



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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

8. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Obed appropriation	US senators and rep.	"Support Obed appropriation!" – HIGH PRIORITY
1A	Land & Water Conservation Fund	Your Members of Congress	"Strongly support reauthorization of LWCF!"
2C	Wilderness in Cherokee NF	Laura Hodge	Help out with Strategic Communications Plan
6A	Community Shares	Sandra Goss	Attend the Campaign Kick-off and Brewers Jam
6C	TCWP Events	Sandra Goss	Go on a hike, root out invasive plants
6H	Kroger Community Rewards	Kroger	Enroll to help TCWP's finances

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Pres. Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111 (comments);
456-1414 (switchbd); Fax 456-2461
www.whitehouse.gov/contact

Governor Bill Haslam
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243-9872
615-741-2001; Fax 615-532-9711
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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Haslam
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bob Corker
Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-0566
e-mail: <http://corker.senate.gov/public/>
Local: 865-637-4180 (FAX 637-9886)
800 Market St., Suite 121, Knoxville 37902

Sen. Lamar Alexander:
Ph: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3398
e-mail: <http://alexander.senate.gov/public/>
Local: 865-545-4253 (FAX 545-4252)
800 Market St., Suite 112, Knoxville 37902

Rep. Chuck Fleischmann:
Phone: 202-225-3271
FAX: 202-225-3494
Local (O.R.): 865-576-1976
<https://fleischmann.house.gov/contact-me>

To call any Repr. 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>
With mail to Congress still slow following the anthrax scare, consider faxing, phoning, and other modes of communication.

You can find contact information in our Political Guide. It's on TCWP's website (<http://www.tcwp.org>), as are some current action calls.

You can also choose to receive e-alerts by contacting Sandra Goss (see below).

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 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, 865-583-3967. Sandra@sandrakoss.com

Newsletter editor: Lee Russell, lianerussell@comcast.net

TCWP website: <http://www.tcwp.org>.

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning

Invite you

Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 31, 2015

Featuring

Carol Evans, Executive Director,
Legacy Parks Foundation
900 Volunteer Landing Lane, Knoxville, TN

Registration: 9:30

Presentation and Brief Business Meeting: 10:00

Lunch: 11:30

Hikes: 12:40

A moderate hike and an easy hike will allow exploration of the Urban Wilderness protected by Legacy Parks.

Registration Fee: \$15, includes delicious lunch
865-583-3967 or *sandra@sandrakgoss.com*

Join our carpool/caravan from Oak Ridge at Gold's Gym/Books-a-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's), to leave at 8:45 a.m.

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING NOMINEES for OFFICERS and DIRECTORS for 2016

PRESIDENT: Jimmy Groton - Works on environmental issues (wetlands, threatened and endangered species management and exotic species control) with a Knoxville environmental consulting firm. Worked for National Park Service for six years. Has M.S. in forestry; B.S. in natural resources. TCWP Board member since 1993; President 1999-2002, 2006-2014; currently Secretary for Emory River Watershed Association and East Tennessee Whitewater Club and board member of Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council; served on O.R. EQAB for 18 years. Active on trails, water, program, Obed, and Cherokee National Forest issues. Enjoys hiking, paddling, and being outdoors.

VICE PRESIDENT: Mark Bevelhimer - Aquatic ecologist/fish biologist in the Environmental Sciences Division of ORNL for over 20 years. Has conducted research on the effects of environmental stressors on aquatic ecosystems and contributed to environmental impact assessments for many energy projects. Loves whitewater kayaking and also enjoys hiking, camping, fishing and mentoring youth and young adults.

SECRETARY: Carol Grametbauer - Retired public affairs manager for Lockheed Martin and BWXT Y-12. TCWP member since the early 1970s. Chairs the Program Committee and produces TCWP's annual Political Guide. Has served as one of TCWP's representatives to the Alliance for the Cumberlands. An amateur naturalist, values wilderness, enjoys hiking and the outdoors.

TREASURER: Tim Bigelow - Electrical Engineer working on fusion energy at ORNL. Serves on the Program Committee and as the Oak Ridge Barrens Steward. Interested in land preservation, exotic species control, hiking, camping. Also an active member of Smoky Mountains Hiking Club and supporter of Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation, Foothills Land Conservancy, Cherokee Forest Voices.

DIRECTORS

Susan Donnelly - Causal analyst at Y-12 National Security Complex; small business owner of Susan Donnelly Life Coach LLC. Has an MS in Planning, with concentration on wilderness recreation planning. Longtime TCWP member. Grew up playing in the woods and never outgrew it. Runs 100-mile ultramarathons on trails around the country and world, and trains on local trails. Created the Cumberland Trail 50k race. Current member of the Cumberland Trail Conference. Former steward of the North Ridge Trail for TCWP.

Larry Pounds - Botanical consultant, particularly for TVA and ORNL. Ph.D. in plant ecology. Member of the TCWP Program Committee and Tennessee Native Plant Society.

Liane (Lee) Russell - Retired from ORNL, but continues on guest status, writing up results of past genetics research. TCWP founder; Vice Pres. 1966; Pres. 1967-70, 1986-87; Board member and Newsletter author and editor, 1966-present. Instrumental in authorization and implementation of Big South Fork NRRRA and Obed WSR; also active in strip-mine, wilderness, and public-lands issues.

Michele Thornton - GIS Analyst at ORNL with the Environmental Sciences Division. Master's degree in Biology with an emphasis in stream ecology. BS in Biological Sciences. Taught secondary science in public schools in Michigan and natural science programs in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. Michele spends her free time hiking, biking, and shuttling and volunteering within her children's various interests.

Hannah Tippett - Attorney with Mostoller, Stulberg, Whitfield & Allen in Oak Ridge. Born and raised in Malawi, Africa, Hannah has loved nature from a young age. She has researched the effects of mountaintop removal mining on local communities and on the environment. Enjoys running, biking, hiking, camping, and basically just being outdoors.

Warren Webb - animal ecologist/wildlife biologist retired from the Environmental Sciences Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he worked for 25 years. A student of nature, conservation, and the outdoors since early youth, he has conducted research in forest ecology, served as ORNL wildlife management coordinator, and participated in environmental impact analyses of many energy technologies.

2016 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chuck Coutant, Chair; Don Barger, Sam Suffern

Editor's Note. Newsletter editor Liane Russell was hospitalized in mid July, immediately after completing the July newsletter. Following two surgeries and several weeks at Methodist Medical Center, she is now recuperating at West Hills Health & Rehab. This newsletter has been produced through the collaboration of Executive Director Sandra Goss, TCWP members and board members, and various TCWP friends. Next month we'll recognize all those who helped with this effort; in the meantime we wish Lee a continued strong recovery, and look forward to having her back home soon.

1. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

1A. *LWCF Needs to be Renewed!*

[From The Wilderness Society]

At press time, the Congress had not extended the life of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (NL 322 ¶4). Signed into law in 1964, the fund comes from offshore oil and gas royalties, and is set to expire at the end of this month.

Companies that drill for (publicly owned) oil and gas on the Outer Continental Shelf off our shores pay a portion of their revenues into the fund, and that money goes into a trust to acquire "inholdings"—pieces of private land within the borders of national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and other protected sites. When the federal government buys inholdings, it can make a piece of public land "whole" and simpler to manage as a complete landscape. This makes it easier to protect wildlife habitat and make the place accessible for outdoor recreation—all without relying on taxpayer money.

This is the fund from which Obed Wild and Scenic River appropriations will come. The Obed is number 2 on the NPS priority acquisition list (NL 321, ¶1). This upper ranking has been a long time coming; it's imperative that the LWCF funding be continued to protect the Obed and other important places across the country.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Please contact your Congressman and both senators, especially Senators Alexander and Corker and Rep. Fleischmann (contact information on p. 2 and in Political Guide). E-mail, phone, or write a letter, strongly urging their support for the Obed WSR appropriation. Tell them what a wonderful resource the Obed is, and that, after nearly 40 years, more than one-fifth is still unprotected and is increasingly threatened.

1B. *More Acres in Obed Wild and Scenic River Boundaries Conserved*

In late July, purchases were finalized that will protect an additional 67 acres in the Obed Wild and Scenic River boundaries, a top priority for Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning. Thanks to a conservation buyer, 60 acres on the Obed were purchased fee simple. TCWP purchased a 7-acre scenic easement that adjoins the 60 acres.

The scenic easement is bluff-top property that is critical to maintaining the Obed's primitive viewshed.

Negotiations for these purchases got underway in early 2014. Late TCWP Board member Frank Hensley worked hard on this project. His geniality and ability to get along with most everybody, as well as his understanding of land, acreage, topography, and the Obed River gorge were key to the successful closing of this purchase.

These properties will be held until the National Park Service can purchase them. Such purchases prevent development and are an important tool in protecting the Obed WSR's unique qualities.

1C. *Nature Conservancy Adds to Big South Fork*

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

In August, The Nature Conservancy purchased a small but important tract of land near the southern end of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, close to the Honey Creek Loop. One of the tract's special features is a sandstone double arch, one of only three double arches in the Big South Fork. The tract also includes a large American Indian rockhouse known as Potter's Cave.

TNC purchased the property from a family who wanted the property protected for future generations. The property is known as the "Gil and Summerfield Johnston Preserve" in honor of Gil and Summerfield K. Johnston Jr., a Chattanooga couple who have worked closely with the conservancy on numerous land conservation projects. The Nature Conservancy plans to sell the tract to the National Park Service as an addition to the Big South Fork Park once federal funding is available.

The Big South Fork contains 115 sandstone arches, windows, and chimneys. The park has more natural arches than any park east of the Mississippi River, and is second only to Arches National Park, in Utah, in the entire National Park Service system.

1D. *Special Mussels Released in Big South Fork*

[From Morgan County News]

Three species of endangered mussels were released into the Big South Fork River last month. Through the joint efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kentucky State Wildlife Grant Program, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, and Kentucky Center for Mollusk Conservation, more than 100 juvenile mussels were released in the Kentucky section of the BSF. The mussels were Cumberlandian Combshell, Tan Riffleshell, and Littlewing Pearly Mussel.

The National Park Service and partner agencies will monitor these mussels over the next several years. This will provide information about the quality of the water as well as the mussel populations.

2. TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. *Cumberland Trail Conference Update*

[Contributed by Carol & Gary Grametbauer]

A great deal has happened regarding the Cumberland Trail Conference since our last update in July 2014 (NL316, ¶2A). After joining the CTC board in December, Rob Weber (who was the CTC's original executive director) was elected chair in January 2015, along with officers Frank Jamison, vice chair; and Carolyn Miller, secretary. At that time, the board also approved a proposed reorganization. New committees are focusing on communication, trail building and design, land acquisition, botanical and natural resources, organizational structure, financial oversight, and fundraising/grants. A new office manager, Marianne Mailhiot, was hired in late 2014, and a trail building coordinator, Mitch Wolfe, was hired in July.

Currently the CTC, which has long been an affiliate of the Tennessee Trails Association, is in the process of applying to the IRS for 501(c)(3) status as a separate organization. The CTC and TTA expect to continue their long-standing partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding.

More information about current and upcoming activities of the CTC is available on their website, <http://cumberlandtrail.org>, where you can also download recent CTC newsletters.

2B. *TDEC Issues Administrative Order Against TVA*

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

In August, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) issued a Commissioner's Order to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) directing the investigation, assessment, and remediation of all coal ash disposal sites across Tennessee. This Order follows the federal coal combustion residual (CCR) rule, and not only ensures the state is kept informed of TVA's progress in complying with the federal rule, but also goes beyond what the federal rule requires.

The Order is intended to establish a transparent, comprehensive process for the investigation, assessment, and remediation of coal combustion residual disposal sites at TVA's coal-fired power plants in Tennessee. The Order also establishes the process through which TDEC will oversee TVA's implementation of the federal CCR rule to insure coordination and compliance with Tennessee laws and regulations that govern the management and disposal of CCR.

The Order goes far beyond the requirements of the federal CCR rule by requiring TVA to study and appropriately address all "CCR disposal areas" including all permitted landfills, all "non-registered" landfills (i.e., landfills that existed before they were subject to regulation), and all current and former surface water impoundments that contain CCR.

The Order also requires TVA to provide public notice and an opportunity to comment on each Environmental In-

vestigation Plan and each Corrective Action/Risk Assessment Plan at its sites across Tennessee.

TVA must pay all costs associated with the TDEC's oversight of the implementation of the order. If TVA does not meet the requirements of this order, TVA is subject to pay penalties of \$5,000 per noncompliance and \$1,000 for each day until the noncompliance is remedied.

2C. *Tennessee Wilderness Act Update*

Representatives from Tennessee Wild were in Washington this month, calling on our Senators to thank them for their introduction and support of the Tennessee Wilderness Act, and calling on Representatives Fleischmann and Roe to encourage them to introduce the necessary companion bill.

This bill has been introduced four times. (NL 322, ¶2) It is widely believed that passage depends on Representatives Fleischmann and Roe championing the value of wilderness designation. Such designation will protect six special places in the Cherokee National Forest and insure that important watershed headwaters continue to benefit from the purifying effects of the forest. The management practices for Wilderness, the most protective available, foster high-quality natural lands and waters that are valuable assets to local communities with a focus on eco-tourism.

The designation will protect 20,000 acres, adding acreage to five existing wilderness areas and creating the new Upper Bald River Wilderness. All of these areas were recommended for protection by the U.S. Forest Service in its 2004 management plan, and the proposal has garnered enthusiastic bipartisan support from Tennessee businesses, organizations, and community leaders. (See related article ¶4.)

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Join Tennessee Wild's strategic grass roots communications corp. Volunteers are needed for tasks that take 5–20 minutes, such as phone calls to Congressmen or letters to editors. To assist in this campaign, contact Laura Hodge at Tennessee Wild by email laura@wildsouth.org or phone at 423-807-3456.

2D. *Frozen Head Emory River Tract Management Plan*

The Emory River Planning Group reconvened in late July after a years-long hiatus (NL 322, ¶ 2). With representatives from Morgan County, Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy, TCWP, and TDEC, the group discussed the current plan and how it can be improved upon. Among recommendations that TCWP is advocating: an inventory of the cultural, historical and natural resources; protection of scientific study areas; more diverse hunting and recreational opportunities; and restoration and stabilization of damaged and vulnerable restoration areas.

TDEC officials plan to hold another meeting soon to continue discussions about management of this Tennessee treasure.

3. TVA

3A. *TVA Floating Houses Policy*

[Contributed by Warren Webb]

TVA has issued a draft Environmental Impact Statement on floating houses and permitted non-navigable houseboats. These are permanently moored residences, much like land-based houses, of which there are over 1800 on 13 TVA reservoirs. About half of these structures have TVA permits. Floating houses are most prevalent on Norris and Fontana Reservoirs, with approximately 900 on Norris Reservoir and 500 on Fontana Reservoir.

TCWP considers these structures to be an inappropriate private use of public resources. Their presence entails negative impacts to public health and safety, water quality, scenic values, and recreational use. No new houses should be allowed, and existing ones should be required to meet minimum standards (e.g., sewage treatment and disposal and electrical installations) and phased out over time. The negative impacts associated with removal (e.g., solid waste and discharges to the reservoirs) are acceptable in view of the long-term improvements.

Accordingly, TCWP has recommended that TVA adopt its Alternative B2 "Grandfather but Sunset Existing and Prohibit New" with a sunset period of 20 years. This course would allow time for existing house owners to depreciate their investments and for rental fee recipients to adjust, while ensuring the eventual removal of all such structures from the reservoirs.

3B. *TVA Board Update*

The Senate confirmed Nashvillian Eric Satz as a TVA Director last month. He is the second Nashvillian on the Board. There are two Directors from Memphis, one from Jackson, and none from East Tennessee. President Obama has nominated former Oxford, Mississippi mayor Richard Howorth for a second term. Although Howorth's term expired in May, he will continue to serve through the end of the year.

3C. *TVA IRP is Final*

[From Southern Environmental Law Center]

The TVA released in July the final version of its comprehensive planning document, which outlines how TVA intends to meet its region's energy needs over the next 20 years.

TVA's 2015 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) confirms that the costs of acquiring energy efficiency, solar, and wind power are competitive with the traditional energy sources of gas and coal. Despite this, the utility isn't planning to emphasize investments in clean energy in the short term. Instead, TVA will rely primarily on natural gas for the next ten years, while continuing to study alternative energy options.

Even with the conservative recommendations in the IRP, TVA's recent renewable energy deals highlight the cost-competitiveness of renewables and their economic development potential in the Valley. Earlier this year, TVA

established an agreement to purchase power from a solar farm in northern Alabama, and just last month, Google and TVA reached a deal to develop a data center in Alabama fueled entirely by alternative energy. These two projects are projected to bring more than 500 jobs to the area.

The final IRP says TVA will continue to evaluate clean energy and acknowledges that its timeline for acquiring renewables and energy efficiency may change. Ratepayers should continue urging TVA to fairly evaluate and invest in cost-competitive clean energy in the short-term, so it takes advantage of the economic and health benefits these resources provide for ratepayers, workers, and citizens in TVA's service territory.

The TVA Board of Directors granted final approval of the IRP last month.

4. NATIONAL NEWS

4A. *Waters of the U.S. Rule Challenged in Court by Tennessee and other States*

Tennessee Attorney General Herb Slatery joined several other states in filing a lawsuit against the EPA over the recently approved Waters of the U.S. Rules (NL 322, ¶4C). Sixty-three state legislators signed a letter urging Slatery to join the lawsuit, challenging the constitutionality of EPA's new rule under the federal Clean Water Act. The purpose of the new rule is to establish a clear process by which the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can use to determine which water resources should be regulated as Waters of the U.S. Critics argue that the new rule redefines all states' streams, creeks, ponds, and wetlands as the "waters of the United States."

The Associated Press reported that a federal judge in North Dakota on August 27 blocked the Waters of the U.S. Rule just hours before it was to take effect. The judge issued a temporary injunction against the rule that took effect the next day.

There are 13 states where the injunction is in effect: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

4B. *Boulder/White Clouds (Idaho) Newest Wilderness Area*

Last month, President Obama signed the law designating Idaho's Boulder/White Clouds area as Wilderness. The bill creates three new wilderness areas totaling 431 square miles. The Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness (106 square miles) and the White Clouds Wilderness (142 square miles) will be managed as part of the Sawtooth National Recreational Area. The 183-square-mile Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness covers 145 square miles of national forest land and 37 square miles of BLM land on the east side of the White Clouds. Each agency will continue to manage its portion.

This designation had been long sought by a broad-based coalition of Idahoans. It was spearheaded in Congress by Congressman Mike Simpson, who was able to see its passage through without a single 'no' vote—a rare occurrence in the House of Representatives.

This law is proof that a stand-alone wilderness bill actually *can* move through Congress as long as someone champions it. See related story about the progress of the Tennessee Wilderness Bill (§ 2C).

5. OAK RIDGE AREA

5A. *New Airport for Oak Ridge?*

[Contributed by Warren Webb]

This isn't the first time an airport has been proposed in Oak Ridge. In the mid-1980s, for example, a major push developed to locate a commuter airport on Freels Bend, now part of a wildlife management area. In the end, that proposal didn't fly; this one might.

DOE has issued a draft Environmental Assessment (dEA; DOE/EA-2000) for an airport on about 170 acres of highway frontage land at the former K-25 site, now known as the Heritage Center. The dEA is for a no-cost transfer of the land for the express purpose of developing a general-aviation/business-aviation airport.

The Federal Aviation Administration will initiate a separate NEPA review in accordance with FAA Orders and requirements when the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority Master Plan for the proposed airport is finalized. Prior to the General Services Administration (GSA) executing the deed for the transfer of this property, GSA, using its own NEPA regulations, may also conduct a NEPA analysis of the GSA's proposed action of property disposal by way of deed. GSA's analysis will be conducted in light of the NEPA determinations made by both DOE and the FAA.

The airport would feature a 5,000-ft by 75-ft runway with an associated apron access near centerfield, turnaround/bypass at each end, 15 tie-down positions, and hangar space for 16 planes, among other facilities. The operations forecast at this time, pending further study, indicates that the airport would be self-supporting. Moreover, the hope is that the facility would enhance the appeal of Oak Ridge to commercial and industrial developers.

In general, impacts are not expected to be significant. Effects on noise, air quality, water quality, safety, geology and soils, and aquatic and terrestrial organisms should be relatively minor. A few small wetlands would require filling or other disturbance. There are some concerns, however. A portion of the former Wheat Community site (e.g., former location of the schoolhouse) would be affected. The Purpose and Need section of the dEA does not convincingly establish that the airport would provide its hoped-for benefits, especially with regard to commercial/industrial development. Nor does the dEA discuss whether this facility would be the best use of the land among others that might be undertaken. Such a discussion might be in the

context of a sitewide EIS for the Oak Ridge Reservation. Such a study has not been completed, despite repeated urgings. Finally, the dEA does not consider alternative airports, such as further enhancement of the Rockwood Airport.

5B. *Happy Valley Site Declared Surplus*

[Contributed by Warren Webb]

The former "Happy Valley" site on the Oak Ridge Reservation has been declared surplus property. The approximately 160-acre tract is on the south side of state Highway 58, across from the former K-25 uranium enrichment facility, now called East Tennessee Technology Park.

The eastern portion of the tract (approximately 90 acres) once provided housing for workers: between 13,000 and 15,000 people lived in Happy Valley while work was underway during World War II on the K-25 site next door. The community included a theater, grocery store, bowling alley, and a recreation center dubbed Coney Island.

Today, few, if any signs of the community remain. Nonetheless, the site is of historic interest. The western portion of the tract (about 72 acres) features a stream and wetland feeding the K-1007-P3 pond, diverse wildlife habitat, as well as the former K-25 Visitors Overlook. The overlook has qualities for a picnic area (it is already used as such) to complement the recently designated National Park site at K-25. This area abuts the Wheat Community African Burial Ground, also of historical interest.

TCWP is working in conjunction with the Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) for the site to be designated as natural wildlife habitat and cultural landscape in the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, under National Park Service management with DOE oversight.

5C. *Free Community School about DOE's Legacy Wastes on 9/15, 22, & 29*

[Contributed by Natalie Landry]

Community School, a free, three-session seminar series co-sponsored by the Oak Ridge League of Women Voters and TCWP designed to expand Oak Ridgers' knowledge and understanding about the hazardous waste from the Manhattan Project and post-WWII nuclear and high-tech research, will begin September 15. The seminars will also include presentations about the environmental management process and remediation actions in the community.

The two remaining sessions will be held September 22 and 29 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike. Refreshments and free childcare will be provided. The seminars are free, but advanced registration is requested at <http://www.lwvoakridge.org>. At press time, there were still openings in the last two sessions.

The September 22 session will feature three speakers, including Susan Cange, Manager of the DOE Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management; Ellen Smith, Envi-

ronmental Scientist and Oak Ridge City Council Member; and Chris Thompson, Deputy Director at the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Cange will introduce the DOE Environmental Management Program. Smith will present on the contaminants released and left behind from federal government activities in Oak Ridge. Thompson will provide an overview of the monitoring of DOE's activities on the Oak Ridge Reservation relative to public health and the environment.

In the third and final session on September 29, David Adler, Program Manager in DOE's Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management, will discuss how DOE Environmental Management identifies and prioritizes sites for cleanup. A panel of members from the City of Oak Ridge Environmental Quality Advisory Board and the DOE Site Specific Advisory Board will provide information about how residents can stay informed and become involved in the DOE cleanup activities.

These seminars are funded through the New Mexico Community Foundation and Community Involvement, which are supported by the Department of Energy. For more information or to register by phone, call 603-498-9307, email natalieelandry@gmail.com or visit http://lwvoakridge.org/Comm_School.html.

5D. *Manhattan Project NHP Update*

[Contributed by Warren Webb]

In late July, DOE and the National Park Service (NPS) issued a draft Memorandum of Agreement for public comment. According to the draft agreement, officials have chosen to locate the park superintendent at a central office that is expected to be in Denver, with each of the three Manhattan Project sites (Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, NM, and Hanford, WA) having their own site manager reporting to the superintendent.

Although the comment period on the draft expired on August 28, the choice of the headquarters is not yet final. In the meantime, NPS has requested \$180,000 in President Obama's FY2016 budget that would cover central office costs, such as the new superintendent's salary, office expenses, and other costs associated with the planning process.

TCWP, in cooperation with AFORR, is continuing to press for inclusion of cultural landscapes in the Oak Ridge portion of the new park [NL 322, ¶6A]. A new possibility for such areas, in addition to the Three Bend Scenic and Wildlife Management Refuge, is the Happy Valley site and surroundings near K-25 [see related item, this NL, ¶5B]. DOE recently declared this area as surplus and available for transfer or disposal.

6. TCWP NEWS

6A. *Community Shares Happy Hour – Sept. 29*

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

Community Shares Tennessee will kick off its 2015-16 campaign with Happy Hour at Saw Works Brewing Company (<http://sawworksbrewing.com>) on Tuesday, September 29, from 5-7 PM. Free wine, non-alcoholic drinks, and snacks will be provided, and Saw Works handcrafted beers will be available for \$3 each. (Community Shares will get \$1 each.) Community Shares events always gather fascinating people who are working in varied ways to build social and economic equity and a healthy environment. Everyone is invited to attend this event.

While you're marking your calendar, please make additional note of the 19th Annual Community Shares Brewers' Jam on Saturday, October 17, at the World's Fair Park in Knoxville. The celebration includes handmade American craft beer, music, and food. Tickets are limited, and they always sell out in advance. This event is a major fund-raiser for Community Shares. For more information or tickets, see <http://knoxvillebrewersjam.com>.

Community Shares is a federation of vetted non-profit groups, including TCWP, that cooperate to raise funds to advance their missions of social change. Community Shares is included in many workplace-giving campaigns, including those at ORAU, ORNL, UT, and the state of Tennessee. Employees can select the specific member groups to which they wish to give their gifts via convenient payroll deduction. For more information about Community Shares, including a complete listing of workplace campaigns, go to <http://communitysharestn.org>. If you are interested in a Community Shares campaign at your workplace, contact Sandra Goss (Sandra@sandrakgoss.com or 865-583-3967).

6B. *Frank Hensley, 1933–2015*

TCWP suffered an enormous loss with the death of longtime board member Frank Hensley on July 25. In addition to his tireless work for TCWP, Frank was a founding member and Treasurer of Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) and served on the advisory board for the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation. Thanks to his efforts, tens of thousands of acres of wild lands have been conserved in the Northern Cumberland Plateau around the Obed, the Big South Fork, Pickett State Forest, Pickett State Park, Pogue Creek Canyon, and other areas.

Both TCWP Executive Director Sandra Goss and TCWP President Jimmy Groton eulogized Frank at his memorial service. Sandra said Frank was not only "an active citizen who wrote letters to editors, wrote comments on Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments, and contacted public officials about important issues," but he was also "humble, kind, and generous—a helper to all." Jimmy cited his "innate spiritual commitment to the Earth that ran deep and firm in his soul," adding that it was important to Frank to share wild

places with others. “Most important of all,” he said, “Frank knew he had to do whatever he could to protect these sacred treasures in pristine condition, for future generations to enjoy.”

TCWP’s conservation partners shared our special feelings for Frank and his passion for saving wild places. Gina Hancock, Director of The Nature Conservancy-Tennessee, said, “His familiarity with the region was an invaluable asset to conservation efforts. Frank had seemingly boundless energy for conservation, and many of us have fond memories of trying to keep up with him in the woods. We will remember him when we visit these places that provide a legacy of his efforts. We will also remember him whenever we find new places that generate the same enthusiasm for protection and conservation within us that Frank always had within him.”

Kathleen Williams, Executive Director of Tennessee Parks and Greenways, added, “Frank would approach us about land projects, armed with maps and energy. An avid hiker, paddler, and explorer, his passion was protecting wild Tennessee, especially our waters.”

“Future generations may not know Frank or his role,” Kathleen said, “but they will be enriched by his good works.” TCWP has unquestionably been enriched by Frank’s efforts, his inspiration, and his friendship over the years.

6C. *Upcoming Activities*

[NOTE: Times listed for all events are Eastern Time.]

National Public Lands Day cleanup at Worthington Cemetery – Saturday, September 26

[Contributed by Angela Sutton, TVA]

This year’s National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is set for Saturday, September 26. NPLD is an annual event that focuses on both user enjoyment and celebrating volunteer conservation efforts on public lands. As in years past, TCWP and TVA are partnering for a day of observation and education about the unique native plants, as well as the invasive exotic plants, that occur in TVA’s Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area on Melton Hill Reservoir in Oak Ridge. In the spirit of NPLD, we are also planning to do some minor hand tool work to remove the exotic invasive plants and restore the native cedar barren. We will begin with an interpretive walk that will include a talk on birding by TVA retiree (and TCWP Program Committee member) Wes James and a discussion of the plants of the Ecological Study Area by TCWP Board member Larry Pounds. After that, we will continue our work to restore the native cedar barren and to remove exotic invasive plants and trash.

We are very excited about some improvements that have recently occurred at the ESA. A five-acre area of privet was cleared to open up the viewshed and create a wildlife observation area. Plans are in place for additional improvements. This area is beautiful!

Please plan to join us for the 2015 NPLD event. We will meet at 9 a.m. at the Elza Gate picnic area near the intersection of Oak Ridge Turnpike and Melton Lake Drive.

Tools, gloves, and safety glasses will be provided. Please dress appropriately (especially regarding footwear) and wear sunscreen and bug spray. If possible, please bring any clippers, loppers, or bow or pruning saws that you already have. We plan to conclude our work around noon with a pizza lunch provided by TCWP. For more information, contact Jimmy Groton at 865-805-9908 or at groton87@comcast.net.

Hike at Norris Reservoir – Saturday, October 24

[Contributed by Joe Feeman]

The Norris Municipal Watershed is situated adjacent to Norris Dam State Park, and our hike will utilize the many connecting trails to form a four-mile loop. We will begin on Eli Nine Trail, which will take us through the oldest stand of trees in the Norris City Watershed and past the Eli Nine Sinkhole. At the junction with Hi Point Trail, we will hike down to the Scenic Cove Trail and on to Lakeview Trail, which is in the park. This will take us along the lake for a mile and then we’ll ascend up Lakeside Loop Trail to Hi Point Trail before hiking back to Mockingbird Trail and back to the trailhead.

Most of the hike is through mature upland hardwoods on trails that are not difficult. Hopefully, some of the leaves will be down and we will be able to see Norris Reservoir from the Lakeview Trail. The hike is rated easy to moderate.

We’ll meet for carpooling in Oak Ridge in the Gold’s Gym/Books-a-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita’s) to leave at 8:15 a.m., or participants can meet the group at Norris Middle School at 9 a.m. to carpool to the trailhead. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, and bring water and snacks or a lunch.

Fall Cedar Barren Cleanup – Saturday, November 7

The Oak Ridge Cedar Barren will again be the site of exotic invasive plant removal as we conduct our fall cleanup, our third and final cleanup of the year. Located next to Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge, the Barren is a joint project of the City of Oak Ridge, State Natural Areas Division, and TCWP. The area is one of just a few cedar barrens in East Tennessee, and is subject to invasion by bushy lespedeza, leatherleaf viburnum, privet, autumn olive, mimosa, Nepal grass, multiflora rose, and woody plants that threaten the system’s prairie grasses. Our efforts help to eliminate invasives and other shade-producing plants that prevent the prairie grasses from getting needed sunlight.

Volunteers should meet in the Jefferson Middle School Parking lot at 9 a.m., with sturdy shoes, loppers, gloves, and water. The work session will conclude at noon with a pizza lunch. For more information, contact Tim Bigelow at 865-607-6781 or Bigelowt2@mindspring.com.

TCWP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 3

Save the date! This annual event, which has become one of the most popular of the year, will again be held at the home of long-time TCWP members Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen at 371 East Drive, Oak Ridge. Mark your calendar, and plan now to join us!

Additional information on all TCWP activities may be obtained from TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com or at 865-583-3967.

6D. Recent Events

Picnic Outing to Gibbons Property on the Obed – Saturday, July 25

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

On Saturday, July 25, longtime TCWP member Mary Ann Gibbons and her daughter Ginny Barber introduced us to their Obed River property, about 400 acres of beautiful land overlooking the Obed near Alley Ford. Also assisting with the adventure were former TCWP Executive Director Bill Chandler and his wife Holly Gwinn.

Mary Ann and Ginny showed us around their property and shared their special remembrances and favorite places at the farm. Before lunch, we visited the bluffs overlooking the river near Breakaway Bluff. After lunch, we split into smaller groups and explored nearly every aspect of the farm. Some hiked down to the river at Alley Ford for a refreshing swim, while others explored a magnificent beech forest on the eastern end of the land. We had an amazing picnic lunch highlighted by four boxes of special cookies from V & G Bakery.

About 25 to 30 people were in attendance, including several TCWP members, Obed Wild and Scenic River employees, and at least three generations of the Melton family, who live near the Gibbons property.

Summer Cedar Barren cleanup – Saturday, August 15

[Contributed by Tim Bigelow]

A work crew of nine participated in this year's summer workday. TCWP board member and plant ecologist Larry Pounds identified several of the wildflowers in bloom (including one species of blazing star, and another that was a few days away from blooming), as well as grasses. Invasive plants were pulled in the ellipse area, and a group visit was made to the front triangle area to look at plants there and pull a few shrubs.

John Byrd invited the group to the second wetland, where a batch of very small tree frogs was just emerging from the pond and spreading out among the plants. A counting method for students was discussed. After a while, rain began and grew steadily harder, so after more discussion on pond plants and digging new ponds, the group ended the workday just a little early.

TCWP has partnered with the City of Oak Ridge and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation since 1988 to protect the sensitive natural resources at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens State Natural Area. This year marked the fourth time we've had a work session in summer, in addition to the fall and spring events. The summer workdays allow us to see in bloom many of the native plants we're working so hard to protect.

6E. Proposed Changes to TCWP By-laws

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

Several months ago, Oak Ridge attorney and long-time TCWP friend Bill Allen reviewed our current by-laws and alerted the Board to several legal shortfalls in the by-laws. Over the last several months, Bill has worked with the Board to make the necessary changes in the document. With his help and the approval of the Board, these revisions will be presented for approval at the upcoming Annual Meeting.

The Draft Final version of the revised TCWP By-laws is available to download and review on the TCWP website. We have reformatted the by-laws into an outline consistent with the format used in our Constitution. Previously our by-laws did not follow a formal outline. The proposed changes are summarized below.

ARTICLE I. PURPOSES OF THE ORGANIZATION: All of the information in Article I is new. This includes TCWP's Mission Statement and TCWP's responsibilities as a 501(c) (3) organization as well as our anti-discrimination and lobbying policy.

ARTICLE II. BOARD OF DIRECTORS: This section remains much the same as in previous editions of the by-laws. The primary change is the addition of a clear procedure for removing board members from office.

ARTICLE III. MEETINGS: We propose removing of the requirement for a quorum of ten (10) percent of the eligible membership at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS: This section remained much the same as in previous editions of the by-laws. The primary change is the addition of a clear procedure for removing officers from office.

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES OF THE ORGANIZATION: No substantive changes.

ARTICLE VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: No changes.

ARTICLE VII. GENERAL ACCOUNTING AND RECORD KEEPING PROVISIONS: We propose specifically removing the presentation of the dues category and payment schedule here. We also propose adding a policy regarding the preservation of important records, including membership, financial records, meeting minutes, and policies will be preserved at least on an annual basis.

ARTICLE VIII. PUBLICATIONS: No changes.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS: No changes.

ARTICLE IX. DISSOLUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION: No changes.

ARTICLE X. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES: No changes.

Please visit the TCWP website at <http://www.tcwp.org> and review the proposed changes to TCWP By-laws. If you do not have access to a computer and the internet, please contact us and we will gladly provide a copy of the by-laws for your review. Our goal is to review any comments and suggestions from TCWP members and vote on the final version of the by-laws at the Annual Meeting.

6F. *Thanks, and a tip of the hat to ...*

[From Sandra Goss]



- Harry Shatz, Bob Compton, and unknown others for writing to TVA about the Floating Houses Policy Review.
- Jean Bangham, Frank Hensley, Melissa Muendel, Eileen Neilor, and Marti Salk for assembling the TCWP News-letter for mailing.
- Nominating Committee members Chuck Estes (Chair), Bill Allen, and Kirk Eddlemon for their great work on Board and 2016 Nominating Committee members.
- Tim Bigelow for providing TCWP Scrapbook pictures of the August Cedar Barren event.
- Francis Perey for his masterful and timely work on TCWP's website.
- Treasurer Tim Bigelow for completing TCWP's Tax Return 990 and our State Solicitation Permit application.
- Warren Webb for composing TCWP comments on TVA's Floating Houses Policy, as well as the e-let on this topic.
- Cedar Barren Steward Tim Bigelow, Jimmy Groton, and Larry Pounds for their leadership at the August Cedar Barren Clean-up.
- Mary Ann Gibbons for her generous hospitality at the Old Fashioned Riverside Picnic, and to all attendees for their generous and delicious contributions to the potluck picnic.
- Laura Hodge, Bill Hodge and the entire Tennessee Wild team for their work involved in the successful Tellico Plains Great Outdoor Event.
- Mark and Ann Bevelhimer for their generous hospitality at the TCWP Board Potluck Outing.
- John McFadden and Jeff Barrie for their leadership organizing and holding the August Sustainable Tennessee, where conservationists and environmentalists from across the state met to discuss mutual priority issues for the coming months.
- Virginia Dale, Carol Grametbauer, Jimmy Groton, Natalie Landry, Mark Peterson, Lee Russell, Warren Webb, Kathleen Williams, and Emily Zefferman for their work on TCWP Newsletter No. 322, July 2015.
- Discover Life in America Executive Director Todd Witcher and staff and TVA for organizing the BioBlitz at Whites Creek Small Wild Area in July.

6G. *Friends and Members in the News*

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]

- Joe Feeman's letter to the editor of the News Sentinel about providing input to TVA about floating houses appeared August 7.

- Ben Pounds had several articles in the News Sentinel: The Cove at Concord Park on July 17; Pellissippi Greenway on July 24; and Citico Creek on July 31.
- Eileen Neiler penned a letter to the News Sentinel editor on August 20 about Susan B. Anthony's suitability to replace Andrew Jackson on the twenty-dollar bill.
- Patrice Cole wrote an article about Knoxville's bus system in the August 6 Knoxville Mercury.
- Joe Feeman penned an article about the Norris Watershed Trail Crew, as well as a notice of the Norris Hiking Group's outing to Big South Fork in the August 5 and August 12 Norris Bulletin.
- Tennessee Clean Water Network and the hired goats for exotic pest plant control were featured in a July 23 Knoxville Mercury article.
- Kirk Eddlemon leading a kayaking outing on Clear Creek was an article topic in the July 23 Knoxville Mercury.
- Ben Pounds wrote about Clark Center Park in the August 14 News Sentinel.
- Richard Raridon's letter to the Knoxville Mercury about the correct year of Knoxville's coldest day appeared Sept. 3.
- Antone Davis was featured in a July 30 News Sentinel article about his induction into the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame.
- Melanie Mayes is a 2015 Tribute to Women finalist, as reported in the August 9 News Sentinel.
- Renee Hoyos and Mark Campen are quoted extensively in an article about Knoxville water quality in the September 3 Knoxville Mercury.

6H. *Kroger Community Rewards Sign Up*

We wanted to remind you that the annual participant re-enrollment in the Kroger Community Rewards is ongoing. In order to benefit TCWP, it is necessary to sign up every year. TCWP receives a check quarterly that helps our efforts to protect our wild lands and waters.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Go to <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> or call 1-800-KROGERS (or 1-800-576-4377), OPTION 3. Have your Kroger Loyalty Card handy.

6I. *Executive Director's Column*

[By Sandra Goss]

The last several weeks have had ups and downs. TCWP, and the world in general, sustained a big loss with the death of Board member Frank Hensley at the end of July. That very same day, the TCWP-sponsored Old Fashioned Riverside Picnic occurred; it was a *fine* event with interesting and beautiful outdoor exploring, warm conviviality, and delicious food.

Another positive July event was the property transfers that conserve 67 acres in the Obed Wild and Scenic River authorized boundaries (See ¶1). To balance that pos-

itive development, TCWP Board (and founding) member and Newsletter Editor Lee Russell spent many weeks in the hospital, undergoing and recovering from two surgeries. She is currently convalescing at a Knoxville rehab center.

Frank and Lee have long been very important in TCWP work and getting our work done without them poses a big challenge. The volunteer response to these needs has been touching and empowering. Folks are helping out with issue comments, newsletter articles, and other needs.

TCWP continues to advocate and educate about our wild lands and waters. Our organizational processes progress, as our news about the election of Board members and By-laws updating indicate.

Thank you to each of you reading this newsletter. It takes time and heart to learn about the environmental and conservation issues; there's a fair amount of negative news that needs phone calls and efforts on your part.

Heading into the last part of 2015, I urge you to read, call, and write. Working together, we citizens of Tennessee and the U.S. can and do make a difference for the positive. PLEASE, make a call NOW about one issue. See the front page for the Big Stories and page 2 for information about how to and to whom one can express his or her views.

Enjoy fall!
Sandra

6J. *Donnelly, Tippet join TCWP Board*

The TCWP Board of Directors at its August meeting elected two new members—Susan Donnelly and Hannah Tippet—to fill the unexpired terms of Mary Lynn Dobson and Frank Hensley.

Susan is a causal analyst at Y-12 National Security Complex and the owner of Susan Donnelly Life Coach, LLC. She holds an MS degree in Planning, with concentration on wilderness recreation planning. A longtime TCWP member, she says she “grew up playing in the woods and never outgrew it.” Susan runs 100-mile ultramarathons on trails around the country and the world, training on local trails. She is a current member of the Cumberland Trail Conference and former steward of the North Ridge Trail for TCWP.

Hannah is an attorney with Mostoller, Stulberg, Whitfield, & Allen in Oak Ridge. Born and raised in Malawi, Africa, she has loved nature from a young age. She has researched the effects of mountaintop removal mining on local communities and on the environment. Hannah enjoys running, biking, hiking, camping, and “basically just being outdoors.”

We welcome Susan and Hannah to the board! The full slate of officers and board members for 2016 will be voted on at the TCWP Annual Meeting.

7. CALENDAR

(For details, check the referenced NL item;
or contact Sandra Goss, 865-583-3967,
or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com)

- Oak Ridge Community School about Legacy Waste – Tuesdays, September 15, 22, and 29 (see ¶5C, this NL)
- National Public Lands Day cleanup at Worthington Cemetery – Saturday, September 26 (see ¶6C, this NL)
- Community Shares Campaign Kickoff – Tuesday, September 29 (see ¶6A, this NL)
- Community Shares Brewers’ Jam – Saturday, October 17 (see ¶6A, this NL)
- Hike at Norris Reservoir – Saturday, October 24 (see ¶6C, this NL)
- Fall Cedar Barren Cleanup – Saturday, November 7 (see ¶6C, this NL)
- TCWP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 3 (see ¶6C, this NL)

Seasonal Positions Available!

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Strike Team

The Tennessee Division of Forestry (TDF) is hiring 3 seasonal forestry personnel to treat hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) from East TN to the Cumberland Plateau 37 week work season each fall-spring for 3 years- starting immediately

·The team will consist of one team leader plus 2 team members

·Hourly wages will be \$15/hour for team leader & \$12/hour for team members

·A degree in the natural resource arena is a pre-requisite to be eligible for team leader

·All members will be required to obtain and maintain a TDA pesticide certification in Category 2- Forest Pest Control and Category 10- Demonstration and Research

·All necessary training provided on the job. Experience in forestry and/or treating HWA preferred

·State vehicle & all gear provided. Home base will be the TDF office in Westel (Crossville) TN

·The team will often be required to work in remote & difficult terrain

Contact:

Heather Slayton, TDF
heather.slayton@tn.gov
(615)218-4377

**For more information or to apply (send resume)
Application Deadline: October 1, 2015**

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- Susan Donnelly..... Director
- Jamie Herold.....Director
- Larry Pounds Director
- Liane (Lee) Russell..... Director
- Michele Thornton Director
- Hannah TippettDirector
- Warren Webb..... Director
- Sandra Goss Executive Director

Coming Events

- Sept.26, Sat. Worthington Cemetery Cleanup
- Oct. 24, Sat. Norris Reservoir Hike
- Oct. 31,Sat. TCWP Annual Meeting (See inside for details)
- Nov. 7, Sat. Cedar Barren Clean-up