

Tennessee  
Citizens for  
Wilderness  
Planning

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March 15, 2015

**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

## 12. ACTION SUMMARY

No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Obed appropriation	US senators and rep. NPS Director Jarvis	"Support Obed appropriation!" – HIGH PRIORITY "Thank you for your wonderful support!"
1B	Obed land acquisition	Sandra or Jimmy	"I am a potential conservation buyer"
2	Frozen Head Plan	Tenn. State Parks	Provide comments
4A	Integrated Resource Plan	TVA, by April 27	Provide comments
6	Keystone XL Pipeline	Pres. Obama	"Thanks for veto! Reject the project; it would warm our Planet!"
7A	Water quality and quantity	US sens. and rep.; editors	"Do NOT oppose WOTUS rules! They protect drinking water!"
7B	Arctic National Wildlife Refuge	Pres. Obama; Sec. Jewell US senators	"Thank you for recommending Wilderness protection!" "Support the Wilderness recommendation!"
7C	National Monuments	Pres. Obama	"Thanks for designations! Please designate additional ones!"
7D	Antiquities Act	US senators Sen. Alexander	"Retaining this Act is essential" "Thank you for not supporting attack on the Act!"

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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  
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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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Sen. Lamar Alexander:  
Ph: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3398  
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800 Market St., Suite 112, Knoxville 37902

Rep. Chuck Fleischmann:  
Phone: 202-225-3271  
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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.

**You can find contact information in our Political Guide. It's on TCWP's website (<http://www.tcwp.org>), as are some current action calls.**

**You can also 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>

There are LOTS of really BIG stories in this Newsletter, and many of them bring good news. Enjoy!

## 1. OBED, GOOD NEWS! (plus a BSF capsule)

### 1A. Pres. Obama's budget contains Obed acquisition funds!!!

For the first time in well over a decade, the President's budget includes funds for land acquisition at the Obed Wild & Scenic River. Not only that, but in the National Park Service priority list, these funds are item #2 in a list of 23 items. The budget requests \$1,204,000 for Obed WSR acquisition of 451 acres.

"Obed Wild and Scenic River (OBED) was established October 12, 1976, to preserve segments of the Obed River in free-flowing condition as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Wild and Scenic River contains 5,073 acres, of which 1,034 acres are privately owned."

The budget is wonderful news, but unfortunately it's not yet the end, because the Congress must now play its heavy hand in passing a Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) appropriation, from which land-acquisition funds (for all agencies) derive. Over the course of recent years, Congress has increasingly slashed the LWCF to where it is approaching zero. It helps to be so high on the priority list, but it is no guarantee. It's now imperative that our Congressional delegation supports the Obed in the appropriations process. TCWP will, of course, diligently work toward that end, but so must individual members.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) High priority! Please contact your Congressman and both senators (contact information on p.2 and in Political Guide – e-mail, phone call, or letter) and strongly urge their support for the Obed WSR appropriation. Tell them what a wonderful resource the Obed is, and that, after nearly 40 years, more than one-fifth is still unprotected and is increasingly threatened.
- (2) Thank Jon Jarvis, NPS Director (address in Political Guide) for the wonderful support given by NPS to the Obed WSR).

### 1B. Latest 114 acres brings to >500 acres the Obed land acquisitions facilitated by TCWP

TCWP recently purchased two tracts of land within the boundaries of the Obed Wild and Scenic River using a grant from the State of Tennessee. One is a 90-acre tract located on the Obed River upstream from the mouth of Daddys Creek. The second is a 24-acre tract on Clear Creek below Barnett Bridge. Both adjoin other Obed parklands and contain prime examples of the remarkable resources that the park was established to preserve. For the past year, intrepid TCWP members (chiefly, Jimmy

Groton, Frank Hensley, and Sandra Goss) have been working to get these two tracts protected.

This is just the latest of numerous and miscellaneous actions (10, so far) by which TCWP has facilitated land acquisitions for the Obed WSR, and it brings the total acreage to about 503. Over many years, TCWP members and friends, as well as TCWP itself, have been acting as conservation buyers, i.e. persons or groups who will purchase vulnerable lands and hold them until further protection by another entity is secured (by sale or gift). The other entity has usually been NPS, but in three cases (including one where the tract, vital to the viewshed, was outside the authorized boundary, NL314 ¶1) it was The Nature Conservancy.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** If you, or someone you know, are willing to be a conservation buyer, get in touch with Sandra Goss ([Sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:Sandra@sandrakgoss.com)) or Jimmy Groton ([groton87@comcast.net](mailto:groton87@comcast.net))

### 1C. BSF Spring Planting + Music Festival

This festival will be held April 25 at Bandy Creek and the Oscar Blevins Farm, starting 9:00 a.m. ET. The notice reads: "If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in being a teamster for plowing, food vendor, crafts vendor, music to include gospel, teach/talk about canning/processing food, tanning animal hides, or anything else that would relate to the life style of the Upper Cumberland area in the late 1800 hundreds to early 1900 hundreds please let us know. . . . [We] hope you can join us either as a participant, volunteer, or a visitor. For further info, call 423-286-7275."

## 2. FROZEN HEAD PLAN NEEDS OUR COMMENTS

[Contributed by Annetta Watson, Sandra Goss, and Cindy Kendrick]

Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area (FHSP), which encompasses more than 24,000 acres of Cumberland Mountains wilderness, is a unique natural treasure very dear to the hearts of TCWP members. FHSP staff has prepared a Business and Management Plan (BMP) for the Park, and we urge you to comment in time for the March 31 deadline. The Plan is now available for public review at [http://tnstateparks.com/assets/pdf/park-plans/frozen-head-BP\\_2015\\_AM.pdf](http://tnstateparks.com/assets/pdf/park-plans/frozen-head-BP_2015_AM.pdf), as well as on the Frozen Head SP website, <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/frozen-head> (see Action Box for details).

The 28-page FHSP Business and Management Plan was required to be prepared in a standard TDEC format that mandates treatment of revenue generation and marketing. We observe that the TDEC format bears a marked resemblance to a for-profit company's reports on customers, revenue per customer, projections of usage and revenue rates for campgrounds. As a consequence, several pages are devoted to cost control and potential ways to increase Park income. Noteworthy items (especially, see pp. 4-5 of the Plan) include:

- Proposed increase in Class-C campsite fees,
- Proposed charges for interpretive events, such as hikes,
- Proposed increases in stage rent and license-agreement fees, such as for the Barkley runs.

Park budgets and personnel costs are also provided.

The Plan outlines expansion of several annual events compatible with TCWP goals, such as the Wildflower Pilgrimage and Heritage Days. Perhaps one TCWP recommendation for the BMP would be to offer TCWP-member support for these events so as to help reduce demands on Park staff time.

New programs under consideration in the Plan include a Gobey Group Tour (p. 6) to be offered once/quarter; various overnight trips led by a Regional Interpretive Specialist; proposed change in access at Zeek's Ridge and Philips Creek that develops foot trails, disallows all ATV access, and continues to allow hunting via walk-in access during season (p. 15); development of a Park orientation video (p. 7); and other concepts outlined as Short-Term (<1-year) and Long Term (see p. 12).

Of special interest is the proposed development of a year-round user facility at the Rocky Fork Field to provide space for public meetings, workshops, family celebrations and the like, given the Visitor Center's planned conversion to an exhibit area for artifacts as well as natural and cultural resources (p. 15). A year-round user facility on public land is needed in the community, and its proposed location outside the main Park gate and in an existing cleared area has many positive aspects. The Special Events Stage is under consideration for conversion to an Interpretive Nature Center (p. 15).

TCWP can recommend that sustainable building practices and materials utilizing culturally-sensitive and -compatible design be incorporated and showcased during planning and construction of both the proposed Interpretive Nature Center and the year-round user facility, to include low-water-use sanitary facilities, paving materials protective of the Flat Fork watershed, and construction techniques to minimize/eliminate damage to any watercourse or natural/cultural resource. These sustainable-use concepts are consistent with TCWP goals and are recommended.

The potential development of an RV campground for the Rocky Fork Field (p. 10) (at the entrance to the Park) is deserving of TCWP comment in that the soils of the proposed area are classified by USDA as unsuitable for septic-tank absorption because of the high water table and occasional flooding. RV campgrounds are notorious for their high demand on septic systems and need for waste-holding tank capacity to accommodate RV "black water" systems, and would therefore be incompatible with safeguarding the Flat Fork Watershed and maintaining the overall Park (and TCWP) goal to "protect and preserve the unique examples of natural, cultural and scenic resources" at the Park.

Many TCWP members have contributed to creation of the native-plant interpretive area (in honor and memory of TCWP members) across from the Visitor Center; this area is not mentioned in the current draft of the Plan, and it seems wise to add a recommendation from the TCWP

membership to protect, maintain and expand this area in the future.

A public meeting was held at the park on March 2 to discuss the Plan. Opinions were voiced regarding all-season availability to Park buildings (such as the Visitor Center) for family celebrations, the need for more student programs, ATV access to Park resources, and snow/ice removal from Park roads.

The TDEC-mandated emphasis on revenue production (which is not unique to Frozen Head SP) seems contrary to the mission of State Parks. If state park users must pay to take part in a hike or other interpretive event, citizens of lesser means will not be able to participate. It seems to be a good idea for the Park to encourage further development of its Friends group that will consider creating a "scholarship fund" to accept donations to help students, those on a fixed income, and others who wish to participate in fee events. A Friends group could also serve as a vehicle for accepting donations to assist with capital projects and thus reduce the need for revenue generation by Park activity fees and staff marketing efforts.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Please send your comments by March 31 through either <https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=nivM%2ANEEUQ3HyYXoQzBRAA> or the FHSP website, <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/frozen-head>. On the latter, click on the "Frozen Head State Park Management Plan" link on the right side. Immediately adjacent to the Management Plan link is the link to a convenient online comment form (click on "complete the comment form") for submittal of your evaluation. Or, call the park office at 423-346-3318 and ask them to transmit your comments.

### 3. OTHER TENNESSEE NEWS

[See ¶2 for Frozen Head Plan]

#### **3A. Great News: Grassy Cove acquisition funds are in the President's budget**

Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation (TPGF) has been steadily at work to protect the Grassy Cove National Natural Landmark (in Cumberland County). Most recently, they have been working to purchase 1,000 acres of Bear Den Mountain and Brady Mountain (with their caves, bluffs, and forests) that frame the south end of Grassy Cove. TCWP wrote in support of an application for a Forest Legacy grant to supplement moneys TPGF has already raised (NL 319 ¶2A).

Great news: the President's FY2016 budget proposal, recently released, includes a Forest Legacy grant for \$1.54 million (the amount originally requested by TPGF). Grassy Cove did not make it into the list of 19 projects for which money is guaranteed. It was, however, No. 7 in priority order for the remaining 22 projects. We must remember that the budget is an Administration *request*. It must survive the heavy hand of Congress as it fashions ap-

propriations bills (in this case, the Dept. of Agriculture appropriation).

### 3B. The Tennessee legislature

Of a large number of bad bills that are moving through the legislative process, we have selected only four. For full coverage by Tennessee Conservation Voters, contact Stewart Clifton at <info@tnconservationvoters.org>

- Stripmine "primacy" bill, SB.0842 (Yager)/HB.0833 (Powers).

on calendar of Senate Energy, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee for 3/18/2015, and House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee for 3/17/2015.

Currently, the federal office of surface mining (OSM) regulates surface mining and reclamation operations in Tennessee. This bill, which was authored by the Tennessee Mining Association, requires the governor to apply to the federal government to arrange for Tennessee to assume primacy over the regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation operations within its borders.

The state (TDEC) has much more limited resources than does OSM, and less appropriate expertise. Permitting and enforcement would therefore become much less effective in limiting environmental damages.

- SJR 2 (Norris).

on the Senate Floor March 16.

It calls for a federal Constitutional amendment granting more control to Congress over federal regulations. Specifically, such an amendment would decree that whenever ¼ of the members of *either* House of Congress transmit to the President their written declaration of opposition to a proposed federal regulation, it shall require a majority vote of *both* Houses to *adopt* that regulation. This is being pushed by the Koch-funded ALEC and a least five lobbyists and is likely to pass. On a federal level, it is known as the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act

- SB.1325 (McNally)/HB.0868 (Keisling).

on committee calendars in both Houses on March 17 and March 18.

Puts many roadblocks into the development of a state plan for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from power plants in accordance with EPA limits (see ¶8A, this NL). Among other things, the bill prohibits TDEC from submitting any state plan to the EPA until both houses of the general assembly have adopted a joint resolution to approve the plan.

This is one of numerous ALEC-style bills aimed at reducing or interfering with responsible regulations.

- House Resolution 5, in support of the Keystone Pipeline, was withdrawn.

### 3C. Survey for Seven Islands Park

Tennessee State Parks are interested in finding out what visitors think about the current conditions of Seven Islands State Birding Park for consideration of future upgrades. They are also soliciting visitors' thoughts on

amenities, recreation activities and the various services they seek when selecting a park to visit. The online survey contains 12 simple questions, plus a place for optional comments. All responses are anonymous and will be used to potentially make changes in the state parks system -- helping to create a better experience. You can take the survey at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Seven\\_Islands\\_Birding\\_Park\\_Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Seven_Islands_Birding_Park_Survey)

## 4. TVA NEWS

### 4A. Draft IRP ready for review

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

TVA has released its draft Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and associated draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public review. The purpose of the IRP is to determine how TVA can best meet the Tennessee Valley's demand for electricity over the next 20 years and fulfill its mission of low-cost reliable power, environmental stewardship, and economic development.

The draft IRP and EIS are available for review on the IRP website at <http://www.tva.com/environment/reports/irp/>. Public meetings are scheduled at Chattanooga (March 19), Knoxville (April 6), Memphis (April 15), and Nashville (April 21) to discuss the draft IRP and EIS, to answer questions, and to receive comments. The Knoxville meeting will be held at the TVA Tower from 7-8:30 PM.

To help those who wish to submit substantive comments, Sierra Club is hosting an IRP-comment-preparation workshop 6 PM Tuesday, March 24, at the SEEED office (1617 Dandridge Avenue); there will be pizza. The workshop will explain the various parts of the IRP. Workshop attendees can choose the focus of their comments and get the background information they need.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Public comment is invited, with a comment deadline of April 27, 2015. Comments may be submitted online at <http://www.tvanepacomment.com/comments.cfm?pid=oh0668sptb5nw02onrk5mwvtud2goyuf8ltiqhjedb34302eex>, by mail to NEPA Compliance, Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, WT 11D, Knoxville, TN 37902-1499, or by email to [IRP@tva.gov](mailto:IRP@tva.gov). We suggest you compose your comments AFTER attending the IRP-comment-preparation workshop.

### 4B. TVA preparing to make large-scale solar-energy purchase

In mid-February, the TVA Board authorized a contract for an 80 megaWatt (mW) solar facility. Currently, TVA has a total of only 126 mW of operating solar installations, not one of which produces more than 20 mW. TVA deserves applause for the Board's February decision. Even with the new facility, however, TVA's total solar ca-

capacity will be far short of the 300 mW total recommended for the end of 2015 by a consortium of organizations (including Sierra Club and SELC).

Peer utilities in our region, such as Duke Energy (NC) and Georgia Power, greatly exceed TVA's solar developments. One reason for urgency is that the 30% federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for solar technologies is set to be rolled back at the end of 2016. The ITC has played a central role in making solar energy cost effective for developers and investors. TVA should take advantage of this critical window by surging ahead in 2015.

The new facility, operated by NextEraEnergy, will be built in northern Alabama, near TVA's Colbert Fossil plant, which TVA is retiring in 2016. This location will allow the solar facility to take advantage of the existing transmission system. TVA will pay \$61/mWh over the 20 years of the agreement. This pricing is competitive with the \$59/mWh that TVA expects to pay at a natural-gas power plant in Mississippi.

#### **4C. TDEC suing TVA to enforce cleanup of coal ash at Gallatin**

[From SELC press release of 1/7/15]

Less than two months after SELC sent notice of its intent to sue to clean up coal ash pollution at TVA's Gallatin Fossil Plant on the banks of the Cumberland River, state authorities have announced their own suit to enforce a cleanup.

On Nov. 10, the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), on behalf of TCWN and TSRA, sent a notice of intent to sue TVA over coal ash contamination of the Cumberland River and surrounding groundwater for decades in violation of the Clean Water Act (NL318 ¶5B). On January 7, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the Tennessee Attorney General filed a lawsuit against TVA.

"We are pleased the State has taken action in response to the notice sent on behalf of these three citizen groups," said Anne Davis, Managing Attorney of SELC's Nashville office. The groups hope and expect that the results achieved through this lawsuit will protect public health and the environment.

#### **4D. Changes in TVA Board**

The seats of Barbara Haskew and Bill Sansome, whose terms expired in May 2014, were filled in December. The new members are Virginia Lodge of Nashville and Ronald Walter of Memphis.

Virginia Lodge served as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Human Services from 2003 to 2011. She was the Executive Director for Kids Voting of Middle Tennessee from 1994 to 1999. During her entire career, Ms. Lodge worked on a number of political campaigns.

Ronald Walter is currently the President and General Manager of WREG-TV, a position he has held since 2004. Mr. Walter has served in a variety of positions at WREG-TV since 1987. Prior to WREG-TV, Mr. Walter was em-

ployed by Memphis Light, Gas and Water and was Vice President of Customer Relations from 1982 to 1987.

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## **5. CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST**

### ***Corridor K: Tunnel has been added to alternatives for Draft EIS***

[Contributed by Melanie Mayes]

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDoT) issued a press release describing inclusion of a 6-mile-long tunnel through the Ocoee gorge (US64) among alternatives being considered in the upcoming Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The entire ~20-mile-long route under study in the DEIS extends from west of the Ocoee River to State Route 68 near Ducktown, NC. There are five different "build" alternatives and a no-build alternative in the DEIS, and the locations range from the existing US64 location to an overland route that crosses over Brock Mountain near the Fairview community. The tunnel, or series of tunnels, is being considered for the Ocoee gorge area from State Route 30 (near Greasy Creek) to Ocoee Powerhouse No. 3. TDoT's website states that the DEIS will be released for public comment in Winter 2015, and the final DEIS will be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration by Winter 2016.

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## **6. THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE**

Summary. While the State Department's decision on TransCanada's permit application to build the pipeline was still pending, Congress on January 29 passed a bill to authorize the building. Two weeks later, President Obama vetoed this bill, and the Congress subsequently failed to override his veto. Congressional leaders promise pipeline approval through legislative action (possibly by amendment to some unrelated must-pass legislation). The President is now being urged by many citizens' groups to deny the permit itself.

Why the pipeline is a very bad idea.

- The Keystone XL pipeline would transport tar-sands crude and thus increase the production of the world's dirtiest form of oil. Tar-sands crude is significantly more carbon intensive than conventional crude, worsening global warming.
- The pipeline poses a significant threat of ground-water pollution.
- It would not help us achieve energy independence. The tar-sands oil would merely be transported from Canada to the Gulf, where it will be refined and exported to other countries.
- Once built, the pipeline would create fewer than 50 permanent jobs.

The bill. During the 2014 election campaign, Republicans vowed to bring up a bill first thing, and indeed, the senate bill number was S.1. S.1 passed 62 : 36 on January 29,

with nine Democrats joining all 53 Republicans (which, of course, included both of Tennessee's). The House had passed a largely similar bill earlier in the month (Tennessee's Rep. Cooper was among Democrats who joined all Republicans).

The veto. Because the pipeline would cross an international border (with Canada), the State Department has the obligation to approve or deny the permit application. The main argument for the veto was that S.1 would have turned Congress into a permitting authority, overriding environmental law. The President vetoed the bill February 14; it was only the third veto of his entire Presidency.

Status of the permit decision. The State Department's study has been a long one and was further put on hold last April pending a court ruling that would affect the proposed pipeline route through Nebraska. On January 9, the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled against landowners who had challenged this route. A decision also had to await the reviews by other cabinet agencies, due February 2, the chief one being EPA.

The pipeline project would greatly increase greenhouse gases. EPA's letter of February 2 (<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/20140032.pdf>), citing the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, states that lifecycle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from development and use of oil-sands crude is about 17% greater than emissions from average crude oil refined in the United States. At full capacity, the proposed project would result in *additional* emissions "equivalent to the annual GHG emissions from 5.7 million passenger vehicles or 7.8 coal fired power plants. Over the 50-year lifetime of the pipeline, this could translate into releasing as much as 1.37 billion more tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere."

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Thank Pres. Obama (address on p.2) for vetoing the bill that would have authorized the Keystone XL Pipeline. Urge him to reject the project altogether, reminding him that he promised to do so if it "contributes to an overall warming of the planet." There is now clear evidence that it would do so.

## 7. OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

### 7A. EPA's rule on Waters of the United States must survive Congress

The comment period on this important rule, which essentially protects headwaters of streams and small water bodies (NL315 ¶6A; NL318 ¶6C), has now closed, and EPA will issue the final rule some time in the Spring. After that, the Senate will have 90 days to review the regulations, and that's a major hurdle because some industries and agriculture groups have been spreading much misinformation.

Here's a reminder of why this rule is so very important. Small (intermittent and ephemeral) streams and wetlands are losing Clean Water Act protections in the wake of confusing Supreme Court decisions of 2001 and 2006. At risk in Tennessee are 60%(!) of all streams and >50% of our *remaining* wetlands (we've already lost 60%). Together, they supply our larger rivers and lakes (from which we drink), filter out pollution, slow floodwaters, and supply habitat to aquatic and terrestrial wildlife (the vast proportion of our state's aquatic biological diversity occurs in non-navigable streams).

The Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN) has developed a very good website (<http://www.tcwn.org/WOTUS2014>) that summarizes why the proposed regulations are important, and what they do and do *not* do. For instance, they do *not* regulate farm ponds, ditches (specifically excluded), or agricultural stormwater, as claimed by opponents. Agriculture is almost entirely exempt from the Clean Water Act and these rules *do not* change that. The rules are vital in that they provide protection of drinking-water sources for more than 117 million Americans. Headwater and smaller streams (whose protection is clarified by the rule) feed into public drinking water systems.

For another information source, visit [www.nwf.org/What-We-Do/Protect-Habitat/Waters/Clean-Water-Act.aspx](http://www.nwf.org/What-We-Do/Protect-Habitat/Waters/Clean-Water-Act.aspx)

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Contact your senators and representatives (addresses on p. 2) and tell them why they should not prevent these rules from becoming effective. You can use a similar letter to submit to the editor of your local paper. A sample letter is available on the TCWN website.

### 7B. GREAT NEWS!!! Obama recommends Wilderness for ANWR Coastal Plain

On January 25, Pres. Obama and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell unveiled the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), which guides ANWR's management for the next 15 years. In the CCP, the Fish & Wildlife Service, manager of ANWR, chose Alternative E, under which more than 12 million acres of the Refuge, *including the 1.4-million acre Coastal Plain*, become a Wilderness Study Area. To be designated as a permanent component of the National Wilderness System requires Congressional action (which, in the present political climate, may be hard to come by). In the meantime, the new Wilderness Study designation means the area is managed as a wilderness, protecting it against numerous insults, including oil & gas drilling.

In applauding the designation, a *New York Times* editorial of Jan. 27 pointed out that the action was just right from the perspective of the nation's energy needs. "[W]hile extracting the oil never seemed worth the devastation it would cause, it seems less so now that major new oil deposits have been discovered in the lower 48 states and consumption is dwindling along with America's reliance on imports."

As might have been expected, however, Alaska's Sen. Lisa Murkowski (new chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee) has gone on the warpath. She called Pres. Obama's action "a stunning attack on [Alaska's] sovereignty." A few days later, she forced a vote on amendment 166 (to S.amdt 2 to S.1, the Keystone XL Pipeline Act), that would have released certain wilderness-study areas (including ANWR, of course) from management for wilderness preservation. The vote was 50 : 48, but the amendment failed because 60 votes were needed for its passage. In mid-February, Murkowski introduced her own bill to drill right in the Coastal Plain. Alaska's other senator, Dan Sullivan, also pledged to do everything in his power to fight against the Wilderness Study designation.

(To his credit, Tennessee's Sen. Alexander cast one of only four Republican votes in opposition to amendment #166. When thanked for this, however, he mysteriously replied: "I support responsible oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge ...").

The CCP also recommends four Alaska Rivers (the Atigun, Hulahula\*, Kongakut, and Marsh Fork Canning) for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Additionally, Pres. Obama withdrew areas of the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas (flanking the Coastal Plain) from oil & gas leasing.

\*[Personal history: In 1989, I floated the Hulahula River from the Brooks Range down to the Beaufort Sea and hiked on the tundra of the Coastal Plain. It was in the midst of the unbelievable caribou migration. On hikes, we saw muskoxen forming a circle, grizzlies across the river, and thousands of birds of all kinds nesting in the tundra. It is truly America's Serengeti -- and it could be so easily destroyed.]

#### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- (1) Thank Pres. Obama (address on p.2) and Secretary Jewell (Political Guide) for protecting one of America's greatest natural treasures.
- (2) Urge your senators (address on p.2) to support the President's Wilderness recommendation and keep the Refuge (America's Serengeti) safe. If you're short of time, you can do it on this website:  
[http://act.alaskawild.org/sign/senator\\_supportW?sp\\_ref=103661685.44.11665.e.0.2](http://act.alaskawild.org/sign/senator_supportW?sp_ref=103661685.44.11665.e.0.2)

### **7C. Obama designates additional national monuments**

On February 19, President Obama added three more to the list of national monuments designated during his administration. Two of them are historical monuments, but the third, Browns Canyon in Colorado, protects 21,000 acres of wild lands and waters. This national monument designation permanently protects important habitat for wildlife like falcons, bobcats, big horn sheep, and elk. The area remains open to recreation like hiking, fishing and rafting on the Arkansas River, while providing economic benefits to the local community.

The two historic monuments are the Pullman Neighborhood in Chicago, and Honouliuli Internment Camp on the Hawaiian Island of Oahu. The former honors the fight for fair labor conditions and the early Civil Rights movement. The latter is on the site of what was our country's largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp.

The list of candidates for additional national-monument designation is a long one. The Sierra Club has recommended seven, one of which (Brown's Canyon) has just been designated. This is their remaining list.

- Grand Canyon Watershed, 1.7 million acres surrounding the existing 1.1 million-acre national park.
- Greater Canyonlands, 1.8 million pristine acres surrounding the confluence of the Green and Colorado rivers. The current Canyonlands NP preserves only ¼ of the original park proposal.
- Berryessa Snow Mountain, encompassing 350,000 acres of great bio-diversity in Northern California.
- The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's Coastal Plain, 1.5 million acres. If not national monument, then designated wilderness (see ¶7B, this NL).
- Birthplace of Rivers in the Allegheny Mountains of West Virginia, 70,000 acres.
- Boulder-White Clouds, 570,000 acres of remote forests in Northern Idaho.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Thank Pres. Obama (address on p.2) for his designation of national monuments, and urge him to designate additional ones from a list of many worthy candidates.

### **7D. Attacks on the Antiquities Act**

The national monuments mentioned in the preceding article (¶7C, above) were designated under the terms of Pres. Theodore Roosevelt's Antiquities Act of 1906. Nearly half of America's beloved national parks -- like the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Olympic, and the Grand Tetons -- were first protected under this Act through national-monument proclamation by presidents of both parties. In recent years, when Congressional dysfunction has prevented the protection of precious public lands for future generations, the Antiquities Act has provided the only means for performing this function.

After failing to take the initiative in preserving lands, Congress is now determined to go one step further and prevent this activity altogether by dismantling the Antiquities Act. At least three bills and amendments are in the works. One is the MAST Act by Rep. Don Young (R-AK). Ironically, Rep. Young's congressional website features a photo of Denali National Park and Preserve, which was originally declared a monument under the Antiquities Act in 1978. Another attack came through Senate amendment 132 (to S.amdt 2 to S.1, the Keystone XL Pipeline Act), which, with a 50 : 47 vote, failed because 60 votes were needed to pass. To his credit, Tennessee's Sen. Alexander cast one of only three Republican votes in opposition to this amendment.



**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Tell your senators (addresses on p.2) why we must retain the Antiquities Act intact. Thank Sen. Alexander for refusing to support a recent attack on the Act.

## **7E. The Administration budget: Items of special interest**

The Administration's budget for FY 2016 (starting Oct. 1, 2015) has been submitted to the Congress. It remains to be seen what the Congress does to it. Here are a just a few highlight from agencies of special interest to us.

### US Dept. of the Interior.

- Two small items of special local interest to us, acquisition funds for the Obed WSR (§1A, above) and Grassy Cove (§3A, above), are covered elsewhere in this NL.
- The budget includes \$859 million in new spending to mark the centennial of the National Park Service in 2016. In addition, there are \$150 million for challenge grants to leverage private donations to parks.
- The budget would extend tax credits for wind and solar projects (something Congress has failed to do) and targets investments in areas where decades-long declines in coal production have created hardships for communities.
- Changes are proposed for the fee system that funds the cleanup of abandoned mines.

### Environmental Protection Agency

(Look out for the current Congress's eager resolve to dismantle the EPA budget!)

- The Administration Budget includes \$239 million for EPA to address climate change, including the final rule (expected this summer) for cutting carbon emissions from existing power plants (see §8A, below).
- \$25 million is set aside to help states draft the state plans under this rule.
- A \$4 billion fund is established for use by states that cut GHG emissions deeper or faster than required.

### Dept. of Energy

- Across-the-board increases for the research and development of renewable energy sources and advanced vehicle technologies.
- Adds \$38 million toward development of carbon capture and storage (considered impracticable by many experts).
- Establishes a new program for developing technologies to monitor and reduce emissions of methane in natural-gas production (note: methane has a much more powerful greenhouse effect than CO<sub>2</sub>).

## **7F. This Congress doesn't like Wilderness**

The 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, recently concluded, passed only one wilderness bill as such, Sleeping Bear Dunes Wilderness designation, MI, 32,557 acres (NL314 §7A). A few other wildernesses were created as part of the Defense Bill that sacrificed many public-land protections (including

several Wilderness provisions) in order to pass (NL319 §5A). Additionally, there were separate bills that harm existing Wilderness areas in various ways (for a summary, visit

[http://www.wildernesswatch.org/pdf/Wilderness\\_Legislation\\_113th\\_Congress.pdf](http://www.wildernesswatch.org/pdf/Wilderness_Legislation_113th_Congress.pdf)).

The present Congress, only two months old, has already shown its anti-Wilderness inclination. One example is Alaska Senator Murkowski's attempt to remove protection from Wilderness Study Areas (see §7B, above). Another is HR.399/S.208, the Secure Our Borders First Act, which would waive a variety of environmental laws (including the Wilderness Act) within 100 miles of the international borders with Canada and Mexico.

## **7G. Wilderness organizations of interest**

Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards, SAWS, has, as of the first of this year, become a new 501(c)(3) organization. SAWS began in 2010 as a program of The Wilderness Society (TWS) to address the trail communities' concerns about Wilderness trail issues. It also addressed the need to engage a younger and more diverse generation in the stewardship of our wild places. The now independent SAWS will continue to function as a strong coalition partner to TWS in its work in the Southern Appalachians, as well as pursuing independent interests. Among other things, SAWS will continue with the work of building a new and engaged tribe of wilderness stewards. The organization's offices are in Tellico Plains, TN, and Asheville, NC.

Another group of interest is Wilderness Watch (NL319 §9, Resources), devoted to preserving existing Wilderness nationwide. On the more local front, there is Wild South, advocating for Wilderness in our region's national forests.

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## **8. CLIMATE CHANGE**

In the past few months, there have been several significant events on the national and international scene. As summarized by the League of Conservation Voters, "In *September*, nearly half a million people rallied for action on climate change in NYC; in *November*, President Obama made a historic deal with China to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions; in *December*, more than one million comments were submitted in support of the EPA's Clean Power Plan; . . . and [in *February*] President Obama vetoed Congress's bill to force the approval of the Keystone pipeline." [Add to that — a big story outside the area of climate change: unprecedented protections for the Arctic Refuge were announced in *January*.]

### **8A. EPA's Clean Power Plan rule: how it would work and what it would accomplish**

EPA's rule (expected to be finalized this summer) for reducing carbon emissions from existing power plants,

which is *already* under major attack by fossil-fuel interests and their allies in the Congress, is actually modest in scope, yet of global importance.

The plan is to reduce power-plant emissions 30% below 2005 levels by 2030. This is smaller than the emissions reductions that will be achieved by the car and truck fuel efficiency rules already in effect. Analysis has shown that 40% reduction in power-plant carbon could be achieved with only negligible impact on electricity prices ([www.ucsusa.org/renewablesandcleanpowerplan](http://www.ucsusa.org/renewablesandcleanpowerplan)). Strategies would be to boost energy-efficiency investments and dramatically increase electricity generated by renewable energy technologies. Natural-gas generation will reduce, but not end, carbon emissions.

In last month's Senate hearing on the proposed rule, opponents argued that, since the US cannot solve the global challenge solely through actions taken within our own borders, we should do nothing. This is a major fallacy: just demonstrating our serious will to take significant actions brings positive responses from the rest of the world. President Obama's leadership made possible November's historic joint announcement with Chinese President Xi Jinping of our two countries' post-2020 targets to curb carbon pollution (NL318 ¶7A). For the first time, China set a date for peaking their carbon emissions, and demonstrated that they will begin right away. Congressional Republicans can no longer say that China will never act.

How does the EPA plan work? It sets targets for each state, giving the states the flexibility to choose among many proven methods for curbing emissions, and allowing as long as 15 years to implement their state plans. Yet, in a recent NY Times editorial, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell urged states to ignore EPA climate rules, and to "think twice before submitting a state plan".

## **8B. 2014, the hottest year on record -- and we are the cause**

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)*: "The globally averaged temperature over land and ocean surfaces for 2014 was the highest among all years since record keeping began in 1880" (and, likely, highest in the past 5,000 years, according to climate scientists). Nine of the hottest years in NOAA global data have occurred since 2000. The earlier records, set in 2010 and 2005, were surpassed in 2014. Every year in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has been in the top 20 warmest years on record.

The 2014 average temperature was 58.24°F, which is 1.24°F above the 20<sup>th</sup>-century average. One of the most significant features of the 2014 record is that it occurred during a year when there was no El Niño weather oscillation. During an El Niño, an area of the central Pacific warms unusually and influences weather worldwide.

*NASA* characterizes the 2014 record as part of "a trend largely driven by the increase in carbon dioxide and other human emissions into the atmosphere."

## **8C. What do senators think about climate change?**

### **And how about the rest of the folks?**

A series of amendments to the Keystone XL bill (¶6, this NL) puts senators on record about their belief in climate change (CC). In order of increasing stringency, these amendments were:

- Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) amendment said CC is 'real and not a hoax,' but lacked any statement about human cause. Passed with a vote of 98 : 1.
- John Hoeven (R-ND) amendment said CC is occurring and humans contribute to it — though without the qualifier 'significantly.' There were 59 votes for this, including 15 by Republicans. Failed, because 60 were needed and sponsor Hoeven had switched his vote.
- Brian Schatz (D-HI) amendment: "It is the sense of Congress that, (1) climate change is real, and (2) human activity *significantly* contributes to climate change." 50 senators agreed, including 5 Republicans (one of whom was Sen. Alexander). It failed because 60 votes were needed.

The *NY Times* of January 30 reports results of a *NY-Times/Stanford Univ./Resources-for-the-Future* poll, conducted earlier that month.

- Do you believe that CC is caused at least in part by human activity? Yes, 82% overall -- up from 71% in 2011 (88% D, 83% I, 71% R)
- Are you less likely to vote for a candidate who says human-caused climate change is a hoax? Yes, 67% overall (incl. 48% R).
- Should government be doing a substantial amount to combat CC? Yes, 74% overall (91% D, 78% I, 51% R).

Are politicians out of step with the majority of the electorate? In the 2012 Presidential election, all Republican candidates, except Jon Huntsman, Jr., were CC deniers and opposed policies to curb greenhouse-gas emissions. Republicans in Congress have attacked the Obama Administration's attempts to reduce carbon pollution as a "war on coal." Advocacy groups funded by the Koch brothers have vowed to ensure that candidates who support CC action will lose in primary elections. As Paul Krugman has said: "Evidence doesn't matter for the 'debate' over climate policy . . . because, given the obvious irrelevance of logic and evidence, it's not really a debate in any normal sense."

In his recent State of the Union address, Pres. Obama said: "Some folks try to dodge the evidence by saying they're not scientists; that we don't have enough information to act. Well, I'm not a scientist either. But you know what? . . . The best scientists in the world are all telling us that our activities are changing the climate." The CC deniers responded by editing Obama's statement out of their State of the Union video on the House Republicans' website.

## 9. OAK RIDGE and the RESERVATION

### 9A. Possible habitat improvement at ORHS and Civic Center

EQAB has proposed that the City apply to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for a grant under their Five Star and Urban-Waters Restoration Program. Such grants are in the \$20k - \$50k range. The proposed Oak Ridge Riparian Restoration and Stormwater Education Project would involve two locations in the East Fork Poplar Creek watershed, one of them being the streams at A.K. Bissell Park, including tributaries on the Oak Ridge High School property.

The grant proposal was submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in early February. Their answer will probably not be known for another three months.

Among the partners participating in this project would be several non-profit organizations, including TCWP. The restoration efforts would achieve “quantifiable improvements in riparian vegetative cover, terrestrial habitat, and water temperature, reduce peak storm flows, and limit negative impacts of runoff during storm events. These efforts will enhance wildlife habitat, improve water quality, increase public awareness of stormwater as a local environmental concern . . .”

### 9B. Walks to highlight ORR's rich fauna and flora

On the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) over 1100 species of vascular plants, 72 fish, 34 mammals, and over 200 bird species have been observed. A number of nature walks have been organized to highlight not only the rich flora and fauna of the reservation, but also to demonstrate the work being done to sustainably manage and conserve this resource.

1. Frog calls and bat monitoring – ETP ponds and vicinity, April 4
2. Wildflower and old-growth forest walk, April 12.
3. Bird nature walk – ETP ponds and vicinity, April 25.
4. Invasive plant identification and treatment – various sites on the ORR, May 16.
5. Reptiles and amphibians inventory – Solway Bend, June 7.

Children are allowed on all of the walks, but no pets, please. More information is available by contacting Trent Jett at 865-574-9188 ([jetttrt@ornl.gov](mailto:jetttrt@ornl.gov)). Reservations must be made in advance by noon the Thursday prior to each walk by contacting Tracy Clem, 865-574-5151 ([bodinetm@ornl.gov](mailto:bodinetm@ornl.gov)).

### 9C. TWRA officer for ORR to speak

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Anderson County TWRA Officer Jim Evans, who has for many years served on the Oak Ridge Reservation, will be the speaker at an upcoming AFORR-sponsored information program on April 30. Evans, who will retire this sum-

mer, is a fine steward of ORR's wildlife, and a widely acclaimed hike leader.

The meeting starts at 7:00 PM in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center. The program is free, and the public is welcome.

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## 10. TCWP NEWS

### 10A. Upcoming activities

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

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

#### Alley Ford Cumberland Trail Workday – Sat., March 21

(This event was postponed due to late February's bad weather.) A day of trail work and hiking will take place on the 2.5-mile section of the Cumberland Trail (adopted by TCWP in 1998) between Nemo Picnic Area and Alley Ford at the Obed Wild and Scenic River. Participants should wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring work gloves, loppers, small bow saws or folding saws, shovels and grubbing tools, as well as a lunch and plenty of water. Some tools will be available at the event.

Participants can meet for carpooling in Oak Ridge at the Rush (Gold's Gym)/Books-A-Million parking lot (meet at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) in time to leave Oak Ridge at 9 a.m. Eastern, or can join the crew at Nemo Picnic Area or Rock Creek Campground at 10 a.m. We expect to return to the trailhead by around 3 p.m.

For additional information, contact Jimmy Groton at 865-805-9908, or at [groton87@comcast.net](mailto:groton87@comcast.net).

#### Obed rafting trip with trash collection – Saturday, March 28

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

Paddlers are invited to join TCWP, in cooperation with the National Park Service, for a whitewater rafting/cleanup trip down the Obed River on Saturday, March 28. The outing, from Devil's Breakfast Table to Nemo Bridge, will include trash collection coordinated with the Park Service along the river.

Safety boaters are needed for this excursion. There are some seats available on guided rafts. Rafters must be 18 years old or older and have a moderately high level of physical fitness and stamina. The trip will include a portage over large boulders at Rock Garden. The difficulty level of this outing is high, and participants are encouraged to consider carefully their fitness and stamina before undertaking this trip.

We welcome other kayakers to join us. March 28 is the first Saturday that the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area will be open to the public following the annual two-month “rest period” during which all traffic at Catoosa is forbidden.

Pre-registration is required for this trip, by Monday, March 23. Weather and river conditions are unpredictable, and decisions about the nature of the trip, or its actual occurrence, will be made the morning of the event. A small number of

wet suits is available for loan to participants, if needed. Participants should wear wicking fabric (not cotton), and will need to bring lunch and water. If regular paddlers have spare equipment and clothes, please consider bringing that along.

For more information or to pre-register, contact Sandra Goss at 865-583-3967 or via email at [Sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:Sandra@sandrakgoss.com). Participants will meet at 9 a.m. Eastern at the Obed Wild and Scenic River Visitors Center in Wartburg. A carpool will leave from Oak Ridge at around 8:15.

Big South Fork raft trip with trash collection – Sat., April 11  
(Contributed by Sandra Goss and Jimmy Groton)

Paddlers are invited to join TCWP, in cooperation with the National Park Service, for a whitewater rafting/cleanup trip down the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River on Saturday, April 11. The outing will include trash collection coordinated with NPS along the river.

The outing will be from Burnt Mill Bridge to Leatherwood Ford. The weather and river conditions are unpredictable, and decisions about the nature of the trip or its actual occurrence will be made the morning of the event.

There are some seats available on guided rafts. Rafters must be 18 years old or over, and have a moderately high level of physical fitness and stamina. This is the most rugged and scenic part of the Big South Fork gorge with some of the biggest rapids, including Double Falls, Washing Machine, The Ell, Rion's Eddy, Jake's Hole, and O&W Rapid. The scenic values of the gorge are of the highest order. The difficulty level of this outing is high, and participants are encouraged to consider carefully their fitness and stamina before undertaking the outing.

Participants should wear wicking fabric (not cotton) and will need to bring a lunch and water. A small number of wet suits is available to loan participants, if needed.

We welcome other kayakers to join this trip. Safety boaters are needed for the excursions. If frequent paddlers have spare equipment and clothes, please consider bringing that along to loan others for the day.

Pre-registration by April 6 for a raft seat is required. Participants will meet at Leatherwood Ford at 9:30 a.m., with a caravan/carpool leaving Oak Ridge at 8. For more information or to pre-register, contact Sandra Goss at 865-583-3967 or at [Sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:Sandra@sandrakgoss.com).

Garlic mustard pull/wildflower walk – Saturday, April 11

The Greenway behind Oak Ridge's Rolling Hills Apartments (formerly known as the Garden Apartments) is one of the best wildflower trails in Anderson County, but it is threatened by garlic mustard, a very invasive exotic that crowds out native plants. TCWP and Greenways Oak Ridge have been making some headway in recent years in ridding the trail of this harmful plant. Volunteers are needed to help with this effort again this year.

We will meet at 10 a.m. at the rear parking lot (near the woods) behind 101-135 West Vanderbilt Drive. Wear

sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothes, and bring water, food/snacks, and a digging spike or similar tool if you own one.

Joint Outing with TNPS at Roaring Creek – Sat., April 18

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

In this joint outing for TCWP and the Tennessee Native Plant Society, we will caravan from Dayton to the trailhead parking area. As on our joint outing last year, we will be on a new section of the Cumberland Trail, getting a first look at the wildflowers. Roaring Creek does roar, and has formed a deep gorge in the Cumberland Plateau. The path is a nearly level old road. It is ideal for grouping up to converse about the flowers.

Total walking distance will be about 3.5 miles, but participants can head back at any point. We will meet for carpooling at two locations: 1) Oak Ridge, in the Rush (Gold's Gym)/Books-A-Million parking lot (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) at 8:30 a.m.; or 2) Dayton, at the Midnite Oil gas station on US 27, southbound side across from McDonald's (4537 Rhea County Rd.) at 10 a.m. Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray. For more information, contact Larry Pounds at 865-705-8516 (cell, best bet), 865-816-3576 (home), or at [PoundsL471@aol.com](mailto:PoundsL471@aol.com).

Potters Falls cleanup and Save the Hemlocks day -- Saturday, May 2

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

The Second Annual Potters Falls/Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Treatment Workshop and Cleanup will be held in Wartburg on Saturday, May 2. The event will focus on cleaning up trash and litter around Potters Falls, along the beautiful Crooked Fork Creek

In conjunction with the cleanup, experienced Tennessee Division of Forestry and National Park Service staff from the Obed Wild and Scenic River will train volunteers and landowners in how to protect their hemlock trees from attack by the hemlock wooly adelgid, which has killed many hemlocks in the area. Volunteers will treat some of the majestic hemlocks to fight off this pervasive pest. The remaining trees will be treated next year.

We will meet for carpooling in Oak Ridge in the Rush (Gold's Gym)/Books-a-Million parking lot (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's). We plan to leave Oak Ridge at 8 a.m.; participants can also go directly to the Morgan County Visitor Center at the junction of Highways 62 and 27 in Wartburg, where registration and orientation will begin at 8:30 a.m. After orientation, we will carpool to Potters Falls. We plan to return to the Visitor Center for lunch around noon.

Lunch and other rewards will be provided to all volunteers. This event is sponsored by the Emory River Watershed Association and TCWP, with funding assistance from a Tennessee Valley Authority Reservoir Community grant. See the TCWP website or Facebook page for more details.

Outing with TNPS at Little Cedar Mountain – Sat. May 9

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

On this second 2015 joint outing with TNPS we will walk a TVA loop trail on Little Cedar Mountain. The habitat is rocky limestone woods with a barrens area. This is one of a very few places on earth to see the newly described species John Beck's leafcup. Another very rare species is spreading rock cress. There will be other unusual plants and delightful spring wildflowers as well. Total walking distance will be about 3.5 miles, but participants can head back at any point.

We will meet for carpooling, 1) at 8 a.m. in Oak Ridge, in the Rush (Gold's Gym)/Books-A-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's), or 2) at 8:30 a.m. in Lenoir City, at 905 U.S. 321 in the parking lot near the Murphy USA Gas Station, situated in the Wal-Mart parking lot on the north side of Hwy 321 east of the I-75 exit. Participants can also meet at I-24 exit 158, just west of Nickajack Lake, at 10 a.m. Going westbound, turn left across I-24, then turn left onto the gravel road immediately after the entrance ramp. Going eastbound, turn right, then immediately left onto the gravel road next to the entrance ramp.

Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray. For more information, contact Larry Pounds at 865-705-8516 (cell, best bet), 865-816-3576 (home), or via email at [PoundsL471@aol.com](mailto:PoundsL471@aol.com).

Obed River Cleanup and Volunteer Appreciation Day – Saturday, May 16

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

On May 16, the Obed Wild and Scenic River staff will host the annual Obed River Cleanup and Volunteer Appreciation Day. Volunteers will meet at the Obed Visitor Center in Wartburg at 8:30 a.m. and join park staff in picking up trash at various locations in the park. Park staff will provide trash bags, gloves, and trash grabbers.

Participants should wear sturdy shoes and bring plenty of water. If you prefer your own gloves, please bring them, along with insect repellent and sunblock. Volunteers will return to the Obed Visitor Center at noon for a lunch provided by the park. Please bring a dish to share (salad, dessert, or side dish). For information contact Veronica Greear, Obed Volunteer Coordinator, at 423-346-6294.

*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.*

**10B. Recent events**

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

Whites Creek Trail workday – January 17

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

On January 17 four intrepid TCWP volunteers spent a beautiful winter day doing trail maintenance at the TVA's Whites Creek Small Wild Area on Watts Bar Reservoir in Rhea County. Volunteers helped clear downed trees and clear brush away from the trail. Although the number of volunteers was much smaller than we had hoped for, we had media coverage from two local newspapers! Reporters from

the *Rhea Herald News* (Dayton, TN) and the *Watts Bar Lake Observer* (Spring City, TN) were on hand to cover the event. We are grateful for the interest of these two newspapers.

TCWP has partnered with TVA since 1984 to enhance and protect natural resources at Whites Creek SWA and many other places on public lands throughout East Tennessee as part of TCWP's ongoing stewardship efforts.

eMammal Information Program – February 12

A crowd of nearly 70 people, ranging from students to senior citizens, turned out to hear Mac Post, retired from ORNL's Environmental Sciences Division, describe his volunteer work with the eMammal program at Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area. This citizen science camera-trapping project is being conducted with volunteers in collaboration with researchers at the Smithsonian and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, and is part of a program to document mammals throughout the mid-Atlantic area and ultimately the entire country.

Each eMammal volunteer was given three motion-detecting, infrared cameras to place on a specific trail (in Mac's case, the trail between Coffin Springs and the Lookout Tower), 50 meters from the trail, and 200 meters from the trail. When motion was detected, the cameras shot 10 photos at one-second intervals. Mac entertained his audience with photos depicting the wide variety of mammals at Frozen Head, including bobcats, raccoons, coyotes, deer, squirrels, rabbits, and feral pigs, as well as an ovenbird on the forest floor in early morning.

The cameras placed by Mac and his fellow volunteers captured more than 2,500 animal sequences. Researchers hope the eMammal study will help them understand how factors like human activity and habitat fragmentation are affecting wildlife populations. Similar studies were carried out at Lone Mountain State Forest (by volunteers who included TCWP board member Michele Thornton) and at Fall Creek Falls State Park.

Oak Ridge Cedar Barren Cleanup – March 7

[Contributed by Tim Bigelow]

We had amazing weather and a good turnout for our Spring Oak Ridge Cedar Barren workday. Eighteen volunteers participated, including three Oak Ridge High School students and several middle school teachers. Privet was the easiest green plant to identify, so quite a bit of it was pulled around the perimeter of the "ellipse" area, and we removed some of the trees that were cut during the fall workday. We pulled several other invasives in smaller quantities, such as a Chinese Holly and a nandina that had crept in from the neighborhood, plus a few mahonia and lespedeza. Some trash was picked up along the fence. The two Jefferson Middle School wetland areas were tended by the Clinch River Environmental Studies Organization staff.

We concluded with a picnic put on by Executive Director Sandra Goss. Plenty of sun and the sound of spring peepers

nearly provided a bit of relief from the previous two weeks' weather!

### 10C. **Charlie Klabunde, 1931-2015**

On February 7, TCWP lost one of its most truly dedicated members, and one who had performed invaluable and essential service for 43 years -- more than half of his life. Charlie, who had been working as a physicist at ORNL since 1955, became our treasurer in 1972, when TCWP was barely six years old.

But he did more than manage our funds, invest them wisely, and pay expenses. He furnished complex and time-consuming reports required by IRS and other agencies. He researched office equipment and supplies when purchasing choices had to be made. Most important, he maintained membership records, furnished mailing lists when needed, and made the labels used for newsletters and other mailings.

With all that, he also made time to help us with trail maintenance (he was an avid and accomplished hiker) and with some of our advocacy issues. In addition to TCWP, he also served the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club (as treasurer and newsletter editor), and he danced weekly with the Oak Ridge Folk Dancers and at least two other groups.

His passing leaves a huge gap, and we'll long remember him with gratitude and affection.

### 10D. **Friends and Members in the news**

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]

- A long article in the January 19 *Oak Ridger* tells the story of Francis Perey's aunt who, working in Marie Curie's laboratory, discovered a new element.
- Michele Thornton is mentioned in the February 17 *Oak Ridger* as a volunteer in the eMammal research project, working on photographic documentation of animals in Lone Mountain State Forest.
- Joe Feeman led hikes on Hemlock Bluff Trail on Loyston Point and to White Rocks at Cumberland Gap Nat'l Park; these were publicized in the January 21 and February 18 issues, respectively, of the *Norris Bulletin*.
- Janice Spoone was quoted in a Georgiana Vines article in the February 7 *News Sentinel* and was pictured in the February 13 *News Sentinel*'s coverage of a Rally to Support Uninsured Tennesseans.
- Joe Feeman's interesting articles about traveling in Belize were in the December 24, January 28, February 11 and February 25 editions of the *Norris Bulletin*.
- Kris Light and her photographs of snowflakes were the topic of Sam Venable's column in the February 5 *News Sentinel*.
- Susan Gawarecki and a hybrid duck she spotted were featured in a column of the February 4 *Norris Bulletin*.
- Ben Pounds authored an article about the Town Creek Greenway in Lenoir City in the January 30 *News Sentinel*, as well as an article about snow-tubing in the February 13

edition, an article about the Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics in the February 20 edition, and an article about hiking at Virgin Falls on February 27.

- Tim and Janet Bigelow are mentioned in Megan Venable's column in the February 15 *News Sentinel*.
- Matt Hudson was pictured canoeing across the Emory River in the February 18 *News Sentinel*.
- William Wilson wrote a letter to the *News Sentinel* editor on February 14 about funding for abandoned-mine reclamation.
- Kathleen Williams, Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, and Hill Island in the Cumberland River east of Madison were featured in a February 22 *News Sentinel* article.
- Renée Hoyos and Tennessee Clean Water Network were featured in the March 5 edition of the *News Sentinel* in an article about filtered water stations in schools.
- Cordelia Lyons authored a letter to the *News Sentinel* editor on March 4 about student standards.
- J. R. Shute, Pat Rakes, and the organization they head -- Conservation Fisheries -- were featured in the March *National Geographic* and the March 10 *News Sentinel*.

### 10E. **Thanks, and a tip of the hat to ...**

[From Sandra Goss]



- Mac Post for his terrific presentation about the eMammal program (see ¶10B), which featured many candid outdoor shots in Frozen Head.
- Jean Bangham, John Bates, Frank Hensley, Harriett McCurdy, Dick Raridon, Marti Salk for preparing the TCWP Newsletter for mailing.
- Harriett McCurdy, Dick Raridon, Jean Bangham, Mary Lynn Dobson, Tim Bigelow, and Jimmy Groton for help with updating our membership brochure.
- Michele Thornton, Carol Grametbauer, and Jimmy Groton for helping with publicity efforts for Mac Post's e-mammal presentation.
- Tim Bigelow, Jimmy Groton, and Jan Lyons for helping prepare reports for Community Shares, of which TCWP is a member.
- Francis Perey for handling the TCWP website and e-mail alert list.
- Lee Russell, Carol Grametbauer, and Jimmy Groton for their contributions to the January, 2015 TCWP Newsletter 319.
- Jimmy Groton for his leadership of the annual January White's Creek Cleanup.

-- Tim Bigelow for his leadership of the annual March Oak Ridge Cedar Barren Cleanup.

## 10F. Executive Director's column

[By Sandra Goss]

One of the larger ironies of my work is that many meetings and conference calls keep me from enjoying the great outdoors. In the icy, snowy weeks of February, that was not such a problem. As I write this, the sun is shining, the creatures are stirring and calling to one another, and Mother Nature's siren song is sweet, comforting, and inviting.

Various reports in the popular press indicate that the outdoor experience is not that tempting to some among us. There are many activities indoors and outside that occupy folks to the exclusion of nature appreciation.

TCWP's Program Committee works to provide some family-friendly programming, such as Kids in the Creek, riverside hikes, and crayfish hunts. The idea behind this is to get young people aware of nature and interested in learning more about how our marvelous planet works.

The Program Committee is currently developing plans for a family-friendly Old Time River Outing to be held this summer on a TCWP friend's property on the Obed. Look for details in May about this free event that will provide opportunities to get in the river, explore the riverbanks, enjoy camaraderie, and appreciate nature in one of the most beautiful places around.

Meantime, ALL of us breathe air, drink water, and consume food. All these necessary activities depend on a healthy ecosystem for maximum healthfulness. A fully functioning planet is to EVERYONE'S benefit, whether one is an outdoors person, a couch potato, or something in between.

This important point is brought up to remind me (and perhaps you too, dear reader?) that everyone is a potential ally as we go about our business of advocating for protected forests, regulations that prevent water and air degradations, proper waste disposal, and the myriad other factors that make up a life-supporting world. With the growing body of complex knowledge about the natural world and its interconnectivity, thought and attention are necessary to understand the whole picture.

That's where TCWP and you come in. Our volunteers work to understand proposed rules, permits, management plans, and other documents. That information is summarized and sent out in a more easily comprehensible form. Want to help? Take one or more of these simple steps:

- 1) Sign up for our e-mail alerts, and pass them on to friends.
- 2) Follow up on the simple Action Alerts in this and other newsletters.
- 3) Call or write me, offering to be more involved in a standing or *ad hoc* committee.

Hope to see you among the spring outdoor beauty during the next several weeks!

Sandra

## 11. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

### • CALENDAR (events and deadlines)

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

- March 21, Alley Ford Cumberland Trail Workday (§10A, this NL).
- March 28, Obed raft trip with trash collection (§10A, this NL).
- March 31, Comment deadline for Frozen Head Plan (§2, this NL).
- April 2, Wild & Scenic Film Festival, Knoxville (§11, RE-SOURCES, this NL).
- April 4, April 12, April 25, May 16, June 7, Nature Walks on the ORR (§9B, this NL).
- April 11, Big South Fork raft trip with trash collection (§10A, this NL).
- April 11, Garlic mustard pull/wildflower walk (§10A, this NL).
- April 18, Outing with TNPS at Roaring Creek (§10A, this NL).
- April 25, Oak Ridge Earth Day
- April 25, Spring Planting Festival at BSF (§1C, this NL).
- April 27, Comment deadline for IRP (§4A, this NL).
- April 30, Jim Evans talk on ORR (§9C, this NL).
- May 2, "Save the Hemlocks Day," with NPS (§10A, this NL).
- May 9, Outing with TNPS at Little Cedar Mountain (§10A, this NL).
- May 16, Obed volunteer-appreciation lunch and cleanup (§10A, this NL).

### •• RESOURCES

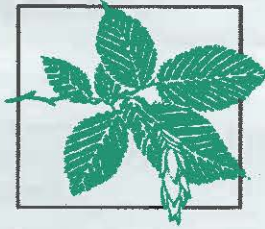
- More information about the eMammal program (see §10B, this NL) is available on the program's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/eMammal>
- The *Wild & Scenic Film Festival* will take place April 2 at the Relix Theatre in Knoxville: 90 minutes of films selected from a premier collection of environmental films. Tickets, \$10. For more information, contact [Tennessee Clean Water Network@mail.vresp.com](mailto:TennesseeCleanWaterNetwork@mail.vresp.com)
- Michael Frome's new book, *Rediscovering National Parks in the Spirit of John Muir*, will be available in June. (University of Utah Press, 272 pp., \$24.95; also available as ebook 978-1-60781-419-1).
- *If Trees Could Sing* is a program of the Tennessee chapter of The Nature Conservancy featuring videos of top music artists speaking up for trees. Videos may be watched on [www.nature.org/iftreescouldsing](http://www.nature.org/iftreescouldsing).

**TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING**

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**Coming Events**

**TCWP's 2014 Board of Directors**  
Jimmy Groton .....President  
Mark Bevelhimer .....V. Pres.  
Carol Grametbauer..... Secretary  
Tim Bigelow .....Treasurer  
Mary Lynn Dobson ..... Director  
Frank Hensley..... Director  
Larry Pounds ..... Director  
Liane (Lee) Russell..... Director  
Michele Thornton ..... Director  
Warren Webb ..... Director  
Sandra Goss ... Executive Director

- Mar. 21, Sat. Alley Ford sect. Cumberland Trail Cleanup
- Mar 28, Sat. Obed River Cleanup from rafts
- April 11, Sat. Big South Fork River Cleanup from rafts  
Tour and Garlic Mustard Pull at Wildflower Greenway
- April 18, Sat. Roaring Creek Outing
- April 25, Sat. Earth Day Oak Ridge
- May 9, Sat. Little Creek Mountain Outing