

## Newsletter No. 259

January 9, 2005

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## 11. ACTION SUMMARY

JNo.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Frozen Head buffer	Gov. Bredezen	"Acquire Love Mountain tract!"
1B	Hearing on oil & gas regulations	TCWP	Volunteer to attend January 27 hearing
2A	Federal \$\$ for Tenn. acquisitions	Sensors; several named rep	"Thank you for helping to secure this funding!"
2B	Cease bypass thru Cherokee NF	TDOT	"Do not include in long-range transportation plan!"
2E	Stream restoration needs	TSMP	Suggest streams in need of restoration.
3A	North Shore Road	Sen. Alexander	"Bring about legislation for monetary settlement!"
3B	North Shore Road EIS	National Park Service	Attend a hearing between Feb. 22 and March 3.
3C	Tapoco settlement	Sen. Alexander	"Thank you for passing authorization!"
4A	Land divestiture by TVA	TVA Board; newspapers	"Sale of public lands betrays TVA's mission!"
6B	EPA allowing sewage dumping	Papers and legislator	"EPA's rule is disgraceful"
6F	Environmental scorecard	Your legislators	"We are grateful for (or disappointed in) your record!"
7A	ORR conservation easement	TDEC	Comment on draft management plan.

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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Dear Senator Doe  
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe  
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President  
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Bredezen  
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bill Frist:  
Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-1264  
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Rep. Zach Wamp:  
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Local: 865-576-1976  
Web: [www.house.gov/wamp](http://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.lcv.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 focus is on the Cumberland and Appalachian regions of East Tennessee, our efforts may extend to the rest of the state and the nation. TCWP's strength lies in researching information pertinent to an issue, informing and educating our membership and the public, interacting with groups having similar objectives, and working through the legislative, administrative, and judicial branches of government on the federal, state, and local levels.

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## 1. THE CUMBERLANDS

### A. *Frozen Head: major buffer addition needed*

Much of the land that the visitor to Frozen Head assumes to be within the Park and Natural Area is actually owned by a land company, the Forestland Group. Part of this private land lies in the flanking 1,100-acre Love Mt. Tract, the border of which starts a mere 75 yards behind the Park headquarters and visitor center. The tract contains old-growth hardwoods, provides habitat for neotropical migratory birds and other species of wildlife, and encompasses a major portion of the CCC-constructed Chimney Rock Trail. The land is essential to preserving the character and quality of Frozen Head.

Recently, TCWP learned of the Forestland Group's intention to conduct selective logging; the land is also vulnerable to future development. We have appealed to Governor Bredesen and to State Parks Director Jim Fyke to take swift action to protect Frozen Head by acquiring the Love Mtn Tract and adding the land to the Natural Area. At the time the State purchased the Bird Mountain tract, on the opposite side of Flat Fork Valley, it was our understanding that acquisition of the Love Mountain tract would soon follow. There are indications that the Forestland Co. would be a willing seller of the Love Mtn. Tract.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Gov. Phil Bredesen (address p.2) to tell him how much the protection of Frozen Head means to you. Urge him to direct State Parks Director Jim Fyke to acquire the Love Mountain Tract and add it to the Natural Area.

### B. *Attend hearing on oil & gas regs to help prevent another disaster*

(Contributed by Cindy Kendrick)

Oil and gas exploration and extraction on the Cumberland Plateau are expanding rapidly, and some of the area's most important natural features are at risk, as dramatically illustrated by the oil-well blow-out of July 2002, the aftermath of which is continuing oil leakage into part of the Obed Wild and Scenic River. Unfortunately, excellent provisions of an interim policy that was, at that time, put in place to safeguard the streams of Morgan, Scott, and Fentress Counties were not included in the Tennessee Oil and Gas Board's proposed revised regulations last summer (NL257 12A). TDEC (Tenn. Dept. of Environment and Conservation) asserted that protective measures could be sufficiently instituted via its policy, rather than by law. However, policy is subject to the whim of administrative officials and does not provide enduring protection. In addition, one vital

interim-policy measure that required a more reasonable buffer zone around streams was later deemed to be unenforceable due to conflict with existing regulations (NL258 12A).

TDEC repealed several protective rules simply on the grounds that the rules were seldom used. They also ignored National Park Service recommendations to make certain revisions that would protect nearby parks' natural resources. The proposed rules incorporate changes written by the industry to facilitate their conduct of operations and loosen requirements.

TDEC has graciously agreed to hold an additional public hearing in East Tennessee (see Action box) and we hope very much that you will attend.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** An additional hearing by the State Oil & Gas Board will be held Thursday, January 27, at 6 pm, in the Court Room at City Hall in Oneida. Industry representatives are sure to attend the hearing in large numbers. Please come, bring friends and family, and help TDEC realize that Tennessee citizens highly value clean water and environmental protection. To carpool or for info, call Sandra Goss at 865-522-3809. TDEC has said there may be changes in the hearing schedule, so please recheck our web site - <http://www.tcwp.org/savage.html> - for additional information, directions, and updates as we get them.

### C. *It's GREATER Picket now, thanks to private efforts*

(Contributed by Frank Hensley)

Prior to 1994, Pickett State Park and Forest covered 9,922 acres. Now, thanks to private efforts, state ownership has almost doubled, to almost 19,000 acres. Moreover, the state land is now surrounded by 2,400 acres owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), with the 3,800-acre Pogue tract (currently under imminent threat of timbering) and the 900-acre Chimney Rock Tract probably to be added to TNC ownership in the near future (the latter with a gift from a Tennessee donor). Greater Pickett may soon encompass ~26,000 acres!

This is how it came about. In 1994 TCWP members (led by Jenny Freeman), along with local Fentress and Pickett County folk and other conservation organizations, were successful in getting the Conservation Fund to arrange for the Melon Foundation to purchase 5,000 acres of land adjacent to Pickett State Forest that was about to be developed. This land was transferred to the state, and the state at that time bought an additional 600 acres. Since that time the following lands acquisitions have been made.

- Cunningham tract, 1,250 acres, purchased in 2001 by the state.

- Tally Wilderness, 1,250 acres, donated by Mr. Burton Tally to TNC.
- Buffer around Tally Wilderness, 600 acres, given to the state by Mr. Burton Tally in exchange for 60 acres of state land.
- Jim Creek tract, 1,541 acres, acquired by TNC and recently transferred to the state. This tract was an inholding that actually divided Pickett State Forest in half. Four years ago, TCWP assisted TNC's effort to raise \$1.1 million for purchase of this ecologically- and culturally-significant tract that consists of an intact watershed (NL238 ¶2A). FY2003 federal Forest Legacy funds subsequently covered 75% of TNC's expenditure (NL247 ¶3A).
- Dobbs Creek Preserve, 450 acres, purchased by TNC with a donation from TCWP members Susan and Eric Hirst.
- Bordering Dobbs Creek Preserve and the Cunningham tract, 710 acres purchased by TNC of Kentucky

All the new lands contain beautiful bluffs, creeks and hardwood forests. Since Pickett State Park and Forest adjoin the 125,000-acre Big South Fork NNRA and the Daniel Boone National Forest, this area is becoming an important wildlife habitat and outdoor-recreation Mecca. When the Cumberland Plateau is declared a National Heritage Corridor (a goal pursued by the Alliance for the Cumberlands, ¶1G, below), this area will play an important role in providing jobs and income for the local people.

[Editor's note: for many of these acquisitions, we must thank the persistent and intelligent efforts of TCWP's Frank Hensley, and TNC's Gabby Call.]

#### **D. Good news about additional land acquisitions in the Cumberlands**

In addition to land acquisitions around Pickett (¶1C, above), other exceptionally scenic and ecologically important tracts of land in the Cumberlands – some quite large – have recently been protected through acquisition by private groups, with subsequent partial reimbursement from federal funding.

- The Walls of Jericho, 21,227 acres spread across the Tennessee-Alabama line. This biologically diverse tract of rivers, forested uplands, and caves takes its name from a huge bowl-shaped amphitheater where, at times, water shoots out of cracks in the canyon wall. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) purchased the tract about a year ago and has recently obtained federal funding (¶2A, this NL). The Tennessee portion will be transferred to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA).
- The Cash tract, 3,048 acres in Scott's Gulf, goes partway toward connecting the Bridgestone-Firestone Wilderness Area with Fall Creek Falls State Park. This tract was purchased by the Ten-

nessee Parks & Greenways Foundation, and federal funding has recently been obtained (¶2A, this NL).

- The Werner tract, an addition to the Fiery Gizzard in the South Cumberland Recreation Area, just secured by federal funding (¶2A, this NL).

#### **E. Protection for 343 acres adjacent to Big South Fork NNRA**

Just south of the southern (upstream) tip of the Big South Fork NNRA lies land that was purchased in the 1900s by several TCWP members with a view to preserving it. It is a high ridge wedged between Clear Fork on the east and Crooked Creek on the west. In the past 2 years, owners of two of the tracts (Lee and Bill Russell, Ed and Jean Sonders) found a way to confer permanent protection on this land (altogether 343 acres) by donating conservation easements to the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation. This means that, whoever the future owners might be, no developments can occur in either the Clear Fork or Crooked Creek gorge. TPGF's protective role will include inspecting the area at intervals and taking action against any violations.

A lovely dedication ceremony at Peter's Bridge was organized by TPGF on November 6, preceded by a short hike on the property (NL258 ¶9A). Ed Sonders and Frank Hensley labored hard to ferry the numerous participants across the rain-swollen Clear Fork.

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

([www.tenngreen.org](http://www.tenngreen.org)) needs support for its protection of donated conservation easements, for its land acquisitions, and for other efforts (see, e.g., ¶2D and 1F, this NL). You can contact them at 615-386-3171 or [tenngreen@earthlink.net](mailto:tenngreen@earthlink.net).

#### **F. Cumberland Trail progress**

- A crew of Morgan County prisoners will be working on the segment between Nemo Bridge and the Devils Breakfast Table, cutting away blown-down trees and repairing eroded stretches. The trail on the east side of Nemo Bridge, traversing Obed WSR lands on its way to Wartburg, will also be completed. The route includes a natural bridge and an overlook of the Emory and Obed Rivers.
- With funding received from the Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation (TPGF), Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area has awarded a \$1,000 grant to build an interpretive kiosk located at the trailhead for the Frozen Head segment of the Cumberland Trail.

## **G. Alliance for the Cumberlands names executive director**

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Katherine Medlock, formerly with Georgia ForestWatch, assumed the duties of Executive Director of the Alliance for the Cumberlands November 30. The position, funded for one year by the Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), will facilitate the growth and development of the organization.

TCWP staffer Sandra K. Goss serves as Coordinator of the group, and will be active in Medlock's training and in the ongoing activities of the Alliance.

One of the main projects the Alliance, addressed by its members and by Cumberland Plateau residents and businesses, is to build support for a National Heritage Corridor concept. A feasibility/suitability study, currently underway, is to document the cultural and natural resources that make the plateau unique on a national level. With broad local support and the necessary data on the area's uniqueness, the Cumberlands could very well be designated a National Heritage Corridor.

In the next several issues of the NL, this project will be covered in more detail. For information on the Alliance, visit TCWP's new web site, [www.tcwp.org](http://www.tcwp.org)

## **2. AROUND THE STATE**

### **A. Federal funds for land acquisitions in Tennessee**

In a year when the outlook for federal land acquisitions was extremely pessimistic (NL257 ¶5E; NL258 ¶7C), Tennessee was fortunate to get several projects funded under various programs. Some of these projects are more fully described in ¶11B, above.

- Cherokee NF - "TN Mountains Project," \$500,000 from LWCF (Land & Water Conservation Fund)
- Lower Hatchie NWR - Multiple tracts, \$750,000 from LWCF
- Walls of Jericho - \$3.5 million from Forest Legacy Program
- Fenty Gizzard - Werner tract, \$2 million special line item in the transportation bill
- Scotts Gulf - Cash tract, \$1.5 million from Forest Legacy Program

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Please express your thanks to Senators Frist and Alexander, and to Representatives Zach Wamp, Lincoln Davis, and John Tanner (Hatchie) (addresses on p. 2) for their part in securing funding for these land acquisitions. Tell them briefly why these acquisitions (or a particular one) are important to you.

### **B. Oppose Ocoee bypass through Cherokee NF**

In December 2003, the Tennessee Dept. of Transportation (TDOT) released a Draft EIS for Corridor K, a 20-mile northern bypass of the Ocoee-gorge section of Highway 64 (NL254 ¶4A). TCWP and several other groups strongly opposed this proposal because of the severe environmental damage that would be inflicted on the Cherokee National Forest.

TDOT has recently stated that the project is of very low priority for the long-range State Transportation Plan that is currently being developed (NL258 ¶3A). Reasons cited were the exorbitantly high cost and the low level of public support. Nevertheless, local politicians are pushing hard to get Corridor K included in the long-range plan. It will be important for us to remind TDOT of our opposition to the project.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Send comments to [PlanCo@state.tn.us](mailto:PlanCo@state.tn.us), urging that the destructive and expensive Corridor K project not be included in the long-range transportation plan. The TDOT long range plan website, <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/plango/home.htm> has additional information

### **C. Destructive alternative for US127 averted**

During the previous Administration, TDOT proposed that portions of US 127 north of Crossville be relocated, a procedure that would have entailed road construction on 334 acres of presently undisturbed forest and farm land around the Clear Creek (NL243 ¶2C). There has been considerable local opposition to this proposal, and the new TDOT of the Bredesen Administration convened a Community Resource Team to obtain public input in reconsidering the route. In October, this Team presented two alternatives for US 127 improvement; both would keep the road in its existing location. Public input received at that time will be considered in the development of the final plan.

### **D. Don Branch restoration: a stark example of the destruction caused by mining**

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

As part of a cross-ridge (mountain top removal) coal-mining operation in Campbell County, federal regulatory agencies allowed a mining company (Robert Clear) to take unwise actions -- particularly, widening of the pre-existing haulroad -- that predictably led to a massive slide of debris into a once-lovely creek, Don Branch. The National Coal Corporation (which had bought out Robert Clear) subsequently proposed an operation that would entail remediation of the

damage, including relocation of nearly 860 feet of Dan Branch and restoration activities on an additional 510 feet. Public hearings on this proposal were requested by SOCM and have recently been held by TDEC (Tenn. Dept. of Environment and Conservation).

TCWPs entofficers to talk with TDEC staffat the second hearing and prepared written comments. While weare gravely concerned by potential impacts of this project, we can offer no better solutions tothe existing problem. In this unfortunate case, we see a "no action" alternative as more damaging to environmental quality than the proposed action which is compelled by the choked stream. Thus, TCWP's comments urged the State to ensure that ample resources be dedicated to inspection, monitoring, and enforcement of the detailed permit conditions and to swiftly address any violations with maximum penalties.

For the broader problem, TCWP comments urged the state to aggressively seek and exercise more power in mining decisions in order to protect state resources, including our vital headwaters.

Cross-ridge mining and other forms of mountaintop removal inherently cause unacceptable and long-term environmental damage by the immense scale of destruction and the steepness of the terrain where they are conducted. Obliterating mountaintops and then reshaping them in lifts inevitably causes devastating, persistent erosion and stream siltation; loss of topsoil leading to long-term infertility of reshaped terrain; and massive, long-term loss of forest vegetation and wildlife. Demand for Tennessee's coal reserves is increasing, but long-lasting damage to the mountains that give Tennessee its character is too high a price for cheap coal.

## **E. Stream Mitigation Program can improve aquatic resources**

(Contributed by Tom McDonough)

Tennessee's water resources are being profoundly impacted by urban development, agriculture, forestry, and mining. Many of these activities require compensatory mitigation for permitted impacts to Tennessee's streams. Such mitigation requirements now can be fulfilled by purchasing stream mitigation credits through the Tennessee Stream Mitigation Program (TSMP).

TSMP was formed to provide a mechanism for applicants to fulfill their mitigation requirements, to insure that mitigation credits adequately offset permitted impacts, and to improve water quality and riparian habitat in and along the degraded aquatic resources. Bank stabilization, riparian restoration, and livestock exclusion are a few examples of mitigation that can be performed.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** TSMP is looking for project sites throughout the state in need of restoration.

For more information about TSMP, see: [www.tnstreammitigationprogram.com](http://www.tnstreammitigationprogram.com); or contact Thomas A. McDonough, TVA Melton Hill Watershed Team at [tamcdono@tva.gov](mailto:tamcdono@tva.gov)

## **F. New trail along Tellico Reservoir**

Volunteers from WATeR (the Watershed Association of the Tellico Reservoir) have completed the first segment of the East Lakeshore Trail along Tellico. The trail includes three bridges and steps where slopes are too steep for safety, and a trailhead kiosk with maps. The completed segment extends 3.6 miles on TVA land, and work is proceeding on the next 4 miles of the planned 20 mile trail. To visit, take Hwy. 321 from Lenoir City toward Maryville, turn onto Hwy. 95 toward Greenback, and follow the signs to the trailhead.

## **3. SMOKIES**

### **A. Senator Edwards introduced bill for monetary settlement in lieu of North Shore Road**

In mid-November, Sen. John Edwards introduced S.3017, "to provide for the settlement of the claim of Swain County, North Carolina, against the United States." It provides that the Secretary of the Treasury "shall offer to compensate the County for the road not being built in an amount determined by the parties to the agreement, taking into consideration the estimated cost of the proposed road." The amount Swain County is willing to accept in compensation is a small fraction of what it would cost to build the road (not even counting the inestimable costs of the environmental damages the construction would cause).

As was to be expected, there was not enough time during the lame duck session to get the bill passed. Sen. Edwards is now gone, and the man who replaced him is unlikely to be a champion of the monetary settlement. Sen. Alexander, however, is considered to be a supporter of such a settlement. While the primary sponsor of the bill needs to come from North Carolina, rather than Tennessee, Sen. Alexander might be able to bring this about. He would be a strong co-sponsor, especially since he serves on the appropriate committee to move such a bill to the floor.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Contact Sen. Alexander (address on p.2) and urge him to bring about legislation for a monetary settlement in lieu of the North Shore Road.

### **B. Last chance for input in the North Shore Road EIS**

The National Park Service (NPS) has announced a series of hearings that will provide the

last public participation opportunity prior to selection of the preferred alternative for the North Shore Road EIS. The dates and cities are listed below. For times and more detailed locations, go to <http://www.northshoreroad.info/>.

February 22, Bryson City  
February 24, Robbinsville  
February 28, Asheville  
March 1, Knoxville (Marriott Knoxville,  
Mississippi Room, 500 Hill Avenue  
SE)  
March 3, Gatlinburg (Glenstone Lodge)

Evaluations of the alternatives' impacts and estimated costs will be presented. According to NPS, comments collected from the public will be considered along with prior public input in the selection of the preferred study alternative. The Draft EIS, which will announce the preferred alternative, will be available for public review later in 2005 and will be immediately followed by a series of formal public hearings.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Please be sure to attend one of these hearings and to voice your support for a monetary settlement for Swain County in lieu of any of the construction alternatives.

#### **C. Tapoco settlement now authorized**

As we have reported (NL256 15A; NL258 14A), the process of re-licensing the ALCOA dams resulted in a favorable settlement that potentially creates about 10,000 protected acres between the Gt. Smoky Mountain National Park and the Cherokee National Forest. Legislation was still needed to authorize some of the land swaps. An appropriate bill was introduced by Sen. Alexander and has now been passed.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Thank Sen. Alexander (address on p.2) for getting the Tapoco settlement authorized.

## **4. TVA NEWS**

### **A. TVA betraying its mission by selling public land for development**

TVA is custodian to ~293,000 acres of public lands, most of them situated around 69 reservoirs in the 7-state TVA region. One member of the TVA Board, Bill Baxter, believes that if the public lands are not generating revenue, they should be sold for development. The agency is currently aggressively marketing these public lands to potential buyers. Almost a dozen examples of this have recently been compiled by Billy Minser (for details, contact him at [wmnoser@utk.edu](mailto:wmnoser@utk.edu)). The (Nashville) *Tennessean* recently remarked that this

practice is a betrayal of TVA's mission, especially so since people gave up family lands, held for generations, so that they might serve the public good.

Multiple public-opinion surveys, hearings held on reservoir-management plans and shoreline initiatives, etc., have abundantly demonstrated that people want to keep the public TVA lands in a natural state and undeveloped. By trying to sell these lands for development TVA is also ignoring the public will.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO** (1) Write a letter of protest to the TVA Board (West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN 37902). (2) Submit that letter as a letter-to-the-editor so that numerous people may become aware of what's going on.

### **B. Air pollution and TVA**

2004 was the sixth consecutive year in which the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) figured prominently in the list of the country's 10 most endangered National Parks. The reason? "Pollution from coal-fired power plants [that] threatens the health of park visitors, plants and wildlife, and diminishes scenic views" (NL255 15C).

Of TVA-generated electricity, 60% comes from 40 million tons of coal burned each year in 59 boilers at 11 TVA coal-fired power plants. The bulk of these plants are west of the Smokies, and, as we all know, the prevailing winds are west-to-east. Scrubbers that remove sulfur pollution (a culprit in generating health-threatening particulate matter and in reducing visibility) have been installed at only 6 of the 59 boilers. TVA has extended the lives of several old plants without installing pollution controls.

On Dec. 22, Sen. Alexander urged the TVA Board to "put in concrete" its plans to install scrubbers at Bull Run and Kingston by 2010, and to add the John Sevier plant to the list. These three power plants are the closest to the Smokies. An AP article has quoted TVA Board member Baxter accusing the Senator's staff of not having all the facts. The state of North Carolina, which also has an interest in the GSMNP, has threatened TVA with a clean-air lawsuit, but TVA responds that, to date, NC plants have installed fewer pollution controls than has TVA. (But, remember the direction of prevailing winds?).

### **C. Radically new structure for the TVA Board**

Legislation that passed near the very end of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress (as addition to a massive spending bill) will radically alter the structure of the TVA Board. The new provisions embody Sen. Bill Frist's long-expressed desire "to bring TVA's management in line with [that of] other corp a-

tions of similar size and scope." They are as follows.

- Part-time Board instead of full-time
- Nine members, instead of three; two may come from outside the TVA region; all shall have "management expertise"
- Five-year instead of 9-year term
- Board members will still be presidentially nominated, but chairman will be selected by board instead of designated by president.
- Board will hire full-time CEO

It is considered likely that Bill Baxter, the newest member of the Board, appointed by Bush in 2002, will be TVA's next chairman. In his off-time, he plans to go back to running his gas company in Knoxville. See ¶4A and ¶4B, this NL, for Baxter's views on selling TVA lands and on air pollution, respectively.

#### **D. Green Power program enhanced by wind turbines**

During the summer quarter of 2004 (July, August, and September), TVA's total green-power generation was about 12 million kWh, roughly 95% of which was derived from a methane-gas site in Memphis. When all 18 wind turbines (3 original + 15 new) atop Buffalo Mountain are operational, TVA's green power generating capacity will be about 88 kWh. This new capacity will offset the supply deficit that has existed in TVA's Green Power program.

### **5. DRASTIC CHANGES IN NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT**

In several instances during the past 4 years, the Bush Administration has timed the release of predictably contentious announcements to dates when the news media and the public were otherwise occupied. This time, it was just at the eve of the holidays that the Administration announced changes in the basic rules for implementing the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976. NFMA governs the management of 192 million acres of the national forest system (155 national forests and 22 national grasslands).

A particularly dangerous change is elimination of the requirement for an environmental impact review in the preparation of each forest's 15-year management plan, i.e., an abandonment of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Forest Service bizarrely asserts that forest plans do not have environmental consequences, and that environmental impact studies are therefore unnecessary. Not only the scientists but the public have been shut out.

Another extremely troubling change is the dropping of so-called viability standards adopted during the Reagan administration (requiring that

"viable populations" of fish and wildlife be maintained), which had been the most potent among the Forest Service's general wildlife-protection requirements. As to endangered species, the firm mandate that these be protected by the forest plans no longer exists; instead, each local manager need only meet a vague requirement of ensuring overall health and diversity within the forest. This rule change is undoubtedly aimed at making sure that supporters of, say, a spotted owl will never again be able to stymie the sale of another fragment of our fading old-growth forests.

Further, the requirement for tracking Management Indicator Species (MIS) to assess the state of the ecosystem has also been eliminated. It is replaced by the vague prescription to monitor overall ecosystem health. This represents the extreme of earlier USFS attempts to drastically reduce the number of MIS. In the Cherokee National Forest, for example, the number of MIS was reduced from 102 to 16 in 2001.

Despite the Administration's attempt to dim the news value of the shocking rules-change announcement, papers around the country have covered the new policy.

Said the *Star Tribune* of 12/27/04: "these new rules can't be sold as anything but another giveaway to the timber companies, whose executives and shareholders are no doubt enjoying an especially merry Christmastide."

Undoubtedly the rules changes will be challenged in court. Knowledgeable members of the conservation community believe that the White House is deliberately creating a legal controversy, knowing that the rule will be struck down in court, so it can give Congress the justification for rolling back the forest protection laws that are being violated by the new rules.

### **6. OTHER NATIONAL ISSUES**

#### **A. Drilling under National Park System units**

Documents obtained by the Sierra Club under the Freedom of Information Act show that a year ago the Bush Administration bypassed the regular rulemaking process (i.e., public notice, hearings, etc.) in changing a rule that pertains to oil & gas drilling. Under the new policy, private companies are given unrestricted access to oil and gas underneath NPS units, as long as they drill for it at an angle from outside park boundaries. This rule change overturns the longstanding requirement for oil & gas companies to prove that a proposed drilling operation will not harm a National Park System unit.

The specific proposal that triggered the rule change concerned Big Thicket National Preserve. The Sierra Club points out, however, that as many as 14 additional NPS units could be affected, in-



cluding the Obed Wild & Scenic River and the Big South Fork NRR (for the latter, we should point out, however, that the authorizing legislation permits oil drilling from within the boundary except in the Gorge Area). In November, the Sierra Club took legal action in an attempt to overturn the rule change.

## B. *Oppose official approval of sewage dumping into our rivers*

(Information from Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN) and PIRC)

Currently, 40% of our waterways are too polluted for fishing or swimming; 300,000 miles of rivers and 5 million acres of lakes do not meet minimum water quality standards.

Instead of emphasizing the clean-up of our waters, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last fall proposed a "sewage blending" policy. This allows sewage treatment plants to bypass an important treatment phase when it rains and mix partially treated waste with fully treated waste. That mixture is dumped in to our streams, including those that provide drinking water sources and fish habitat. The policy poses a serious threat to human health and the environment. For more information on the policy, call Diannah Miller, TCWN, 865-522-7007, or visit <http://www.americanrivers.org/sewagedumping.html>

Despite an overwhelming number of comments opposing their proposal, EPA continues to bow to industry pressure and is preparing to finalize the policy. A nationwide effort is needed to engage the public, the media, and Congress.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- (1) Send a letter to the editor to your local paper. Human health, the environment, and industry all depend on clean water are at stake. TCWN asks that you send them a copy so they can track it ([diannah@tcwn.org](mailto:diannah@tcwn.org)).
- (2) Ask your Congressional representatives (addresses on p.2) to tell EPA to stop this policy.

## C. *The election, general*

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV), like many others analysts, regrets that the environment played so small a role in the Presidential campaign (just one question in one of the three debates). Of all the issues on which policy will be made, the environment least justifies claims for a mandate. Nobody voted for dirty air, polluter subsidies, or the destruction of our natural heritage.

LCV's efforts during the campaign were not wasted. Its Environmental Victory Project created a national grassroots campaign to highlight environmental issues. This strategy can be expected to constitute a force for the future in terms of door-

to-door volunteers and more than a quarter of a million supporters.

## D. *Results of Congressional races*

There is no denying the fact that the election left the Senate in worse shape on environmental issues than it was before. Several strong, reliable environmental voices are gone, due to retirement (Senators B. Graham, Hollings, Edwards) or defeat (Daschle), and their successors are poor prospects on the environmental front. This is partly counterbalanced, however, by the replacement of two senators that had very poor environmental credentials (Fitzgerald, Campbell) by newcomers likely to be pro-environment (Obama, Ken Salazar).

Overall, League of Conservation Voters (LCV) efforts were fairly successful on the Congressional front.

- Dirty Dozen campaign: 4 of 12 were defeated
- Endorsed incumbents: 59 of 62 were elected (44 D, 15 R)
- Environmental Champions (a subset of endorsed incumbents): all of 18 were elected (12 D, 6 R)
- Endorsed open seats or challengers: 10 of 20 were elected (9 D, 1 R). Of these, LCV considered the following among their top priorities: in the Senate, Barack Obama (IL) and Ken Salazar (CO); in the House, John Salazar (CO), Joe Schwarz (MI), Ben Chandler (KY), and Melissa Bean (IL).

## E. *Election results at the state and local levels*

Several state and local ballot measures relating to the environment passed, many by overwhelming margins.

- In Colorado, 52% approved a requirement that public utilities derive at least 10% of their electricity from renewable resources by 2015 (3% by 2007, 6% by 2011). This new law will reduce pollution just as much as taking 600,000 cars off of Colorado's roads each year! Colorado now joins 17 states that have minimum clean energy standards.
- In Montana, a 6-year-old ban on cyanide-leach mining was upheld by a margin of 16% (even though the campaign to reverse the ban had outspent the upholders by a margin of 5:1).
- In Utah, voters approved a \$150 million conservation bond, backed by a .05 cent sales tax hike.
- According to the Trust for Public Land and the Land Trust Alliance, voters nationwide approved 120 of 161 state and local conservation funding measures worth a total of \$3.25 billion.

## F. *Environmental scorecard for the 108th Congress*

The non-partisan League of Conservation Voters has released its scorecard for the just-completed 108th Congress. The Scorecard represents the consensus of experts from 19 respected environmental and conservation organizations

who identified and researched the key votes on which to base the grading. Each of the selected votes provided a real choice for Members of Congress and helped distinguish which legislators were truly working for environmental protection.

In terms of national averages our legislators weren't even half right, i.e., the average scores were less than 50% (46% and 47% in Senate and House, respectively). There was, however, a vast difference between the parties. For Democrats, the averages were 85% and 86% in Senate and House, respectively, while for Republicans they were 8% and 10%. There were also major regional differences, with New England and Mid-Atlantic states scoring highest, while the Southeast and the Rocky Mountains/Southwest regions came in lowest. For more details, go to [www.lcv.org](http://www.lcv.org).

Here are the Tennessee scores.

Distr.-Party	Name	108 <sup>th</sup> Congress	107 <sup>th</sup> Con- gress
<b>Senate</b>			
R	Frist	8	0
R	Alexander	4	--
<b>House</b>			
1-R	Jenkins	3	0
2-R	Duncan	10	18
3-R	Wamp	6	9
4-D	Davis	58	--
5-D	Cooper	100	--
6-D	Gordon	77	68
7-R	Blackburn	0	--
8-D	Tanner	48	32
9-D	Ford	90	73

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Let your legislators know that you are aware of, and interested in, their performance on issues of environmental concern. Thank the ones who scored high (or relatively so) and tell the low scorers that you are disappointed and hope they will improve their performance.

## 7. OAK RIDGE RESERVATION

### A. Black Oak Ridge conservation easement moving toward implementation

On December 20, 2002, DOE signed an "Agreement in Principle" with the State of Tennessee to place 3,040 acres at the western end of the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) under a permanent conservation easement, to be managed by the state (NL249 ¶6A). Because, almost two years later, it was not obvious whether any progress was being made toward this end, AFORR and TCWP wrote to TDEC Commissioner Child on October 2, requesting public information on this important

matter (NL258 ¶8A). We are grateful that the state is now moving on the easement issue.

Just hours after this Newsletter goes to the Post Office, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) are conducting an informal public meeting to receive comments toward the finalization of a management plan for the ~3,000-acre Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE). Several TCWP members are planning to attend.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Look over the draft Plan (see below) and provide written comments to TDEC. Note these points.

- The draft does not state how long the Easement Agreement between DOE and the state is to be in effect. This should be a permanent agreement, in reparation for permanent damage (NL249 ¶6A).
- The BORCE is to be divided into eastern and western halves, the former becoming a Natural Area under TDEC's Div. Of Natural Heritage. TWRA is responsible for day-to-day management of the entire BORCE. How will this affect the two halves?
- The Plan needs to recognize the existing North Boundary Greenway and to permit establishment of a limited number of other trails. The plan can be viewed on [http://www.state.tn.us/environment/doeo/doeo\\_ppo/BORdraftmplan.pdf](http://www.state.tn.us/environment/doeo/doeo_ppo/BORdraftmplan.pdf), or can be read at the Oak Ridge Public Library, the DOE Information Center (475 Oak Ridge Turnpike), or TDEC (761 Emory Valley Road).

### B. Another DOE Land Transfer Proposal: Parcel ED-6

[Contributed by Ellen Smith, AFORR]

The Department of Environment has set the wheels in motion to give more Oak Ridge Reservation land to the City of Oak Ridge, this time for residential development. (Laws and regulations that took effect in 2000 now allow DOE to transfer property at no cost, if the transfer is for purposes of economic development.) Parcel ED-6 is about 362 acres on Black Oak Ridge west of Westover Drive (mostly west of Wisconsin Avenue). On its westside this parcel adjoins the ~3000-acre Black Oak Ridge Conservation Area (see ¶7A, above).

We were not surprised when, in August 2004, the City Council voted to ask DOE for 245 acres west of Westover Drive for residential development, but AFORR was surprised (and felt betrayed) when DOE responded with a plan to transfer 362 acres. The Land-Use Planning Focus Group that DOE concluded two years ago had discussed residential development for about 220 acres in this area. When the Black Oak Ridge conservation easement was announced, DOE agreed to hold land at the east end of the tract out of the easement in order to allow for future considera-

tion of land transfers for development. DOE is now proposing to transfer not just the land that the City requested, but most of the tract that was held out of the easement, with a total acreage that exceeds the total that the Focus Group discussed for possible development.

The land in question is mostly forested and may contain some small wetlands and plant species of concern. However, its most significant ecological value is as part of an unusually large stand of contiguous forest that provides rare forest-interior habitat (this is the habitat that some songbirds require for breeding, and it is rapidly disappearing from our landscape). Most of the contiguous forest tract is included in the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Area.

In November DOE held a public meeting to provide information about the proposal, which will be the subject of a NEPA environmental assessment that DOE intends to issue in February. Discussion at that meeting between conservationists, development advocates, city officials, and nearby residents led to another informal meeting on December 18, where participants discussed possible compromises. Planners acknowledge that parts of the area would not be suitable for development and could be dedicated as green space. Also, city officials gave their assurance that the North Boundary Greenway would not be altered by the proposed development. AFORR and TCWP members asked that sensitive areas and high-quality vegetation communities (which DOE should identify in its environmental assessment) be protected. We also would like the westward extent of development on the ridge to be limited to the extent possible, so as to preserve as much of the contiguous forest as possible.

The total amount of development that the city is contemplating appears to be consistent with the spirit of the Focus Group recommendations, but measures are needed to ensure that the undeveloped portion of Parcel ED-6 would receive appropriate stewardship. Ravines and other steep areas surrounded by development probably would be held by the city as greenbelts. City officials initially suggested greenbelt status for undeveloped land on the west side of ED-6, but we believe that this land could be managed more effectively by the state as part of the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Area. This also would save money for the city. At the December 18 meeting, city officials told us that they want DOE to give the entire 362 acres to the city to be considered for development, but they would sign a binding agreement to give reserved western portions of the parcel to the state, to be added to the Conservation Area. AFORR would prefer to have DOE redraw the land-transfer boundaries to retain ecologically valuable areas in federal ownership, to be added to the Conservation Area. However, the city's proposal should meet most of our objectives, if officials follow through on their oral agreements and

if those agreements are ratified by the full City Council.

## 8. PLANET EARTH: DISPROPORTIONATE WARMING OF THE ARCTIC WILL ACCELERATE GLOBAL WARMING

[Compiled from oral presentations by ACIA scientists]

In mid-November, an international team of 300 respected scientists released the results of a 4-year, thoroughly reviewed, study -- the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA). [See "Impacts of a Warming Arctic", ACIA Overview report, Cambridge University Press, 2004; also [www.acia.uaf.edu](http://www.acia.uaf.edu)]

The main findings of the study are that the Arctic is warming at an even greater rate than the rest of the globe, that this warming is likely to be exponential rather than merely additive, and that the effects on the world as a whole are likely to be more major than anticipated. Sir David King, the British government's top scientist, has called global warming "more serious even than the threat of terrorism."

The temperature increase in the Arctic is between 2x and 5x greater than the global rise. The predicted rise in average Arctic temperature during this century is 5-9°F over land and 13°F over water. The area of sea ice that has already been lost is larger than the areas of Texas and Arizona combined, and sea ice will be virtually complete gone by the end of the century (or even by mid-century, by some models). On land, the length of the snowpack season has shrunk by one month at each end, glaciers are melting at an unprecedented rate, and permafrost is turning into slush.

Among the reasons why these effects are multiplicative, rather than merely additive, are the following.

- As the white, light-reflective, ice and snow surfaces disappear, there is more absorption of solar energy.
- As the permafrost melts, it liberates major quantities of methane (a greenhouse gas) into the atmosphere.
- In the Arctic, both ecosystems and native peoples will be seriously damaged. Contributing to ecosystem effects are the following.
- Algae that grow on the underside of the sea ice constitute the bottom of food chains. Sea-ice melting will thus affect shrimp, fish, crabs, whales, polar bears.
- Seals, the primary food source for polar bears, will no longer need breathing holes in the ice, so the bears will no longer be able to catch them.
- Lemmings, the bottom of food chains on land, live in burrows that are collapsing as the permafrost melts.
- The warming will damage what has been an extraordinarily productive region of environmental extremes, affecting the organisms that have

evolved to exploit it. Hundreds of millions of birds and huge herds of caribou have migrated to the Arctic each summer.

Along with the ecosystems, indigenous people are already being severely affected.

- These people are dependent on seals and caribou.
- Melting of permafrost and snowpack destroys roads and pipelines. Coastal villages become unsafe, and inland villages are flooded.
- According to a 2003 CAO report, 180 villages need to be moved at a cost of \$100-400 million per village.

And how about the rest of the globe, the non-Arctic regions? From a huge list of consequences, here are just a few facts that may be new to some of us.

- Polar regions have been the world's air conditioners; cooling pulls moisture out of air. The world will become more humid and uncomfortable.
- Melting of sea ice is opening the formerly forbidding Northwest Passage. This provides access to oil and there will undoubtedly be oil spills which we don't yet know how to clean up in very cold regions.
- Sea-level rise will be in the range of 20 cm - 1 m (about 3 ft) by end of century. A 3 ft rise will eliminate most of the Florida Everglades and major parts of the Mississippi Delta region. If all of Greenland melts, the sea level will rise 20 ft.
- Melting of land-based glaciers will reduce the salinity of the ocean and change the direction of major ocean currents, such as the Gulf Stream, which keeps northern Europe warm.
- As to hurricanes, their intensity will increase, but their number is still under discussion.

The record indicates that, due to the sharp increase in the level of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> that has occurred during the past century, our present level is already higher than the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> level at any time during the past 150,000 years! There is a powerful consensus in the scientific community that most if not all of this is attributable to man-made causes. The ostrich-like or flat-earth approach of the US government is obviously untenable. The sad news is that, even if we stop adding CO<sub>2</sub> now (which we must do), we won't get back to normal for centuries to come.

## 9. TCWP NEWS

### A. We have our own web site

No longer does our website reside in kornet. It is now independent, with the address [www.tcwp.org](http://www.tcwp.org). This site has many new features, including a scrap book of recent event photos.

### B. 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](mailto:skgoss@esper.com).]

Whites Creek Trail Work Day, Saturday, January 22 (snow date, January 29)

This trail, built and long maintained by TCWP, is located on Watts Bar Reservoir in Rhea County in a TVA Small Wild Area. As part of our ongoing stewardship, we will be clearing downed trees, and performing other needed maintenance.

Bring gloves, loppers, hatchets, and hand saws, if available. Also, bring your lunch and a beverage. Anyone wishing to carpool should meet in the west lane of the Food City parking lot (Illinois Ave, near Oak Ridge Turnpike) at 8:45 a.m.

Green Power presentation, Thursday, Feb. 3

Gil Mclear-Hough, Green Power Specialist with Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE), has been extremely active in making Green Power available throughout TVA. He will speak to us about the need and methods for generating electricity from renewable sources (sunlight, wind, and biomass), to replace fossil fuels and other environmentally damaging sources.

The talk starts at 7 p.m. in the Craft Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center. Refreshments. There are plans to tour the new wind turbines in the spring.

Alley Ford Work Day, Saturday, February 12 (snow date, February 19)

This part of the Cumberland Trail has been adopted by TCWP. Bring gloves, loppers, bow saws, shovels, and pick mattocks. Wear sturdy shoes and carry your lunch and plenty of water. We'll assemble at 10:00 at the Rock Creek Campground, far side of Nemo Bridge. To carpool, meet in the west lane of the Food City parking lot (Illinois Ave, near Oak Ridge Turnpike) at 8:45 a.m.

Gallagher Bend Hike, Sunday, February 27

This guided hike on the Gallagher Bend trail is approximately 5 miles long and of moderate difficulty. It features good lake views and the largest hemlock tree on the Oak Ridge Reservation. Hikers should meet at the Clark Center Park parking lot at 11:30, wearing sturdy shoes, and carrying water and a snack.

### C. Selected TCWP actions, November-December, 2004

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

We are continuing our periodic update on what keeps the TCWP Board, staff, and committee members busy.

### Letters (L)/Comments (C)

Letters to Governor and State Parks Director advocating acquisition of Love Mt (L.) (see ¶1A, this NL)  
Comments on McCampbell forested wetland ARAP (C)  
Letter to Senator Alexander on Green Power (L)

### Meetings attended and/or organized

Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation Annual Meeting

Alliance for the Cumberland

Meeting with Farm Bureau, Tennessee Forestry Division, and Tennessee Forestry Association

Community Shares Coordinating Meeting

Public hearing on Dan Branch ARAP (Zeb Mt Mine) (see ¶2D, this NL)

Meeting with TDEC Commissioner on GSMNP and air quality non-attainment

Turkey Creek Wetland Advisory Group  
TCWP Board

Mailing, Service, and Water Issues Committees

Planning for North Ridge Trail needs

TCWP Holiday party

Cherokee Forest Voices Board Meeting by Conference Call

Greater Smoky Mountains Coalition

Emory River Watershed Association

Tennessee Forest Council

ORR's ED-6 public information session (see ¶7B, this NL)

ORR's ED-6, meeting with City, AFORR, residents (see ¶7B, this NL)

### Actions

OR Cedar Barren work day (see ¶9D, this NL)

Role in Pogue Creek land acquisition (see ¶1C, this NL)

Walk-down of McCampbell forested wetland in East Knox Co.

### **D. Report of Cedar Barren Work Day**

[Contributed by Tim Bigelow]

TCWP was instrumental in protection and designation of the Oak Ridge Barrens in 1988. The long-term goal for management of the barrens is to encourage the return of many of the rare native plants typical of such an ecological niche.

On November 20, an overcast but dry day, 27 people turned out, including 15 students of Pat DeRoos from Jefferson Middle School, who were very enthusiastic workers. Under guidance from Larry Pounds and Jimmy Grotton, the activities included removal of some smaller trees to open up the previously barren areas, and removal of large numbers of encroaching exotics such as bush honeysuckle, privet, and others. (On a visit to town Nov. 8, Tom Thomas had also removed numerous invasives.) The list of workers follows:

John Kubazewicz, Larry Pounds, Reid Gryder, Don Davis, Ruth and Norwood Gove, Charlie Klabunde, Tom Bigelow, Alyssa McMurtry, Clare Cunningham, Jimmy Grotton, Pat DeRoos, Miles Hamer, Shelby Brown, Liz Whittle, Estrell Ortiz, Stephen Blank, Aaron Foster, Denis Lyyu, William Diehl, Ally Diehl, Sidney Sherrill, Terlie Bockier, Kat McConnell, Allan Trently, Sara Lorabee, Brenna Stephens.

### **E. Kroger certificates put money in TCWP treasury**

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Once again, TCWP members and friends can buy gift certificates for Kroger purchases, with 10% of the face value going to TCWP. These certificates, available in \$25 or \$50 denominations, can be used to purchase groceries, prescription drugs, U.S. Postage stamps, and other items. For more information about this program - which does not cost you a cent, contact Sandra at 865-522-3809.

### **F. Many, MANY thanks**

In addition to the considerable thanks for the numerous activities listed in ¶9C, above, others are due for the following:

- Our wonderful web master, Francis Perey, who got us our own site, [www.tcwp.org](http://www.tcwp.org), and keeps it up to date
- The reliable folks who help fold, stuff, and mail the newsletters. For the November newsletter (NL 258), they were Frank Hensley, Charlie Klabunde, Ed Sonder, Larry Pounds, Jean Bangham, Dick Raridon, Carol Grametbauer, and Ken Warren.
- Participants in the recent Cedar Barren Work Day. See them listed in ¶9D.

## **10. JOBS; CALENDAR; RESOURCES**

### **• Fellowship opportunity: deadline extended**

The Rick Sutherland Fellowship Fund of Earth Justice was created to "enable socio-economically disadvantaged lawyers with otherwise insufficient financial means to engage in public interest litigation that would benefit the environment through employment with a 501(c)(3) or (4) organization. The fellowship is a 2-year grant of up to \$12,000 annually. Applications need to be in Oakland by January 31. To find out more about needed qualifications and application requirements, contact Shavonne Saroyan at [sajus@earthjustice.org](mailto:sajus@earthjustice.org) or call 510.550-6700.

Job opening: Sierra Club Regional Conservation Organizer, based in Charlotte, NC. Send cover letter and resume to: [david.muhy@sierraclub.org](mailto:david.muhy@sierraclub.org)

### **• Events and deadlines calendar** (For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra K. Goss, 865-522-3809, [skgoss@esper.com](mailto:skgoss@esper.com))

- January 8-16, Wilderness Wildlife Week, Pigeon Forge, at which TCWP has a booth.
- January 22, Whites Creek workday, (¶9B, this NL).

- January 25-26, Fall Creek Falls SP, TRPA Resource Management Workshop. For more info, fax TRPA at 615-494-5771.
  - February 3, 7 p.m., Oak Ridge, presentation on Green Power (98B this NL).
  - February 4, 5:30-9, Nashville (Historic Travelers Rest), Tenn. Conservation Voters annual fund raiser, "Nature Votes" – silent auction, live auction, music, wonderful food. For more info and to reserve tickets, call 615-269-9090.
  - February 12, Alley Ford work day, (98B this NL).
  - February 18-20, UTK, 2nd Annual Southeast Student Renewable Energy Conference. Visit <http://energyconference.utk.edu> for more information.
  - February 27, Callahar Bend hike, (98B this NL).
  - April 25, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 55th Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage (contact Greg Kidd at NPCA, 865-329-2424, ext.26).
  - May 2-4, Orlando, FL, Southeast Green Energy Summit. Leaders in business, environmental and governmental sectors will offer insights on strategies to expand renewable energy markets throughout the region. Call Stephen Smith, SACE, 865-637-6055; or visit: [www.southeastgreenpower.net](http://www.southeastgreenpower.net) or email [southeast@cleanenergy.org](mailto:southeast@cleanenergy.org).
  - Sept. 20, "A Voice for Water," a TCWN conference to build public participation in the Triennial Review Process ( slated for February 2006). More details later.
- Resources**
- The 305(b) report for 2004, "The Status of Water Quality in Tennessee" documents the general quality of surface waters during the period 2002-2004. It also identifies streams that are currently posted due to fish contamination and elevated bacteria levels. The report can be viewed on <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/publications/305b04>. An interactive map that links GIS coverage to Tennessee's Assessment Database (ADB) site can be found on [http://gwidc.memphis.edu/website/wpc\\_arcmap](http://gwidc.memphis.edu/website/wpc_arcmap).
  - **SouthWings** is a non-profit conservation organization that uses a network of volunteer pilots and small aircraft to further conservation efforts in the Southeast. They do this by providing a bird's-eye view and documentation of the natural wealth of the region's forests and watersheds, and by exposing environmental degradation and deleterious land management practices (e.g., clear cutting,

mountaintop-removal mining) that would not otherwise be widely known. SouthWings, founded in 1996 and now headquartered in Asheville, NC, is supported by individual donations and by private foundations. For more information, visit [www.southwings.org](http://www.southwings.org) or call 828-225-5949.

- **Volunteer Pilots Needed.** SouthWings (see bullet immediately above) relies on highly qualified flight professionals who are willing to donate their time and their aircraft's operations to provide a conservation flight experience in their area. To learn more about becoming a Volunteer Pilot, e-mail [taylor@southwings.org](mailto:taylor@southwings.org), or call 1-800-640-1131.
- "Ecosystem Management for Sustainability," a book with 50 contributors, edited by John D. Peine, focuses on the Southern Appalachian Highlands because they support some of the richest temperate forest biota in the world and are internationally recognized as a Biosphere Reserve. As chief scientist for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Peine was instrumental in developing the GSMNP air-quality program which serves as a model in other countries.
- *The National Green Pages* is a 240-page directory of ecologically friendly businesses and products. It comes free with a \$20 membership to Co-op America, 1612 K Street NW, Suite 600, Washington DC 20006; 1-800-584-7336.
- The BoatUS Foundation has grants available for non-profit to educate boaters about practices that can prevent the spread of exotic aquatic species between water bodies. Visit <http://www.BoatUS.com/Cleanwater/grants>. Applications must be e-mailed or postmarked by midnight February 1, 2005.
- "Recycling Factoids" (selected from a list of almost 40 in the December issue of the *Tennes-Sierran*): "If everyone in the U.S. recycled just 1/10 of their newspaper, we would save the estimated equivalent of about 25 million trees a year." "If every household in the U.S. re-used a paper grocery bag for one shopping trip, about 60,000 trees would be saved." (Try it, it's easy! Ed.)