



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

Newsletter No. 256

June 4, 2004

Taking Care of Wild Places

1. **Cumberland Plateau** p. 3
 - A. Needs support for land-acquisitions
 - B. Rugby area land protection
 - C. Desired forest conditions
 - D. Cumberland County forum
2. **Obed and Big South Fork** p. 4
 - A. Management of fields in BSFNRA
 - B. Clear Creek section reopened
 - C. Climbing-impact study
 - D. Obed resource management
3. **State government** p. 5
 - A. Governor restores land-acquisition funds!!!
 - B. Bills that passed; bills that failed
 - C. TCV deserves support
4. **Coal mining again a major threat** p. 6
 - A. Abandoned mines need reclamation
 - B. Stream buffer zones report
 - C. Mountaintop removal: tell governor
5. **Around the state** p. 8
 - A. 10,000 acres protected near Smokies
 - B. Funding through license plates
 - C. State transportation plan
 - D. Norris development proposal
6. **Smokies issues** p. 10
 - A. State of the Parks report
 - B. Support Swain County desire for cash settlement
 - C. Cell-phone towers proposal withdrawn
7. **The Cherokee and other National Forests** p. 11
 - A. New supervisor
 - B. Appeal of a Cherokee logging plan
 - C. New attacks on Roadless Rule
 - D. Management of OHVs
 - E. Healthy Forests Act is a greenscam
 - F. USFS stops outside environmental reviews
 - G. Southern Appalachian Forest Plans
8. **TV news** p. 12
 - A. Watts Bar Plan delayed
 - B. Natural Heritage Program
 - C. Operations Study accepted
9. **National issues** p. 13
 - A. Antiquities Act upheld
 - B. Support global-warming bill!
 - C. National parks deteriorating
10. **Oak Ridge and Knoxville area** (Black Oak Ridge easement; Mayor; Turkey Creek) p. 14
11. **TCWP news** (Upcoming activities; Thanks; TCWP actions) p. 14
12. **Calendar; Resources; Web sites** p. 16
13. **ACTION SUMMARY** p. 2

The BIG stories

State acquisition funds restored ¶13A

Cumberland Plateau appropriations ¶11A

Orphan-mine reclamation must improve ... ¶14A

10,000 acres protected ¶15A

Further attacks on Roadless Rule ¶17C

Nat'l Monument + Antiquities Act upheld .. ¶19A

Support global-warming bill ¶19B

13. ACTION SUMMARY

J No	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Appropriations for Cumberlands	Some Reps + Sens (see box)	Support projects named in Administration budget!"
3A	State land-acquisition funds	Gov. Bredesen	"Thank you so much for restoring funds!"
3C	Tennessee Conservation Voters	TCV (see box)	Support their work
4A	Abandoned Mine Lands Fund	Sen. Alexander, Rep. Duncan	"Reauthorize program for 25 years and improve it!"
4C	Mountain top message to governor	Jonathan Dudley	Offer to join the boaters' relay to deliver message
5D	Development near Norris State Pk	Various contacts (see box)	"Please oppose this damaging use of public land!"
6B	Monetary settlement for NS Road	Citizens for ... Swain County	Support their work
7C	Attack on the godless Rule	Your governor	"Call on Pres. and USFS to keep the Rule in place!"
9B	Global warming	US Senators	"Support Mc Cain-Lieberman bill!"

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United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Bredesen
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bill Frist:
Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-1264
e-mail: <http://frist.senate.gov/contact.cfm>
Local: 865-602-7977

Sen. Lamar Alexander:
Ph: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3398
e-mail: <http://alexander.senate.gov/contact.cfm>
Local: 865-545-4253 (FAX 545-4252)

Rep. Zach Wamp:
Phone: 202-225-3271
FAX: 202-225-3494
Local: 865-576-1976
Web: www.house.gov/wamp

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.hcv.org>
Note that mail to Congress is still slow following the anthrax scare. Consider faxing, phoning, and other modes of communication.

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. CUMBERLAND PLATEAU

A. *Urged Congress to*

fund important land acquisitions

The Administration's FY2005 Interior Appropriations budget sent to the Congress includes the following land-acquisition requests for the Cumberland:

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):

- Daniel Boone National Forest, KY, \$500,000. We need to support an increase in the Daniel Boone's land-acquisition allocation, since the authorized borders of this NF includes the Kentucky portion of the Big South Fork NRR, as well as much beautiful wild land adjacent to Pickett.

Forest Legacy Funds

- Walls of Jericho, TN, \$5.9 million. This 9,430-acre tract in Franklin County (Southern Cumberland), includes native hardwood forests, headwaters of the Paint Rock River, caves, waterfalls, excellent migratory bird habitat, and a huge scenic gorge on Turkey Creek from which the tract got its name.
- Cumberland Mountain, Jackson Cy., AL \$1.4 million. Contiguous to Walls of Jericho, but in a different state – therefore, a separate request.
- Cash Tract, TN, \$1.5 million. This 2048-acre tract is adjacent to the Bridge-stone/Firestone Wilderness Area on the Caney Fork. Its acquisition would link that area with Fall Creek Falls State Park.

Now it's up to the Congress to make the actual appropriations, and Congress does not necessarily rubberstamp the Administration budget. These projects in the Cumberland will be competing with projects from all around the country for very tight money. It is important for us to contact the appropriate legislators (see Action Box, below), and we don't have much time since subcommittee mark-up for "earmarked" funding usually takes place in June. In your message stress the importance of protecting these areas in the magnificent Cumberland Plateau, a region that has recently been named one of 12 BioGems, the most significant endangered wild places in the Western Hemisphere (NL 255 14A).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact the following legislators for the Tennessee projects: Congressmen Lincoln Davis and Zach Wamp, and Senators Alexander and Frist (see p.2 for phone and fax info; written mail is still much delayed by an-

thrax testing). For the Daniel Boone NF, call Rep. Hal Rogers (202-225-4601) and Sen. Mitch McConnell (202-224-2541).

B. ***Land protection around Rugby***

Two large tracts adjacent to the Big South Fork NRR are in process of being protected as a result of actions initiated by Historic Rugby.

- Last year, Forest Legacy Funds were appropriated for the purchase of the Ray/Cettelfinger tract, which includes some of the Rugby National Register District, and which adjoins the Big South Fork NRR as well as the White Oak Creek flowing into it. The purchase process has begun; TWRA will ultimately own the property and manage it for forest conservation and outdoor recreation.
- This year, a 540-acre major watershed into White Oak Creek just above its entrance into the Big South Fork NRR is being acquired by Historic Rugby from the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee. A major portion of the tract will be set aside in permanently protected natural areas.

C. ***Desired future conditions for Cumberland Plateau forests***

[Contributed by Virginia Dale]

The Nature Conservancy Chapter of Tennessee (TNC) and Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Environmental Sciences Division have recently begun a new research project examining regional forest conservation within the Northern Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee. The project covers 2 million acres, extending from the Big South Fork National Recreation Area through the Obed Wild and Scenic River to the Crab Orchard Mountains. This area has been designated as the Northern Cumberland Project Area by a partnership of TNC and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

The project is designed to define desired future conditions for the forests within this region and to determine gaps between these desired future conditions and current conditions. This should provide TNC with information necessary to guide future forest conservation efforts on the Cumberland Plateau. The research should ultimately lead to a new ecosystem approach in advocating sustainability of both public and private lands and to the development of incentives to promote sustainable management of forests outside of traditional preserve boundaries. The focus will be on non-industrial private forests because this type of ownership covers almost three quarters of the region's timberland.

D. Forum on Cumberland County

"The Nature of Cumberland County" was the subject of a forum designed to increase community appreciation and awareness of the area. The event, coordinated by Louise Gorenflo, was held on April 23 at Fairfield Glade and attended by 45-60 persons. Representatives of The Nature Conservancy, TDEC, the Cumberland Trail Conference, and the Cumberland County and Crossville mayors made brief presentations; there were several exhibits (including one by TCWP); and attendees participated in workshops to discuss issues. Forest management, urban sprawl, land protection, and community determination of growth and development were among the top concerns. Representatives of several conservation groups plan to meet for follow-up discussions.

2. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK

A. The management of fields in the Big South Fork NRR

Although the nearly 100 fields encompassed by the Big South Fork NRR constitute less than 1% of the total acreage, their management is of importance not only for itself but also for what it says about the general philosophy concerning the objectives of this valuable National Area. The National Park Service (NPS) is therefore to be commended for its recent initiative in developing a consolidated strategy for field management. TCWP has commented on the Public Scoping Document.

Among seven recommendations made by TCWP are the following:

- Eradication of invasive exotics and restoration of native vegetation should be the first priority.
- In all protective efforts, natural openings should be given priority over man-made fields.
- Emphasis should be decreased on hay production for horses, since this practice does not contribute to the protection of natural and cultural values. Furthermore, hay can readily be obtained from outside the National Area.
- Replacing fescue-dominated fields with native-grass meadows would contribute hugely to species and habitat diversity.

B. Clear Creek section reopened to public use

In late March, Phil Campbell, Unit Manager of the Obed Wild and Scenic River, announced that the section of Clear Creek from Double Drop

Falls downstream to Barnett Bridge is now again open to public use. This river section was closed to public use for health and safety reasons in July 2002 after an oil well spill and fire affected the area (NL 247 91). For more information, contact Arthur McDade, Obed WSR, Wartburg, at 423-346-6294.

An oil well in the Lilly Bluff parking area was successfully plugged this spring, with the assistance of the state of Tennessee and private industry.

C. Obed climbing-impact study completed

The Appalachian State University study on climbing impacts, carried out under contract with the Obed WSR, has now been completed. Entitled "Characterization of Plant Community Structure and Abiotic Conditions on Climbed and Unclimbed Cliff Faces in the Obed River Gorge," it can be downloaded from the Obed web site, <http://www.nps.gov/obed> (in the Management Documents section).

The study sampled several sites for each transect, including, (a) cliff-edge habitat, (b) cliff faces, and (c) talus area. Due to the time-consuming nature of the field work, only three climbed and three unclimbed transects were measured at most of six sites. Further, because of the high level of variation in vegetation composition among sites, the individual site analyses "would benefit from a larger sample size at each site." Therefore, the study concludes, "we cannot completely rule out the effects of climbing for all sites."

Perhaps the firmest conclusion is that the "no top-out policy" (i.e., climbers may not go over the top edge of the cliff but must climb down again) is working. The study found no effect of climbing on the very fragile edge habitat. On cliff faces, there was a slight shift in lichen species composition in response to climbing. Disturbed vegetation was found in the talus areas, but there was no clear relation to climbing. On Lilly Boulders cliff faces, there was a high correlation between significant disturbance and climbing, but the authors consider this not convincing because of the paucity of data points.

D. Resources management in full swing at Obed WSR

Based on information from Nancy Keohane

A great number of resource management activities are underway at the Obed WSR, and more are planned for the future. The following is a partial summary.

- Exotic plants in the Clear Creek section between Barnett and Jett bridges are being identified and mapped this summer (on a contract with U.T.). Surveys have already been completed for all other sections of Clear Creek. An NPS team from the Blue Ridge Parkway will spend a week assisting in extirpation of exotics in highly infested areas.
- Insect pests: Observation for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid populations are under way. Gypsy-moth traps have been placed in the field.
- Effects of impoundments in the watershed.
 - Aerial photography is being used to determine the exact number of impoundments in the Obed watershed
 - The USGS is completing a comparison between a watershed with numerous impoundments (Fox Creek) and one with very few (Elmore Creek).
- Biological assessment and monitoring
 - As part of a determination of critical habitat for the endangered Spotted Chub, the USFWS Service has funded a 2-year study on Obed fish, mussels, other invertebrates and water chemistry
 - Inventory and monitoring surveys are under way for bats, other small mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and vegetation
- Other projects in the works are a geomorphology study, a soil survey and mapping, and a fire-management plan.

3. STATE GOVERNMENT

A. GREAT NEWS: Governor Bredesen restores land-acquisition funds, starting NOW

Governor Bredesen announced on May 6 that he is backing a budget amendment that adds \$6 million in recurring funds to the land-acquisition accounts for this year. Further, he expects to add \$6 million yearly for the next two years in recurring funds so that we will soon be back up to \$18 million annually. This total is approximately what we were seeing in dedicated funds prior to the 2003-2004 budget. (To remind you: a year ago, that budget included a plan to divert 100% of state lands acquisition, local parks, wetlands, and agricultural-resources-conservation funds -- derived from the real-estate "recording" tax -- permanently into the general fund -- NL250 ¶3B; NL251 ¶3B).

The \$6 million is in addition to the \$10 million in non-recurring funds which the governor announced

in February (NL255 ¶2A), and which will remain in this year's budget.

Gov. Bredesen also proposed \$3 million in non-recurring funds for acquisition of the Bedsloe Tract near Winchester in Carter County, a purchase in which The Nature Conservancy is participating. This is to be paid for out of the \$3.5 million the legislature amended into the state land acquisition fund last year. (To remind you: considerable effort by conservation leaders eventually succeeded in reducing last year's cut from 100% to 79%, so that \$3.5 million was left -- NL252 ¶2C; NL254 ¶2C).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Be sure to thank Gov. Bredesen (address p.2) for restoring our land acquisition funds and for starting to spend some of the \$\$. The need was never greater.

B. Bills that passed; bills that failed

The General Assembly adjourned on May 21, and although it'll still be a few weeks until Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) issues its comprehensive review of the session, we have used TCV's Weekly Updates to prepare the following report on those bills most likely to be of interest to TCWP members (NL255 ¶2C).

The following bills were enacted

State Park Funding Act of 2004,
SB2431 (Burchett) / HB2274 (Brooks).

Provides for any revenues collected in regard to activities at state parks (including entry fees and penalties) to be deposited in the state park fund. The following types of revenue generating facilities at state parks shall be self-sufficient by fiscal year 2007/08: marinas, campgrounds, golf courses, cabins, giftshops, restaurants and inns. The law does not require that specific parks will be closed if not self-sufficient.
Sent to governor 5/20/2004.

Fee exemptions - Sundquist Wildlife Mgmt Area,
SB2167 (McNally) / HB2672 (Winningham).

Authorizes TWRA to issue free user permits for horseback riding, bicycling, and off-highway vehicle use to people currently residing within the boundaries or having property contiguous to the boundaries of this wildlife management area.
Sent to governor 5/20/2004.

Water pollution control,

SB2770 (Graves) / HB2584 (McDonald).

Authorizes Commissioner of Environment & Conservation to deny wastewater treatment discharge permit if alternative means for disposal exists. Commissioner may grant permits author-

izing discharges or activities including, but not limited to, land application of wastewater, but in granting such permits shall impose conditions, including effluent standards and conditions and terms of periodic review.

Enacted as Public Chapter 519

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Act,
SB875 (Ramsey) / HB1568 (McCord).

This bill, which started out with meaningful registration and permit requirements for OHVs, was emasculated, leaving only an authorization to develop guidelines on land selection, trail design, and maintenance.

The following bills failed to be enacted

Recordation tax distribution,

SB3225 (Miller) / HB3193 (Garrett).

Would have reinstated dedicated funding for wetland, local parks, and state lands acquisition after the 2004/05 fiscal year, but the bill became moot following action taken by Gov. Bredesen (§3 A, above). TCWP had repeatedly urged legislators to pass this bill, and it was, in fact, passed by a majority of the Senate Finance Committee, and unanimously by the House Conservation and Environment Committee. The House budget subcommittee was, however, unwilling to pass it.

TN Forest Resources Conservation Act, SB934 (Fowler) / HB1159 (McDonald).

Would have required new or expanding wood-chip mills of >80,000 tons/year capacity to obtain a permit from the Tennessee Dept. of Environment & Conservation. TDEC would perform a forest-resource review for the area in question and, based on their assessment of the impact of the facility on local industries, the environment, tourism and recreation, would either grant or deny the permit. The bill was opposed by the Tennessee Farm Bureau, the Tennessee Forestry Association, and the state Dept. of Agriculture. The Administration asked for conversation and negotiation time over the next few months in hopes of resolving this issue before the next legislative session.

Stop-work order for surface mining activities,
SB2521 (Trail) / HB3206 (Coleman).

A Sierra Club bill, also supported by TCV, it would have allowed commissioner of TDEC to issue stop-work order when surface mining activities cause violation of water-quality regulations. Administration asked for conversation and negotiation time over the next few months in hopes of resolving this and other issues before the next

legislative session, and the bill was taken off notice.

Water re-defined as "legally navigable,"
SB2515 (Southernland) / HB2525 (Hawk).

A seriously bad bill, it would have limited the definition of "water" in the Water Quality Control Act to those waters that have been adjudicated as legally navigable. Following opposition by citizens' groups and TDEC, the bill was taken off notice.

C. Tennessee Conservation Voters deserve support

The nonpartisan Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV), a coalition of 17 groups (including TCWP), performs valuable service monitoring the progress of environment-related legislation in the Tennessee General Assembly. They publish weekly (or more frequent) e-mailed updates that are free to interested environmentalists. The organization also issues a scorecard of state legislators' voting records, modeled on the scorecards for members of Congress put out by the national League of Conservation Voters (NL255 §2D).

TCV performs another set of important functions: (a) they lobby the Legislature (and Administration) on behalf of the environment; (b) they educate voters about environmental issues; and (c) they try to influence selected elections when there is a clear difference in environmental attitudes and records. A recent example of success was Governor Bredesen's announcement of a significant restoration of funds for wetlands and state and local park land acquisition (§3A, this NL).

TCV's work is accomplished with a part-time staff member, a part-time contract lobbyist, and a small group of dedicated volunteers. The work could be greatly enhanced by expanding the staff. Although TCV has received some grant money, they badly need individual contributions to reach the next level of solid public policy. If you would like to make a contribution (which can be tax deductible at your request), send to:

Tennessee Conservation Voters
2021 21st Ave. S.
Suite 431,
Nashville, TN 37212

4. COAL MINING AGAIN A MAJOR THREAT

With the Bush Administration's encouragement of the fossil-fuel industry and its weakening of

environmental regulations, coal mining, which had been relatively quiescent for over two decades in Tennessee, threatens again to ravage our Cumberland lands. Additionally, we still are a long ways from cleaning up the damages of past mining.

A. **Abandoned Mine Lands Fund must be re-authorized**

[With contributions by Jonathan Dudley]

The 1977 federal surface-mining law (SMCRA) set up the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Fund for the reclamation of those sites that were "orphaned" prior to passage of the law, and which constitute a threat to safety and welfare. The AML Fund is fed by a small tax per ton of coal mined subsequent to 1977. The Fund has, however, never been properly spent (much of it reverting to the General Treasury), Tennessee (which has a federal rather than a state program) has received an even smaller share than other states, and, on top of everything, the whole AML is scheduled to "sunset" this year, even though fewer than 20% of AML sites across the country have so far been reclaimed!

Senate and House committees held hearings in March on two bills that would reauthorize the AML program for 15 years. Unfortunately, the bills have other bad features: (a) the small fee paid by coal companies on currently-mined coal (which feeds the Fund) would be cut by 20%, making \$50 million less money per year available for reclamation; (b) "general welfare" sites (e.g., water-quality sites) would no longer receive priority for reclamation; and (c) worst of all (in one of the two bills, which is backed by the Bush Administration), the money would be given to the coal companies for their performance bond. The performance bond is money posted by the operator before he begins mining to insure that the land will be reclaimed after mining is complete. This provision would thus take away the incentive for correcting current mining damage, while draining the fund for reclaiming past (orphan) mines.

There are thus several things that need to happen to achieve continuation and improvement of the AML program.

- Minimum program funding for states should be \$4 (instead of \$2) million, and Tennessee should be given the same minimum funding guarantee as other states. This would allow us to clean up our orphan mines in a decade instead of in 40(!) years.
- General welfare sites (e.g., those impacting water quality) should continue to receive priority.

- The per-ton fee should not be cut, and should not be given to the coal companies to pay their performance bonds.
- Above all, the committees should, without delay, schedule markup for, and a vote on, the legislation so as not to allow the AML program to sunset.
- The program should be reauthorized for 25 (instead of just 15) years

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge Sen. Alexander and Rep. John Duncan, Jr., each of whom serves on the pertinent committee in Senate and House, respectively, to support the points in the bulleted list above. See p.2 for contact info. Thank Sen. Alexander for efforts he has made already on behalf of some of the points. Tennessee badly needs this legislation: the 42,000 people who live within 1 mile of an AML site are exposed to hazards of health and safety, and our environment is seriously degraded. -- To keep up to date on progress on the AML issue, e-mail to jonathan@socm.org, or call him at 865-426-9455

B. **Mountaintop removal: report on stream buffer-zone hearing**

Mountaintop removal and its variant, "cross-ridge mining," wreak even greater damage on the environment than does ordinary strip mining. The tops of mountains are shoved into valleys, filling up streams. Large portions of West Virginia and Kentucky have already been devastated, and the method is now beginning to invade Tennessee.

Disregarding over 82,000 EIS comments that almost unanimously opposed mountaintop removal, the Bush Administration proceeded to make it easier for mining companies to practice this method "legally." Up till now, operators have been limited by a regulation on stream buffer zones (30 CFR 816.57), promulgated under SMCRA, which prohibits mining activities within 100 feet of perennial or intermittent streams. The change now proposed by the Administration would allow operators to mine right up to -- or even through -- streams if they can show, whatever the damage, that mining operations will minimize the destruction of fish and wildlife "to the extent possible" -- a non-enforceable standard that provides no protection.

The March 30 hearing on the proposed rules change (NL255 §3A) filled the auditorium at Harriman with close to 100 people, about 35 of whom (including several TCWP members) spoke

eloquently in opposition to the Administration proposal and to mountaintop removal in general. (TCWP also submitted a written statement.) The most heartening testimony was that of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Betsy Child, read by a TDEC representative. "We understand that there may be some ambiguity in the current rule ... However, we urge OSM not to resolve that ambiguity in favor of allowing adverse impacts on streams. We urge OSM to adopt a rule that will maintain or enhance the protection of streams."

Faced with overwhelming expression of opposition to the proposed rule change, the OSM staffer conducting the proceedings remained completely impassive, stating only that the purpose of the hearing was to gather information rather than to debate the merits of the proposal. The stenotypist, however, could hardly suppress a chuckle when one of the speakers said that the policy behind the Administration's proposal was evidently to "Leave No Stream Behind."

C. **Mountaintop removal: bring it to Gov. Bredesen's attention**

(Based on a contribution from Jonathan Dudley)

A dramatic way of bringing mountaintop removal to the attention of Gov. Bredesen is being organized by SOCM for late July. A relay of paddlers will carry a message from Leatherwood Ford down 28 miles of the lower Big South Fork, through Lake Cumberland, and onward down the Cumberland River past Celina, Carthage, and Gallatin to Shelby Bottoms Park, where the armada will gather on Saturday, July 24.

The message delivered by the boaters will inform the governor about the rapidly growing practice of mountaintop removal stripmining in our Cumberlands, and about the major threat it poses to the water quality of our premier streams, such as the Big South Fork, which is only now recovering from decades of mine pollution. Mountaintop removal is already going on in Campbell County (NL253 ¶3A), and TVA is conducting an Environmental Impact Study to determine if the procedure can be used for extracting the agency's vast coal reserves (NL253 ¶3A). Our message will ask the governor to take a tough stand.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Anyone willing to spend 2 or 3 days paddling as part of a relay team on any stretch of route should call Jonathan at SOCM, 865-426-9455; or e-mail jonathan@socm.org

5. AROUND THE STATE

A. **Dam re-licensing leads to 10,000 protected acres near Smokies**

FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) re-licensing of four dams operated by Alcoa Power Generating Inc. has indirectly led to highly significant land protection. The altogether ~10,000 acres to be protected will establish an unfragmented corridor between the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests, and the Cittero Creek and Joyce Kilmer/Slickrock Wilderness Areas.

Under FERC rules, the cultural and environmental impact of these dam projects (Calderwood, Chilhowie, Santeetlah, and Cheoah dams) must be mitigated for the duration of the next license, i.e., 30-50 years (NL255 ¶3B; NL254 ¶2E). For the past four years, several groups have worked on designing a mitigation settlement, and on May 10, an agreement was signed with Alcoa. In addition to 6 government agencies and the Eastern Band of Cherokee, signatories included 5 environmental groups: The Nature Conservancy (TNC), National Parks Conservation Association, Tenn. Clean Water Network, American Rivers, and Sierra Club. FERC is expected to finalize the re-licensing later this year.

Altogether, close to 10,000 acres, containing 21 rare, threatened or endangered species, will be protected. As part of the Agreement, TNC will receive:

- A permanent conservation easement to 5,700 acres donated to TNC, with an option to purchase the underlying fee lands.
- A term conservation easement and a future option to purchase an additional 4,000 acres.
- A permanent conservation easement (~180 acres) donated to TNC, comprising a 200-foot buffer along shorelines.

TNC will purchase the properties and transfer the lands to the appropriate government agencies (National Park Service, US Forest Service, or TWRA) once each acquisition is complete.

For additional details, contact TNC at 615-282-9909, or go to the Tenn. Clean Water Network's website, www.tcnw.org.

B. **Funding through specialty license plates**

A number of environmental groups and projects receive their funding through the sale of specialty license plates. Among such plates are Watchable Wildlife (benefiting non-game and

endangered wildlife species), Friends of the Smokies, Ducks Unlimited, Fish & Wildlife resources, a general environmental plate benefiting state parks, and Radnor Lake.

Last year the legislature authorized an anti-abortion "Choose Life" license plate which is now being challenged in the courts. As a result, the future of the whole special-license-plate system is uncertain. In an effort to salvage funding for arts and environmental plates, a bill was introduced late in the session whereby special license plates would be issued administratively by the department of safety under specific and court-tested guidelines, rather than being authorized by the General Assembly. Governor Bredesen (who preferred to let the court decide and then deal with the matter) opposed the bill, and it failed to pass. However, under the state budget just adopted, groups currently receiving funds through the specialty plate system will still receive some money from general revenues should a court order stop payments via sale of license plates.

C. Development of a state transportation plan

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) held several meetings during the latter part of May to explain its vision for, and receive input into, the development of a long-range plan. One new feature of this process: this is not just a plan for highways but for all kinds of transportation – public transit, rail, waterways, bicycles, and walking paths. Commissioner Jerry Nicely announced the formation of a 48-member statewide steering committee, as well as of regional groups, and stated that numerous hearings will be held to receive public input.

Public input has already been heeded on several ongoing projects. For example, the planned location for US127 south of Crossville is being changed by TDOT so as to avoid negative impacts on the Homesteads Historic District; and a community resource team has been formed to help with the choice of location for US127 north of Crossville, a contentious issue.

D. Intrusive convention center proposed near Norris State Park

[Contributed by Liz McGeechay]

Steve Pemberton, who owns Norris Lake Marina, is planning to build a \$10 million "Campbell County Convention Center" – complete with lighthouse, lodge, and restaurant (and possibly

even an ice-skating rink) – on the bluff overlooking the marina and Norris Dam.

The land is in Campbell County, but overlooks Anderson County. It is owned by TVA, which leases it to Norris Dam State Park, which in turn subleases the land to Pemberton. Pemberton hopes to finance the development by selling tax-exempt industrial development bonds.

Not only would this development allow private individuals to benefit financially from the use of public lands, their land use would be environmentally destructive and would mar the beauty of the area. If the project were to fail (a strong possibility since most accommodations in the vicinity, including those at Norris Dam State Park, do not stay full) the public would likely have to bail it out.

It's not clear how far along in the process the development idea has gone. In Sept. 2003, the developer's representative told Friends of Norris Dam State Park and concerned citizens that the proposal was just in the planning stages and that the developers would "meet with all interested parties" to make sure everyone had a say. In January 2004, the developer's representative asked the Campbell County Commissioners to request the introduction of state legislation designating the site as a special taxing district, which the Commission did. This was necessary to start securing bondstofinance the project.

It is likely that the development group is presently talking with representatives from TVA, the State Parks System, and Campbell County to get all their ducks in a row for going forward with the project. While public hearings may indeed occur sometime, many fear that it will then be too late – the gears will already be in motion. There is no particular group working to stop this development, but individuals who are opposed to it are taking action by expressing their concerns to key persons (see Action Box).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Individuals who are opposed to this project urge you to join them in contacting the following to express your concerns:

- (1) Commissioner Betsy Child, TDEC, 401 Church St., L & C Tower, Nashville, TN 37243-0435, 888-891-8332;
- (2) Chairman Bill Baxter, TVA Board of Directors, 400 W. Summit Hill Dr., Knoxville, TN 37902, 865-632-2101;
- (3) Stephanie Wells, President, Friends of Norris State Park, 125 Village Green Circle, Lake City, TN 37769-5932, 865-426-7461.

6. SMOKIES ISSUES

A. The Park is subject of NPCA's State of the Parks Report

The subject of the most recent National Parks Conservation Association's (NPCA's) State of the Parks reports is the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The complete report is available at http://www.npca.org/across_the_nation/park_pulse/smokies/smokies.pdf

The following Key Challenges are included in the report:

- Air pollution, primarily from regional coal-fired power plants, industry, and motor vehicles, has greatly reduced visibility from an average of 113 miles (under natural conditions) to an annual average of 25 miles. In addition, ground-level ozone and acid deposition threaten the health of park visitors, staff, vegetation, soils, and streams.
- An \$11.5 million annual budget shortfall and the need for an additional 108 full-time staff positions hinder the park's ability to protect resources. The largest staff shortfalls are in the Resource and Visitor Protection, Resource Management and Science, and Maintenance and Operation of Facilities programs. Many historic structures are at risk because of limited funds for critical repairs and monitoring programs.
- Non-native pests and diseases are killing Fraser firs, hemlocks, dogwoods, butternuts, and beech trees in the park's forests. Fraser firs and hemlocks may disappear if infestations continue.
- Historic fire suppression threatens the park's ecosystems. Some plant communities require regular fires to persist, and without them, diversity is lost. The park needs additional funds and staff to fully implement the existing fire management program and conduct the burns necessary for preserving park ecosystems.
- Each year, more than two million visitors tour popular Cades Cove, creating traffic congestion and causing damage to both natural and cultural resources.
- A proposal to build a road across the southwestern portion of the park (the North Shore Road), the largest unfragmented tract of mountain terrain in the eastern United States, could be potentially devastating to terrestrial wildlife, especially bears.

great strides. They developed an effective presentation, have had considerable media coverage, and been in contact with various key decision makers. Largely as a result of their efforts, the Swain County Commission and the Bryson City Board of Aldermen passed resolutions supporting a \$52 million cash settlement in lieu of the road, and this position was supported by NC Senator Edwards and by NC Governor Easley, who sent a letter to that effect to Interior Secretary Gale Norton.

What is needed now is legislation that will resolve the 1943 Agreement by compensating Swain County and NC for loss of an eastward road to Fontana (NC288) that was inundated by the filling of Fontana Reservoir (subsequently, NC28 was constructed south of the reservoir). If the "monetary settlement alternative" is chosen as the preferred one in the EIS that is currently in the works (NL255 15A), this would provide a major political boost to the needed legislation. The four parties to the original 1943 Agreement are thought to be favorable to the idea.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Citizens for Swain County have drawn down their treasury and could use some financial support for publicity and other expenses. You can send contributions to Citizens for the Economic Future of Swain County, PO Box 526, Bryson City, NC 28713.

C. Cell-phone towers in the Park? Preliminary proposal is withdrawn

Cingular Wireless Telecommunications had initiated the process of requesting a permit to build three cell-phone towers along Newfound Gap Road in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, with one of the towers to be located at the top of Newfound Gap. Many citizens contacted the National Park Service to express their horror at the proposal, and Park staff met with the telecommunications company to discuss their serious concerns about visual intrusions, construction impacts, etc.

Cingular subsequently withdrew their preliminary proposal for the three cell-phone towers. The company is now interested in the possibility of using existing utility poles and small antennae in the Oconaluftee area. We will have to continue to keep our eyes on how this progresses. To keep up with this issue, contact Greg Kidd, NPCA, 865-329-2424, or rkidd@npca.org.

B. Support Swain County desire for monetary settlement

Swain County (NC) supporters of a monetary settlement for the North Shore Road have made

7. THE CHEROKEE AND OTHER NATIONAL FORESTS

A. New supervisor for Cherokee NF

Anne Zimmermann recently left the Cherokee for a position in Washington. Our new Forest Supervisor is Tom Speaks, a former Cherokee employee who was very active in land acquisition.

B. Organizations appeal a logging decision for the Cherokee NF

TCWP was one of 8 groups that filed an administrative (not judicial) appeal of the Flatwoods logging project on Holston Mountain in Sullivan County. The large size of the project -- 888 acres with very significant canopy openings -- may be precedent-setting for the CNF. Apart from their ecological and recreational values, intact forests have been proven to have large economic (\$\$) benefits from storm-water abatement and air-pollution. Yet, when they calculated impacts from the Flatwoods logging project, the Forest Service set these values at zero. Further, in their economic analysis, the USFS considered only the gain from sale of timber, but not the losses to recreation and other values.

In their appeal, the eight groups are asking that all effects of the project be assessed comprehensively, through an Environmental Impact Study. The USFS has claimed that an EIS is not needed.

C. Attacks on the Roadless Area Conservation Rule continue

Having exempted Alaska's Tongass National Forest in Alaska, the largest temperate rain forest, from protection of the Rule in December (NL254 ¶7B), the Bush Administration went on to mount another major attack on the Rule in March. Ignoring the fact that our national forests belong to all Americans rather than to individual states, the Administration invited governors to request exemptions (similar to that given the Tongass) for national forests within their state's boundaries. Fortunately, 6 governors have stated that they will oppose the offered exemption; we hope we can make other governors speak out too.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your governor to call on the President and on the National Forest Service to keep the Roadless Rule in place in all states, and to reinstate it for the Tongass. The 58.5 million acres of our country's wild forests intended to be protected by the Rule serve our nation best as major sources of clean drinking water,

as unmatched fish and wildlife habitat, and as places for almost endless recreational opportunities. Over 2.5 million Americans provided comments to this Administration in support of the Rule.

D. Forest Service reviewing management of OHVs

The USFS is in process of revising regulations for the management of off-highway vehicles in national forests, and may release a draft proposal in June. In announcing the planned new regs, the Service recognized unmanaged OHVs (including All-Terrain Vehicles and dirt bikes) among the greatest threats to forests health, mentioning the fragmentation of wildlife habitat and the spread of invasive weeds among the negative impacts. TCWP co-signed a letter to the USFS in April, urging strong regulatory reform. The letter noted that not only must the Service develop regulations, but it must request additional funds from Congress to enforce them. Simply restricting OHVs to designated roads and trails is not enough. The letter outlined a comprehensive set of common-sense policy reforms.

E. The Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) is a greenscam

HFRA, which became law in December, opens up our public forests to more logging under the guise of "community fire protection," "fuels reduction," "restoration" and "forest health." Among the most damaging features of the HFRA is that it severely weakens the most important part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a bedrock environmental law.

In order to clarify the seeming complexity of this legislation and expose the truth behind its deceptive title, American Lands Alliance has completed a new fact sheet titled "Behind the Smokescreen: The Healthy Forests Restoration Act." For a formatted printable PDF version, contact Katie Barnes at kbarnes@americanlands.org. For more information on the HFRA, contact Lisa Dix at ldix@americanlands.org.

F. Forest Service discontinuing outside environmental reviews

In mid-March, the Bush Administration advised the USFS to eliminate review of its actions by other agencies for compliance with endangered species, clean water, and historical preservation laws. Agencies that have habitually performed such reviews include the US Fish & Wildlife Service, EPA, NOAA Fisheries, and state agen-

cies involved in protection of historical and cultural artifacts. The Administration describes the new policy as a "commonsense approach."

G. Meeting on Plans for Southern Appalachian National Forests

A Forestwatch Training session on proposed logging projects and other destructive activities on our Southern Appalachian National Forests will be held June 22, 7:30-9:00 pm, in Atlanta (Sierra Club Office, 1401 Peachtree Street, Ste. 345). Contact Kate Smolski 404-607-1262 x222, kate.smolski@sierraclub.org

8. TVA NEWS

A. Watts Bar Reservoir Land Management Plan: revisions delayed

The April 23 scoping meeting for the Watts Bar Reservoir Land Management Plan revision that was announced in NL255 ¶7A was canceled by TVA after the Newsletter announcing it had gone to the printer. Apparently, Homeland Security issues around the Watts Bar Dam area, as well as the upcoming release of the Reservoir Operations Study (¶8C, below) imposed a delay on the progress of the Plan.

The existing Land Management Plan was completed in 1988. The environmental review for the upcoming revision will be an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). There are about 14,000 acres of TVA-managed lands around Watts Bar Reservoir. The planning process systematically identifies and evaluates the most suitable use of these public lands and allocates different parcels to one of the following zones.

- Project operations
- Sensitive resource management
- Natural resource conservation
- Industrial/commercial development
- Developed recreation
- Residential access (existing access rights will not be changed by the Plan).

The public scoping process is designed to gather information from agencies, organizations, and individuals to identify key issues and concerns. Issues of special interest to TCWP members include protection of natural lands (including, for example, the White's Creek Small Wild Area and Tract #78 -- NL255 ¶7B), shoreline protection, and water quality. We'll also have an interest in the management of the former Clinch River Breeder Reactor site. Watch for announcements of scoping meetings.

B. TVA Natural Heritage staff hosts TCWP

On March 18, about half a dozen TCWP members drove to Norris to spend a very full afternoon at the invitation of Peggy Shute, director of TVA's Natural Heritage program. There was a great deal to learn and the large staff of this and related TVA programs generously gave of their time to summarize the fields of their activities.

The session was introduced by Bridgette Ellis, TVA Vice President for Natural Resources, who outlined the agency's natural-resource responsibilities. These include not only water quality but also shoreline (which is longer than that of the Great Lakes combined), and 293,000 acres of land. Documenting and monitoring species, wetlands, archeological resources, etc., and environmental reviews are just some of the tasks that must be performed.

Until a few years ago, TVA's Resource Budget (as opposed to the Power Budget) came from Congressional appropriations, appropriation that shrank as the years went by. Now it comes entirely from the Power Program (which is supposed to be self-sustaining). Although this puts Natural Resources at the whim of power, several staff persons said they preferred it because it makes their budgets more predictable.

We came away impressed by the amount of work and expertise represented, and the pages of notes. We also left with a good feeling from having established contacts with people who think very much like we do on many issues.

C. TVA Board accepts Reservoir Operations Study

On May 19, the TVA Board adopted the Preferred Alternative developed by the two-year Reservoir Operations Study (NL255 ¶7C; NL252 ¶5A). Implementation began June 1 and affects 35 of TVA's 49 reservoirs. For many reservoirs, the date for summer drawdowns will be postponed. Tributary lakes will see the greatest changes in that there will be smaller seasonal fluctuations than those experienced in the past. But, to enhance flood control downstream, the date for raising the levels of mainstream lakes to summer level will be postponed by several weeks.

System-wide, the new policy is expected to result in the loss of \$14 million in hydroelectric production (too bad, that's clean energy, one of the original objectives of the TVA system) to be compensated for partly by economic gains to lake-shore communities from increased recreational

opportunities. These, in turn, alas, are likely to increase shoreline erosion.

9. NATIONAL ISSUES

A. *Grand Staircase-Escalante designation upheld. Implications for Antiquities Act*

How nice to be able to report good news for a change! Ever since Pres. Clinton in 1996 used the Antiquities Act to "proclaim" 1.7 million acres of glorious red-rock canyon country in Utah a National Monument there has been vicious sniping at this huge land set aside (It is the second largest national monument in the lower 48 states). Most recently, the Mountain States Legal Foundation (which gave us Interior Secretaries James Watt and Gale Norton) and the Utah Association of Counties filed a lawsuit to overturn the Monument's designation. They alleged that (a) the Antiquities Act was unconstitutional, and (b) that various other Acts were violated by the designation (ten claims in all).

But in April, a federal district court judge denied the plaintiff's motion for summary judgment, rejecting every single one of the claims, and granted the defendants' motion to dismiss. Grand Staircase-Escalante will remain protected!

In soundly confirming President Clinton's use of the Antiquities Act, the decision has even broader importance. This Act gives Presidents the power to grant national monument status to areas that possess significant historical, scenic, and/or scientific values. It was first used by Pres. Teddy Roosevelt, and since 1906 all presidents except three have used it. Many of our best-known national parks (e.g., Grand Teton, Grand Canyon, Zion, Canyonlands, Saguaro) started out as national monuments. Because the lawsuit was a direct challenge to this presidential authority, the decision upholding Grand Staircase-Escalante's status has implications for other national monuments and special places.

B. *Support McCain-Lieberman bill to slow global warming*

Despite sound scientific evidence for global warming (the 10 hottest years of the past century occurred since 1990), and international scientific consensus to the man-made fossil-fuel contribution to this phenomenon, the Administration has been in denial and has, in fact, censored its own studies (as in last year's EPA report). Will it take continuing environmental disasters like killer heat waves, prolonged droughts, expanded

tornado regions, and water shortages to wake up voters? Or will a cinematic exaggeration like "The Day After Tomorrow" do it?

The McCain-Lieberman bill would set mandatory limits on global warming pollution from powerplants, automobiles, and other major contributors to global warming. Last fall, it was defeated by only seven votes. It is again coming up in the Senate this month and may have a better chance if we all contact our senators.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your Senators without delay and urge them to support the McCain-Lieberman bill on global warming. Contact info on p.2 (phone, fax, or e-mail -- regular mail is delayed by anthrax scans).

C. *National Parks continue to deteriorate*

Last summer, more than 120 high-level former National Park Service (NPS) officials issued a searing indictment of the Bush Administration's destructive policies toward our parks (NL255 ¶8C). Subsequently, Interior Sec. Norton and NPS Director Fran Mainella started making the rounds in Congress and elsewhere to say our parks have never been in better shape. But in late May the Coalition of Concerned National Park Service Retirees issued a report and held a press conference strongly disputing that statement (www.protectamericaslands.org).

The Coalition surveyed 12 representative units of the National Park System and found the employee level to be decreased in all of them. In 9 of the 12 there had been cuts in interpretive services, some as great as 50% (park superintendents are instructed to describe these as "service-level adjustments"). Visitors' Centers are open fewer days during the week; and, above all, resource protection is diminished. Even though total budgets may not be decreased, there are now so many additional obligatory demands on these funds (e.g., homeland security) that huge cuts have been made in discretionary budgets which, among other things, pay for seasonal rangers and other employees.

The Coalition thinks it would be inappropriate in these days of deficits to urge for budget increases. They ask instead that, (a) NPS stop misleading Congress, (b) NPS stop muzzling park managers, (c) appropriated funds be spent as appropriators intended. They feel that serious strategic planning needs to be done on how to protect park resources so as to leave them unimpaired for future generations; that's the No.1 priority. Of prime importance, in that regard, is to stop cater-

ing to special interests and political influence (examples: snowmobiles in Yellowstone, water rights in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, boundaries in Dinosaur National Monument).

10. OAK RIDGE AND KNOXVILLE AREA

A. Status of the 3,071-acre conservation easement

[With contributions by Ellen Smith]

Establishment of a conservation easement on a 3,071-acre tract on Black Oak Ridge in the Oak Ridge Reservation (west of the City and north of Hwy 95) was announced in December 2002 by then-Governor Sundquist (NL249 ¶6A). Permanent preservation of this area had previously had the unanimous support of a broadly based Land Use Planning Focus Group. Subsequent to the Governor's announcement, almost all of ~75 attendees at a public hearing strongly supported protection of the 3,071 acres as a natural area.

Now, 18 months later, a legal agreement between the state of Tennessee and the USDOE has yet been signed. Last month, AFORR and TCWP wrote to Environment & Conservation Commissioner Becky Child expressing their concern about the long delay and urging that the state of Tennessee do everything in its power to complete the agreement. Additionally, we requested to be kept better informed and we offered our assistance for expediting the process.

In the meantime, the Oak Ridge City Council unanimously voted to request DOE to transfer a 245-acre tract on Black Oak Ridge to the City for residential development. This is an L-shaped piece of land bordering on the O.R. Turnpike and Wisconsin Avenue. It is part of a larger area that was earlier identified as Self-Sufficiency Parcel D (one of several tracts that DOE could sell to the City if it were declared excess to federal needs). According to City staff, the proposed transfer "does not conflict with the preliminary boundary of the proposed Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement." This is because the boundaries of the easement were adjusted (before the easement was announced) to reserve an area of about 200 acres in which the city had expressed interest. The remainder of the "self-sufficiency parcel" would be included in the conservation easement.

B. Meeting with Oak Ridge mayor

Nearly May, representatives of AFORR and TCWP (Virginia Dale and Sandra Goss) met for lunch with Mayor David Bradshaw and dis-

cussed a number of issues and future events, including the following.

- He supports the Natural Area designation for the Black Oak Ridge Conservation easement and is willing to help getting the process expedited (§10A, above).
- He wants to promote Oak Ridge's trails and greenways and suggested we organize an Oak Ridge Hike Day (possibly a multi-day event), which the City would support.
- He suggested long-range planning for an outdoor-sports event (run/swim, bike, etc.) to be billed as an Urban Challenge Day, with the objective of educating people about Oak Ridge's outdoor resources.
- He was receptive to the idea of enrolling Oak Ridge in the national Backyard-habitat program, which encourages people to develop wildlife habitats on their property.

C. Turkey Creek conservation easement

The 58-acre Turkey Creek Wetland, which was donated to the Knox County Commission in December, will be protected for its recreational and natural resource values. It is managed by the Knox County Park and Recreation Department as a Public Natural Area Park, jointly with the Tennessee Izaak Walton League, which holds a Conservation Easement to the wetland, and which will conduct nature-centered recreation activities in the park.

On May 17, the Izaak Walton League organized a meeting to form the Turkey Creek Wetland Conservation Easement Advisory Committee, which may evolve into the Turkey Creek Watershed Association. The group addressed several adverse impacts on the wetland, and ideas for dealing with them. They also discussed a proposed boardwalk and footpath to go around parts of the wetland perimeter.

To be notified of the next meeting, or for additional information, contact Mark C. Campen at mark@tnike.com, or call 865-523-3800 or 865-414-5593

11. TCWP NEWS

A. Upcoming activities

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

[For additional information on any of the listed events, call Sandra K. Goss at 865-522-3809 or e-mail skgoss@esper.com.]

Tennessee Forests are the topic, Tuesday, July 13

David Orr of Tennessee Forests Council will be the featured speaker at our Summer Membership meeting. Over the past several months, the issues of clearcutting and forest conversions have been steadily in the public eye. Join us at this meeting to learn more about what is happening to Tennessee's precious forests. The Tennessee Forests Council, of which TCWP is a member, is a growing coalition of organizations across the state that is building grassroots support for protecting our native hardwood forests. Orr, the Coordinator of the Coalition, is based in Knoxville.

The meeting will be held July 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center. Refreshments after the talk. For more information, call Sandra K. Goss (contact info above).

TCWP booth at Secore City Festival, June 25, 26

Visit our booth during this Friday/Saturday festival. We are also looking for volunteers who will work two-hour shifts at the booth. If you would like to be a TCWP ambassador, call Sandra K. Goss (contact info above).

Community Shares Circle of Change Banquet, Saturday, June 19

TCWP is a member of Community Shares, so join our representatives who will be attending. The banquet will feature a silent auction, a live auction, and a cash bar. Several individuals, institutions, and businesses will be honored as agents of social change.

The banquet will start at 6:00 p.m. at the Knoxville Expo Center. For tickets to the event, call Sandra K. Goss (contact info above).

B. A big thank-you

Many thanks to TCWP member Jim Smith for his capable work on our web site during the absence of Francis Perey, our long-time and also deeply appreciated webmaster.

C. Selected TCWP actions, March-May 2004

(Contributed by Cindy Kendrick)

We are continuing our periodic update on what keeps the TCWP Board, staff, and committee members busy. In NL255 19B, we summarized the first two months of this year. Here is a list for the next three months.

Letters (L)/Comments (C)

Funding for Scott's Gulf (Cash Tract) acquisition (L)

(Thanks for) funding for state land acquisition/parks renovation (L)
Reestablishment of state land acquisition funding (L)
Conservation Trust Fund for Tennessee areas (L)
State Forest Resource Conservation Act (L)
Mining buffer zone rule (C)
Reauthorization of Abandoned Mine Lands Fund (L)
North Shore Road (C)
Elkmont EA (C)
SACE letter on Air Quality Rules (C)
American Lands Alliance letter on Off-Highway Vehicles (L)
Management of fields in BSFNRA (C)
EPA mercury emissions rules (C)
Black Oak Ridge tract conservation easement (L)

Meetings attended and/or organized

Alliance for the Cumberlandians
North Shore Road workshop
Elkmont public hearing
TVA briefing on their Natural Heritage program
NPCA release of State-of-the-Parks report on Smokies
TCWN presentation of Bill Russell River Hero Award
TCWP/SMHC quarterly program (AT thru-hike)
TCWP/O.R. Garden Club Savage Gardens walk
TCWP Winged Deer Park/ETSU Arboretum walk
OSM public hearing on stream buffer zone
"Nature of Cumberland County" environmental forum
Crowder Cemetery cedar barren hike
City of O.R. Mayor with AFORR
River Network Rally
Turkey Creek Wetland Advisory Committee
Gent property conservation at BSF
Obed land acquisition and conservation (NPCA, TNC, ERWA, TPFG)
Water Issues Committee
Service Committee
Mailing Committee
TCWP Board

Actions

Conducted work day at OR Cedar Warrens
Laid out trail in "Whites Creek addition;" established liaison with other trail workers
Obed presentation for Smoky Mt. Hiking Club
Issued TCWP political guide
Issued/posted action alerts/flyers
Guided 2nd tour for ORNL/TNC Cumberlandians research team
O.R. Greenways' invasive plant "pull"
TCWP exhibit at Knoxville's EarthFest

TCWP exhibit at American Museum of Science and Energy
TCWP exhibit at Unitarian Church Earth Day event
Provided scoping input for State Comptroller audit of IDEC
Obeyed River Cleanup
Big South Fork Cleanup

12. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

- **Events and deadlines calendar** (For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra K. Goss, 865-522-3809, skgoss@esuper.com)

- June 10, Voter Education Training, 7-8:30 p.m., East Tennessee State University (Johnson City), Brown Hall Auditorium, Room 112. Co-sponsored by League of Women Voters and Sierra Club. Contact Jenny Levy at jlevy@psr.org or (202) 667-4260 x239
- June 19, Community Shares Circle of Change Banquet, Knoxville (§11A).
- June 22, Alliance for the Cumberlands, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Rugby. Includes presentation by Edwin Gardner on the National Heritage Corridor concept for the Cumberlands.
- June 22, Meeting on Management Plans for Southern Appalachian National Forests, Atlanta (§17G).
- June 25-26, TCWP booth at Secret City Festival, Oak Ridge (§11A).
- July 13, TCWP meeting on Tennessee Forests (§11A).
- Sept. 18, Worthington Cemetery clean-up on Public Lands Day (details later).
- October 2, TCWP Annual Meeting (details later).

• **Resources**

- The "Governor's Off-Highway Vehicle Study" maybe downloaded from www.state.tn.us/environment/ohv. It contains recommendations on funding, management, land selection criteria, trail design, and evaluation and monitoring.
- "Nature-Friendly Ordinances," published by the Environmental Law Institute and written by ELL Senior Attorney James M. McElfish, Jr., shows how local government can conserve living resources and habitats using familiar land-use tools. It is intended for all local decisionmakers that deal with land use-planning staff, planning and zoning boards, local legislative boards, citizen activists, and property owners. It is also an informative guidebook for journalists who cover

growth impacts on local biodiversity. Based on land management guidelines developed by the Ecological Society of America. Info at http://www.elistore.org/books_detail.asp?ID=10989.

- "Scientific Integrity in Policymaking" is a recent report by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). On February 18, 2004, UCS issued a statement by 62 of the nation's leading scientists expressing profound concern about a range of actions taken by officials of the Bush administration that have suppressed and distorted scientific input into the federal government's policy-making process. The statement may be accessed at www.ucsusa.org/form/rsimembers.php?ID=33679
- "Lucius: Writings of Lucius Burch," edited by Cissy Caldwell Akers, Shirley Caldwell-Patterson, Bill Coble, and John Noel (\$26.95 from Cold Tree Press). Burch was a well-known Memphis attorney and conservationist who, among other things, helped preserve a 4,000-acre tract in the Wolf River watershed.
- The National Wildlife Federation has a Backyard Wildlife Habitat program under which properties can be registered. Visit www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife. Among features are: filling needs for food, water, shelter, and space; use of natural fertilizers; no insecticides, herbicides, etc.; use of native plants.
- "The Junk Science of George W. Bush" by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., appeared in *The Nation* of February 26, 2004.

• **Web sites**

- A native plant selector on TVA's web site allows searching by type of plant, location, environmental conditions, etc. <http://www.tva.gov/river/landandshore/stabilization/plantsearch.htm>
- A good site for pictures of plants is <http://www.rcr.rutgers.edu/weeds/index-thumbnail.asp>
- And yet another site for plants is Kris Light's East Tennessee Wildflowers, www.lightgotdns.com/kris/wildflowers

