

TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 227

April 21, 1999

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

13. ACTION SUMMARY

¶ No	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1B	Obed Trails Plan	Obed superintendent	Comment on preliminary proposals
2A	Big S. Fork GMP	NPS planning team	"Bar ORVs from Backwoods Unit!"
3A	State Forestry bills	State legislators	"Support 4 forestry bills (first 4 listed in ¶3A)!"
3B	Attackson State wetlands fund	State legislators	"Oppose 3 bills that interfere with land-acquisition funds!"
3C	Litter; container deposits	State legislators	"Support SJR 088, SJR 092, and SB 1755!"
4A	State Parks Master Plan	State legislators	"Golf courses and resort-park developments hurt parks!"
4B	Fall Creek Falls LUMP	V.P.Gore; US sens. and rep.	"Stripmining in Park's watershed must be banned!"
5A	Pollution from abandoned mines	US senators and congressmen	"Support requested increase in ACSIfunds!"
5D	Ecoregional planning	TCWP	Offer help for Cumberlands planning. Also, see ¶8.
5E	Cumberland Gap Natl. Hist. Park	Your congressman	"Urge Rep.Rogers to sponsor expansion proposal!"
6A	Proposed sales of TVA lands	TVA Board State legislators	"Thanks for saving publiclands on Tellico, Nickajack!" "Re-authorize TRDA!"
7B	S.Appalachian Wilderness Walk	TCWP	Offer to help with associated activities
8	Urgently needed acquisition funds	US senators and congressmen	"Co-sponsor HR.798/S.446. Also support Land Legacy!" Participate in 'Picture Parks' campaign
9A	Oak Ridge Reservation	City Council members	"Do not request ORR lands for city; protect NERP!"
10A	Designation of nat'l monuments	U.S. senators	"Oppose S.729: Antiquities Act is important tool!"
10B	Endangered Species Recover Act	Your U.S. congressman	"Co-sponsor HR.960!"
10C	Redrock Wilderness bill	Your US repr. and senators	"Support Hinchey-Durbin bill for Utah wilderness!"
10D	Attackon Biosphere Reserves	Your U.S. congressman	"Oppose HR.883!"
11A,C	TCWP committees	TCWP	Offer to serve on <i>ad hoc</i> or regular committee
11B	TCWP listserve	TCWP	Send us your e-mail address

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

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The White House
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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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Sen. Fred Thompson:
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.

1. OBED ISSUES

A. Tier-III (=ONRW) designation for Obed still not acted upon

In a nutshell: we won't know the outcome until 6 days after this Newsletter goes to the printer.

Alerts sent through the FoTo (Friends of the Obed) network (coordinated by TCWP) and through the National Parks & Conservation Assoc. informed hundreds of interested people about the precarious situation regarding water-quality designation for the Obed (NL226 §1A and 1B), and stimulated dozens and dozens of letters to the Water Quality Control Board (WQCB). About 50 people sent us copies, and many additional ones probably also wrote; about 30 resigned on to a letter.

Many of the letters reminded the WQCB members that a recent Corps of Engineers' water-supply study for Cumberland County had demonstrated that there are several very viable alternatives that do not involve the Obed watershed. The Obed clearly qualifies for, and richly deserves, Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW) designation. It needs it now to avoid multiple dangers of degradation. And the ONRW designation in no way interferes with securing a reliable water-supply source for Cumberland County.

Thus, five of 17 alternatives analyzed in the Corps study got "positive" assessments, both with regard to engineering feasibility and the likelihood of obtaining a permit. Four of these (plus one other one) had an estimated cost per MGD (million gallons per day) that is significantly lower than the cost for the impoundment proposed for the Clear Creek (Obed-system) dam; and all of these alternatives have a "safe yield" that is about three times higher than the yield of Clear Creek dam.

Although all members of the WQCB had received these messages (in multiple iterations) - and some members were obviously very strongly impressed with them - they were also in receipt of resolutions by the Cumberland County Court and the Crossville City Council requesting the WQCB to delay ONRW designation "until the current process of evaluating long-term water resources ... is completed and a permit is granted by the State of Tennessee for a chosen option." County-court resolutions carry considerable political weight. Possibly as a result of these

resolutions, several of the WQCB members were under the erroneous impression that the Cumberland County water-supply study was still incomplete.

At the March 23 meeting of the WQCB, Board member Prof. Byerly made an eloquent presentation on behalf of the Obed and moved that the federal portion of the river be designated as ONRW upon completion of a water-supply plan. Although Byerly was strongly supported by two other members of the Board (of which altogether 9 were present that day), others voted to table his resolution until the April 27 meeting, and until after the staff had written a letter to a "responsible party" to ascertain what timeframe was involved in completing the study (which, in fact, has been completed!). A letter has now been written to the Cumberland County Executive. TCWP and NPCA have done some brainstorming, and our water-issues committee has decided on several strategies. We won't know until April 27 whether these have paid off. In the meantime, thanks so much to the very many of you who wrote such wonderful letters to the WQCB!

B. Obed Trails Plan

At an Open House on March 11, which was attended by several TCWP members, the National Park Service (NPS) displayed three alternative trails concepts for the Obed Wild & Scenic River (WSR). Alternative A was the condition depicted in the current park brochure. Alternative B showed the Cumberland Trail (essentially on the south side of the Obed and on the west side of Daddys Creek), as well as a number of other hiking trails. Alternative C, in addition, included a couple of "multi-use" trails for mountain bikes and/or horses.

The Obed General Management Plan (adopted 1995) makes it clear that in the Wild Zone (which applies to all river segments of the WSR area, except for the Emory) "only non-mechanized means of transportation would be allowed on the river or trails ... Alterations to the natural setting would be limited to hiking trails and walk-in or 'boating' camping areas." Multi-use trail (as now proposed under Alternative C) are thus not allowed anywhere except in the very short Emory segment. Further, there are plenty of opportunities for horse and mountain-bike use in areas near the Obed WSR, e.g., on Lone Mountain, just a few miles east, and in the Big South Fork NRR.

Even Alternative B seems to us to propose an excessive development of foot trails on both sides of the rivers – not only on top of the bluffs, but often down in the gorge. This is an overload for such a small, narrow, and fragile park, and for an area intended to be wild – where “[v]isitors are experiencing a vestige of primitive America.”

The Open House was only preliminary to the development of a formal Trail Plan. But some groups (especially mountain bikers) have already used the opportunity to shower the Obed administration with requests for certain trail developments. While formal public comments will probably not be invited until later, it is definitely not too early for you to drop a short note to NPS urging limited development of hiking trails only.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Drop a note about the preliminary trails proposals to Don Forester, Superintendent, Obed National Wild & Scenic River, P.O. Box 429, Wartburg, TN 37887; 423-346-6294.

2. BIG SOUTH FORK GMP, etc.

A. General Management Plan (GMP) – revised draft in improvement

As a result of the public input received in connection with preliminary meetings that were held in the winter (Dec. 2 in Oak Ridge) (NL225 ¶1A and insert), major changes have now been made in the GMP Alternatives. The formal Draft will not be issued until early summer, but Newsletter No. 6 from the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area (BSFNRRRA) provides a summary and instructive color-coded maps.

In general, the changes represent a tremendous improvement. As before, each Alternative contains a different distribution of a set of management units, but one Alternative, including a unit that was unique to it, has been eliminated altogether. This Destination Alternative contained Base Camp Units, which would have provided lodges, food service, and private entrepreneur opportunities, among other things. Another management unit, the High Opportunity Unit (which would have been managed for high densities of people, “provided with conveniences”), has been transmuted into the less intensively developed Enhancement Unit.

Another general flaw has also been repaired, namely, the feature of the original proposal whereby the management units in all three Alternatives indiscriminately overlay and overlapped the legislatively defined Gorge Areas and surrounding plateau areas (the so-called “Adjacent Area”). Certain such overlaps could have triggered levels of development that were inappropriate – if not illegal – for the Gorge Areas. In the new Alternatives the entire legislatively defined Gorge has become the Primitive Management Unit.

The new draft thus has two (instead of three) Alternatives, named Rustic and Active. Both have the same location for the Primitive Management Unit, namely, the legislatively designated Gorge Areas. The Alternatives differ, however, with regard to the relative amounts of the other two management units. Thus, in the Rustic Alternative, Backwoods Units predominate; in the Active Alternative, Enhancement Units occupy about half the plateau areas, including all 11 of the legislated gorge access. Enhancement Units allow more development than do Backwoods Unit, but the level of development has been toned down from that of the equivalent unit in the earlier draft. However, not only Enhancement but Backwoods Units permit bicycle and ORV use on designated routes. All three management units (i.e., Primitive as well as the other two) permit hunting in season.

Locations at which there are Enhancement Units in the Active Alternative but Backwoods Units in the Rustic Alternative are the following: in the large area between the North Whiteoak Creek and its Laurel Fork; the west side of the Clear Fork before its confluence with New River; a large area surrounding Honey Creek (south of North Whiteoak Creek and west of Big S. Fork); a large area on the western boundary that abuts on Pickett; an area northeast of Scott State Forest; and just inside the park boundary in the vicinity of the Station Camp Road. Obviously, we would prefer Backwoods units to occupy most, if not all, of these locations. Even then, there would be plenty of Enhancement Units left.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Familiarize yourself with the new set of Alternatives so you can be ready to comment when the formal Draft GMP is issued early in the summer. Contact BSFNRRRA Headquarters (4564 Leatherwood Rd., Oneida, TN 37841; 423-569-9778; john_fischer@nps.gov) and make the following points: (1) Request a copy

of BSF Newsletter No. 6; (2) Commend the planning team on the vastly improved Alternatives; (3) Oppose the use of ORVs anywhere within the Backwoods management unit. Please let TCWP know (see box on p. 18) if you would like to receive further analyses or action calls on this subject when the time arises.

B. State Natural Areas within the BSFNRA

Twin Arches and Honey Creek Pocket Wilderness are two Designated State Natural Areas owned by NPS within the Big S. Fork National River & Recreation Area. Twin Arches contains one of the world's largest double-arch complexes, as well as extensive, biologically diverse, natural communities (including species of state and federal concern). The rugged Honey Creek area has high cliffs, rock houses, water falls, and two federally threatened plant species. The Tennessee Division of Natural Heritage works with NPS staff to ensure that these areas receive the greatest level of protection.

C. Superintendent retires

Rolland, with whom we have had fine relations, retired in March. Asst. Superintendent Judy Iburg is now the Acting Superintendent.

D. March for Parks benefits

By the time you read this, our 1999 March for Parks is probably over, but you might be interested in the products and services that were paid for with contribution of the money we collected for past BSFNRA Marches. Acting Superintendent Judy Iburg recently enumerated the following:

- Trail guide for the Oscar Blevins Loop Trail
- Purchase of an oil-spill-response kit, including an oil boom and water-monitoring equipment
- Conduct of a survey of endangered mussels in a selected stretch of the BSF, which resulted in identification of five federally endangered mussel species in need of immediate protection. Protective steps are now being taken by the Park. If you were unable to participate in the April 24 March for Parks but would still like to contribute to it, contact Sandra K. Goss, 522-3809; skg1282@epwr.com

3. BILL & IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE

This year's schedule for legislative activities was disrupted by the special legislative session on the Governor's proposed tax package.

Nevertheless, action did get under way on several bills (good and bad) of special interest to TCWP. For the text of a bill, visit

<http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/legislative/Legislative.htm>

For addresses of legislators (if you've lost our Political Guide), visit

<http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/Senate/Members/Members.htm>

A. Forestry-related bills

The fact that Tennessee does not have any laws regulating forestry has added to the environmental danger posed by the dramatic growth in timber cutting and in hardwood-to-pine conversion in the Cumberlands. Overflights recently organized by the Cumberland chapter of SOCM clearly revealed the very large number of clear-cuts and pine plantations on the Plateau. (The absence of regulations has also been an inducement for the timber industry to move into Tennessee in such a big way). The recent report by the Forest Management Advisory Panel (NL224 ¶3C), which had been created by the legislature to delay consideration of forestry bills, failed to address the really hard issues, such as the burgeoning of chip-mill-related clear cutting. Now that the Panel has submitted its report, the legislature is again facing a number of bills that try to address the substantive issues.

- SB 798 (Cohen)/HB 1185 (Odom), EAF's Bad Actor Bill, addresses the water-quality impacts of bad forestry. It requires that the Dept. of Agriculture (TDA) be notified of cuts 10 acres or larger, and that the notification (which must be available for public inspection) include acreage, cutting method, and particulars on owner/operator. Additionally, TDEC (Dept. of Environment & Conservation) is given authority for regulating operators likely to cause water pollution.
- SB 804 (Cohen)/HB 1389 (Odom), the Sierra Club's State Forests Bill, aims to make sure that our ~150,000 acres of state forests are managed for their recreational, ecological, and educational benefits by requiring a written plan, identifying unique fragile sites, and proposing a budget for the promotion of the listed values. The bill calls for an inventory of old-growth and potential old-growth areas, the establishment of buffer zones around them, and a moratorium on timber sales until after completion of the inventory.

- SB 1584 (Fowler)/HB 427 (Stulce), SOCM's Comprehensive Bill, requires a permit for commercial harvesting by owners of at least 100 acres of timber who intend to cut at least 20 acres, strengthens the standards for protecting soils and water before and after harvesting, puts responsibility for cutting under specially trained, licensed "Master Loggers," and authorizes a severance tax on pulpwood to pay for forest-management activities and help local governments repair logging-related damages to roads, etc. It also requires that the State make an assessment of forest resources to be harvested for a chipmill or chip-using facility, and of the effect on existing hardwood-using industries, before a permit is granted for establishing or enlarging a chip mill.
- SB 1754 (Kyle)/HB 1570 (Curtiss), SOCM's Economic Incentives Bill, requires that, prior to granting economic incentives for wood-products industries, the State must undertake a forest-resource assessment to analyze the impact a facility would have on potential over-harvesting.
- SB 613 (Davis)/HB 469 (Civens) would add "forestry products" to the definition of farm products under the Right to Farm Act. This added definition would immunize forestry operations, including clear-cutting and chipping, against law suits.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your State senator and representative (see Political Guide) and urge them to support the first four bills listed. The last-listed bill merits opposition.

B. Attacks on the State's land-acquisition capabilities

Currently, the State's wetlands-acquisition program is funded entirely by a small tax on real-estate transfer fees. Several bills have been introduced that would abolish or weaken this acquisition capability. The wetlands-acquisition fund totaled \$6.3 million last year. It is used not only for acquisition but also for stewardship after purchase.

- SB 1778 (Henry)/HB 1857 (McDaniel, S. Ford) would allocate the money raised through the transfer tax to the General Fund, instead of earmarking it for land acquisition.

- HB 1304 (Walker)/SB 1518 (Cooper, Elsea) would require certain time-consuming and costly procedures (hearings, EISs) to be followed before the State (specifically, TWRA) could purchase tracts of wetlands or bottomland hardwoods.
- HB 0825 (Walker)/SB 0401 (Cooper) would divert 70% of the wetlands-acquisition fund to the state-parks maintenance fund.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your State senator and representative (see Political Guide) and urge them to oppose all of these bills. The acquisition fund is the State's only mechanism for acquiring lands and habitats that need protection.

C. Litter and deposit bills

Two Senators have introduced almost identical Joint Resolutions — SJR-092 (Crowe) and SJR-088 (Davis) — that call for establishing a joint (Senate/House) committee for the study of recycling (why have we not created sufficient support for it?), litter (why don't our present laws adequately control it?), and "related issues." It is hoped that such a study would lay the groundwork for a later direct-deposit bill. In fact, SB 1755 (Crowe), which calls for a returnable deposit on beverage containers, has also been introduced. While it is not likely to come up for action this year, it does make a concrete proposal visible.

A number of volunteers across the state are willing to provide further information and/or to present a slide show to interested clubs, schools, churches, etc. Contact TCWP Board member Mary Lynn Dobson (423-354-4924; heronhillb@aol.com), who is a volunteer herself, or can refer you to the one closest to you. The Tennessee Soft Drink Association (TSDA) has been distributing various misleading arguments against container-deposit legislation. To get a rebuttal to their arguments, call Arthur Smith, 423-247-7895.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your State senator and representative (see Political Guide), especially if he/she is on one of the committees listed on the State side of our Political Guide (Oak Ridgers, note that Sen. McNally is among these). Voice support for SJRs 088 and 092, and for SB 1755. Contact one of the volunteers listed above for further info, or for a slide presentation.

4. TENNESSEE STATE PARKS

A. *State Parks Master Plan has become worse*

[Contributed by Marcy Reed]

The 1998 Tennessee General Assembly asked the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC's) Division of State Parks to submit a Master Plan that outlines the Division's vision and long-range plans. TDEC's original deadline for comments on their draft was Feb. 12, and our last Newsletter reported TCWP's comments (NL226 ¶3A).

Subsequently, TDEC revised the draft on which we had commented and submitted their State Parks Master Plan to the Senate Environment, Conservation and Tourism Committee in early March. Because this Plan was very different from the one in the draft, TCWP's parks committee sent a second round of comments to TDEC.

The revised Plan includes provisions for capital outlays of \$24 million for construction of new golf courses in state parks, and for \$250,000 to do a feasibility study for a new resort park in East Tennessee. Even though TDEC's public comment period for revision of the plan has passed, you can contact your legislators and let them know what you think. You might want to make the following points:

- Golf courses (even the so-called "green" courses) are very polluting, annually requiring several pounds per acre of fertilizers and herbicides. It is a serious conflict of interest for the agency that regulates water pollution to be developing golf courses. TDEC runs the risk of lowering the level of public trust in their agency; it's time for them to get out of the golf-course business!
- The stated reason for the construction of golf courses and resort parks is to produce revenue. The existing golf courses and resort parks are not fully self-supporting, however. Why should one even consider constructing more at this time?
- Golf courses and the types of facilities available in resort parks are adequately provided by the private sector. State parks and natural areas are not. The state should not compete with private industry, but should provide facilities and services that are *not* available elsewhere.
- Land acquisition should be a top priority for the state. Land is being bought up and developed at an alarming rate. The natural beauty and high level of biological diversity that are top

attractions for visitors and newcomers to Tennessee are disappearing. The process for the state's land acquisition needs to be revised to become more streamlined and efficient.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your state senator and representative (addresses in Political Guide) to voice some of the above comments on the State Parks Plan. Additionally, support the Kyle/Odom bill to reform the land-acquisition process.

B. *Fall Creek Falls: Land Unsuitable for Mining Petition (LUMP)*

[Contributed by Marcy Reed]

The re-opened comment period for the Petition Evaluation Document/Environmental Impact Statement for the Fall Creek Falls watershed closes April 26. Even though it may be too late for your comments to affect content of the draft PED/EIS, it is *not* too late to affect the final outcome. Your prime contacts now should be Vice President Gore and your U.S. senators and congressmen.

In NL226 ¶3C, we suggested the major points that should be made in contacts with OSM, Interior and other agency heads, and Vice President Gore. You may use these points, and, in addition, perhaps include the following:

- impacts on plants & animals in the watershed are not addressed by OSM
- the effect of stripmining on recreational uses such as hiking, biking, and camping in the petition areas has not been evaluated
- no watershed analysis or archaeological survey has been done.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Call or e-mail Vice President Gore (202-456-1111); vice_president@whitehouse.gov and your US senators and congressman (see p.2). Stripmining must not be allowed in the Park's watershed.

C. *Cumberland Trail State Park (CTSP) progress*

The Tennessee Trails Association (TTA) will sponsor a Cumberland Trail Special Event on June 5, National Trails Day. The objective is to promote awareness and support for the CTSP. Hikes of various lengths will originate at 6 locations for all open portions of the CT. For more

info, contact Arleen Barnett, 615-833-5274, abarnett@usit.net

TCWP Board member Joni Lovegrove, and former TCWP president Don Todd, serve on the Strategic Council of the Cumberland Trails Conference, a TTA Associate Organization. The Council will play the major role in implementing the 220-mile-long trail corridor, whose designation as Tennessee's first linear state park was announced last summer (NL223 ¶2). As reported (NL26 ¶3F), limitations in state acquisition funds have made it necessary to consider formation of land trusts that could acquire tracts encompassing the 25-ft-wide trail.

In July, the State is planning to assign two rangers to the CTSP, whose duties will include developing community and landowner relations. Because significant portions of the trail will run within the boundaries of the Obel National Wild & Scenic River, the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area, and probably Frozen Head State Park & Natural Area, one of the rangers may be located at Wartburg. When fully developed, the CTSP will need 12 rangers for effective management.

Various entities have expressed an interest in developing secondary connecting trails, e.g., to the Bowater Pocket Wildernesses and to the Oak Ridge trail system. Efforts are also under way to stimulate studies of flora and fauna along several trail segments.

5. OTHER STATE ISSUES

A. Need funds to clean up streams polluted by abandoned mines

The 1977 federal Surface Mining Act (SMCRA), among other provisions, set up the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) fund for the reclamation of "orphan" mines, i.e., those mined prior to SMCRA and left unreclaimed. Although the fund is continuously fed by a small tax on ongoing post-SMCRA operations, money must annually be appropriated by Congress. At present, over \$1.2 billion in AML monies are sitting in the U.S. Treasury to help offset the national deficit, while, in Tennessee alone, 145 abandoned mines remain unreclaimed and another 69 only partially reclaimed. It is estimated that nationwide, \$2 billion in known abandoned coal-mine reclamation work still needs to be done.

The Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative (ACSI), which assists local efforts to clean up streams affected by the pollution of acid and toxic mine drainage, is a special program utilizing AML funds. This type of pollution is the No.1 water-quality problem in Appalachia.

The current ACSI appropriation level of \$7 million is woefully inadequate to meet the needs of local governments and community organizations seeking assistance for the stream clean-up. From 1996 through 1998, ACSI funded 23 projects; however, 62 other requests had to be turned away due to lack of funds. The Clinton Administration has now requested that the ACSI be increased to \$10 million for Fiscal Year 2000.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your U.S. senators and representative (addresses on p.2) and urge them to support the Administration's request for increased ACSI funding. This small program provides big results at low cost by building effective partnerships. It creates Tennessee jobs. Besides, the AML money is already "in the bank."

B. Additions to State Natural Areas System

Areas proposed for addition to the Natural Areas System are annually evaluated by an advisory committee. Those areas accepted by the committee are then recommended to the TDEC Commissioner (Tenn. Dept. of Environment and Conservation) to be considered for inclusion in his legislative package as amendments to the 1971 Natural Areas Act.

Governor Sundquist has again, this year, agreed to handle such amendments as an administration bill. Areas proposed add to over 4,400 acres, and will bring the total number to 58. Among the proposed new areas are the Chickamauga Creek Gorge (Hamilton and Sequatchie Counties), the Chimneys (Marion Co.), Fate Sanders Barrens (Rutherford Co.), and Flat Rock Cedar Glade (near Murfreesboro).

The last of these, 458 acres, has already been acquired in fee. Other recent additions to State Natural Areas include the 1,234-acre Huber gift near Fall Creek Falls SP (NL224 ¶2B), and a 50-acre Nature Conservancy gift of the Watauga River Bluffs.

C. *Tennessee rivers programs in a state of dormancy*

The State Rivers Program, which administers the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (by which our State led the nation), has for some time resided in the Bureau of State Parks. The administrator, Bob Allen, has left State government, and the program has been transferred to the Division of Natural Heritage, minus, however, an Administrator.

The Tennessee Rivers Assessment, which was started some years ago on the initiative of TCWP's Jenny Freeman and TSR A's Bill Allen, last year issued an excellent Project Summary Report, authored by Administrator David Duhl (NL222 ¶4A). The entire program, along with David Duhl, has been transferred to TDEC's Division of Water Pollution Control, thus institutionalizing the Rivers Assessment within the Department. The maintenance and upkeep of the Rivers Assessment database (TNRIS) will be paired with the Division's 5-year Watershed Assessment Cycle.

D. *Ecoregional planning*

A planning process for ecoregions, spearheaded by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), has been under way for some time. A variable mix of other groups, state and federal agencies, and academic institutions participates in these regional heritage analyses. Analysis of the Southern Blue Ridge ecoregion, which includes the Smokies and portions of several national forest lands, was completed recently.

The effort is now shifting to the Cumberlands and to the Southern Ridge and Valley province in seven states. This region is physiographically and biologically very diverse, and is the most significant ecoregion in North America (north of Mexico) for rare aquatic species. The ecoregion is also under extreme threat. Ecoregional planning will go hand-in-hand with site-conservation planning.

A meeting cosponsored by the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition (SAFC) and TNC was held in Knoxville on March 3 to brainstorm with friends of the Cumberlands in order to identify opportunities for short and long-term action, and to create a strong network of leaders working together. This was the first meeting of a projected series. One objective is to identify lands

that qualify for, and need, protection. TCWP members Frank Hensley and Lee Russell, who attended the meeting, suggested that it might be fruitful to look initially at tracts in the surroundings of already designated parks and other public lands. These public lands were established at foci of scenic beauty and/or ecological value, but managed to protect only a fraction of the qualifying area. SAFC would appreciate maps and other information.

The Tennessee Natural Heritage Program (represented at the March 3 meeting by C. Smoot Major) has been participating in ecoregional planning, scientific surveys, and databases. The program does not, however, have land-acquisition funds. The US Forest Service representative mentioned that Forest Legacy funds permit the Service to buy conservation easements on significant private lands. Badly needed are adequate federal acquisition \$\$ through the Land & Water Conservation Fund or other OCS money (see ¶8, this NL).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) If you can help in the ecoregional planning for the Cumberlands Region, contact TCWP (box on p. 18). (2) See our action call concerning the LWCF (following ¶8, this NL).

E. *Proposal to expand Cumberland Gap National Historical Park*

This park, straddling the Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia borders, currently occupies 20,000 acres. A local group has proposed doubling its size by expanding boundaries eastward into Kentucky, and thus offering additional spectacular views. The land that would be added is undeveloped (no houses) and contains state and county wildlife areas. Congressman Hal Rogers (R-KY), who would have to be a key advocate for the proposal, has not yet taken a position.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Ask your U.S. Representative (address on p.2) to urge Rep. Hal Rogers to be a key sponsor of this proposal, which would benefit Tennessee, as well as Kentucky and Virginia.

6. TVA: GREAT LANDS DECISIONS, and more

A. Tellico and Nickajack TVA lands will remain public

TVA has come through with flying colors on the proposal by a large developer (Tellico Landing, Inc.) to acquire almost 1100 acres along over 7 miles of Tellico Reservoir shoreline to erect high-density housing, "theme hubs", an amphitheater, golf courses, hotels, and a convention center. The major part of the presently public, undeveloped, land is owned and managed by TVA (853 acres), the remainder by the Tellico Reservoir Development Agency (TRDA), which was created by the Tennessee legislature in 1982.

Several organizations, including TCWP, and large numbers of individuals submitted oral and written testimony in opposition to the development proposal (NL226 ¶6A). A few weeks ago, the TVA Board decided not to make the 853 acres available to the developer. For information concerning any negotiations that may still be going on between Tellico Landing, Inc. and TRDA, contact Woody Farrell in the TVA Land Management Office, 423-988-2445.

The TVA Board also decided *not* to make Nickajack Reservoir land available for a proposed large development at Little Cedar Mountain. These two very good public-lands decisions are especially significant in view of the worry that TVA might be embarking on sales of public lands in order to raise revenues to compensate for the badly shrunken non-power budget (NL226 ¶6B).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Commend the TVA Board for its wise decisions against the sale of public lands (Chairman of the Board, TVA, 400 Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN 37999); (2) Contact your state legislators (see Political Guide) and urge them to authorize TRDA.

B. Final EIS for the Duck River lands

Early in April, TVA issued its Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the use of lands acquired for the Columbia Dam component of the Duck River Project. This is an extensive, careful, and highly professional, document that is very responsive to the public. TVA should be commended. Among other things, the preparers had to respond to 2890 sets of

comments received on the Draft EIS; there were also 364 prior letters received on the scope.

In question were two issues: (1) what to do with the virtually completed Columbia Dam, which became useless after the reservoir project was abandoned (the project never had a benefit/cost ratio greater than 1, and TCWP fought it vigorously for many years); (2) what to do with 12,800 acres in Maury County that TVA had acquired in connection with the Columbia Reservoir project.

As to the dam, the selected Option was #2, which TCWP had supported. This involves dismantling the working parts, truncating the structure, and stabilizing the existing flood profile.

The 12,800 of land involves ~~connected~~ and scattered tracts located along and south of the Duck River between River Miles 136 and 165. Each of the Alternatives outlined includes acknowledgement that ~3,800 acres of project lands (in the Fountain Creek watershed) could be used as part of a new reservoir project, following completion of a water-supply EIS now in progress. The Draft EIS for the Columbia lands presented four Alternatives: A, continuation of current uses; B and C, making land available for private development (more development under B than C); D (the one TCWP had strongly supported), turning virtually all of the land into a resource management area. The EIS selected a hybrid Alternative, designated D/C.

Adoption of D/C would result in transferring all of the lands to the State of Tennessee or to a specific state or federal agency, after granting some specified restrictive easements attached to the land title. Most of the area would be managed to enhance recreational use of the area and to protect natural and cultural resources; but up to 2,000 acres could be sold for residential development. Industrial development would be completely excluded.

It is our understanding that the State has put conditions on acceptance of the land from TVA, and that the State Building Commission has to approve a land-use plan, which may be developed by the same architectural firm that designed the Bicentennial Mall in Nashville.

C. TVA Board vacancies

Two of the three seats on the TVA Board will be vacant after May 18, when William Kenney's 9-year term ends. Director Johnny Hayes, who

had 6 years left in his term, resigned in January to help raise funds for Al Gore's presidential campaign. Several members of Congress are promoting various candidates: Sens. Frist (R-TN) and Thompson (R-TN) want a Tennessee, Sen. Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) is recommending the mayor of Tupelo, MS; and Representatives Ford (D-TN) and Clement (D-TN) think it's time for an African-American and/or a woman to fill one or both of the seats. The appointments (for a 6- and for a 9-year term) will be made by the President and require Senate confirmation.

D. Renewing agricultural licenses: TVA seeks public comment

TVA has completed a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on the proposed re-licensing of 74 tracts of agricultural land around the following reservoirs: Watts Bar, Tellico, Melton Hill, Fort Loudon, and Pontana. Of the total 1,262 acres, 74% would be licensed for hay production, 13% for hay and row crops, 12% for hay and pasture, and 1% for garden or row crops. The agricultural license includes provisions for environmental protection, wildlife-habitat improvement, minimization of soil erosion, and water-quality protection. Sounds good. For further information, or for a copy of the draft EA, contact Richard Toevesson, Environmental Scientist, TVA, Midwest Region, 2009 Grubb Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771; 423-988-2440.

7. SMOKIES and CHEROKEE.

A. TCWP will co-sponsor "Southern Appalachian Wilderness Walk"

TCWP is one of several organizations co-sponsoring a Wilderness Society-sponsored hike along the Appalachian Trail through the Southern Appalachians. This hike, from the AT's southern terminus in Georgia (June 3) to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia (Dec 1), aims to promote protection for the wild areas crossed by the trail within the region's federal lands. At a time when forest plans are in late stages of preparation by the US Forest Service, it is hoped that the hike will educate and influence the public, federal agencies, local officials, and the media about the need and opportunity to protect these wildlands. The "Wilderness Walk" is being organized and executed by Peter Kirby, formerly Southeast Regional Director of the Wilderness Society, who is donating his time and is working as a volunteer.

The Appalachian Trail travels for about 70 miles entirely in Tennessee, and for hundreds of miles on the Tennessee/N. Carolina border. Peter will invite small groups to join him for certain segments of the walk so they can see the beauties of the wildlands up close. There will also be visits to local media outlets, talks to local groups, etc. If you can help in any of the activities that may be entailed by TCWP's co-sponsorship, let us know (see box on p. 18).

B. Smoky Network

to learn of current issues

On May 15, the Smoky Network will meet at Lake Junaluska, NC (see Calendar in ¶12 for details) to receive a briefing from the Park administration about ongoing issues. There will also be a presentation by Shawn Bengel, NPS Landscape Architect, to provide an overview of transportation problems facing the Park. Other issues to be discussed include air quality and adjacent developments. All interested people are invited.

6. THE URGENT NEED FOR LAND-ACQUISITION FUNDING

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is the major source of money for acquiring natural areas and open-space lands before they become irreparably degraded by developments. Each year, \$900 million in offshore oil & gas (OCS) royalties flow into this fund; OCS royalties total about \$4 billion annually, on average. However, over the past 15 years, most of the \$900 million authorized for the LWCF has gone into the general treasury to offset the national deficit, with Congress appropriating only a fraction (usually less than 1/3 of the authorized amount) for its intended purpose. In recent years, there's not only been very little money for federal acquisitions, but no money at all has been appropriated for the state or local side of the LWCF. Many of our badly needed state-land acquisitions here in Tennessee (around Pickett, Frozen Head, Fall Creek Falls, Scotts Gulf — to give just a few examples) could be accomplished if only LWCF monies became available.

This year, there is finally some movement toward remedying this situation. A group of 36 senators, led by Leahy (D-VT), Feingold (D-WI), Chafee (R-RI) and Smith (R-NH), sent a letter to

the Budget Committee urging them to provide full funding for the LWCF, with increases in the state side of the Fund. Pres. Clinton has proposed the extensive Lands Legacy in his budget; and several bills (of a range of merit) have been introduced in the Congress. We urge you to read this and take action. This may be a national issue — but it means a lot to us right here!

A. The Administration's Lands Legacy proposal

This budget proposal fully funds the LWCF at a \$900 million for the first time. Additional OCS revenues would be used to bring the total land-conservation spending for FY 2000 to \$1.03 billion. Of this, \$413M would go for acquisitions by the four federal land management agencies (including \$84M for Everglades, \$36M for Mojave Desert, and \$16M to make additions to New England national forests). State and local government grants would amount to \$588 M through a variety of mechanisms. These include grants via the US Fish & Wildlife Service to acquire land for threatened and endangered species (\$80M); via the US Forest Service to buy conservation easements (\$50M, Forest Legacy program, see ¶5D, this NL) and to expand urban forests and green space (\$40M); matching grants via the USDA's Farmland Protection Program to buy easements on farmland that is under threat of development; grants via UPARR to restore urban parks; etc.

B. Bills in the Congress

The bills summarized below are listed in the order of how we judge their merit -- from best to worst.

- HR.798 (Miller, D-CA)/S.446 (Boxer, D-CA), the "Resources 2000 Act," would permanently fund the LWCF at the full, authorized, amount of \$900 million annually, with \$450 M for federal land purchases, and \$450 M for matching grants for state land acquisitions. Over \$1 billion in additional OCS funds would be allocated for a number of other purposes: the UPARR (Urban Park & Recreation Recovery) program, endangered species recovery, farmland and open-space preservation grants, historic preservation, federal and Indian trust lands, and several others.
- S.532 (Feinstein, D-CA)/HR.1118 (Campbell, R-CA) would permanently fund the LWCF at its authorized \$900 M level: 50% for federal acquisitions, 40% to states (with at least half of

this to local governments for open space, recreation areas, and wildlife habitat), and 10% to local governments for grants under UPARR.

- S.25 (Landrieu, D-LA) would direct 50% of OCS money to the national treasury, 27% to coastal states for impact assistance (impacts of offshore drilling), 16% (namely, ~\$640 M) to the LWCF, and 7% to state fish and wildlife programs.
- HR.701 (Young, R-Alaska) is in some respects similar to S.25 in directing 40% of OCS money to the national treasury, 27% to 36 coastal states and territories, 23% to the LWCF, and 10% to state wildlife conservation programs. Young's bill provides incentives for offshore oil & gas drilling, and it places major restrictions on the federal side of the LWCF, such as limiting land transactions on the basis of geography (2/3 must be used in the eastern half of the USA), allowing acquisitions only in areas pre-designated by Congress, and requiring separate Congressional authorization for each project costing over \$1 million.

C. The "Picture Parks" campaign

The recently formed group Americans for Our Heritage and Recreation (AHR) is urging us to send a strong visual message to Congress. Take a picture of your family or friends, or of yourself, enjoying your favorite park (national, state, or local), make copies of the print, and on the back write "Revitalize LWCF and UPARR for our children!" Also on the back, write a personal message about the values and resources that have made this park a favorite place in which to spend time. Then, as soon as possible, send the photographs to your two Senators and your Congressman.

Knoxville Mayor Victor Ashe has urged TCWP to push for Congressional appropriations for the state-and-local side of the LWCF. "Each member of Congress from Tennessee should hear from TCWP members," he wrote. On April 20, the US Conference of Mayors and National Association of Counties are coordinating their first "Parks Advocacy Day" to increase support on Capitol Hill for federal funding for parks and open space protection.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your senators and congressman (addresses on p.2) and urge them to co-sponsor Barbara Boxer's S.446 and George Miller's HR.798, respectively. Tell them that you also approve of the Administration's Land

Legacy proposal, but that the Miller/Boxer bill is even better. Participate in AHR's, "Picture Parks" campaign.

9. LOCAL ISSUES

A. City Manager asks for 4,500 acres of DOE land: consider the impacts

Near the end of March, the City Manager, Bo McDaniel, proposed that the City request 4,500 acres of Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) land from DOE. This represents 20% of the National Environmental Research Park (NERP) and would subdivide the remaining NERP into scattered parcels. The 4,500 acres include Freels Bend as well as parcels with threatened and endangered species.

Some of McDaniel's justifications for his request have been very effectively rebutted by Dev Joslin, chairman of AFORR (19B, below). A basic argument that all City Council members should very seriously consider is that the City has far from fully utilized the potential land available at the East Tenn. Technology Park (ETTP, formerly, K25), and other previously developed but underutilized brownfield sites that are suitable for industrial development. The old Clinch River Breeder site and some other nearby TVA lands are in the same category.

With all that availability, why raid the 20,000-acre NERP that surrounds the major research and technology facilities for industrial development? The NERP was established by the AEC to support scientific research and train future researchers. It provides security and buffer zones for research and technology development in existing and future facilities, is a haven for numerous species (including threatened or endangered ones), and is used by students and teachers from all over East Tennessee. As for the argument that additional land is needed for residential development, the facts are that a great deal of undeveloped residential land is already available, especially in the SW quadrant and the west end of the city.

A recent *Oak Ridger* poll asked the question: "Should the DOE release a portion of the Oak Ridge Reservation to the city of Oak Ridge for residential, commercial and/or industrial development?" Of 160 votes received, 119 (74%) said "No!" In addition, 11 of the "Yes" voters

advocated a release of less than 1,000 acres. Several City Council members have expressed opposition to the City Manager's proposal.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact City Council members to voice your opinion. You can get their addresses and phone numbers from the City Clerk (482-8311), from *The Oak Ridger* (482-1021), or from AFORR chairman Dev Joslin (482-7591). This is an opportunity to influence the future of Oak Ridge.

B. AFORR public forum

[contributed by Marcy Reed]

The recently organized Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation, AFORR (NL226 ¶9A), along with several co-sponsors (including TCWP), held a public forum on April 17th at the Museum of Science and Energy. The forum opened with a panel of seven speakers presenting viewpoints on the future uses of the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR), ranging from conservation and scientific research to residential and industrial development. Discussion with the audience were held during the final hour.

Protected from disturbance and fragmentation for more than 50 decades, the ORR lands have evolved into ecological sanctuaries of remarkable size and diversity. The area has major value for scientific research, ecosystem conservation, education, and healthful outdoor recreation. AFORR is advocating stewardship and appropriate use of the ORR. The group is dedicated to educating the public about the Reservation and its values. AFORR has recently developed by-laws and a constitution. Anyone interested in getting involved in this group should contact Dev Joslin at 482-7591 for further information.

C. Experience the biological wealth of the Oak Ridge Reservation

[Based on contribution by Jimmy Grotton]

You can view hundreds of species of animals and plants on the Oak Ridge Reservation, which is a Biosphere Reserve and a Tennessee Wildlife Management Area. The American Museum of Science & Energy and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory are cosponsoring a series of free Saturday nature walks (the last is on Sunday), held at various times of day and in different locations. The museum's website is at <http://www.amse.org/>. For dates that follow your receipt of this Newsletter, the list (including tri-leaders) is given below.

- 5/1, 7-10 a.m., bird walk at Freels Bend (Evans)
 - 5/8, 9:30-noon, wildflower walk at Walker Branch (Pounds)
 - 5/8, 7-10 a.m., bird walk at Freels Bend (Evans)
 - 5/22, 7-10 a.m., bird walk at Freels Bend (Dev Joslin, TNOmithological Soc.)
 - 5/22, 9:30-noon, wildflower walk at Walker Branch (Pounds)
 - 5/29, 1-3 p.m., wildflower walk at Walker Branch (Scarborough)
 - 6/5, 1-3:30 p.m., creekside walk along Lower Bear Creek or Upper White Oak Creek (ORNLESDguide)
 - 6/6, 1-3:30 p.m., wildflower walk at Walker Branch (Scarborough)
- Each walk is limited to 20 participants, except the 6/5 creekside walk, which is limited to 15. Meeting place for bird walks is the 701 Scarborough parking lot; for all other walks, meet in the Museum (AMSE) lobby (from there, caravan in your own vehicle). Meeting times are the start times given in the list. Participants must pre-register no later than 24 hours before the event at 423-576-3218, or <mailto:mlclarke@amse.org>. Any weather-related cancellation decisions will be made no later than one hour before a walk (call 574-9836 for status).

10. NATIONAL CAPSULES

A. Bills seek to limit designation of National Monument

Some western politicians, who were very much upset when Pres. Clinton designated the 1.7-million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996, are again trying to pass legislation to curb presidential designation powers. Senators Craig (R-ID) and Murkowski (R-Alaska) have introduced S.729, which would add numerous checks to the creation of national monuments under the 1906 Antiquities Act, such as directing agencies to collect information about minerals, going through a NEPA process, and requiring Congressional approval. A similar bill passed the House in 1997, and went as far as hearings in the Senate; so S.729 cannot be dismissed lightly.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your senators (addresses on p.2) to oppose S.729. The 1906 Antiquities Act allows the president to designate national monuments in cases of imminent developments, when the slow speed of a Congressional route would result in destruction of

resource values before these could be protected. Many of our best-known and favorite national parks (e.g., Grand Canyon, Zion, Denali) started out as national monuments.

B. Endangered species bill needs support

In the last Congress, "The Endangered Species Recovery Act" gathered about 100 cosponsors of both parties. The bill was re-introduced just 6 weeks ago as HR.960 (Miller, D-CA) and already has 67 cosponsors; none, however, is from Tennessee. ESRA focuses on recovery, not just survival, uses the best available science to plan for recovery, requires federal agencies to act responsibly, and increases citizen participation in community planning. It also helps landowners by providing tax incentives for good stewardship and in other ways.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your congressman (address on p.2) to cosponsor HR.960, an urgently needed bill to protect ecosystems and species. To get more details on the bill, and how to help, contact the SE organizer of the Endangered Species Coalition, Melissa Metcalfe, 727-866-3698; asmile@indiespring.com, or visit the Coalition's website at <http://www.stopextinction.org>

C. Reminder: America's Redrock Wilderness bill needs support

Protection of Utah's wilderness needs the support of all Americans – not only because the areas are so magnificent, so fragile and easily destroyed, and so coveted by resource extractors, but because Utah's own Congressional delegation, overall, is very low in environmental sensitivity. An expanded Utah wilderness bill has been introduced by Rep. Hinchey (D-NY) and Sen. Durbin (D-IL). This revised bill reflects the findings of the recently completed, thorough, citizens' inventory; areas previously overlooked were added, and areas no longer qualifying were dropped. Opponents are expected to introduce a thoroughly inferior rival measure in order to have a vehicle for fighting the Hinchey-Durbin bill.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your senators and congressman (addresses on p.2) to support the Hinchey-Durbin Redrock Wilderness bill for Utah. Stress the importance of these magnificent and very vulnerable areas for the country as a

whole, and cite any personal experiences you may have had there. For more info, contact MarcyRReed@aol.com

D. Biosphere Reserves under attack

Hearings have been held on HR.883 (Young, R-Alaska), which would add hobbling regulations to executive-branch decisions on enrolling US land in programs such as United Nation's Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites. These programs protect areas of ecological, cultural, and historical importance, and conduct scientific research at minimal cost and with minimal burden on government or citizens.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your Congressman (address on p.2) to oppose H.883.

11. TCWP NEWS

A. Special appeal for special volunteers

In a recent discussion of TCWP operations, the Board gave a very high priority to the identification of reliable and sustained funding sources that will make it possible for us to maintain our present level of staffing — at a minimum. We are therefore asking for volunteers willing to serve on a short-term *ad hoc* committee that will explore the different possible sources of funding, and the advantages, drawbacks, and likelihood of success for each type. Several of our members have had experience with other organizations, and such expertise would be particularly useful. If you are willing to serve on such a short-term *ad hoc* committee, you would be doing a tremendous service to TCWP, and would make our organization better able to achieve the conservation objectives that mean a lot to you. Contact Sandra or Marcy (see box on p.18)

B. e-mail network; Political Guide

To achieve quick communication among members, when needed, we would like to supplement our phone tree (under construction) with e-mail listserves. If you have an e-mail address, kindly send it to Marcy Reed, MarcyRReed@aol.com

Anyone who failed to receive the TCWP Political Guide, or has lost it, should contact Marcy Reed, 423-691-8807 or 481-0623; MarcyRReed@aol.com

C. Annual Meeting planned for November 13

[Contributed by Marcy Reed]

In an effort to increase participation, we decided to hold this year's Annual Meeting near the Oak Ridge/Knoxville/Kingston/Norris area, where the bulk of our membership resides. Instead of meeting for an entire weekend, as usual, our activities are planned for a full day, Saturday, November 13. The location will be the Tea Room at Norris State Park, built by the CCC during the Roosevelt era, an attractive structure with a large deck overlooking a wooded cove. For people coming from farther away and wanting overnight accommodations, the Park has cabins (with fully equipped kitchen) that sleep six and rent for \$90 a night.

Preliminary plans project a morning meeting with speakers or panels on a conservation topic of current interest or urgency. This will be followed by a short business meeting to elect officers and the board, and to make needed organizational decisions. Following lunch, activities such as hikes or birdwatching will occupy the afternoon. We will meet back at the Tea Room in the evening for a celebration that may include dinner, slide show, or a party.

If you would like to work on the preparations for this meeting, or if you have any suggestions as to the morning program, or afternoon and evening activities, please call Marcy Reed at 691-8807 or Sandra K. Goss at 522-3809.

D. Report from the committees

Three TCWP committees meet on a monthly basis. Reports on the most recent activities of these committees are given below (for reports on earlier activities, see NL226 ¶11F). If you are interested in joining one of these committees, call the chair person listed, or contact Sandra Goss (522-3809) or Marcy Reed (481-0623).

Service Committee, Eric Hirst, chair

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The committee has overseen many projects in the past two months, including the AFORR conference on the Future of the Oak Ridge Reservation (¶9B, this NL), the Exotic Pest Plant Symposium (¶11G, this NL), a hike (NL226 ¶11C), articles for *The Oak Ridger* (¶11F), and the March for Parks (separate mailing). It continues working on the TCWP web site, the development of a Speakers' Bureau (slideshow virtually completed), more hikes and workshops, and the Annual Meeting (¶11B, this NL).

To join the committee, contact Chairman Eric Hirst, 483-1289, hirstea@esper.com; or TCWP staffer Sandra K. Goss, 423.522-3809, skgoss@esper.com

State Parks Committee, Jenny Freeman, chair

[Contributed by Marcy Reed]

Of primary concern to the committee members has been the State Park Master Plan, and, this past month, members have focused on submitting comments on the revised plan (§4B, this NL). The committee has also followed a land-acquisition project near Pickett State Park (NL226 §3E). Committee members will be involved in organizing the State Parks Forum, which has been postponed until August. (TCWP is in receipt of a grant from Lockheed Martin for organizing this forum - NL226 §11B). Other future activities will include organizing an event to be held at the Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area in September to celebrate Public Lands Day. Committee chair Jenny Freeman will be taking a year-long sabbatical starting in June. Her replacement has not yet been selected.

To join the committee, contact Jenny Freeman (until June), 482-5980; or Marcy Reed, 691-8807, marcyreed@aol.com

Water Issues Committee, Chuck Estes, chair

Since publication of the last Newsletter, the committee has met twice (3/25 and 4/15). A major activity has been brainstorming and strategizing about achieving ONRW designation for the Obed (§1A, this NL). Other Obed issues under consideration are the upcoming Trails Plan (§1B) and the subsequent Climbing Plan (NL226 §1C). We signed onto an appeal for increased support for the Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative (§5A, this NL). The committee has begun to look into protection of water quality and other values on Daddys Creek (one of the major Obed tributaries) and is considering contacts with TWRA. Another upcoming issue is how to obtain increased funding for Obed land acquisition and operations. With staff help, the committee is updating an extensive set of mailing labels for persons who have an expressed or likely interest in the Obed and/or Big South watersheds.

To join the committee, contact chairman Chuck Estes, 482-7374; estesocak@worldnet.att.net; or staffer Sandra K. Goss, 522-3809, skgoss@esper.com

E. Special thanks

to our other volunteers

Ken Warren contributed a 3-page description of the North Ridge Trail to the "Urban Trails"

Chapter of *Hiking Tennessee Trails*. The North Ridge Trail, which was developed and is being maintained by TCWP, is a designated Federal, as well as State, Recreation Trail. Ken and Helen Warren have lately been the trail's chief maintainers. The book is the 5th edition (1999) of *Tennessee Trails*, Globe Pequot Press, for which particulars may be found in NL226 §12.

The following wonderful volunteers helped assemble NL226: Aaron Helton, Nathan Helton, Carol Helton, Harry Hubbell, Charlie Klabunde, Katherine Pensworth, Marcy Reed, and (as always) the "boss," organizer, picker-upper, and mailer, Frank Hensley.

F. Oak Ridger articles

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Thanks to the efforts of the Service Committee, TCWP is now featured every other week in *The Oak Ridger*. Marion Burger and Jenny Freeman approached the folks at the paper, who very nicely agreed to provide the space. TCWP has now had two articles, both by Sandra Goss. The first one, "Introducing the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning" ran on March 17 on the editorial page. A subsequent one in April described the March for Parks. It's a credit to *The Oak Ridger* that the importance of environmental issues and the protection of our lands and waters are clearly understood and supported, amply evidenced by the big space allocation. Many thanks, *Oak Ridger*!

G. Report on first meeting of Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council

[Contributed by Mary Lynn Dobson]

TCWP was a co-sponsor of the First Annual Symposium of the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council, held March 18-20 at Oak Ridge, and several TCWP members (including Meredith and Ed Clebsch and Tom McConough) were active participants in this conference, giving talks and leading informative field trips. TCWP Board member Mary Lynn Dobson, here summarizes the major points she brought back from the 3 days packed full of information, learning, and networking.

- Ijams Nature Center is a good place to see examples of various exotic plant species that limit biodiversity and destroy the natural habitat. Ijams folks are working hard to stem the tide, and would love help.
- It's not enough just to get rid of the invasive species. In the resulting void, one must provide sustainable plant communities that are resistant to reinvasion.

- There were conflicting opinions about the use of biological controls for invasive species. Most have not been successful, often causing more harm than good by acting in an unforeseen manner.
 - In 1999, the US Forest Service will be studying insects in China in hopes of finding a successful biocontrol (insect) for kudzu.
 - It is estimated that 85% of the invasive weedy species that now plague natural areas were introduced as ornamentals through botanical gardens and arboreta.
 - Many of the plants that appear on exotic invasive-species lists are still sold in the nursery trade.
 - Conversion from a fescue monoculture to more drought-tolerant, warm-season native grasses that are beneficial to wildlife, is becoming more prevalent on both public and private lands. Visit Cades Cove for a beautiful example.
 - Determined, patient, scientists are working to return the American Chestnut to its place in the forest canopy by crossing and recrossing the blight-resistant Chinese Chestnut with the taller American. They hope to be successful in 30 - 50 years.
 - Huge portions of the western United States are severely infested with invasive vegetation of many types.
 - What is left of the tallgrass prairie is rapidly being destroyed by the exotic *Sericea lespedeza*.
 - People in our area must be made aware that the biological invasion of non-native vegetation represents what some say is the greatest ecological threat mankind has ever faced.
 - It's up to all of us to help our wilderness places -- be they National Parks or backyards -- maintain their naturally rich biodiversity against the onslaught of exotic, invasive plant species.
- "Hope to see you there next year, Mary Lynn"

12. CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES; READING MATTER; RESOURCES

Job openings:

The Northern Alaska Environmental Center has openings for a Wilderness Campaign Coordinator and a Boreal Forest Campaign Coordinator. Both positions require knowledge of Alaskan conservation issues and excellent communications skills. Full job descriptions are available at <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~naec>.

Events calendar: (For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra K. Goss, 423-522-3809,

skgoss@esper.com; or Marcy Reed, 423-481-0623, marcyreed@aol.com)

- April 24, TCWP's March for Parks, Big South Fork NRA (Special mailing)
- April 24, Friends of Gt. Smoky Mtns NP's March for Parks, Old Sugarlands Trail (Call 423-453-2428 or 1-800-845-5665).
- May 5, 7:00 p.m., TCWP Service Committee at Eric Hirst's (¶11D)
- May 11, 7:00 p.m., TCWP State Parks Committee at Jenny Freeman's (¶11D)
- May 8, The State Parks Forum originally scheduled for this date has been postponed to August. More info later
- May 15, 10 am - 3 pm, Smoky Network meeting, Terrace Hotel, Lake Junaluska, near Waynesville, NC. You must RSVP if you want to reserve a lunch (\$5) for the meeting. (Call NPCA, 423-457-7775 for driving direction or other details).
- May 27, 7:00 p.m., TCWP Water Issues Committee at Chuck Estes' (¶11D)
- June 4-7, Washington, DC, Endangered Species Activist Conference (202-682-9400 x289 or x236; or gclouser@defenders.org).
- June 5, 10 a.m. Native Plant Workshop, at Native Gardens, Greenback, TN
- June 5, Cumberland Trail special event (¶4C, this NL)
- September 23-26, Ashland, WI, Wilderness Horizons, An Interdisciplinary Wilderness Conference, organized by Northland College and Sigurd Olson Environmental Inst. (Contact Prof., Clayton T. Russell, 715-682-1491, crussell@wheeler.northland.edu).
- November 13, TCWP Annual Meeting Norris State Park (¶11C)
- Nov. 29 - Dec. 3, 1999 Congress on Recreation & Resource Capacity, Aspen, CO (970-491-4865, or susanlun@lamar.colostate.edu).

Resources

- To get the text of a bill in the Tennessee General Assembly (if you know the number), visit <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/legislative/legislative.htm> For addresses of legislators, visit <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/legislative/Members/Members.htm>
- The next time you buy lumber, ask if the wood has been "environmentally certified" and carries the Forest Stewardship Council Seal. The FSC is a non-profit, independent, international organization that provides certification for logging that protects streamside zones, does not degrade the landscape, protects old growth in

reserve areas, and uses practices such as single-tree selection, or group selection. To date about 150 companies are certified worldwide, representing 31 million acres of forest.

- To get on a listserve for people interested in issues facing the Great Smoky Mountains NP, send an e-mail to ddroitsch@npca.org, or call 423-457-7775.
- The TN Dept of Environment and Conservation is compiling a mailing list of people interested in water-quality issues. To get on the list for your watershed (unless you inform them of your interest in other watersheds as well), send your full name and mailing address to David Duhl, TDEC Watershed Coordinator at dduhl@mail.state.tn.us
- EPA's Office of Water has created an Internet-based Watershed Information Network (WIN). Use this to find and exchange information. WIN can provide information on how to network with others, what resources are available, how to start a watershed group, etc. Visit <http://www.cleanwater.gov/win>

Books

- An NRDC handbook by Sami Yassa on the efficient use of wood in home building may be ordered by calling 212-727-4486. Excerpts are available online at <http://www.nrdc.org/nrdcpro/reports/1awoodus.html>
- *Crown of the Canyons: An atlas of the ecology, economy, and future of the Greater Grand Staircase-Escalante ecosystem* is a 61-page report with 20 maps (\$25 from Publications, The Wilderness Society, 900 - 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC).
- TCWP member Jimmie Bell, a former *Oak Ridge* reporter, did a number of extensive stories on TCWP in its early days. Her new book, *Circling Windrock Mountain*, is based on interviews with mountain people conducted in the late 1960s. Family stories from Frost Bottom, Oliver Springs, and New River Valley go back more than 200 years and cover the early days of logging and mining in the area, continuing to the more recent fights against stripmining by SOCM and TCWP. An epilogue describes the area today. (336 pp., 57 illustrations, \$17.50 paperback + 8.25% tax + \$3.50 S&H. Order from Univ. of Tennessee Press, Chicago Distribution Center, 11030 South Langley Ave, Chicago, IL 60628; also available in area book stores)

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.

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