



May 27, 2001

Our 35th birthday this year!

Taking Care of Wild Places

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11. ACTION SUMMARY

No	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Obed	US Sens. and Rep.: NPS	"Complete land acquisition for Obed WSR!"
3A	Scenic Rivers amendment	Sundquist and Hamilton	"Thank you for advancing riparian preservation!"
3D	State Parks bills	Rep. McDonald, Sen. Grave	"Bring bills up again next session!"
4C	Yuchi Wildlife Refuge	Footbills Conservancy	Send contribution
5E	Tennessee Conservationist	Tennessee Conservationist	Send subscription or donation
5E	5-laning Hwy 321, N. of Smokies	TDEC, Governor, others	Express your opposition
6A	Aircoious AQ (Smokies and Tenn)	US Sens. and Rep. EPA Adm. Whitman	"Co-sponsor S.556 and HR.1256, respectively!" "Promulgate rule to diminish regional haze!"
7A	Oak Ridge Reservation	DOE; Rep. Waap	"Support comprehensive plan and EIS for Reservation!"
7B	Boeing flood plain	City officials	"Greenway must be carefully planned; designate Greenbelt!"
8A	National Monuments	Sec. Norton; Sens. & Rep.	"Support full protection of new National Monuments!"
8B	Rorest Roadless Areas Policy	US Rep	"Sign on to Rep. Miller's 'Dear Colleague' letter!"
8C	Arctic National Wildlife Refuge	US Sens. And Rep.	"Co-sponsor ANWR Wilderness bills, S.411 and HR.770!"

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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Governor Don Sundquist
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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Sundquist
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bill Frist:
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Rep. Zach Wamp:
Phone: 202-225-3271
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To call any Rep or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772
URLs: <http://www.house.gov/lastname/> and <http://lastname.senate.gov/> General contact info: <http://www.tcnv.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.

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1. OBED: LAND ACQUISITION AND WATER QUALITY

A. Land acquisitions badly needed for Obed WSR

Under the terms of the 1968 National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Obed WSR could theoretically encompass 14,464 acres. An early Obed Land Protection Plan generated during the Reagan (James Watt) years authorized only 5,084 acres. However, even this pared-down acreage is far from having been achieved, with the current total amounting to not much over 3,100 acres; and only about 2/3 of this small acreage is owned by NPS in fee, with 1/3 being easements, which are far from fully protective. The Obed WSR, authorized 35 years ago, has truly been a step-child.

This summer, NPS will embark on a revision of the Land Protection Plan, and we hope to have an input into this process. The big job will be to convince decision makers that a major land acquisition effort needs to be launched. Without it, some of the most fragile and most important lands could be degraded by development.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: The following need to hear of your strong support and about the real need for completing land acquisition for the Obed National Wild and Scenic River, which will be 35 years old this fall. (1) Representative Zach Wamp and Senators Frist and Thompson (addresses on p.2). (2) Jerry Belsen, Regional Director, NPS-SE Region (Atlanta Federal Center, 1924 Bldg., 100 Alabama Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303).

B. Paddle Fest spawns water quality studies

The main conservation project sponsored by this year's Tennessee Paddle Festival was water-quality assessment by Morgan County high school students and teachers, with participation of scientists from the UI Water Resources Center. Water samples were analyzed from numerous locations in the Obed-Emory watershed, and students posted results on displays at the festival.

Growing out of the Paddle Fest initiative, a long-term effort at water-quality monitoring is now in the making that will involve Morgan County schools and other organizations. With the help of the Tennessee Clean Water Network, a grant is being written for State of Tennessee 319/Nonpoint Funds. The Walden's Ridge Foundation (WRF), a non-profit organization that was formed to address environmental educational

efforts in the Morgan County area (but is not limited to Morgan County), will serve as a fiscal sponsor and project leader for a student and citizens' water-quality monitoring program.

The geographic area will cover the entire Obed/Emory watershed, but the program may decide to focus on specific parts of this watershed. A Council representing interested organizations will be formed to oversee the program, ensuring diversity, participation, technical assistance, and ultimately success. Participating organizations play another important role in that the grant being applied for requires a match of 40 percent from the Grantee. This 40% match can come from hard dollars or in-kind services.

Broadly defined, the goals of the program are:

- to provide TDEC with physical, chemical, and biological data that would not have otherwise been collected by the state;
- to screen for potential water-quality problems/characterize existing problems;
- to educate the local community about water-quality issues;
- to begin a dialogue and possible approaches to address problems.

For further information about this project, call Danielle Droitch at 865-607-2138.

2. BIG SOUTH FORK: GMP and MONITORING

A. Position paper for General Management Plan [Contributed by Marcy Reed]

The draft of General Management Plan (GMP) for the Big South Fork NRA is expected to be finished around August of this year. TCWP members have been working with the National Parks & Conservation Association (NPCA) on a position paper to be submitted to the National Park Service (NPS) in early June. The purpose of this paper is to let the Park Service know of areas that TCWP and NPCA feel are in special need of protection, including general locations of threatened and endangered species, scenic areas, geologic formations, and areas of special concern for water quality and other considerations. NPS is expected to use this paper to help with their decisions on zoning in the BSF. We are expecting that the second draft of the GMP will be a big improvement over the first draft. The NPS received over 2000 comments on the first draft, the majority from people that were unhappy with its vague prescriptions that were not based on impact

data (NL235 ¶1). This second draft represents a fresh start.

B. *Monitoring of stream impacts*

TCWP generated a proposal for monitoring impacts of certain recreational uses on water quality and stream banks. This effort cannot be completed in time for the GMP and would be of a more long-term nature. Following discussions with NPS staff, it appears that such data might be made supplementary to a study for which NPS already contracted the services of a consultant from Virginia Tech.

C. *Land acquisitions*

Three tracts in Fentress County totaling 1000 acres have recently been acquired. This brings the Big South Fork NRRRA acreage to 114,500 (out of the 125,000 acres authorized).

3. STATE LEGISLATURE OUTCOMES

A. *Scenic Rivers Act amendment adds 30 miles of Duck River*

[Based on information from Dodd Galbreath]

The Scenic Rivers Act amendment (NL238 ¶5A) passed both House and Senate unanimously and has been signed by Gov. Sundquist. One 30-mile segment of the Duck River, from Iron Bridge Road near Columbia to the Marshall County line, is now a Class-II (Pastoral) State Scenic River. Preservation boundaries can be set with the notarized consent of private landowners. The Commissioner must conduct education and outreach to promote natural and economic Scenic River benefits locally.

The law also directs the Commissioner to assess the future nomination to scenic-river status of the Caney Fork in the Bridgestone-Firestone area. All interested parties must be consulted. The Commissioner must report his findings to the General Assembly next year. (Note: it is very unlikely that any one will seek another bill next year unless Cumberland County gets on board.)

Implementation of the new scenic rivers amendment has already begun, as follows:

- Commissioner Hamilton has assembled a team to start working on landowner and organization outreach to promote preservation efforts.
- Commissioner Hamilton has requested that a new web site on the state's Scenic Rivers program be developed (one does not exist now), and that one person from Reggie Reeves's very competent Natural Heritage staff be assigned to lead Scenic River efforts and to assess future candidate rivers.

ers. The Department plans to work very closely with landowners and environmental groups to design a program and to gain support for new, land-owner-friendly and effective techniques of preservation.

Lot of credit is due. Governor Sundquist and Commissioner Hamilton deserve a great deal of credit for resurrecting the notion of State Scenic Rivers (which had become neglected, misunderstood, and even vilified, over the years). The Commissioner had become convinced of the need for riparian preservation, and the Governor launched an efficient strategy for successful legislation by making it an Administration bill (thus raising its profile) and by personally talking to key legislators. Most of the landowners along the pertinent stretch of the Duck River were informed about the proposal and asked for their input. Justin Wilson got local support through civic club presentations and public meetings. The authors of the original state scenic rivers bill were consulted and had input into the details of the amendment wording. A continued cooperative approach will be needed from all parties to make the program work for all and bring about riparian preservation elsewhere in the state as well.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to Gov. Sundquist (address on p2) and to Commissioner Hamilton (Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation, 401 Church Street, 21st floor, L&C Tower, Nashville, TN 37243-0446) expressing your thanks for this bill which promises to advance the idea of riparian preservation.

B. *Bill to require chip-mill permits is tabled*

The SOCMA-supported Forest Conservation bill, HB260/SB265, was tabled for the year (until January 2002) by the House sponsor, Gary Odom, when he was unable to get it voted out of the House Environment Subcommittee, which he chairs. The bill requires new or expanding chip mills or similar facilities to apply for a permit, and TDEC (Dept. of Environment and Conservation) to perform a forest-resources review to determine whether there is sufficient timber in the area to supply the proposed facilities. Based on this evaluation and on an assessment of what the environmental and economic impact of an additional chip mill would be, TDEC will grant or deny the permit.

The bill was stabbed in the back by the State Forester, Ken Arney (Tenn. Dept. of Agriculture), who dismissed the chip-mill problem as insignifi-

cant, maintaining that Tennessee has more hardwood forests now than it did in 1950. He failed to mention that the method for measuring forest resource has changed in the interim. Even though almost a year will go by before the bill is reconsidered, intense lobbying against it is already under way. It will be important (and difficult) to get the truth before legislators and to show them that, in addition to the numerous environmental damages of clear-cutting and conversion to softwoods, there are economic ones. Value-added wood-products industries such as cabinetry and flooring (Tennessee ranks #1), contribute significantly to employment in our state, and a sustainable supply of hardwood saw timber is the basis of thousands of jobs.

C. New and enlarged natural areas

On April 4, Gov. Sundquist signed legislation that designates two new small Natural Areas, and considerably expands four existing ones. It also imposes civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per day for any damage to a natural area.

The newly designated natural-scientific areas (the more restrictive of two Natural Areas classifications) are, (a) 8 acres where Owen Spring Branch issues from the mouth of Sequatchie Cave in Marion County; and (b) Langford Branch, an area of 23 acres in Lewis County. The former, home to several rare species, is owned by Marion County; the latter, an ecologically significant seep, belongs to The Nature Conservancy.

The new law also enacts significant expansions to four existing natural-scientific areas. (a) Fall Creek Falls State Park. Presently 9,280 acres of the 16,030-acre park are designated as a natural-scientific area. This bill would increase the park acreage to 21,020 and would increase the acreage designated as natural-scientific to 14,270. (b) Couchville Cedar Glade in Davidson County: area increased from 72 acres to 79 acres; (c) North Chickamauga Creek Gorge in Hamilton County: increased from 3,700 acres to 3,852 acres; and (d) Flat Rock Cedar Glades and Barrens, a Nature Conservancy preserve in Rutherford County: increased from 576 acres to 846 acres.

Tennessee now has 62 designated natural areas, protecting over 90,000 acres. The system is administered by the Division of Natural Heritage in the Tenn. Department of Environment and Conservation.

D. State Parks bills sent to a study committee (Contributed by Marcy Reed)

Two bills on the fate of our state parks were up before the legislature: HB 840/SB 1103 drafted by the Tenn. Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), and HB 556/SB 735 sponsored by Sierra Club.

TDEC's bill proposed to take the retail portions of all state park operations out of the Division of State Parks and to create a separate state-run enterprise. After 3 years, no more funds would be appropriated for retail operations in state parks. Such operations in the state parks are losing money. The creation of a separate enterprise company would allow the hiring of experts in the fields of retail/hospitality and allow for the use of seasonal employees. Representatives from TCWP and other environmental groups met with Commissioner Hamilton, and the consensus was that while this was basically a good idea, the bill needed some changes before we could fully support it.

The basic problems with state parks is that there are no guiding principles and no assurance that the political process won't insert itself into their future. To prevent further intrusion from the political process and to ensure that the parks stay on course, the Sierra Club proposed HB 556/SB 735. This bill would create a committee with broad-based representation, which would set up a separate agency to manage the state parks and would set the qualifications for and appoint the executive director. Currently, the head of the Division of State Parks is a political appointee.

Both bills were sent to a study committee and will be brought up again in the next session. Please write or e-mail Representative McDonald and Senator Graves and let them know that you support these bills and would like to see them come up again in the next session.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact Rep. McDonald and Sen. Graves and let them know that you would like these bills to be brought up again in the next session. (For Rep. McDonald, phone and fax numbers are 615-741-1654 and 615-741-1041, respectively; for Sen. Graves, phone and fax numbers are 615-741-1980 and 615-230-3052, respectively.)

E. TDOT bills passed (Contributed by Marcy Reed)

Two bills designed to enhance the accountability of the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) were supported by Tennessee Conservation Voters; both passed and were signed by

the Governor. HB 775/SB 1103 (Briley/Haynes), amends some current reporting requirements of TDOT to the General Assembly. The bill seeks to enhance TDOT's accountability on projects by requiring reports that detail changes in costs of highway projects funded by the State. Representative Briley worked with TDOT to address some of their concerns with the bill.

SB 852/HB 774 (Norris/Briley) requires TDOT to place certain planning documents on its web site to aid the public in its ability to stay informed on transportation projects.

F. Attempt fails to add environmentalists to regulatory Boards

As revealed in two successive Comptroller's reports, four regulatory boards (Water Quality Control, Air Pollution Control, Solid Waste Disposal Control, and Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Boards) are dominated by the respective regulated community, at the expense of the public and the environmental/conservation community. Bills to address this imbalance (SB 1364/HB 858), failed in both Houses, but there seems some interest in examining Board composition in general.

4. ACQUISITIONS PROTECT STATE LANDS

A. Jim Creek tract acquired

Thanks to your help, The Nature Conservancy was able to raise the money for purchasing a highly significant tract adjacent to Pickett (NL238 ¶2A). The 1,541-acre parcel, which contains the intact watershed of Jim Creek, is rimmed by high bluffs underneath overlooks and is covered with the beautiful mixed deciduous forests that are now disappearing fast from the Cumberlands. Two large caves shelter populations of the endangered Indian bat. This tract helps to round out (instead of fragmenting) what could become a significant block of protected public land at a time when Cumberlands ecosystems are being rapidly lost to clear-cutting, mining, and other deleterious developments.

B. Grassy Ridge purchase completed

Purchase of a key 302-acre tract on Grassy Ridge in the Highlands of Roan was recently completed by the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC). Grassy Ridge, in an outstandingly scenic location, is one of the most pristine and biologically sensitive grassy balds in the Southern Appalachians. Its purchase has been an SAHC top priority ever since the organization was founded in 1975. It is expected that

the US Forest Service will purchase the tract from SAHC. (Historical note: in 1986, the owners of a tract that lies close to the Appalachian Trail in the Grassy Ridge area threatened development by starting to bulldoze a road up to the ridge. It took quite a bit of doing, and the help of then Senator Al Gore, Jr., to prevent this.)

C. Yuchi Wildlife Refuge dedicated

With assistance from the Conservation Fund, the Foothills Land Conservancy project to purchase Smith Bend from the Mead Corporation (NL236 ¶2E) was completed in January (NL238 ¶2B). The 2,400-acre tract in a big bend of the Tennessee River (just downstream from Watts Bar Dam) now belongs to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), which also supplied a portion of the acquisition funds.

The area was dedicated on May 17 as the Yuchi Wildlife Refuge, named in honor of the Indian tribe that once lived there. It is home to dozens of species of water fowl and shore birds, and is used by a growing flock of sandhill cranes as a lengthy stopover during their annual migrations.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: The deal was closed early in order to reduce interest costs. The Foothills Conservancy still needs to raise \$125,000 to pay off its pledge. If you wish to help, contact them at 423-681-8326.

5. OTHER STATE NEWS

A. Cove Branch Dam in Obed watershed: permit denied

On April 24, the TN Department of Environment and Conservation denied Fairfield Glade's request for a permit to build a dam for an impoundment of Cove Branch, a tributary to Daddy's Creek (NL236 ¶1A; NL237 ¶1A). Thanks to the very many of you who provided excellent, substantive testimony on this issue at the hearing and/or in writing.

Under Basis for Denial, IDEC writes the following: "Factors influencing our determination include concerns for the hydrology and water quality within the tailwaters, wetland impacts, and threatened and endangered species. Water quality concerns include dissolution and precipitation of iron and other minerals together with nutrient enrichment within the affected waters. Further, these factors must be considered within

the context of the downstream waters of special concern under anti-degradation regulations, the Obed Wild and Scenic River and the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area." More details are then given for the factors listed.

The last sentence of the summary is of special significance because this case has the potential of setting a precedent for how the State handles the ONRW (Outstanding National Resource Water) designation of the Obed National Wild & Scenic River (NL229 ¶1A).

The applicant has the right to file an appeal within 30 days of receipt of the permit action, requesting a hearing before the Water Quality Control Board. The worry is great that this may happen, because Fairfield Glades reportedly sold lots around a lake it cannot now create. According to TDEC's Robert Baker, applicants almost always file an appeal, but not all go through with the hearing. Many times, after reviewing their case the applicants decide that they don't have a basis for appealing.

B. Caney Fork dam status

[Contributed by Chuck Estes]

In April, City of Crossville representatives met with state environmental regulators concerning their desire to construct a dam on the Caney Fork River for additional water supply. The state regulators told the city that there was very little chance that a permit would be issued for a dam on the Caney Fork River. In December 2000 (NL237 ¶2B), Chuck Estes had met with the Crossville City Council to voice objections to the proposed Caney Fork dam and had stated that any permit application would be strongly opposed by the environmental community.

Crossville now appears to be exploring the possibility of building a new dam below the current Meadow Park Lake dam. The Meadow Park Lake is located in the headwaters of Meadow Creek in Cumberland County. A Crossville City Councilman is planning to propose hiring an engineer to study of the possibility of substantially enlarging the current Meadow Park Lake reservoir. The city believes that an enlarged Meadow Park Lake could hold up to three or four times the water that is held in the current reservoir built in the late 1930's. The city also states that since Meadow Creek has had a dam on it for more than 60 years, it should not be an environmental problem to regulators. City Councilman Ronny Hill stated to the *Crossville Chronicle* that "This would not be an entirely new lake, just the expansion of the present one."

TCWP is concerned that a new dam significantly downstream of the existing dam could have very damaging impacts to the currently undammed portion of Meadow Creek and the Caney Fork River below the confluence. TCWP continues to urge the City of Crossville and Cumberland Plateau Water Authority to complete a detailed water needs assessment and options analysis prior to developing any engineering plans.

C. Buffalo River threatened with water withdrawal

The Summertown Utility District has recently requested permission to withdraw 1 million gallons/day from Middle Tennessee's scenic and free-flowing Buffalo River, a favorite canoeing and fishing stream. Such withdrawal would amount to 16% of the river's entire flow in a drought year. If you are interested in helping fight the water-withdrawal scheme, contact Friends of the Buffalo (931-722-5213, phone; 931-722-3960 fax).

D. Settlement of TMDL lawsuit should improve state's most polluted waters

In January, several environmental groups brought a lawsuit challenging EPA's failure to require the Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to develop and implement an effective program for restoring water quality in the state's worst polluted waters. Under Sec. 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, states must identify their worst polluted waters and must then develop clean-up plans for those waters. The plans are to be based on the calculation of a "total maximum daily load" (TMDL) of pollution that each water body can accommodate and still be fit for its designated use, e.g., fishing, swimming, drinking, or aquatic habitat. The TMDL program deals with pollution on a comprehensive basis, rather than site by site, and many states have ignored the program as they focused attention and resources on reducing point source discharges.

In 1998, TDEC identified 352 water-body segments in need of 792 TMDL-based watershed restoration plans (since some of the polluted waters were impaired by more than one pollutant). The State committed to preparing 35 such plans by December 2000. In fact, TDEC developed only 2 TMDL plans that satisfied EPA standards, and EPA failed to supplement TDEC's efforts in any meaningful fashion.

As part of the settlement that has now been reached in the law suit, EPA agreed to oversee the development of a TMDL-based water-quality restoration plan for the Harpeth River. Plaintiffs are hopeful that the lawsuit will result in an increased focus on restoring water quality in the state's worst polluted waters.

E. *The Tennessee Conservationist magazine needs support*

The Tennessee Conservationist magazine has long had the mission of educating citizens about the preservation, protection, and wise use of the state's natural and cultural resources. Check out their web site at http://www.state.tn.us/environment/tn_consv/index.html

Last year, the legislature voted to terminate state appropriations for the magazine on July 1, 2001. *The Tennessee Conservationist* is challenged to raise at least \$154,900 – the amount of the current appropriation for this fiscal year – in order to be able to continue publication next fiscal year (July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002). You can support the magazine with subscriptions or tax-deductible donations.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Consider subscribing to this very good magazine. If you are a current subscriber encourage others to subscribe. Or send a tax-deductible donation to *The Tennessee Conservationist*, 401 Church Street, TDEC, Nashville, TN-37243-0440.

F. *Water Quality in the Lower Clinch River Watershed: report of meeting*

[Contributed by Marcy Reed]

As part of the State's Watershed Planning Process, the Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) held a meeting on the Lower Clinch River Watershed on April 17 in Oak Ridge.

This meeting was part of TDEC'S 5-year watershed-management approach to assess rivers and streams in each watershed. The Lower Clinch is in the third year of its 5-year cycle. About 40 people attended the April 17 meeting to find out about the year-2000 water-quality assessment.

The streams and lakes in the Lower Clinch Watershed include Melton Hill reservoir, East Fork Poplar Creek, Bullrun Creek, Beaver Creek, and many others. Melton Hill reservoir is listed for PCB's and Chlordane. East Fork Poplar Creek

is listed for PCBs, metals, mercury, pathogens, habitat alteration, and siltation. Bullrun Creek and Beaver Creek are listed for pathogens, habitat alteration, siltation, as well as for some other pollutants.

Causes of pollution in the Lower Clinch Watershed include industrial sources, land development, agriculture, municipal point sources, and contaminated sediments. At the end of the 5-year cycle, TDEC will issue a watershed management plan with water-quality goals and strategies for reaching these goals.

6. SMOKIES

A. *Highway 321 threat to the Smokies public meeting and meeting with Justin Wils on*
[Contributed by Marcy Reed]

[Background: The Tennessee Dept. of Transportation (TDOt) is embarking on a project to convert the northern edge of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park into a five-lane highway (NL237 ¶4A). Between Gatlinburg and Cosby, Hwy 321, currently a two-lane road designated "Scenic Route," would be widened to five lanes, with about 70% of the projected 16-mile route touching the Park's boundary.]

TCWP and representatives from National Parks Conservation Association, World Wildlife Fund, and TN Conservation League met with Justin Wilson, Special Advisor to Governor Sundquist, on March 30th to discuss the widening of Highway 321 along the border of the Smoky Mountains. Two representatives from TDOt and one from TDEC also attended the meeting. Mr. Wilson agreed to take a closer look at Phase II and later phases of the project and possibly do an EIS for these projects. There is a possibility that these will be added to the environmental study currently being done on the phase of Highway 321 going from Cosby to I-40. We are still waiting to hear Mr. Wilson's decision, but have been told that a TDOt representative has spoken with the Smoky Mountains Superintendent about doing further environmental studies on this project.

A public meeting was held on the Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit (ARAP) application that TDOt submitted for Phase I. Close to 100 people attended the meeting. None of the speakers spoke in favor of the road project and many local people got up and spoke against it. Written comments were accepted until May 20, 2001. Dan Eagar from TDEC will be going through the com-

ments and will be reaching a final decision on the permit issue probably within the next month.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) Even though the comment period has officially ended, you can still submit comments to Dan Eagar (e-mail: deagar@mail.state.tn.us).
- (2) Log onto the World Wildlife Fund website: <http://takeaction.worldwildlife.org/coldfusion/can/signup.cfm> and sign up for the WWF conservation action. You will be taken to a page where you can send an email and/or fax to Gov. Sundquist and Ruben Hernandez (Corps of Engineers). You may have to scroll down the page and look for Highway 321. Let them know of your opposition to the project and that an environmental impact statement should be done before proceeding further.

B. Major public concern about air quality in the Smokies and in the State

[Contributed by Marcy Reed]

In a new poll released earlier this month by American Viewpoint, 600 registered Tennessee voters sent an unmistakable message to Washington: clear the air, strengthen air pollution rules designed to reduce emissions from older power plants, and cut down on haze in National Parks. In light of the poll, members of the Tennessee Clean Air Task Force called upon Senators Thompson and Frist and the House delegation to step forward and take action to protect the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the health of Tennessee citizens by supporting federal clean air legislation.

- 75% of Tennessee voters favor new rules to reduce power plant emissions that cause hazy air and reduced visibility in the Smokies and other National Parks. Just 16% oppose.
- 67% favor passing a law to reduce all the major power plant emissions because they increase the levels of smog and acid rain, aggravate breathing problems and contribute to global warming. Just 23% oppose.
- 57% are willing to pay more each month, if it meant that their electric utility was working to reduce emissions and improve visibility in our national parks. Just 36% are not.

The American Lung Association's recent study, "State of the Air 2001," finds that Tennessee's four largest cities are among the 25 most ozone-polluted metropolitan areas in the entire country, with Knoxville 9th in the nation. That report concluded that the health of over 3 mil-

lion Tennesseans is at risk from the ozone-forming pollutants emitted by dirty power plants (www.lungusa.org).

Man-made haze has caused summertime visibility in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the surrounding region to decrease by over 80% in the last 50 years. Yet so far, EPA Administrator Whitman has put off acting on the Clean Air in the National Parks rule, which would limit the emissions that cause hazy air. To see the dramatic difference in visibility in the Smokies, please go to www.cleartheair.org and click on the "Parks in Peril" icon. For the third consecutive year, the GSMNP has been included on the list of Ten Most Endangered National Parks as determined by the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). (<http://www.npsca.org/>).

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) Urge Sens. Thompson and Frist (addresses on p.2) to co-sponsor the Clean Power Act, S.356.
- (2) Urge your Representative (address on p.2) to co-sponsor the Clean Smokestacks Act, HR.1256.
- (3) Urge EPA Administrator Whitman to protect the Smokies by moving forward with a rule designed to reduce regional haze.

C. Learn about resource management in the Smokies

[Contributed by Marcy Reed]

A one-day introduction to the park's divisions, key programs, and people will begin 8:00 am, June 12 at the Twin Creeks Pavilion. Presentations include: the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory, the experimental elk release, fire management, bear and hog control, archeology, cultural resource projects, brook trout habitat restoration, aquatic entomology, threatened endangered and sensitive species, forest ecology, air quality, exotic vegetation, the park's GIS system, and integrating science and education at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. While the primary audience for this session is incoming seasonal employees, the park also encourages others to come learn more about their activities. Contact Larry Hartmann (865-436-1245, larry.hartmann@nps.gov) for more information.

D. Elk released April 2

A herd of 25 elk has remained within a few miles of the acclimation pen at Cataloochee Divide on the North Carolina side of the Park. Over the next 2 years, 50 more elk will be brought to the Smokies. The program will be evaluated over the next 5 years.

E. Smokies Superintendent

Michael J. Tollefson, who recently became superintendent of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, is a native of Seattle. He has worked for NPS in the North Cascades and in several Alaskan NPS units (Denali, Katmai, Lake Clark, Glacier Bay). Most recently, he spent 5 years as superintendent of Sequoia & Kings Canyon, where he directed the restoration of the Giant Forest Sequoia Grove.

7. OAKRIDGE AREA

A. DOE may commit to performing long-range plan for O.R. Reservation

[Contributed by Dev Joslin]

Before Ms. Leah Dever, Manager of DOE's Oak Ridge Operations (ORO), left in early March for a 3-month temporary assignment in Washington, DC, she announced plans to perform an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that would evaluate the entire 55 square miles of the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) and would formulate a long-term plan for the use of that land. She also tabled a proposal to proceed with the development of a 450-acre parcel along Highway 58 for more industrial development. Dever's proposal for an EIS was, however, tabled by DOE management, pending evaluation by DOE officials in Washington and by local public officials.

During the past three months, Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR), along with the Tennessee Conservation League (TCL), have continued a relentless push to get DOE to commit to a long-term planning process for all of the ORR lands – including serious input from the full range of stakeholders throughout that process. AFORR and TCL members have met repeatedly with top-level DOE-ORO officials, including Ms. Dever, with Congressman Zach Wamp and his staff, with local Oak Ridge public officials, and with leaders of a number of local, regional, and national organizations and agencies (including TCWP, the Tenn. Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, etc.) to advocate for a long-term, participatory planning process for the entire ORR. Congressman Wamp and his staff spent one afternoon with representatives of AFORR, TCL, and UT-Battelle touring portions of the reservation including the Three Bends Wildlife Refuge, Walker Branch Watershed, and the nationally historic Wheat Community church and cemetery. Many local officials, various organizations, and Congressman Wamp have recently all agreed that long-range planning with

stakeholder input is the right thing to do at this time.

Ms. Dever is scheduled to return to Oak Ridge June 11 to resume her duties as manager of ORO, and is expected to announce the initiation of such a long-term planning process some time thereafter. Agreement to initiate the process will be the first step – but many challenging steps will follow! Achieving a “balance” between so-called “pro-development” stakeholders and “pro-science and conservation” stakeholders will no doubt be a major issue for discussion. Others include:

- Making full use of existing information about land-use constraints, land-use suitability, and particular values, based on existing surveys (for example, The Nature Conservancy's surveys for biodiversity values and for rare plants, and TWRA's breeding bird surveys).
- Identifying federal government purposes for the ORR, including research, defense production, environmental management (both cleanup and waste management), economic development, and conservation of biodiversity.
- Defining alternative land-use scenarios and performing integrated analyses of their implications.

AFORR and TCL continue to advocate strongly that analyses of land-use scenarios in this planning process must consider all of the following: (1) ecosystem impacts and health (2) future viability of ORNL as a science center, (3) regional and local economic benefits and costs, (4) cost to the federal government, (5) feasibility and effectiveness of long-term stewardship and control of contaminated areas, (6) cultural-resource preservation, (7) tourism and education opportunities, (8) recreation opportunities, (9) effective security for defense activities, (10) viability of economic development plans.

Key cooperators in the planning process should include TVA, TWRA, AFORR, TCL, the City of Oak Ridge, Oak Ridge Regional Planning Commission, and CROET. Other potential cooperators include TCWP, TDEC, USEPA Region IV, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Roane and Anderson County officials, Tennessee Historical Commission, the Oak Ridge Local Oversight Committee, The Nature Conservancy, Oak Ridge Convention and Visitors' Bureau, other federal and state agencies, other area and national interest groups. Public meetings should also be held to allow for citizenry input throughout the process.

We are hopeful that this planning process will begin soon and that it will proceed in a

thoughtful, evenhanded, cooperative, and timely manner. Obviously many challenges lie ahead.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Write to DOE Officials, especially Ms. Leah DeVere and Secretary of Energy Abraham, and to Congressman Wamp, and state that you support long-range comprehensive planning for the ORR, with extensive stakeholder input. (Addresses: Leah DeVere, Manager, USDOE-ORO, PO Box 2001, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-2001; Congressman Wamp, see p.2). If you have contacts within any of the above-mentioned organizations, write to them about the importance of such planning and urge their participation in the process. Much contact information can be found at www.kornet.org/aforr/ by clicking on "Contacts."

- B. *DOE embarrassed by selling Boeing floodplain for \$54/acre; developer offers greenway*
(Contributed by Dev Joslin)

On February 6 of this year, DOE sold, to a developer, 182 acres of public land along the shoreline of the Clinch River (one-third of which was wetlands) for \$54 per acre (NL238 ¶8E). The Nature Conservancy had declared this strip to be "of very high biological significance" because of its extensive wetlands and state-listed rare plants. The developer had made a conclusion of the shoreline strip a condition for buying and developing the remainder of the land. DOE acquiesced, despite strong written and oral objections of many conservation groups (including TCWP, AFORR, TCL, and TWRA) and of many individuals. DOE turned down two offers from another federal agency (TVA) to manage and protect this shoreline. TVA had previously transferred this land to DOE, but DOE refused to return it.

Since the time of the floodplain sale, the mass media across the state have excoriated DOE for "giving away" this valuable land for \$54 an acre. Individuals have openly indicated they would have paid many times the selling price, had DOE allowed open bidding for this property. Conservation organizations noted that they often pay thousands of dollars per acre to preserve wetlands and rare plants. Frank Munger of *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* investigated the sale and found that "When asked for a copy of the property appraisal, a DOE spokesman offered an all-but-unbelievable response: The agency doesn't have a copy of the appraisal, and nobody in the

Oak Ridge office remembers who the appraiser was."

The U. S. Inspector General's office, after numerous complaints, decided to investigate the case. Their office concluded: "The Department should have publicized the land and sought competitive bids to ensure all interested parties had an opportunity to bid, and to ensure the Government received top dollar for the property." The IG's office also found "no evidence that the Department gave serious consideration to any of the alternatives other than the preferred alternative," and they noted "that the 182 acre parcel of land was never declared excess." Finally, the Inspector General noted "the Department did not obtain its own independent appraisal of the land to determine a fair price...[but] relied on an appraisal obtained by the buyer...The buyer's appraisal arrived at an estimated "market value" of \$36,400, or \$200 per acre. This value is significantly higher than the price (\$54 per acre) for which the Department sold the property. We found no satisfactory justification for selling the property at such a steep discount from the estimated market value reached by the buyer's appraisal."

TCL, AFORR, TCWP, and other non-governmental organizations and state agencies, are continuing to seek protection for the 182 acres known as "the Boeing floodplain strip." Using frequent interviews with the press, talks with our congressmen and other public officials, and with the Inspector General's Office, we have continued to bring pressure on the developers to consider the ecological values of this land.

Recently, the developer (Oak Ridge Land Company) publicly announced plans to donate approximately 100 acres of the 182-acre floodplain to the City of Oak Ridge for a "Greenway." Few details were provided other than that the greenway plan would include walkways and landscaping provided by the developer. We are waiting for additional information, including how much of the two large wetlands will be included. We are also concerned that the greenway may result in the felling of trees, introduction of non-native species, and disturbance of both the wetlands and rare plants. We have since asked the developer to allow someone from our organizations to be involved in the planning process for the greenway, and have received an oral commitment from Mike Ross to do so. We are also talking with the city of Oak Ridge about the need to designate the area "Greenbelt" to give it more permanent protection.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Write to the Oak Ridge City Manager (Paul Boyer), Mayor (Jerry Kuhaida) and City Council, and Oak Ridge Planning Commission about the need for careful planning of any greenways along the Boeving Floodplain strip to protect the wetlands and rare plants in any area given to the city. Note that designation of the areas as "Greenbelt" is one way to assure protection into the future. Addresses: c/o City Clerk, Municipal Bldg., 200 S. Tulane Ave., Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Much contact information can be found at www.kornet.org/aford/ by clicking on "Contacts."

8. NATIONAL ISSUES**A. National Monuments in jeopardy**

President Clinton designated 19 new National Monuments (NL235 ¶7A; NL237 ¶6), but it will be the Bush/Norton Interior Department that creates the management plans for these special places. In March, Interior Secretary Gale Norton sent a letter to local governors, local members of Congress, state legislators, county commissioners, and tribal leaders, soliciting their "views on vehicle use, access to private inholdings, rights-of-way, grazing and water rights, as well as the wide spectrum of other traditional multiple uses that might be appropriately applied" to national monument lands. She also plans to review monument boundaries. In the meantime, Pres. Bush has said that national monument lands would be considered along with all other public lands as potential sources for oil, gas, and coal.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Those national monuments belong not only to those local people Sec. Norton wrote to, but to all Americans. Even though she did not ask for your input, she needs to get it. Tell her that you support the designation and full protection of all our new national monuments. You don't want oil, mining, grazing, and ATV interests to dictate decisions about your public lands, which you want to see protected for future generations. (1) Write Sec. Gale Norton, c/o Tom Fulton, Office of the Secretary, US Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington DC 20240. (2) Send a copy of your letter to your Senators and Representative (addresses on p.2)

B. Roadless Area conservation; new Forest Service Chief

Congressman Miller is circulating a "Dear Colleague" letter supporting implementation of the Forest Service's Roadless Area Conservation Policy (NL238 ¶9C). Tennessee's Congressmen Clement and Ford have already signed on.

Dale Bosworth, a 35-year USFS veteran, has been nominated to succeed the incomparable Mike Dombeck as Chief of the US Forest Service. This nomination drew tentative praise from the conservation community.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank Reps. Clement and Ford for signing on to Congressman Miller's "Dear Colleague" letter. Urge other Representative to do likewise (addresses on p.2).

C. Arctic Refuge capsules

- The 2002 budget resolution omits any projected revenues from drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- As of late April, 8 Republican senators opposed opening ANWR to oil & gas exploration. Now, with the switch of the Senate to Democratic majority, it has become even more unlikely that the Administration's push for opening ANWR would succeed. The only permanent solution, however, is to designate the area a Wilderness (see Action box).
- The documentary "Arctic Quest: The Search for Truth" will air on WSJK/WKOP-TV on Sunday, June 3 at 1 p.m. Tell your friends about it. (According to Jeff Barrie, a no oil lobby group unsuccessfully tried to censor this program by asking their members to call their public television station asking them not to broadcast the documentary.)

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Write a short personal letter to your senators and representative (addresses on p.2), urging them to cosponsor the ANWR Wilderness bills, S.411 and HR.770. Information in NL238 ¶1 may be of use to you, but most important is the expression of your strong feeling against opening ANWR. (2) Send a similar letter to the editor of your local newspaper. In this, you may also publicize the public-TV documentary on Sunday June 3, 1 p.m. (see above).

D. Bush: the first 100 days

(Summarized from a League of Conservation Voters' analysis)

EPA rules. The following Clinton Administration rules are allowed to remain:

- Requirement for dramatic reductions in diesel emissions over the next 10 years (NL237 ¶8A);

- A wetlands protection tool named the Tulloch loophole (however, this could lose its effectiveness if the Bush Administration chooses not to defend it vigorously against current industry court challenges.
The following rules have been weakened:
- The Clinton EPA required a 30% improvement in energy efficiency for air conditioners; the Bush EPA downgraded this to 20%. The additional 10% would have saved the energy equivalent of ~50 medium power plants.

Public Lands. Several major Clinton Administration initiatives are in jeopardy, namely: roadless areas in National Forests (see §8B, this NL), National Monument designations (see §8A, this NL), and stronger environmental rules for hardrock mining on public lands. There have been several court challenges of the roadless protection rule, with the plaintiffs (timber companies, etc.) and the defendant (the Administration) having the same goal – both hoping to rescind the roadless rule. With regard to mining rules, the Bush Administration has opened a 45-day comment period on whether to return to the weak old rules (under which 40% of the headwaters of all western watersheds became polluted by mining).

The Administration is also seeking to impose a moratorium on new studies of potential national parks. Such a moratorium would violate existing law, which requires USDI to submit annual recommendations for potential new national park areas.

Energy and climate change. The Bush Administration's energy advisory team has 63 members, of which 62 have ties to oil, nuclear, coal, or other polluting interests. Of these, 58 gave \$8 million in campaign contributions to Republicans. The Bush budget for 2002 contains 37% less funding for renewable energy programs than does the current budget. Gale Norton's Interior Department (USDI) plans to push Congress into opening some of the 17 million acres of federal lands that are currently under temporary protection from energy development. USDI has also suggested that the Forest Service modify land-use plans that restrict energy development.

While expressing a lack of interest in implementing the Kyoto climate-change treaty (without proposing an alternative or back-up plan), the Bush Administration promotes energy policies that are bound to exacerbate global climate change. Using an "in your face" approach to the international community, Bush reneged on a campaign pledge to regulate CO₂ emissions from power plants.

Slashing environmental funding. The 2002 budget cuts over \$2.2 billion for critical environmental programs.

DOE. Renewable energy programs cut 37%. Solar research, cut 54%; geothermal, hydrogen, and wind research cut 48%. The coal industry, on the other hand, reaps huge benefits, with federal matching funds for "clean coal" research. These measures encourage continued use of an extremely dirty energy source, encourage environmentally disastrous coal mining, and divert efforts away from development of cleaner alternative-energy and conservation technologies.

USDI: See §8D, this NL for land acquisition and Park Service funding. For BLM, an overall decrease, but extra money to increase the number of oil & gas leases and drilling permits on BLM lands (could include new national monuments). For US Fish & Wildlife Service, a 25% cut in endangered species programs, and a specific prohibition on spending money to carry out court orders involving species not listed as top priority ones. The USGS Gap Analysis program, which has mapped the biological resources of 79% of states, would be frozen. The National Water Quality Assessment Program would be eliminated.

EPA: a 7% cut and a shift of money to the states.

USDA: Three important conservation programs would be eliminated, namely, the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Farmland Protection Program, and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program.

E. Budget pledges for parks and for land acquisition were deceptive

In February, Pres. Bush pledged an additional \$4.9 billion to the National Park Service over the next 5 years to address operations and maintenance backlogs. Most of it, however, turns out to come from already established programs and to provide very little indeed for natural resource and cultural protection. The current budget includes only \$50 million in new funds for the next year – only 1% (!) of the promised 5-year total – and all of that is to be spent on the maintenance backlog, which should not be the first priority. Park funding analyses done by NPCA estimate that national parks suffer a 35% shortfall (>\$600 million annually) in operations funding, which protects natural and cultural resources and educates visitors.

A complicated sleight of hand has also occurred with respect to acquisition funds, whereby money is being shuffled around so that the Administration can claim that the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is fully funded, whereas the

"additional" money allocated to the states via LWCF will, in fact, be used for programs covered by LCPII (NL236§7A and 7B) instead of for land purchases, as originally intended.

F. Thank Pres. Clinton for rejecting Florida parks airport

The serious proposal to develop a large international airport at the site of the former Homestead Air Force Base between Everglades and Biscayne National Parks was rejected by Pres. Clinton just 4 days before he left office. Miami-Dade County now has a limited period in which to decide whether it wants the 700 acres for mixed-use development. If it does not, the land will be transferred to the Interior Department.

G. Roll your own blackout on summer solstice

[Message received from multiple sources]

As an alternative to George W. Bush's energy policies and lack of emphasis on efficiency, conservation and alternative fuels, there will be a voluntary rolling blackout on the first day of summer, June 21, 7-10 p.m. (any time zone) (this will roll it across the planet). It's a simple protest and a symbolic act. Turn out your lights. Unplug whatever you can unplug in your house. Light a candle. Kiss and tell.....or not, take a stroll in the dark, tell ghost stories, anything that's not electric. Read the 1999 book "Natural Capitalism" by Hawken and Lovins to learn that conservation/high efficiency technologies already ARE on the shelf. If implemented they would pay themselves off within five years, after which we'd be pumping far less greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

9. TCWP NEWS

Editor's note

This Newsletter has been produced during my convalescence following an accident in which I smashed my right femur into fragments, requiring surgery that involved metal plates and bone grafts. During 3 weeks in the hospital, I developed a staph infection, which continues to be treated with antibiotic infusions while I am at home. Because of these circumstances, NL239 is about 2 weeks late and has a slightly different appearance. I am most grateful to the many others who contributed material, and especially to Marcy, who coordinated these contributions.

A. Members receive awards

Donald Toxof of Wartburg, long-term TCWP member, past president, and member of the Board, received the 2001 Lifetime Environmental/Conservation Achievement Award from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Among Don's contributions, which are almost too numerous to list, are the major role he played in getting local support for designating the Obed as a National Wild & Scenic River, his authorship of the Tennessee Trails Act and implementation of the Cumberland Trail, and his role in establishing Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area and in having the Flat Fork Watershed designated as Lands Unsuitable for Surface Coal Mining. We can't think of anyone more worthy of getting this Award.

Ken and Helen Warren received the 2000 EQAB Environmental Quality Award in mid-March for their untiring stewardship of the North Ridge Trail. Hard as they worked on watch-dogging, maintaining, and blazing the North Ridge Trail year after year, this still represents only a fraction of all the efforts they have devoted to so many projects and issues over decades. We're proud to know them.

B. Report on recent activities

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

From trail signage and clean-up to wildflower walks, TCWP members have been out in nature. On April 22, a beautiful spring day, botanist Larry Poundsguide a group on the Delaware Loop of the North Ridge Trail. About 17 people enjoyed the warm Sunday afternoon and the many outstanding spring flowers on the trail.

On May 5, a small TCWP crew worked to erect signs on a new trail that starts at Lilly Bluff overlook in the Obed Wild and Scenic River. The crew worked the trail all the way to the point overlooking the confluence of the Obed River and Clear Creek, and several of them, for the first time, got to see the magnificent views and the arch.

On May 12, a group worked on the trail in the Whites Creek Small Wild Area (see more details in 9C)

Teaching and Learning. Several members took advantage of the excellent Cumberland Trail program in Wartburg at the end of March. Following a well-delivered, informative presentation from Cumberland Trail Conference Executive Director Rob Weber, we went on one of two

hikes on the trail from Nemo Bridge. The overcast day and moderate temperatures were perfect for the hikes.

TCWP newsletter editor Liane Russell was one of the main speakers at an Arctic National Wildlife Refuge program (co-sponsored by the Sierra Club and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy), held April 12 at the Candy Factory in Knoxville. The audience was disappointingly small but enjoyed slides and movies she and Bill Russell had taken on a long rafting/hiking trip through ANWR in 1989.

TCWP had a booth at Tennessee PaddleFest, Knoxville's EarthFest, and at the Oak Ridge MayFest. The booths enable us to reach hundreds of people with information about current environmental issues as well as information about Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning. Thanks to all who served as ambassadors at the booths: Jean Bangham (right off the plane from Ireland), Marion and Charlie Burger, Don Davis, Mary Lynn Dobson, Sandra K. Goss, Ralph Harvey, Frank Hensley, Miriam Kertesz, Evelyn Lorenz, Mona and Dick Raidon, Marcy Reed, Tom Thomas, Helen and Ken Warren, and Mary Uziel.

C. *Whites Creek Small Wild Area, hike and work trip, May 12*

[Contributed by Marcy Reed]

The Whites Creek Small Wild Area was designated by TVA in 1983 in response to a TCWP suggestion. A trail, which Bowaters also invited us to extend into their adjacent property, has been maintained by TCWP since then.

TCWP members and others had a work session on the trail on May 12, led by Nancy Fraley of TVA's Natural Areas Program (the Melton Hill Watershed team also sponsored the trip). The purpose was to pick up trash, make some repairs to the trails and compile information on the biological communities represented. Ms. Fraley has plans to develop a new brochure for the SWA with the biological information. Special thanks to Jamie Speed and Stacy Buchanan, residents of Clinton who do masonry work for Sequoyah Masonry Corporation. They lugged a wheelbarrow, water, cement mix, and assorted tools roughly a half mile along a narrow trail to improve a set of steps up a steep slope. They spent many hours collecting flat rocks, redding the steps and then cementing them in.

D. *Nominating Committee*

The TCWP Nominating Committee elected at last year's annual meeting (Eric Hirst, chair-

man, Virginia Dale, Don Davis) is now in process of identifying candidates for next year's TCWP Board. They welcome suggestions from the membership. Call any one of them (they're in the Oak Ridge phone book).



E. *Political Guide*

We did get our Annual Political Guide mailed to the membership, but apologize that it was later than usual. This was a hard Guide to get out because, after 8 years, there were changes in all federal agencies. Much of this information was not available early in the year.

10. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

Events and deadlines calendar (For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra K. Goss, 865-522-3809, skgoss@esper.com; or Marcy Reed, 865-691-8807, marcyreed@aol.com).

- June 2, 2 p.m. Geology of the Obed region. Meet at Lilly Bluff parking area (call 423-346-6294 for more information).
- June 3, 1 p.m., WSJK/WKOP-TV documentary on Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (see ¶8C).
- June 12, Smokies, One-day Introduction to Park resources (see ¶6C).
- June 14-15, Knoxville, TVA conference on water supply. TDEC's Dodd Galbreath is among the speakers. For more information, go to <http://www.tva.gov/tva/2001/2001tvasum.htm>.
- June 16 (tentative), Obed WSR visitor center, Wartburg, "Cumberland Trail, Tennessee's new State Park," by Bob Fulcher, CT state park ranger (call 423-346-6294 for more information on this and many subsequent programs organized by the Obed WSR).
- June 21, 7-10 p.m., Rolling Blackout (see ¶8G).

Publications

- *Environmental Status and Trends in the Southeast, 2000* is a publication of EPA, Region 4, Planning and Analysis Branch. Copies may be obtained from Bob Cooper, 404-562-8281, Cooper.Robert@epa.gov.
- TVA's Annual Environmental Report is available at www.tva.gov/environment

Resources

- The Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation has an Environmental Assistance Center in Knoxville (2700 Middlebrook Pike, Suite 220) to serve 16 counties. This Center handles TDEC programs in Air Pollution Control, Water Pollution

Control, Solid Waste Management, Radiological Health, Underground Storage Tanks, Superfund, Water Supply, and Groundwater Protection. Call them at 1-865-594-6035, or 1-888-891-TDEC.

- A major project of the Tennessee Parks & Conservation Foundation is acquisition of the highly scenic Black Mountain near Crab Orchard. Contact them at 1-615-386-3171.
 - An Internet activist campaign site is www.SaveBiogen.org. It provides a quick way to send faxes to politicians and others to voice your interest in protecting special places.
-

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