



Taking Care of Wild Places

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## 13. ACTION SUMMARY

JNo.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
I	Heart of Cumberlands initiative	Bredesen; Fyke; legislators	"Thank you for this most significant land protection!"
2A	North Shore Road (Smokies)	Rep. Shuler; Sen. Alexander	"Thank you for your major actions in killing the NSR!"
3A	Obed land acquisition funds	Senators Alexander, Corker; Reps. L. Davis, Wamp	"Unacquired lands pose grave danger to this outstanding resource. Please secure acquisition funds!"
5B	Rocky Fork protection	Exec. Dir., SAHC	"Please advise on how I can help!"
6B	Roadless areas in National Forests	US Rep. and Senators	"Co-sponsor Nat'l Forest Roadless Areas Conservation Act!"
8B	House Energy bill	Your US Representative	"Support an energy package that will reduce global warming!"
9B	Senate Interior Appropriations	Your US Senators	"Support significant funding for LWCF and Forest Legacy!"
9D	Keeping mine waste out of streams	Your US Representative	"Co-sponsor the Clean Water Protection Act of 2007!"
11A	TCWP Board	TCWP Nominating Comm.	Transmit your suggestions for Board candidates.
11B	TCWP volunteer opportunities	TCWP Exec. Director	Find out how you can help.

Senator John Doe  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

Pres. George W. Bush  
The White House  
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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. Bob Corker  
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Rep. Zach Wamp:  
Phone: 202-225-3271  
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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.tcv.org>  
With mail to Congress 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

President: Jimmy Groton, 865-483-5799 (h)

Executive and Membership-Development Director: Sandra Goss, 865-522-3809; [Sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:Sandra@sandrakgoss.com)

## GOOD NEWS AROUND IN THIS NEWSLETTER (See ¶1 and 2)

### GREAT NEWS

#### 1. *Heart of the Cumberlands Initiative is now a reality!*

The most significant initiative, to date, to protect lands in our BioGem, the Cumberland Plateau, has come to fruition, despite late legislative efforts to block it. Conceived by Gov. Bredesen, TDEC (Tenn. Dept. of Environment & Conservation), and the Nature Conservancy (TNC), the initiative will make available funds to protect an estimated total of 124,000 acres through a mix of vehicles, including fee-simple acquisition, conservation easements, and purchase of timber rights (NL272 ¶1, or

<http://www.tdec.org/act11.shtml>). Funding, too, comes from a mix of sources: the state of Tennessee (primarily), TNC, and Lyme Timber Co. (a forestlands investor).

The cliffhanger was passage of the state budget, which included an \$82 million appropriation for the project. Initially, this sum was to come from a bond issue that would have required \$11 million annually for the debt service. The administration later decided to have the money, instead, come out of the state's surplus funds (from higher-than-expected revenues). The main opposition to the Cumberland Initiative came from Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey and from several members of the Senate Finance Committee, particularly Senators John Wilder and Tim Burchette. Thanks to a major grassroots campaign mounted by TCWP and other organizations, as well as to key individual efforts (thanks Kathleen Williams!), this opposition did not prevail. We are particularly grateful that the Committee chair, Sen. Randy McNally, who had been among the opponents of the measure, ended up voting for the budget, which passed 28:3 in the Senate and 87:8 in the House.

Some of the fruits of the Cumberland initiative will soon become apparent. Chief among the proposed fee-simple land purchases are Bird and Love Mountains, which flank the entrance to Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area, and which most visitors to Frozen Head assume to be part of the Natural Area (while they are actually in imminent danger of being logged). Purchase of these mountains is anticipated in the not-too-distant future.

The Cumberland Initiative will protect lands in the watershed of the Emory River (which joins the Obid) and of Brimstone Creek (a tributary to the New River, a major stem of the Big South Fork Cumberland). Of special significance is the fact that protection will create a large contiguous area, extending from the Emory, through Frozen Head and the Sundquist and Royal Blue Wildlife

Management Areas almost to the Kentucky border.

It is to be noted that this is only the latest (and the biggest!) of the Bredesen Administration's actions to protect the Cumberlands. It follows on the enactment of the Heritage Conservation Trust Fund (NL262 ¶3A) – which this year received yet an additional \$10 appropriation – and the purchase of special Bowater's lands (NL271 ¶1A).

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Thank Gov. Bredesen (address on p.2) and TDEC Commissioner Fyke (see Political Guide) for proposing and supporting the Cumberlands Initiative. Thank your legislators (see Political Guide) for their supporting vote.

### GREAT NEWS

#### 2. **SMOKIES: THE NORTH SHORE ROAD IS ALMOST DEAD**

##### 2A. *Two more nails in the coffin of the North Shore Road: (1) EIS recom- mends monetary settlement, (2) a \$6 million down payment*

When, in March, the great majority of North Carolina's and Tennessee's Congressional delegations urged Interior Secretary Kempthorne "to provide a cash settlement to the citizens of Swain County, NC, rather than further constructing the [North Shore] road," they recommended three steps toward that end (NL273 ¶5A). The first two of these have now been implemented.

(1) On May 25, the National Park Service (NPS) announced that the Final EIS for the North Shore Road (NSR) would call for a monetary settlement to Swain County as the Agency Preferred Alternative. A Notice of Availability of the FEIS will be published in *The Federal Register* in September, and will be followed by a 30-day public comment period. This means that it will be October before the Record of Decision is filed. NPS explained that the reason a Preferred Alternative was not identified in the Draft EIS was that that document included new information that the public had not seen before, specifically, "much higher cost estimates for several of the alternatives." Nearly 76,000 comments were received on the DEIS.

Following the NPS announcement, Sen. Alexander wrote in his *eNewsletter*: "This road would have cost 75 times the annual roads budget for the Smokies and has no place in one of the largest pristine wilderness areas left in the eastern United States." He called the decision "the right solution for the taxpayers of America, the right solution for the people of Swain County and the

right solution for those who love the Great Smoky Mountains."

(2) On July 12, Rep. Heath Shuler (D-NC) and Senators Alexander (R-TN) and Dole (R-NC) announced a \$6 million down payment toward the monetary settlement to Swain County. This is the amount left over from the \$16 million that was appropriated for the North Shore Road in 2001 via a backdoor maneuver by former Rep. Charles Taylor (NL240 ¶3C; NL241 ¶5). Of this amount, \$10 million has been spent over the past 5+ years in connection with generating the National Park Service's EIS for the road. On July 13, 2007, the Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously approved an amendment offered by Sen. Alexander that would allow the unspent money to be used for a cash settlement to the people of Swain County.

Two additional things are required.

(1) The 1943 Agreement must be superseded by a new one, and (2) the money for the remainder of the monetary settlement needs to be appropriated. There is hope that these funds can come from outside the NPS budget.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Express your thanks (a) to Rep. Heath Shuler (D-NC), who made good on his campaign pledge and led the effort to stop the NSR, (b) to Sen. Alexander, who got the Appropriations Committee to reprogram the \$6 M for a downpayment to Swain County, and (c) to Tennessee's Sen. Corker, and Reps. D. Davis (R-1) Wamp (R-3), L. Davis (D-4), Cooper (D-5), Gordon (D-6), Tanner (D-8), and Cohen (D-9), who joined the effort.

## **2B. A celebration is scheduled**

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Citizens for the Economic Future of Swain County announce a North Shore Road Settlement Celebration to be held Saturday, October 13. North Carolina Representative Heath Shuler and other officials have been invited to speak.

As reported earlier (NL273 ¶5A), in March the majority of the Tennessee Congressional delegation and more than half the NC delegation signed a letter to the Secretary of the Interior requesting that the monetary settlement be the Preferred Alternative of the EIS (also, see ¶2A, above). These and other supporters of the cash settlement are invited to attend the celebration, which will be held in Swain County. More details will be available in TCWP's next Newsletter.

## **3. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK**

### **3A. Obed land acquisition MUST be completed. New campaign by TCWP**

More than thirty years after its designation as a National Wild and Scenic River, roughly 20% of the land authorized for the Obed has neither been

acquired nor protected. Speedy action is imperative to protect this beautiful vestige of primitive America from the ravages of development and resource extraction. Unless we act fast, the wilderness character and pristine qualities of this unique resource could be ruined forever.

TCWP is arranging meetings with key legislators to acquaint them with the great need to complete land acquisition for the Obed Wild & Scenic River and to ask for their assistance in obtaining the needed federal funds. We have already met with a representative of Sen. Corker's, and are arranging meetings with Sen. Alexander, Rep. Lincoln Davis, and Rep. Zach Wamp or their staffs. We also plan to meet with regional National Park Service land acquisition managers.

For these meetings, and other purposes, we recently produced an attractively and informatively illustrated booklet. Because we hope that TCWP members will individually urge our senators and representatives to save the Obed, we are copying in abbreviated portions of the booklet below.

### **OBED WILD & SCENIC RIVER IN PERIL**

**Background.** The Obed Wild & Scenic River was authorized in October 1976, after an extensive grassroots effort, becoming a unit of the National Park System. The OWSR includes the Obed proper, its two major tributaries, Clear Creek and Daddy's Creek, and a short portion of the Emory River after the Obed joins it. Altogether, 45.2 miles of river, flowing through deep, scenic sandstone gorges, are included. The system constitutes one of the last remaining wild rivers in the eastern United States, and the only designated Wild & Scenic River in Tennessee.

**We're in great danger of losing this treasure!** Boundaries of the OWSR were drawn to include only 5,100 acres. At this time - 31 years after designation of the park - more than 1,000 acres of this authorized area still remain to be acquired. Dozens of vulnerable tracts of land are scattered up and down the river gorges.

**Conclusions and Recommendations.** The OWSR is the crown jewel of the Cumberlands to be treasured by the people of the United States for generations to come. If any of the remaining ~1000 acres were to be developed, this resource would be so seriously degraded as to lose much of its value to the region and the nation.

The National Park Service estimates that at today's prices, the remaining land would cost roughly \$3 million - a relatively small price to pay for such a treasure, and only a fraction of what it would cost just a short time from now. We urge our legislators to support an appropriation from the Land & Water Conservation Fund that will permit the National Park Service to acquire and protect the remaining lands for the Obed Wild & Scenic River.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Please contact Senators Alexander and Corker, and Reps. Lincoln Davis and Zach Wamp (addresses on p. 2 and in Political Guide)\* to convey the following message: "Please work toward an LWCF appropriation for NPS to complete long-overdue acquisition of authorized Obed WSR land in order to protect this outstanding resource before it is too late!"

\*[For the Representatives, e-mail addresses are only for those residing in the Congressman's district. Postal mail addresses are as follows: Rep. Lincoln Davis, 629 N. Main Street, Jamestown, TN 38556; Rep. Zach Wamp, 200 Administration Rd., Federal Bldg Ste 100, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.]

### **3B. Land gift protects gorge in BSNRRA inholding**

Within the Big South Fork NRR, as within the Obed WSR (¶3A, above), there are tracts that remain to be acquired by the federal government. For the BSNRRA, much of this unacquired land lies along the New River stem, and some along BSF tributaries.

Among the latter areas is a large (~400-acre) inholding on the southern side of upper North White Oak Creek, owned by the Gerni family of Allardt, TN. The owners are in process of selling large lots, and some upscale cabins have been built on the rim of the gorge. Because they wished to preserve the interior of the gorge, the Gernis have donated 58 acres below the southern and western rim of North White Oak Creek and Fletcher Branch to the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation. The area is listed in the Highest Priority category of the BSNRRA Land Protection Plan. Below the sandstone bluffs are fine examples of the "rock houses" or "rock shelters," that often characterize the gorges cut by rivers into the Cumberland Plateau. Some were inhabited seasonally by Native Americans as far back as 12,000 years ago, and many for at least 5,000 years.

Formal dedication of the land gift took place June 2 at the site of a particularly luxurious cabin on the very rim of the gorge. Among the attendees of the ceremony were two TCWP Board members, who were reinforced in their resolve to work for LWCF acquisition funds for the Park Service.

## **4. TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE and ADMINISTRATION**

### **4A. Legislation: Summary of successes and failures**

[First two segments based on contributions by Stewart Clifton, TN Conservation Voters]

2007 was an especially productive year for environmental legislative advocacy in Tennessee. The Bresden Administration continued its efforts to enact responsible environmental policies and laws, and TCV was able to positively influence the fate of a number of bills.

#### Successful bills and policies supported by TCV

- Development of a comprehensive state energy conservation plan (bill sponsored by Sen. Haynes and Rep. Moore, now Public Chapter 33). Urges governor, in consultation with various departments, to develop such a plan.
- Strengthening of the Water Quality Control Act (bill initiated by TN Clean Water Network and sponsored by Sen. Woodson and Rep. Buck; now Public Chapter 404). Requires final outcomes of water quality enforcement actions to be published on TDEC's web site. Several other bills initiated by TCWN will be considered in a summer study committee.
- Energy conservation and efficiency (bill sponsored by Sen. Kurita and Rep. McDonald, now Public Chapter 401). Requires performance audits of government agencies responsible for energy conservation, production of alternative sources of energy, and energy security. A related bill that promotes energy conservation standards for new residential buildings passed the Senate and will be ready for action in the House next year (SB.116/HB.348).
- Improved solid waste management. A bill (SB.1779/Jackson/HB.1345-Shepard) to study higher value uses for materials that end up in landfills was passed and is awaiting signatures. Another bill (sponsored by Sen. Kyle and Rep. Shepard, now Public Chapter 462) revises the Solid Waste Act to provide more revenue for recycling and hazardous household waste.

#### Legislation TCV stopped, helped stop, or worked to amend

- Regulatory Flexibility: Under the guise of protecting small businesses, this bill could have curtailed the efforts of state officials to implement environmentally sound regulations. TCV worked to amend the bill so that it simply mirrors regulations already in place by executive order. (Public Chapter 464).
- Toll Roads: With lots of strong leadership from the Southern Environmental Law Center, and working closely with TDOT, TCV was able to influence the fate of road-building legislation. One bill creating public-private partnerships for road building (SB347/HB1205) was stopped. Another toll road bill (SB1152/HB1204) was amended (awaiting signatures) to be a limited pilot project. TCV is working to insure that any legislation promoting road building will guarantee serious public input, environmental safeguards, and consistency with transportation and environmental planning efforts.

- Wet Weather Conveyances: This bill (SB1253/HB865) proposed to exclude "narrow run-off ditches" (the other side's word for intermittent streams) from the Water Quality Control Act. Thanks to a major outcry by advocates (for TCWP's role, see NL273 ¶38) the bill was amended to create a legislative study committee, which will make its recommendations at the beginning of the 2008 session. TCV will advocate for the appointment of a fair committee, and for meetings that are open and that allow citizens a full opportunity to be heard.

#### Bills of special interest to TCWP

- Near the start of the legislative session, our NL272 mentioned three measures in which TCWP members would have a special interest. The most important of these was the North Cumberlands Conservation Plan, also known as the Hearts of the Cumberlands Initiative. On that one, our hopes were gloriously rewarded (as reported in ¶1, above). The other two, however, did not go anywhere this year.
- Re: greenhouse-gas emissions. SB.0486 (R.Finney)/HB.1815 (McDonald) directs the Air Pollution Control Board to monitor California's emissions standards and, when they are adopted by a number of states representing at least 40% of the U.S. population, to adopt emissions standards based on these California standards, unless the board determines that such adoption will not be more effective than federal standards. The bill was referred to the Senate Environment, Conservation & Tourism Committee and did not progress.
  - Container-deposit legislation. The approach embodied in SB.1408 (Kilby)/HB.1829 (M.Turner) is an improvement over the "bottle bill" that almost passed in 2006. Despite this fact, the bill did not move this year because legislators did not hear from their constituents in numbers significant enough to outweigh the powerful opposition.

#### **4B. Heritage Trust Fund helps protect Savage Gulf viewshed, Collins River**

[Extracted from the TDEC web site]

The Heritage Conservation Trust Fund, created in 2005, is a brain child of Governor Phil Bredesen. Among other things, the Fund provides grants to public and private partners to help leverage available funds for the conservation and protection of priority land across Tennessee.

Recently the governor announced that four projects protecting approximately 1,975 acres have been approved for \$3.8 million in grant funding. One of the grants, for \$1.5 million, will go to the South Cumberland State Park and Natural Area's Savage Gulf Project, Grundy County, to protect

the viewsheds along the bluffs of Savage Gulf, an established state natural area.

The 1,250-acre project will permanently preserve scenic vistas of the Big Creek Gulf and will protect the Collins State Scenic River, which The Nature Conservancy has listed among the U.S. watershed hot spots with 10 or more at-risk imperiled aquatic species. The Collins is home to 11 at-risk fish and mussel species, including four listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Savage Gulf is an officially recognized National Natural Landmark, and its trails have National Recreation Trail System status. The stage road in Savage Gulf is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the virgin timber tract has been described as the best and largest virgin forest left in the mixed mesophytic region of the Eastern deciduous forest.

News about the Heritage Conservation Trust Fund. On June 1, Marie Stringer Yeagle was appointed the Fund's first Executive Director. Yeagle previously served in Gov. Bredesen's policy office, where she concentrated on land conservation issues and served as a liaison between the Governor's Office and the Trust Fund Board.

### **5. OTHER TENNESSEE ISSUES**

#### **5A. Alliance for the Cumberlands coordinates planning for wildlife conservation in Northern Cumberlands**

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

TCWP was instrumental in the formation of, and continues to be involved in, the Alliance for the Cumberlands. Last month, at their meeting at Tennessee Tech, the Alliance discussed release of the recently completed Tennessee-Kentucky Conservation Action Plan. This document describes the process used to mesh the two states' Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy plans for the Northern Cumberland region. The project was coordinated by the Alliance and funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in partnership with the Doris Duke Charitable Trust. Objectives were to identify shared priorities and collaborative conservation opportunities, and to prioritize and enhance the implementation of conservation strategies.

Priority areas were based on Kentucky's "Conservation Areas" and Tennessee's "Habitat Prioritization." A list of stresses and sources of stress that were common to the two plans was compiled. Next, a list of Common Conservation Actions was generated to help guide conservation efforts.

The project concluded that there is a large number (236) of species of concern; that more data are needed on species distribution in the region; and that much of the entire project area is important for conservation efforts. The two

highest priority conservation actions are land protection via ownership or easements, and research.

Next steps in the project will be to produce a brochure for outreach efforts, to determine how to use this planning effort to strengthen other projects, how to use partnerships to achieve the goals set forth, how to raise the awareness of the need for wildlife conservation in the region, and how to use the products of the project to increase funding for land protection and research.

## 5B. Rocky Fork threatened by development

The 10,000-acre Rocky Fork area, located in Unicoi County near Erwin and Greeneville, lies within National Forest boundaries but is still privately owned and completely unprotected. It is subject to numerous threats, including purchase for development of an exclusive gated community. Rocky Fork's 4,700-foot ridgelines provide stunning scenic views, and the area contains more than 16 miles of blue-ribbon trout streams (see NL270 ¶2D for other features).

The Southern Appalachian Highland Conservancy (SAHC), the Appalachian Trail Conference, and other groups are engaged in a multi-pronged effort to obtain funding to protect this outstanding area. Depending on the FY'08 Interior Appropriation (see NL273 ¶4A and ¶9A, this NL), \$7 million for Rocky Fork land acquisition may become available from the LWCF. The Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund has awarded a \$6 million grant. Foundation money and individual contributions are also being sought.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** If you have an interest in Rocky Fork, contact Carl J. Silverstein, Executive Director of SAHC, at [carl@appalachian.org](mailto:carl@appalachian.org). Or visit [www.saverockyfork.org](http://www.saverockyfork.org).

## 5C. Mountaintop removal may be slowed by court decision

(Information from Earthjustice)

In March, a federal judge ruled for the plaintiffs in a lawsuit that charged the Army Corps of Engineers with violating the Clean Water Act by granting permits for mountaintop removal (MTR) mining. This type of mining dumps tons of overburden into headwater streams, and causes flooding and rockslides that destroy properties downstream. By the government's own (conservative) estimates, by 2002, MTR had destroyed an area the size of Delaware and had permanently buried 1,200 miles of streams.

The judge's ruling requires the Corps of Engineers to reevaluate its practice of rubberstamping permission for MTR. More than 600 pending mining permits in Appalachia (including Tennessee) will be affected. A New

York Times editorial stated: "... a federal judge has inspired hopes that this destruction can be halted ... The greater hope is that the government can be persuaded to stop the practice altogether." An Op-Ed contributor to the New York Times (Erik Reece, 5/5/07) suggested that a carbon tax be levied on Appalachian coal bought and burned by utility companies, and that this tax should be used to finance rebuilding of topsoil, reforestation, and resuscitation of communities in Appalachia.

## 5D. Meeting on proposed Lighthouse Lodge in Norris Dam State Park

Background, from NL273 ¶4C  
The "Lighthouse" convention center and hotel complex in Norris Dam SP is a development promoted by, among others, the Campbell County Commission. The project will supposedly include a hotel, restaurant, wedding chapel, ice rink, fake waterfall, 70' lighthouse, and tram to the marina. The public land on which it would be located was conveyed from TVA to the Park with an easement that requires that TVA approve any plans in writing. Furthermore, only the State Park can propose plans to TVA. Thus, the position that will be taken by TDEC (of which State Parks is a Division) is critical.

Meeting report by Sandra Goss. There was standing room only at the June 25 meeting held by Campbell County officials to discuss the proposed Lighthouse Lodge at Norris Dam. Of the more than 80 attendees, the vast majority were visibly and audibly opposed to the project.

Presentations were made by lodge folks, including the engineering company, Barge Waggoner, the hotel management company, and the landscaper.

There were some new developments in these presentations. Among these were plans for the lodge building to be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified; for the lighthouse height to be 30 feet; and for the number of rooms to be 77, rather than the 100+ originally proposed.

A TDEC representative said that the state will have to see if a change in the Norris Dam State Park Management Plan is warranted to provide for the new accommodations. This is important and might provide another opportunity for comment.

TCWP has submitted comments opposing the project, as have a number of TCWP members and sister organizations. Thanks to every one of your efforts on this.

## 5E. Tenn. voters support expenditures to conserve natural resources

Results of a poll of 600 registered Tennessee voters, conducted in February, indicate support for the state's natural resources, even if this

requires expenditures. [The polling firm was Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Assoc.]

- The proposal to issue \$82 million in state bonds to help preserve 124,000 acres in the Cumberland Mountains (see ¶1, this NL) was supported by 79% (41% strongly, 38% somewhat). The support was roughly equal in all parts of the state.
- When asked whether they would support additional funding to protect Tennessee's land, water, and wildlife if doing so required a small increase in taxes, support was 52%, which grew to 65% (30% strongly, 35% somewhat) after they had heard arguments from supporters and opponents. As to amounts, 53%, 63%, and 71% were willing to pay, respectively, \$75, \$25, and \$5 per year.
- The frequency by which preservation or protection of various resources was rated extremely or very important was as follows:  
Sources of drinking water, 94%  
Water quality in streams, 85%  
Farmland, 73%  
Forests, 72%  
Fish and wildlife habitat, 66%  
State parks, 66%  
Natural areas, 64%

## 5F. Organization news: capsules

- Friends of the Cumberland Trail, a 501(c)(3) organization, has recently been formed to support Tennessee's "linear" state park. The 300-mile Cumberland Trail, will traverse 11 counties. About 11,000 acres are already protected, and one-half of the projected trail is open to hiking. Visit [www.friendsofthecumberlandtrail.org](http://www.friendsofthecumberlandtrail.org) to find the numerous ways in which you can help create, enhance, and protect this park. Or contact Ardene Decker, President of the Friends group, at 865-856-7262, or [info@friendsofthecumberlandtrail.org](mailto:info@friendsofthecumberlandtrail.org).
- Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) has a new executive director, Chris Ford. Chris has already been incredibly active, working in the Legislature, strengthening ties with, and benefiting from the parent organization (League of Conservation Voters), attending training sessions, building relationships with the Tennessee environmental community, looking after funding, and reaching out to younger voters.
- The SE Regional Office of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), in Knoxville, has a new staffer, Bart Melton. One of the areas in which Bart will work is protection of the watershed of the Big South Fork from the cumulative effects of coal mining. Bart recently joined us in our visit to Sen. Corker's office regarding acquisition funds for the Obed Wild & Scenic River (¶1, this NL).

## 6. US FOREST SERVICE

### 6A. Lawsuit seeks to halt ORV damage in the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests

[Based on an AP story]

The US Forest Service (USFS) is being sued by a several groups (Trout Unlimited, the Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project, and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility), represented by the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), for violating the Clean Water Act through insufficient regulation of off-road vehicles (ORVs). ORVs are permitted on an excessive number of trails in both the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests, and erosion from these trails is polluting streams in the Tellico River watershed. The groups believe that the number of ORV trails must be significantly reduced, and that no ORVs at all should be allowed in the forests during the wettest season.

On June 28, plaintiffs gave notice to the USFS that a lawsuit would be filed after a 60-day waiting period.

### 6B. Bill introduced to provide permanent protection for National Forest roadless areas

Although the court has ruled that the Bush Administration's repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule was illegal (NL270 ¶7), the Rule is still threatened on a number of fronts, including an appeal by the Administration (NL273 ¶7A). What is clearly needed is to give the Rule the force of law, and this requires new legislation. The Congress recently moved a step in that direction.

A bipartisan bill introduced in May by Reps. Inslee (D-WA), Shays (R-CT), Miller (D-CA), Kirk (R-IL), Hinchey (D-NY) and Ramstad (R-MN) has to date been co-sponsored by about 140 House members of both parties. The companion bill in the Senate, introduced by Sens. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and John Warner (R-VA), has more than 16 co-sponsors.

These bills provide permanent protection for 58.5 million acres of inventoried roadless areas -- pristine forest land -- in 39 states. In Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest, there are 85,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas.

The National Forest System already contains over 380,000 miles of mapped roads and 60,000 miles of unmapped logging roads -- enough to circle the globe 17 times. Only 21% of these roads meet adequate road maintenance standards. The current road maintenance backlog is estimated at \$10 billion, with 16 states maintaining a backlog of \$100 million each.

A significant feature of the recently introduced Roadless Areas bill is that it includes 9.3 million acres of North America's only coastal



temperate rainforest – Alaska's Tongass National Forest. The Tongass was not included in the original (2001) Roadless Rule developed by the Clinton Administration, and it was not covered by the recent Court ruling that restored the Rule (NL270 ¶7). Over the years, timber sales have been proposed for the Tongass, but have been averted through the action of conservation groups. Most recently, plans to move forward on 9 timber sales in Tongass roadless areas this summer have been dropped, or at least delayed until the Forest issues an amended Land Management Plan.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Urge your representative and both senators (addresses on p.2) to co-sponsor the bipartisan National Forest Roadless Areas Conservation Act of 2007. This bill would protect the last remaining wild places in our national forests from most logging and road construction. Roadless forests are the sources of clean drinking water for a very large proportion of our population; they provide habitat for thousands of special plant and animal species; and they furnish recreational opportunities for millions of Americans.

## 7. TVA

### **7A. Strategic Plan now has more emphasis on decreasing greenhouse gases, but TVA's actions don't**

TVA's draft 10-year Strategic Plan revealed a preoccupation with producing ever more electric power that was trumping what should be the agency's objective of environmental stewardship. Consequently, TCWP submitted comments that concluded: "We challenge TVA to meet its specific prediction of a 2% annual growth in energy demand by setting specific green goals for meeting this demand. The increased demand should be met through energy efficiency and by addition of power sources that do not produce greenhouse gases" (NL273 ¶6A).

TCWP's comments were not the only ones that decried TVA's lack of emphasis on environmental stewardship. Six weeks ago, the TVA Board responded to this public pressure by vowing to become a national leader on energy efficiency in five years. They have also planned to increase TVA's clean energy generation.

So far, however, TVA's actions have not been in accord with these sentiments for taking a new direction. Instead of supporting efforts in the Senate to increase utilization of renewable energy, the agency opposed them. Specifically, TVA and its power distributors fought against the Bingaman amendment that would have required utility companies to obtain 15% of their

electricity from non-polluting, renewable sources by 2020 (¶8A, ¶9NL).

### **7B. Meeting planned on the upcoming Watts Bar Plan**

The Draft Watts Bar Land Management Plan was released in May 2005, but finalization of the Plan has been repeatedly delayed. A major delay was caused by the need to allow TVA to develop its Land Policy (NL271 ¶4A), and then to review the Watts Bar Plan for conformance with that Policy. Release of the revised Plan was expected for early July (NL273 ¶6B). This date was then pushed back a month to avoid confusion between the Land Management Plan and the EIS for the proposed restart of Unit 2 at the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant.

The final EIS for the Land Management Plan will come out the first week in August, with a 45-day comment period to follow. As planned earlier, TCWP and AFORR will co-sponsor an information session with TVA officials, but the meeting has had to be rescheduled for August 23. It will be held at 7 p.m. in the Craft Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center.

### **7C. TVA names Ombudsman**

TVA Senior Vice President of Corporate Responsibility & Diversity, Peyton Hairston, has been named as ombudsman for external TVA stakeholders. The ombudsman will give citizens an independent channel for reporting concerns and complaints about TVA activities that impact the public. He will also facilitate discussion and mediation of issues of concern to external stakeholders.

The ombudsman will determine if a complaint has merit and attempt to resolve it, working with the affected TVA organization. If this fails, he will present a proposed resolution to the CEO.

## 8. ENERGY BILL and GLOBAL WARMING

### **8A. Senate Energy Bill achieved a lot but needs strengthening** What the bill achieved

On June 21, the Senate, by a vote of 65 to 27 adopted a measure that will increase the corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standard of America's cars, trucks, and SUVs to 35 miles per gallon by 2020. This was the first substantial increase since 1975; the current CAFE standard is 25 mpg. The auto companies had easily defeated earlier attempts to raise the CAFE standards, but did not succeed this time. The measure still has to pass the House and be signed by the President. The House bill will, hopefully, close certain

unnecessary loopholes in the Senate bill that could undermine the new 35 mpg standard.

Proven technologies are available to meet the 35 mpg standard while maintaining size and acceleration of today's vehicles and improving safety. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), these technologies are estimated to add \$1,100 to the price of an average vehicle in 2019, but that investment would be recovered in less than 3 years of driving by the savings in fuel cost. In 2025, the decrease in greenhouse gas emissions will be equivalent to taking 50 million of today's vehicles off the road.

Other advances for clean, efficient energy contained in the Senate bill include, (a) significant expansion of biofuels production and requirements that vehicles be capable of running off biofuels (however, stronger safeguards are needed against global warming pollution generated in the production and use of biofuels -- §8C, below), (b) new appliance and lighting efficiency standards and (c) a requirement that the federal government accelerate use of efficient lighting in public buildings.

Another piece of good news is that the Senate rejected an attempt by Sen. Bunning (R-KY) to encourage conversion of coal into a liquid fuel. The expensive process for accomplishing this liquefaction produces nearly twice as much global-warming pollution per gallon of fuel as does the use of petroleum fuels. Moreover, as pointed out by Earthjustice, a largely ignored fact in the debate is that use of more coal also means more mining, and particularly mining such as mountaintop removal that has already devastated huge portions of Appalachia (see also §5C, this NL).

#### What the bill failed to do

A concerted effort to include a requirement for utilities to produce at least 15% (20% would have been better) of their electricity from clean, renewable sources failed because of obstruction by a minority, primarily a group of Republican senators from the South. Opposition by TVA and its power distributors (§7A, this NL) was a big factor in this outcome. Hopefully, enough public sentiment can support efforts to include a renewable-energy requirement for utilities in the House bill. To date, 23 states and the District of Columbia have already adopted renewable energy standards. Clearly, a national standard would be one of the most powerful solutions to global warming.

During the energy debate, Tennessee's senators talked about money that would leave the state if we were to use the required amount of clean, renewable energy. Yet, most of the 40 million tons of coal that TVA burns each year comes from outside Tennessee. According to SACE, one of several scenarios that meets the proposed standard would be 1,100 megawatts of

biomass, produced by crops such as switchgrass grown by local Tennessee farmers, in combination with just four wind farms of 40 turbines each.

Sen. Alexander believes that wind power doesn't make sense in Tennessee. "The only places in Tennessee suitable . . . to generate any electricity at all are our most scenic mountaintops from Chattanooga to the Tri-Cities," he writes. "Not only do we need to preserve this vista for future generations, but our tourist industry knows that vista generates jobs today - visitors come to see the Great Smoky Mountains, not the wind turbines." Sen. Alexander has a point, and he has, in fact been an effective advocate for increasing visibility in the Smokies by cleaning up air pollution (e.g., NL273 §7C). Fortunately for the Smokies and the Cherokee National Forest is the absence of coal from this mountain chain. But elsewhere (e.g., in the Cumberlands), one needs to ask whether mountaintop removal for coal mining is preferable to wind turbines.

#### **5B. The upcoming House energy bill needs to be stronger than the Senate bill**

The Senate Energy bill needs to be strengthened on several scores. (a) Loopholes need to be removed from the CAFE standards. (b) A renewable energy standard for electric power generation must be included. (c) Provisions must be added to ensure that the production and use of alternative fuels generate few or no greenhouse gases (see §8C, below).

The Union of Concerned Scientists provides some specifics in their recommendations for what a sound House energy package must contain:

\* The Fuel Economy Reform Act (H.R. 1506). The Senate's 35 mile per gallon average fuel economy standard for cars and trucks by 2020 could be undermined by unneeded loopholes. The House should lock in this target and reject any weaker standards.

\* A renewable energy standard (H.R. 969) that requires 20% of our electricity to come from clean, renewable sources by 2020.

\* A low-carbon fuel standard that measures the environmental and health effects of all alternative fuels and ensures they contribute to reducing global warming pollution.

A strong Energy Bill is a needed first step toward ensuring an economy-wide cut in global warming pollution of at least 80% by mid century—the goal we need to reach in order to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Urge your representative (addresses on p.2) to support an energy package that will strengthen environmental and consumer benefits. (a) There must be no loopholes to fuel-economy standards of at least 35 mpg by 2020. (b) A renewable energy standard for utilities

must be included. (c) Production and use of alternative fuels must generate few or no greenhouse gases. Our foremost objectives should be the curbing of global warming.

### 8C. Even more thoughts on biofuels

In past Newsletters (NL273 ¶8F, NL272 ¶8C), we have extensively discussed the possible problems with the production and use of various kinds of biofuels. In the push to replace gasoline from the Middle East, the other objective—to reduce greenhouse gases—is often forgotten. Some kinds of biofuels, specifically corn-based ethanol, are worse than gasoline. The agriculture for corn-ethanol production (use of machinery, fertilizers, pesticides) is very energy consumptive. The fuel demand drives up the price of corn, impacting poor people across the globe.

A Bingaman amendment to the Senate energy committee bill required production of biofuels with at least 20% less greenhouse gas pollution than emitted by gasoline. The fate of this amendment in the final bill is uncertain at this time.

Another factor to be considered is the impact of biofuels production on the landscape. The upcoming SAMAB (Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere) October conference (see ¶12, below) has a session entitled "Biofuel Demand and the Southern Appalachian Landscape." Papers to be presented will discuss what a growing demand for biofuels means for land use, farm sustainability, and the ecology of the Southern Appalachians.

[The following information from NL273 ¶8F is worth repeating.] Mandating an increase in fuel-efficiency standards could be more effective than switching to corn ethanol. An analysis by Lester R. Brown, president of the Earth Policy Institute, finds that increasing automobile fuel efficiency by just 20% would be equivalent to converting the entire US grain harvest into ethanol. If the gas-mileage provisions of the Senate bill (¶8A, above) remain in the final energy bill, the CAFE standard will have been increased by about 40%, not just 20%.

### 8D. Bush's new stance on global warming is not all that new

(Based on NY Times articles of May 26, June 1, and June 4)

For the meeting of the Group-of-8 industrialized nations, Germany, backed by Britain and Japan proposed cutting global greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2050, and these nations were expected to be joined by Italy, France, and probably others. The USA, however, expressed "fundamental opposition" to this proposal in what the NY Times called "unusually harsh language," leaving many European diplomats furious.

Just a few days later, on June 30, Pres. Bush announced in Washington that he would help, beginning this fall, to convene a series of meetings of the world's 10-15 biggest emitters of greenhouse gases (including India and China) to develop a "global strategy" for dealing with climate change. He expressed the general hope that the nations would voluntarily establish nonbinding targets.

What was new was his statement that he now finds the evidence for a link between climate change and human activity to be increasingly persuasive, and that he acknowledges the need for real reduction in greenhouse gases. However, he considers regulatory restraints unnecessary and is convinced that technology holds most of the answers. By contrast, most experts regard measures such as mandated caps on emissions to be necessary conditions for technological progress. And, unless the USA adopts limits on domestic emissions, it will not be taken seriously as the leader in any climate meetings.

Pres. Bush's plan to convene meetings of 10-15 nations this fall is seen by some as an attempt to circumvent or derail the second phase of the Kyoto Protocol talks, which are scheduled to take place in Bali near the end of this year. The current Kyoto timetables will expire in 2012, and the Bali talks, leading to a renewed formalized treaty, are seen as essential for developing a continued and more stringent global approach and for assuring accountability.

### 8E. Global-warming capsules

- While weather forecasts are rarely controversial, the broader topic of climate change is. The Weather Channel is taking global warming head-on. Dr. Heidi Cullen, who hosts the weekly "Forecast Earth" (formerly named "The Climate Code"), makes viewers see climate connected to weather. The network is also training its meteorologists so that they can discuss long-term trends as well as 5-day forecasts.
- Trees are carbon sinks: they remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. Delta Airlines has started a fund to offset carbon emissions generated by its flights by means of tree planting. Online customers may donate \$5.50 for a domestic round-trip and \$11 for an international round-trip to the tree-planting fund. Delta has also pledged to plant a tree for each of its 47,000 employees.
- A major contributor to global warming is the clearing of tropical forests. Worldwide, these forests are being cleared at the rate of 40 football fields-worth each minute. Additionally, some of the clearing (particularly for agriculture) entails burning, which puts large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere.

## 9. OTHER NATIONAL ISSUES

### 9A. Bush budget drastically reduces LWCF, but Congress is trying to restore it

The Bush budget presented to Congress has drastic reductions in proposed appropriations for the Land & Water Conservation Fund, the main vehicle for land acquisition by various natural resource agencies. In the table below (from *Common Ground*, vol. 18, No. 2) numbers are rounded to nearest tenth of million dollars. While the Bush budget is compared with the FY07 budget (last column), it is instructive also to compare it with the FY06 budget.

Agency	Final FY'06	Final FY'07	Bush FY'08	Change from '07
<b>LWCF land acquisition spending</b>				
BLM	8.6	8.6	1.6	-81%
FWS	28.0	28.0	18.0	-36%
NPS				
State	29.6	29.6	0	-100%
Federal	17.4	34.4	22.5	-35%
USFS	43.0	8.8	17.0	+93%
Total	126.6	109.5	59.1	-46%
<b>Forest Legacy Program</b>				
	56.5	9.3	29.3	+216%

Note that the total LWCF appropriation requested by the Bush Administration is less than \$60 million. The recently passed House Interior Appropriations bill, however, includes more than \$200 million for the LWCF.

### 9B. Interior Appropriations Bill passes House

Altogether, the House Interior Appropriation amounted to \$27.6 billion (the bill includes record funding for national parks), considerably above what the President asked for, and thus possibly subject to a veto. The House saved money by limiting spending on road-building in the Tongass National Forest, our largest and most magnificent temperate rain forest (also, see ¶6B, above).

The Senate has yet to finalize an Interior Appropriation. It is to be hoped that good features of the House bill are retained, and that Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AK) is unable to restore the Tongass road-building money.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Contact Senators Alexander and Corker (addresses on p. 2) and urge them to support LWCF and Forest Legacy Appropriations at least as large as those in the House bill. Also urge them to oppose funding for roads in the Tongass NF and for oil and gas development in sensitive areas of the Rockies.

### 9C. Bald Eagle recovery: The Endangered Species Act has worked!

On June 28, the bald eagle was officially removed from the federal list of endangered and threatened species. In 1967, due to habitat destruction and the widespread use of DDT, there were only 417 breeding pairs in the continental United States. Now, thanks to protections under the Endangered Species Act, there are nearly 10,000 breeding pairs, with some each state.

Because there is some worry about the consequences of removal from the list of threatened species, eagle populations will be monitored closely for the next five years. Property rights groups had hoped that the bird's removal from the list would free up eagle habitat for residential and commercial development. It is not clear to what extent this will be the case, since the birds will continue to enjoy the protections provided by an older law, The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

### 9D. Clean Water Protection Act to keep mining waste out of streams

(Information from SOCM)

In 2002, the Army Corps of Engineers and EPA changed the definition of waste in a way that allowed mining operators to dump overburden into streams. The effects of mountaintop removal coal mining have already buried 1,200 miles of streams in Appalachia (see also ¶5C and ¶8A, this NL). Recently, Representatives Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Christopher Shays (R-CT) introduced the Clean Water Protection Act, which expressly forbids this practice. Following a visit to Washington by a group of coalfield citizens, the number of cosponsors of this bill grew to 79, but more are needed.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Urge your Representative (address p.2) to co-sponsor the Clean Water Protection Act of 2007 (sponsored by Reps. Pallone and Shays).

## 10. THE OAK RIDGE AREA

### DOE releases Assessment on ED-6 (east of the BORCE)

[Contributed by Sandra Goss and Frank Hensley]  
DOE recently released the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) of the conveyance of Parcel ED-6 to the City of Oak Ridge. ED-6, which consisted of 362 acres, has been of interest to TCWP because of its location, east of the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE) and between the Turnpike and the North Boundary Trail.

Some concerns expressed in TCWP's comments on the Draft EA have now been addressed in a positive manner in the Final EA, and we

commend DOE for making the following adjustments:

- 1) The proposed boundary road between BORCE and ED-6 was eliminated.
- 2) The western boundary of ED-6 was changed so as to follow the natural land contours. This reduced the acreage from 362 to 336 acres and left significant deep forest for the BORCE.

Property transfer involving ED-6 was addressed in the 2002 study by the Oak Ridge Land Use Planning Focus Group. The study covered only 5,000 acres (excluding Horizon Center and East Tennessee Technology Park) of the 30,000 acre Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). This piecemeal approach ignores the cumulative impact of individual land transfers on the natural resources of the ORR and surrounding lands and waters, including the Breeder Reactor Site and the BORCE. It is imperative that a *Reservation-wide* Land Management Plan that involves public participation be undertaken immediately. Such a plan, recommended by the 2002 Focus Group, would also ensure that current and future research that requires large areas of unspoiled land, such as climate research, can be conducted on the ORR.

## 11. TCWP NEWS

### 11A. Nominating Committee welcomes your input

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Our Nominating Committee, a trio of dedicated TCWP folks (Jenny Freeman, Jo Ann Thompson, and Lind a LaForest) is starting work on the slate of candidates for TCWP's 2008 Officers and Directors. The Committee members would greatly welcome suggestions from the membership.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** If you have suggestions about people who would make good members of the TCWP Board of Directors, contact Executive Director, Sandra, at 865-522-3809, or at [sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:sandra@sandrakgoss.com). She will forward your message to the Nominating Committee.

### 11B. Volunteer Opportunities: we need YOU!

TCWP is as good as its volunteers. Even though we have a talented, super-hard-working, dedicated, intelligent, personable (and many other adjectives!) Executive Director, we depend on volunteer effort for much of what we accomplish.

There are numerous volunteer opportunities in TCWP, ranging from one-time jobs to sustained effort, and from physical to intellectual tasks. Help is needed on the Sevice Committee, the ad hoc Water Issues groups, the Mailing Committee, and the Trails/Wild Areas Work

Crews. Whatever your talents - or even if you haven't figured yours out yet - we need you!

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** For more information about how you talents can help, call Sandra at 865-522-3809. A visit to our web site, [www.tcwp.org](http://www.tcwp.org), may also be informative.

### 11C. Upcoming activities

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]  
[For additional information on any of the listed events, contact Sandra at 865-522-3809, or at [sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:sandra@sandrakgoss.com)

#### Creek Adventure for all ages - Saturday, July 21

Explore the wonders of pristine Clifty Creek near Harriman at a free event that provides opportunities to hike, wade, and learn stream ecology. With help from TVA aquatic biologists, participants can catch bugs, crawdads, and colorful fish, and enjoy the natural beauty of a Tennessee stream with a rocky bluff and wildflowers. The hiking will be limited in distance and optional.

Participants can meet at 9:00 a.m. for carpooling in the old Food City parking lot on S. Illinois Ave. near the Oak Ridge Turnpike, or at 10:00 a.m. at Clifty Creek. Bring 1) old sneakers to wear in the creek, 2) lunch, 3) bug spray and 4) sun block. This will be an especially good outing for families with children. Waders will be available on site if you don't want to get wet. We expect to return about 1:30 pm. For driving directions or other information, visit <http://www.tcwp.org/>, or call 865-522-3809.

#### Melton Lake Tree-identification outing -- Saturday, August 18

Renowned area botanist and TCWP Board member Larry Pounds will lead an early-morning tree-identification outing along Melton Lake Greenway. We'll walk 1 to 1.5 miles on an 8 ft.-wide asphalt trail along the western shore of the lake. The outing is co-sponsored by Greenways Oak Ridge. Participants should meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot across from the River Run entrance.

#### Pigeon River Rafting Trip - Saturday, August 18

In what looks as if it might become a tradition, TCWP is once again able to offer an attractive rate for a rafting trip down the Pigeon River. The trip, on a section of Class III/IV water, will be on rafts that seat 7 people plus a guide. Each rafter will be provided a helmet, lifejacket, and paddle, and must be at least 8 years old, or weigh at least 70 pounds. An orientation session will precede the rafting experience.

This trip is made possible through the generosity of Davy Hansen and Wildwater Ltd., and is arranged by TCWP member Mike Kohlenberger. Advance reservations, by August 10, are required. The cost is \$17 per person, which in-

cludes a tip or the guide. Call or e-mail Sandra to reserve seats on a raft.

### Review of Watts Bar Management Plan – August 23

TCWP and AFORR will co-sponsor an information session with TVA officials to review the revised Watts Bar Draft Management Plan. This session, originally scheduled for July 26 (NL273 ¶6B), had to be rescheduled for August 23 (¶7B, this NL). It will be held at 7 p.m. in the Craft Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center.

### Program on Birds of Prey – Thursday, September 13

This program will be presented by the Clinch River Raptor Center at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Center Craft Room. The program is free and open to the public. Six non-releasable birds (a red-tailed hawk, a great horned owl, two screech owls, and two kestrels) are used in the Center's educational outreach programs.

The Clinch River Raptor Center, initiated in 1984 as a part of the Anderson County Schools ecology curriculum, uses student and community volunteers to rehabilitate injured birds of prey. Located at Clinton Middle School, the center houses injured birds such as great horned owls, barred owls, screech owls, red-tailed hawks, red-shouldered hawks, Cooper's hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, and American kestrels.

### Exotic extirpation on National Public Lands Day – Saturday, September 29

Over the years, working with TVA staff, TCWP volunteers have replaced exotic invasives with native plants in the Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area near Elza Gate. This year, again, we will celebrate National Public Lands Day with our traditional removal of exotic plants. Assemble at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot/picnic area south of the Turnpike (Hiway 95) just east of the Melton Lake traffic light. Some tools will be available, but bring gloves, and loppers if you have them. After your morning's work, you may enjoy a complementary pizza lunch at noon in the picnic area.

### **11D. We thank our volunteers!**

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Thanks and a tip of the hat to the numerous volunteers who helped without efforts over the past several weeks.

Manning the Secret City Festival booth: Virginia Dale, Charlie Hensley, Frank Hensley, Hal Smith and Becky Van Dyke.

Assembling NL273 in May: Carol Grametbauer, Frank Hensley, Charlie Klabunde, Dick Raridon, Hal Smith, Helen and Ken Warren.

Producing the booklet "BED WILD & SCENIC RIVER IN PERIL: Cindy Kendrick and Lee Russell (writing and layout); Frank Hensley

(map); Charlie Klabunde (digitalizing photographs); Jimmy Groton (conversion to PDF format).

Thanks also to those of you who called, wrote, faxed, and e-mailed in response to our various e-mail alerts and Newsletter action calls. Working together, we are making a positive difference in our natural world.

### **11E. New tax benefit for charitable givers who make withdrawals from tax-deferred accounts**

[Contributed by TCWP Treasurer, Charlie Klabunde]

A relatively new tax provision that currently expires at the end of 2007 allows those who are withdrawing money from IRA's, SEP's, and 401K's to make charitable contributions straight from the investment firm, with no tax penalty incurred or due on the withdrawn amount. One can instruct one's investment firm to make the donation to an approved charity. This can be done by the investment firm, and the contribution is not part of one's taxable income. If one is over age 70½ and must make at least a minimum withdrawal each year, such charitable transfers can count toward the required withdrawal. TCWP is such an approved charity.

### **11F. Special mentions of TCWP members**

Linda LaFores

This is the second consecutive Newsletter mention for Linda, who was TCWP Executive Director in the 1990s and now serves on the TCWP Activities Committee. Soon after she became head veterinarian at the McArthur Animal Hospital (NL273 ¶10C), the business was sold. Linda has now started a veterinary house-call business for Oak Ridge and the surrounding area. Such a practice is ideal for people with healthy pets who wish to avoid the inconvenience of taking their pets to a veterinarian's office. General health care provided in house calls includes vaccinations, certain testing, heartworm prevention, deworming, etc. Linda can be reached at 300-8910 or at [lnvclonthehof@gmail.com](mailto:lnvclonthehof@gmail.com).

Susan Donnelly

Susan has for sometime been ably serving as TCWP's Trail Steward for Oak Ridge's 11-mile North Ridge Trail (which TCWP developed and maintains). We always knew she was a great runner, but now she has got national exposure through being on the cover of UltraRunning, July/August 2007. The caption reads: Susan Donnelly at the Massanutten 100 Mile. If you want to see it, visit <http://www.ultrarunning.com/ultra/issues/>

Rich Norby

Rich Norby, who, along with his wife, Councilwoman Ellen Smith, has been active in AFORR and TCWP, has recently been named a UT-Battelle

Corporate Fellow. Rich is science team leader for Experimental Ecology at ORNL.

#### Cindy Kendrick

During her three-year term (2003 through 2005) as president, Cindy greatly invigorated TCWP, and she continues to serve most actively on the TCWP Board. In her "other" life, working at ORNL, Cindy has recently changed jobs. Afterably leading the Concerns Program for 3 years, she left that program in May to join the Technology Transfer and Economic Development Directorate where she is providing assistance to the important User Facilities Program.

### **11 G. Community Shares Workplace Campaigns to kick off late Sept. 5; TCWP can benefit**

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Community Shares, a federation of community groups that work together to raise money cooperatively for their programs, will begin their workplace campaigns this fall. TCWP is a member group of Community Shares, and benefits when you make charitable gifts to Community Shares.

Look for opportunities at your workplace to give to Community Shares and please remember TCWP. If your workplace does not have Community Shares as a giving option, ask your human services department to include it. For more information about Community Shares, see <http://www.communitysharesin.org> or call 865-522-1604.

There will be a campaign kick-off reception on Wednesday, September 5 from 4-6:30 at the Laurel Theatre in the Fort Sanders neighborhood of Knoxville. All member groups will have information about their organizations. TCWP members are invited to attend.

## **12. CALENDAR; RESOURCES**

### **•• EVENTS CALENDAR**

(For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra K. Goss, 865-522-3809, [sdra@psandrakgoss.com](mailto:sdra@psandrakgoss.com))

- July 21, Clifty Creek Adventure (§11C, this NL).
- August 10, Deadline for Pigeon River registration (§11C, this NL).
- August 17, Deadline for SAMAB abstracts (see Oct 22-24, below).
- August 18, Tree-identification outing (§11C, this NL).
- August 18, Pigeon River raft trip (§11C, this NL).
- August 23, Meeting on Watts Bar Plan (§11C, this NL).
- September 1, Historic Rugby Pilgrimage (Call 423-628-2441).

- September 13, Birds of Prey program (§11C, this NL).
- September 29, Worthington Cemetery exotics removal (§11C, this NL).
- October 13, Swain County celebration of the demise of the North Shore Road (§12B, this NL).
- Oct. 22-24, SAMAB Conference, Johnson City, TN. Call 865-974-5912, or visit [www.samab.org](http://www.samab.org). Also, see §18C, this NL, and RESOURCES, below.
- November 10, Cedar Barren work day (details in NL275)

### **•• RESOURCES**

- Thinking of buying a hybrid? Goto the Union of Concerned Scientists' web site [www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org). In their discussion of Climate Choices, the UCS Hybrid Center provides detailed comparisons of hybrid technologies, reviews, and comments from current hybrid owners around the nation.
- This year's SAMAB conference at Johnson City, TN, has sessions on stream-flow needs, stream restoration, biofuels and landscape, invasive plant management, and much more. See Calendar, October 22-24.
- The University of Tennessee at Knoxville will host a conference on Energy & Responsibility, April 10-12, 2008. The environmental consequences of energy production, distribution and consumption, and energy policy invite consideration of the ethical implications of both practice and policy. This conference invites ethicists, legal theorists, energy policy makers, energy enterprises, and environmental activists to engage in a conversation about ethics and responsibility in the contested terrain of energy and the environment. The deadline for submissions is October 1, 2007. For details, visit [http://isse.utk.edu/energy\\_and\\_responsibility/](http://isse.utk.edu/energy_and_responsibility/).
- *A Homeowner's Guide to Clean and Efficient Energy in East Tennessee*, has been published by SACE (Southern Alliance for Clean Energy). The suggestions are applicable to most homes in the Southeast. You can download the report from the "Resources" section of [www.cleaneenergy.org](http://www.cleaneenergy.org), or call Gil Melear-Hough at 865-637-6055, ext. 15.
- *The Wild Fire Reader: A Century of Failed Forest Policy*, edited by George Wuerthner, contains thought-provoking essays on the USFS's policy of suppressing natural fires. Various conclusions are possible, even from the same research, and the book contains a variety of voices on the subject. Published by Island Press, the book is in the TCWP library.

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