

TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 221

April 15, 1998

Team of two hired to fill TCWP Membership/Development-Director position -- \$18A

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Editor: Liane B. Russell, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Phone, 423-482-2153

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

12. ACTION SUMMARY

#No	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Fall Creek Falls watershed	OSM	Order/Draft EIS now; attend hearing; comment
2B,3B	Blizzard damage	Frozen Head; Big S. Fork	Assist with clean-up effort on trails
3C	Obed and Big S. Fork: jetskis?	Sec. Babbitt	"Ban jet skis from USDI waters!"
3E	Obed trail segment	TCWP	Help us maintain trail segment
4B	State Parks meetings, thru 5/12	1-888-TNPARKS	Attend a meeting and/or send comments
5A	Scott's Gulf	Gov. Sundquist	"Thanks for State's interest in preserving Scott's Gulf!"
6B	TVA's non-power program	US Sens and Rep	"Use hydropower revenues to finance non-power program!"
6D	TVA's tailwater management	US Sens and Rep	"Urge Corps to follow TVA's excellent example!"
7A	Smokies March for Parks	NPCA	Plan to participate in March for Parks
8A	Cherokee NF	TCWP	Help TCWP monitor USFS activities on two tracts
9A	Congressional Scorecard	US Senators & Rep	"I appreciate/regret your environmental voting record!"
9C	Public lands in Arctic Alaska	Sec. Babbitt	"Thanks, and stand firm on protecting NPR-A and ANWR!"
9D	Southern Florida	Pres. Clinton	"Thanks for putting Homestead jet-port on hold!"
10	Various TCWP matters	TCWP	Reserve Nov. 7-8; pay dues; check Political Guide

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. John Doe
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Pres. Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111
president@whitehouse.gov

Governor Don Sundquist
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243-9872
615-741-2001; Fax 532-9711

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Sundquist
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bill Frist
Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-1264
e-mail: senator_frist@frist.senate.gov
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Ph: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3679
e-mail: senator_thompson@thompson.senate.gov
Local: 423-545-4253

Rep. Zach Wamp:
Phone: 202-225-3271
Local: 423-483-3366

To call any Rep or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772.

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 East 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, 130 Tabor Rd., Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Exec Director, Linda H. Krusen, 423-481-0286; 482-2246 (evening).

President, Jenny Freeman, 423-482-5980 (evening).

e-mail: TCWP@kornnet.org

On the web: <http://www.kornnet.org/tcwp/>

1. FALL CREEK FALLS NEEDS OUR HELP NOW

In July 1995, Save Our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM), joined by TCWP, filed a petition with the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to have the watershed of Fall Creek Falls State Park declared off-limits for coal mining (NL211 ¶2C). OSM has been slow to complete work in response to this "LUMP" (Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition) (NL212 ¶2B; NL218 ¶5A), but publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is now imminent and we must gear up for action.

How does mining in the watershed threaten Fall Creek Falls, one of the most marvelous and most beloved of Tennessee's state parks? Briefly summarized, it's because of the geology of the watershed that makes it virtually certain that both surface and ground water in the park would be significantly polluted by acid and toxic drainage (AMD) from the mining operation, with no lasting remedy in existence.

The Sewanee and Richland Coal Seams proposed to be mined by Skyline Coal Co. are associated with layers of Whitwell shale that generates acid and toxic metallic compounds when it comes in contact with oxygen and water. Such pollution kills *all stages* of aquatic life, disrupting the entire food chain based on it, and harming riparian and ground-water-dependent vegetation. Proposed remedies (addition of massive amounts of lime, underlayment by a clay "pavement") will not providelasting prevention, as indicated notonly by theoretical considerations but by practical experience with drainages where these measures have been in operation. We must also consider that not only the watershed but the watershed of Fall Creek Falls State Park would be damaged by the mining.

OSM must be urged to approve the LUMP, i.e., to declare the watershed of Fall Creek Falls State Park unsuitable for surface coal mining. It is probable that the comment period for the Draft EIS will extend May through July.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Right away, ask OSM to mail you a copy of the Draft EIS as soon as it is

issued (OSM, 530 Gay Street., SW Suite 500, Knoxville, TN 37902, 423-545-4039).

(2) Plan to attend public hearings and speak your piece and/or submit written comments. (We hope to send you a flyer when we have particulars.)

(3) If you have scientific or technical expertise that might help in evaluating the DEIS (e.g., geology, geo-hydrology, aquatic biology, economic analysis), please let us know asap.

(4) As soon as the DEIS is issued, let decision makers know your opinion. Of primary importance are Sec. Babbitt, OSM Director Kathy Karpen, and Gov. Sundquist, with copies to your federal and state legislators (For addresses, see Political Guide that was enclosed with NL220).

2. FROZEN HEAD: OPPORTUNITIES TO ACQUIRE VIEW- AND WATERSHED

A. Acquisition options

In November, the Flat Fork watershed adjacent to Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area (FHSPNA), was sold by its long-term owner, the Emory River Land Co. (Hugh and Edgar Faust) to Hartwood Forest Land. Hartwood is a subsidiary of the Forestland Group, which "acquires and manages timberland investment funds for institutions and individuals," the primary product of the firm's strategies being "valuable sawtimber."

The change in ownership may provide opportunities for the state to acquire (and thus protect) major parts of FHSPNA's view- and watershed. (As you drive into the park from Hwy 62, you may think that what you see in front of you is all park; actually, all the slopes on the left side of the U-shaped valley are in private ownership.) The prior owner, Emory River Land Co., was hostile to the consideration of any acquisition option proposed by the state, but the Forestland Group appears to be much more approachable.

On March 7, a group of interested citizens (Annetta Watson, representing SOCM; Joni Lovegrove, representing TCWP; and Don Todd, Sr.) met with the FHSPNA manager, and with Mike Dahl, Tenn. state parks planner (TDEC) to become acquainted with boundary and resource maps, the FHSPNA master plan, and other sources

of technical information that will be useful in considering land-acquisition options. Within the very near future, another on-site meeting will be held, which, in addition to the first group, will also include State Parks Director Walter Butler and a representative of the new land owners.

Among the various options that are on the table, TCWP (and several of the others) strongly opposes any that would swap existing FHSPNA land for the new land. It is always a bad idea to give up publicland, and even more so in this case because FHSPNA is a designated State Natural Area. Giving up any part of it would require an Act of the legislature, and this could set a highly dangerous precedent (if not actually encouraging piggy-back amendments).

*[P.S. We are very fortunate to have our newest Board member, Joni Lovegrove (§10B, this NL), represent us on this issue. She grew up near Frozen Head and has a deep love for it, as well as being very knowledgeable about the local community and politics.]

B. Help needed to repair trail damage

Heavy snows and high winds in February downed a number of small trees that are blocking much of FHSPNA's 50 miles of trails. Volunteers are needed to help clear the trails, paint blazes, construct water diversion bars, etc. Call park HQ at 423-346-3318 if you want to help.

3. OBED AND BIG S. FORK NEWS

A. Obed water-quality designation and its relation to water-resource study

Background. Cumberland County interests that wish to construct more reservoirs for water supply (and, incidentally, surrounding residential developments) opposed ONRW (Outstanding National Resource Water, or Tier-III) designation for the Obed National Wild & Scenic River. Consequently, the Water Quality Control Board (WQCB) at its 1/27/98 meeting deferred consideration of ONRW designation until completion of a water-resource study (NL220 §3). At the beginning of the 1998 session of the General Assembly, Senator Lincoln Davis introduced a bill (House companion bill by Rep. Curtis) which decreed that the Cumberland County portions of the Obed WSR could never be designated anything

higher than Tier II (NL220 §3E). Contacted by the Environmental Action Fund lobbyist, Senator Davis subsequently promised not to move his bill, pending the WQCB's actions at the completion of the study, probably in October.

The study. Last summer, thanks in large part to the leadership exerted by the Cumberland County Executive, Brock Hill, the 5 utility districts and the City of Crossville (which had all along been going their separate, uncoordinated ways) joined together to request assistance from the state government for a long-term, regional solution to their future water-supply needs (NL218 §2A). The state approached federal agencies, and the Corps of Engineers (CoE) offered to make this study their No. 1 planning priority. The US Geological Survey (USGS) offered to do a ground-water assessment.

The study is expected to cost \$150,000, of which the Corps will provide half. USGS, the National Park Service, the state, and possibly other agencies will contribute varying amounts.

The state is anxious to limit the study to an assessment of water need and of technical feasibility of a number of alternatives (coordinated use of existing county reservoirs, water conservation, pipelines from existing large reservoirs such as Watts Bar, ground water, small offstream reservoirs, a single large reservoir, etc.). They consider this to be a locally acceptable and relatively rapid preliminary to a full EIS (Environmental Impact Statement), which requires environmental and economic considerations and considerable opportunities for public input. The State feels that this preliminary study could eliminate technically non-feasible alternatives and "merge seamlessly" into an EIS.

There has, of course, already been a very recent long-term regional water supply study for Cumberland County and region, namely one by TVA. It was commissioned for the EIS being prepared for the proposed Clear Creek dam by RUS (Rural Utility Service), the agency that would fund the dam (NL217 §18; NL210 §3A and earlier references listed therein). This study, finished many months ago, has been kept under wraps by RUS, possibly because it fails to show a real need for the dam. Will TVA's data and conclusions be ignored, or will they be integrated into the Corps report? Will the Corps study be open to input from conservation interests (so far, we

have not been invited to provide any) as well as from the utility districts?

B. "Appreciating the Obed" in Cumberland County

A group of Cumberland County residents, coordinated by TCWP members Louise Gorenflo and Louise Cheney, met on April 3 at Crossville to discuss how best to acquaint area citizens about the Obed WSR's scenic, ecological, and geological resources and the recreational and economic benefits it has to offer to the county. Park Service personnel were invited, and Lee Russell also attended.

Under the sponsorship of Friends of the Obed (FoO), the steering group has now organized a public meeting for April 21 (6-8 p.m. CDT, at the Crossville Justice Center), entitled "Appreciating the Obed River and its Watershed: Past, Present, and Future." The meeting will start with a slide show by Obed WSR Superintendent Don Forester. Subsequent speakers will address Protecting the Obed (Lee Russell), Water Quality (Jonathan Burr, TDEC), Economic Value (Pepe Perron, Camp Nakanawa), and the Water Supply Study (Brock Hill, County Executive). Representatives from the Cumberland City High School, Family Ties, TWRA, TSRA, TTA, and others will also speak briefly. For more information, call 931-277-5467. (For carpooling from Oak Ridge, call 482-2153.)

C. Keep jet skis off the Obed and Big South Fork

The International Jet Boating Association (IJBA) has urged its members to contact certain National Park Service (NPS) Superintendents and ask that jet skis be allowed to operate on park waters. Included in the IJBA's wish list are the Big South Fork NRA and the Obed WSR (as well as Grand Canyon, Big Bend, Yellowstone, Gauley River NRA, and other NPS units. In January, NPS did ban jet skis from Canyonlands National Park, but we know of no other specific decisions, so far.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to the Hon. Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior (1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240) and ask him to ban jet skis on waters managed by the National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management.

D. Roads & Trails Plan for Big South Fork NRA

The Roads & Trails Management Plan (RTMP), started in 1992, was never finalized. It is now being rewritten but will take its direction from the General Management Plan (GMP) that is under development (NL217 §1A; NL220 §4D). The public interest in BSFNRA trails was apparent from the GMP scoping hearings last fall: 70% of the comments concerned trails.

There are about 360 miles of trails (about half of them horse trails) and 200 miles of abandoned logging roads in the park. Among problems that must be faced in writing the RTMP:

- There are currently more *designated* trails than can be maintained. An excess of trails also destroys the backcountry experience.
- Numerous trail segments are located in flood plains.
- Developers and others outside the park build trails (and even roads) right to the park boundary and expect to have them continued inside (in fact, several trails get illegally developed that way).
- ATVs need to be restricted to existing roads in a limited area where the noise from these vehicles does not affect wildlife or destroy the park experience for other visitors.
- Probably the biggest problem is the O&W right-of-way, which Scott County claims to own and wants to develop for motorized use. (Two extensive and expensive studies by the Corps of Engineers have concluded that this would be by far the most harmful alternative and have recommended bicycle trails.)

E. TCWP adopts segment of Obed WSR portion of Cumberland Trail

[With contributions by Jimmy Grokan]

Recent progress by the Cumberland Trail Conference (CTC) in developing the Obed WSR portion of the Cumberland Trail was reported in NL220 §4C. TCWP has now joined with CTC and adopted the Nemo Bridge segment of the trail. This segment, which currently extends ~4.5 miles from Nemo Bridge, past Alley Ford to Breakaway Point, a high bluff overlooking the river, was constructed largely with the help of college students working during Spring and Thanksgiving breaks. Ultimately, this segment will connect with another one that is already completed. The entire Obed portion of the Cumberland Trail will

then extend 17 miles through the Obed WSR and Catoosa Wildlife Management Area.

✱ TCWP has taken on responsibility for trail maintenance on the Nemo Bridge segment. For more on these activities, which are being coordinated by Board member Jimmy Groton, see 10E, this NL.

As Phase 1 of a coordinated trail plan for the entire park that is being developed by NPS, Gregory L. Bailey, University of Tennessee, has completed an *Inventory and Assessment of existing Trails in the Obed WSR*.

F. Nemo Bridge being replaced

The TN Dept of Transportation has applied for an ARAP (Aquatic Resource Alterations Permit) to construct a new bridge and approaches just downstream from the present Nemo Bridge. The Obed WSR currently extends to the existing Nemo Bridge, so the new structure (a 480' long steel girder bridge having two 9' lanes and 2' shoulders) will be outside the park boundaries. Because of the presence of the spotfin chub, a federally listed threatened species, no instream activities will occur during the spawning season (5/1-7/31), and measures will be taken to minimize or eliminate erosion and sedimentation at the site.

G. Big South Fork hard hit by blizzard

✱ The blizzard of February 4 was particularly severe on the eastern Cumberland Plateau in northern Tennessee and southern Kentucky. Because the ground was already saturated at the time, about 2 feet of wet, heavy snow brought down thousands of trees in the Big South Fork NRR. About 25% of the damaged trails have now been reopened, but the Park is still looking for volunteers to help in the clean-up effort (call the Maintenance Office at 423-569-9765). This NL will reach you too late to join the clean-up scheduled for April 18 by the Friends of the Big South Fork.

4. THE STATE LEGISLATURE

A. State parks bills: one of three survives

The 1996 and 1997 State Parks Forum (of which Jenny Freeman was one of the major organizers) spawned one state parks bill in last year's session of the General Assembly (NL214

¶4B), and three bills in this year's. All of them were sponsored by Sen. Gilbert and Rep. Odom.

(a) SB 2711 directs the TDEC (Tenn. Dept. of Env't. and Conservation) to develop a state parks master plan, to include funding requirements, facilities, preservation, management training, educational programming, and development of park resources. The bill prohibits addition of new capital projects until the legislature approves the master plan. This bill (we don't know whether there were any substantive amendments) has passed both Houses and has by now probably been signed by the governor.

(b) SB 2959, as originally introduced, established a dedicated parks fund (derived from a \$1 vehicle entrance fee plus voluntary on-site donations) to be used only for park-related expenditures. This bill has now been amended to eliminate the entrance fee, and to have the voluntary donations (collected in drop-in boxes in the parks) dedicated for park expenditures *only as long as* there is no general budget shortfall for the state (will that ever happen?). Gov. Sundquist's budget proposal to the Legislature, requested to add \$12 million over the next 3 years to the park system's maintenance budget. There are 51 parks in the system.

(c) A bill to establish a Land Purchase Program (based in TDEC's Natural Heritage Division) to allow for prioritization and acquisition of desirable state lands. This bill unfortunately never made it out of subcommittee.

B. State Parks meetings need our participation

Even as the state parks planning bill (¶4a, in ¶4A, above) was making its way through the legislature, TDEC was in process of formulating a System Plan. A series of 9 public meetings has been scheduled all across Tennessee to solicit input on proposed state park goals.

It is very important that we make our voices heard, especially so since TDEC is now finally responding to our urgings to listen to citizens concerning state parks issues. Also, be assured, that other interests (convention brokers, golfers, ATV recreationists) will be speaking loudly. The following are points for us to stress.

- Protect and preserve the natural, cultural, and parkland resources.
- Funding must be secured for planned land acquisition, staffing, and maintenance.
- The program should enhance the visitors' appreciation of natural resources.

- The State Parks should have a natural-resource expert in a high level position.
- Golf courses and convention centers are not consistent with the purposes of our parks.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: The meetings will take place during the period of April 14 - May 12, inclusive. Although the first two will, unfortunately, be over by the time this Newsletter reaches you, you can find out the schedule for the other seven by calling 888-TNPARKS. If you're unable to attend any of the meetings, send written comments to: Walter Butler, Asst Commissioner for State Parks, TDEC, L&C Tower, 401 Church St., Nashville, TN 37243-0435.

C. Threat to Conasauga averted for now

When the Division of Water Pollution Control (DWPC) proposed to confer the highest classification (Outstanding National Resource Waters, or Tier III) on a handful of Tennessee rivers, opposition surfaced to a couple of them — the Obed and the Conasauga (NL220 ¶3). (For an update on the Obed story, see ¶3A, above.) In the case of the Conasauga, the opposition — in which the powerful Farm Bureau was heavily implicated — took the form of arguments against perceived loss of private-property rights. The DWPC tried to defuse these arguments by shrinking the ONRW boundary to those river segments that are within the Cherokee National Forest, i.e., on public land. Despite this concession, the Water Quality Control Board voted 5:4 to defer its decision until DWPC comes up with a study of social and economic impacts. In the meantime, however, a bill was introduced by local legislators that would forever prevent the Conasauga from being designated anything higher than Tier II. This bill (HB.2795) passed a House subcommittee and TCWP hurriedly mobilized calls to key legislators who were also members of the full committee. The bill, died. Representatives Odom and Kernell strongly opposed HB.2795 and deserve our gratitude.



D. Resolution of legislative threat to water-quality regulations

During the early days of this year's session of the General Assembly, a spate of bills threatened to bring virtual deregulation to the state's rivers and streams. The bills broadened the already broad exemption of agricultural and forestry activities from permit requirements, and

dismantled the ARAP (Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit) Program, by allowing unregulated channelization, gravel dredging, logging roads, large clearcuts, and stream relocations (NL220 ¶2). TCWP drew attention to the dangerous nature of these bills and worked hard to mobilize opposition to them. By early March, an agreement was worked out between the TN Dept of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the sponsors of the bills whereby a permit is still required for dredging and "cleaning up" streams, but the process is simplified. The bills have been withdrawn.

E. U.N.-hysteria bill defeated

As we have reported in the past (NL218 ¶6F; NL219 ¶6F), a bill to terminate most U.N. Biosphere Reserve designations is wending its way through the U.S. Congress, but, if finally passed, is likely to experience a sustainable presidential veto. The Tennessee General Assembly, too, tried to get into the Act via a resolution (sponsored by the Eagle Forum and introduced by Rep. Tommy Burks) to take Tennessee out from under the U.N. Biosphere designation. The most famous area that would have been affected is the Gt. Smoky Mtns National Park. Fortunately, the resolution was quickly defeated in the state Senate.

G. OTHER STATE NEWS

A. Scott's Gulf progress

The Friends of Scott's Gulf, FOSG (Pres., Ross Cardwell; V.P. John Harwood; Sec., TCWP's Chuck Estes) is now an official organization of 425 members and 105 associate organizations. FOSG and the Trust for Scott's Gulf have received over \$52,000 for land acquisition, including \$1,500 from 4-H clubs and other school kids, and numerous small contributions from area residents and people all over. REI (the outdoor equipment company) provided a \$4,000 grant for promotional costs (thank them the next time you buy an REI product).

Last year, Bridgestone/Firestone, took its Scott's Gulf property off the market (prior to that it was almost bought by a lumber company with schemes for various developments), opening the way for protecting the area under public ownership. A bill that passed the state legislature last year authorizes the Tennessee

Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) to make expenditures from the 1986 Wetlands Acquisition Fund for the purpose of "assisting in the acquisition of" the Scott's Gulf canyon and uplands (NL216 ¶2C). TWRA is interested in supporting multiple species of non-game wildlife (including neo-tropical song birds) as well as game. There has been considerable interest by high levels of the state administration, including a visit by TDEC Commissioner Milton Hamilton.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to Gov. Sundquist (address on p.2), thanking him for the State's interest in preserving Scott's Gulf, and urging him to take steps to bring this about.

B. State Natural Areas added in 1997

In 1997, the General Assembly designated four new State Natural Areas, as follows;

- Ghost River, Fayette County, 2,500 acres
- Devil's Backbone, Lewis County, 950 acres
- Walker Branch, Hardin County, 225 acres
- William Davenport Cranberry Bog, Polk County, 120 acres.

This brings the total number of Designated State Natural Areas to 51.

One area, Carmac Falls, Dekalb County, was recognized as a Registered State Natural Area (i.e., not state-owned), bringing the total for such areas to 55.

The Natural Areas Advisory Committee last fall recommended three additional sites for Designated State Natural Areas. They are:

- Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glade, Rutherford County, 185 acres owned by Corps of Engineers
- Montgomery Bell Forest, Dickson County, ~600 acres, owned by the State
- Watauga River Bluffs, Johnson County, a 50-acre Nature Conservancy Preserve.

C. Land acquisitions

The Division of Natural Heritage is hoping to acquire the following properties (full approval has been received for the first two items):

- Cedar glades and barrens in Rutherford County, namely, the 500-acre Flatrock Glade plus another 40 acres elsewhere. Together, these

acres contain 17 listed plant species, including two federally listed ones.

- A major portion of the pristine N. Chickamauga Creek Gorge in Hamilton County, altogether 3,500 acres. This acquisition is being made in cooperation with the N. Chickamauga Creek Conservancy and The Conservation Fund.
- (Partial approval obtained.)

Bottomland hardwood forest to form a 500-acre addition to the 1,300-acre Sunk Lake State Natural Area in the Mississippi River Floodplain. This is part of a greater, multiple-partner project funded by a grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

- (Negotiations under way for donation by industrial owner.)

A Cumberland Plateau gorge with waterfall and unusual geologic formations

D. Rivers Assessment

David Duhl, Program Manager for the Tennessee Rivers and Wetlands Assessment Program, with the assistance of TSRA, completed the draft Tennessee Rivers Assessment Program Executive Summary, which is about to be published. This well-illustrated 100-page book covers the results of the Assessment for each watershed in each major drainage in the state of Tennessee. Additional sections include a description of why rivers and watersheds are important and what Tennesseans can do to protect their rivers and streams. Lists of useful contacts will also be provided.

E. Chip-mill impacts on Tennessee need to be studied

Chipping Forests and Jobs (NL220 ¶9) reports that, as the timber industry has moved from the Northwest to the Southeast, the number of chip mills operating in the region has increased from 32 to 140 since 1985. In 1996, 1.2 million acres were logged to feed these mills. The Southeast has become the largest exporter of hardwood chips in the nation, and removals of hardwoods is expected to exceed growth within 10 years. In the case of softwoods, removals have already exceeded growth. Chipmills contribute little to the local economy, each one typically employing only 5-6 people. The best potential for job growth within the forest products industry lies with saw mills and other solid wood manufacturers, which typically use selective logging (instead of clear cutting) and require larger trees (i.e., longer growth

cycles; for chip mills, the growth cycle can be as short as 15 years).

Last year, numerous regional and local organizations called for a comprehensive, region-wide study of cumulative impacts of the existing 140 chip mills. This led to an offer by EPA's Region IV (Southeast) to partner with individual states in conducting state-wide impact studies. From the first such effort, which is now in progress in North Carolina, EPA will construct the framework for other state-EPA cooperative impact studies.

Might Tennessee be willing to conduct a statewide impact study? If so, what agency would conduct it? As you may recall, several years ago, the Tennessee Division of Forestry (TDF) was moved from the Dept. of Conservation to the Dept. of Agriculture. The Tennessee Forest Defense Council provides the following information about TDF:

- TDF is clearcutting in all 13 of our state forests -- currently 500 acres/year; but there is no limit on the acreage
- Clearcutting is the only form of timber management used by TDF
- Clearcutting is the only form of harvest recommended to private landowners by TDF in its demonstration program.
- TDF subsidizes construction of access roads used by private companies to cut state forests.

F. The Nature Conservancy's Forest Initiative

The Tennessee Nature Conservancy (TNC) is working with a couple of large landowners to inventory flora and fauna on their holdings, preliminary to developing management plans that will protect significant ecosystems and allow for wildlife corridors. One of the partnership agreements is with the ALCOA subsidiary Tapoco and covers two parcels, adding to 21,000 acres, in the Chilhowee, Calderwood, Santeetlah, and Cheoah watersheds. The other is with Tenneco Packaging in West Tennessee and covers 90,000 acres.

G. Forestry Management Advisory Panel continues its work

(Contributed by Linda Krusen)

The Forestry Management Advisory Panel (FMAP) was created by legislators seeking to postpone (and perhaps derail) forestry bills that

were moving through the General Assembly in 1997 -- specifically, the Sierra Club bill to limit clearcutting on State lands and the SOCM bill to address timbering practices on private lands (NL217 ¶2A). The Panel was created by a legislative resolution that delays consideration of the bills until after the Panel's report has been presented to the Forestry Commission, the Division of Forestry, and the chairs of appropriate legislative committees. The final report deadline, which was originally 3/1/98, has been extended to 1/15/99. TCWP's executive director Linda Krusen is one of 40 members of the FMAP and has faithfully attended all three meetings held to date.

During the first two meetings the Panel defined forestry benefits and sustainability goals, and drafted indicators of whether those goals have been achieved. At the 3/30-3/31 meeting, panel members, for the first time, had an open discussion of matters that involved differences in philosophies and opinions, specifically whether forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) should be voluntary or mandatory, and the role and "sovereignty" of private property rights.

Linda raised the question of what role state and federal forests should play in supplying timber in Tennessee, and what level of harvest can or should be sustained. This issue will be addressed in a later meeting, and she would appreciate input from our members on such questions as:

- Are the National and State Forest Charters still appropriate?
- How heavily do local economies depend on logging public lands?
- Does the "sovereignty" of private land-owner rights force public lands to ensure protection of wildlife species?
- What are the benefits and costs of logging in roadless areas?

The panel will meet again April 23 and 24 in Oak Ridge and will attend the Forest and Wildlife Celebration (at the Oak Ridge Forestry Experiment Station, behind the Arboretum), which is part of the state's outreach program to educate landowners on managing their land for forestry and wildlife habitat. Then, starting the first of a series of field trips, the panel will visit a nearby Champion chipmill and harvest site.

H. First Tennessee Clean Water Conference

[Summarized from a report by Linda Krusen]

Tennessee's first Clean Water Conference, held 3/27-3/28/98 in Nashville, was organized by the Center for Global Sustainability and cosponsored by the national Clean Water Network, which seeks to develop a Tennessee Chapter. TCWP's executive director Linda Krusen attended the conference and reports the following highlights.

- Enforcement of Tennessee's Clean Water Programs needs major improvement. TDEC (the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation) is politicized, and citizens should become more involved by filing formal citizens' 18(a) complaints, which TDEC is obligated to investigate.
- The TMDL (total maximum daily load) process has been inadequately utilized. TMDL is a concept established in Sec. 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act, which requires states to identify and develop programs to clean up their impaired waters, i.e., those that do not support their designated uses. We urge you to request a copy of the list of impaired waters which TDEC was to publish on April 1 (see Political Guide for address). The major cause of impairment is pollution from nonpoint sources, which the current TMDL program does not address.
- The Aquatic Resources Alterations Permit (ARAP) program, designed to protect wetlands and streams, needs proactive citizen involvement. Citizens should get involved in early stages of a proposed development (e.g., by attending zoning meetings) and should comment to the TDEC's Div. of Water Pollution Control (see Political Guide) on ARAP permit applications.
- The substance of a session on TVA's nonpower program is covered in ¶6B, this NL.

6. TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

A. Dire fate faced by TVA's non-power program

While TVA's power program is self-supporting, the much smaller non-power program (flood control, navigation, water quality, public

lands along the rivers, 1.B1., water-resource studies and planning, etc.) requires annual appropriations by the Congress. These are now in very real jeopardy (NL216 ¶58; NL217 ¶6; NL218 ¶1; NL220 ¶6A).

- President Clinton's budget proposal includes \$76.8 million for TVA's FY'99 non-power programs. However,
- last year's appropriations bill contains statutory language to the effect that the non-power program will be zeroed out after FY'98, with no debate allowed (NL218 ¶1A). Congress has not even granted TVA a budget hearing this year. Therefore, it may be assumed that there will be no federal funding for the non-power program.
- As to the suggestion that TVA might support its continuing non-power functions from power revenues, this will undoubtedly not be permitted by industrial power customers and power distributors (who want to keep electricity rates low).
- The TVA delegation in Congress (the "TVA Caucus") is split on what to do, and there is a real danger that the non-power program might be splintered into components with different fates. Tennessee's, Kentucky's, and Alabama's senators recently proposed that a \$70 million appropriation be made to the Corps of Engineers, which would then hire TVA to operate certain activities (but the Corps is looking for \$800M for itself).
- Unless integrated management of the non-power program continues, this is what is likely to happen. Dam safety, flood control and navigation will get money, new titles, and a new manager(s). Water quality and shoreline zoning programs will be killed. And public lands will be sold off to the highest bidder and developed.

B. A proposal for saving TVA's non-power program

The following well-thought-out and practical proposal was made by Stephen Smith of the Tennessee Valley Energy Reform Coalition (TVERC) at the Tennessee Clean Water Conference on March 28 (¶5H, this NL). A similar proposal has been put forward by the Tennessee River Valley Association.

- The waters of the Tennessee River and its watershed, i.e., revenues from hydropower generation, should be allowed to fund the non-power program.
- In accomplishing this, TVA should operate as an integrated system, but the interests of the former non-power program should be protected against

pressures of the much larger and costlier power program. To start with, the hydropower program (no fuel, emissions, or waste) should be functionally separated from the fossil and nuclear power programs.

- Congress should establish a Tennessee River Watershed Council (TRWC) to make recommendations to the TVA Board and to Congress on how to allocate revenues from hydropower generation. TRWC would balance the need for providing low-cost hydropower with the economic and public interest of other river-related activities, and would protect the public interest from being eclipsed by the economic pressures of the power program.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your Congressman and Senators (addresses on p.2) and suggest this proposal as a feasible way of saving TVA's important non-power program. In voicing your concerns about the threatened demise of the non-power program, you may wish to mention the very real danger that significant public lands now managed by TVA could be sold off to the highest bidder and developed.

C. *The Fate of Land Between the Lakes (LBL)*

The 150,000-acre LBL is a major component of TVA's non-power program. It may also have become the innocent victim of attacks on TVA, because, if LBL were transferred to another agency, this would weaken the non-power program to such an extent that the effort to defend TVA against proponents of privatization would become much more difficult.

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has introduced a bill that would turn the LBL over to the US Forest Service. The Concept Zero Task Force (CZTF), a grass-roots organization of individuals in the LBL area (many of whose relatives were displaced when TVA acquired the land), strongly opposes Forest Service administration. CZTF wishes to preserve LBL as a unique outdoor recreation, environmental education, and conservation center. The organization urges that, whatever agency administers the land, LBL must have a statutory mission, and that this should be based on commitments TVA made to the Congress at the time LBL was created. The CZTF opposes privatizing, selling, or leasing any of these now public lands (some of which were taken by eminent

domain); it opposes all forms of commercialization within LBL, and is concerned that the USFS would use LBL as a timber source. LBL is the largest unbroken forest remaining between Appalachia and the Rockies.

D. *TVA praised for Tailwater Restoration and Management*

(Contributed by Jurmy Grotor)

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) has passed resolutions that address two very different approaches to the restoration and management of tailwater aquatic resources by two federal agencies -- TVA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (CoE). Unless special measures are taken, "tailwater," the water below dams, is extremely low in oxygen, and thus toxic to aquatic life.

TWRA recognizes and praises TVA's efforts, their innovative technologies, and their leadership on national and global levels to improve water quality and aquatic habitat in tailwaters. In light of the recent attacks on TVA's budget and mission from Congress, the TWRA resolution also urges TVA to commit itself to the continuation of excellence in tailwater restoration and management throughout the Tennessee Valley and the world.

By contrast, CoE has for many years ignored management of the tailwaters below Center Hill Dam on the Caney Fork River. There may be periods of no flow, or flow too low to adequately support aquatic life. Dissolved oxygen levels have sometimes dropped below 2.0 mg/L, resulting in several fish kills. The TWRA proclamation urges the Corps to follow TVA's leadership and to design and implement a comprehensive tailwater restoration project, using technologies and expertise that have been successfully demonstrated in the Tennessee River system by TVA.

TWRA has invited TCWP to support their resolutions.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your US Senators and Representative (address on p.2) and ask them to urge the CoE to follow TVA's excellent example of tailwater management so as to improve the waters below Center Hill and other CoE dams. Point out to your Members of Congress that it would be ironic to destroy TVA's nonpower program, especially if management of TVA's reservoirs were

turned over to CoE. Send copies of your letters to TWRA (address in Political Guide).

7. SMOKIES

A. *March for Parks for Smokies*

April 25 is the date for a GSMNP March for Parks, which is co-sponsored by the National Parks & Conservation Association (NPCA) and the Friends of GSMNP. All proceeds will go toward programs designed to prevent air and water pollution in the Park, specifically, (a) a water-quality improvement program run by the National Park Service (NPS), and (b) the purchase and subsequent retirement of air-pollution, oremission-reduction, credits (ERCs). The purchase of ERCs, authorized under the Clean Air Act, confers the right to pollute. For example, with \$15 you can purchase 250 pounds of air pollution that would otherwise be emitted by an industry or powerplant. The walk will be approximately 3 miles long, starting from Metcalf Bottom. For further information, call 423-494-7008.

B. *Smoky Network announces meeting*

May 9 has been set as the date for the second meeting of the Smoky Network, to be held at the Job Corps Center next to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center (NC side). The agenda includes: (a) an update from NPS about current issues facing the Park, (b) a briefing by NPCA about reintroduction of the National Parks Restoration Act, (c) exchange of information by Network members, and (d) meeting of strategy groups. If you intend to attend, contact NPCA for info on time of meeting and other details (423-494-6234, or e-mail: dbarger@npca.org).

C. *Congressional Caucus on Smokies*

Sen. Thompson (R-TN) is attempting to form a Smokies' Caucus and has written a letter to this effect to several of his Tennessee and North Carolina colleagues in the Congress. In addition to the two Republican senators from each state (Thompson, Frist, Helms, and Faircloth), the Caucus would include Representatives Jenkins (R-TN), Duncan (R-TN), Wamp (R-TN), Taylor (R-NC) and Ballenger (R-NC). Sen. Thompson

expressed a special concern about infrastructure, maintenance, and personnel needs for the Park.

D. *All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI)*

Chosen for its outstanding biological diversity and central location in the eastern US, the Great Smoky Mtns National Park (GSMNP) will be the setting for the world's first ATBI, a task estimated to take 15 years to complete. The inventory will include all living species in the Park -- an estimated 100,000 -- some of which are undoubtedly yet to be discovered. The National Park Service (NPS) will partner with universities, school groups, nonprofit organizations, and individual volunteers in tackling this huge project. For the Smokies, the ATBI (which might later serve as an inventory model for other parks) will provide a solid factual foundation on which to base the protection of the Park's natural resources against chemical pollution, the introduction of exotics, fragmentation, and other adverse influences. One of the scientific advisors to the project predicts that the ATBI will have an even more widespread effect in "broadening bioliteracy that would be reflected in ecosystem management decisions both inside the National Park Service and in other land and natural resource agencies."

E. *Trail restorations*

The National Park Service is in process of developing a policy for restoring GSMNP trails that have been (or will be) damaged by overuse or adverse events, such as floods. With the objective of devoting special attention to preserving wilderness values during the process of trail restoration, the Denver Service Center of NPS is conducting preliminary interviews with several knowledgeable people, including TCWP members, prior to formulating a proposal. Public meetings will then be held, probably in May or June, prior to finalizing the policy. We will attempt to keep you informed on dates and locations.

F. *Caretakers needed for AT in Park*

Volunteer caretakers are needed at four Appalachian Trail (AT) sites within the GSMNP, particularly during the latter part of the summer. The work session extends Thursday through Monday, and a two-week commitment is desired. A small stipend and "off-days" housing is provided in the park. For more information, contact the AT regional office, 704-254-3708, or e-mail: atc-gntro@ioa.com

G. Concerns about happenings outside the Park's periphery

The following happenings or proposals have been of concern not only to residents of the area but to others of us worried about the Park's viewshed, and about external pressures on the Park

- The widening of US 129 through Townsend (the "peaceful side" of the Smokies)
- The widening of Highway 416 from Sevierville to Pittman Center, a presently bucolic area
- A threatened ridgetop development on Chilhowee Mountain
- Completion of the Foothills Parkway through terrain unsuitable for road construction (could the right-of-way be used, instead, for hike, bike, and/or horse trails?)

B. CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

A. TCWP will assist in monitoring Forest Service activities on Cherokee NF

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

On February 21, Southern Forest Voices (SFV), a coalition of individuals and organizations, including TCWP) held a workshop in Knoxville to train volunteers in techniques for monitoring U. S. Forest Service (USFS) activities on the Cherokee National Forest. SFV is one of the most active and effective advocates promoting non-destructive uses of the Cherokee, such as camping, hiking, bicycling, hunting, and fishing. Such uses of national forest lands are compatible with preserving the ecological integrity of forests, rivers, and streams, maintaining biodiversity, and providing a sustainable resource that will be available for future generations to use and enjoy.

SFV activists instructed participants about how to stay informed about upcoming projects (including timber sales) in each forest district, how to find out specific information about affected forest compartments, and how to comment effectively about the effects of proposed actions as described in environmental assessments, environmental impact statements, or other documents prepared by the Forest Service. Workshop participants were urged to help by adopting compartments comprising unprotected, sensitive areas of the Cherokee NF identified in *Tennessee's Mountain Treasures*, a report prepared by Hugh Irwin for the Wilderness Society in 1996. TCWP agreed to monitor USFS activities

associated with 5 forest compartments in the Nolichucky Ranger District. The areas adopted by TCWP are Laurel Hollow Mountain and Laurel Mountain; both are in Cocke County near Newport.

The Laurel Hollow Mountain tract (one compartment of ~1,266 acres) is located between Cosby, the Foothills Parkway, and I-40. It is part of a major movement corridor between the Park and northern sections of the Cherokee for black bear and other wildlife.

The Laurel Mountain tract is located east of Laurel Hollow Mountain and I-40 in a highly fragmented section of the Cherokee near the TN-NC state line. The four compartments making up the tract cover a combined area of ~2,400 acres. Although much of this tract has been logged in the past, the area includes two stands (221 and 136 acres) of old-growth cove hardwoods. Laurel Mountain also lies within an important habitat corridor for black bear and other wildlife.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: For information about how you can help TCWP monitor and protect these and other sensitive areas of the Cherokee NF and the Southern Appalachians, contact Jimmy Groton — phone 423-481-8732 (w) or (423) 483-5799 (h); e-mail turtle-world@usa.com

B. Cherokee NF welcomes overflow from Smokies

Unlike the GSM National Park, which last year had 10 million visitors, the Cherokee National Forest has not been overrun with people. With Forest Service blessing, Park visitor centers will display maps of national forests in the region (Cherokee, Nantahala, and Pisgah) and will list recreation opportunities, including some that are not permitted in the Park (mountain bikes, off-road vehicles, unrestricted back-country camping).

9. NATIONAL NEWS

A. LCV releases 1997 "National Environmental Scorecard"

Since 1970, the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) has rated the environmental performance of each Member of Congress. The 1997 Scorecard, released February 3, scores senators and representatives on, respectively, 7 and 16 key

votes, determined through the consensus of experts from 27 respected national environmental and conservation groups.

The sad news about this first half of the 105th Congress is that the majority leaders in the Senate earned a flat-out zero, and the chairmen of powerful House committees with jurisdiction over conservation policy averaged only 6%. The national averages for both parties were as follows:

	Senate	House
National average	46	47
Democrats	83	69
Republicans	16	27

Note that the national averages are below 50%, i.e., on average, Congress votes more often against environmental protection than for it.

Republicans will undoubtedly charge LCV with a partisan bias. However, LCV has always been non-partisan, its board chair is a Republican (former governor of Kansas, Mike Hayden), and the choice of which votes to score is made by 27 organizations. Republicans may take encouragement from the fact that increasing numbers of rank-and-file Republicans are breaking away from their party's leadership and that Members with the greatest improvement in LCV scores were largely Republicans. Overall, there were fewer extremely low and extremely high scores than in the 104th Congress.

Scores for the Tennessee delegation were as follows:

	Party	1997	1995/96
Senate			
Frist	R	43	7
Thompson	R	29	19
House			
1 Jenkins	R	6	--
2 Duncan	R	19	15
3 Wamp	R	13	15
4 Hilleary	R	13	12
5 Clement	D	69	65
6 Gordon	D	63	62
7 Bryant	R	13	0
8 Tanner	D	38	31
9 Ford	D	63	--

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Tell your Members of Congress that you are aware of their environmental record and that you appreciate/deprecate it, as the case may be.

(2) Our best hope for improving national environmental policy making is to "vote environment," and to support candidates nationwide who have given evidence of environmental concerns. To this end, we urge you to utilize information and services provided by LCV, 1707 L Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20036; Phone 202-785-8683; <http://www.lcv.org>

B. Administration proposes higher land-acquisition spending

The Gorton budget for FY 1999 contains \$270 million for the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), as the first installment of a proposal by the Administration to spend over \$1.9 billion over 5 years for land acquisitions. The funds would be distributed as follows:

\$826 million, National Park Service,
\$549 million, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
\$461 million, U.S. Forest Service
\$92 million, Bureau of Land Management

All this is subject to Congressional approval. This projected LWCF spending would certainly be an improvement over recent years (except FY 1998 – see NL220 ¶7A), but it still falls way short of the almost \$1 billion per year authorized by the legislation that established the Fund 33 years ago. This money comes from royalties on offshore oil-well leases which amount to ~\$3 billion annually (a number that's rising). The highest amount Congress ever appropriated was \$805 million in 1979. The appropriation dropped dramatically when Pres. Reagan took office, then averaged \$250M/year for the decade before 1994, when the notorious 104th Congress (after considering zero spending for a 5-year period!) finally approved \$134M.

C. Sec. Babbitt stands up for Arctic Reserve and Refuge

With public comments only recently received on the oil corporations' proposal to drill in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve (NPR-A) (NL220 ¶7B), Sec. Bruce Babbitt testified before the Senate Energy Committee. Babbitt stood his ground against Committee Chairman Frank Murkowski (R-AK), stating that the Draft EIS described "very, very high" environmental values in the NPR-A, and that these have implications for the lower 48 states because the wetlands on the NPR-A are prime breeding grounds for water fowl. TCWP commented on the Draft EIS, making the point summarized in NL220 ¶7B.

With regard to the Coastal Plain of ANWR (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), separated from NPR-A by the Prudhoe Bay oil development, Babbitt said that the oil companies are masquerading behind a "data-acquisition" excuse when they are pushing for seismic exploration inside the ANWR border. In fact, they are trying to make a case for opening the Refuge. When Murkowski indicated that such seismic exploration could be forced by Congressional authorization, Babbitt responded that he would ask the president to veto any such bill.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank Sec. Bruce Babbitt for holding his ground: Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C St, NW, Washington, DC 20240. Fax 202-208-6956; e-mail bruce_babbitt@ios.doi.gov

D. Thank the President for action in South Florida

Both the Everglades and Biscayne NP, nearby on the east coast (the park to which Monika Mayr, former Obed Superintendent, recently moved -- NL220 ¶4A), were threatened by a proposal to turn the former military airbase at Homestead into an international commercial airport. Numerous low-flying jets would be taking off or landing over pristine wetlands, beaches, and coral reefs. Responding to urgings by NPCA (National Parks & Conservation Assoc) and others, Pres. Clinton put the project on hold pending a more adequate review of environmental consequences.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact Pres. Clinton (see p.2) and congratulate him on taking the first step toward preventing unnecessary damage to Everglades and Biscayne NPs. Urge him to pursue alternative development for the site.

10. TCWP NEWS

A. TCWP fills Membership/Development Director position

TCWP has hired not one but two people to take on the task of expanding and energizing our membership, increasing our funding base, and making us self-sustaining. Starting May 1, the

team of Sandra Goss and Marcy Reed will share the full-time position of TCWP Membership/Development Director, and we are tremendously excited about having found such qualified staff people. All of you who so generously contributed to make this possible, **THANK YOU AGAIN!** We look forward to a long and productive relationship with Sandra and Marcy, one that will amply justify our members' support

Marcy and Sandra bring complementary skills to this new position. Marcy, an Oak Ridge resident, has a Master's degree in environmental sciences, and has led several environmental projects during her career. Sandra, a Knoxville resident, has a long history of development with not-for-profit organizations, including the Greater Knoxville Chamber of Commerce.

There were about a dozen responses to our several ads, four of these highly promising. At various times in March, the candidates were interviewed by our search committee (Jenny Freeman, Eric Hirst, Jimmy Groton, Lee Russell, and Linda Krusen), and references were contacted. Our extra special thanks to Eric Hirst, who did the lion's share of placing ads, responding to and contacting candidates, and calling references. And our deepest gratitude to Andy Walker (Director, TN Nature Conservancy) and Kay Linder (former EAF lobbyist) who came all the way from Nashville (Andy for the second time) to help us with our strategic planning.

It is interesting that it was the TCWP Newsletter ad that brought us the winning team. Marcy, a TCWP member, saw the ad, but wanted to share the job with someone; a mutual friend then brought her together with Sandra, whom she had never met before. The two appear to complement each other very well.

Between now and May 1, the entire Board will be meeting with Sandra and Marcy to set

goals and timelines. A subcommittee of the Board will formulate a more detailed strategy, develop an initial work plan and assist our staff in acquiring needed office equipment. Soon after that, you'll be hearing from Sandra and Marcy themselves.

B. TCWP Board again complete

We began the year with a new Board member, Roger Carlsmith, who had replaced Frank Hensley (NL220 ¶8F). Roger, a longtime Oak Ridger, is a former research member of the ORNL Energy Division.

Subsequently, we developed a vacancy due to the resignation of James Wedekind. Last week, Joni Lovegrove agreed to serve on the Board, bringing us again to the full eleven. You'll find some information about Joni in the article about Frozen Head ¶2, this NL. We feel very fortunate in having had Roger and Joni join our ranks.

C. Date set for Annual Weekend

We won't be competing with Halloween this year. Our annual meeting is set for November 7 and 8 at Bersheeba Springs, a place readily accessible to Nashville and Chattanooga as well as to the Knoxville/Oak Ridge area. We've met there twice during our history (the last time in November 1995) and can highly recommend it to anyone who hasn't been there. The facilities are fine, the food good and plentiful, and the surroundings rich in beautiful scenery (Savage Gulch, Fiery Gizzard, Sooty's Gulf). Put the dates on your calendar right now.

D. Dues reminder

While many of you have already sent in your 1998 dues, we are still awaiting responses to the January dues billing. Please remember that your early payment saves us the expense and labor of follow-ups. Thank you!

E. TCWP will maintain trail in Obed WSR

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

Board member Jimmy Groton has volunteered to coordinate the responsibilities we assumed for maintaining the Nemo Bridge segment of the Cumberland Trail within the Obed WSR. Activities will include periodic brush cutting, cleaning water bars, and clearing small logs from the trail. Jimmy would like to hear from TCWP members interested in helping with this

worthwhile project. No special skills are necessary; you just need to be able to use some everyday hand tools such as a shovel, loppers, or bow saw and enjoy getting a little dirty and sweaty in the great outdoors. Please contact Jimmy for more information on how you can help TCWP maintain our adopted segment of trail (phone 423-481-8732 [w] or 423-483-5799 [h]; e-mail turtle-world@msn.com). In the meantime, visit the Cumberland Trail Conference's internet website at <http://users.multipro.com/cumberlandtrail> to learn more about the Cumberland Trail, including the Obed section.

F. Is your Political Guide complete?

We have discovered that a few copies of the 1998 Political Guide we distributed with Newsletter 220 failed to get printed on the side headed "FEDERAL OFFICIALS" (this should be on the back of the page headed "STATE OFFICIALS"). Please check your copy, and if it is incomplete, let us know -- we'll replace it.

11. JOB OPENINGS, ACTIVITIES, and READING MATTER

- **Fellowship.** The purpose of the Sutherland Fellowship, administered by the Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, is to "enable socio-economically disadvantaged lawyers with otherwise insufficient financial means to engage in public interest litigation that would benefit the environment through employment with a 501(c)(3) or (4) organization." Two grants of up to \$12,000 are available each year. Contact Nanci Fatterson, Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, 180 Montgomery Str., Suite 1400, San Francisco, CA 94104, Ph. 415-627-6700, e-mail scldfs@igc.apc.org
- **Externships and Internships.** The International Program of the Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund is seeking law students as volunteer externs for the Fall 1998 and Spring 1999, and interns for the Summer 1999. Contact Martin Wagner, Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, 180 Montgomery Str., Suite 1725, San Francisco, CA 94104-4209, Ph. 415-627-6725, e-mail eajusintl@igc.apc.org
- April 21, "An Evening of Appreciating the Obed River and its Watershed," 6-8 p.m. CDT, Crossville Justice Center. Call 931-277-5467 (see ¶3B, this NL).

- April 22, "Global Warming, Local Solutions," a panel on how to increase business profitability, and enhance the quality of life in our communities, while reducing human contributions to global warming. Co-sponsored by the U.T. School of Planning, Room 213, Hodges Library, U.T. Knoxville, 1-3:30 p.m.
- April 25, "Minding the Homeplace: Environmental Service Learning in the Upper Tennessee Valley and the Southern Appalachian Mountains," Carson-Newman College. No cost, except \$5 for meal and refreshments. (Kathy Burns, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, TN 37760.)
- May 14-16, "Friends of Trashed Rivers IV," (conference on restoring urban waters), New Orleans (call 504-836-2239).
- June 19-21, "American Eagle Festival," Pigeon Forge, TN (call Charles Maynard, Exec. Dir., Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains Natl Park, 423-453-2428).
- June 26-28, "1998 Central Appalachian Ecological Integrity Conference," will cover impairments from wood chipping, mining, and air pollution. Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, West Virginia. Workshops on threats to Appalachian ecosystems, and on reversing the degradation. (Call Appalachian Restoration Campaign, 740-592-3968.)
- November 7-8, TCWP Annual Weekend, Bersheeba Springs (\$10C, this NL).
- GIS (Geographic Information System) computerized mapping to forward conservation programs of Central Appalachian groups is available from the Appalachian Restoration Campaign, a project of Heartwood. (Contact David Hines at 740-592-3968 about joining the ARC coalition.)
- Among several projects of the Foundation for Global Sustainability (FGS), Knoxville, is the State of the Bioregion Program. This program has published a book, *What Have We Done?*, and operates a speakers' bureau. Slideshow topics include biodiversity, transportation, waste, energy, sustainable living, etc. For either the book or a speaker, call FGS, 423-524-4771, or e-mail fgs@kormet.org/fgs
- PEER, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, is trying to establish a base in Tennessee. PEER's newsletter, white papers, and press releases provide public employees a forum to expose agency activities that are harmful to the environment while protecting their anonymity and their professional careers. Call PEER's East Coast office at 202-265-7337.
- The Certified Forest Products Council attempts to spur the purchase of wood products from forests certified as ecologically well managed. Habitat for Humanity is one of the members.
- The Union of Concerned Scientists was the science adviser for a video, *Keeping the Earth: Religious and Scientific Perspectives on the Environment*, narrated by James Earl Jones (Video + Guide, \$14.95 + \$3 S&H from UCS Publications, 2 Brattle Square, Cambridge, MA 02238-9105). Ask for UCS' publication list, which includes some very interesting titles.
- *America's Most Endangered Rivers of 1998*, just released by American Rivers, contains a list of 20 rivers headed by the Columbia River (Hanford Reach) and the Missouri. For each of the 20 rivers, the write-up covers a description of the river, the risk, what can be done, and information sources. Surprisingly, among the fastest growing threats to rivers is the vast amount of untreated waste produced by factory hog and chicken farms. For more information, call 202-347-7550, or visit the American Rivers Web site at www.amrivers.org
- An article on the effects of chip mills in the Appalachian region appeared in the Nov-Dec 1997 issue of *Audubon* magazine. For a reprint, contact the Memphis Audubon Soc., PO Box 41678, Memphis, TN 38174, Ph.: 901-726-1473.
- *Plants out of Place: Exotic Pests of Eastern Forests*, a video produced by the US Forest Service (USFS), provides information about the ecological problems of invasive exotic pests. Brian Bowen, our State Natural Areas Administrator, provided technical assistance and support. For a copy of the video, call the USFS at 404-347-2229.
- Proceedings of the conference "Exotic Pests of the Eastern Forest" can be obtained by calling 1-800-449-6339. This conference, held in April 1997 at Nashville, was hosted by the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council and the USFS, and was

organized by the Tennessee Natural Areas Administrator.

- *Top 10 Watershed Lessons Learned*. is a 59-page book, published by EPA, which synthesizes the expertise of 100 watershed practitioners into what works (and what doesn't) in building an effective watershed protection program. Also lists sources of funding and technical help. Free from EPA: doc.840-F-97-001. Call 1-800-490-9198; www.epa.gov/owow/lessons
- *Megadiversity: Earth's Biologically Wealthiest Nations*, (\$60 from Conservation International, 202-973-2212). Only 17 countries around the world possess at least 2/3 of the world's biological wealth; Australia, Indonesia, and Mexico are Nos. 1, 2, and 3 (the USA is No.10 - not bad!).
- *Gathering Storm: Coming Environmental Battles in the 105th Congress* is a recently released report by NRDC (\$7.50 + \$1.45 S&H from NRDC Publications, 40 W 20th Street, New York, NY 10011).
- *Watershed Plan/EIS for the Restoration and Enhancement of the Bear Creek Watershed, Scott County, TN*, was published September 1997 by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly SCS). Bear Creek, a major tributary of the Big South Fork, has been virtually lifeless as a result of drainage from abandoned coal mines. For information on how to get a copy, call 615-736-5471. Incidentally, of 9 comments that were submitted, the only one from a non-governmental agency was TCWP's.