

# TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 231

January 11, 2000



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**HAPPY YEAR 2000 to one and all !**

Editor: Liane B. Russell, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Phone, 865-482-2153

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

## 11. ACTION SUMMARY

qNo.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1C	BSF Bear reintroduction	BSF Superintendent	"Bears belong in BSFNRRA. More roads don't!"
2C	EPA rule on silviculture	By 1/20, submit comments	"Consider these activities as point sources of pollution!"
2D	State bill to protect forests	Justin Wilson; Rep. Kisber	"(a) Support strong bill! (b) Pass bill out of committee!"
2F	Forestry issues	TCWP	Contact us if you want to work on forestry issues
3B	House Mountain	Div. of Natural Heritage	"This Natural Area needs more state support!"
4A	Fall Creek Falls	US Senators and Rep.	"Contact OSM to express your strong support of LUMP!"
4B	Abandoned mine restoration funds	SOCM	Offer your help with this effort
5B	TVA's power plans	TVA Chairman	"Thanks for Green Power, NO <sub>x</sub> reduction! Reduce sulfur, too!"
6A	Elkmont structures in Smokies	Leroy Fox	Offer any expertise you may have
7	Land & Water Conservation Fund	US Senators and Rep.	"Strongly support HR. 701 for <del>continued</del> LWCF!"
8B	New National Monuments	President Clinton	"Please designate Grand Canyon-Parashant, other Monuments!"
9E	Seedlings for bank stabilization	TCWP	Volunteer your services for the Feb. 5 bundling
9H	Arthur Smith	Cherokee Forest Voices	Arthur Smith Memorial Fund

Senator John Doe  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

Pres. Bill Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20540  
202-456-1111; Fax 456-2461  
president@whitehouse.gov

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

Dear Senator Doe  
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe  
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President  
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Sundquist  
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bill Frist:  
Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-1264  
e-mail: senator\_frist@frist.senate.gov  
Local: 865-602-7977

Sen. Fred Thompson:  
Ph: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3679  
e-mail: senator\_thompson@thompson.senate.gov  
Local: 865-545-4253

Rep. Zach Wamp:  
Phone: 202-225-3271  
1-800-883-2369  
Local: 865-483-3366

To call any Rep or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772  
Web contacts: <http://www.house.gov>, and <http://www.senate.gov>. General contact info: <http://www.lcv.org>

## 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.

President: Jimmy Groton, 865-483-5799 (evening).

Exec. Director: Marcy Reed, 865-691-8807 or 481-0286; [MarcyRReed@aol.com](mailto:MarcyRReed@aol.com)

Membership-Development Directors:

Sandra Goss, 865-522-3809; [SKGoss@esper.com](mailto:SKGoss@esper.com) and Marcy Reed, 865-691-8807; [MarcyRReed@aol.com](mailto:MarcyRReed@aol.com)

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

## 1. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

### A. Crossville reexamines water-supply options

Water-supply needs of the Cumberland Plateau, whether real or perceived, are of continuing concern because some of the proposed solutions could be detrimental to river systems that are important to us -- the Obed, Big South Fork, and Caney Fork. Because of this, the following news was most welcome.

On Nov. 17, the *Crossville Chronicle* covered a city council meeting at which a report pertaining to water-supply options was presented. Council had recently commissioned a preliminary engineering study on pumping water from Watts Bar Reservoir and was told by its water engineer, Lamar Dunn, that this option "may not be as expensive as originally estimated" even if the "cost figures were based on a 'worst case scenario' -- and as the pipeline is used to its full capacity and the more water the system sells, the cost per thousand gallons would drop."

The other major new water supply project that has been under consideration by the city council is a large lake on the Caney Fork River. Original cost estimates total over \$17 million, and Dunn pointed out that the actual cost is likely to be greater because of an expected high level of "opposition to the project by environmentalists ... very likely to delay the construction of the lake for many years if it is ever permitted."

By contrast, Dunn told the council, "the pipeline would generate very little if any environmental objections and could be designed and built in 3 to 5 years, well before the estimated water need on the plateau exceeds the current supply." Furthermore, "Watts Bar would be a nearly inexhaustible supply of water while under the Caney Fork plan, after 40 to 50 years another new water supply would probably be required."

Response from council members was overall very positive. The possible concern articulated by one council member about the safety of Watts Bar water (because of Oak Ridge), was effectively defused by Dunn. One member said "we need to look strongly at proceeding in this direction [the pipeline]" and the mayor concluded "any water the city secures is for the entire

community. It does not just stop at the city limits."

### B. Meeting with BSNRRA superintendent

Superintendent Reed Detry, who arrived at the Big South Fork NRRRA in October from Everglades NP, has kindly agreed to an in-depth meeting with TCWP to discuss numerous issues pertaining to the well-being of both the BSNRRA and the Obed WSR. The meeting will take place on January 12 and will be attended by 5-6 TCWP representatives.

Our Water Issues Committee has been hard at work preparing briefing papers with appendices illustrating past actions and positions by NPS, other agencies, and TCWP. Among subjects to be discussed for the two areas are philosophy of management, land protection (including land acquisition), General Management Plans, additional plans to be generated (roads and trails, climbing), water resources, operating funds, fate of the O&W right-of way, and several others. Several of us have already met Superintendent Detry informally and socially (he also attended the TCWP holiday party) and find him very straightforward and easy to talk to.

### C. Bear reintroduction for BSNRRA under local attack

The black bear reintroduction project for the BSNRRA was begun in 1988 after a series of public hearings at which the response was generally very positive. The project, a joint effort of the National Park Service (NPS), state wildlife agencies of Tennessee and Kentucky, and the University of Tennessee, aims to transfer bears from the Smokies at a rate that, over 30 years, should create a self-sustaining population of 200-300 bears within the 116,000-acre Area.

Recently, both the Scott and Fentress County Commissions have passed resolutions asking that further bear introduction be halted until the Roads & Trails Plan is complete and an EA/EIS is produced. In fact, the Roads & Trails Plan is not imminent because it must follow the General Management Plan, the draft of which is yet to be issued. Because hibernating bears are used for the transfers, January is the optimum time for the process; and even a delay to February makes the timing very tight, possibly jeopardizing the aim of developing a self-sustaining population,

which requires the release of about a dozen females with cubs over the next two years.

The real driver in the county commissions' resolutions appears to be a desire to put pressure on NPS to develop horse trails and access roads. The Scott County Executive is quoted as saying: "Horseback riding in the park seems to have the greatest economic benefit for us. We feel if the bear population grows, the Park Service might have to close some riding trails." Similar points were raised by the Fentress County Commission, which additionally was worried about the closing of ATV trails and complained about development of an access road from the west having been stopped by NPS. [Editor's note: this was the result of the moratorium reported in NL230 ¶1A] An attendee at the Fentress County meeting heard that the resolution passed by the commission had been written by the brother of one of the big stable owners in the area.

#### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

The Park Service needs to hear from those who want to protect the natural features of the BSENNRA. Native wildlife and plant populations are among these natural features, and bears "belong." Many of us feel that there are already too many horse trails, and bringing in access road from outside the boundary would vastly increase traffic. Send your comments to Superintendent R. Detring, Big South Fork NRR, 4564 Leatherwood Road, Oneida, TN 37841.

## **2. CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST AND OTHER FOREST ISSUES**

### **A. Status of Cherokee Forest Plan**

[Condensed from *The Raven*, published by Cherokee Forest Voices]

The lengthy series of meetings that were part of the Cherokee Forest Plan revision process, and which drew ~700 persons, has now been completed. The purpose was to address the Forest Service's "Rolling Alternative" (NL230 ¶2B), but while each participant got to speak his/her piece, there was little time for interactive discussion and no opportunity for consensus building.

As it is now formulated, the Rolling Alternative falls well short of addressing watershed and riparian management issues, of

incorporating direction on the management of roadless areas, and of making Wilderness recommendations. And it fails to incorporate sufficient science regarding conclusions about how much timber harvesting is needed to sustain habitat for wildlife.

With the meetings over, the planning team is assessing the level of "consensus" associated with the comments in deciding whether to change the proposed alternative. Watershed and wildlife issues are being addressed by teams assembled by the Regional Office. The result of these analyses is not likely to be known until late January.

### **B. Scientists respond to claim that logging is needed**

State wildlife directors from southeastern states (including Tennessee) met in December with Elizabeth Estill, Regional Director of the USFS, to complain about Pres. Clinton's proposal to protect roadless areas in national forests (NL230 ¶2D). Their specific claim was that too little logging would hurt some dwindling wildlife species.

On Dec. 17, this claim was challenged by a group of scientists on the faculties of southeastern universities and colleges. The scientists pointed out that some bird species that were cited as "dwindling" by the state wildlife directors had, in fact, experienced unnatural population explosions during the intensive forest clearings earlier this century. The subsequent decline of these species as the forests recovered was merely a return to more normal population levels. The scientists' letter was released by the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, and can be obtained by contacting SAFC at [safc@safc.com](mailto:safc@safc.com) or at 828-252-9223.

### **C. EPA proposes rule to diminish logging-caused water pollution**

We have until January 20 to comment on what could be a highly significant regulation. EPA proposes a rule change that would treat silviculture activities as point sources of pollution under the Clean Water Act (instead as non-point sources, which are very difficult to regulate). If the rule is adopted, large logging operations will require NPDES permits. Millions of tons of sediment from clearcuts and logging roads presently enter the nation's streams each year. For obvious reasons, the timber industry is fighting the proposed rule change tooth and nail.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

We need to commend EPA for the proposal and urge that silviculture activities be considered point sources of pollution in the final rule. Any specific example(s) you can cite of water pollution from logging, or from unmaintained logging roads, will be helpful. It will also be helpful to urge interim protection until TMDL (total maximum daily loads) are developed for specific streams; until such a time, no increase in nonpoint pollution should be allowed. Send comments to Comment Clerk for the TMDL Rule, Water Docket (W-99-04), USEPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington DC 20460, or <mailto:owdocket@epa.gov>

#### D. State forestry bills

By the time you receive this, the General Assembly will have reconvened (1/11/00). There are essentially two forestry bills left over from last year. For details on contents, see NL227 13A.

- SB 1584 (Fowler)/HB 427 (Stulce), SOCM's Comprehensive Bill. Among other things, this bill requires a permit for large commercial timber cuts, licensing of loggers, mandatory Best Management Practices, permits for chip mills, and moving the Division of Forestry back into the Dept. of Environment and Conservation. SB 1584/HB 427 is presently lodged in the Government Operations Committees of both Houses, which will attempt to determine what changes different interest groups would suggest to increase the bill's chances for passage.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Contact Justin Wilson, Deputy to the Governor for Policy, G 10 State Capitol, Nashville, TN 37243, or [jwilson@mail.state.tn.us](mailto:jwilson@mail.state.tn.us), and ask his support for strong, comprehensive state forestry legislation, especially needed in the light of rapidly increasing demands for industrial harvesting.

- SB 1754 (Kyle)/HB 1570 (Curtiss) is SOCM's Economic Incentives Bill. It requires the State to undertake a forest-resource assessment, and to analyze the impacts of potential over-harvesting, prior to granting any economic incentives for wood-products industries. The bill passed the full Senate on a 21:3 vote (thanks largely to Sen. Kyle). In the House, HB 1570 passed the Conservation & Environment Committee by voice vote, but remained in the

Finance Ways & Means Committee because it costs \$10,000 to implement. It is only because of the State's overall dire financial situation that such a small sum is considered a stumbling block.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Contact Rep. Matthew Kisber, Chairman, House Finance Ways & Means Committee (33 Legislative Plaza, Nashville, TN 37243-0173), and urge him to promptly pass this bill through his committee. Cite the bill's overall economic benefit to the state.

#### 2. Home Depot to stop selling wood from endangered forests

Home Depot is the world's single largest retailer of wood ; it sells 10% of the planet's lumber and controls 40% of the US home-improvement industry; it has 856 stores and annual sales of over \$30 billion. Following a several-year-long major campaign by 3 national conservation groups, the company has pledged to phase out sales of wood from environmentally endangered areas by 2002. It will no longer sell certain redwood, luan, and cedar products from vanishing ancient forests in British Columbia, California, the Amazon basin, and Southeast Asia. At the same time, the company has pledged to "dramatically increase" its supply of environmentally certified wood products.

Home Depot's pledge is not a legal document, and its implementation must be carefully followed (as of October, the company had yet to begin the process of canceling contracts with suppliers of old-growth lumber). The announcement itself may start a snowball. Already, Lowe's, the second largest lumber retailer in the US, intends to announce a similar policy within the year. And the lumber retailers will hopefully join about 30 other global corporations (including 3M, Kinko's, Nike, and Dell computers) that have already pledged to stop using old-growth products.

#### F. TCWP and forestry issues

Because of the large, and growing, number of forestry issues facing us, formation of a Forestry Committee was proposed to the TCWP Board. Obviously, additional volunteers would be needed for such an initiative. The Board decided to recruit such new volunteers originally as part of our existing Parks Committee. If there are

enough of them, it will be possible to form a separate committee.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

We encourage any TCWP member with an interest in any of numerous forestry issues to volunteer their efforts to work on a committee. You may expect to spend an average of 1-2 hours per week, including a monthly meeting. Contact any of us listed in the box on p.2, or on the bottom of p.1.

### 3. STATE NATURAL AREAS

#### A. Program Improvements

Though Tennessee's Natural Areas System was established almost 30 years ago (with major help from TCWP), it got to lag behind more recently initiated efforts of several other states. Now, however, the Tennessee program has gained renewed impetus from activities stimulated by the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 1996. Important among these was a reconvened Natural Areas Advisory Committee, which produced a 1998 report outlining requirements that Tennessee needed to meet in order to have a viable program. (More recently, TCWP was represented on this Committee by Jimmy Groton.)

Commissioner Hamilton and Gov. Sundquist responded positively to the Committee's report, included some of the recommended improvements in their budget, and maintained them during a difficult fiscal year. As a result, the Natural Areas Program recently received a recurrent budget improvement of \$200,000 annually, which includes two new positions, as well as funds for science and stewardship. It is now feasible to support a regional stewardship ecologist working in each of the three Grand Divisions of Tennessee, and establishing closer ties with conservation groups, land trusts, and land owners. The first of these regional ecologists to be hired (David Lincome) has focused on Natural Areas activities on the Cumberland Plateau.

There has also been significant growth, over the past 4 years, in the acreage protected through the System. During that time, 21 new designated areas (9,222 acres) were created, and 9 existing areas received additions totaling 4,033 acres. Prior to that time, only 37 areas (including, however, some large ones) had been protected. The entire system now totals almost 80,000 acres.

The following Natural Areas were added in 1999:

- North Chickamauga Creek Gorge (3,700 acres), Hamilton and Sequatchie Counties
- The Chisneys (33 acres), Marion County
- Fate Sanders Barrens (230 acres), Rutherford County
- Flat Rock Cedar Glade (576 acres) NE of Murfreesboro

Natural Areas enlarged in 1999 were the following:

- Falling Water Falls (36 acres added to 100), Hamilton County
- Sunk Lake (330 acres added to 1,333), Lauderdale County.

#### B. A Natural Area in trouble:

##### House Mountain

(Contributed by Marcy Reed)

Members of the "Friends of House Mountain State Natural Area" have asked TCWP to get involved in their efforts to protect House Mountain. The State Natural Area, which was designated in 1971 as Class-I (Scenic-Recreational), occupies ~850 acres on the upper slopes and crest of the 4,000-acre mountain. It is a unique outlier of Clinch Mountain with a combination of scenic views, geological formations, and bird and plant life, all lying within a major metropolitan area, in Knox County.

The Friends of House Mountain has not been an active group for several years. Worried, however, by the recent prospect of state budget cuts that carry the threat of closure of this state natural area (among others), the Friends group decided to meet again to discuss their options and determine a course of action. Several TCWP members attended a meeting in December and are working with the Friends to revive interest in the Natural Area, prevent its closure, and have the state provide some stewardship for it. Additionally, we are examining possibilities for protecting more of the undeveloped land around House Mountain.

We agreed to meet again on January 17, time and location to be determined. Randy Brown of the Foothills Land Conservancy will talk about conservation easements. If you would like to attend this meeting, please contact Marcy Reed (691-8807, or MarcyRReed@aol.com), or Jimmy Groton (481-8732, or james.p.grotonjr@cpmx.saic.com). You may also urge the state to reconsider closing down House Mountain, and other state natural areas or parks; and you may wish to address the broader

problem, namely that we need tax reform to prevent such threats from becoming reality (see box, below).

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

(1) Contacts for addressing the specific issue of House Mountain: Site Management, House Mountain State Natural Area, PO Box 109, Corryton, TN 37721, 423-933-6851; Division of Natural Heritage, 401 Church Street, 14th Floor L&C Tower, Nashville, TN 37243-0447, 615-532-0431.

(2) To address the broader budget problem, contact your state legislators (see Political Guide) to cite this as an example of why we need tax reform. Congratulate Sen. McNally for recently having courageously supported tax reform.

### C. License plate to support Natural Areas

Currently, the only money to fund land acquisition for state natural areas and parks comes from a portion of the real-estate transfer tax. The amount is totally inadequate to take care of the numerous acquisition proposals, and competition for these badly limited funds is acute. Recently passed legislation authorizes sale of a special license plate available, as of 1/1/00, proceeds from which will be used for Natural Areas land acquisition.

This year's plate features a picture of Radnor Lake, one of the earliest State Natural Areas, which may be viewed on the web at [www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/license.htm](http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/license.htm). Future plates will depict other natural areas. The initial cost of the natural areas plate is \$35 (\$25 annual plate fee with a one-time handling fee of \$10). To date, ~600 orders for these plates have been received, surpassing by ~100 the minimum needed for the program to go into effect. The plates can be ordered through your County Clerk's office.

## 4. OTHER STATE NEWS

### A. Fall Creek Falls LUMP: decision postponed

The Office of Surface Mining's (OSM's) decision on the SOCM/TCWP Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition (LUMP) has once again been postponed. SOCM has asked Senator Frist to look

into reasons for the delay. The final EIS is now expected to be available for review sometime in the Spring. There will then be a 30-day review period during which comments will be accepted, but no formal hearing is likely to be held. This latest delay in issuance of the EIS provides an opportunity for us to further encourage our Congressional delegation to support the LUMP (see box, below).

We have no information about what preferred alternative will be designated in the final EIS, but are hoping that the thousands of postcards to Vice President Gore have convinced OSM to grant the LUMP. At the same time, OSM is under pressure from the State of Tennessee to permit re-mining of existing abandoned mined land as an acceptable form of reclamation in the Fall Creek Falls (FCF) watershed (NL230 13C).

A recent SOCM/TCWP statement listed the following strong arguments against re-mining:

- It would disturb the highly acidic and toxic Sewanee coal seam
- The FCF watershed is no place to experiment with new technologies
- To make re-mining economically feasible, the operation would have to disturb an area much larger than the current abandoned mines
- An OSM rule published 2/12/99 exempted re-mining operations from standards of the federal surface mining law.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) Urge Senators Frist and Thompson and your Representative (addresses on p.2) to contact OSM and express their strong support for the Fall Creek Falls Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition. In all communications, strongly oppose re-mining as a "solution."
- (2) Contact Beverly Brock, Office of Surface Mining in Knoxville (423-545-4103 ext.146; [bbrock@osmre.gov](mailto:bbrock@osmre.gov)) to request a copy of the Final EIS, so you can provide informed comments, if needed [the SOCM office, 423-426-9455, will have additional copies available].

SOCM reports that a great deal of land development is occurring around Fall Creek Falls. There are plans for a new 500-acre landfill, a waste-treatment plant, and a manmade lake. Land is also being subdivided for residential development. It will be important to watch for any directly adverse impact on the Park and Natural Area.

## **B. Abandoned Mine Lands money needed to restore 283 sites**

The 1977 federal Surface Mining Act (SMCRA) set up a small severance tax on coal mining, to go into the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Fund. The main purpose of this fund was to pay for reclamation of "orphan" mines, i.e., sites that had been mined prior to the reclamation provisions of SMCRA. About \$1.4 billion have been collected through this severance tax, but Congress has appropriated only a small percentage of this for its intended purpose, using the remainder to offset the federal deficit. The AML Fund is scheduled to go out of business in 2004.

To make matters worse, Tennessee has been getting even less money than the other Appalachian states, because, ever since the early 1980's, Tennessee has opted for federal (i.e., OSM), rather than State, regulation of stripmining. The estimated cost to clean up Tennessee's 283 abandoned coal mines is \$29 million. Not only would such reclamation stop the continuing water-quality damage (and other environmental impacts) from orphan mines, but it is estimated to create about 1,000 jobs in our state.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** SOCM is taking the lead in conducting a major campaign to rally support for getting AML money to Tennessee. The Van Buren County Commission has already passed a resolution in support. Time is of the essence because the funding ends in 2004. To offer your help with this effort, contact Landon Medley, Chair of the SOCM Stripmine Committee, at [beaugard@InfoAve.Net](mailto:beaugard@InfoAve.Net)

## **C. Tennessee Clean Water Network**

TCWN, formed in 1998 and now encompassing 30 organizations (including TCWP) tracks state water-quality policies and builds clean-water advocacy. A highly important issue is the development of watershed restoration plans (or Total Maximum Daily Loads, TMDLs) for the state's most impaired waters. About 19 will be developed over the next year, and well over 700 over the next 10 years. TCWN will try to ensure that Tennessee conservation groups are aware of, and have the ability to engage in, the process. The Network will also provide technical, legal, and grassroots assistance to enable groups to fully participate.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** If you wish to become involved in specific watershed restoration plans (currently, Crab Orchard Creek, Ocoee, Harpeth), or if you wish to be placed on the TCWN listserve, contact Danielle Droitsch at [tcwn@tngreen.com](mailto:tcwn@tngreen.com)

## **5. TVA ISSUES**

### **A. TVA to offer Green Power this spring**

Ten of TVA's power distributors will offer consumers a "green" power option, starting this spring, with delivery expected to begin in the summer. The power will initially come from 3 sources, wind, solar, and landfill gas, using 3-6 megawatts of generation installed in or near the TVA region. It will feed into the overall electric system, so that everyone (not just the purchasers of the green-power option) will receive a mix of green and conventionally-generated power. However, the more customers purchase green power, the less coal-fired power generation will have to be done in the TVA region.

The market test that starts this year represents the first use of green power in the Southeast. As consumer interest in the program grows, TVA can acquire more green-power generation. The agency expects incremental growth in 2001, and Valley-wide implementation afterwards. The price of green power will depend on TVA's costs to purchase and distribute it. In other parts of the country, residential consumers participating in green-power programs typically pay an extra \$2 to \$10 per month on their electric bills.

For additional information visit TVA's website at [www.tva.gov/greenpower](http://www.tva.gov/greenpower)

### **B. TVA to undertake largest NO<sub>x</sub> reduction in USA**

Air pollution has been a rapidly escalating problem in the USA. Most harmful to ecological and human health, and to visibility, are sulfur emissions and ozone-forming NO<sub>x</sub>. Approximately 40% of the latter comes from coal-fired power plants. The three biggest utilities upwind from us -- American Electric Power, Southern, and TVA -- account for about 1.3 million tons of NO<sub>x</sub> annually, equivalent to the pollution from 200 million cars. While the other utilities are hiding (sometimes illegally) behind



a grandfather clause in the 1990 Clean Air Act (NL229 ¶6A), TVA is now doing something to clean up NO<sub>x</sub>.

TVA has begun installation of the nation's first large-scale selective catalytic reduction (SCR) at its Paradise coal-fired power plant, at a cost of \$45-50 million for Unit #2. This will accomplish the single largest NO<sub>x</sub> reduction at coal-fired plants in the USA. SCR converts NO<sub>x</sub> in flue gas to harmless nitrogen and water vapor. TVA has also announced plans for SCR at Paradise Unit #1 and at its Cumberland power plant, which emits even more NO<sub>x</sub> than does Paradise (113,000 tons in 1998).

While TVA is to be greatly commended for its NO<sub>x</sub> reduction activities, much remains to be done to reduce sulfur emissions, which cause acid precipitation and haze. Unfortunately, the agency has protested compliance ordered by EPA in November, insisting that it is not guilty of violating the grandfather provisions of the 1990 Clean Air Act (TVA claims that the expansions and improvements it has made in its old power plants were merely routine measures, rather than modifications).

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Thank TVA for initiating a Green Power program (¶5A, above), and for its major efforts to reduce NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. Urge them, however, to also make reductions in sulfur emissions. Address: Chairman Craven Crowell, TVA, 440 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN 37902. Send a copy to the editor of your local paper.

#### C. TVA Board again complete

After 6 months, during which Chairman Craven Crowell was the only member of the TVA Board, the Senate in mid-November finally confirmed nominees for the other two positions. Skila Harris, Pres. Clinton's nominee, was a former special assistant to Vice President Gore, and Chief of Staff for Tipper Gore. Most recently, she chaired a DOE advisory board on energy deregulation. Glenn McCullough, nominated by Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, is mayor of Tupelo, Miss.

#### D. TCWP's Annual Meeting program on TVA

Three highly informative talks were presented at our Annual Meeting on November 13, and we can summarize only the barest

highlights. Judith Bartlow, in a slide talk about TVA lands, mentioned various categories of land classification, such as Scenic, Wildlife, Forestry, Cultural, etc. In addition, TVA has designated 86 Natural Areas covering 11,000 acres. Natural Area designations are identified as part of individual reservoir plans. Among sub-classifications are Small Wild Areas (e.g., Whites Creek, where TCWP maintains a trail), Habitat Protection, Ecological Study, and Wildlife Observation Areas. The largest Natural Area is the 2,500-acre Coon Gulf in Alabama. The only one on the Cumberland Plateau is Foster Falls Small Wild Area, which has a resident manager and a campground.

Water-supply issues were the subject of Dan Ferry's talk. Water supply has been taken for granted in the East, but droughts are beginning to capture public attention. About 4 million people and many industries depend on the Tennessee River for their water supply; about 9 billion gallons of water are withdrawn every day – that's 33% more than the river flow past Chattanooga at low flows! Integrated water-resource management is a necessity; regional allocations within watersheds will have to be considered. A multi-agency effort to create a catalog of what water is available is a prerequisite for further planning. Our region lags in promoting water conservation. We should, among other things, consider instituting new rate structures that provide enticements for saving water. Presently, the more water you use (e.g., industry) the cheaper it is, and nobody is paying for the real cost of water.

A look at TVA from the outside was provided by Stephen Smith, executive director of TVERC. After briefly addressing the problem of TVA's coal-fired power plants (e.g., ¶5B, above), he discussed the threats to TVA's very survival. The regional planning concept embodied by TVA is unique, and Congress does not understand, nor like, this unique role. TVA has become the favorite whipping boy in electric utility discussions, with the political culture worsening since 1994, and no strong supporters (like Sen. Gore, Sr.) left in the Congress. TVA made things worse for itself when Chairman Crowell announced in 1997 that the agency would shed the non-power program. Though he subsequently backed off, the damage had been done.

As a utility, TVA could become a model for moving the power industry beyond its destructive phase. In the non-power area, everything we

have taken for granted with respect to regional resource protection could be lost through the process of upcoming electric-power deregulation. Even if Congress takes the coal-fired and nuclear plants away, TVA must not lose control of its hydropower; revenues from that could support the non-power program.

It is clear that we must work energetically to insure TVA's future. Stimulated by Steve's talk TCWP has moved to become more actively involved in TVA issues – see §5E, below.

#### **E. TCWP Involvement in TVA Issues**

The excellent morning program at our Nov. 13 Annual Meeting (§5D, above) made it clearer than ever how many vitally important land and water-protection issues in our area are affected by TVA. It made us ask ourselves what we could do to make TVA a power for good; and what serious problems we might face if TVA were to disappear.

1. TVA's non-power program has numerous important interfaces with many TCWP interests, e.g.,
  - water-supply issues (regionally-integrated water-resource management; evaluations of dam proposals for watersheds of concern to us; water conservation, e.g., through rate structure or incentives)
  - publiclands under TVA's control
  - TVA's natural areas, including Small Wild Areas
  - Water quality in the entire system (the watershed approach)
  - individual reservoir management plans.
2. TVA's power program
  - directly affects air quality in the Smokies and the Cherokee
  - could become a nation-wide model for Green Power
  - strongly affects survival of the non-power program.
3. The very survival of TVA is at stake in view of the Congressional push for electric-power deregulation and refusal to fund the non-power program.

In recent discussions, the TCWP Board felt that No. 2 can be handled by our setting up a liaison with TVERC (the Tennessee Valley Energy Coalition), the lead organization in TVA issues. For the time being, Eric Hirst will serve as

the contact, but other volunteers would be welcome. We also agreed to join the Clean Air Taskforce (though not as a member of the steering committee) and to support TVA's Green Power Program.

The other items will take more direct TCWP effort, perhaps to be handled by a separate committee for which several important information sources and mentors are available. We obviously need volunteers interested to work on these issues—one has already been identified. Please contact Sandra K. Goss, 865-522-3809, skgoss@esper.com; or Marcy Reed, 865-691-8807, marcyreed@aol.com; or Lee Russell, 865-482-2153, russelllb@sprynet.com if you are willing to join the effort.

TCWP is very much interested in the TVA Regional Resource Stewardship Council (NL230 §5C) and wrote to TVA requesting a position on the Council. Because, however, most Council positions will be filled by persons nominated by the Valley's 7 governors and by electric power distributors, chances are small that we will be chosen.

#### **F. TVA provides native vegetation for bank stabilization; TCWP to help**

TVA's botanists have determined that good stabilization of the banks of streams or lakes can be achieved with the right mix of native vegetation that is well adapted to shoreline conditions. The agency provides free seedling bundles, each bundle containing altogether 63 plants, 7 each of 9 species (silty dogwood, buttonbush, river birch, green ash, red chokeberry, willow oak, persimmon, red maple, and shellbark hickory). Information on each of the species is provided with the bundle. The contents of a bundle can plant 200 feet of shoreline to a depth of about 30 feet to restore natural buffers along our waterways and lakeshores. The program has already proved very successful in the Little River watershed in Maryville and Alcoa. For additional information, contact Meinda Andrews (mfandrews@tva.gov) or call 865-988-2442.

TCWP has offered help with the next assembly of bundles, and possibly also with their subsequent distribution. This could be a fun Saturday activity for people of all ages (above 12). See §9E, below.

## G. Land-use action website

TVA owns 280,000 acres of public lands. A <sup>new</sup> website, [www.tva.gov/environment/landaction](http://www.tva.gov/environment/landaction), provides information on requests for the use of these lands, and on other significant land-use actions of public interest, such as natural-resource and watershed management plans. The site also includes general information on TVA's review process.

## 8. SMOKIES NEWS

### A. Elkmont controversy

**Background:** In the Elkmont area of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, there is a group of ~80 cabins, privately built in the 1930s or later, plus a clubhouse. Well-to-do and politically influential area residents used these as summer places, leasing them from the National Park Service (NPS), with the lease period repeatedly extended under political pressure. A 1978/79 study by NPS found the cabins to have no historical significance (they are barely older than the houses many of us live in), and the Park's 1982 General Management Plan (GMP) calls for the cabins' total removal so that the area could return to its significant natural condition as a globally endangered montane alluvial forest. In the early 1990s, the lease holders enlisted the help of the Tennessee Historical Commission to get the cabins declared of historical value. If even one cabin remains, the GMP would have to be amended, and this requires an EIS (Env't. Impact Statement). Such an amendment process would dangerously re-open the very excellent GMP to other possible attacks. The following update to the story is

[contributed by Patrice Cole]

The Elkmont controversy has made an amazing revival long after many of us thought it was history. When their leases expired in 1992, the privileged few who had for decades enjoyed private use of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park began political maneuvering to regain those leases. The National Park Service's plan to remove all Elkmont structures in accordance with the GMP was stymied by the 1993 listing of the entire Elkmont "community" on the National Register of Historic Places. Individually, the structures have little architectural or historical significance, but collectively they were judged to be a rare relic of a unique type of community that has local historical significance.

Being listed on the National Register does not confer any legal protection from alteration or destruction, and government agencies (including NPS) frequently change, neglect, or destroy listed historic structures. But those with a vested interest in preserving their private weekend retreats in our national park have seized the historic designation as their best chance for renewal of their leases.

Although the NPS has the legal authority to remove the Elkmont structures, park managers are reluctant to do so without the concurrence of agencies that are stewards of historic resources. A few years ago, the Tennessee Historical Commission took a first stance against removal of any of the Elkmont structures, noting that the structures need not be especially old to be historic, because "history didn't stop after the pioneer period." The decision has now been elevated to the federal level, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation will make a recommendation to the NPS with regard to the disposition of the Elkmont structures.

In early November, the NPS announced a compromise plan to preserve 17 of the Elkmont cabins, plus the clubhouse, at an estimated initial cost of \$160,000, which is a poor expenditure of this ted money at the expense of more important resource-protection needs. This plan is also inconsistent with natural-resource management goals for that part of the park. Furthermore, it provides the Elkmont "residents" an opportunity to appeal for more of the structures to be added to the list of those to be preserved. When the enormous public cost of stabilizing, restoring, and maintaining so many buildings is pointed out, these former residents offer to bear the cost in return for renewed leases. The only way to avoid endless efforts to re-inhabit those cabins is to remove them, and the only way to meet the natural-resource goals of the park is to remove them all.

In November, the NPS and the Advisory Council agreed to immediately initiate a consultation process under section 106 of the Council regulations; and, NPS will simultaneously, prepare the appropriate amendment to the GMP and will draft the EIS for this. All parties are hoping that the process will take months rather than years. At some point there will be an exposition of alternatives and a public hearing. It will be critical for us to have a large attendance at the hearing and a large body of comments, both from those in attendance and those who cannot attend.

The Advisory Council is unlikely to be swayed by arguments centered around ecological or wilderness values, or even by appeals regarding the injustice of private use of public lands by a small, elite group. They are, however, likely to pay attention to warnings that their credibility would be eroded if they placed a higher value on shabby, 20<sup>th</sup>-century vacation cabins than on more pressing public concerns. Such a stand would jeopardize public support for historic preservation.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** In getting ready for the upcoming public meetings, we must be able to assess the value of the natural environment versus that of the cabin "community." If you are an expert in any part of such a process (or know of an expert), get in touch with Leroy Fox, 801 Vanosdale Road, Knoxville, TN 37901, Phone 691-5540.

#### **B. Air Quality strategy meeting**

The Gl. Smoky Mtns. National Park has the dubious honor of holding the dubious honor of having the worst air pollution among all national parks. This, and the rapidly deteriorating air quality in the Southern Appalachians in general, is the subject of a strategy meeting of several grassroots organizations. It will be held on January 28 at Lake Junaluska, NC. Anyone interested in attending should contact Danielle Droitsch, 865-457-7775 (NPCA).

#### **7. LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND: LARGE APPROPRIATION PASSED; PERMANENCE YET TO BE ACHIEVED**

Just before Congress went home in late November, it passed an omnibus appropriations package for FY 2000 that included more than \$450 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Not only was the total LWCF appropriation larger than it has been in the recent past, but for the first time in five years, it included funding for state matching grants - a total of \$40 million, of which Tennessee will receive \$750,919. The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR) also received its first appropriation in years, netting \$2 million. Among federal-acquisition highlights in the bill are \$101 million for the Baca Ranch in New Mexico, \$45 million for Everglades National Park in Florida, \$15 million for purchase of the

Catallas property in Mojave National Preserve, and \$12 million in battlefield protection.

Thanks to the strong leadership of the Clinton Administration and its Lands Legacy team, funding for both the federal and stateside LWCF in the final appropriations deal nearly doubled from the figure included in the House-Senate Conference Report earlier in the fall. The Administration deserves a lot of credit for sticking to its guns in battling for the increase in LWCF funding, and it had much support from coalitions such as AHR (Americans for our Heritage and Recreation) that include conservation organizations, land trusts, tourism groups, the outdoor and sporting manufacturing industries, state and local park directors, and smart-growth leaders.

It is hoped that this strong base of support will accomplish the really important step that is yet to be taken: to make the LWCF permanent (NL229 §8A). In November, with surprising bipartisan support, the House Committee on Resources passed HR701, a compromise bill guaranteeing an annual LWCF allocation of \$900 million (as intended by the original LWCF legislation), without requiring an annual appropriation (which has almost always resulted in most of the earmarked funds being used, instead, for a reduction in the national debt).

HR701 resulted from months of negotiations between Congressmen who have been ideological opposites: committee chairman Don Young (R-AK) and ranking minority leader George Miller (D-CA). The bill may be less than perfect, but a perfect bill would never even have passed out of committee. The bill must still pass the full House.

An even bigger hurdle is expected to be encountered in the Senate, which has several stridently anti-environmental Western members. This bill is vital to the protection of our vanishing natural lands. There is a huge backlog, just in lands already authorized to be acquired, to say nothing of additional lands needing protection.

#### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- (1) Strongly urge your Congressman (address on p.2) to support HR701 when it comes up for vote on the House floor. cont'd

- (2) Ask Senators Frist and Thompson to give the strongest possible support to the Senate version of HR701, which will make the Land and Water Conservation Fund a permanent part of America's legacy.
- (3) In all your communications, cite Tennessee examples (the Obed WSR, the Big South Fork NRR, the Cherokee NF) of why such funds are needed for acquiring already authorized lands that are in danger of being environmentally degraded, as well as becoming much more expensive to purchase as time passes.

## B. OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

### A. What happened to the Interior Appropriations bill?

In the Fall, there was considerable concern about the Interior Appropriations bill (NL230 §9A). While this bill (which provides \$14.6 billion for the nation's primary land management agencies) contained many items we supported (including the \$3.5 million for the Gulf Tract), it was so loaded down with disastrous riders that environmentalists were calling for a veto.

Just before Congress went home in mid-November, it passed an Omnibus Appropriations Act that encompassed the Interior Dept. appropriations along with appropriations for four other Departments. The bill reflected negotiations between the White House and Congressional leaders and represents a victory of sorts for the White House and the environment -- the vast majority of anti-environment riders that had been added to these funding bills were removed or modified to limit their impact. The only major harmful rider that remained in the bill will allow the Bureau of Land Management to reissue grazing permits for up to 10 years without completing environmental reviews required by NEPA and the Endangered Species Act. The Omnibus bill also included substantial funding for the President's Lands Legacy Initiative, as summarized in 17, above.

### B. President urged to designate additional National Monuments

Earlier in his term, President Clinton used his authority under the almost century-old Antiquities Act to designate the 17 million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southern Utah. It was a terrific gift to the nation; but it brought howls from Utah

politicians and stimulated several Congressional attempts to dismember the Antiquities Act. That Act was first used by Pres. Teddy Roosevelt, who in 1908 designated the Grand Canyon as a National Monument. Since then, many of our best known national parks started life as national monuments.

A year ago, the President asked Interior Secretary Babbitt to report on unique and sensitive places that deserve protection as national monuments. Babbitt recommended that 3 new national monuments be created (in Arizona and California) and that another (in California) be significantly expanded.

Of the new proposals, the largest is the 1 million-acre Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, a labyrinth of side canyons and spectacular plateau lands defining the western end of the Grand Canyon. Major features are the Grand Wash Cliffs, the Shivwits Plateau, and the northern heads of Grand Canyon tributary canyons. Threats to the area are uranium and other mining, roads and encroaching developments. Arizona Republican politicians (including the governor and Senators McCain and Kyl) oppose national monument designation.

Another Babbitt proposal is for a 71,000-acre Agua Fria National Monument which would protect ancient Native American ruins north of Phoenix.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Voice your support for designating Grand Canyon-Parashant and the other proposed national monuments and monument additions. Contact the White House by calling 1-888-340-4453 (if you press 0, you will be connected to a live operator), or by sending e-mail to [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

### C. Proponent of privatizing federal lands becomes Bush advisor

A new report from the Cato Institute recommends "auctioning off all public lands over 20 to 40 years." All public lands presumably include all of our national parks, forests, wildernesses, etc. The report entitled "How and Why to Privatize Federal Lands" is Cato Policy Analysis No. 363, December 9, 1999, viewable at <http://www.cato.org/public/pubs/opa/pa363.htm>. Among other things, the summary states: "Land would be partitioned into tracts or primary units. ... Once divested, tract deed rights would be freely transferrable."

## 9. TCWP NEWS

### A. Review of 1999 TCWP

#### achievements

The following is a very abbreviated list of 1999 achievements, on issues for which TCWP had worked hard.

- Frozen Head: The State will almost certainly acquire the BirdMtn. Tract.
- Pickett: The State is acquiring one large tract, and private groups/individuals are acquiring others for protection purposes.
- State Parks, general: The third State Parks Forum was organized.
- Scott's Gulf: About 1/4 of the Bridgestone/Firestone lands were officially donated to the State.
- Obed: (a) The threatening Clear Creek Dam was finally effectively killed. (b) The entire federal portion of Obed and tributaries received conditional ONRW (Outstanding National Resource Water) designation.
- Big South Fork: A trail-construction moratorium was declared (until completion of Road & Trails Plan), thus halting damaging projects.
- TVA: The modified Shoreline Management Initiative increased the Shoreline Mngt. Zone (= greenbelt) from 25ft to 50ft depth.

TCWP also performed numerous organizational and service functions in 1999. Only some of the efforts are listed here, and only the leaders are named, omitting many others who participated significantly.

- Initiation of liaison activities with the new TN League of Conservation Voters (Mary Lynn Dobson). Partnerships continued with SOCM, Cherokee Forest Voices, NPCA, Sierra Club, Smoky Mtns Hiking Club.
- North Ridge Trail stewardship (Ken and Helen Warren, Tom Thomas)
- Public Lands Day participation (Judith Bartlow)
- Several outings (Hal Smith, Ed Clebsch, Larry Pounds)
- Committee organization (Eric Hirst, Chuck Estes, Jenny Freeman, Marcy Reed, and Sandra Goss)
- Newsletter distribution (Frank Hensley, Charlie Klaborde, Marcy Reed)
- Oak Ridger articles (Sandra Goss, Eric Hirst, Lee Russell)
- Production of slide show and text (Lee Russell, Marcy Reed)
- Representation on EQAB and CROET (Jimmy Groton)
- Peter Kirby events (Eric Hirst)

One could dismiss this report as a fantasy of the reactionary right wing, except for one important point. Its principal author, Terry L. Anderson, has been hired by Presidential candidate George W. Bush to serve as his public lands policy advisor.

Terry Anderson's Political Economy Research Center recently published another report, "Paying to Play: The Fee Demonstration Program." This one tout recreation userfees as an important component of the privatization agenda. See <http://www.perc.org/pa17pr.htm>

### D. *Analyses of Presidential candidates' environmental credentials, Part.1*

The organization Republicans for Environmental Protection publishes a newsletter entitled the *GREEN elephant*. The Fall 1999 issue carries an article entitled "Where does Governor George W. Bush Stand on Environmental Issues" (articles on Forbes and McCain will appear in the Winter issue).

The following are a few quotes from the article (we'll be happy to mail you a copy of the whole thing if you send us a self-addressed stamped envelope).

- "The environment has not been a high priority concern for Bush
- [he] is planning to avoid the harshly negative approach to environmental issues taken by some congressional leaders
- Bush ... may put forward a market-oriented environmental platform
- It's hard to find a clear philosophy underlying his positions
- He opposes the Kyoto protocol [which aims to reduce carbon emissions]
- He supports amending the Endangered Species Act to limit habitat protection requirements
- Bush's environmental track record draws a tepid to cool response from Texas conservationists
- Bush is not overtly anti-environmental, but tends to side with business interests when push comes to shove.
- [Re. worsening air pollution] Bush thwarted efforts to close the grandfathered-plants loophole in order to please his supporters in industry." However, he did act positively on grandfathered electric generating plants by requiring emission reductions before 2003.

- Grant writing and fund-raising efforts (Sandra Goss and Marcy Reed).

#### **B. Annual meeting a success**

About 60 people enjoyed our Nov. 13 annual meeting at Norris Dam State Park, the largest attendance we have had in several years. NPCA (Natl. Parks & Conservation Assoc.) Regional Directors, who were meeting elsewhere at Norris, visited with us at breakfast. Subsequently, the three speakers for the morning program (devoted to TVA issues) did an outstanding job of informing and stimulating us; the contents of their presentations are summarized in ¶5D of this NL. During the catered lunch, we bid on the fascinating objects displayed for the silent auction - an activity that eventually netted TCWP close to \$1,000. Following the afternoon hikes (Bluff Trail and Norris Reservation), for which we enjoyed beautiful fall weather, we came back to the Tearoom for wine, hors d'oeuvres and more socializing. It was a fine day, for which we can thank our excellent speakers, the hike leaders, and the TCWP Service Committee and staff, who made the arrangements.

Because the location and general format worked so well this time, we have already reserved the Norris Tearoom for this year's annual meeting, to be held Oct. 27-28, 2000. Mark your calendar now!

#### **C. Fund-raising efforts**

- With checks still coming in, our end-of-year appeals letter has already brought in a very respectable sum in donations and pledges from about 60 donors. In addition, TCWP received an anonymous one-time donation of \$10,000 plus additional sums, even prior to the appeals letter. This excellent response shows we must be doing something right.
- We received a grant of \$1,000 from Lockheed Martin for our work in organizing the 2000 State Parks Forum and our Public Lands Day effort. Our grant application to Bechtel Jacobs was unsuccessful.

#### **D. March for TCWP event, May 6**

In lieu of our annual March for Parks, we plan for a March for TCWP to be held on May 6, to provide walks, hikes, and other activities. We hope to make this into a significant fund raiser by securing corporate as well as individual sponsorships for the participants. Look for an announcement of date and location, and plan to participate.

#### **E. Volunteers needed for bundling valuable seedlings**

TCWP hopes to supply volunteers to help with the assembling of bundles of native seedlings to be used in bank-stabilization projects (¶5F, above). This event will take place Feb. 5, from around 9 a.m. until 2 or 3 p.m. (until done with 250 bundles), at the TVA office at Melton Hill Dam (detailed directions when you call us, see below). TVA will provide food (pizza, veggies, clips, etc.) and drinks. Families are encouraged, except for kids below 12, and you can bring a radio or boom box, if you wish. This will be an outdoor activity, so dress appropriately. We hope to get 15-25 volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Marcy Reed, 423-691-8807, or [marcyreed@aol.com](mailto:marcyreed@aol.com), who will provide details of the Feb. 5 event. Sometime later (by mid-March), TCWP also hopes to take a part in the distribution and/or planting of the bundles.

#### **F. Quarterly membership meetings**

TCWP plans to hold quarterly membership meetings, each featuring a program, information sharing, and other membership interactions. These meetings should also help to increase TCWP's profile and to recruit volunteers for our projects.

The first of these quarterly membership meetings, which are being organized by the Service Committee, is planned for the third full week in March and will be held at the Oak Ridge Public Library. Look for future announcements.

#### **G. A variety of recent activities**

About a dozen Burgess Falls hikers on December 4 enjoyed fine weather. And about 25 people attended our Holiday party on December 10.

A TCWP display was prepared for Wilderness Week in Pigeon Forge, beginning January 8.

A few requests for presentations of the TCWP slideshow are finally being received. One program has been presented; another is scheduled for this month. If any group you belong to or have contacts with (organization, club, church, school) would like to learn about Tennessee's natural lands and waters and what can be done to protect them, tell them about the availability of our program; or have them contact Sandra K. Goss, 423-522-3809, [skgoss@esper.com](mailto:skgoss@esper.com); Marcy Reed, 423-691-8807, [marcyreed@aol.com](mailto:marcyreed@aol.com); or Lee Russell, 423-482-2153, [russellb@sprynet.com](mailto:russellb@sprynet.com)

- TCWP's Public Lands Day efforts in the Worthington Cemetery Cedar Barrens (NL230 ¶9E) received special mention in the publication TVA River Neighbors (Oct.1999).

## H. We lose Arthur Smith

With great sadness, we report the sudden death of Arthur Smith at Kingsport on December 20. Arthur, who has been a TCWP member since 1985, was not only active, but a leader, in numerous activities, chief among which were Cherokee National Forest issues and container-deposit legislation.

A memorial hike for Arthur to Grassy Ridge on Roan Mountain is planned for the Spring. Several of us may also want to contribute to the Arthur Smith Memorial Fund for Cherokee Forest Voices, c/o Dean Whittworth, 698 Carrie Bunton Lane, Butler, TN 37640.

## J. "Awards" presented at annual meeting

At the end of the annual meeting's morning program, four "awards" for 1999 were presented in the order here reported. Wish we had the space to reproduce the full text, which was quite hilarious.

Dragon Award. "Dragons are awesome creatures, breathing fire and said to be immortal. They possess tremendous energy and strength and are formidable enemies. They are legendary and mythical. That pretty much describes our very own Lee Russell." Lee got the award for finally achieving (along with others) an ONRW (Outstanding National Resource Water) designation for the Obed WSR this year.

Cockroach Award. Being a cockroach "means you are a survivor ... They are very fast and will eat just about anything. They are persistent and considered a pest." Eric Hirst got the award for being the one member of the board most likely to raise the issues that nobody wants to talk about, and working hard on administrative tasks that are unpopular to others - in short, for taking the lead in revitalizing TCWP.

The Rock Award went to Chuck Estes for being steadfast as a rock in his tremendous effort that, this year, culminated in the official donation of a portion of Scotts Gulf by Bridgestone Firestone.

The Bulldog Award went to Frank Hensley for the perseverance and tenacity he has displayed in his efforts to protect lands surrounding Pickett. "He is quiet, softspoken; but a bulldog, once he gets ahold stays ahold."

## 10. CALENDAR; JOB OPENINGS; RESOURCES

Events and deadlines calendar. (For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra K. Goss, 423-522-3809, [skgoss@esuper.com](mailto:skgoss@esuper.com); or Marcy Reed, 423-691-8807, [marcyreed@aol.com](mailto:marcyreed@aol.com))

- January 17, Knoxville, meeting about House Mountain (¶3B, this NL).
- Jan. 20, Deadline for comments on EPA proposal to regulate silviculture (¶2C, this NL).
- Jan. 28, Lake Junaluska, Smokies air-quality strategy meeting (¶6B, this NL).
- Feb. 1, Deadline for comments on TWRA Draft Plan (¶10, this NL).
- Feb. 5, Bundling of bank-stabilization vegetation (¶5F and 9E, this NL).
- Feb. 26, 9 am-5 pm, Knoxville, mass meeting of Cherokee Forest Voices. For location, contact Barbara Allen 687-0657, Ray Payne 693-6944, or Larry Dunn 472-0010.
- March 17-19, Third Annual Tennessee Clean Water Network conference, Nashville, at the historic Scarritt-Bennett Center (see below for further info).
- April 7-9, Wartburg and Obed, Tennessee Paddle 2K (NL230 ¶1D).
- April 26-29, 6<sup>th</sup> National Volunteer Monitoring Conference, Austin, TX, sponsored by EPA (Visit [www.epa.gov/QWOW/monitoring/vol.html](http://www.epa.gov/QWOW/monitoring/vol.html), or call 703-385-6000).
- April 26-29, 6<sup>th</sup> National Volunteer Monitoring Conference, Austin, TX, sponsored by EPA (Visit [www.epa.gov/QWOW/monitoring/vol.html](http://www.epa.gov/QWOW/monitoring/vol.html), call 703-385-6000, or e-mail [crowema@tetratech-ffx.com](mailto:crowema@tetratech-ffx.com)).
- May 6, March for TCWP (¶9D, this NL).

### Job Opening

(Notice issued 11/1/99) American Rivers, Inc. has an opening for Associate Director of Hydropower Programs, Southeast Region. Call Andrew Fahlund at 202-347-7550 or e-mail [afahlund@amrivers.org](mailto:afahlund@amrivers.org).

### Miscellaneous Resources

- The Third Annual Tennessee Clean Water Network conference, March 17-19 (see calendar) will convene clean water activists and watershed associations from across the state to plan for the year 2000. Among other things, the conference will feature: chemical and biological water quality monitoring; effective communications for local watershed associations; commenting on Tennessee TMDLs or Watershed Restoration



Plans; how to become involved in dam re-licensing. Scholarships will be available. Look for more information later.

- *National Park Lines* is an electronic newsletter published by NPCA (National Parks and Conservation Assoc.) geared toward national park advocacy. To subscribe (free) contact Stephany Seay at [TakeAction@npca.org](mailto:TakeAction@npca.org), or call 1-800-NAT-Park ext.222.

- "The Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI)," a project of the National Park Service's Rivers and Trails Program, is a register of over 3,000 river segments that potentially qualify as national wild, scenic, or recreational rivers. Tennessee is prominent on this national rivers list! The NRI is now on-line at <http://www.nps.gov/rtr/nri>. It is also available in GIS format on CD-ROM. For a free copy, contact Rob Campellone, [rob.campellone@nps.gov](mailto:rob.campellone@nps.gov).

- A video about Smith Bend (NL230 ¶4D) is available by calling Randy Brown at 865-681-8326. It shows extensive footage of the sandhill cranes and other waterfowl that use the Bend.

- Winter environmental education for school groups is being offered by the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. School teachers are invited to contact Jeanie Hilton (865-448-6709, or [gsmi@smokiesnha.org](mailto:gsmi@smokiesnha.org)) to arrange a winter environmental education program with their students in the National Park. Groups stay in the heated lodge and enjoy delicious meals in the dining hall. Trips are three or five days, and there is a special two-day visit, at a very reasonable cost, for local schools. The Institute at Tremont also offers numerous other programs, trips, workshops, elderhostels, etc.

- A catalog is available for the Izaak Walton League's Save Our Streams (SOS) Program. It includes books, videos, equipment, and lists of workshops, etc. (Call 1-800-BUG-IWLA, or e-mail [sos@iwla.org](mailto:sos@iwla.org).)

- A recycled paper buying cooperative is being operated by the Knoxville Recycling Coalition. By using bulk buying power, KRC can make high-quality recycled paper available at competitive prices. (Call Samantha at 673-0542.)

- The Waste Xchange, operated by the Knoxville Recycling Coalition, rescues materials destined for the dumpster and makes them available at a very, very, low price. Among other things, they

have "a deluge" of desks, filing cabinets, old movie projectors, and laminate (check [www.kormet.org/recycle](http://www.kormet.org/recycle) for a current listing). The Waste Xchange is open on the first Saturday of each month, 9-11:30 a.m., at the City of Knoxville Transfer Station located off I-275 (take the West Baxter Ave exit and follow the signs).

- NRCS (National Resources Conservation Service) has a self-paced training course on the design of water-quality monitoring, available free of charge. This could be useful for inputs into Tennessee's TMDL/Watershed Management programs. (Visit [www.fhw.nrcs.usda.gov/nedc/homepage.html](http://www.fhw.nrcs.usda.gov/nedc/homepage.html)).

- The Graduate School of Environmental Studies at Bard College offers a summer program of study for a Master of Science in Environmental Studies degree. It requires two summers of class work and an additional period of thesis research. (Call 914-758-7073, or e-mail [gcesinfo@bard.edu](mailto:gcesinfo@bard.edu).)

#### Books and other paper publications

- *Clearing the Air: Protecting a National Jewel* is an NPCA Policy Paper prepared for the Tennessee Clean Air Task Force. The 24-page booklet was written by Danielle Droitsch and can be obtained by calling her at 423-457-7775.

- *Streams of Diversity: Southern Appalachian Watersheds at Risk - Information for use in the Forest Plan Revision Process and Beyond* is a short (10-page) but information-packed pamphlet available from the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition. Call 828-252-9223, or visit [www.safc.org](http://www.safc.org).

- NPCA's series of 8 Guides to the National Parks has been published by Globe Pequot Press and includes detailed maps. They will be available in bookstores early this year for \$11.95 each. Check NPCA's website at [www.npsa.org/store/discovery\\_guides](http://www.npsa.org/store/discovery_guides).

- The "Draft Strategic Wildlife Resources Management Plan for the Start of a New Millennium, Year 2000 to 2006" has been issued by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. TCWR has a copy. Or you may view it on the TWRA website <http://www.state.tn.us/twra>. Comments are due by 2/1/00.

- *The World Trade Organization and the Environment: a Citizen Action Guide* may be ordered from Friends of the Earth at 202-783-7400.

