



Tennessee  
Citizens for  
Wilderness  
Planning

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<b>1. Tennessee news</b> .....	<b>p. 3</b>	
A. New TDEC Commissioner		D. Conservation-Education Day
B. Deputy Commissioner dismissed		E. Frozen Head activities
C. The legislature has begun		F. Frozen Head volunteering
<b>2. Obed and Big South Fork.</b> .....	<b>p. 4</b>	
A. Citizen-Science in the Obed WSR		
B. Sheltoee Trace may be extended south from BSFNRRRA		
C. Service opportunities for volunteers		
D. Obed/BSF Science meeting		
<b>3. TVA news</b> .....	<b>p. 5</b>	
A. Bull Run will shut down by 2023		
B. TVA updating its Integrated Resource Plan		
C. TVA has new President and CEO		
<b>4. The Cherokee and other national forests</b> .....	<b>p. 6</b>	
A. Environmentally damaging proposal for Corridor K		
B. The recent Tennessee-Wilderness victory: history and significance		
C. Administration drastically increases national forest logging		
<b>5. Public Lands</b> .....	<b>p. 7</b>	
A. LWCF reauthorized as part of major resource-protection bill, S.47		
B. S.47 is not perfect		
C. Restore our Parks Act is reintroduced		
D. New Interior Secretary is no improvement over Zinke		
E. National Park resources damaged during government shutdown		
F. Longest period in Park Service history without a director		
<b>6. Other national news</b> .....	<b>p. 8</b>	
A. Proposed WOTUS rule changes are a major threat to our waters		
B. LCV's Environmental Scorecard for 2018		
C. Another reason the Wall must not be built		
D. The Green New Deal		
<b>7. TCWP news</b> (Upcoming and recent activities; Ruth Neff, Dave Reister, JoAnn Thompson; Help needed; TCWP feted; Community Shares banquet; Thanks; In the news) .....	<b>p.10</b>	
<b>8. Calendar and Resources</b> .....	<b>p. 14</b>	<b>9. ACTION SUMMARY</b> ... <b>p. 2</b>

Taking Care of Wild Places

**The BIG stories**

**New Commissioner and Deputy for TDEC .. ¶1A,B**

**Bull Run Power Plant will shut down by 2023 ..... ¶3A**

**TVA updating IRP ..... ¶3B**

**LWCF reauthorized ..... ¶5A**

**Must oppose disastrous WOTUS rule ..... ¶6A**

**National Forest logging drastically increased .....¶4C**

**Shutdown damages national park resources . ¶5E**

Editor: Liane B. Russell, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. E-mail: lianerussell@comcast.net  
Shaded box or star means "Action Needed." Don't be overwhelmed -- check the ACTION SUMMARY on p. 2

**9. ACTION SUMMARY**

No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1F,2C	Volunteering in area parks	Contacts listed in articles	Express your willingness to volunteer
3B	TVA's Integrated Resource Plan	irp@tva.gov	"Implement Strategies B through E!"
5C	Maintenance backlog in parks	Your rep. and senators	"Support Restore Our Parks bill!" "Thanks, Sen. Alexander!"
6A	Proposed WOTUS rule	www.regulations.gov	By April 15, send comment, strongly opposing. Also, LTE's.
6B	2018 voting record	Your rep. and senators	"Environmental issues matter to me!"
7D	TCWP exhibit on April 20	Sandra Goss	Offer to volunteer for 2 hours.

Senator John Doe United States Senate Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 <a href="https://lastname.senate.gov/">https://lastname.senate.gov/</a>	The Hon. John Doe U.S. House of Representatives House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 <a href="https://lastname.house.gov/">https://lastname.house.gov/</a>	Pres. Donald Trump The White House Washington, DC 20500 202-456-1111 (comments); 456-1414 (switchbd); Fax 456-2461 <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact">www.whitehouse.gov/contact</a>	Governor Bill Lee State Capitol Nashville, TN 37243-9872 615-741-2001; Fax 615-532-9711 <a href="mailto:bill.lee@state.tn.us">bill.lee@state.tn.us</a>
Dear Senator Doe Sincerely yours,	Dear Congressman Doe Sincerely yours,	Dear Mr. President Respectfully yours,	Dear Gov. Lee Respectfully yours,

Sen. Marsha Blackburn Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-0566 e-mail: senator@blackburn.senate.gov Local: 865-637-4180 (FAX 637-9886) 800 Market St., Suite 121, Knoxville 37902	Sen. Lamar Alexander: Ph: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3398 e-mail: <a href="mailto:lamar@alexander.senate.gov">lamar@alexander.senate.gov</a> Local: 865-545-4253 (FAX 545-4252) 800 Market St., Suite 112, Knoxville 37902	Rep. Chuck Fleischmann: Phone: 202-225-3271 FAX: 202-225-3494 Local (O.R.): 865-576-1976 <a href="https://fleischmann.house.gov/contact-me">https://fleischmann.house.gov/contact-me</a>
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To call any rep. or senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772.  
 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 "take action" alerts**  
**You can also choose to receive e-letters 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.

TCWP: P.O. Box 6873., Oak Ridge, TN 37831  
**Executive and Membership-Development Director:** Sandra Goss, 865-583-3967. [Sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:Sandra@sandrakgoss.com)  
**Newsletter editor:** Lee Russell, [lianerussell@comcast.net](mailto:lianerussell@comcast.net) **TCWP website:** <http://www.tcwp.org>

## 1. TENNESSEE NEWS

### 1A. *Our new TDEC Commissioner*

In mid-January, Governor Lee asked David Salyers to serve as Commissioner for the Department of Environment & Conservation. Salyers, a geologist, has been connected with TDEC for more than 20 years through his previous role as executive director of the West Tennessee River Basin Authority. About a month after Salyers became Commissioner, he hosted a conservation stakeholder discussion to which TCWP's executive director Sandra Goss was invited.

She reports that there was nicely facilitated discussion about the threats/challenges to conservation, as well as about opportunities, and possible partnerships to pursue these. The Commissioner emphasized the Governor's dedication to enhancing rural areas, a focus that might provide some opportunities to conserve wild lands and waters. There was some enthusiasm for the idea of generating dedicated conservation funds through a change in sales tax on outdoor equipment.

### 1B. *Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill is dismissed*

In early February, Deputy Commissioner of Parks and Conservation, Brock Hill, was removed from office "following an investigation into complaints of workplace misconduct." Brock Hill had joined TDEC in March, 2011, overseeing (among other things) state parks and state natural areas.

Anne Marshall, formerly Advisor to the Deputy Commissioner, will serve as interim Deputy Commissioner. She had been in charge of the Parks and Conservation Bureau of 8 Divisions that includes State Parks, Natural Areas, Archaeology, Interpretive Programming and Education. Prior to joining TDEC, she was Executive Director of the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association.

### 1C. *The legislature has begun its work*

[Information from Tenn. Conservation Voters]

The bill-filing deadline ended the first week of February, and it was expected that more than 1,000 bills would be filed. So far, the following is among bills we may want to support:

SJR.192 (Yager), expresses support for the enactment of legislation that requires all board committee meetings of the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors to be open to the public. The LWV-Oak Ridge has encouraged its members to thank Sen. Yager for upholding the values of transparency and open government.

### 1D. *Conservation Education Day 2019*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

More than 50 Tennesseans met with state legislators in Nashville in early March for Conservation Day on the Hill. The annual event is a joint effort of TEC (Tennessee Environmental Council), the Tennessee Sierra Club, and TCV

(Tennessee Conservation Voters, of which TCWP is a member).

Among the bills of interest to the enviro/conservation-minded folks were:

- SB.308/HB.377, which would make changes in utility-bill round-up programs that would result in reducing the amount of money available for energy-conservation measures for low-income-rate payers.
- SB.916/HB.259, which would eliminate the present requirement that evaluation of TDOT projects include consideration of alternative locations, routes, or alignments.
- SB.928/HB.219 (solid-waste-disposal, gasification, and pyrolysis), a complex bill that, because of potentially significant impacts on air quality, should go to a study committee.
- Several bills that would improve access to legislative and administrative information and participation in public hearings deserve support:
  - SB.1073/HB.593 would improve access to TDEC hearings;
  - SJR.192 supports a bill that would require all TVA-Board meetings to be open to the public (see, also ¶1C, above);
  - SB.0079/HB.0130 would improve access to internet and other data services for areas with low population density.

The group commended the General Assembly on improving timely access to bill amendments.

### 1E. *Frozen Head Wildflower Pilgrimage and other activities*

[Contributed by Ranger Kayley Kempton]

The biodiversity of wildflowers in Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area is second only, in the Southeast, to that of the Great Smoky Mountains. Differences in elevation throughout the park's trails make for a long and wondrous wildflower-viewing season that begins in March. Prime viewing time for the largest variety of wildflowers is during the Park's Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage, the 52<sup>nd</sup> this year. The pilgrimage is held during the second and third weekends in April. This is peak season for viewing flowers such as several types of Trillium, Trout Lily, Blood Root, and other elusive flowers. Can you spot Yellow and Pink Lady Slippers or Spotted Mandarin? By joining us on one of our scheduled hikes for this event, you will see more than you bargained for (see ¶7A and 8, this NL).

Frozen Head is more than flowers alone. Frozen Head is a community for the people, plants, and animals of the region. Monthly programming highlights several different facets of Frozen Head. Whether you enjoy hiking the beautiful terrain, preserving and protecting the trail system by joining our trail crew (see ¶1F, below), wading in the cool waters of the creek, or listening to the sweet mountain music of banjos, guitars and mandolins - there is something for everyone here. Visit <https://tnstateparks.com/parks/events/frozen-head> to stay up-to-date with

the most current activities, events and opportunities available. We hope to see you soon.

### **1F. Frozen Head volunteer opportunities**

The following lists were provided by Frozen Head State Park staff.

#### A. Independent tasks (without presence of Park Personnel):

- Weeding flower beds
- Painting signs and banisters
- Program Schedule distribution
- Litter patrol in the Gobey (Emory River) area
- Lopping Trails
- Ditch clearing in the Flat Fork area
- Removing mold and mildew from the Book House

#### B. With direct supervision of Park Personnel:

- Mulching beds and trees
- Putting up Park fencing
- Special-event(s) set up
- Volunteer-day assistance (e.g. National Public Lands Day)

For all tasks, volunteers are required to first check in at the Park Office for instructions and guidance, and the issuance of an identification name tag.

able to take a small bit of ownership for my favorite park deepens my gratitude and appreciation for how incredibly lucky we are to have the Obed WSR in our own back yard, and gives me a renewed respect for the NPS staff who work long hours in tough conditions to ensure the Obed is protected. The program also reminded me that the Obed watershed, though officially "protected," is always at risk from upstream pollution and development. Though the Obed WSR only encompasses about 45 miles of river system, the Obed River watershed drains a 520-square-mile area of the Cumberland Plateau.

TCWP was formed more than 50 years ago, partly in response to the threat of a dam on the Obed River. Efforts like the citizen-science program can help us identify ongoing threats to the Obed WSR and help us grow and educate the community of people who recognize the Obed WSR for the fragile national treasure that it is. As one of our founders, Lee Russell, once said of the early efforts of TCWP, “. . . those who loved the Obed realized that just saving it from one threat was not enough – it needed positive protection for all times to come.”

### **2B. Sheltoewe Trace may be extended south from Big South Fork NRR**

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

The Sheltoewe Trace is a National Recreation Trail created in 1979, and named after Daniel Boone, who was given the name Sheltoewe (“Big Turtle”) when adopted by a Shawnee warrior chief. Currently, the trail runs 323 miles from the northern boundary of the Daniel Boone National Forest in Rowan County, KY, to the southern boundary of the Big South Fork NRR.

On March 7, the Sheltoewe Trace Association (STA) hosted a meeting in Wartburg to discuss plans to connect the Sheltoewe Trace to the Cumberland Trail. Recently, the STA has been working closely with the National Park Service to extend the trail through the Big South Fork NRR. Work is currently underway to continue it all the way to Rugby. The plan, still in very early stages, includes extending the trail from Rugby to Frozen Head State Park near Wartburg. A specific route between Rugby and Wartburg is still under evaluation.

Connecting the Sheltoewe to the Cumberland Trail at Frozen Head would enable future users to continue south on the Cumberland Trail to Chattanooga, or north to Cumberland Gap National Park. At the northern end of the Trace, in Kentucky, users can head east on the Great Eastern Trail and, in the future, hike all the way to western New York. In the north, the STA is working to connect the Sheltoewe to the North Country/Buckeye Trail which would someday, when connections are completed, enable users to head to the west coast.

The Sheltoewe Trace Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit association with the purpose of achieving the formation of a highly functional cross-state recreation trail. The STA is a member-supported organization, managed by

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## **2. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK**

### **2A. A Citizen Science experience in the Obed WSR**

[Contributed by Johnny Cosgrove]

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Obed Wild & Scenic River (WSR) launched a citizen-science water-monitoring project in August, 2018. The goal of this project was to educate volunteers and the public on the water-quality conditions and current threats at Obed WSR and to determine the feasibility of continuing this pilot program into the future. TCWP served as a sponsoring organization for this effort.

A citizen scientist is an individual, with or without a formal science background, who voluntarily contributes his or her time, effort, and resources toward scientific research in collaboration with professional scientists. The Obed WSR citizen-science pilot project focused on collection and analysis of water samples from five sites in the Obed watershed: Potters Ford on the Obed River, Devil’s Breakfast Table on Daddy’s Creek, Clear Creek at Lilly Bridge and Barnett Bridge, and Emory River at Nemo Bridge. The water samples were tested for coliform bacteria. Over the course of four months, each 5-person team responded to rain-event alerts from NPS staff, which initiated a 24-hour sampling/inoculation-incubation/analysis routine. Though the recent government shutdown brought the project to an abrupt halt, reams of data were collected over a three-month period and are currently being compiled and reviewed by NPS staff.

For this writer, the Obed WSR citizen-science pilot project was a powerful and eye-opening experience. To be

an elected board of directors and led by an Executive Director. Current membership is over 500. Find out more about the STA and future plans at <https://www.shel-toweetrace.org/>

### **2C. Service opportunities for volunteers**

You can join the Trail Keeper Program, or volunteer for any of several other service activities at BSFNRRRA or Obed WSR. Contact the volunteer coordinators, Effie Houston ([effie\\_houston@nps.gov](mailto:effie_houston@nps.gov)) for BSFNRRRA, or Veronica Greear ([veronica\\_greear@nps.gov](mailto:veronica_greear@nps.gov)) for Obed WSR.

### **2D. Obed/BSF Science meeting April 24**

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The public is invited to spend a day with scientists who have been conducting research at the Obed WSR and Big South Fork NRRRA. This science meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 24, 2017, at the Historic Rugby Visitor Center (1333 Rugby Parkway, Rugby, Tennessee). For more information, call Etta Spradlin at 423.569-9778.

## **3. TVA NEWS**

### **3A. Bull Run Plant will shut down by 2023**

Now it's official: on February 14, the TVA Board voted unanimously to retire the Bull Run Fossil Plant in Anderson County by December 2023, and the 49-year-old Paradise Fossil Plant Unit #3 in Drakesboro, Kentucky by the end of 2020. An EA concluded that the Paradise plant's last operating coal unit was no longer needed, unreliable, and too expensive to repair and operate, burdening TVA's customers with higher costs and more pollution.

Bull Run is the only single-generator coal-fired power plant in the TVA system. When the generator went into operation in 1967, it was the largest in the world in the volume of steam produced. It now has the worst rate in the TVA coal fleet for "forced outages," i.e. unplanned shutdowns for the repair or replacement of failed equipment. Bull Run is described as having "relatively high projected future maintenance costs and environmental compliance expenditures." It is also "a poor generation fit" for TVA's future power demands.

In its February 14 decision, the TVA Board (which includes four Trump appointees) bravely defied both Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Pres. Trump. Most of the coal shipped to the Paradise plant has recently come from Kentucky mines that are part of Murray Energy Corp., which is led by coal baron and Trump supporter Robert E. Murray. (Murray has pushed for a government-ordered bailout of coal, NL340 ¶7B). As TVA has shifted away from coal in recent years to more nuclear, natural-gas, and renewable energy, it has shaved fuel costs by \$1 billion a year.

### **3B. TVA is updating Integrated Resource Plan**

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Normally, TVA updates its IRP (Integrated Resource Plan) at 5-year intervals, but because of the rapidly changing utility marketplace, TVA is already holding public meetings around the valley to review its newly developed proposal. The 2019 Scoping Report can be viewed at [https://www.tva.gov/file\\_source/TVA/Site%20Content/Environment/Environmental%20Stewardship/IRP/2019%20Documents/TVA%202019%20IRP%20Scoping%20Report\\_20180731.pdf](https://www.tva.gov/file_source/TVA/Site%20Content/Environment/Environmental%20Stewardship/IRP/2019%20Documents/TVA%202019%20IRP%20Scoping%20Report_20180731.pdf).

The IRP considers 30 portfolios of energy sourcing and management, and folds these into 5 strategies.

- A. Base Case: Continued implementation of the 2015 IRP in accordance with least-cost optimization and reliability constraints.
- B. Promote Distributed Energy Resources: Implement small scale energy sources such as solar panels or institutional heating/cooling plants.
- C. Resiliency: Add small, agile capacity to maximize flexibility and promote resiliency to be able to respond to short-term disruptions on the power system. This could include small modular reactors, microgrids, and flexible loads.
- D. Efficient Energy Usage: Incentivize targeted electrification, demand and energy management to minimize peaks and troughs and promote efficient energy usage.
- E. Promote Renewables: Incentivize renewables at all scales to meet growing prospective or existing customer demands for renewable energy.

TVA welcomes input about which energy sources matter, with comments sent to [irp@tva.gov](mailto:irp@tva.gov) by April 8.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Thank TVA for responding to the rapidly changing energy market, and ask that Strategies B through E be implemented. Comments should be sent to [irp@tva.gov](mailto:irp@tva.gov) by April 8.

### **3C. TVA has new President and CEO**

Effective April 2019, Jeffrey Lyash, 57, will succeed William D. Johnson, who has served as TVA's President and CEO since 2013.

Lyash worked for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a number of senior technical and management positions throughout the northeast United States and in Washington, DC. He began his career in the utility industry in 1981, joining Progress Energy in 1993 where he held a wide range of management and executive positions. Currently president and CEO of Ontario Power Generation Inc., of Canada, Lyash was formerly president of CB&I Power and executive vice president of Energy Supply for Duke Energy.

Lyash is Chair of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), an international non-profit organization for public-interest energy and environmental research. He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Drexel University.

## **4. The CHEROKEE and other NATIONAL FORESTS**

### **4A. Environmentally damaging new proposals for Corridor K**

[Contributed by Melanie Mayes]

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has submitted a new draft proposal for public review for the Appalachian Highway Development System's "Corridor K" (NL320 ¶5, and earlier NLs), which runs from Andrews to Robbinsville to Stecoah in the lovely Snowbird Mountains of North Carolina. The highways involved are NC143 that runs from NC28 through Stecoah Gap into Robbinsville, US129 that goes from Robbinsville to Topton, and then to Andrews along US74. This project had become stalled due to resource agency non-concurrence as a result of past proposals that were not sensitive to water quality and forest habitat, and also because NCDOT insisted the project would be a 4-lane highway which was inconsistent with traffic projections.

The upsides of the new proposal are that NCDOT is now working within a 2-lane footprint with some passing lanes, tunneling under the Appalachian Trail, and keeping the current pathway running through Robbinsville. But, environmental and archaeological considerations were not taken into account during the development of the alternatives to the existing route. The proposal proffers two terrible options to cut through the Snowbirds. The "T1" route goes through Jutts Creek to cut through the peak of the Snowbirds, and the "T4" route goes through Long Creek (which forms at least part of Robbinsville's water supply) while roughly following the Trail of Tears through the Snowbirds. Both routes deeply fragment a lovely undisturbed tract of forest and will damage water quality, and one route will also dramatically impact the Trail of Tears.

Instead, NCDOT could improve the existing route between Andrews and Robbinsville, rather than building a new road across the Snowbirds. Transportation improvements are needed that will improve safety and quality of life in western NC, while also protecting what makes our region special. NCDOT's "T1" and "T4" scenarios between Robbinsville and Andrews don't deliver on these needs.

Unfortunately, the deadline for public comments on the new draft proposal (that were to be sent to [CorridorK@tgsengineers.com](mailto:CorridorK@tgsengineers.com) by March 15) passed just before this Newsletter was mailed; consequently, TCWP used some available electronic channels to disseminate the action call. NCDOT will use comments from the public, environmental stakeholders, and resources agencies to develop scenarios for a full NEPA evaluation.

### **4B. The recent Tennessee-Wilderness victory: history and significance**

[From Will Skelton's article in *Tennes-Sierran*, 52(2)]

Will Skeleton, a prime engineer of wilderness in Tennessee, has recently published a comprehensive history of

the 2018 Tennessee Wilderness Act. The following is a very short extract of important facts from his article.

The Act was first introduced on 6/2/2011, and had to be reintroduced in 2013, 2015, and 2017 before it became law on 12/20/18.

It took 11 years after passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act for the first wilderness area, the relatively small Gee Creek Wilderness, to be designated in the Cherokee National Forest. Acreages for the Forest have accrued as follows:

2,493, Gee Creek Wilderness, 1975

63,896, Acts of 1984 and 1986\*

19,556, Tennessee Wilderness, 2018

85,945 = 13.1% of total Cherokee NF area (655,598 acres).

\*Lamar Alexander, then governor of Tennessee, supported these bills

The latest bill successfully added areas that had to be dropped from the 1984 and 1986 bills due to political opposition. Concerted efforts that were constantly under way after the 1980s resulted in some level of protection for these important areas.

Most important, these efforts achieved modifications to Forest Management Plans to have them include wilderness recommendations, thus gaining some administrative protection. The 2004 Cherokee National Forest Plan came to recommend wilderness designation for the areas that eventually were included in the Tennessee Wilderness Act. Another important strategy was to ensure that the Roadless Rule of 2001 covered the right areas (the Rule's Roadless Areas became the list from which the National Forests selected areas to recommend for wilderness designation).

Among many organizations working to protect sensitive areas in the period following the 1980s, the most active included the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition and Cherokee Forest Voices. In 2008, Jeff Hunter was hired by SAFC as an effective field organizer, who organized the Tennessee Wild Coalition (of which TCWP was an active member). Jeff was replaced in 2014 by Laura Hodge, who ably directed activities during the four additional years required for the Tennessee Wilderness Act to pass. When Rep. Fleischmann (whose district includes the southern Cherokee NF) proved to be intractable, the winning strategy was to get the House bill passed just for Rep. Roe's district (which includes the northern Cherokee NF), and to tuck the Senate bill (which included *both* districts) into the conference committee version of Farm bill.

### **4C. Administration drastically increases national forest logging**

[From FSEEE, February]

In December, Pres. Trump signed an executive order directing the US Forest Service to increase logging a whopping 25% this year, i.e., an 800,000,000 board-feet hike, the largest since the early Reagan years. This adds to last year's 300,000,000 board-feet hike.

Trump claims that more logging is needed to prevent “catastrophic” wildfires. This is a totally erroneous claim. It is brush and grass that fuel wildfires, not the big logs that the timber industry wants cut. Logging the big trees *increases* fire risk by drying out the forest floor. The slash and limbs left behind by loggers also elevate the fire risk.

## 5. PUBLIC LANDS

### 5A. LWCF reauthorized as part of major resource-protection bill, S.47

What has been described as the most significant parks and public-lands legislation since 2014 recently passed both Houses of Congress by overwhelming bipartisan majorities. On February 12 and Feb. 26, the Senate and House, respectively, passed S. 47 by majorities of 92-2 and 363-62. The chief sponsors of this Senate bill were Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA). In the House, committee chair Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) worked diligently to drive the bill forward. S.47 is actually a 662-page amalgam of numerous other bills that had been in progress for some time.

While S.47’s best-known achievement is probably the permanent authorization of the Land & Water Conservation Fund, LWCF, (see below), the Act contains numerous provisions that protect as many as 2.3 million acres of public lands across the country. The legislation:

- designates 724,628 acres of red-rock wilderness in southern Utah (ably championed by Sen. Durbin, D-IL);
- designates three new National Monuments, including one in Mississippi in honor of civil rights leader Medgar Evers;
- creates Wilderness and Mineral Withdrawals in NM, WA, MT, OR, and CA;
- redesignates segments of six rivers (totaling nearly 620 miles) as Wild and Scenic Rivers in CT, RI, and MA;
- re-designates seven units of the national park system, establishes six new national heritage areas, extends two national trails and expands the boundaries of ten national park-system units, authorizes additions to the three California desert national parks and designates additional wilderness at one park, authorizes five special-resource studies, and makes a number of management changes for other parks and heritage areas.

S.47 also establishes for 7 years the “Every Kid Outdoors” program, codifying a program begun under the Obama administration and named “Every Kid in a Park.” This provides free access to federally managed lands, waters, and shores for all fourth-grade students, and up to three accompanying individuals.

In addition to permanently reauthorizing the LWCF, S.47 also amends it by requiring that 40% of the receipts deposited into the Fund would be available for grants to the states. Current law only requires that 40% of the fund be available for federal land acquisition purposes and is silent on the amount to be used for state grants). It has been pointed

out that permanent reauthorization is only part of the solution; the LWCF still needs to be fully funded for the goals of the program to be realized.

S.47, which was originally called the *Natural Resources Management Act* has recently been renamed *John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act* to honor John Dingell (D-MI) who, during his record-setting number of years of Congressional service, had made important contributions to environmental protection. Dingell died in 2018.

### 5B. S.47 is not perfect

Unfortunately, S.47 contains a number of harmful provisions that would never see the light of day were they not tucked quietly into a popular omnibus bill. Given that the previous Congress wrote most of the bill, this may not be surprising.

- Hundreds of thousands of acres of public lands in Alaska, including in national wildlife refuges, are made available to privatization, development and resale. This is due to the stated intent of Sen. Murkowski to reopen a last chance for Vietnam veterans to avail themselves of a native homesteading law. The provision is, however, not restricted to these veterans.
- A “wildlife management in *national parks*” provision allows the Secretary of Interior, to open the Parks to “volunteer” hunters whenever the Secretary deems a wildlife population needs culling.
- The so-called “sportsmen’s” provision elevates hunting, angling, and recreational shooting as a priority in public-lands management.

### 5C. Restore our Parks Act is reintroduced

[Information from The Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks]

On February 14, the bipartisan bill that would address the backlog in NPS maintenance projects (NL341 ¶5B) was reintroduced by the ranking member of the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Angus King (I-ME). He was joined by Senators Alexander (R-TN), Portman (R-OH), and Warner (D-VA), and there were 21 additional original cosponsors. A similar bill introduced in the House of Representatives the same day had more than 90 cosponsors.

The act would establish the “National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund” to allocate existing revenues the government receives from onshore and offshore oil and gas development. This funding would come from 50% of all such revenues that are not otherwise allocated, not to exceed \$1.3 billion each year for the next five years.

P.S.: The president’s budget released early in March calls for a total cut of \$481 million to the NPS budget, including a \$77 million cut to the Park Service’s already inadequate operating budget. This would result in the loss of hundreds of park staff and dig our parks into an even bigger financial hole.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Urge your congressman and both senators to support the Restore Our Parks bill (addresses on p. 2). Thank Sen. Alexander for co-sponsoring the bill

#### **5D. New Interior Secretary is no improvement over disgraced Zinke**

When Ryan Zinke, who, as Rep. Grijalva had said, “oversaw the largest rollback of federal protections for public lands in our nation’s history,” left his post as Secretary of the Interior at the start of the New Year, Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt became Acting Secretary (NL343 ¶5C). Pres. Trump soon nominated Bernhardt to be Zinke’s replacement and, despite a great deal of opposition, the Senate complied and confirmed him.

Bernhardt’s past is one of having gone around and around through the revolving door between industry and government. In the 1990s, working for a Washington DC, lobbying firm, he lobbied on behalf of oil and chemical companies. In 2001, he went to work for USDI, where his activities included replacing independent government analysis in congressional testimony with reports funded by oil companies. Nine years later, he was back with his former lobbying firm as head of its natural-resources lobbying shop, where his clients included oil, gas, and mining companies.

Back again at USDI in July 2017 (as Deputy Secretary), he started weakening the Endangered Species Act, rescinded Obama-era climate-change and conservation policies, and undermined Interior’s ability to make decisions based on the best available scientific research. He was reportedly behind many of Zinke’s plans to sell off America’s public lands and waters to fossil fuels companies. And that’s our new Secretary of the Interior

#### **5E. National Park resources damaged during government shutdown**

[Information from *NPCA*]

DOI’s probably illegal decision to keep our national parks open without adequate staffing and services during the longest shutdown in American history endangered public health and visitor safety and led to some serious damage to natural and cultural resources. During the shutdown, NPS had to furlough about 16,000 of its employees and to suspend most of its maintenance and visitor services. Yet (as a result of political pressure to lessen public opposition to the shutdown), two-thirds of our national parks remained partially open without adequate staff. The administration’s revised NPS contingency plan unlawfully diverted visitor fees to fund skeletal operations. (NPS lost \$400,000 in entrance-fee revenue every day of the shutdown.)

During the shutdown, park visitors killed trees, harassed wildlife, drove off-road vehicles over sensitive ecosystems, vandalized buildings, destroyed historic artifacts, and dumped tons of trash. NPS staff were ordered to keep campgrounds open, but to close the restrooms. Trash at-

tracted animals such as coyotes, bobcats, and foxes to populated areas of the parks, and visitors began feeding trash directly to the animals, further habituating them to humans. This can lead to aggressive behaviors and fatal conflicts for both.

These dire conditions provided artificial evidence for the faction that is out to “prove” that government can’t get the job done, that staff should be shrunk or eliminated, and that national resources should be privatized or just sold off.

#### **5F. Longest period in Park Service history without a director**

At the beginning of this year, the National Park Service (NPS) had already been without a director for over two years when the Senate returned Pres. Trump’s August 2018 nomination of Raymond David Vela (NL341 ¶5E) because it had not been confirmed by the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. If Trump wishes to continue with Vela’s nomination, it will have to be resubmitted to the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Previously, the longest period in NPS history without a director was 10 months, when the nomination of Jon Jarvis was being considered by the Senate in 2009. NPS is currently headed by Acting Director Michael T. Reynolds.

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## **6. OTHER NATIONAL NEWS**

### **6A. Administration’s proposed WOTUS rule changes are a major threat to our waters**

The Trump Administration’s proposed new definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) constitutes a very great threat to our environment, and time is getting short for taking opposing action (please see Action Box below). The proposed rules change essentially eliminates Clean Water Act protection from headwater and seasonally-flowing waterways and from wetlands, undoing the clarifying 2015 Clean Water Rule under which we should be operating. (We recommend you read NL343 ¶5A for more details about the background.)

The Trump proposal threatens to remove protections from drinking water sources for 200 million Americans. This includes three of every four Tennesseans; most people in Tennessee get their drinking water from surface water intakes connected to rivers and streams. More than 32,000 miles of streams that flow into Tennessee’s rivers and lakes would be at risk for pollution. (Water flows downhill, and pollution in even the smallest watercourses will end up in rivers whose waters we drink, swim in, or recreate in.) Wetlands provide essential wildlife habitat. Hundreds of thousands of acres of wetlands in Tennessee that provide flood protection, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are at risk. (These figures from SELC). Major economic impact would be felt by Tennessee’s recreational industry, tourism, and the thriving breweries, wineries, and distilleries that rely on clean water.



Ever since Pres. Trump announced the proposed rules change in February 2017 (accusing the Obama Administration’s WOTUS definitions of targeting “nearly every puddle or every ditch on a farmer’s land”), he and his administration have put farmers front and center as beneficiaries of the proposed rollback – a strategy based on the strong regard Americans historically hold for farming. In fact, it would be home builders, oil and gas drillers, and other industry owners who would benefit the most were it to become easier to fill in bogs, creeks, and streams for building, drilling, or mining. The Clean Water Act of 1972 itself exempts farmers and farmland from most of the regulatory hurdles that the Trump Administration is targeting; and these agricultural protections were not changed by the 2015 Clean Water Rule.

The Senate *Scorecard* also includes votes on several extreme nominees to serve in the Trump administration. One of the most damaging legacies of Trump’s presidency will be reshaping the federal judiciary with his nomination of extreme and partisan candidates for lifetime appointments. This includes the Supreme Court, which wields immense power over the interpretation of our bedrock environmental protections.

This year’s scorecard, as well as past ones, can be viewed at <http://scorecard.lcv.org/>. A few of the results are summarized below.

Table 1. Average 2018 LCV scores for Congressional leaders and all members

	Repub.	Dem.
Senate committee leaders* (5R,5D)	10	94
House committee leaders* (6R,6D)	6	81
Senate party leaders** (4R,4D)	11	100
House party leaders** (5R,4D)	2	86
All senators ***	8	95
All representatives	8	90

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

\*\*Party leaders are majority/minority leaders, whips, conference chairs, etc.

\*\*\*Two Independents caucused with Democrats

Table 2. LCV scores for the Tennessee delegation.

	District	Party	2018	Lifetime
<b>Senate</b>				
Alexander	NA	R	7	20
Corker	NA	R	7	10
<b>House</b>				
Roe	1	R	3	2
Duncan	2	R	9	9
Fleischmann	3	R	3	3
DesJarlais	4	R	3	2
Cooper	5	D	86	82
Black	6	R	3	3
Blackburn	7	R	3	2
Kustoff	8	R	0	0
Cohen	9	D	94	97

With an average Senate score of 7, Tennessee placed among the 11 lowest states (which ranged from 4-7). Though the average score for Tennessee’s House delegation was a low 23, our state didn’t make it down to the 11 lowest, which had a range of 0-9.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** We are facing a deadline of April 15 and hope you can do one or both of the following.

1. Contribute an opinion piece or letter to the editor opposing the proposed clean-water rollback.
2. Before April 15, submit a comment to the Federal eRule-making Portal ([www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) -- chose Revised Definition of Waters of the United States). Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2018-0149. (Optional but not necessary: you can read the very long, Federal Register notice at [https://www.epa.gov/wotus-rule/step-two-revise.](https://www.epa.gov/wotus-rule/step-two-revise))

**6B. LCV publishes the 2018 Environmental Scorecard**

[Information from League of Conservation Voters]

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) has published a National Environmental Scorecard for every Congress since 1970. For 2018, experts from about 20 respected environmental and conservation organizations selected key votes (14 and 35 for Senate and House, respectively) on which to judge members of Congress. Excluded are issues on which no recorded vote occurred.

The divide between environmental champions and politicians who vote for polluters and natural-resource exploiters has never been wider. In 2017, Senate Republicans hit a new low with a 1% average score, the *lowest*-scoring Senate average since LCV began tracking votes in 1970. In contrast, House Democrats tied their *highest* average score of 94%.

In 2018, the House continued to serve as a rubber stamp on the Trump administration’s attacks, and once again pushed their own breathtakingly anti-environmental agenda.

The good news is that, thanks to Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and the “Green Firewall” of defense, the overwhelming majority of the House’s harmful legislative proposals didn’t even come up for a vote in the Senate. There were a few instances of bipartisan cooperation, largely thanks to leadership from the Senate. This included the passage into law of a pro-conservation Farm Bill (which, of course, included the Tennessee Wilderness Act, NL343 ¶1).

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Tell your representative and both senators (addresses on p.2) that environmental issues

matter to you, and that, based on their LCV score, you either commend them or are disappointed in them.

### 6C. Another reason the Wall must not be built

[From *Defenders of Wildlife*]

More than 2,800 scientists from 43 countries have jointly declared that Pres. Trump's border wall would cause irreversible harm to 1,506 species of native plants and animals, including 89 listed under the Endangered Species Act. They would be prevented from reaching vital resources (food and water) and the genetically diverse mates essential to sustaining healthy populations. The wall spells disaster for habitat, biodiversity, and collaborative conservation. The paper was published in the peer-reviewed journal *BioScience*.

### 6D. The Green New Deal

The urgent need to address climate change has heretofore received greatly insufficient attention by much of the public and by our policy makers. This may now change, thanks to the Green New Deal Resolution introduced in early February by Rep. Alexandria Ocasia-Cortez (D-NY) and Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA). Not a detailed policy proposal, the Resolution is, rather, the outline of a plan with 13 tracks that address the needs and problems of our society (e.g. inequality, paucity of good jobs, deteriorating infrastructure, poor housing, loss of ecosystems) while serving to limit climate change and creating a clean renewable-energy economy.

An interesting article by Alejandra Borunda in [nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com), 2/13/19, reports on how other countries and cities around the world have tackled some major parts of the Green New Deal proposal.

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## 7. TCWP NEWS

### 7A. Upcoming activities

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

[NOTE: Times listed for all events are Eastern Time, unless specified otherwise.]

#### Obed River Trash Collection from the Water - Saturday, March 30

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

Boaters, particularly experienced whitewater kayakers and canoeists as support boaters, are encouraged to join TCWP, in cooperation with the National Park Service, for a white-water clean-up trip down the Obed River on Saturday, March 30. The outing, from Devil's Breakfast Table to Nemo Bridge (water levels permitting), will be coordinated with the National Park Service, using garbage rafts to remove trash along the river.

TCWP has arranged for a limited number of seats on a privately-guided raft. Rafters must be 18 years old or over and have a moderately high level of physical fitness and stamina.

The trip will include a portage over large boulders. The difficulty level of this outing is high, and participants are encouraged to consider carefully their fitness and stamina before undertaking this trip.

Pre-registration for a raft seat by Sunday, March 24, is required. Weather and river conditions are unpredictable, and decisions about the nature of the trip will likely be made the evening before the event. If water levels do not permit collecting trash from the river, there will be mini-cleanups at various put-ins.

A few wet suits are available for loan to participants, if needed. Participants should wear wicking fabric, not cotton clothes, and will need to bring lunch and water.

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.

#### Earthquake Hazards in East Tennessee, Dr. Robert Hatcher – Thursday, April 11

Could we have a major earthquake in East Tennessee? Do we live in an active seismic zone? These and other questions will be addressed by Dr. Robert Hatcher, University of Tennessee Distinguished Scientist Emeritus, in a lecture titled "Living with East Tennessee Geology and Earthquakes," on Thursday, April 11, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the UT Arboretum Auditorium, 901 South Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge. The program is co-sponsored by TCWP, the UT Arboretum Society, Strata-G, and the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center.

Dr. Hatcher was a faculty member for 32 years in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences and Science Alliance Center of Excellence at the University of Tennessee. In addition to his teaching and research, he has worked as a geologist for an oil company and has served on the faculties of Clemson University, Florida State University and the University of South Carolina. He was a UT Distinguished Scientist and Professor of structural geology and tectonics. Some of his current research, supported by the USGS National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program, focuses on prehistoric earthquakes in the East Tennessee seismic zone.

Dr. Hatcher's primary research goal is better understanding of the evolution of continental crust, mostly through the study of mountain chains and ancient crust. Most of his research has been concentrated in the southern and central Appalachians, but large amounts of time have been spent visiting and studying other mountain chains and older continental crusts. His primary interest is in the processes that generate large faults, the causes of intraplate seismicity, and determination of recurrence intervals for intraplate earthquakes

Garlic Mustard Pull/Wildflower Walk – Saturday, April 13

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 headway in recent years in ridding the trail of this harmful plant. Volunteers are needed to help with the 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 be on hand to help with wildflower identification.

Frozen Head Wildflower Pilgrimage – Saturday, April 13

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

This is a joint outing with the Tennessee Native Plant Society for the 53rd Frozen Head Wildflower Pilgrimage. We will have an excellent opportunity to see many spring wildflowers. The first mile is ideal for those with rather limited hiking capabilities, since the trail (Interpretive Trail) is wide and flat; it is a loop with quick return to the parking area. For those continuing, the next two miles are steeper and rougher but still moderate (Judge Branch and South Old Mac Trails).

We will meet for carpooling at 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 Frozen Head State Park Office at 10 a.m. Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray.

Reservations are not required, but are helpful for planning and for sending updates or cancellations. Contact Larry Pounds at 865-705-8516 (cell).

North Ridge Trail: Walker Lane Wildflower Walk – Sunday, May 5

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

This is a joint outing with the Tennessee Native Plant Society. We will walk down the back side of Black Oak Ridge to a superb spring wildflower area along a lovely spring-fed stream. Flowers to be seen, depending on the spring season timing, include celandine poppy, native pachysandra, Vasey's trillium and many more. The trail is rough and steep in places; we can help each other in these spots. The distance is about two miles round-trip.

We will meet in the Oak Ridge Children's Museum parking lot at 1:30 p.m. Bring water and bug spray. Reservations are not required, but are helpful for planning and for sending updates or cancellations. Contact Larry Pounds at 865-705-8516 (cell).

Stinging Fork Falls to Soak Creek Wildflower Walk – Saturday, May 11

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

This section of the Cumberland Trail, completed in fall 2018, will be our third joint spring outing of TCWP and the Tennessee Native Plant Society. Which spring flowers we will see is hard to predict, but the route is definitely scenic. The trail is up and down, with many steps. Total walking distance will be about six miles.

We will meet for carpooling at 9 a.m. at the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's), or meet at the Rocky Top/ Exxon/ MacDonald's on US 27 in Spring City at 10 a.m. We will caravan from the Exxon to the Lower Piney River Trailhead to start a shuttle, leaving some cars there. We'll then carpool to the Stinging Fork Falls Trailhead; from there we'll hike back to the Piney River Trailhead. Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray.

Alternatives: Participants are welcome to head back early to the Stinging Falls Fork Trailhead; they will need to have a car there, or otherwise will have a wait until afternoon when the shuttle is completed. Those taking this alternative could drive back from the Stinging Fork Trailhead to the Piney River Trail Head and walk in along the flat trail by Soak Creek to meet the rest of the group as they reach Soak Creek.

Reservations are not required, but are helpful for planning and for sending updates or cancellations. Contact Larry Pounds at 865-705-8516 (cell).

Freels Bend Canoe/Kayak Paddle Trip – Saturday, May 18

(Contributed by Tim Bigelow)

Join TCWP and Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) for this second in a series of scenic paddle trips in the Three (Four) Bends "Blueway" along Melton Hill Lake. We'll meet at 9 a.m. at the Pumphouse Road cove and paddle out and downstream on Melton Hill Lake, along the shore of Freels Bend in the scenic Three Bends Area. We'll stop to view the historic Freels Bend cabin and also enjoy several other quiet and scenic undeveloped inlets, probable wildlife sightings, and much greenery. The trip will end at the Clark Center Park boat launch area. Transportation back to Pumphouse Road will be provided.

Participants can bring their own canoes or kayaks, or TCWP is arranging to rent several canoes from River Sports for those who need one. Rental cost will be \$25 per person with two per canoe. The availability of rental canoes, which come with paddles and life jackets, will be limited, so please register early for a spot.

Personal flotation devices (life jackets) must be worn, and all participants must register on a TCWP sign-in sheet. The trip is an easy paddle, and will take about two hours at a leisurely pace. Bring a lunch and water; sunscreen and a hat are recommended.

Please pre-register with Sandra Goss at 865-583-3967 or [sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:sandra@sandrakgoss.com). We are also planning trips along Galaher Bend and Haw Ridge at a later time.

*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.*

## **7B. Recent events**

### Whites Creek Trail workday – Saturday, January 12

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

Eight intrepid TCWP volunteers braved the threat of rain to spend a nice winter day doing trail maintenance at TVA's Whites Creek Small Wild Area on Watts Bar Reservoir in Rhea County. We mostly brushed the trail and removed some smaller trees with handsaws. TVA employees had cut some downed trees across the main trail that leads to the loop. A couple of trees on the loop were too big for handsaws, but they aren't really an issue for hikers.

ATVs continue to access our property at the northwest corner and ride on the old road along the ridge on the west side of our property. Sometime last spring part of the lower end of Roddy Lane slid into the Whites Creek embayment. As a result, TVA barricaded the road to the parking area and boat ramp, and the road remains officially closed for the time being.

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.

### Identifying Trees in Winter – Saturday, January 26

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

Nearly 30 people braved cold weather to attend a walk led by TCWP board member Jimmy Groton at the Obed River Park and Arboretum in Crossville to learn to identify trees and other plants in winter. TCWP, Obed Watershed Community Association, and the Emory River Watershed Association were co-sponsors for this event. In addition to viewing the labeled trees, attendees learned to identify many other native Cumberland Plateau plants, trees, and wildflowers.

Obed River Park is a Class I Arboretum with a two-mile-long paved walk that follows a portion of the Obed River for more than a mile. The trail gradually climbs away from the river to a large rolling meadow that has a segment of an abandoned railway corridor and the ruins of one of Cumberland County's first dams. The around-the-meadow doubles as a fitness trail, with numerous pieces of exercise equipment. Obed River Park is a county-owned park that features three picnic shelters, restrooms, and a playground.

### Alley Ford Cumberland Trail Workday – Sat., February 16

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

On February 16, TCWP, the National Park Service, and the Cumberland Trail State Park sponsored a day of trail work and hiking on the Alley Ford segment of the Cumberland Trail State Park and Obed Wild and Scenic River. This year marked the 21st anniversary of our adoption of this section of the Cumberland Trail. TCWP adopted this 2.5-mile section in 1998 as part of our ongoing stewardship efforts.

Thirteen TCWP volunteers, along with State Park Rangers Mike Crowley and Dalton Miller and Obed WSR Rangers Brett Painter, Thomas Hall, and Veronica Greear, braved the threat of rain to clean out clogged water bars, brush the area along the trail, and re-grade sections of the trail. This year we broke into three small groups to cover specific sections of the trail more efficiently. We covered the trail from Rock Creek Campground past Alley Ford and close to Breakaway Bluff.

### Spring Cedar Barren Weed Wrangle® – Saturday, March 2

(Contributed by Tim Bigelow)

Eight participants came out for the annual spring Weed Wrangle® event at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren. We had a cold and wet morning after weeks of heavy rain, but the damp ground made for easy pulling of privet and bush honeysuckle. The area west of the ellipse was worked heavily over to the fence. Not much Chinese lespedeza was seen this time, which means we're keeping ahead of that for now. Volunteers cut down a few mahonia and pulled up some English ivy, as well as some patches of multiflora rose and several small cedar trees. Blowdowns were removed from the trail in a few places.

A group pizza lunch was provided after the morning's work. We're looking forward to warmer temperatures and wildflowers during the summer Weed Wrangle®, being planned for August 25.

## **7C. We mourn three great people**

Ruth Neff, a giant in Tennessee's environmental movement, died on March 5, aged 94. After earning her doctorate from the University of Missouri, and spending several years, in various places, doing research (some joint with husband Jack) on cell differentiation, Ruth became actively involved in environmental issues when the family moved to Nashville. After working as an energetic volunteer for the League of Women Voters and several environmental groups, she was instrumental in founding the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC), which started as an umbrella organization for dozens of groups interested in water or air pollution, recycling, hazardous waste, etc. Her background helped her to develop objective scientific analyses of environmental issues, to write successful grant proposals, and to build alliances and start cooperative ventures. TEC became a strong and successful advocacy group, which provided reliable information to regulators and legislators.

Between 1984-1993 Ruth worked in state government, first as member of Governor Lamar Alexander's "Safe Growth

Team”, and later in the Environmental Policy Group, part of Governor Ned McWherter’s State Planning Office, where she coordinated the State’s hazardous waste planning.

David Reister died on January 31, at the age of 77. David came to Oak Ridge in 1974, soon after earning his Ph.D. in Engineering Physics, to work in ORAU’s Institute for Energy Analysis and, later, at ORNL. He loved the woods and streams of East Tennessee and took an active part in regional conservation activities, serving on the Board of the Harvey Broome Chapter of the Sierra Club from 2000 to 2014. One of his major activities was scouting for, and working on, the Cumberland Trail, and he chaired the Cumberland Trail Conference from 2004-2009. We’ll miss him a lot.

JoAnn Thompson, who died at 88 on February 28, had for many years served on the faculty of Roane State Community College, but she spent much of her spare time, and the years after her retirement, as a song-bird rehabber and in getting many people to share her knowledge and love of birds and other wildlife. JoAnn took a keen interest in management of the Oak Ridge Reservation; her tactful approach was appreciated and useful in working toward solutions.

#### **7D. TCWP needs two hours of your time**

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Volunteers are needed to staff the TCWP exhibit at Earth Fest on Saturday, April 20, at the Knoxville Botanical Garden. We plan to have two people at our table for each two-hour shift between 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Shifts start on the even hours. Visiting kids who pass a fossil/bone ID quiz will be given chunks of geodes.

Please contact Sandra Goss (865-583-3967, or [Sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:Sandra@sandrakgoss.com)) to tell her of your willingness to help.

#### **7E. TCWP feted at ETPBS studio**

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Every month, with the support of Home Federal Bank, the East Tennessee Public Broadcasting Service (ETPBS) highlights organizations in its viewing area that contribute to the overall well-being of the community. Recipients of these “Be More” Awards are showcased during daily programming on ETPBS. As a May, 2018 honoree, TCWP was invited to a celebratory breakfast at the studio last month.

TCWP President Mark Bevelhimer and Executive Director Sandra Goss attended the breakfast, along with representatives from such organizations as James White Fort, Dogwood Arts Festival, and Coal Creek Miners Museum.

#### **7F. Community Shares Circle of Change Awards Banquet on April 13**

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

TCWP is a member of Community Shares, a not-for-profit organization that raises funds for its member groups through employee-giving campaigns. Community Shares will hold its Annual Circle of Change Banquet on Saturday, April 13, from 6:00-11:00 p.m. at the Bearden Banquet Hall. There

will be silent and live auctions, live music, dinner, and an awards celebration.

To purchase banquet tickets, visit <http://communitysharestn.org/circle-of-change-ticket-purchase/>

#### **7G. Thanks, and a tip of the hat to**

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]



- Jean Bingham, John Bates, Bob Compton, Jimmy Groton, Joe Horton, Harriett McCurdy, Eileen Neiler, Marese Nephew, Gary Salk, and Marti Salk for their help in preparing TCWP Newsletter #343 for distribution.
- Jimmy Groton for leading the January 12 Whites Creek event.
- Jimmy Groton for his leadership of the February 9 Winter Tree ID outing.
- Tim Bigelow, Johnny Cosgrove, and Jimmy Groton for their leadership of the February 16 Cumberland Trail Maintenance (Alley Ford Section) outing.
- Marion Burger for hosting a thank-you letter-writing luncheon, and to Evelyn Lorenz, Jan Lyons, Harriett McCurdy, Eileen Neiler, and Lise Neiler for writing the letters.
- Mark Bevelhimer for attending the ETPBS Be More Breakfast on behalf of TCWP.
- Tim Bigelow, Jimmy Groton, and Larry Pounds for their leadership of the March 2 Oak Ridge Cedar Barren event.
- Mac Post and Todd Waterman for their help with legislator visits at the March 6 Conservation Education Day on the Hill.
- Jan Lyons for shopping and purchasing reusable dishes for TCWP office use.

#### **7H. Friends and members in the news**

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]

- Neil McBride was honored by a contribution to the YWCA Building in Oak Ridge from his wife Maureen Dunn McBride. This was announced in the December 21 *Oak Ridger*.
- Todd Waterman’s letter to the *Oak Ridger* editor about the proposed Bull Run steam plant closure appeared on December 24.
- David Adler, Virginia Dale, Robert Kennedy, and Todd Waterman are mentioned, pictured and/or quoted in a December 25 *Oak Ridger* article about the proposed hazardous waste landfill on the Oak Ridge Reservation.
- An op-ed column (authored by Virginia Dale) that detailed the position of Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation about the proposed landfill was in the January 3 *Oak Ridger*.

- Jan Berry wrote a letter to the editor about the proposed plan for Y-12 waste disposal. It appeared in the January 7 *Oak Ridger*.
- In the January 12 *Knoxville News Sentinel*, Don Barger was quoted in an article about bears in the Smokies.
- Bob Fulcher is pictured in the January 27 *Rhea Herald News* in an item about the Soak Creek Trail segment of the Cumberland Trail.
- An article about the Norris Watershed that was written by Joe Feeman appeared in the February 20 *Norris Bulletin*.
- Chet Hunt penned a letter to the editor about the Green New Deal in the February 27 *Knoxville News Sentinel*.
- Ray Garrett was pictured and mentioned in the February 28 *Oak Ridger* article that covered an Anderson County Commission resolution honoring the late Jo Ann Garrett.
- An article about Chuck Nicholson and information about spring bird watching opportunities was in the March 13 *News Sentinel*.

- May 18, Freels Bend Canoe/Kayak Paddle Trip (see ¶7A, this NL)

\*Additional ORR outings, highlighting a variety of topics, are scheduled for 4/20, 5/3, 5/4, 5/18, 6/2, and 8/24. Reservations must be made by noon of the Thursday prior to each walk by contacting Tracy Clem, 574-5151 or bodinetm@ornl.gov.

## •• **RESOURCES**

- Weed Wrangle® is the name of a national campaign to eliminate invasive plants from urban and suburban areas. To achieve this goal, Weed Wrangle® utilizes education and organized activities of eradication of invasives and replanting with natives. The initiative was founded in 2015 by the Garden Club of Nashville. With sponsorship and funding from the national club, and the help of community partners like the Tennessee Environmental Council and Tennessee's state park system, it has spread to 60 other cities in Tennessee and to 12 other states. Some of TCWP's stewardship events (Cedar Barren, Worthington ESA) are Weed Wrangle® activities.
- The Oak Ridge League of Women Voters continues to host Breakfast with the Legislators on the fourth Monday of each month as long as the legislature remains in session. The meetings, held at the Oak Ridge Civic Center, start at 7:30 a.m. and last about an hour. Light refreshments are served. The next breakfast is March 25.

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## 8. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

### •• **CALENDAR** (events and deadlines)⏟

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

- March 30, Obed River trash collection from the water (see ¶7A, this NL).
- April 8, Comment deadline for TVA's IRP (see ¶3B, this NL)
- April 11, Earthquake Hazards in East Tennessee – Dr. Robert Hatcher (see ¶7A, this NL)
- April 13, Garlic Mustard Pull/Wildflower Walk (see ¶7A, this NL)
- April 13, Frozen Head Wildflower Pilgrimage (see ¶7A, this NL)
- April 13, Community Shares banquet (see ¶7F, this NL)
- April 14, ORR wildflower and old-growth-forest walk (see footnote\*)
- April 15, Comment deadline for proposed WOTUS-definition changes (see ¶6A, this NL)
- April 20, Earth Fest, Knoxville (see ¶7D, this NL)
- April 24, Obed/BSF Science meeting, Rugby (see ¶2D, this NL)
- May 5, North Ridge Trail-Walker Lane Wildflower Walk (see ¶7A, this NL)
- May 11, Stinging Fork Falls to Soak Creek Wildflower Walk (see ¶7A, this NL)

*“We are the first generation  
to feel the sting of climate change,  
and we are the last generation  
that can do something about it.”*

*– Jay Inslee, gov. of Washington*

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 30 – Obed Cleanup
- April 11 – Information program: Dr. Bob Hatcher, geologist, cosponsored by with UT Arboretum Society
- April 13 – Garlic Mustard Pull/Wildflower Walk. Kris Light will do wildflower identification.
- April 13 – Frozen Head Wildflower Pilgrimage (TCWP/TN Native Plant Society)
- April 20 – EarthFest
- April 27 – Canoe outing—Pumphouse Road to Clark Center Park
- May 5 – North Ridge Trail-Walker Lane wildflower walk (TCWP/TN Native Plant Society)
- May 11 – Stinging Fork Falls to Soak Creek wildflower walk (TCWP/TN Native Plant Society)