

TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 223

August 10, 1998

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

14. ACTION SUMMARY

| #No | Issue | Contact | "Message!" or Action |
|-------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Fall Creek Falls watershed | V.P. Gore; Kathy McGinty | "Urge OSMto grantour petition!" |
| 6A | Region-wide chip mill study | US Sens. and Rep Gov. Sundquist | "Support study!" "Thanks, Rep. Ford!" "Directstate agencies toend supportto study!" |
| 6E | TDEC Strategic Plan | TDEC | Identify important issues for TDEC to address |
| 10A | Jet skis in parks | Maureen Finnerty, NPS | "System-wide prohibition is needed!" |
| 10B | Alaska's conservation areas | US Sens. and Rep Pres. Clinton | "Alaska's conservation areas must be protected!" "Veto bills that have riders diminishing ANILCA!" |
| 10C | Grand Staircase-Escalante NM | US Senators | "Vote for bill implementing lands-exchange agreement!" |
| 10C | Utah Wilderness | US Sens. and Rep | "Co-sponsor S.773 (Durbin)/HR.1500 (Hinchey)!" |
| 10D | Endangered Species Act | US Representative US Senators | "Oppose Kempthorne Bill; support Miller's HR.2351!" "Vote against anti-environmental riders on Inter. Appr. bill!" |
| 10E | Forest Service regulations | USDA Comm. of Scientists | "On-the-ground regs should not be discretionary!" |
| 12B.C | TCWP events | Marcy Reed | Attend Don Toddcelebration 10/3, Annual Weekend 11/6-8 |
| 12E | TCWP fund raising | Marcy Reed | Get Kroger coupons |

Senator John Doe
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Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. John Doe
U.S. House of Representatives
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Pres. Bill Clinton
The White House
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Governor Don Sundquist
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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
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Rep. Zach Wamp:
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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.

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, until 9/30/98, Linda Krusen, 423-481-0286; 482-2246 (evening). Then, Marcy Reed, see below.

Membership-Development Directors, Sandra Goss (522-3809) and Marcy Reed (481-0623); or 481-0286

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

e-mail: TCWP@kormet.org

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

1. FATE OF THE FALL CREEK FALLS WATERSHED - WE'RE WAITING

[Parts A, B, and C contributed by Marcy Reed]

A. Background

In 1995, TCWP along with Save Our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM) petitioned the U.S. Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to designate as unsuitable for mining 85,588 acres in the watershed and viewshed surrounding Fall Creek Falls State Park and Natural Area. The petition was organized according to the pertinent criteria for such a designation under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. OSM prepared a Petition Evaluation Document (PED)/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that was released for public comment in April 1998. In it, OSM recommended that the petition be denied and chose as its preferred alternative the requirement that a separate EIS be prepared for each individual permit application for mining within the petition area. The public hearing was scheduled for June 18. SOCM and TCWP worked together to try and get 300 people to attend the hearing.

B. The hearing

The Public Hearing on the Fall Creek Falls Land Unsuitable for Mining Petition was a huge success. An estimated 350-400 people attended, and 46 people gave oral testimony. Of the first six speakers, TCWP had 2 and SOCM had 4. Altogether, TCWP had 7 speakers: Jenny Freeman, Lee Russell, Linda Krusen, Don Barger, Jean Cheney, Margaret Olson, and Marcy Reed.

Public response was overwhelmingly in favor of declaring the land unsuitable for mining. Of the 46 speakers, only one spoke out in favor of allowing mining in the petition area. When Don Barger, during his speech, asked all those who were opposed to mining in the Fall Creek Falls Watershed to stand up, virtually everyone in the bleachers stood up. Skyline Coal Co. had very few representatives at the meeting.

During the oral testimonies, some of the frequently heard comments were that the DEIS was very poorly done: data and information required for an adequate EIS were not collected. OSM seemingly ignored NEPA regulations requiring agency to collect such information if

it is not prohibitively expensive. Instead, OSM consistently tried to place the burden of proof back on the Petitioners, although nothing in the regulation requires Petitioners to do so. Most important, OSM did not provide evidence to prove that its permitting program (on which the preferred alternative places reliance) is virtually foolproof. The speakers also pointed out that, contrary to NEPA guidelines, the DEIS totally ignored cumulative impacts; and that OSM didn't consult with the appropriate agencies regarding the presence or absence of endangered species.

There was good press coverage of the hearing. Jenny Freeman was quoted at some length in the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* and Lee Russell in the *Nashville Tennessean*.

C. The aftermath

SOCM and TCWP were invited to a meeting with the TN Environmental Policy Office and TN Department of Environment and Conservation on July 28, the date the State went public with its comments on OSM's PED and DEIS. Jenny Freeman and Marcy Reed represented TCWP. The State's position, documented in a detailed 12-page letter (summarized in ¶1D, below) was presented at this meeting. It was pointed out that, without a sound technical, scientific, and legal basis for declaring land unsuitable for mining, the State and the U.S. are left open to a "takings" suit by the mining companies. The State's letter makes recommendations for a revised DEIS that would prevent such an occurrence.

Written comments on the DEIS were due July 30. Currently, the tentative schedule for release of the final EIS is early January of 1999. OSM expects to reach a decision around mid-August about whether to revise the Draft. A disturbing bit of news appeared in the publication *Inside Energy*, according to which OSM was "leaning toward" staying with its preferred alternative, despite the overwhelming citizen opposition. Obviously, pressure is needed on higher levels of the Administration (see box below). SOCM representatives have already met with Administration officials to discuss the situation,

D. The State's letter to OSM

On July 28, the State issued a thoroughly researched 12-page letter, accompanied by comments from seven different State agencies. We recommend this letter for your reading; it can be reviewed on the state's web site -- <http://10/98/www.state.tn.us> -- or you may call Dodd Galbreath (615-532-8545) to request a copy.

After making some almost poetic but knowledgeable statements about the absolute necessity to preserve the values of Fall Creek Falls State Park and of the Class-II Natural Area, which occupies about 50% of the Park, the letter addresses the gist of the matter: the "takings" issue. If OSM were to grant the Petition (i.e., ban mining in the watershed) a legal challenge by the coal companies, if successful, "could run into the hundreds of millions of dollars." The State's letter, however, goes on to note "that a Petition that is granted based upon sound technical, scientific and legal evidence does not necessarily constitute a takings." And the point is quite forcefully made that OSM's present DEIS is quite inadequate in providing this needed evidence.

There is another basic reason for requiring a thorough re-write of the PED and DEIS: NEPA was not followed, and "OSM's findings are [therefore] clearly flawed." Specifically, OSM did not "gather and analyze sufficient and appropriate information upon which to base their decision." A major case in point is the central issue of the Petition, namely the ineffectiveness, over the long term, of acid mine drainage control technology. "An evaluation of the viability of this technology and the risk of acid mine drainage to the Park is avoided." Comprehensive chemical and biological studies are not included in the analysis. And the NEPA requirement to consider cumulative impacts is not fulfilled. In fact, OSM's preferred alternative -- to use a case-by-case approach to mining applications -- flies in the face of NEPA, because an individual mine might have a less-than-significant impact, whereas the collective impact is likely to be substantial.

Both in their document and in the press, OSM has blamed the Petitioners (SOCM and TCWP) for not submitting sufficient evidence.

Yet, the agency did not request such additional evidence, even though OSM's own guidelines require the "preparer to contact the ... Petitioner ... to request additional background information as needed." Further, State input was not "seriously considered" by OSM, and the State was not consulted about preliminary alternatives.

The State's position that OSM's PED and DEIS be revised does not let us Petitioners off the hook. The letter states, "the Petitioners have not yet provided sufficient data to justify their designation of the full 85,588 acres as unsuitable [the letter does grant evidence for parts of the acreage, see below]..."

- have not provided compelling evidence ... that current mining techniques are incapable of preventing adverse impacts to water quality ...
- have not included sufficient documentation to justify the argument that the watershed of the Park will be adversely impacted by mining"

The bottomline. Pending a thorough revision by OSM of the PED/DEIS, the State "submits ... that there is a very substantial likelihood that, upon further review .. the Petition should be granted at least in part." Thus, they say, "there is convincing evidence that some lands, such as the watershed of Fall Creek and Cane Creek, must not be mined." They also stress the absolute necessity for avoiding any impacts that might become cumulative to the Class-II Natural Area within the Park. There are, further, areas, independent of the Park itself, that are worthy of special protection, and which the State would like to acquire for park expansion or as State Natural Areas. Special mention is given to the Cane Fork, which is part of the watershed of the Cane Fork River, included among "U.S. Watershed Hot Spots" in a 1998 Nature Conservancy Study (*Rivers of Life*), which places it 16th in the nation in number of at-risk fish and mussel species.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact Vice President Gore (202-456-7125, or write him at the White House address on p.2) and ask him to urge OSM not to allow a prime area in his home state to be degraded. Also, call Kathleen McGinty, head of CEQ, at 202-395-7417.

2. OUR NEWEST STATE PARK: THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL

[Contributed by Marcy Reed]

Governor Sundquist held a press conference on June 22 to announce the creation of the Cumberland Trail State Park. This is Tennessee's 53rd State Park and the only one of its kind: a linear trail extending from the northern to the southern boundary of Tennessee. Upon completion, the trail will be 220 miles long, cutting through ten Tennessee counties, from the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park on the Tennessee-Virginia-Kentucky border to the "Grand Canyon of Tennessee" (the Tennessee River Gorge) at the Georgia state line.

Currently, 65 miles of the Cumberland Trail are ready for exploration, including the Cumberland Mountain segments above LaFollette and Jacksboro, the Grassy Cove segment on Black and Brady Mountain in Cumberland County, the Tennessee River Gorge segment in Prentice Cooper State Forest, the Cumberland Gap National Military Park segment, and the Obed Wild and Scenic River segment in the Obed River Gorge and Catoosa Wildlife Management Area (see ¶13D for planned work sessions).

The State is in the process of developing plans for creating the park. It is determining how best to acquire funds to purchase the land (currently no state funds have been designated for this project), what kind of personnel are needed to develop the park and then to staff it once the park has been developed. State personnel are looking for ideas and assistance. A series of public meetings will be held to get input from the public and to share the State's plan. Over the next 8 to 10 years, the state will work in partnership with the Cumberland Trails Conference, the Tennessee Trails Association, and other volunteers to acquire additional land along the trail. The State will also be working region by region, involving as many groups in the process as possible. Dodd Galbreath from the Tennessee Environmental Policy Office is coordinating the State's efforts. You may contact him with ideas or questions at (615) 532-8545.

IMPORTANT: Lest we forget who made all this possible, we will honor Don Todd at a special celebration October 3 (see ¶12B, this NL). Don

was instrumental in getting the Tennessee Trails Act passed in 1971 (with the Cumberland Trail a prime component) and in protecting many of the areas through which it will pass -- primarily the Obed River gorge and Frozen Head. Please make a special point of attending.

3. OBED NEWS

A. Water Supply study: we meet with the Corps

The Regional Water Supply Study for Cumberland County has finally got under way, with the Corps of Engineers paying for half of the total \$106,000 cost out of State Planning Assistance Funds and the State of Tennessee picking up the other half. The State's objective is to have this be a study only of technical feasibility of various alternatives (regardless of cost -- they stress this), which would be a prelude to the full NEPA process. The technical analysis would then, they hope, merge "seamlessly" into a NEPA study, which would be improved and speeded up as a result. The report of the earlier TVA water-supply study for the Cumberland Plateau (which has never been publicly released) has been turned over to the Corps, as have other TVA files on the subject.

TCWP asked for a meeting with Corps and State Planning staff, and this was held at Crossville on June 18, with four citizen representatives (Don Barger, Don Clark, Louise Gorenflo and Lee Russell), four Corps personnel (including project leader, Todd Boatman), Dodd Galbreath (State Planning), and Brock Hill (Cumberland County Executive) in attendance.

There was some concern on the part of the citizens that the Corps study, which was to be of technical feasibility only, listed a "needs" assessment as its first item. Such an assessment requires assumptions and public input that should properly be part of a full NEPA process. A needs analysis must be based on different scenarios, including a growth-management option. At the meeting, we came to an agreement that the Corps would base its technical feasibility analyses on three alternative levels of assumed growth -- high, medium, and low -- rather than making a needs assessment.

The Corps had listed the following alternatives to be studied: (a) pipelines from existing large reservoirs, (b) storage impoundments (among which they included both new impoundments and "harvesting" from off-stream impoundments); we urged them to separate these as two very different alternatives, the latter much less environmentally destructive), (c) Pumping from an aquifer, (d) modification of existing reservoirs, (e) use of existing impoundments in the area (e.g., recreational lakes), and (f) water conservation. Concerning (e), the citizens felt that esthetic objections to making water-supply drawdowns from recreation lakes should not be allowed to take precedence over any taking of water from the Obed Wild & Scenic River, which should also be allowed to claim esthetic objections (among others!).

B. Help from Nature Conservancy

A July field trip by the Board of Trustees of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) of Tennessee to the Lilly Bridge section of the Clear Creek reawakened the organization's interest in Obed lands. TNC will renew its efforts to acquire as much as possible of the remaining unprotected lands associated with the Obed National Wild and Scenic River. They are already in possession of two sizable parcels donated to them some years ago.

The Regional Office of TNC has also been doing a biological inventory of the Obed WSR for the National Park Service. The results of that inventory will drive prioritization of the parcels TNC will attempt to acquire.

C. "Enjoy the Obed outing" was a major success

To help Friends of the Obed/Cumberland County get personally acquainted with the Obed Wild & Scenic River, we planned an outing for non-paddlers and people of three activity levels. The day, June 20, turned out to be great (sunny and clear, and not humid), and 61 (!) people showed up, most of them from Cumberland County. Don Forester, the Obed Superintendent, addressed the group and provided leaders for two different hikes. Because of the subsequent publicity, more people hope to be going later, and other events may be planned.

D. More trail work planned for Obed WSR

The Cumberland Trail Conference (CTC) is planning trail work sessions within the Park for the weekends of September 24-27 and October 15-18, and in the neighboring Catoosa WMA for October 22-25. Participants need to register with CTC (contact Ron Weber, Rt. 1, Box 219A, Pikeville, TN 37367). TCWP Board members Jimmy Groton and Lee Russell have more detailed information about the work sessions.

4. A NEW DAY FOR THE DUCK RIVER: DAM BEING DEMANTLED; LANDS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT; AND, THE WATER "NEED" HAS CHANGED

When the economically and environmentally unjustifiable Columbia Reservoir project was finally halted 15 years ago, TVA was left with a partially built dam and with almost 13,000 acres of land acquired along the river. January 1997 hearings on the TVA report on alternative uses for these lands (NL214 ¶8A; NL215 ¶2C) brought overwhelming support for keeping them in public ownership, and a disguised attempt to create an agency that would sell them for development (thereby raising funds for a tributary dam) was defeated with our help (NL216 ¶2D).

The lands

Since 1988, the TVA's Duck River lands had been managed by the Duck River Development Agency (DRDA), but on July 1, TVA announced the new land manager, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, TWRA. Because the plan is eventually to turn the lands over to the State of Tennessee, TWRA now has an advance opportunity to prove itself as the land manager. TWRA staff managing the Duck River lands will report to the TWRA Regional Manager, Steve Patrick (615-781-6624).

DRDA, which had a long history of pushing for the Columbia Dam by fair means and foul, and which was more recently in the news for financial improprieties (NL222 ¶5E), has had a major overhaul, following appointment of a new board and the resignation of several employees. The re-created agency is

said to be much more receptive to facts and data, and this should result in a change in focus.

The dam

"TVA Strips Columbia Dam for Scrap" ran a headline in the *Tennessean* of June 25 -- lovely words for those of us who, years ago, had worked hard to keep the Duck River free-flowing. Work started in mid-June to dismantle the massive gates that would have held back the water had the dam been completed. The gates will be cut up and sold for scrap. There are plans (pending funding) to eventually reduce the 105-foot-high concrete structure to a height of 32 feet and form natural-looking berm, retaining the diversion channel that was constructed when the dam was built.

The need: clean water, rather than more water

TVA has conducted a "needs" analysis to the year 2050 and finds that, instead of presenting an immediate crisis in water quantity, the river is water-quality-limited. Unless the WQ issue is addressed (e.g., by in-stream improvements in water treatment all along the Duck River), there will be a significant need in the Columbia region, but not until the year 2025.

5. STATE WATER-QUALITY ISSUES

A. TMDL gets at nonpoint pollution and cumulative damage

Background (see also NL222 §4B).

The 1972 federal Clean Water Act, under Sec. 303(d), created the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) program to bring already polluted waters back into compliance with WQ standards. A state must list all waters [the "303(d) list"] that do not meet state water-quality standards even after point sources of pollution (industries, treatment plants, etc.) have installed the minimum required levels of pollution-control technologies. For waters on this 303(d) list, the state must then establish a priority ranking (based on severity of pollution and use of the water) for the order in which TMDLs will be developed. A TMDL is the pollution level above which the waterbody can no longer support its designated uses (drinking, swimming, fishing, etc.). Based on this level, cleanup plans must be developed that could require a reduction in point sources (e.g., a higher level of wastewater treatment by

industries and municipalities) and/or a reduction in nonpoint-source pollution. Thus, the value of the TMDL program lies in focusing attention on cumulative effects and on nonpoint sources.

A 303(d) list for Tennessee, including over 300 water bodies, was updated in April 1998 by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). Although an earlier list had been available, the TMDL tool had not been used by the state. At the end of May, four Tennessee groups (including TEC and TSRA) posted a notice of intent to file suit. Possibly because of the threat of litigation, TDEC, in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with EPA, outlined its plan to prepare TMDLs for ~200 polluted waters over the next 10 years.

Unfortunately, TDEC (a) lacks resources to implement its well-designed program, and (b) deals only with point-source pollution. To take care of the latter, the MOA should, but does not, include the Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture (TDOA), which has jurisdiction over agriculture and forestry, activities that can be major sources of nonpoint-source pollution. Runoff from the use of agricultural chemicals, erosion from clearcutting, and waste from chicken and hog farms are not governed by regulations. TDOA encourages voluntary approaches to environmental protection, but these have not been (and probably cannot be) effectively implemented. The environmental groups hope to work with EPA and the state agencies to discuss measures for finally (after 25 years!) moving the TMDL program forward in Tennessee.

B. Water Quality Forum [Contributed by Marty Reed]

The Water Quality Forum (WQF) is a self-directed group of government agencies, educational institutions, other organizations, and concerned citizens. It started in 1990 as a communications vehicle for agencies involved in water quality. The WQF has evolved into a coordination of effort between agencies and now is a more pro-active group involved in education and restoration efforts, such as Adopt-A-Watershed training, Backyard Conservation, and stream bank restoration. The WQF works to "promote, preserve and restore the physical and ecological integrity of local water resources for the community and future generations" (from WQF mission statement). Various committee

reports presented at the June 22 quarterly meeting of the WQF are briefly summarized here.

AmeriCorps, which for the past several years has worked on various water-quality improvement projects in Knox County, is preparing a concept plan for First Creek channel improvements, particularly in an area that experienced recent severe flooding. The concept includes an urban wetland as part of the project to control storm drainage.

The education committee reported on the Adopt-A-Watershed training program that has been taught in several Knox County schools. The Backyard Conservation Program helps Knox County landowners improve their property by offering free advice on how to improve drainage, increase the cooling provided by trees, and provide better wildlife habitat.

The top goals of the Technical Committee include focusing current water-quality monitoring on most effectively measuring water-quality improvement, and on identifying and prioritizing city/county creeks that need improvement. The Government Committee is attempting to educate public officials and the general public about local water-quality issues.

Points of contact for more information regarding the WQF are Peg Buete or Bo Townsend at 577-4717.

6. OTHER STATE NEWS

A. Great news -- region-wide study of chip mill and forestry practices getting under way

The Southeast Natural Resources Leaders' Group is going to tackle a region-wide study that will be built on, or parallel, the study currently under way in North Carolina (NL 220 ¶5B; NL 222 ¶5B). This is something we have been hoping for for a long time, and we were delighted when Rep. Harold Ford, Jr. (D-TN) recently urged EPA Administrator Carol Browner to undertake a thorough analysis of the woodchipping industry in the Southeast (NL 222 ¶5B).

The Leaders' Group, which includes regional heads of the major federal resource

agencies [US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), EPA, US Forest Service, TVA, Corps of Engineers, etc.] will initially report to the FWS's regional director, Sam Hamilton. Dr. Lee Barclay, who heads the FWS in Tennessee, is one of a group of four that will develop the study outline for approval by the Leaders' Group. Tennessee will be encompassed in the Southeastern study.

Currently ~12 million acres of Southeastern forests are destroyed (mostly clearcut) every yearly chip-mill related logging (NL 221 ¶5E), and 140 chip mills are now operating in the southern USA. An analysis of our forests, and of the effects their rapid destruction can have on water quality, flooding, and economic parameters, is clearly needed -- FAST.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Express your appreciation to Congressman Ford and urge your own representative and senators to support the study in every possible way (address on p. 2). (2) Ask Gov. Sundquist (address on p. 2) to direct state agencies to lend support to the study by providing data and/or technical assistance (send a copy to Justin Wilson, Governor's Policy Office, State Capitol, G-10, Nashville, TN 37243-0001).

B. Frozen Head: progress toward acquisition of viewshed and watershed

[Contributed by Marcy Reed]

The proposal to acquire significant lands in the Flat Fork watershed adjacent to Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area was approved by certain levels of the state administration (NL 221 ¶2; NL 222 ¶3) and has been submitted to Forestland Group. The 3000+ acres under consideration, which include the viewshed from the Visitor Center, encompass the entire southern slope of Bird Mountain and the northern slope of Love Mountain, including all of Rough Ridge. Funding for this acquisition is to come from the state's land acquisition fund, and it has been reported that this project is among the top priorities of the land acquisition committee.

George Dutrow of the Forestland Group acknowledged the offer and indicated that the Group was open to considering any proposal "including the purchase of approximately 3000

acres adjacent to the park." The Forestland Group, which acquired these lands from the Emory River Land Co. last November, is, however, prohibited by its rules from doing anything with the land for a year after purchase, including selling it (or cutting down any trees).

C. State Parks

Just about the time that a good bill directing the Tenn. Dept. of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to develop a master plan was (a) passed, (b) surprisingly vetoed, and then (c) watered down (NL222 §5A), TDEC finished a series of 9 public meetings on goals for state parks. Based on these meetings, a long-term master plan will be drafted for public comment. Obviously, there is much interest among conservationists in the contents of this future master plan, and it will be the prime subject for the third annual State Parks Forum to be held November 14 at Montgomery Bell State Park (contact Jenny Freeman, 423-482-5980, for information).

One thing Tennessee badly needs is *more* state park lands. The total area of our 51 state parks is less than 133,000 acres. That averages about 2,600 acres per park, or 1/40 of an acre for every Tennessean. Our beautiful state clearly needs more investment in public land and more efficient procedures for land acquisition. TCWP will stress this item for the "Issues Identification Survey" (see §6E, below).

D. Forestry panel: nearly done

The Forest Management Advisory Panel expects to wind up its work in September and produce its report by mid-January. The 40-member FMAP was created by legislators seeking to postpone consideration of (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).

Linda Krusen reports the following: "During the July meeting, we began drafting recommendations to the legislature. All panelists agreed that more education of landowners and foresters would increase awareness and compliance with BMPs. However, the panelists strongly disagree

amongst themselves about the need for more regulations and mandatory BMPs. Linda Krusen is keeping wildlife planning and the Endangered Species Act in her recommendations to the Panel. The panel meets again August 21 and 22 to continue drafting recommendations and trying to come to a consensus."

Environmentalists are in the minority on the panel and will have a job getting a report that is acceptable to them; failing this, they may have to resort to publishing a strong alternative report.

E. TDEC seeking input to identify issues for Strategic Plan

On July 1, TDEC initiated a planning process that will result in a 4-Year Strategic Plan to be completed by January 1999. A survey form has been distributed to help TDEC get input for identifying issues that face the Department over a 12-year planning horizon. Issues being identified by some TCWP Board members include the need to acquire additional land for state parks and natural areas, and the need for speeding up river clean-up, particularly nonpoint source pollution (see §5A, this NL).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Although you are receiving this Newsletter too late to submit issues for the August-10 deadline, you can still have input to be used in preparing or revising future plans. The form is on TDEC's website (<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/survey.htm>), or you can call 615-532-0072.

F. Court rules on our stripmine lawsuit

Last year, SOCM and TCWP took the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to court: over granting a permit to the Skyline Coal Co. for the Big Brush No.2 mine (NL216 §3B; NL218 §5B). We learned, shortly before going to press, that the court has made its decision and that it is a mixed one, with the citizens' groups winning on some issues and OSM on others. It is very likely that one side or the other will appeal. More next time.

G. Tennessee's state forests

Our State Forests are administered by the Division of Forestry within the Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture. There are 13 such forests, covering a total area of almost 150,000 acres. On

average, therefore, state forests are about four times the size of state parks (§6C, this NL), with several of which they are contiguous. There is, however, a 10-fold range in sizes -- from the 1,257-acre Lewis State Forests to the ~36,000-acre Natchez Trace SF. One, the 3,182-acre Scott State Forest, is an inholding in the Big South Fork NRR. Many came into state ownership during the Depression as abandoned and often abused lands and were rehabilitated by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps). For further information on state forests, call 615-837-5537.

Guidelines for the management of the state forests are described in the July/August issue of the *Tennessee Conservationist*. One of the forestry bills that came before the 1997 General Assembly (see also §6D, above) attempted to limit clearcutting and make other management changes in state forests.

7. TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

A. Who will pay for the non-power program?

The FY 1999 funding for TVA's resource program (flood control, navigation, water quality, public lands along the reservoirs, Land Between the Lakes, water-resource studies, etc.) still hangs in the balance (NL221 §6A; NL222 §6A). The Administration has asked for about \$77 million, and the Senate has approved \$70 million; however, things look bleak in the House, and the TVA congressional caucus under Rep. Zach Wamp's chairmanship has been unsuccessful in securing an appropriation. Rep. Wamp says he is optimistic that TVA would continue to receive non-power funding through compromises made in the Senate-House conference committee.

The report of the House Appropriations Committee states that TVA should use power revenues to pay for its land and water stewardship programs. But the Clinton Administration and others have pointed out that, in other parts of the country (e.g., the Ohio Valley), programs similar to TVA's important non-power program receive separate federal appropriations rather than being financed by electricity consumers.

This view is also embodied in a set of recommendations to Congress issued by the Tennessee Valley Stakeholder Group, a coalition of 11 citizens' groups that was formed this spring. Additionally, the Group also points out that integrated management of the Tennessee River system (i.e., no reassignment of any of TVA's responsibilities) is needed. [Similar recommendations have been made by the Tennessee Valley Electric System Advisory Committee, a group of organizations convened under the auspices of DOE.] Most important, the Group urges Congress to require TVA to cease from the selling or leasing of public lands for private uses. Such divestiture of land is a very real threat, should TVA be forced to pay for the non-power program with power revenues -- for the TVA Board would undoubtedly be averse to increasing electricity rates. An earlier proposal to use revenues generated by hydropower to pay for the non-power program is outlined in NL222 §6A.

B. TVA will offer "Green" power

In January, TVA requested proposals for power generation using alternative fuels. There were 21 responses, but because no solar proposals were included among these, TVA also plans to solicit some solar-energy companies directly.

TVA hopes to begin offering a choice of "green" power (from renewable resources) to residential customers by the summer of 2001. The vast proportion of TVA power would still be coal, nuclear, and hydro. The choice of "green" power would add about 3-15% to a typical residential bill, so it will be necessary to inform customers about what is being replaced -- e.g., part of the emissions from a dirty coal-firing plant.

C. TVA more willing than other utilities to reduce NO_x emissions

TVA's older coal-fired plants are exempt from certain controls required of newer plants. Thus, the Cumberland Steam Plant west of Nashville is the nation's No. 1 emitter of nitrogen oxides (NO_x). To its credit, TVA announced in May that it plans to install state-of-the-art pollution-control equipment not only at the Cumberland plant but also at the large Paradise plant north of Nashville (in Kentucky).

Not so forthcoming were other utilities when they recently responded to an EPA ruling under the Clean Air Act. The EPA plan called for an 85% reduction in emissions of NO_x by utilities by the year 2002. Of 22 states required to submit plans to EPA, six (including Tennessee) counter-proposed a mere 55% reduction, and so did utilities in general, except for TVA.

D. TVA participating in establishing Watershed Forum

A new resource for groups interested in watershed protection and/or improvement is the Southeast Watershed Forum, an information clearinghouse serving nine states. The forum is being established by *River Network*, a national organization, and TVA. Its first newsletter, published in May, includes updates on state watershed programs and local initiatives. The Forum will host a roundtable August 24-26 to give local watershed groups a chance to discuss the implementation of Pres. Clinton's Clean Water Action Plan with state and federal agencies. For more information, call TVA at 423-751-7328.

8. PLANS FOR SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN NATIONAL FORESTS

By December 1999, the Southern Region of the National Forest Service (USFS) expects to complete Proposed Revised Plans (Draft Plan and EIS) for each of five Forests in the Region, including the Cherokee in Tennessee. A 120-day period for public review and comment will begin in January 2000, and the Revised Plans and Final EIS are due in December 2000.

The new Regional Forester, Elizabeth Estill (NL22218F), intends to build a framework for Forest Service Plans that is adaptive and supports adjustment when needed, rather than delaying such adjustments until the next Plan Revision comes along, which happens only every 5-8 years. Her stated objectives are to generate Plans that:

- "Apply an ecological and collaborative approach to management;
- "Create public investment in the 'Desired Future Condition' of our public lands;
- "Deal with individual Forest uniqueness while addressing broader landscape issues;
- "Allow for adaptive management in the future."

Based on the SAA (Southern Appalachian Assessment) data, the five National Forests, with public involvement, developed a shared set of 12 significant public issues. In developing its proposed Plan Revision, each Forest will address these shared issues, as well as their local ones. The following are interesting (and encouraging) items gleaned from the 12 Issues. Issue #5, Wood Products, includes the question, "Where should removal of wood products occur, given that this production is part of a set of multiple use objectives, and considering cost effectiveness?" Issue #9, Forest Health, contains the statement "Of particular concern are the impacts of exotic or nonnative species, and the presence of ecological conditions with a higher level of insect and disease susceptibility" [e.g., monocultures? ed]. There is also an Issue (#11) that deals with finding rivers suitable for inclusion into the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System.

Ms. Estill cites the SAA as a model for how multiple agencies and organizations can work together with the public, and she is very much dedicated to continuing a collaborative approach with the public at all levels and scales. To this end, she has named a "Southern Appalachian Public Involvement Coordinator," Terry Seyden. The Regional Office has installed a Hear/Leave Messages phone line, 1-888-324-7383, and a web site at www.fsweb.com/resources. The planner for the Cherokee NF, Red Anderson, can be reached at 423-476-9737. Ask to be put on the mailing list.

9. SMOKIES CAPSULES

A. Amphibian study is first step in All-Taxa Inventory

The massive All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory that was recently announced for the Smokies (NL221 17D) will begin with a study of the Park's amphibians. This study, estimated to take 3-5 years, will be undertaken by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the National Park Service, and will be headed by Dr. Ken Dodd. Amphibians (salamanders, toads, frogs) are important indicators of ecological health, and there are estimated to be at least 40+ species of them in the Park.

B. Park fees

The Smokies congressional caucus, led by Sen. Fred Thompson (R-TN) has requested the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to allow the Park to keep 100% of collected fees. Most of these come from campgrounds and exclude an entrance fee, which (based on the authorizing legislation) the Park is not allowed to charge. Under a current three-year demonstration program, the Park may keep 80% of fees collected. The additional 20% would amount to approximately \$300,000 annually.

C. Red Wolves having hard time

Six years have passed since the red wolf reintroduction effort began with the release of captive-bred adults. Unfortunately, of about 30 pups born in the interim, nearly all have died of unknown causes. U.S. Fish & Wildlife biologists are considering actions to help the current litter survive, including vaccination against canine diseases (parvovirus, distemper). Adults are also having problems, mainly due to straying outside the park; only four remained as of May - there were eight in February.

10. NATIONAL NEWS**A. NPS must take action on jet skis**

Concerned citizens have been waiting nine months for the National Park Service (NPS) to issue a final rule governing the use of personal watercraft (PWCs = jet skis) in the Park System. The National Parks & Conservation Association has petitioned NPS to issue an immediate, system-wide ban on PWCs, and unless action is taken, NPCA will pursue legal measures. A recent poll has indicated that 92% of Americans believe that the use of PWCs should be limited, with over half of the respondents supporting a ban.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: To support a system-wide prohibition, or at least tough regulations, of PWCs, contact Maureen Finnerty, Associate Director of Park Operations, NPS, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240; phone 202-208-5651; e-mail maureen_finnerty@nps.gov

B. We need to defend Alaska's conservation areas

Alaska has such magnificent unspoiled natural resources, such a small human

population, and such a disproportionately powerful anti-environment Congressional delegation that it behooves the rest of us to take an active interest. In 1980, under Pres. Jimmy Carter's leadership, the Congress passed ANILCA (the Alaska National Interest Lands and Conservation Act), which established 104 million acres of protected ecosystems. ANILCA is now in grave danger from the Alaska legislators, who want to open the lands to a variety of developments. The following are examples of legislation that has been introduced (generally by Sens. Frank Murkowski or Ted Stevens), most of it as "riders" on unrelated bills, e.g., the Interior Appropriations bill.

- * Authorizing the operation and landing of helicopters (not excluding any used for large-scale commercial tours) in all of Alaska's conservation units -- including national parks, wilderness, and wilderness-study areas;
- * Putting a "jet-capable" runway near the entrance of Denali National Park;
- * Prohibiting the Park Service from stopping illegal commercial fishing in Glacier Bay;
- * Allowing construction of a road through a congressionally designated wilderness area (in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge) -- a terrible precedent for designated wilderness everywhere;
- * Putting a road or railroad through the heart of Denali National Park.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Contact your senators and representative (addresses on p.2) and tell them that the Alaska conservation areas -- lands belonging to all of us -- must be protected from improper use. Mention your opposition to some of the specific items listed above. (2) Send the same message to Pres. Clinton (202-456-1111, e-mail president@whitehouse.gov) and ask him to veto any bills that have riders that diminish the meaning of ANILCA.

C. Utah's magnificent wild lands need us

(1) Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument potentially good news. The state of Utah owns scattered lands, open to development (e.g., recent drilling by Conoco) within the boundaries of our newest National Monument. While these are supposed to be managed for the benefit of Utah's education system, most

generated little if any revenue for this purpose. In May, Utah Governor Leavitt and Interior Sec. Babbitt agreed to exchange ~175,000 acres of these scattered lands for federal assets elsewhere, where revenues for the school system would be more easily generated. Congress must enact legislation implementing this exchange agreement. Once this is done, the state will drop litigation challenging establishment of the Monument.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: The required legislation has already passed the House, but there is concern that certain politicians (who not only want to exert development pressure inside the National Monument but also to embarrass Gov. Leavitt) may try to slow it in the Senate. Contact your senators (address on p.2) and urge them to support speedy passage of this sensible legislation.

(2) Utah wilderness. America's Redrock Wilderness Act, HR1500 (Hinchey, 136 co-sponsors)/S.773 (Durbin, 11 co-sponsors) would set aside 5.7 million acres of highly deserving BLM lands as wilderness. [A new citizen inventory, now nearing completion, will make slight changes in the boundaries.] These bills need support from all over the country because in Utah (somewhat analogous to the situation in Alaska, §10B) there are lands that are national treasures, but legislators who are overall very anti-environment. Unfortunately, of the entire Tennessee congressional delegation, only one, Rep. Harold Ford, Jr. is so far a co-sponsor of the Redrock Wilderness Act.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank Rep. Ford, and urge your own representative and your senators to become co-sponsors also (addresses on p.2).

You can keep updated on the Utah situation by checking the website <http://www.suwa.org/> or by subscribing (at no cost) to the e-mail alert list. To do this, send an e-mail (no subject line necessary, and leave the body of the message blank) to subscribe@suwa.org - the address from which you send the e-mail will be automatically subscribed.

D. A critical time for the Endangered Species Act

The very harmful "re-authorization" of the ESA, Sen. Kempthorne's S.1180, is on the verge of passing the Senate (may have passed by the time you get this), but we still have the opportunity for stopping the House from passing some variation of this Bill. Even better, we can encourage our Congressman to support Rep. George Miller's Endangered Species Recovery Act, HR.2351, which would strengthen, rather than weaken, the Endangered Species Act.

The Kempthorne Bill (nicknamed ESAin't) weakens the ESA beyond repair. It limits the review of development projects such as dams, roads, and timber sales that may harm endangered species; it writes into law the controversial "no surprises" policy that allows developers to lock in 100-year-guaranteed land management plans, which stay in effect even if new information on measures that are essential for a species' survival become later available; and it makes it more difficult to declare species as endangered and to protect their habitat. By contrast, Rep Miller's HR.2351 strengthens the ESA by offering land owners incentives to participate in species protection, providing early alerts on species decline, and minimizing activities that destroy habitat.

Another threat to endangered species protection comes from anti-environment riders that Congress has become so adept at attaching to must-pass bills (e.g., NL222 §8A). The Interior Appropriations Bill is loaded with such riders, and at least four of them weaken species protection. For example, Sec.123 allows BLM to reauthorize grazing permits without conforming to the requirements of the ESA.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Contact your representative (address on p.2) and urge him to oppose the Kempthorne bill and instead support Rep. Miller's HR.2351. (2) Just in case the Senate has not yet acted on the Kempthorne bill, urge your senators to vote against it. In any case, strongly urge your senators to vote against the anti-environment riders that have been attached to the Interior Appropriations Bill. (Addresses on p.2)

E. **Forestry capsules**

*Of 13 national forests in Washington and Oregon, nine have requested from the Chief of the Forest Service that harvest targets be lowered; none of the forests asked that they be raised. The request is due to the fact that the logging targets set by the Administration's Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) are too high to be compatible with the restrictions and logging rules established by that Plan. Under the NWFP, federal timber harvests were already reduced 80% below levels of the late 1980s; but some forests had been so heavily logged in the 1970s and 1980s that entire valleys need to be left alone for decades so streams can recover. In some cases, sources of drinking water have been imperiled by the extreme logging in the watershed; thus, the water supply for the city of Salem, OR, was undrinkable for days after a heavy rainstorm. As might have been predictable, timber industry officials are saying that the restrictions set by the NWFP are too strict.

*Even after embracing the so-called Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the timber industry still performs a high percentage of its harvests as clearcuts. Member companies of the American Forest & Paper Association report that of 2.5 million acres harvested in 1997, clearcuts accounted for 41%, shelterwood and selective harvesting for only 14% (the rest was "salvage" harvests and thinning).

*Over 40 years of records of the Forest Service's Northeast Experiment Station demonstrate that the forest canopy greatly reduces flooding in the summer season, when most storm events occur. The role of the deciduous canopy in reducing runoff is also apparent in a comparison of the non-leaf season (Nov-April) with the growing season (May-Oct.): runoff was, respectively, 60% vs. only 23% of total precipitation. Implications for the effects of clearcutting are obvious.

*The Forest Reform Network warns that the Forest Service is proposing to make a change in its on-the-ground regulation under Sec. 219.27(c)(6) (to protect soils, watershed, fish & wildlife, etc.). The shift would be from outright requirements to mere planning, which makes protection only discretionary. Write to

Dr. K. Norman Johnson, USDA Committee of Scientists, PO Box 2140, Corvallis, OR 97339.

F. **"Regulatory Reform"**

Among a number of bills for "regulatory reform," the most prominent is S.981, the Regulatory "Improvement" Act, sponsored by Tennessee's Sen. Fred Thompson, with Sen. Frist as a co-sponsor. This bill could delay, block, or repeal regulations that have created health, safety, and environmental safeguards. Let your senators know that you do not support such a strategy (addresses on p. 2).

G. **The chronic underfunding of public lands**

Having in past Newsletters often presented information about the miserable dearth of land-acquisition funds and the shortage of operating funds for agencies such as the Park Service and Fish & Wildlife Service, we found the following overall figures (from the League of Conservation Voters) to be additionally depressing (but worthy of communicating to our legislators). In 1998, 0.83% (less than 1%!!!) of the total federal budget of 1.7 trillion dollars was allocated to the care and upkeep of our natural heritage. Between now and the year 2002, the Balanced Budget Amendment projects a 3 billion dollar decrease in funding to our natural resources and environment, which are already maintained at the starvation level.

H. **"Takings" bill defeated**

When the Takings Property Rights Bill, S.2271, came to the Senate floor in mid-July the vote fell well short of the 60 needed for cloture. It was a bipartisan victory for the rights of local communities to protect health, safety, and the environment, because the measure would have allowed developers to bypass state courts by filing takings claims against local governments directly in federal courts. Senators most credited with the defeat of S.2271 are Leahy (D-VT), Murray (D-WA), and Chafee (R-RI).

11. **OAK RIDGE/KNOXVILLE AREA TRAILS**

A. **North Ridge Trail, Oak Ridge**

This 75-mile-long National and State Recreation Trail, developed by TCWP in the 1960s, is still being maintained by TCWP volunteers, with construction help (e.g., foot



bridges) by the City Recreation and Parks Department. Except for a couple of road crossings, the Trail is totally contained within Oak Ridge's Northern Greenbelt.

Ken and Helen Warren, who in recent years have done the lion's share of the trail maintenance work for TCWP, have recently submitted a status report. They observed a satisfactory condition for the Trail, overall, although severe erosion (correctable only with heavy equipment) continues to plague two of the numerous accesses. Though the Trail receives considerable use in certain areas, it is remarkably free of trash; the former huge dumpsite at a road intersection has been cleaned up by the Anderson County Solid Waste Department, for which we thank them.

The "Newcomers' Guide '98," recently published in *The Oak Ridger*, describes the North Ridge Trail prominently among the City's outdoor opportunities. Maintenance of the North Ridge Trail provides one of several TCWP outdoor volunteer activities. If you can help with any of them, call Marcy Reed, 481-0623.

B. Knoxville Greenways get ISTEA \$\$

Knoxville recently received \$887,000 from the federal ISTEA program for the development of greenways. Disappointingly, Knox County received none. ISTEA, the Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act, enacted eight years ago, in addition to authorizing a great deal of highway funding, also increased the commitment to mass transit and included some money for trail development. The bulk of the ISTEA funding received by Knoxville will go for work on the First Creek Greenway (from the Old City to I-40, \$300,000), for a segment of the new Ten Mile Creek Greenway (\$330,000), and for the Third Creek Extension (from U.T. Apartments to Forest Avenue, \$117,000). For more information, call Will Skelton, Chairman of the Knoxville Greenways Commission 521-6200.

The reauthorization of ISTEA, now named Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century ("TEA21"), was loaded with several damaging anti-environmental riders (NL222 §8A). Nevertheless, it was signed and, like ISTEA, contains some money for trail development.

12. TCWP NEWS

A. Staffing change

Linda Krusen has resigned her position as part-time executive director. Her tenure will cease at the end of September, when the Forestry Advisory Panel, to which she has been devoting the bulk of her time, will expire (§6D, this NL). We thank Linda for all of her efforts, and wish her success and satisfaction in the full-time job she has taken.

Marcy Reed, who is already sharing (with Sandra Goss) the position of TCWP Membership/Development Director, has agreed to add the Executive Director functions (funded at 10 hours per week) to her tasks. Marcy has already been involved, as a volunteer, in numerous of our activities (witness the several articles she has contributed to this Newsletter), and this makes her increasingly informed about TCWP issues, to say nothing of developing the needed contacts. Her membership/development functions will also make her effective in recruiting volunteers for work on hot issues. We look forward to her very productive performance.

B. Celebration of Don Todd and Cumberland Trail State Park (Contributed by Marcy Reed)

On October 3, we will honor Don Todd for his historical role in bringing about the recent establishment of the new Cumberland Trail State Park (§2 this NL) and his significant contributions to the protection of several of the prime areas the linear Park will traverse.

This celebration will be held in the Visitor Center of Frozen Head State Park from 12:30 until 5:00 p.m. It will start with a potluck, with drinks, paper plates and utensils provided. We plan to eat at around 1:30 p.m., and presentations will start at around 2:30 p.m. Anyone interested in speaking about Don Todd and his contributions, please contact Joni Lovegrove at 482-9223, or e-mail her at Hawk86@earthlink.net.

If you wish to carpool to this event, contact Marcy Reed at 423-481-0623 after September 1. Don't forget to put October 3 on your calendar.

C. Theme chosen for our Annual Weekend, November 6-8

We have picked Water Resources and Watersheds as the theme for the TCWP Annual Weekend on for November 6-8 at Bersheeba Springs. You will find several examples just in this Newsletter of why this is a timely topic -- the Cumberland Plateau water study (§3A), the Fall Creek Falls watershed (§1), the pollution issues addressed by the TMDL program (§5A), the watershed forum (§7D).

In addition to the opportunity to hear an interesting program (Saturday morning), you will be able to enjoy beautiful scenery (Savage Gulf, Fiery Gizzard, Scott's Gulf) on our outings (Saturday afternoon, Sunday) and enjoy the company of your co-members and friends during social activities at this historic retreat in the South Cumberlands. Bersheeba Springs offers good facilities, comfortable accommodations, and good food. You will also have a chance to interact with our new team of membership-development directors. We will provide for children's activities, too.

We shall soon send out a preliminary announcement. In the meantime, be sure to mark Nov. 6-8 on your calendar.

D. Results of the Member Survey

[Contributed by Marcy Reed]

The new Membership and Development Directors, Marcy Reed and Sandra Goss, recently completed the survey of the membership. Apart from questionnaires mailed to members who live out of state or in Memphis, or for whom we had no phone number, all surveys were done by phone. To date, 126 people out of a database of 395 (32%) were surveyed. If you did not have a chance to be surveyed and wish to make your opinions known, you may contact either Marcy at 423-481-0623 or Sandra at 423-522-3809. Alternatively, the survey is on the web site at <http://8/10/98/www.kornet/tcwp>. You may print it, fill it out, and mail it.

In general, the members were very friendly and outgoing and more than willing to answer the questions. TCWP president Jenny Freeman commented "TCWP members are to be commended for their good response to the survey. With this information, the board will be launching new committees and communicating with the membership about new activities."

Questions fell into four basic categories: members' hobbies and interests, TCWP issues, TCWP services and activities, and suggestions for ways to improve TCWP. The only complaint, voiced by a few people, was that the Newsletter was too long. Many more, however, complimented the length and depth of the Newsletter. In fact, 83% of the members felt that the Newsletter was one of the most important services that TCWP provides.

Three-quarters of the membership enjoy outdoor activities, and about two-thirds are involved in some sort of outdoor-fitness activity.

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| hiking | 60% |
| botany/gardening | 30% |
| camping | 20% |
| boating | 20% |
| birdwatching | 13% |
| photography | 13% |
| whitewater | 10% |
| fishing | 9% |

Other activities mentioned several times were running, biking, swimming, computers, and reading.

The TCWP issues most important to members are as follows (in descending order):

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| State parks and Natural Areas | 38% |
| Obed and Big South Fork | 37% |
| River preservation | 32%; |
| Water quality | 32% |
| Snipmining | 27% |
| Great Smoky Mountains | 27% |
| Wilderness; land preservation | 26% |
| Air quality | 21% |
| Local issues | 20% |
| Cherokee National Forest | 18% |
| Scott's Gulf | 17% |
| National issues | 15% |
| Forestry issues | 10% |

Additionally, about 12% thought all issues were important. For the most part, answers were elicited without prompting (i.e., the interviewers did not furnish a selection list) and so probably reflect the issues that are most in people's minds right now. Thus, Fall Creek Falls was mentioned quite often and these responses were usually included under the stripmining and state-parks category, depending on the rest of the conversation.

Regarding the value to people of the services and activities provided by TCWP, most people thought the Newsletter was the most important thing about the organization, and a whopping 83% rated it as very important. "It's what sets us apart from other organizations"

Here is the summary:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| newsletter | 83% |
| political guide | 35% |
| pre-election information | 15% |
| annual meeting | 12% |
| trail maintenance | 8% |
| activities/outings | 6% |

Many people mentioned that they would like to see more activities and outings.

Regarding suggested ways to improve TCWP, the vast majority of people said they didn't think TCWP needed improving, that we are doing a great job. Here are some additional ideas that were expressed:

- "Increase TCWP's visibility. No one has heard of us."
- "Bring in more members."
- "Bring in younger members."
- "Get involved in more community activities, even those not having to do with environmental issues. It will show that we care about the community."
- "Guaranteed money is needed. Get grant funding."
- "Build a stable fund-raising base with one or two permanent staff people."
- "Provide more opportunities for members to get together and get to know one another."
- "Enhance electronic communication between members."
- "Organize car-pooling for functions, such as the annual meeting."
- "Would like to see more of a Chattanooga presence."
- "Disseminate more information about the members. I would like to know about who lives in my area."
- Last, but not least: "Clone Bill and Lee Russell."

Some of the positive comments heard:

- "TCWP is one of the few groups that gets things done."
 - "The newsletter is the most informative of its kind."
 - "Enhance electronic communication between members. None of them gets as much done as TCWP."
 - "It's amazing what we have done with all any grant funding."
 - "I'm amazed at how much TCWP gets done."
- There were many favorable comments from the Russells, Jenny Freeman and Linda Krusen.

One-third of the members contacted indicated that they would definitely or probably be willing to volunteer in some capacity. This shows dedication on the part of TCWP's membership! Quite a few more people indicated that in the next year or so, they would have more time to volunteer.

The information from the survey will be used to develop committees to work on TCWP issues and services. Additionally, the information about people's hobbies will provide us with an idea of how or where people would enjoy serving or participating, and what expertise or talent they might contribute. It may also help to get businesses to underwrite TCWP costs on some occasions.

E. A TCWP fund-raising activity: "Kroger Cares" Coupons

(contributed by Marcy Reed)

Kroger offers gift certificates at a discounted rate to non-profit organizations. For example, a certificate that will purchase \$100 in merchandise would cost an organization only \$95 (provided a sufficient number of certificates is bought). The member subsequently purchasing the \$100 certificate from the organization gets the equivalent of \$100 cash, but the organization has gained \$5.

Certificates can be used to purchase anything at all at any Kroger's. If you already shop there (or wouldn't mind occasionally shopping there), this is an easy way for TCWP to make some money and doesn't cost you a penny. Denominations available are \$10, \$25, \$50, and \$100. You may contact Marcy Reed with your order at 481-0623 or e-mail her at marcyreed@aol.com. Coupons will be available starting September 1, and you may pick them up at her home. Alternatively, she can arrange for mailing or delivery of coupons to you on a regular basis.

F. Grant-writing workshop for staff

On August 11, our joint membership/development directors Marcy Reed and Sandra Goss are attending a grant writing workshop in Chattanooga. They hope to gain some excellent tools for writing grants for environmental projects. Our sincere thanks to TCWP member, Tom McDonough, for informing them about the workshop and signing them up for the class.

G. We mourn Howard Adler

A long-tenn TCWP member and very dear friend, Howie Adler, died on March 12. He had a great love for, scientific knowledge of, and personal involvement in, the natural environment. The Nature Conservancy reports that an unprecedented number memorial contributions were received for Howie and will go toward preserving some of the Tennessee lands he so dearly loved.

13. ACTIVITIES, READING MATTER, RESOURCES


- August 24, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Knoxville Recycling Coalition celebrates its Tenth Anniversary, The

Tomato Head, Market Square Mall. Complimentary pizza will be served.

- August 24-26, Southeast Watershed Forum round-table (see ¶7D) at Tennessee Aquarium, Chattanooga (call TVA at 423-751-7328).
- August 25, Asheville, conference for members of southern Appalachian region chambers of commerce on strategies in valuing non-timber forest resources such as recreation, wildlife, clean air and water. (Call Taylor Barnhill, Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, 828-252-9223.)
- September 10-12, Fourth Annual Acid Mine Drainage Conference, and meeting of the Natl Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Radisson Hotel, Knoxville (contact Ms. Kelley Wolfe, at kwolfe@wvu.edu).
- September 11-13, Forest Reform Network Annual Rally in New Hampshire (call 978-287-0320).
- September 19, 8:30a.m.-5p.m. (CDT), The 1998 Environmental Congress, Nashville, Freedom Forum First Amendment Center. Forest Protection Priorities and Watershed Protection Strategies are among the sessions being planned (call Christl at TEC, 615-321-5075, or e-mail lcc@nol.com).
- September 24-27, October 15-18 and 22-25, work sessions on Cumberland Trail, Obed and Catoosa segments (see 3D for contact).
- September 25-27, Tennessee Native Plant Society Annual Meeting, Monteagle (call Mary Priestley at 931-598-1324, or e-mail mpriest@sewanee.edu).
- October 3, Celebration of Don Todd, Frozen Head Visitor Center, 12:30-5p.m. (see ¶12B).
- October 8-11, Society of Environmental Journalists Conference, Chattanooga, hosted by UTC (call 423-755-4344).
- November 4-6 (abstracts due by Aug. 25), SAMAB Fall Conference, Gatlinburg (call 423-436-1701).
- November 7-8, TCWP Annual Weekend, Bersheeba Springs (¶12C, this NL).
- November 14, State Parks Forum, Montgomery Bell State Park (contact Jenny Freeman, 423-482-5980).
- Inexpensive used office supplies of all kinds can be obtained at the WasteXchange, operated by the Knoxville Recycling Coalition on the first Saturday of each month, 9-11:30a.m., at the City of Knoxville Transfer Station off I-275 (take West Baxter exit and follow signs).
- South Wings, "Aviators for the Southland," empower the conservation community through

the valuable perspective of flight. They shed light on such problems as deforestation, stripmining, landfill overuse, etc. Contact Hume Davenport in Chattanooga, 423-267-9833.

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- According to the *Green Scissors '98 Report*, the government could save \$1 billion over 5 years by eliminating below-cost timber sales, and could raise an equal amount by charging an 8% royalty for minerals extracted from public lands. (For a free copy, visit the Friends of the Earth website at www.foe.org, or get a hard copy for \$20 by calling 202-783-7400, ext.239.)
- A *Green Tax Resource Package* on state-level green taxes and tax incentives is available for \$10 from the Center for a Sustainable Economy, Attn: Scott Anders, 1731 Connecticut Ave., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20009.
- EPA's *National Water Quality Inventory: 1996 Report to Congress* (free, 800-490-9198, or www.epa.gov/305b).
- EPA's Web page (www.epa.gov/oeca/sti) provides comprehensive information on environmental performances of 653 facilities in five major industries.
- EARTHACTION urges us to get the Senate to ratify the international Convention to Combat Desertification. Desertification is the destruction of fertile soils, mainly through human activities, identified by UNEP as one of the most serious global environmental problems. The only major countries that have not yet ratified the treaty are the USA and Japan. Contact your senators.