



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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Taking Care of Wild Places

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

10. ACTION SUMMARY

No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
2A	Storm-water runoff bill	Your state rep. and senator	"Oppose. SB.1830/HB.1892, the storm-water runoff bill!"
2C	Tennessee Wilderness Act	Rep. Roe (R-1)	Distr.-1 residents, thank Rep. Roe for introducing the bill.
4A	Threat to Wilderness Act	Your US senators	"Oppose HR.2406 (SHARE Act)! It would gut Wilderness Act"
4C	ANWR Coastal Plain	Pres. Obama Your US senators	"Please designate this treasure a National Monument!" "Support S.2341 to designate Coastal Plain as Wilderness!"
4E	Calif. Desert Nat'l Monument	Pres. Obama; Sen. Feinstein	"Thank you for protecting this desert as National Monument!"
5A	Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS)	Pres. Obama	"Thank you for vetoing the overturning of Clean Water rule!"
5B	Environmental scorecard	Your US rep and senators	"I am disappointed in (or I commend you for) your LCV score!"
8E	Volunteering for TCWP	Sandra Goss	Volunteer to staff our booth April 16 or 23

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. John Doe
U.S. House of Representatives
House Office Building
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Pres. Barack Obama
The White House
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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
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Sen. Lamar Alexander:
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Local: 865-545-4253 (FAX 545-4252)
800 Market St., Suite 112, Knoxville 37902

Rep. Chuck Fleischmann:
Phone: 202-225-3271
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<http://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>.

1. OBED, BIG SOUTH FORK, CUMBERLANDS

1A. Working to save the Cumberlands' magnificent hemlock trees

Eastern Hemlock trees, vitally important features of the Cumberlands landscape, are under serious attack by an invasive pest. The Emory River Watershed Association (ERWA) is one of the groups doing something about it. In April, ERWA will be sponsoring two events to address the problem. For additional information on both events, please contact Mike Sale, 865-719-4794 (m), or Jimmy Groton, 865-805-9908 (m). The April 9 event requires pre-registration (same phone numbers).

(i) Research on treatment options

[Contributed by Mike Sale and Jimmy Groton]

On Tuesday, April 5, 2015, Ms. Elizabeth Benton, Ph.D. candidate in Entomology and Plant Pathology at the University of Tennessee, will give a presentation about her research regarding treatment options for controlling hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) infestations on Eastern Hemlocks. The HWA is a destructive pest that is threatening hemlock populations in the eastern U.S.

Eastern hemlock is a foundation species that provides critical habitat for hundreds of terrestrial and aquatic organisms. Integrated pest management options can suppress HWA populations and help preserve our hemlocks. Treatment options and implementation, as well as environmental risks to aquatic and terrestrial systems, will be discussed, followed by questions and answers.

This is a FREE, public event to inform landowners and other interested parties on how to keep our hemlocks alive. Ms. Benton's talk will be from 6:00-6:45 pm at the Morgan County Farm Bureau office at 123 Church Street, Wartburg (use basement entrance at rear of bldg.) Prior to the talk,

ERWA will have a short business meeting at 5:30 ET.

(ii) Hemlock workshop (plus trash pickup)

[Contributed by Donna Kridelbaugh and Jimmy Groton]

The annual Potters Fall Hemlock Treatment Workshop and Clean-up will be held on April 9. The invasive hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) has steadily spread throughout Cumberland Plateau areas. TCWP is a partner in statewide efforts to conserve hemlocks through direct treatment of trees, raising public awareness of the issue, and educating private landowners on proper methods to protect these magnificent trees.

The April 9 event, held by ERWA in conjunction with the National Park Service and Tennessee Division of Forestry, is an example of successful outreach that properly trains East Tennessee residents in how to treat their own trees.

Volunteers will meet at the Morgan County Visitors' Center (Hwy. 62 and Hillcrest Rd., Wartburg) at 8:30 a.m. ET and carpool to Potters Fall to participate in a hands-on

educational session involving chemical treatment of hemlock trees, or help with trash cleanup in the area. The workshop will be conducted by experts from the state and federal agencies, including the newly formed HWA Strike Team from the Tennessee Hemlock Conservation Partnership.

Volunteers are asked to bring drinking water in a refillable bottle, insect repellent, sun block, and a chair. They should wear sturdy shoes. Those participants who wish to treat hemlock trees must wear appropriate attire (long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and closed-toed shoes). Gloves and eye protection will be provided. The event will conclude at noon, and a FREE lunch will be provided.

1B. Obed raft/paddle trip with trash collection, March 26

REMINDER: You are invited to join TCWP and the National Park Service, for a whitewater rafting/clean-up trip down the Obed River. The outing, from Devil's Breakfast Table to Nemo Bridge, will include trash collection along the river. We welcome safety boaters and other kayakers to join this trip. For other details, see NL325, ¶9A, or contact Sandra Goss at 865-583-3967 or at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

1C. Obed properties update

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

One of TCWP's four properties in the Obed Wild and Scenic River boundaries, the former Spell property, has had our focus in the past several weeks. The property tax is assessed at the Greenbelt/Agricultural rate, the lowest there is, and one that requires a Forest/Management Plan. Since the property has a new owner, TCWP, a new Management Plan was necessary.

Thanks to Dan Summers, of Cumberland Forestry Services, our new plan was developed and registered in a very timely manner. The greenbelt designation saves TCWP approximately \$1500/year in property tax on this land.

When the land transfers to the National Park Service, the previous three years of property tax will "roll back" and the owner(s) at that time will be liable for the difference in the tax. This is a matter of state law that each county is responsible for enforcing.

TCWP has urged the Obed Wild & Scenic River staff to give priority to the expending of the recently approved land-acquisition funds (NL325 ¶1A) for the purchase of unprotected lands within the boundary.

1D. Big South Fork film in the making

TCWP has learned that the film producers who made the award-winning Obed WSR film a couple of years ago are busy on a BSFNRRRA film. It is set to premier Saturday, August 27.

1E. Obed and BSF events

[From NPS's March e_Newsletter]

- Exhibits on the Obed WSR and Big South Fork NRR, along with Manhattan NHP and six other parks, will be on year-long display, starting mid-April, at McGhee Tyson Airport (lower level) and at the Smoky Mountains Heritage Center.
- Obed Fifth Annual Photo Contest. Submission categories include Action/Adventure, Artistic, Flora & Fauna, Landscapes, and Youth. For more info go to <http://www.nps.gov/obed/learn/photosmultimedia/obed-photo-contest.htm>.
- "Flood of 1929" Ranger Talk on Saturday, March 26th at 1 pm (ET) at the Nemo Day Use Area.
- Blue Heron Loop Saturday, March 26 at 10 am (ET). Meet at the Blue Heron Overlook parking lot at the end of Overlook Road just off KY 742 for a moderate 6.4-mile hike.

2. TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. The Tennessee legislature

[Information from Tennessee Conservation Voters]

The General Assembly is coming toward the end of its term. According to TCV, this raises the risk that legislators might pass a bill without fully considering its implications because they are anxious to go home.

Because, by the time you read this, several bills of interest will not yet have been scheduled for committee consideration, and others will have reached a stage too late for us to take action, our coverage of the General Assembly will probably be a postmortem in the next Newsletter. There is, however, an important bill that will probably make it to the floor of both Houses after you read this, so that your actions could be meaningful.

SB.1830/HB.1892 not only destroys TDEC's ability to regulate storm-water runoff, but also sets a terrible precedent for the future of common-sense regulation. Your state senator and representative must be urged to oppose this bill.

Tennessee is growing fast. As the acreage of developed land continues to skyrocket, there are fewer and fewer ways for storm water to seep back into the earth. Water then quickly flows from paved surfaces, bringing all the nasty things from the pavement into our waterways -- streams that we drink from, swim in, paddle in, and fish in (see ¶2D, below).

Responsible storm-water mitigation techniques are available and not costly. They safeguard water quality, protect wells from sediment and turbidity, and lead to increased home-values and protection against adverse weather events, such as flash-flooding.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Without delay, contact your state senator and representative (see Political Guide) and urge them to oppose SB.1830/HB.1892, the storm-water runoff bill.

2B. Delay in the Ridgeline Mining LUMP

The comment deadline for the Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition (LUMP), originally set for January 25, was extended to February 26 at the request of "stakeholders." During the original comment period (NL 325 ¶2), which was 45 days long, four public hearings were held and more than 13,000 comments received, the great majority of them supporting the LUMP.

Extension of the comment period was the result of a written request to the Dept. of the Interior by US Representatives Duncan (R-2), Roe (R-1), Fleischmann (R-3), DesJarlais (R-4), and Blackburn (R-7). There is speculation that this request was prompted by the Coal Industry. Tennessee Mining Association President Chuck Laine had charged that the LUMP amounted to officials "attempting to take the mineral rights from the rightful owners without any proper compensation." During the extended comment period, important additional *support* for the LUMP was also received.

2C. Tennessee Wilderness Act one step closer

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The Tennessee Wilderness Act has now been introduced in both the Senate and House of Representatives. The bill will preserve 7,368 acres by designating additions to Big Laurel Branch (4,446 acres, Carter and Johnson Counties) and Sampson Mountain Wilderness (2,922 acres, Washington and Unicoi Counties). Thanks to Congressman Roe, this years-long effort to protect special places is closer to reality than ever before. The bill has previously been repeatedly introduced in the Senate by Senators Alexander and Corker.

WHAT YOU CAN DO. If you, or someone you know, live in the district, please see that Congressman Roe receives a phone call, e-mail, or letter expressing gratitude for the introduction and urging all possible haste in passing the bill

2D. Storm-water management is essential for Tennessee

[Info from Southern Environmental Law Center]

Between 1982 and 2007, Tennessee has seen an 85% increase in developed acres. This fast-paced transformation from native forests and meadows to buildings and pavement has significantly altered the natural water cycle and created storm-water management challenges. Natural groundcover allows rainfall to seep back into the soil and slowly recharge groundwater and surface waters. As more native landscape is covered with impervious surfaces (roads, sidewalks, rooftops), storm-water runoff flows quickly into water bodies, leading to increased flooding and decreased groundwater supplies. Furthermore, storm-water runoff picks up pollutants (sediment, pathogenic organisms, oil, metals, toxics, pesticides etc.) on its way to rivers and lakes and degrades water quality, impacting our drinking-water supply, endangering the health of fish and

aquatic life, and limiting the use of our waters for recreation.

Significant improvement in water quality through proper storm-water management provides economic benefits for property buyers and owners and reduces cost for builders and municipalities that use low-impact design (LID) storm-water controls. It is much cheaper to build storm-water controls (wetlands, trees, and other techniques) into developments from the outset than to retrofit later.

The State of Tennessee provides help for controlling storm-water pollution. For example, a state grant program directly subsidizes improvements at the local level, and TDEC (with the help of UT experts) has developed a design manual and assessment tool that can be downloaded at no cost (“Welcome to Tennessee Permanent Stormwater Management Training,” at <http://tnpermanentstormwater.org/index.asp?vp=1>).

In addition, because outdoor recreation is one of the key drivers for Tennessee’s economy, protecting our water resources means protecting the state’s recreation-based tourism industry. See ¶2E, below, for statistics about these benefits.

2E. Benefits of outdoor-recreation-based tourism in Tennessee

[Info from Outdoor Industry Assn.*]

The Outdoor Recreation Economy for Tennessee accounts for:

- 83,000 jobs
- \$535 million in state and local tax revenue
- \$2.5 billion in wages and salaries
- \$8.2 billion in consumer spending.

* [“The Outdoor Recreation Economy: Tennessee,” https://outdoorindustry.org/images/ore_reports/TN-tennessee-outdoorrecreationeconomy-oia.pdf]

2F. News about other organizations

TN Chapter of *The Nature Conservancy*

The Tennessee Chapter of TNC has been without an Executive Director since Gina Hancock transferred to an international TNC position. While the position search is continuing (no deadline for applications), the Chapter has an interim ED.

TN Clean Water Network

In early February, TCWN named Shelby Ward as their new staff attorney. Ward has a BS in Biology from Howard University, and an MS in Ecology as well as her law degree from UTK. In 2009-2010, she was a legal intern in TCWN’s Litigation Program. Her unique combination of experience and training will help her continue the organization’s excellent record of legal success in forcing permit holders to operate under their discharge restrictions, according to Renee Hoyos, TCWN’s Executive Director.

3. TVA News

3A. TVA’s plans for coal-ash storage threaten water quality

[Info from SACE and Sierra Club]

To achieve compliance with new federal standards on coal-ash management (NL319 ¶5B), TVA has developed a draft plan. Public meetings were held in early February, and the comment period ended March 9.

In the greater Knoxville area, the Bull Run and Kingston coal-fired steam plants together have the capacity to store at least 5 billion gallons of coal-ash waste. Much of this waste at both plants is currently stored in unlined pits (also called coal-ash ponds) dangerously close to rivers and lakes. The ash contains arsenic, lead, and other dangerous heavy metals, substances that can cause a host of health problems, including cancer, brain damage, and developmental defects.

TVA is proposing to put synthetic liners on top of the ash and leave it in place in leaky, unlined pits close to our waterways. TVA’s own studies have shown that ground-water near the coal plants is being polluted. Comments expressed strong concerns that the plan fails to prevent toxic pollution from entering our drinking-water supplies. TVA was urged to remove its coal ash from unlined pits and transfer it to more safely lined, dry storage sites away from our waterways. This is an approach already being taken by several other utilities in the southeast.

For additional information, contact adam@cleanenergy.org.

3B. Floating houses policy

The Tennessee Valley Authority has released its Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Floating Houses Policy Review (<http://www.tva.gov/floatinghouses>).

The proposed policy is to prohibit any additional new floating houses, and approve those existing ones that meet minimum standards. The policy would require the removal of both floating houses and previously permitted non-navigable houseboats from TVA reservoirs in 20 years. Currently, there are ~1,800 floating houses.

TVA is also beginning the process to formally establish regulations to implement the policy (e.g., standards and permitting requirements). The proposed regulations for floating houses will be available soon for public review and comment. A policy recommendation for future management of floating houses is expected to be made at the May 5, 2016, TVA Board Meeting. A public comment period on proposed regulations will follow.

3C. TVA can meet Clean Power Plan (CPP) requirements

[Information from Sierra Club]

Contrary to coal industry warnings about the dire economic costs of the CPP, TVA estimates it can meet the new EPA standards and still raise rates less than the overall pace of inflation - and less than its average increase over

the past couple of decades. John Myers, director of policy and regulatory affairs for TVA says it has already taken most of the steps required to meet the new carbon controls.

Since 2005, TVA has cut its carbon emissions by 30% and expects to have cut such emissions by 40% by 2020. TVA has, or soon plans to, shut down more than half of the 59 coal-fired generators it once operated through the additions of new nuclear, natural gas, solar, wind and hydro generation.

4. OUR PUBLIC LANDS

4A. *SHARE Act would gut protections of Wilderness Act*

[Information from Wilderness Watch]

On Feb. 26, the full House of Representatives passed HR.2406, the so-called Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act (SHARE), which contains somewhat disguised provisions that would gut protections of the 1964 Wilderness Act. This bill would allow unlimited habitat manipulation and development (including temporary road construction) on all federal public lands, including Wilderness, for actions to purportedly facilitate hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, or wildlife conservation. The bill would amend the Wilderness Act to place such projects and activities on par with preserving wilderness character as the *purpose* of the Wilderness Act, and it would exempt all such projects in Wilderness from environmental review.

There are plenty of federal lands that are open to these activities, because the vast majority of federal lands are not designated as Wilderness.

The bill was made even worse on the floor of the House by the addition of numerous bad amendments, including a legislative delisting of the wolf in Wyoming and the Great Lakes from the Endangered Species Act. HR 2406 also blocks our ability to crack down on the illegal ivory trade, condones the shooting of grizzly bears and wolves from airplanes, and the hunting of bears, wolves and coyotes with cubs while they are denning, supports known poacher practices like baiting, and blocks federal agencies from regulating toxic lead from ammunition and fishing tackle. It undermines the Marine Mammal Act and the Endangered Species Act by allowing the imports of Polar bears shot in Canada, so hunters will have access to their trophies. It sets up the creation of an array of gun ranges on our public lands and in all National Monuments across the West, to destroy the safety and solitude that so many seek when hiking or camping.

SHARE has the enthusiastic support of the National Rifle Association, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, and conservative House members. It would waive federal environmental reviews for management decisions on 150 million acres of public land. The bill stems from resentment of the very idea that the federal government should control millions of acres of land and manage it for broad national purposes.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Urge your senators to strongly oppose HR.2406, the SHARE Act. The provisions of the Wilderness Act, which protect but a small fraction of our outdoor lands, must not be weakened. The bill's provisions would give a small special interest group (6% of our people) control of all of America's outdoors. This group contributes far less to conservation than do environmental groups, or than all Americans contribute through their taxes. The vast majority of Americans prefer to hike, camp, go birding, take pictures...in short, enjoy the beauty and magic of our public lands.

4B. *No mechanical transport in Wilderness*

[From *Wilderness Watch*]

Some mountain biker organizations are working to introduce legislation in Congress that would weaken the Wilderness Act so as to allow mountain bikes in designated Wildernesses. When Congress passed the Wilderness Act, it intentionally prohibited both motor vehicles and *mechanical transport* in Wilderness. The Act's lead sponsor in the House of Representatives, Republican John P. Saylor, stated clearly: "the stress and strain of our crowded, fast-moving, highly-mechanized and raucously noisy civilization create another great need for wilderness — a deep need for areas of solitude and quiet, for areas of wilderness where life has not yet given way to machinery."

TCWP signed a letter to Congress circulated by the organization *Wilderness Watch* to show support for protecting the Wilderness Act from this attack.

4C. *Two ways to protect a unique treasure, ANWR's Coastal Plain*

In January 2015, the Obama Administration's Fish & Wildlife Service chose a Conservation Plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) under which 12 million acres of the Refuge will be managed as a Wilderness Study Area. Significantly, this Wilderness Study Area includes ANWR's biological heart, the 1.4 million-acre Coastal Plain.

Recently, for the first time ever, Congress voted on legislation (an amendment to the atrocious SHARE Act, HR.2406 – see ¶4A, above) to designate the Coastal Plain as Wilderness. Though the amendment failed, 176 : 227, it was notable for numbering 9 Republicans among the yes votes. There are also freestanding bills (H.R. S.2341, HR.239) to designate the Coastal Plain a Wilderness, though, with the present Congress, this would indeed be an uphill fight. There is another path, however: designation of the Coastal Plain as a National Monument.

The coastal plain is home to more than 250 animal species, including polar bears, wolverines, musk oxen, arctic foxes, and grizzlies. More than 180 species of birds migrate there each year from all 50 states; when walking across the tundra, you have to take constant care not to step on a bird's nest. A huge herd of caribou (the so-called Porcupine herd) annually migrates across the Coastal Plain to bear and rear their calves in this unique habitat. The

Gwich'in people call the Coastal Plain the "Sacred Place Where Life Begins," because a key part of their culture and their primary food source is the Porcupine caribou.

Despite its biological uniqueness, the Coastal Plain has for over 30 years been threatened with destructive oil & gas exploration and development. It could be saved by presidential designation under the Antiquities Act.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Urge Pres. Obama (address, p. 2) to designate the Coastal Plain of ANWR as a National Monument. (2) Urge your senators (address, p. 2) to support S.2341, which would designate the Coastal Plain as a Wilderness. (3) You can get additional information on these efforts (and sign up for e-mail updates) on www.WeAreTheArctic.org.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank Pres. Obama (address, p. 2) for his leadership in this great achievement, and for the work of his Secretaries of Interior (Sally Jewell) and Agriculture (Tom Vilsack). Also, thank Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) who, for 20 years, has advocated for conserving lands in the California desert

4D. Roadless Rule reinstated for Tongass

Under the Bush Administration there was seemingly endless war against the Roadless Rule promulgated by the Clinton Administration for National Forests, but the Rule has since then returned almost everywhere except for the large, very special, Tongass National Forest in southeastern Alaska. But, not long ago, NRDC (the National Resources Defense Council) and EarthJustice won a federal-appeals-court fight to reinstate the Roadless Rule in this 9.5 million acre forest. The Tongass, America's last great rainforest with much old growth, is home to abundant wildlife.

4E. Pres. Obama designates national monuments conserving California Desert resources

[Information from NPCA]

On February 12, President Obama announced the designation of three long-awaited national monuments in the California desert that will preserve a total of 1.5 million acres of fragile and spectacular lands. Castle Mountains (22,000 acres), Mojave Trails (1.3 million acres), and Sand to Snow (135,000 acres) National Monuments represent a variety of desert landscapes -- Joshua Tree forests, colorful canyons, dramatic mountain ranges, unusual geologic formations, bighorn sheep and desert tortoise habitat. Also preserved will be Native American spiritual and archaeological sites, ancient fossil beds, General Patton's WWII training camps, abandoned ghost towns, and pioneer trails.

Of the three monuments, only Castle Mountains will be managed by the National Park Service. Mojave Trails will be managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and Sand to Snow will be managed jointly by BLM and the U.S. Forest Service.

These monuments are the biggest conservation achievement for that area since 1994, when the California Desert Protection Act established Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and Mojave National Preserve. The three new monuments represent previously unprotected spaces, connecting critical ecosystems and wildlife corridors. Combined with existing national park lands in the region, they now form one of the largest desert conservation reserves in the world.

4F. Public lands again the target of anti-federal sentiment

Remember the Sagebrush Rebellion of the 1970s? Its legacy is the idea that federal land ownership is an economic blight, which Republican administrations of some Western states have used as justification for seizing some controls over public lands. Proposals are constantly being made in a few state legislatures, in Congress, and by some Presidential candidates for selling or transferring federal lands to the states. The latest spectacle has been the takeover by an armed militia of a National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon.

As pointed out by James Surowiecki (*The New Yorker*, 1/25/16), the West has flourished *because of* federal help, not in spite of it. Ranching, mining, and logging industries have been some of the biggest beneficiaries of government largesse. Furthermore, the importance of these industries, which were crucial to the development of the West, is shrinking. Grazing, for example, accounts for less than 1% of total income and employment in most of the region. Recreation and tourism have become ever more important.

The folks involved in the forcible takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge frequently cited the Constitution in maintaining that the federal government has no jurisdiction over the land. Not so. The Constitution explicitly allows the federal government to own and manage lands. States explicitly waived any rights over federally owned land when they became states.

5. OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

5A. Pres. Obama vetoes Congress' overturning of WOTUS rule

Ever since EPA issued Waters of the United States (WOTUS) regulations (NL322 ¶4C), which finally took effect in June of 2015, the rule has been widely attacked by farmers, developers, and some commercial interests that have initiated several law suits against it. The basis of the rule is that smaller (including intermittent and ephemeral) bodies of water must be included in the protections of the Clean Water Act because they are the headwaters of the perennial streams and lakes that constitute our supply of water for drinking, recreation, and economic development.

In November, the Senate, under a legislative tactic called the Congressional Review Act, pushed through a resolution by Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) that would permanently block the EPA's historic progress on clean water. A few Democrats joined virtually all Republicans for a vote

of 57:41 (NL 323 ¶4B). Two months later, the resolution was passed by the House 253:166, with 12 Democrats supporting it. Rep. Chris Smith (N.J.) was the only Republican to vote against the measure.

On January 19, President Obama vetoed the Resolution. He deserves our gratitude (see action box). The Clean Water (WOTUS) Rule is not currently being enforced because of a federal court ruling that blocked its implementation while it is being litigated.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank Pres. Obama (address, p. 2) for vetoing legislation that would have overturned EPA’s Clean Water Rule, which is essential to protecting our threatened supply of clean water.

Our state has the dubious honor of scoring worse than average. While members of the Tennessee delegation constitute only about 2% of the House membership, over 5% of the zero scores can be attributed to Tennesseans.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Tell your representative and both senators that environmental issues matter to you, and that, based on their LCV score, you either commend them or are disappointed in them.

5B. 2015 Environmental Scorecard for Congress

[Information from League of Conservation Voters]

For 2015 (the first session of the 114th Congress), LCV has again published one of its annual, carefully researched and clearly presented, environmental scorecards. (You may view past scorecards, as well as the current one, at <http://scorecard.lcv.org/>.) The scorecard represents the consensus of experts from about 20 respected environmental and conservation groups who selected the key votes on which members of Congress should be scored. The 2015 results are based on 35 House votes and 25 Senate votes. These are votes that presented legislators with a real choice; consensus actions and issues on which no recorded votes occurred are not included.

5C. Environmental scores of Presidential candidates

[Information from League of Conservation Voters]

Of the five contenders still in the running for the nomination, four are, or were, US senators and have earned an LCV score for their lifetime environmental performance on legislative matters. The senators are listed alphabetically; their scores are calculated through 2015, except for Clinton, who left the senate after 2008.

	Lifetime score
Cinton (D)	82
Cruz (R)	5
Sanders (I)	95
Florio (R)	, who recently dropped out of the race, had a Lifetime score of 6

Table 1. LCV scores of Congressional leaders.

	Repub.	Dem.
Senate committee leaders* (5R,5D)	2	94
House committee leaders (6R,6D)	2	82
Senate party leaders** (5R,3D)	2	99
House party leaders (6R,4D)	0	92

*Committee leaders are chairs (Repub.) or ranking members (Dem.).

**Party leaders are majority/minority leaders, whips, caucus chairs, etc

Table 2. . LCV scores of the Tennessee delegation.

	District	Party	2015	Lifetime
Senate				
Alexander	NA	R	24	20
Corker	NA	R	4	13
House				
Roe	1	R	0	3
Duncan	2	R	6	10
Fleischmann	3	R	3	4
DesJarlais	4	R	0	2
Cooper	5	D	80	80
Black	6	R	0	4
Blackburn	7	R	0	2
Fincher	8	R	0	4
Cohen	9	D	100	96

6. ENERGY; CLIMATE CHANGE

6A. Clean Power Plan (CPP) is now on pause

Just four days before the death of Justice Scalia, the Supreme Court (SCOTUS) overruled a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, which had unanimously *denied* motions to stay the Clean Power Plan (CPP). The denial was announced on January 21, following two months of briefing and weeks of careful review of the polluters’ claims.

The SCOTUS action was taken with unparalleled haste -- only days after the big polluters and their allies filed their final legal attacks on reply. It was, moreover, unprecedented; while courts often block rules temporarily, the Supreme Court has never done so when a lower court refused to, and when the merits of the case have not yet been heard by the lower court

The Supreme Court’s decision does *not* address the CPP’s merits, which experts widely consider to rest on a solid legal foundation. The merits of the case are even now being considered by the U.S. Court of Appeals; oral arguments will be held on June 2. The SCOTUS decision does affect the timing of implementation. EPA cannot enforce the rule until the litigation against it is finished. The Supreme Court probably won’t get a chance to hear or rule on the regulation until after Pres. Obama’s term ends next January, giving the coal industry more time to push Congress and the next Administration to cripple the EPA’s ability to regulate greenhouse gases.

Every minute we wait to implement the Clean Power Plan, we pump more carbon into our atmosphere. States and utilities can and should continue to work on their plans to reduce climate emissions. (By the rules of the CPP, states do not have to submit their final plans until 2018, and the rules do not come into force until 2022.) EPA can also continue to work with states that choose to proceed with developing state plans. Most encouraging is EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy's statement that this ruling "is not going to slow us down."

How is Tennessee doing on the CPP?

- (1) Tennessee will not join 27 states that are suing the EPA over carbon limits imposed by the CPP. This could be at least partially due to TVA's confidence that it can meet CPP requirements without hardship (§3C, this NL).
- (2) Some of our legislators are not so wise. Sen. Alexander and Rep. Fleischmann (R-3) were among 200 members of Congress who signed onto a brief in support of the big emitters seeking to strike down the CPP. This *amicus curia* brief by members of Congress was submitted to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit Court.

6B. USA and Canada form clean-energy partnership

[With information from NRDC and Sierra Club]

Agreements reached March 10, when President Obama hosted Canada's new Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for a White House summit, will help the two countries work together to cut the carbon footprint of heavy trucks, passenger aircraft, and power plants; reduce leaks of methane, another powerful greenhouse gas, from both countries' extensive oil and gas operations (see ¶6D, below); and curb releases of yet another strong climate disrupter, the hydrofluorocarbons widely used in refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment.

The new climate statement, released on March 10, indicates that Canada and the U.S. plan to jointly unveil greenhouse-gas-emissions-reduction strategies for the middle of the century, while encouraging other countries within the G-20 to do the same. It reflects the sharp turn Canada made in environmental policies when it elected Trudeau in October, replacing former prime minister Stephen Harper, who had placed the expansion of Canada's oil and gas industry at the center of the country's relationship with the U.S.

6C. China cuts carbon emissions

[Information from NRDC]

China burns about as much coal as the rest of the world combined. At the Paris Climate Summit in December (NL325 ¶7B), China joined the U.S. and more than 180 other countries in putting plans on the table to cut carbon emissions. It is, in fact, moving toward these goals on two fronts. (1) It cut coal consumption by 2.9% in 2014, and by 3.7% in 2015. While its economy grew at the rate of 6.9% in 2015, the amount of energy consumed as a share of economic output fell by 5.6%. (2) China led the world in efforts to get more clean power from the wind and sun, investing a record \$110.5 billion in renewable power, up

17% from 2014, and accounting for a third of the 2015 *global* investment of \$329 billion in clean energy technology.

6D. Existing operations will be included in methane regulations

As reported in NL325 ¶7D, EPA's last year's proposal to strictly limit methane emissions from *new and modified* sources, while a good beginning, would accomplish only a minor part of what is needed. About 90% of methane pollution will be due not to new sources, but to oil and gas facilities *in operation today*. Methane leaks are the second-largest industrial source of climate-changing pollution in our country, after our dirty power plants.

[Information from *The Hill*]

On March 10, chief Gina McCarthy announced that EPA is beginning to tackle the issue of *existing* methane sources, and intends to release proposed regulations next month. As a first step, EPA is immediately requiring oil and gas companies to provide the agency with information on methane output and on reduction strategies. It is not clear whether the EPA will have time before the end of President Obama's term next January to propose and finalize any regulations based on this information.

As part of the joint climate-change declaration between the United States and Canada (¶6B, above), the EPA's new regulations of existing methane sources will be mirrored in Canada by regulations there. Canada is a major oil and gas producer, and has some of the most carbon-intensive fuels in the form of Alberta tar-sands oil and gas. Both countries committed to cut methane emissions from oil and gas operations 40 to 45% below 2012 levels by 2025.

6E. Good signs for clean energy and our economy

As reported by EDF, recently-released 2016 projections for *new* energy generation suggest 72% will come from wind and solar with another 24% coming from natural gas. At the same time, 59% of the retiring generation will be from coal-fired power plants (see also NL325 ¶7E).

According to a new report by the Solar Foundation, jobs in the solar industry have doubled since 2010

In 2010, 93,000,000 employed

In 2015, 209,000,000 employed

That's good news for clean energy *and* our economy.

6F. Oscar winner calls for action on climate change

In accepting his Oscar for best actor, Leonardo DiCaprio, said he appreciated having the chance to reach millions of Oscar viewers with his message: "Climate change is real. It is happening right now. It is the most urgent threat facing our entire species, and we need to work collectively together and stop procrastinating." He called on voters to support leaders who recognize the peril, not those who deny science and are "on the wrong side of history."

7. OAK RIDGE AREA

7A. Three Bends and the Manhattan Project NHP

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The City of Oak Ridge's Environmental Quality Advisory Board and Recreation and Parks Advisory Board have both unanimously recommended that the Three Bends area be included in the Manhattan Project National Park. The Three Bends area was the site of traditional farming for many decades. Soon after the Manhattan Project started, a special farm on Solway Bend became home to cattle from Alamogordo, New Mexico, that had become exposed to radiations during an atomic-bomb test. Those cattle and their descendants were studied for long-term radiation effects.

The historic Freels Cabin, built in the 1820s and one of the earliest settlements in the area, is located on Freels Bend; and an 80-acre recreation area, Clark Center Park, on Gallagher Bend.

A 1999 agreement between DOE and the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency formalized that the 3000-acre Three Bends would be managed as a Wildlife Management Area. The area provides an important habitat and home for numerous threatened, endangered, and rare animal species, including bald eagles, ospreys, and migrant songbirds.

The Three Bend Scenic and Wildlife Management Refuge Area contains a combination of open fields, hedgerows, woodlots, wetlands, and water -- a combination that is becoming increasingly rare in the region. State-listed rare plants include the Canada Lily and Tall Larkspur. The area also includes recognized special habitats such as Chestnut Oak/Tulip Tree/White Oak/ Hickory Forests; White Oak/Northern Red Oak/Hickory Forests; Limestone Sinkholes; Limestone Barrens; and Oak/Hickory/Ash Limestone Woodlands.

7B. Three Bends program, March 24

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Well-known historian and writer Ray Smith will keynote the Thursday, March 24, Annual Meeting of Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR). Smith's remarks will focus on the Three Bends Scenic and Wildlife Management Refuge Area of the Oak Ridge Reservation, to be followed by a roundtable discussion about the cultural and historical values of the Solway, Freels, and Gallagher bends.

The meeting, located in the City Room at Roane State Community College, Oak Ridge campus, is free and open to the public. Networking with refreshments will begin at 6:30; the formal meeting will begin at 7:00.

Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation, founded in 1999, works to support the preservation of the natural resources of the Department of Energy's 20,000+ acre Oak Ridge Reservation and Research Park for the long-term benefit of DOE, the local community, and national and international interests.

7C. New TWRA manager for the Oak Ridge Reservation

[Contributed by Warren Webb]

On March 11, in the relaxed setting of the ORNL hunt Checking Station, representatives of TCWP and Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) met with Aubrey Deck, the new lead TWRA wildlife manager for the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). With Aubrey, who replaces recently retired Jim Evans, was his assistant, TWRA wildlife manager Shannon Young, and ORNL Wildlife Management Coordinator Kelly Roy. TCWP representatives included Executive Director Sandra Goss (who brought a delicious homemade lunch) and Board members Mark Bevelhimer (Vice President), Warren Webb, and Jamie Herold. AFORR Vice President Ellen Smith and Board member Wolf Naegeli attended for AFORR.

The meeting gave attendees a chance to get acquainted and exchange some views on wildlife management priorities and direction for the ORR. We of TCWP were pleased with Aubrey's emphasis on habitat improvement, including management of invasive species populations and his appreciation of the importance of outreach and education. We hope he, Shannon, and Kelly gained some understanding of our (and AFORR's) goals and activities and our science-based approach to conservation. We offer our support where possible to wildlife management and related activities on the ORR.

TCWP welcomes Aubrey to his new position and wishes him success in his new endeavors. We hope to continue and extend our discussion of issues and opportunities in the future.

7D. North Ridge Trail update

TCWP's North Ridge Trail Steward Ray Garrett has agreed that the Trail, which was conceived as a narrow footpath where walkers can enjoy the peace and quiet of nature, should remain closed to vehicles, including mountain bikes. Ray is studying a few minor re-routings to be made where short stretches of the Trail stray outside City boundaries. He has also pointed out that a small parking lot is needed near Key Springs Road, which the Trail crosses partway down the slope.

7E. Manhattan Project NHP Visitor Center

The visitor center for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park is located at the American Museum of Science and Energy. The information desk is now staffed every day and can be reached by calling (865) 576-6767.

7F. MORE² (= Make Oak Ridge Energy Efficient)

The MORE² project, funded by a TVA grant, will perform whole-home, deep energy retrofits for 229 qualified low-income residents in Oak Ridge homes that are at least 20 years old. Energy audits will be performed to determine which energy-saving measures can be utilized to achieve reduction in electric-energy consumption. For

more information, visit MakeOREE.com, or call 865-375-4656.

8. TCWP NEWS

8A. *Upcoming activities*

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

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

Garlic mustard pull/wildflower walk – Sat., April 9

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. Naturalist Kris Light will lead our wildflower walk this year.

Information Program on Invasive Exotic Pests – Thursday, May 5

Scott Schlarbaum, director of the University of Tennessee's Tree Improvement Program, will discuss invasive exotic insect pests in an information program cosponsored by the UT Arboretum Society. The talk will be presented at the Society's new auditorium on S. Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge, beginning at 7 p.m.

Dr. Schlarbaum, a faculty member of UT's Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries since 1984, has served in a variety of professional positions and committees regarding forest health and genetics.

Big Soddy Creek Gulf Wildflower Walk – Sat., May 14

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

This joint outing for TCWP and the Tennessee Native Plant Society will be much like last year's Roaring Creek Wildflower Walk. The first 1.25 miles is ideal for those with limited hiking capabilities; it is a nearly flat gravel road along a beautiful rushing stream. Some may wish to stop at that distance. For those who continue, there is a stream crossing and a scenic but rocky section of the Cumberland Trail, ending at the newly completed Big Soddy Creek Bridge. For those continuing to the bridge, the total is about 5 miles round trip. There will be much plant discussion.

Participants can meet for carpooling in the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) at 9 a.m.; or meet at the BP station on US 27 just north of Soddy Daisy (Bakewell) at the intersection with Retro-Hughes (west side)

and McCallie Ferry (east side) at 10:45 a.m. We will carpool from the BP station to the trailhead.

For more information, contact Larry Pounds at 865-705-8516 (cell, best bet), 865-816-3576 (home), or via email at PoundsL471@aol.com.

Hike on New Section of Cumberland Trail (Crab Orchard exit, Daddy's Creek) – Saturday, May 21

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

This is a second TCWP/TNPS joint outing. This section of the Cumberland Trail was built just last fall, so this will be its first spring-botanizing event. We will see headwater wetlands and Daddy's Creek with its cobble bars. Total walking distance will be about 5 miles, but some may choose to walk less.

Participants can meet for carpooling in the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) at 9 a.m.; or meet at the BP station at I-40 Crab Orchard exit 329 east of Crossville at 10 a.m. We will caravan from Crab Orchard to the trailhead.

For more information, contact Larry Pounds at 865-705-8516 (cell, best bet), 865-816-3576 (home), or via email at PoundsL471@aol.com.

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]

Whites Creek Trail workday – Saturday, January 16

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

On January 16, eight intrepid TCWP volunteers braved the threat of rain and snow to spend a beautiful winter day doing trail maintenance at TVA's Whites Creek Small Wild Area on Watts Bar Reservoir in Rhea County. While clearing brush away from the trail, volunteers were treated to the sight and sound of several loons on the Whites Creek embayment near the trailhead. Perhaps the biggest surprise of the day was finding two small bluets in flower after the unseasonably warm spell we had in the early part of the winter. Besides the trail work and the wonderful blessing of the loons and bluets, we also helped a local resident whose truck was stuck on the boat ramp.

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

TVA Natural Resources Information Program – Thursday, February 11

About 30 people turned out on February 11 to hear Rebecca Tolene, TVA's Vice President of Natural Resources and

Real Property Services, speak on “Challenges and Opportunities of Natural Resources.” The challenges cited by Tolene include a limited land base in some areas; providing for mixed uses while still protecting the resource; violations and encroachments; competing stakeholder demands across the Tennessee Valley; and communication.

Tolene then discussed partnership opportunities, giving as an example TVA’s strong partnership with TCWP, specifically at Worthington Cemetery, the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren, and the Whites Creek Small Wild Area. Other partnership opportunities exist in the areas of ecotourism, environmental education programs, water and cultural resources, and natural resource management, where partnerships are ongoing with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the University of Tennessee. She closed the program with a question-and-answer period.

Alley Ford Cumberland Trail Workday – Sat., February 20

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

On February 20, TCWP volunteers coordinated with National Park Service staff for a trail-maintenance workday on the Alley Ford segment of the Cumberland Trail at the Obed Wild and Scenic River in Morgan County. We had a phenomenal response, and ended up with more than 40 volunteers and Obed staff. There were so many people we couldn’t count them all, and we almost didn’t know what to do with so many.

Trail workers included several TCWP members, volunteers from Morgan County (including Emory River Watershed Association and Cumberland Trail Conference members), an Oak Ridge High School student, a Pellissippi State Technical Community College student, and more than 20 University of Tennessee students. The UT folks were part of the Environmental Studies Program. (Special thanks to ESP Chair Dr. Mike McKinney for the great turnout.)

We split up into four groups and targeted separate sections of trail, including the 2.5-mile Alley Ford section and the newly constructed 1.5-mile section that begins at Nemo Picnic area and will eventually connect to Wartburg. TCWP adopted the 2.5-mile section of the Cumberland Trail in 1998 as part of its ongoing stewardship efforts.

Spring Cedar Barren Cleanup – Saturday, March 5

(Contributed by Tim Bigelow)

Fifteen current and former Oak Ridge High School students under the guidance of Deni Sobek, Advanced Placement Environmental Science instructor, joined several TCWP volunteers for the Spring Cedar Barren workday. The students worked at a feverish pace, clearing an area north of the ellipse of a few smaller trees and some invasive plants. Other volunteers worked on pulling privet, bush honeysuckle and multiflora rose. The group also worked on the front Triangle area a bit, using weed wrenches to pull some woody plants that were taking hold there. TVA has loaned some newer weed wrenches to TCWP for use at the Cedar Barren and at Worthington Cemetery.

The weather was perfect, and volunteers were treated to a pizza lunch after the work session.

8C. *On-the-River Celebration of the Life of Frank Hensley*

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

Hello Friends of Frank,

We said good-bye to our dear friend, mentor, and hero Frank Hensley with shock and grief last July. Some of his adventuring friends (of which there are many!) are having a low-key, laid-back gathering of anyone who wants to join in remembering and honoring Frank on the bank of his beloved Obed Wild and Scenic River. Frank spent many hours paddling, exploring, and working to protect this beautiful and valuable resource, so this is a fitting place to remember him.

This get-together will be on Friday, April 1, at Nemo (on river left, not the Rock Creek campground) at the Obed Wild and Scenic River, beginning at 6 pm, and we expect it will last about an hour. The gathering will be very informal, and attendees are welcome to wear river or hiking clothes and gear and to load boats on/in their vehicles in Frank’s honor and spirit.

Feel free to bring a chair, your own beverage, and snacks (finger foods) to share afterward, if you want

Directions to Nemo from the Obed Visitor Center in Wartburg:

Turn right out of the visitor center parking lot onto Maiden Street and drive until you reach the intersection of Main Street. Continue straight across Main Street to the next intersection and turn right onto Spring Street. Spring Street becomes Catoosa Road at the curve to the left. Stay on this road and follow the signs approximately 5-1/2 miles. Turn right into the Nemo Day-Use Area just before crossing the bridge over the River.

Everyone is welcome, so please forward this message to others you know who may want to participate.

If you have questions, feel free to text or call Cindy (865-386-6382), Sandra (865-805-1470), or Jimmy (865-805-9908).

Cindy

8D. *TCWP’s 2016 Political Guide is out*

Once again, Carol Grametbauer has undertaken the enormous task of compiling a Political Guide for the year. Thank you, Carol! This mighty useful document provides contact information for legislators and administrative offices at both the federal and state levels. The Guide was recently mailed to all members who receive a paper copy of the Newsletter, and may also be viewed at the TCWP website, tcwp.org. We hope you use it often to express your opinion, or recommend action, to the people who influence environmental outcomes.

8E. Ambassadors needed; training offered

[From Sandra Goss]

TCWP plans to exhibit at the upcoming Knox Earth Fest and Oak Ridge Earth Day, Saturday, April 16 and 23, respectively. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth in 2-hour shifts, between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in Knoxville (World's Fair Park) on April 16, and between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at Oak Ridge Bissell Park on April 23. Contact Sandra to offer your assistance.

Volunteers are eligible to attend free Exhibitor Training, presented by Brittany Ballerini, professional trainer and facilitator. Seating will be limited and registration is required (contact Sandra). There will be two identical sessions, Tuesday, April 12 at 9:00 and Thursday, April 14 at 4:30. The training will last no longer than 1¼ hours.

Participants will have an opportunity to practice their greeting skills, and receive a tip sheet on how to interact with festival visitors.

8F. TCWP's PayPal Account now working

[From Sandra Goss]

The TCWP website offers financial supporters the option of contributing through PayPal. Our account did not work properly for a few weeks around the beginning of the year. It's fixed now! Please, come on back to www.tcwp.org and renew your membership.

8G. Thanks, and a tip of the hat to ...

[From Sandra Goss]



- Carol Grametbauer for updating the annual *TCWP Political Guide*.
- Jimmy Groton for his leadership of the Whites Creek Clean-up, and trail maintainers Mark Bevelhimer, Shelaine Headrick, Joe Horton, John Holcovik, Donna Kridelbaugh, Harriett McCurdy.
- Francis Perey for his website management.
- Jean Bangham, John Bates, Bob Compton, Katherine Hensley, Joe Horton, Donna Kridelbaugh, Eileen Neiler, Lise Neiler, and Marti Salk for their hard work assembling Newsletter 325. The task was wrapped up in two hours, a new world's speed record!
- Tom Howard, Frances Lamberts, Fred Ray, Lee Russell, Annetta Watson and many others for submitting comments on the Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition. Thanks also to the folks who testified at one of four public hearings including John Noel, Kathleen Williams, Katherine Medlock, Bonnie Swinford, Will Wilson, Melinda Welton, Ann League, Annetta Watson, Lee Russell, Chuck Estes, Mike Sale, Mary Mastin, Brian Pad-

dock, Jean Cheely, Renee Hoyos, Tom Waterman, Emily Jones, Axel Ringe, Harold (Duck) Waddle, Dave Wasilko, Will Skelton, and Todd Waterman.

- Robert Kennedy for the loan of a couple of easels.
- John Bates for his help with computer back-up.
- Rebecca Tolene for talking about TVA's Natural Resources Division at a recent information program.
- UT Earth and Planetary Sciences professor Mike McKinney for encouraging his students to attend the annual Alley Ford CT Section Trail day.
- Jimmy Groton, Tim Bigelow, and Larry Pounds for their leadership of the Alley Ford CT Section Trail day.
- John Bates, Jimmy Groton, Katherine Hensley, Joe Horton, Donna Kridelbaugh, Harriett McCurdy, Eileen Neiler, Lise Neiler, Dick Raridon for assembling the *2016 TCWP Political Guide*.
- Tim Bigelow, Jimmy Groton, and Larry Pounds for their leadership at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren Cleanup.
- Warren Webb for setting up a meeting with Oak Ridge Reservation managers from ORNL and TWRA; and Mark Bevelhimer, Jamie Herold, and Warren for representing TCWP at the meeting.

8H. Friends and Members in the news

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]

- A picture of a barred owl, taken by Bill Hodge, Executive Director of Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS), was featured in the January 25 *News Sentinel*.
- Ed LeGrand and a pipit he saw in his yard were mentioned in Marcia Davis' bird column in the January 31 *News Sentinel*.
- Gabby Lynch wrote a letter to the January/February *Sierra Magazine* about locally sourced, affordable food.
- Joe Feeman penned an article about his recent travels to Colorado, Hawaii, and other places in the January 13 and March 2 issues of the *Norris Bulletin*.
- Silver Fir Media, the small company that produced the Obed Wild and Scenic River film, was featured in a February 3 *News Sentinel* article about their current work to produce a film on the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (¶1D, this NL).
- Lee Russell's letter to the editor of the *Oak Ridger* opposing the proposed siting of a school building in Elm Grove Park was published February 16.
- Tennessee Environmental Council's 50K Tree Day was featured in the February 17 *News Sentinel*.
- Joe Feeman was the guide on a Norris Watershed hike reported by Morgan Simmons in the February 5 *News Sentinel*.

- Dan Robbins and Doug Colclasure were pictured accepting Bluebird houses on behalf of Greenways Oak Ridge in the January 8 *Oak Ridger*.
- Kris Light's photo of a snowflake was in the February 9 *Oak Ridger*.
- Jerry and Jo Hardin and David Hennessee were pictured in the March 2 *Morgan County News* at a luncheon for retired teachers.
- Richard Evans penned a piece in the *Clinton Courier* praising the Clinch River Chapter of Trout Unlimited.
- Harry Shatz wrote a letter to the editor of the March 6 (*Clinton*) *Courier News* about the Anderson County Mayor and Commission.
- Barbara Allen is quoted in the March 9 *News Sentinel* article about the TVA Floating Houses policy.

forest invasives that will “scare the pants” off attendees, and a July Fall Creek Falls outing with State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath that includes a dip in a cooling pool.

Want to learn more about any of these activities? Give me a call at 865.583-3967 or e-mail sandra@sandrakgoss.com.

9. JOB OPENINGS; CALENDAR

•• JOB OPENINGS

The Big South Fork NRRA is accepting applications for lifeguards to staff the Bandy Creek pool this summer. Applications can be submitted at www.usajobs.gov

•• CALENDAR (events and deadlines)

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

- March 24, Ray Smith talk about Three Bends (see ¶7B, this NL).
- March 26, Obed Rafting Trip with Trash Collection (see ¶1B, this NL).
- March 26, “Flood of 1929” talk (see ¶1E, this NL).
- April 1, Celebration of Life of Frank Hensley (see ¶8C, this NL).
- April 5, “HWA treatment Options” (see ¶1Ai, this NL).
- April 9, Potters Falls hemlock workshop (see ¶1Aii, this NL).
- April 9, Garlic mustard pull/wildflower walk (see ¶8A, this NL).
- April 16-24, National Parks Week, start of exhibits at airport, etc. (see ¶1E, this NL).
- April 16, Knox Earth Fest (see ¶8E, this NL).
- April 23, Oak Ridge Earth Day (see ¶8E, this NL).
- May 5, Talk on Invasive Exotic Pests (see ¶8E, this NL).
- May 14, Big Soddy Creek Gulf Wildflower Walk (see ¶8A, this NL).
- May 21, Hike on new section of CT (Crab Orchard exit, Daddy's Creek (see ¶8A, this NL).

***Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better. It is not.***

— Dr. Seuss in “The Lorax”

8J. Executive Director's Column

[By Sandra Goss]

TCWP has got it going on!! A few weeks ago, the TCWP Board met for a Long Term Strategy session, out of which some goals were formulated; strengths and weaknesses were identified; and recent accomplishments were celebrated.

We want to attract new members and supporters, as well as rejuvenate our former members and supporters. We want to increase programming that reaches young people, and we want to heighten our presence on social media.

Our strengths include our science-based approach to environmental issues, our credibility, and our relationships with sister and cousin organizations, among others.

Weaknesses include membership erosion.

Won't you help us? Join the scores of volunteers who help with outreach, program development and implementation, and other worthy chores. We welcome folks to join our Mailing Committee (which gathers every other month for *TCWP Newsletter* assembly), various *ad hoc* groups that form around specific issues, the volunteers who help with trail or wild-area maintenance events, or the Program Committee, responsible for developing our exciting calendar of events.

We're looking to recruit a candidate for a seat on the Community Shares Board. That group meets quarterly, mostly in Nashville, and has some involvement standards that will take 3-10 hours/quarter. Thanks to Jan Lyons for serving as TCWP's first rep on the CS Board. Her work contributed mightily to the “sweat equity” required to remain a CS member group in good standing.

We need ambassadors to help with TCWP's exhibits at upcoming Earth Day celebrations (¶8D) and hospitality at our informational programs. Also needed are writers to compose web content and newsletter articles.

With the arrival of temperate weather come hikes, invasive species battles, and informational programs. The exciting calendar of events (¶8A) includes hikes cosponsored with the Tennessee Native Plant Society, an informational program cosponsored by Friends of the Arboretum about

16 Reasons to be a member of TCWP for 2016

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning:

- * **Issues the most informative environmental newsletter in the state**
- * **Secures special lands in Obed River Gorge**
- * **Maintains Whites Creek Trail (Rhea Co.)**
- * **Provides TCWP E-letters on timely environmental issues**
- * **The TCWP Newsletter and E-letters can help you make a difference**
- * **Conducts regular invasive plants cleanup at Oak Ridge Barrens State Natural Area**
- * **Monitors and comments on Big South Fork NRRRA management**
- * **Sponsors informative presentations**
- * **Is long-time adopter of Alley Ford segment of Cumberland Trail**
- * **Takes active role in oil and gas rules formulation**
- * **Sponsors yearly exotic pest plant removal at Worthington Cemetery**
- * **Works to stop Mountain Top Removal Coal Mining**
- * **Advocates for pure drinking water**
- * **Built and maintains the North Ridge Trail (Oak Ridge)**
- * **Fights for healthy state and national forests**
- * **Comments on timbering and gold mining extraction**

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

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

Please visit www.tcwp.org for secure contribution or send form, and check (**payable to TCWP**), to:
Tim Bigelow, Treasurer, TCWP; 10626 Forest Crest Rd., Knoxville, TN 37922

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

1. Student, Correspond, Senior (low budget)..\$15.00 2. REGULAR (individual)..... \$25.00

3. Family \$35.00 Other name(s) for mbr _____

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

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

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Coming Events

- Thurs., Mar. 24 AFORR Annual Meeting, featuring Ray Smith
- Sat., Mar. 26 Obed River Cleanup from Rafts
- Tues., April 5 Controlling Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Presentation
- Sat., April 9 Wildflower Tour/Garlic Mustard Weed Wrangle at Oak Ridge Wildflower Greenway
- Sat., April 9 Hemlock Woolly ADELgid Workshop
- Tue., April 12 Training—Greeting Visitors to Your Booth, and How to Advocate for TCWP
- Thur., April 14
- Sat. April 16 Knox Earth Fest
- Sat. April 23 Oak Ridge Earth Day
- Thurs., May 5 Exotic Invasive Insects Program
- Sat., May 14 Big Soddy Creek Gulf Wildflower Walk
- Sat., May 21 Wildflower Walk on New Section of Cumberland Trail