in favor of the City's accepting the park. City Council members expressed concern about how to pay for operating the park. City staffers will compile the comments for Council review. It is likely that another stakeholder comment meeting will be held in the coming weeks.

TCWP and our sister organization Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) favor the city running the park for its present recreational purposes. It is important to gather as many stakeholders as possible for the next as-yet-unscheduled public meeting. We must also be alert for any attempts by the City to bring about DOE transfers of other ORR (Oak Ridge Reservation) lands for residential or other development.

Please check TCWP e-lets for notification about the meeting. Not sure if you're on the list? Call or write Sandra at 865.583-3967, or sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

6C. Exported American coal will increase global warming

Just as we are striving to reduce dirty coal use domestically, American energy companies are exporting more coal than ever (billions of dollars worth) to other parts of the world. In 2012 (latest data available), about 9% of worldwide coal exports originated in the U.S. Extracted coal is leaving this country's shores, but not the planet. Much of the exported coal ends up in places with more lax environmental standards than ours, or where governments are resistant to tackling global-warming emissions.

6D. Availability of climate data

The federal government has a clearinghouse website for climate data at <http://climate.data.gov>. In its present pilot phase, the website contains data and resources related to coastal flooding and food resilience. Over time, the site will add data and tools relevant to other important climate-related impacts, including risks to human health, ecosystems, and energy infrastructure.

7. THE OAK RIDGE RESERVATION

DOE seeks to transfer Clark Center Park

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

8. TCWP NEWS

8A. Upcoming activities

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

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

Tennessee Green Hikeathon - Sunday, September 21

This event is 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.

National Public Lands Day cleanup at Worthington Cemetery - Saturday, 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. We will begin with an interpretive walk to discuss the ecology of sensitive cedar barrens and wetlands at the site; following

the walk, we'll continue our work to restore the native cedar barren and to remove exotic invasive plants and trash.

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

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

Hike in Norris Watershed – Saturday, October 11

The Norris Municipal Watershed is a 2,300-acre area that is the watershed of Clear Creek, the source of the city's water supply; it is managed for water-quality protection, sustainable forest management, and public recreation. A network of about 30 miles of forest roads and single-track trails is managed by the Norris Watershed Board.

On Saturday, October 11, Joe Feeman, volunteer natural resource manager for the Norris Watershed and a member of the TCWP Program Committee, will lead a hike that will begin at the Lenoir Museum (Norris Dam State Park) parking area, about a mile downstream from Norris Dam on U.S. Hwy. 441. We'll hike up Clear Creek Trail to Dyer Hollow Trail, then ascend up the hollow, ultimately reaching Observation Point, the highest point of the hike, with an open view of Norris Dam, the Clinch River, and Walden's Ridge in the distance. We'll then take the Observation Point Trail down to Eagle Trail, following it to Cliff Trail and back down the hill to the museum.

We'll hike through several different forest ecotypes, and will see some of the work done by the CCC and TVA in the 1930s as part of the Norris project. This hike is 4.1 miles in length and rated easy/moderate, with a total elevation gain of about 600 feet.

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 8:15 a.m.; or participants can meet the group at the Lenoir Museum at 9. Wear sturdy shoes, and bring water and snacks or a lunch.

Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 25

Our guest speaker at this year's annual meeting will be Niki Nicholas, superintendent of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. The meeting will be held in the fire-cache building at Big South Fork (across from park headquarters), with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m.. The morning session will include our featured speaker and our annual business meeting, followed by lunch at 11:30 (included in the \$15 registration fee). After lunch, participants can join a moderate hike (about five miles round trip) to

Devil's Den or an easy hike (one mile round trip) to Sunset Overlook.

Anyone wishing to carpool from Oak Ridge should meet 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 8 a.m.

Advance registration for the annual meeting is encouraged. Contact Sandra Goss at 865-583-3967 or at sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

Fall Cedar Barren Cleanup – Saturday, November 8

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

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

"Forest Pests in Your Firewood?" – Thursday, Nov. 13

Save the date! Details of this information program, to be co-sponsored by TCWP, the UT Arboretum Society, the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center, and the Nature Conservancy-Tennessee are still being finalized. Martin Wood, Firewood Outreach coordinator for TNC-Tennessee, will talk to us about new regulations aimed at preventing the spread of invasive forest pests, such as the hemlock woolly adelgid and the emerald ash borer, via firewood. This topic will be especially timely as chilly weather sets in. Watch for an upcoming email alert for information on time and place.

TCWP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 11

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

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

8B. Recent events

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

Hike at Seven Islands State Birding Park - July 12

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

About three dozen folks participated in our July 12 birding hike led by State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath. One of the most exciting events of the outing was the spotting of an indigo bunting, one of hundreds of birds that have been seen at Seven Islands State Birding Park, Tennessee's newest state park and its first state birding park. Situated on a former farm site on the French Broad River in East Knox County, the 400-acre park has lots of trails, dozens of birdhouses, and a barn that's been adapted for park users.

Snorkel with the Fishes and Conservation Fisheries –July 26

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

On July 26 Pat Rakes, co-founder of Conservation Fisheries, Inc., led 27 participants on a snorkeling trip on Clear Creek to learn about the fishes of the Cumberland Plateau. This event was a follow-up to Pat's March 27 talk to TCWP about CFI's work to rear native fish for reintroduction in the wild.

Mother Nature provided us with a beautiful hot summer day that was perfect for snorkeling in Clear Creek below Lilly Bridge. We started a few hundred yards downstream from the bridge and gradually worked our way through the pools and riffles; we even got to explore Lilly Rapid underwater. There was plenty of water, and we got to see an amazing number of fish, including a variety of darters, shiners, creek chubs, bass, and sunfish. There were even baby turtles and freshwater sponges. Afterwards we enjoyed a picnic on the rocks on the shore of Clear Creek.

Summer Cedar Barren cleanup – August 16

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

On August 16 TCWP convened another work day at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens State Natural Area. This was the third time we've had a work session in summer. The summer workdays allow us to show off many of the native plants we're working so hard to protect.

We had an absolutely beautiful summer day and a small but eager contingent of a dozen volunteers, including a lot of new helpers. We spent a couple of hours working to eradicate invasive, exotic plants such as bushy lespedeza, sericea lespedeza, Chinese privet, Amur honeysuckle, mimosa, autumn olive, Japanese honeysuckle, oriental bittersweet, and other invasive shrubs and vines. We also spent an hour or so enjoying the native prairie plants, including blazing star, several sunflowers, rose pinks, goldenrods, and many others. We accomplished a lot, and our efforts to restore the ecology of the Barrens are paying off: we now have all three of the rare plants at the Barren—prairie goldenrod, naked-stem sunflower, and Torrey's mountain mint—growing in

the Ellipse, and all three were in flower. Afterwards we had a great pizza lunch.

TCWP has partnered with the City of Oak Ridge and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation since 1988 to protect the sensitive natural resources at Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens State Natural Area.

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

Upwards of 40 people gathered on September 4 to hear Gerry Middleton, a biologist with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, discuss bats: their benefits and biology, distribution of populations, and threats to their well-being. Bats are the primary predators of night-flying insects (a single little brown bat can consume up to 3,000 insects in a single night), and aid in pollination and seed dispersal. Of the 47 bat species in the U.S., nine are endangered. (In Tennessee, the figures are 16 bat species, two endangered.) In addition to the current threat from white-nose syndrome, bats are imperiled by habitat loss via deforestation, urban development, industry and mining; loss of wetlands to agriculture; and also by wind power plants, which kill many bats each year. Gerry urged his audience to help bats by getting involved with conservation groups such as TCWP, volunteering to monitor bat-supporting habitats, helping to educate the public about conservation issues, and writing congresspersons and legislators about concerns.

Following the talk, we adjourned to the marina on Melton Hill Lake, where Gerry used his "bat detectors" (which detect echolocation calls) to help us locate bats as they began to forage for insects at dusk. He also brought a thermal imaging camera to help us see bats after dark.

8C. Kroger Shoppers: please enroll or re-enroll to help TCWP finances

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Kroger continues its generous Community Rewards program, but re-enrollment is necessary on an annual basis. We hope new participants will enroll, and past participants will re-enroll, their individual Kroger Plus card to TCWP's account in order to benefit TCWP. Each Kroger purchase earns rewards for TCWP.

Enrolling or re-enrolling is simple: visit <<http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com>> and link your Kroger Plus card number to Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning. Our organization number is 26906.

TCWP Executive Director Sandra Goss is available by appointment to help members get this accomplished. Call or write her (865.583-3967, sandra@sandrakgoss.com) to set up a mutually agreeable time for getting enrolled!

8D. Memorial tree for Hal Smith

TCWP is having a tulip poplar planted in the grounds of the new Oak Ridge Unitarian Church (near the Myrick Pavilion). The plaque will read “In memory of Harold ‘Hal’ Smith.” Hal, a charter member of TCWP, early Treasurer, and active in BSF preservation (among numerous other things), has in recent years served on the Program Committee.

8E. *Members and friends in the news*

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]

- Louise Gorenflo was quoted in a July 13 *News Sentinel* article about the Climate Knoxville festival held on Market Square Mall. The festival was in support of meaningful steps to deal with climate change.
- A female hooded warbler sighting by Ed Clebsch in his yard was reported in the August 20 *Norris Bulletin*.
- Joe Feeman authored a vivid recounting of travels in the western US in the August 20 and 27 *Norris Bulletins*.
- Ray Garrett commented on a political candidate in the July 21 *Oak Ridger*.
- Jimmy Groton penned a letter to the *News Sentinel* editor, published July 30, encouraging passage of the Tennessee Wilderness Act.
- Teresa and Tim Myrick were cited in a June 20 *Oak Ridger* article about the “Myrick Build” by Habitat for Humanity of Anderson County.
- Anne Davis and Stephen Smith authored an op-ed column about TVA’s solar investment in the August 9 *News Sentinel*.
- Priscilla Watts led a hike for Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, announced in the August 8 *News Sentinel*.
- Judy Poulson was cited in the August 11 *News Sentinel* as one of the few Knoxville Open volunteers who have served every year of the tournament’s existence.
- Calvin Wenzel won the 2014 Obed Wild and Scenic River photo contest flora category. The accolade was published in the September 3 *Norris Bulletin* and the September 4 *Independent Herald*.
- Chuck Estes was paddling and bird watching around Rankin and Dutch Bottoms on Labor Day, as reported in the September 7 *News Sentinel Birdlife* column.
- Janet Bigelow held a class on geocaching at the UT Arboretum, which was announced in the *News Sentinel*.
- Frances Lamberts authored a column on destruction of the butterfly population through herbicide use in the June 9 *Johnson City Press*.
- Francis Perey for his timely and skilled maintenance of the TCWP website.
- State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath, Seven Islands State Park Ranger Justine Cucchiara and State Parks Trails Administrator Mark Stanfill for leading a very enjoyable outing in early July.
- Lee Russell for preparing TCWP’s comments on Contaminated Mine Drainage in the BSFNRRRA.
- Lee Russell, Carol Grametbauer, Jimmy Groton, and Charlie Klabunde for their work on the *TCWP Newsletter*.
- Carol Grametbauer and Jan Lyons for their contribution to TCWP’s Community Shares Sweat Equity requirements.
- Jean Bangham, John Bates, Jimmy Groton, Frank Hensley, Harriett McCurdy, Melissa Muendel, and Charlie Klabunde for preparing the TCWP Newsletter for mailing.
- Gerry Middleton and bat-research volunteer and wife Carole for their outstanding presentation and field trip leadership on bats.
- Wes James and Jimmy Groton for applying herbicide to invasive Purple Loosestrife in July in Oak Ridge
- Tim Bigelow for his stewardship of the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren.
- Janet Bigelow for making photographs of the TCWP Board.
- Don Barger, Tim Bigelow, and Jimmy Groton for attending the Big South Fork Contaminated Mine Drainage Scoping Meeting in July.
- Cindy Kendrick, Jason Darby, and Beth Adler for their thoughtful work on the 2014 Nominating Committee.
- Mary Lynn Dobson, Lee Russell, Frank Hensley, Jimmy Groton, Sandra Goss, Cindy Kendrick, Carol Grametbauer, Jenny Freeman, and Bill Allen for contributing to the Hal Smith Memorial Tree.

8G. *Executive Director’s column*

[By Sandra Goss]

Over the past several days, networking has been uppermost on my mind. It started with preparations for the well-attended 50th Anniversary Celebration for passage of the Wilderness Act. Networking was one of the touted activities of the event.

Networking is often used in describing business-related functions as a necessary part of sales and professional advancement. While it is seldom associated with conservation or environmental work, I posit that networking is a critical component of successful environmental advocacy.

Frequently, and in various areas (both geographically and figuratively), our peerless wild lands, water, and habitats are inadequately protected and are used to the point of degradation. Protecting our natural resources is often the goal of the minority. Through networking, allies can be identified and recruited.

The partners will likely vary from issue to issue and place to place. Over the years, TCWP has enlisted cosponsors and cosigners with various interests, including hunters, foresters, gardeners, and many others.

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

[From Sandra Goss]



- Jimmy Groton for creating a better timesheet.

TCWP functions afford participants networking opportunities, as do other events that we all attend. There are folks to meet and acquaintances to catch up with. I am re-committing myself to actively seek out existing non-environmental friends, explore where we have common values on natural resources, and work to involve them on the pertinent issue(s).

In order to prevail, we must have the widest possible array of partners. Working together, many voices can be raised to advocate for the water, or the air, or the land

Won't you help with this? Get added to the TCWP e-lert list, if you're not on it already; attend functions; just call or e-mail me for more information.

And, by the way, the Wilderness Act 50th Anniversary celebration was a grand success, and a lot of fun. One fact sticks with me: Harvey Broome and others worked on enactment of a Wilderness Bill for **30** years! May we have a fraction of their determination as we work on the issues of today.

Hope to see you or hear from you!

Sandra

- September 22, TDEC event for Emory River and Watts Bar watersheds (NL316 ¶1E).
- September 27, National Public Lands Day cleanup at Worthington Cemetery (¶8A, this NL).
- October 11, Hike in Norris Watershed (¶8A, this NL).
- October 15, Woods and Wildlife field day at Arboretum (¶3C, this NL).
- October 16, Comment deadline for carbon-emissions rule (¶6A&B, this NL).
- October 20, Comment deadline for Clean Water Act protections (¶5A, this NL).
- October 25, TCWP Annual Meeting at Big South Fork (¶8A, this NL).
- Oct. 29, NPS's inaugural Scientific Research Symposium on the Upper Cumberland Plateau Parks (¶2D, this NL).
- November 8, Fall Cedar Barren Cleanup (¶8A, this NL).
- November 13, Information program: "Forest Threats in Your Firewood?" (¶8A, this NL).
- December 11, TCWP Holiday Party (¶8A, this NL).

9. CALENDAR (events and deadlines)

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

- September 21, Tennessee Green Walkathon (¶8A, this NL).

*"What's the use of a fine house
if you don't have a tolerable planet to put it on?"
- Henry David Thoreau*

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, or pay full after 11/1 to include next year. Please visit www.tcwp.org for secure contribution or mail form, and check (**payable to TCWP**), to: Charles Klabunde, Treasurer, TCWP; 219 E. Vanderbilt Dr.; Oak Ridge, TN 37830

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

Coming Events

Things to do Afterhours

- Oct. 11, Norris Watershed Hike new route, nooks, crannies ¶8A
- Oct. 25, TCWP Annual Mtg, BSFNRRRA op Park HQ,+ pm hike ¶8A
- Nov. 8, Fall Cedar Barren Cleanup ¶8A
- Nov.13, Forest Pests in Your Firewood? Thur eve ¶8A
- Dec. 11, TCWP Holiday Party Thur eve ¶8A
- Kroger Community Rewards. Shoppers must now re-enlist their Plus Cards annually to credit a benefit to TCWP. ¶8C

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